GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL: CONTEXT, ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Trilochan Pokharel, tpokharel@nasc.org.np
Session Objectives

- Explain the key actors of governance
- Explain the characteristics of good governance
- Analyze governance issues and challenges in the changing socio-political context
Presentation outline

- Reimagining governance
- Government and governance
- Governance actors
- Governance status in Nepal
- Issues and challenges
Review of governance status of Nepal
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Nepal has everything in place. It has abundant natural resources, a large workforce ready for shouldering development agenda, democratic institutions and practices, supportive international community, historical political changes etc. The only thing we do lack is effective governance. Hence, we are in serious 'Governance crisis'.
Understanding governance

World Bank (1991)

the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development

World Bank (2006)

the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised
UNDP (1997)

Governance is the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.
Turke (2008)

- **Structure**: systems, processes, institutions...
- **Actor**: policy makers, public service providers and government...
- **Synthesis**: combination of both
Reimagining governance

Policy Decisions

Governance system

Citizens

Governance, NASC 2015
Pillars of governance

- Participation
- Rule of Law
- Consensus Oriented
- Equity and Inclusiveness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Effectiveness and Efficiency

Information and Communication Technology
Government and governance

- Role overlap
- Power holding vs service delivery
- Power - by nature undemocratic, upholding and restrictive
- Democratic institutions and systems induce democratic exercise of power
Change in governance philosophy—governance beyond government

Mobilizing people’s participation, promoting constructive engagement

Creating favourable political, legal and economic environment

Creating opportunities for people
However, inherent characteristics of governance actors remained intact

Serious gap between demand and supply

Emergence of intermediary
Actors...

State ➔ People

Governance, NASC 2015
Actors

State  Intermediary  People

Governance, NASC 2015
What democratic value is here?
Governance status of Nepal

Issues and challenges

- Low accountability, responsiveness and transparency
- Rampant corruption
- Non-inclusive governance
- Low credibility of public institutions
- Over politicization in governance practices
- Low innovation in governance system
Issues

Goverance, NASC 2015
Issues...

- Strengthening state institutions
Issues...

- State-people interface - constructive engagement
Ways...

- Promoting accountability, responsiveness and transparency
Story of a common man

YES, POSSIBLE

Governance, NASC 2015
Strengthening state-people relationship

Governance, NASC 2015
Issues

□ Maintaining ethical standards
□ Using politics for improve service delivery
□ Rule of law
□ Inclusive governance
□ Innovative governance - use of technology

“We should vote on this ... bearing in mind the spirit of Positive Work Culture, will it be ‘Yes’ or ‘Absolutely’?”

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Reinforcing Governance Functions

Policy

Governance System

Politcal parities and environment
Bureaucratic systems and culture
International context
Culture and social values

Citizens

Integrity
Leadership
Strategic Thinking
Enhancing Governance- A Framework

- Individual (Service Provider)
- Institution (Structure and system)
- Collective (Society, WPEs, Community of Practice)

- Social Accountability
- Capacity building

- Improved public service delivery

- Revisit, restructure

- Empowerment, awareness, experience sharing

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Thank you