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Report of Representation

Workshop on Advocacy and Negotiation Skills
Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 22-25, 2011

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Background
Affiliated Network of Social Accountability-South Asia Region & Global (ANSA SAR & G) organised one day consultations on May 22, 2011 to discuss its future and sustainable aspects which was coordinated by Jeff Thindwa, Lead Specialist and Social Accountability Cluster Leader in World Bank Institute, Washington DC and Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA SAR & G. In an effort to enhance the capacity of 22 partners, ANSA SAR & G organised a three-day workshop on the theme: Building Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Social Accountability Interventions during May 23-25, 2011, in which Vandana Mehra, Regional Communications Specialist, Water & Sanitation Programme, South Asia, Delhi was the resource person.

Proceedings
Day 1
Opening Session
Gopakumar welcomed all the participants and said that one new chapter of ANSA has been opened, named as ANSA-Arab World in CARE Egypt. He welcomed Jeff, Andrew Jenkins, BRAC University, Manzoor Hasan, Adviser, Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and Rizwan Khair, Director (In charge) at IGS. Jeff delivered the opening remarks and provided information about the social accountability initiatives and the role of World Bank Institute in the region.

Module 1: Promoting Social Accountability in South Asia: A Stocktaking
ANSA SAR & G wanted to get a quick feedback on critical enablers and challenges affecting social accountability practices in the region. Participants were divided into country specific groups who came out with their presentations based on a given set of trigger questions.

Module 2: Strengthening the Network: Building Communities of Practice
This session was facilitated by Andrew Jenkins which included two short presentations given by Gopakumar and Mark Ellery, Water and Sanitation Specialist, WSP, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Module 3: Institutionalising ANSA SAR & G
In this session suggestions were invited from participants on designing a roadmap to ensure a long-term strategy and to put in place a permanent institutional mechanism to sustain, capacitate and strengthen the existing network of ANSA SAR & G.

Day 02

During the day following issues were discussed and debated:

- Definition of advocacy. Genesis of advocacy which is any data, research or any ground reality or fact.
- Using data and research in policy making. Identifying issues for policy action and widening the range of possible solutions to a problem.
- A case was given for group work with a set of data to use for creating messages to influence media and public

Day 03

During the day following issues were discussed and debated:

- For selecting advocacy objectives, a case of displacement due to construction of a highway and a overbridge was shown to find out that whether that was a fit case as per the given checklist. Groups presented their findings.
- Discussions on five key elements of messages – content, language, source, format and 'time and place'.

Day 04

The day started with a role play exercise of a case given on the previous day in which solutions were provided for the problems faced by various groups. During the second session, participants were asked to go into the same Community of Practice (CoP) they joined on first day and chalk out the future course of action for a specified period of time with defined methodology and source of funding. All CoPs presented findings.

Valedictory Session

Jeff while summarising the proceedings said that there is huge scope for social accountability approaches to bring transparency and accountability in the existing system across the region. Jamilur Reza Choudhary, Vice Chancellor said that it is very essential to include the voices of common people in initiatives such as ANSA SAR & G.

Highlights

- Good platform to share and learn best practices from ANSA partners
- Design of workshop programmes was participatory.
- Topic of the workshop was extremely important and exciting in nature

Web link: http://www.ansa-sar.org/web/?q=workshop