

THE EVALUATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE FROM THE GRASSROOTS FRAME OF REFERENCE

Dr. Minal Sharma*

ABSTRACT

This paper provides a critical analysis of governance from the grassroots level, highlighting the challenges. Governance is a vital aspect of a society, and it is expected to provide efficient, transparent, and accountable services to the citizens. Grassroots level are the backbone of the society, and their participation in governance is essential for the success of any policy. Governance is the process of decision-making and the implementation of policies and programs by the government to provide essential services to citizens. Governance aims to ensure the delivery of quality services, accountability, and transparency. However, in many developing countries, governance has been criticized for being a top-down approach. This paper deals with the conceptual problems about governance and studies how the problematique of governance dominates the thinking and functioning of the multidimensional financial institutions as well as the policy making device in India. Secondly, a critique of the concept of governance as used current debates is attempted here. This article argues that the ideology of the project of governance has serious implications for understanding the role of state and of politics because the conceptions of democracy and development have to be subjected to political contestation and negotiation by the citizens, instead of being subjected to the formal institutional perceptions by the credit-giving agencies. This article further argues that it is possible to develop an alternative perspective on governance based on the issues thrown up by the people's movements at the grassroots level.

Keywords: Governance, Institutions, Democracy, Policy-Making, Perceptions.

Introduction

Governance is a multifaceted concept that has attracted considerable attention from scholars and practitioners in recent years. It refers to the exercise of power and authority to manage public affairs, resources, and services, with the goal of promoting the well-being of citizens. Governance encompasses different spheres of activities and decision-making processes, including political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Governance can be evaluated from various perspectives, such as the state, civil society, and market.

In this paper, we focus on grassroots governance, which refers to governance practices and processes that originate from and are shaped by the grassroots level. Grassroots governance is characterized by its bottom-up approach, citizen participation, and community-led initiatives. It involves the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes and the management of public resources and services. It involves a bottom-up approach that focuses on the experiences, needs, and expectations of ordinary people in their daily lives.

This evaluation considers how well governance institutions are responding to the needs and aspirations of their constituents, particularly those who are marginalized or disadvantaged. It also examines the extent to which local governance structures are transparent, accountable, and inclusive in decision-making processes.

* Assistant Professor, ICFAI School of Liberal Arts, The ICFAI University Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

From the grassroots perspective, governance is evaluated based on its impact on the lives of ordinary people. This means examining how well governance institutions are providing basic services such as healthcare, education, water, and sanitation. It also involves looking at how effectively governments are addressing social and economic challenges such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

The evaluation of governance from the grassroots perspective recognizes the importance of citizen participation in decision-making processes. It involves ensuring that communities are empowered to hold their governments accountable and that they have access to information that affects their lives.

Background

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of evaluating governance from the grassroots perspective. This recognition stems from the realization that the effectiveness of governance is not solely determined by the actions of the government or other top-down institutions, but also by the participation and engagement of individuals and communities at the local level. One of the key drivers of this recognition has been the failure of traditional approaches to governance evaluation to adequately capture the experiences and perspectives of marginalized groups and communities. In many cases, these groups have been excluded from decision-making processes and have not had their voices heard in evaluations of governance effectiveness. This has led to a disconnect between official assessments of governance and the lived experiences of those affected by it.

Another driver of the growing recognition of the importance of grassroots perspectives in governance evaluation is the emergence of new technologies and platforms that enable greater citizen engagement and participation. Social media, for example, has given citizens a powerful new tool for sharing their experiences and opinions with a wider audience, including policymakers and international organizations. The growing emphasis on participatory and inclusive governance in international development discourse has also contributed to the recognition of the importance of grassroots perspectives in evaluating governance. Development actors increasingly recognize that sustainable, effective governance requires the active engagement and participation of communities and individuals at all levels. As a result, there is a growing interest in approaches to governance evaluation that are more participatory and inclusive, and that take into account the perspectives and experiences of those at the grassroots level.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of a study on the evaluation of governance from the grassroots perspective may vary depending on the specific context and scope of the research. However, some common objectives of such a study could include:

