

- DP can also have educational aspects. For instance the administrator/politician in an area would like to educate the public on how to conserve water through the pact.



- Independent External Monitors (IEMs) are nominated at the village level with representation from at least one woman, local NGO and opinion leaders from the local area. The IEMs will meet regularly. Concerns may be brought to their notice. The role of the IEMs becomes important mainly, when failings begin to appear.
- Citizen's charter is also part of the pact in that it will be mandatory to publicly display the allocation made for development works, the plans for spending and actual expenditure incurred. In addition to this, public announcements will be made in gram sabha meetings and through community radios (wherever available) to facilitate outreach to people with low literacy levels.
 - At the time of social audit, TII will play the role of observer and independent media will be present. Use of RTI will be made wherever necessary.

Proposed states:

Bihar, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan, Orissa to begin with and reach out to any other interested states.

How can DP help?

- It will create political incentives to fight corruption in development by enhancing the popularity of the politician who delivers, with greater prospects of re-election.
- It will create competitiveness in politics to deliver services to the people.
- It encourages public participation in local development issues.
- It will discourage corruption and increase transparency by making decentralization more meaningful.
- It enables prioritization of development needs and judicious budget allocation.
- Improves access to public goods and services would be ensured.
- It creates a new kind of accountability to the electorates.



- It empowers groups of disadvantaged citizens to effectively translate their civil rights into access to health and education, water and land, credit and markets.
- It will lead to better and actual utilization of funds that are earmarked for disadvantaged groups.
- Failure to deliver will meet with corrective consequences.
- Ability to deliver will meet with due electoral rewards & promotional prospects in case of administration set-up.
- With good performance, the public administration can develop mutual trust and cooperation with the people.
- Improves the capacity of CSOS to engage in decision making process.

Role of TII

- **Advocacy:** To Advocate DPs among people, NGOs, public representatives, public servants as a tool that can actually work in their favour, if they are interested in bringing about actual development to their constituency
- **Facilitator:** To support, negotiate, and publicise lessons and successes of the pacts and make those known to more disadvantaged locations
- **Observer:** In case of non deliverance, the community may demand a social audit and TII will play the role of observer.
- **Engage:** With the media to publicise the outcome of DPs
- Ensure content and procedural systems through participative means. After people prioritise their needs, the pacts will be generated by the CSOs with support from TII. It would contain aspects that are concluded in stakeholder workshops organized by the NGO with support from TII.

Financial Support

If you wish to support the Development Pact initiative of TII, please send your donations* by cheque payable to "Transparency International India" and send it to the following address:

Transparency International India
Qr. No. 4, Lajpat Bhawan
Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi 110024 (India)

* all donations are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of Income Tax Act

** Please visit our website for more information on other programmes of TII at www.transparencyindia.org

DEVELOPMENT PACT



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DEVELOPMENT PACT

Introduction

According to latest estimates, over 75.6% of India's population lives below \$2 a day which is greater than the figures for sub-Saharan Africa (72.2%). For the vast majority of the population, the normal rhythm of life has meant long years of living with unmet basic needs, low quality services, and little interest from political representatives, interrupted only when an election comes around. Occasionally, democracy rules and an under performing politician is unseated when constituents vote for change. However, even this is a gamble, as many aspirant MPs and MLAs do not live up to their election pledges.

India has the world's largest poverty reduction programmes. There is no dearth of public funds but the desired impact on poverty and inequality is missing. In 2007, there was a reported PDS diversion of food grains to the tune of Rs 31,500 crores spread over three years across the country. A widespread lack of accountability of service providers, government officials, and politicians along with diversion of resources is severely affecting very carefully designed and well intended programmes. The NREGS is no exception.

Transparency International India

Transparency International India (TII) is committed to curbing corruption at the national, state and grass root level by raising awareness about corruption, good governance and devising tools to support Government and Private Sector for better delivery of public services. TII is a non-profit, non-partisan and apolitical organization.

Development Pact is an instrument developed by TII, designed to help disadvantaged groups, to increase their participation and oversight in development processes and monitor the performance of their elected representatives and administrative officials. It is a tool in the hands of the poor to

create political incentives to fight corruption and poverty. Pacts between champions of the poor and the poor can convert political will to fulfill development commitments.

Definition:

Development Pact is a change tool in the hands of poor people, to demand greater transparency and accountability from the political representatives and local administration, by exercising their political rights beyond simply voting, to a more authentic and continuous engagement in decision making.

The process

- Development Pact is a tool to mobilize and sustain political will by facilitating mutually beneficial pacts between local authority, elected representatives, and community including its vulnerable groups. The final beneficiaries are vulnerable groups, communities and civil society organizations, who benefit from pro-active disclosure of information and increased spaces for participating in policy consultations. By using Development Pact as a partnership framework, local authority can proactively seek the inclusion of civil society organizations, communities and vulnerable citizens in public decision. It provides opportunities for the participation of communities and vulnerable groups in local decision making, planning and implementation. It also supports capacity building of civil society organizations.



Development Pact has a great potential to be a functional tool. Its success largely depends on the participation of the people. Thus the primary target of TII is to identify community based organizations that have the commitment and potential to promote local democracy in the real sense. The aim is to encourage people to move beyond mere voting, and to enable them to participate in processes that can hold the legislature and the executive accountable, for proper utilisation of funds and implementation of programmes.

Following are the stages of development pact:

- Firstly, TII identifies grassroots organizations, that are committed towards establishing people-oriented decentralisation.



- TII then signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the grassroots organisation to jointly work towards introducing Development Pact in the local community.
- The grass-root organisation then raises awareness in the community on electoral rights and how to engage with their political representative to transform electoral promises into action.
- This is followed by a stakeholder's workshop, attended by the representatives of vulnerable groups, elected representatives, potential election candidates, and district, block and Panchayat functionaries. In this workshop the stakeholders discuss and agree on one or more focal needs: these could be water, hospitals, schools, roads, etc.,
- After identification of priority, development needs that the people would like their Sarpanch, MLA, MP and local administration to work on, the scope and content or rather a draft framework for the DP is developed. The number of clauses is mutually developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Development Pact can be invoked before or after election. If implemented before election, people can demand that the potential candidate (be it Sarpanch, MLA or MP) should sign the Development Pact stating that if elected, they will deliver on certain agreed upon development issues. Post election they can encourage the local political representative to deliver on development issues that form part of the pact.
- A team of five Independent External Monitors (IEM), who are locally nominated, is formed to monitor the progress of the Pact.



- Sanctions involved in case of non delivery: Use of social audit and RTI to seek answers from political representative.

Some other aspects of DP

- The scope and content of DPs is variable and dependent on the needs, nature of dialogue and negotiations that the different stakeholders hold. Examples of some clauses that have been suggested in DP stakeholder workshops is that 'within 15 days of winning an election, the MLA must pay a visit to his/her constituency'. A first, but important step.