

Accountability and community based-monitoring

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Accountability

- Ability to call for 'accounts'
- Power to enforce sanctions
- Hierarchy of relations (power)

Answerability

- Moral pressure to respond
- Cannot enforce

Types of accountability

- Horizontal systems of accountability:
Government's internal system
- Vertical system of accountability:
Citizens try to hold the government accountable
- Hybrid system of accountability:
Jointly by citizens and state actors

Horizontal Accountability

- Legislative oversight: elected representatives (MPs, MLAs, ZP members etc)
- Departmental hierarchy (Executive)
- Auditing and financial oversight
- Judiciary (*suo motu*) and Human Rights Institutions (NHRC, NCW, NCM, NCSCST, NCPCR etc)

Vertical accountability

- Citizen associations/individuals claiming their rights through public action, demonstrations etc
- Public tribunals, public hearings
- Public Interest Litigation and Writ Petitions etc
- Media campaigns
- Other pressure tactics

Hybrid Accountability

Where the state invites the citizens to join in accountability and monitoring –

- Joint Review Missions, Common Review Missions
- Community Based Monitoring
- Hospital management committees with citizen members
- Other committees, societies, mentoring groups etc
- Help-lines and other feedback mechanisms

Possible Gaps

- Horizontal accountability - Depends on institutions being robust, individuals of integrity and absence of collusions
- Vertical Accountability – Depends of the strength of citizen action, media collaboration, state-society relations and absence of repression
- Hybrid Accountability – if the government is only doing it on paper, with no real intention of involving citizens, then it will have no results

Power relations

- Horizontal accountability is about the power of departmental hierarchy: can be upset when there is collusion by seniors or elected representatives
- Vertical accountability is an effort to challenge the balance of power
- Power relations can be shifted formally with more hybrid accountability

Human Rights and Accountability

- Not just a managerial function
- Must include the Guarantee of Non-repetition
- Must include Remedial Action to prevent such a thing in future
- Must include some Grievance Redress and compensation / treatment for the people who have suffered