- Assessing the extent to which governance institutions are meeting the needs and expectations of ordinary citizens at the local level, particularly those who are marginalized or disadvantaged.
- Examining the level of transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in local governance decision-making processes, including the involvement of civil society organizations and community-based groups.
- Evaluating the impact of local governance policies and programs on the lives of ordinary people, including the provision of basic services, social protection, and economic opportunities.
- Identifying gaps and challenges in local governance structures and processes, and making recommendations for improvement.
- Empowering communities and civil society organizations to engage in the evaluation of governance from the grassroots perspective and to advocate for more inclusive and responsive forms of governance.
- Building capacity among local officials and policymakers to better understand and respond to the needs and aspirations of their constituents, particularly those who are marginalized or disadvantaged.

Literature Review

Grassroots governance has gained attention in recent years as a critical component of democratic governance. It is considered to be an effective means of promoting citizen participation, accountability, and transparency in decision-making processes. A review of the literature on grassroots governance highlights several key features, benefits, and challenges.

One key feature of grassroots governance is its bottom-up approach, which means that initiatives and decisions are initiated and led by the community. This approach promotes community ownership and participation, which enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance initiatives. Grassroots governance also emphasizes the importance of local knowledge and expertise, which is critical for the effective management of local resources and services.

Grassroots governance is also associated with several benefits, including improved service delivery, enhanced social cohesion, and increased civic engagement. Grassroots initiatives have been successful in improving access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and healthcare, particularly in low-income and marginalized communities. They have also been successful in promoting social cohesion and community solidarity, which are essential for building resilient communities. Grassroots initiatives have also been successful in promoting civic engagement, which is critical for promoting democratic governance.

However, grassroots governance faces several challenges. One of the most significant challenges is the lack of resources and capacity. Grassroots initiatives often operate with limited resources and support, which can undermine their effectiveness and sustainability. Additionally, grassroots initiatives can face political interference and exclusionary practices, which can limit their impact and legitimacy.

Case Studies

Several case studies illustrate the ways in which grassroots governance can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development. By examining the experiences of communities and individuals at the local level, these case studies can help to identify effective strategies for promoting inclusive governance, enhancing citizen participation, and improving service delivery.

One example of the value of case studies on grassroots governance can be seen in the field of community-driven development (CDD). CDD programs aim to empower communities to identify their own development priorities and to design and implement their own development projects. Case studies of CDD programs have shown that these programs can be effective in promoting local ownership, building social capital, and improving service delivery outcomes.

Another example of the value of case studies on grassroots governance can be seen in the field of participatory budgeting (PB). PB is an approach to budgeting that allows citizens to participate in the allocation of public funds. Case studies of PB programs have shown that these programs can be effective in promoting citizen engagement, enhancing accountability, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending.

Case studies on grassroots governance can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development by providing insights into the experiences and perspectives of communities and individuals at the local level. These case studies can help to inform policy and practice, and can support the development of more effective and equitable governance systems.

Methodology

The research methodology used in the Grassroot Governance research paper is a systematic literature review. A systematic literature review is a comprehensive and structured approach to reviewing and analysing existing literature on a specific topic. The review is conducted using a predefined set of criteria and search terms to identify relevant studies, books, reports, and other sources of information.

The literature review in this research paper covers a range of sources, including academic journals, books, and government reports. The sources were selected based on their relevance to the topic of grassroot governance and their reliability. The review was conducted using a range of search terms related to grassroot governance, including "local governance," "community participation," "decentralization," and "citizen engagement."

The literature was analyzed using a qualitative approach to identify key themes and findings related to grassroot governance. The findings of the literature review were then synthesized and presented in the research paper.

Overall, the systematic literature review methodology used in the Grassroot Governance research paper allows for a comprehensive and rigorous analysis of existing literature on grassroot governance. It provides a strong foundation for evaluating the effectiveness of grassroot governance in promoting local development and participation.

Governance from Grassroot Level

Governance from the grassroots level involves the active participation of local communities in decision-making processes that affect their lives. It is an approach to governance that prioritizes the involvement of citizens in shaping policies and programs that are responsive to their needs and aspirations.

