

## **Jirga – An Informal Actor of Civil Society**

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### **Abstract:**

*Despite controversies about its role, Jirga does qualify to be an actor of civil society because its mandate is to represent masses on volunteer basis and not as representative of government (public sector) and nor as representative of business (private sector) while addressing an issue to get it resolved. Secondly, as it ensures somewhat people's participation and consultative process of decision making, it gets justified to be considered an informal actor of civil society. Also imperative is to consider its social and cultural acceptance among masses as a social phenomenon that has deep-rooted existence. In this paper, both concepts of civil society organizations and Jirga have been explored thoroughly to reach into some solid conclusion. Similarities and differences of both have been investigated and then highlighted to provide adequate understanding to readers and general masses about Jirga, its nomenclature, role and significance. In this regard, all possible efforts ranging from interviewing relevant key informants to literature review have been made. Based upon the findings of both primary and secondary data and information, the study was concluded while suggesting both wider guidelines and pragmatic suggestions to make better use of Jirga as civil society actor in addressing issues and challenges of everyday life.*

**Key words:** Jirga, civil society, Pashtoonwali, cultural acceptance, constitutional rights.