Redefining Governance through Social Accountability in South Asia

The term social accountability is defined as “an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic engagement, i.e. in which it is ordinary citizens and/or civil society organizations who participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability” (WB 2004). The current plethora of empirical literature shows that social accountability has been utilized to achieve good governance through increased public participation and resultantly, improve service delivery and satisfaction of the users. Innovations such as Citizen Report Cards, Participatory Budgeting, Community Score Cards, Citizen Charts, Public Expenditure Tracking, Social Audits and Right to information under Social Accountability have led to improved performance of public agencies and different actors in varying contexts in South Asian countries.

The main objective of the panel is to document governance practices that have improved public service delivery and increased public participation in South Asian countries. The panel welcomes abstracts, followed by papers that summarize the application of social accountability tools under different themes such as education, health, drinking water and sanitation, solid waste, roads and transportation, public procurement, rights and entitlements.

Reference
World Bank, 2004, Social Accountability: An Introduction to the Concept and Emerging Practice, Participation and Civic Engagement Group, World Bank, Washington, DC.

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