Here are some key characteristics of governance from the grassroots level:

- **Local Participation:** Governance from the grassroots level emphasizes the participation of local communities in decision-making processes. This means involving citizens in identifying problems, setting priorities, and designing and implementing programs and policies.
- **Collaboration:** Grassroots governance also involves collaboration between various stakeholders, including community members, civil society organizations, and government agencies. This collaboration allows for a diversity of perspectives and ideas to be brought to the table.
- **Empowerment:** An important aspect of grassroots governance is the empowerment of local communities to take ownership of their own development. This involves providing opportunities for training, capacity-building, and leadership development.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Grassroots governance is characterized by transparency and accountability in decision-making and program implementation. This means ensuring that information is accessible to all stakeholders, and that mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies.
- **Sustainable Development:** Finally, governance from the grassroots level is focused on sustainable development. This means designing programs and policies that promote environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and that will have long-term benefits for the community.

Principles of Governance

The principles of governance are a set of fundamental values and beliefs that guide how individuals, organizations, and institutions govern and make decisions. While there are many different principles of governance, some of the most important include:

- **Accountability:** This principle refers to the responsibility of those in power to be answerable for their actions and decisions. It involves establishing clear lines of responsibility and mechanisms for oversight and review.
- **Transparency:** This principle involves ensuring that information is accessible and understandable to all stakeholders, and that decision-making processes are open and participatory.
- **Participation:** This principle emphasizes the importance of involving stakeholders in decision-making processes. It involves engaging with and listening to a diversity of perspectives, and ensuring that all voices are heard and considered.
- **Rule of Law:** This principle refers to the idea that everyone, including those in power, is subject to the same laws and regulations. It involves establishing clear rules and procedures, and ensuring that they are applied fairly and consistently.
- **Efficiency:** This principle emphasizes the importance of making effective use of resources and achieving desired outcomes in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- **Equity:** This principle refers to the importance of ensuring that everyone has access to the same opportunities and benefits, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, or other characteristics.
- **Effectiveness:** This principle emphasizes the importance of achieving desired outcomes and making a positive impact on the lives of stakeholders.
- **Responsiveness:** This principle involves being attentive to the needs and concerns of stakeholders, and adapting policies and programs as necessary to address them.

These principles provide a framework for promoting good governance and ensuring that decisions are made in a way that is fair, effective, and responsive to the needs of stakeholders.

Forms and Practices

Grassroots governance refers to a bottom-up approach to governance, where decision-making power and authority are distributed among the community members. This approach emphasizes the active participation of community members in decision-making, policy formulation, and implementation, with the aim of promoting inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency. Forms and practices of grassroots governance include:

- **Participatory Budgeting:** Participatory budgeting is a process that involves community members in deciding how public funds are spent. This approach enables residents to prioritize public spending and allocate resources to projects that they deem necessary.
- **Community Organizing:** Community organizing is a process that involves mobilizing and empowering community members to identify and address issues that affect them. Community organizers work to build strong relationships among community members, create a sense of collective responsibility, and facilitate the development of community-led solutions.
- **Citizen Assemblies:** Citizen assemblies are deliberative processes that bring together a diverse group of individuals to discuss and make decisions on issues affecting their communities. These assemblies can be formed at the local or regional level and provide a platform for citizen engagement and decision-making.
- **Collective Ownership:** Collective ownership involves community members coming together to collectively own and manage community assets, such as land, housing, or resources. This approach fosters community ownership and control over resources and promotes democratic decision-making.
- **Social Audits:** Social audits are tools used to evaluate the performance of public institutions and ensure accountability and transparency. Social audits involve community members in the monitoring of public services and facilities, such as schools or hospitals, to ensure that they meet the needs of the community.

Grassroots governance empowers communities to take ownership of their development by promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. The forms and practices outlined above are just some of the ways in which communities can engage in grassroots governance to promote accountability, transparency, and democratic decision-making.

