

## ***ABSTRACT***

### **Can Scientific Public Sphere be constructed? Science, Civil Society and Public Spheres in post-Colonial India**

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**Abstract:** The 'public sphere' is one of the indispensable concepts of social theory produced in the global north. But do the ordinary Indians need this concept and how the Habermasian formulation of public sphere and rational communication could be applied in the non-Western contexts and more specifically, the Indian contexts? The paper digs into the literature on science communication and the debate initiated by subaltern scholars in relation to engagements in public sphere in non-western context. The concept of public sphere is used in this paper as a methodological category which enables to capture the dynamics of science-public coupling in Indian context. The paper examines the 'scientific public sphere' is not only a normative-theoretical project but also has empirical translation through people's science movement (PSM) – Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Eklavya and Delhi Science Forum – in post-colonial India. Providing the points of convergence and divergence among these three PSM, the paper goes beyond a liberal Orientalist prescription to understanding such activities in the public sphere outside the West. It explains how scientists formed new (protest) organisations which democratised science and these new forms of sociopolitical action further led to science-based social movements in India as well as forging scientific public sphere.

**Keywords:** Science, Public Sphere, Social Movements, Post- Colonial, PSM, India.