



Highlights

- ✍ The Role of Radio in Social Accountability
- ✍ Training on Community Score Card and Scholarship Tracking
- ✍ Publication: Disaster Management Guideline Nepal (2015)



The Role of Radio in Social Accountability

In Haramtari market of Gorkha District in western region of Nepal, the effectiveness of a community radio and public hearing has provided a much awaited relief for the local communities.

The Gorkha Municipality had already spent Rs. 13 lakhs (*US \$12,200*) to build a public toilet in 2011 in Haramtari market area, a central business hub of the district. However, even after three years of starting the project, it could not be completed to the dismay and dissatisfaction of the local citizens. Only the foundation and pillars were constructed with that amount. (*pictures in the next page*) The unavailability of public toilet had caused a lot of inconvenience for local shoppers as well as travelers transiting the center. The area was dirty and smelly due to people using open area to relieve themselves.

A community radio station Radio Gorkha in collaboration with PRAN, held a public hearing in 2014 to address this issue. Public Hearing is an effective social accountability tool that provides a forum for citizens receiving local services and officials providing those services to exchange questions and answers face-to-face on matters of public interest. In these forums, citizens can put forward personal and community related problems to the service providers by expressing their grievances and suggesting measures to improve the situation. (*Khadka and Bhattarai, Source Book for 21 Social Accountability Tools, 2012*)

During the hearing, it was learnt that the groups responsible for the construction of the toilet had not been active while the construction company and the Municipality staff were also not coordinating effectively.



Public Hearing being conducted in Haramtari, Gorkha

The Role of Radio in Social Accountability (*Contd..*)

This issue was heavily debated in front of the community where the local authorities then committed to restart the construction of the public toilet. With extra support from the municipality, Water and Sanitation Division and community involvement, the public toilet has finally been completed.

Through the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) Nepal, PRAN organized public hearings in ten MDTF districts in 2014, along with informative weekly broadcasts on Public Financial Management (PFM).

“The live broadcast of these district-based public hearings through community radio have had a real impact,” says Soham Subedi, Manager of Community Information Centre of Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB) Nepal. “The commitments made by the Government officials on these issues were recorded publicly thereby promoting community-level monitoring and accountability.”



The state of the public toilet in 2014, Haramtari



The toilet after completion

Training on Community Score Card and Scholarship Tracking Held

Last year, 47.43 percent of the Grade 10 students passed the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination in Nepal, considered the “iron gate” for further education and career thereafter. It was the highest percentage in four years. Though the increase in pass rates is also contributed by the government school students’ pass rate at 33.92% (from the previous year’s 28.19%), over half the examinees failed that year. This goes on to show that the quality of education in Nepal still needs a tremendous improvement.

The data also showed that though girls appearing the exam outnumbered boys, fewer girls passed. There is a huge gap of 13 percent between the pass rates for boys and girls. Altogether 203,175 girls had appeared against to 202,163 boys. The pass percentage for boys is 53.94. ([Republica, 19 June, 2015](#))

In order to improve the quality of education at the local level, one of PRAN’s technical partners, Policy Research and Development (PRAD) Nepal, is working with our CSOs in four districts - Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha and Gorkha. It is using accountability tools such as Community Score Card (CSC) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) to improve public service delivery in the field of education.

A training was provided to PRAN’s 16 Social Accountability Practitioners from 11th until 14th March in Narayangadh, central region of Nepal, in order to implement the tools in their respective VDCs.

“The basic objective this training is to make the CSOs aware on the basics and usefulness of CSC and the Scholarship tracking as social accountability tools in improving the quality of education and effective delivery of scholarships to the targeted girls and marginal class students. This would also enhance their enrollment and continuation in the school,” says Prof. Prithvi Raj Ligal of PRAD Nepal.

The **CSC** is a tool that can have quick and tangible results in terms of service delivery improvements. The process can strengthen citizen voice by creating a channel for direct feedback between service providers and users. In this way, it can lead to community empowerment and build productive relationships between service users and providers.