Implications for Governance

Grassroots governance has significant implications for governance at all levels, including local, national, and international levels. Some of the key implications are:

- **Increased Citizen Participation:** Grassroots governance promotes active citizen participation in decision-making processes, which can increase the legitimacy of governance structures. This can result in improved public trust, better policy outcomes, and greater social cohesion.
- **Enhanced Accountability:** Grassroots governance encourages accountability, transparency, and responsiveness in governance. This can lead to more effective governance and better use of public resources, as well as a greater sense of ownership and responsibility among community members.
- **More Inclusive Governance:** Grassroots governance promotes inclusive governance by ensuring that marginalized and underrepresented groups have a voice in decision-making processes. This can help to address inequalities and improve social cohesion.
- **Strengthened Democratic Institutions:** Grassroots governance can strengthen democratic institutions by promoting citizen engagement and participation in decision-making processes. This can help to promote the rule of law, protect human rights, and ensure that the needs and interests of all citizens are represented in governance structures.
- **Improved Development Outcomes:** Grassroots governance can contribute to improved development outcomes by promoting community-led development processes that are responsive to the needs and priorities of communities. This can result in more sustainable and equitable development outcomes that benefit all members of the community.

Objectives of Grassroots Governance Construction

Grassroots governance construction aims to empower local communities and promote their active participation in decision-making processes. Some of the key objectives of grassroots governance construction include:

- **Enhancing Community Participation:** Grassroots governance construction encourages active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes that directly affect their lives. It helps to ensure that decisions are made through a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach.
- **Improving Accountability:** By involving the local community in decision-making processes, grassroots governance construction helps to improve transparency and accountability of local leaders. This also creates an avenue for the community to hold leaders accountable for their actions.
- **Promoting Social Justice:** Grassroots governance construction aims to promote social justice by ensuring that resources are allocated fairly and equitably among all members of the community. It also helps to address social issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.
- **Strengthening Local Institutions:** Grassroots governance construction helps to strengthen local institutions by providing them with the necessary resources and support to carry out their functions effectively. This includes building the capacity of local leaders, promoting civic education, and providing technical assistance.
- **Fostering Sustainable Development:** Grassroots governance construction promotes sustainable development by encouraging the community to participate in decision-making processes that affect their environment. It also helps to ensure that development projects are environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.

Overall, grassroots governance construction aims to create a more inclusive and participatory governance system that empowers communities to take charge of their own development.

Content Construction of Grassroots Governance

Grassroots governance refers to the process of decision-making and policy implementation that occurs at the local level, typically initiated and driven by community members. Content construction, in this context, refers to the creation and development of the specific ideas, proposals, and policies that will form the basis of grassroots governance.

There are several key steps involved in the content construction of grassroots governance:

- **Identification of Issues:** The first step in content construction is to identify the key issues and challenges facing the local community. This can be done through various means, including community meetings, surveys, and consultations with local leaders and organizations.
- **Research and Analysis:** Once the key issues have been identified, it is important to conduct research and analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes and potential solutions. This may involve gathering data, consulting with experts, and reviewing best practices from other communities.
- **Proposal Development:** Based on the research and analysis, proposals and policy recommendations can be developed to address the identified issues. These proposals should be clear, concise, and actionable, with specific steps outlined for implementation.
- **Community Engagement:** To ensure that the proposals and policies developed are responsive to the needs and concerns of the community, it is important to engage community members throughout the content construction process. This may involve holding public meetings, conducting outreach and education campaigns, and soliciting feedback and input from community members.
- **Implementation and Monitoring:** Finally, once the proposals and policies have been developed and approved, it is important to ensure that they are effectively implemented and monitored for progress and effectiveness. This may involve establishing mechanisms for accountability, tracking progress towards goals, and making adjustments as needed based on feedback from the community.

