The main objective of the present study is to find the impact of civil society organisations on the delivery of elementary education in Madhya Pradesh through inclusive governance. The hypothesis was that civil society in partnership with the state will be able to improve the elementary education delivery system and also inclusive governance. The study examines the present condition of education in India and the efforts by the government towards achieving universal elementary education. One policy change in the delivery of social services that the state has brought about is the involvement of civil society organisations. The study focuses on the state-civil society partnership and whether an increased role of the civil society may subsequently lead to a diminishing state role and authority. The study is based in rural Madhya Pradesh in the districts of Dewas and Harda. 12 schools were chosen for the study by purposive random sampling. Following a case study method, In-depth analysis of the schools was done based on case study method and all stakeholders of education were interviewed during the process. The CSOs are working in these government schools along with the state on the basis of an MoU, to improve the delivery of education.

The findings of the study show that the civil society has been able to improve the elementary education delivery system in the villages where it is working. It has also been able to maintain inclusive governance by involving all the stakeholders in decision making and effective functioning of the education delivery system. However, the state is lacking in its commitment to even provide basic infrastructure and human resources, according to the MoU. Not only that, the state was also unable to hold the teachers accountable for their slack behaviour in class and their overall irresponsible attitude towards the school system in general. Does this present itself as a case to increase the role and responsibility of the civil society while the state continues to shirk its responsibility? The study elaborates that civil society has much to offer to the state and makes a case for an increased role in service delivery. But it also raised concerns about the effect on state sovereignty, if the state continues to neglect its responsibilities and increases the role of civil society.