THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY FP/RH SERVICES

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What is social accountability?

Efforts of *citizens* and *civil society* to scrutinize and hold *duty bearers* (politicians, government officials and service providers) to account for *providing promised services*, actions that most often take place at the sub-national or community level.

Types of SAcc Interventions

Participatory Budgeting

Public Expenditure Tracking

Community Report Cards

Citizen Report Cards

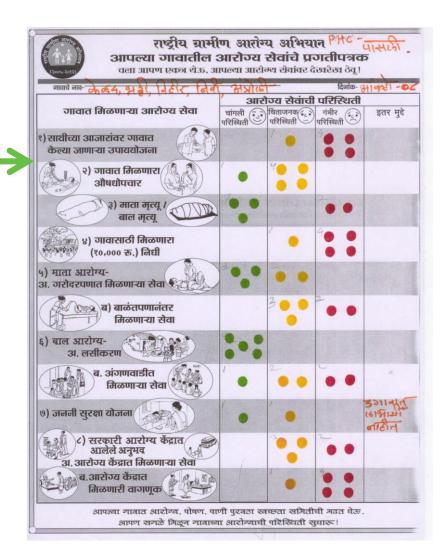
Social Audits

Citizen Charters

Health Committees

Information Sharing & Campaigns

Complaint Mechanisms



Courtesy of Population Foundation of India

Why Focus on Accountability?

 Accountability is an essential element to ensuring aid effectiveness

 Accountability has become increasingly important in the FP/RH field

 SAcc holds great promise for improving FP/RH services, but significant evidence gaps remain



Review of SAcc in FP/RH programs

Builds on a history of community involvement

Limited literature specific to FP/RH (16 case studies)

 Evidence on effectiveness and impact has yet to be adequately demonstrated

Promising evidence on effectiveness and impact of FP/RH SAcc intervention—Tanzania

 By tracking policy implementation, staffing patterns at 24 intervention facilities increased by 33% after 4 months*



Experts Consensus Points

- SAcc interventions are more than just applying tools, they are complex political processes
- Social accountability models must be adapted to reflect
 FP/RH issues
- More realistic expectations are needed on the outcomes
 SAcc interventions can achieve within limited timeframes
- There is a need to identify and measure minimum conditions required for successful SAcc interventions

What is Unique about SAcc for FP/RH?

- Much Potential
 - Applies to specificFP/RH issues
 - Operationalize rights based approaches
- Reservations
 - Balancing private and public
 - Role of incentives for SAcc



Moving Forward: Issues for the FP/RH Community

- Specific knowledge gaps remain in understanding the applicability of SAcc to FP/RH
- A diversity of methodologies are necessary to best capture the varied outcomes of SAcc approaches
- There is a need for better documentation of existing programs

Thank You

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