Need to Focus on Probity in Governance

Probity in governance refers to the adherence to ethical principles and standards in decision-making and the use of resources. It involves honesty, transparency, accountability, and integrity in all aspects of governance. There is a strong need to focus on probity in governance for several reasons:

- **Upholding Public Trust:** Probity in governance is crucial for upholding public trust in government institutions and officials. When citizens perceive that their leaders are acting in an honest and transparent manner, it enhances their confidence in the government and promotes a sense of legitimacy.
- **Preventing Corruption:** Corruption is a major threat to good governance and can have severe economic, social, and political consequences. Probity in governance helps prevent corruption by establishing clear rules and procedures, ensuring that resources are used in a transparent and accountable manner, and providing mechanisms for oversight and review.
- **Ensuring Fairness and Equity:** Probity in governance is essential for ensuring that decisions are made in a fair and equitable manner. This means that resources are allocated based on need and merit, and that all stakeholders are treated with respect and dignity.
- **Promoting Efficiency:** Probity in governance can also promote efficiency by ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently. This means that decision-making is based on sound evidence and analysis, and that programs and policies are designed to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Enhancing Democracy:** Finally, probity in governance is essential for promoting democracy and the rule of law. It ensures that all stakeholders have equal access to information and opportunities, and that decision-making is based on the will of the people rather than the interests of a select few.

Importance of Grassroots Governance

Grassroots governance is essential for the development of a healthy and inclusive society. It empowers people by giving them a voice in the decision-making process, ensuring that their needs are addressed, and enabling them to participate in the development of their communities. By involving local communities in the decision-making process, grassroots governance creates a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to sustainable development.

Grassroots governance is important for several reasons:

- **Empowerment of Local Communities:** Grassroots governance gives local communities the power to make decisions about their own development. This empowers them to take ownership of their own future and ensures that policies are tailored to their specific needs and aspirations.
- **Inclusiveness and Participation:** By involving local communities in the decision-making process, grassroots governance ensures that all members of the community have a voice and can participate in shaping their future. This helps to build a sense of community and fosters a culture of inclusiveness.
- **Sustainable Development:** Grassroots governance promotes sustainable development by ensuring that decisions are made with the long-term interests of the community in mind. This helps to create a more resilient and sustainable community that is better able to withstand economic and environmental shocks.
- **Accountability:** By involving local communities in the decision-making process, grassroots governance promotes accountability among decision-makers. This ensures that policies are implemented in a transparent and accountable manner, and that decision-makers are held responsible for their actions.
- **Bottom-up Approach:** Grassroots governance is a bottom-up approach to governance that starts at the local level and builds upwards. This helps to ensure that policies are grounded in the realities of local communities and are tailored to their specific needs and circumstances. Grassroots governance is important because it empowers local communities, promotes inclusiveness and participation, fosters sustainable development, promotes accountability, and takes a bottom-up approach to governance.

Challenges Facing Grassroots Governance

Despite its importance, grassroots governance faces several challenges. One of the primary challenges is the lack of resources and capacity among local communities to participate effectively in the decision-making process. Many communities lack the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to engage in meaningful dialogue and decision-making. This can lead to a situation where decisions are made without the full participation of the community, which can result in policies that do not reflect the needs and aspirations of the people.

Another challenge is the lack of political will among governments to devolve power to local communities. Many governments are reluctant to give up their power and control over decision-making, and this can lead to a situation where local communities are marginalized and excluded from the decision-making process.

In addition, there may be cultural or social barriers to effective grassroots governance. Some communities may have deeply ingrained hierarchies or power structures that make it difficult for all members to participate equally in the decision-making process. Gender or ethnic discrimination may also limit the participation of certain groups in governance processes.

Finally, there may be external factors that hinder effective grassroots governance, such as natural disasters, conflicts, or economic downturns. These factors can disrupt the governance process and make it difficult for local communities to fully participate in decision-making.

Addressing these challenges will require a concerted effort by governments, civil society, and local communities to work together towards a shared goal of creating a more inclusive and participatory society. This may involve providing resources and capacity-building support to local communities, promoting greater political will for devolution of power, and addressing cultural and social barriers to effective grassroots governance.

Findings

The findings of this study reveal that good governance from the grassroots perspective is characterized by the following attributes:

- **Participation:** The participation of citizens in decision-making processes is crucial for good governance. Communities with participatory governance structures tend to have greater trust in their leaders and are more likely to be satisfied with the outcomes of decision-making processes.
- **Transparency:** Transparency in the decision-making process is crucial for good governance. Citizens want to know how decisions are made, who makes them, and why they are made. Transparency promotes accountability and helps build trust between citizens and leaders.
- **Accountability:** Accountability is essential for good governance. Leaders should be held accountable for their actions and decisions. Citizens should have mechanisms to hold their leaders accountable, such as through regular elections or public hearings.
- **Responsiveness:** Governance should be responsive to citizens' needs and concerns. Leaders should listen to citizens' opinions and act on them promptly.
- **Efficiency:** Governance should be efficient in the provision of services and the use of resources. Citizens expect efficient delivery of services such as health, education, and infrastructure.

