

Report on

Citizen Alliance for Promoting Transparency and Accountability (CAPTA) activity (January to March 2010)



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Introduction

Democracywatch conducted a bunch of voter education activities to make people more aware and responsive to promote free and fair election on the eve of Parliamentary Election-2008. The organization conducted this campaign through Election Working Group (EWG) – a non- partisan, 31 member coalitions of civil society organizations that share a common commitment to promote free and fair elections and establish good governance in Bangladesh. It has been working since 2007 to create a platform and raise different issues related to governance and democracy.

Objectives

- Promote transparency and accountability in ensure service process and determine the efficient role local administrative and peoples responsibility
- Ensure accountability of elected representative and people's participation in service delivery process

Activities

Under this activity Democracywatch formed Citizen's Alliances (24-30 members) in Promoting Transparency and Accountability at Saver and Mymensing District. The CAPTA committees comprises of respected businesspersons, school principals and teachers, women's leaders, religious leaders and other community members contributed to the planning and implementation of local voter and civic education activities. Local program activities included elected representative meetings and government official's performances and other activities on the themes of accountability, governance and service delivery.

Activity-1. CAPTA Committee Meeting

During January to March 2010, Democracywatch has organized 2 meetings with Local District CAPTA Meeting on 'The role of civil society to promote transparency and accountability and Governance Issue and Reform of CAPTA Member, Civil society and CAPTA members were also present at the meeting. These meeting held in Mymensing on 29th January 2010 and Saver dated on 6th January 2010. The objective of the meeting is to enhance coordination among the stakeholders to promote governance and ensure service delivery.

Activity-2. Advocacy Issue Identify Meeting

Democracywatch has selected two advocacy Issues based on local problems. 1. Reduce traffic jam at Savar Area and the other one is establish a children park in Mymensing. Democracywatch organized CAPTA meeting on 6th January ,2010 in Savar and 29 January at Mymensing,2010 respectively.

Activity-3. Refresher Training for CAPTA Member

Democracywatch has conducted two refresher training sessions on 29th January 2010 at agroduct school in Savar and Alok Chittri Sangshad in Mymensing on 6th February 2010 (January to March, 2010). Both the local and national staff conducted these refresher training programmes focusing on the role of CAPTA committee member and thematic area. The objective of CAPTA training is to determine the roles and responsibilities of duty bearers.

The session was divided into three sessions. First session is about the role of CAPTA member, what is local government, structure of local government second session is about Advocacy, objective and activities of CAPTA. The third session is about the resource mobilization, issue selection, advocacy audience, media advocacy and civil society organization. All participants were actively participated in the workshop. This training session started from 10.00 am continued up to 4.30 pm. A number of 50 participants were present at both refresher training.

Group Work

A group work has been done among the role of CAPTA member and service delivery bearer, role of government officials member and link With GoB and NGOs on Service delivery, Issue selection, advocacy audience and civil society organization role and responsibilities. All Participants attended in this group work. Flip Chart, VIPP and poster paper are also used in those training programmes.

Training Material:

Democracywatch produced a handy manual and provided File, Pad, writing Pen and for each Participant.

Activity 4: Meeting with different Stakeholders

Democracywatch organized a number of 5 Stakeholder meetings with general people to make them more aware and conscious regarding the Governance Issue. The meeting was focused on Governance and Rights of people with special emphasis on women, ethnic and religious minority, slum dwellers, first time voters, disable people, hard to reach people and other disadvantage and vulnerable group. In every meeting a large number of participants took part.

Activity 5: Meeting with Memorandum Finalizing:

A number of 2 Memorandums have been submitted at Savar dated on 3 March 2010 issue on and reduced traffic jam and Municipality Children Park at Mymensing dated on 6 March 2010. Local level people, civil society organization, club representative and Democracywatch Representatives were present the memorandum finalization meeting.

Activity 6: Miking:

Democracywatch and Saver Municipality Authority Jointly Organized miking 2 days in Municipality area focus on reduced traffic Jam. Municipalities to let people know the specific date of discussion meeting between CAPTA member and Municipality Authority about Traffic Jam and Role of Saver Municipality. In each and every ward, we have conducted 2 days campaign which created huge impact in the specific areas.

Challenges:

- Short Term Project
- Fund was not available for frequent Monitoring and Supervision
- High Expectation of CAPTA Committee member
- CAPTA Committee member doesn't have sound Knowledge on Voluntary Work

Lessons Learnt

Democracywatch is working to ensure Promoting transparency and accountability in Mymensing and Savar area about of Municipality Authority and People responsibility. During this period Democracywatch and its partners faced lot of difficulties and risks. This kind of project is not very easy when the question of transparency and accountability of Municipality comes in. It is sometimes hard to arrange a real platform for general people where they can raise their voices.

CAPTA have been more aware and their expectations are high. They thought that this project would give direct service delivery. It is up to us to make them understand that it will contribute indirectly in the development process and also ensure people's participation in democratic process.

Recommendations:

- CAPTA Committee should continue for achieving long term goal on governance.
- Organize more training and mobilization meetings to make them understand their rights and responsibilities on governance issue.
- Should conduct regular field visit from Asia foundation and concerned organization.
- Should Organized a series of formal and informal meetings with CAPTA member.

At a Glance CAPTA Activity Achievement

Mymensing					
SL	Name of Activity	Date	Venue	Achievement	Responsibility
1	1 st Planning Meeting with CAPTA	29 January 10	TUS Office Mymensing	Done	District Coordinator
2	Refresher Training	6 February 10	Alok Chittri Sangshad Mymensing	Done	District Coordinator
3	Advocacy Meeting	6 March 10	Ashil training gallery Mymensing	Done	District Coordinator
4	Advocacy Meeting	6 March 10	Municipality Office Mymensing	Done	District Coordinator

Savar					
SL	Name of Activity	Date	Venue	Achievement	Responsibility
1	1 st Planning Meeting with CAPTA	6 January 10	Agroduct School, Savar	Done	Mohiuddin Moin
2	Refresher Training	29 January 10	Agroduct School, Savar	Done	Mohiuddin Moin
3	Advocacy and Memorandum Submit Meeting	1-3 March 10	Agroduct School, Savar	Done	Mohiuddin Moin
4	Round Table Meeting with Savar Municipality	3 April 2010	Agroduct School, Savar	Done	Mohiuddin Moin