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Does Open Data Lead to Open Government?

Anupama Dokeniya Jennifer Shkabatur

adokeniya@worldbank.org jshkabatur@sjd.law.harvard.edu

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Objectives of the project



- Develop a framework to understand the impact of transparency policies on governance outcomes
- Identify critical elements of effective transparency policies and initiatives
- Preliminary framework, piloted on a few prominent case studies

What open government outcomes are we looking at



- Transparency, Accountability, Participation (WB 2007 GAC Strategy)
- Transparency, Participation, Collaboration (Open Gov. Memorandum)
- Information Transparency + Public Engagement + Accountability (Heller)

Transparency Results Chain



Transparency Regime

Information Characteristics, Key Actors, Disclosure mechanism, Enabling Environment



Open Gov Outcomes

More Accountability, More Participation, Less Corruption



Development Outcomes

Better Policies, Better Services, More efficient public expenditures

For each initiative, we looked at



- Objectives of the Policy/Initiative
- Characteristics of information (Private/Public Interest)
- Key users (Citizens, Civil society, Gov. Officials)
- Disclosure Mechanism (Voluntary/Mandatory, Reactive/ Proactive)
- Enabling Environment (Sanctions, Checks & Balances)
- Outcomes (Accountability? Participation? Less Corruption? More efficiency?)







- RTI : Improving accountability
- Farm Subsidies (Public)
- FUNDAR (Civil society)
- Mandatory + Reactive
- Officials Sanctioned, Some changes in policies, but relapse of corruption
- Strong IFAI, strong CSOs, checks and balances moderate





- Citizen Monitoring, Accountability
- Recovery Funding (public funds), reporting on the progress of funded projects
- Gov. officials, CSOs moderately, citizens weak engagement
- Mandatory + Proactive
- High transparency, effective tracking of funding
- Government commitment, administrative capacity, technology









- Accountability in edu funds, citizen engagement
- Data on public schools
- ANSA-EAP

- Voluntary + Reactive
- Participation, collaborative problem-solving, monitoring
- Gov commitment, CSO capacity, decentralization



Citizen Charter



- Accountability & Efficiency
- Terms of public service provision
- Citizens, civil society
- Mandatory + proactive
- Effective where CSOs engaged actively - intermediaries, trainers; not so effective in direct citizen engagement
- Moderate Gov commitment, robust civil society



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- Citizens rarely engage unless information is of direct, immediate relevance
- Role of Civil Society as intermediaries absolutely critical
- Reactive mechanisms were more effective in engaging stakeholders
- Several elements of the enabling environment need to be considered (gov't commitment)
- Transparency initiatives were useful in improving efficiency, but not always accountability and participation

Next Steps



- Further develop and refine the framework, particularly on enabling environment
- > Expand the analysis to more cases

Develop a web platform to collaborative develop and share the case studies



Thank You

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