This is a mechanism through which citizens monitor the quality of community based public services. It provides the opportunity for citizens to analyze any particular services they receive based on their personal feelings, to express dissatisfaction, to provide encouragement if good work is done - and further suggest measure to be taken if flaws still remain.

The **PETS** is a social accountability tool that is used to follow the public funds by tracking from the point-of-origin to the point-of- expenditure. It is a quantitative exercise tracing the flow of resources from origin to destination and determine the location and scale of anomaly. It is also complementary to qualitative surveys on the perception of consumers on service delivery.

The PETS therefore highlights the use and abuse of public money, gives insights into the concepts of capture, cost efficiency, decentralization and accountability, provide a realistic portrayal of the status of demand and supply of services, justify a need for creating cost effective mechanisms of public accountability and information dissemination on resource allocation and use.

The dialogue between service users and providers enables the groups to share information, enumerate their concerns, and determine benchmarks for performance evaluation. It also gives service users a voice in the management and decision-making process.



Community Score Card in Action (File Photo)

Training on Community Score Card (Contd..)

This leads to negotiation and the production of action steps to improve the service being evaluated.

The training was successful in:

- illustrating CSC and PETS for scholarship tracking as social accountability tools, and
- to illustrate the conceptual aspects and practical steps to implement CSC in primary school to access the quality of education.

“We hope that these tools will help the stakeholders at the primary school level in the VDCs to identify the problems and issues constraining improvement in the quality of education and delivery of scholarship to the targeted students and agree jointly, that is, the service provider and service receiver, in devising and implementing activities that will ensure achieving the objectives,” says Prof. Prithvi Raj Ligal of PRAD Nepal.

Publication

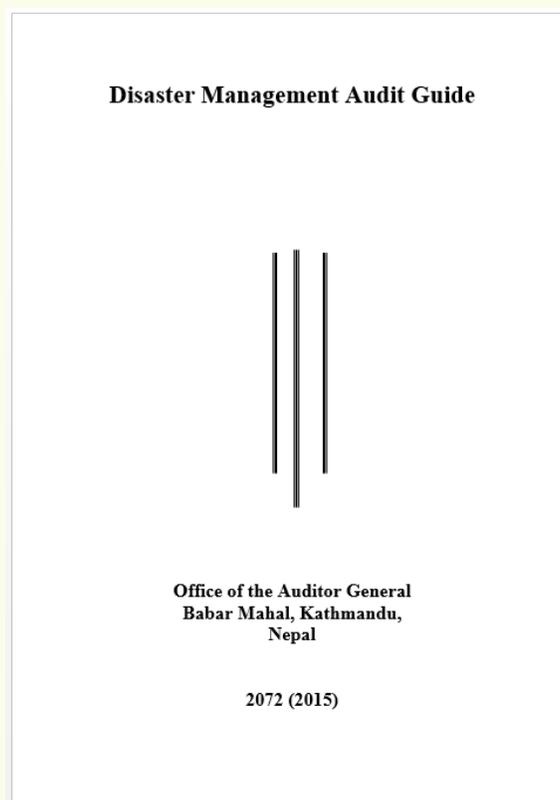
Disaster Management Guideline Nepal (2015)

Disaster management is a specialized activity. So, a specific audit procedure is required to be applied because it occurs in an unusual situation. The specific procedures and activities to be used in carrying out the audit of disaster management has been included in this guide. The topics of this guide must be simultaneously used with general provisions of audit process and methodology mentioned in the financial, compliance and performance audit guidelines.

Objective of Disaster Management Audit Guide

[This guide](#) has been prepared in consonance with the international standards relating to audit of disaster management. The main objective of enforcing this guide is stated below:

- To support by conducting effective audit of the disaster management related activities that are encountered by the country from time to time,
- To make audit of disaster management economic, efficient and effective,
- To follow the good practice in the audit of disaster management,
- To determine basic framework, procedure and policy for audit of disaster management,
- To support in identifying scope, methodology and risk areas in the audit of disaster management,
- To enhance capacity of staff needed for audit of disaster management.



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