Discussion

The findings of the study suggest that evaluating governance from a grassroots perspective is crucial for understanding the challenges faced by communities. This perspective provides a more nuanced understanding of governance, which takes into account the needs and aspirations of the people. This is in contrast to the government's perspective on governance, which may be more focused on administrative efficiency and meeting national-level goals.

The need for a shift in the way governance is evaluated is particularly important in developing countries, where governance challenges are often more acute. These countries may face issues such as corruption, weak institutions, and limited resources, which can make it difficult to provide basic services to citizens. In such contexts, evaluating governance from a grassroots perspective can help to identify the specific challenges faced by communities and inform more effective policy responses.

The study highlights several key indicators of good governance from a grassroots perspective, including the provision of basic services, accountability, transparency, participation, and inclusiveness. These indicators reflect the values and priorities of communities and can serve as a guide for evaluating the effectiveness of governance in meeting their needs. It is clear that the government's perspective is not sufficient to fully capture the challenges faced by communities. The grassroots perspective provides a more nuanced understanding of governance, one that takes into account the needs and aspirations of the people. The results also highlight the importance of accountability, transparency, participation, and inclusiveness in governance. Without these elements, the government cannot fully meet the needs of its citizens.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this research paper has provided an in-depth examination of governance from the grassroots perspective. Through this evaluation, we have seen the importance of grassroots governance in empowering local communities, promoting inclusiveness and participation, fostering sustainable development, promoting accountability, and taking a bottom-up approach to governance.

However, the challenges facing grassroots governance, including the lack of resources and capacity, the lack of political will among governments, cultural and social barriers, and external factors that disrupt the governance process, are significant and require urgent attention.

Therefore, it is necessary for governments, civil society, and local communities to work together to address these challenges and create a more inclusive and participatory society. This may involve providing resources and capacity-building support to local communities, promoting greater political will for devolution of power, addressing cultural and social barriers to effective grassroots governance, and ensuring that policies are grounded in the realities of local communities.

In conclusion, this research paper highlights the critical role that grassroots governance plays in creating a healthy and inclusive society, and the importance of continued efforts to strengthen grassroots governance practices.

References

1. Anwar, M. (2015). "Grassroots Governance: A Comparative Study of Bangladesh and India." *Journal of South Asian Development*, 10(3), 341-362.
2. Bhattacharjee, A. (2014). "Grassroots Governance and Development in Rural India: A Study of Two Villages." *Journal of Rural Development*, 33(3), 277-298.
3. Brohman, J. (1996). "New Directions in Development Theory: Culturalist Approaches and the Rediscovery of Grassroots Development." *Progress in Human Geography*, 20(3), 385-408.
4. Chen, J., Li, X., & Liang, X. (2016). "Grassroots Governance in China: A Review of Recent Developments." *Journal of Chinese Governance*, 1(2), 133-151.
5. Chigbu, U.E. (2018). "Grassroots Governance and Local Development in Africa: A Review." *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 53(1), 43-60.
6. Dossani, R. (2017). "Grassroots Governance in India: Challenges and Opportunities." *Journal of Democracy and Governance*, 6(3), 36-50.
7. Gaventa, J. (2006). Finding the spaces for change: A power analysis. *IDS Bulletin*, 37(6), 23-33.
8. Ghosh S, Gregoriou A. The Composition of Government Spending and Growth: is Current or Capital Spending Better, *Oxford Economic Papers-New Series*. 2008,60(3): 484-516
9. Cornwall, A., & Brock, K. (2005). What do buzzwords do for development policy? A critical look at 'participation', 'empowerment' and 'poverty reduction'. *Third World Quarterly*, 26(7), 1043-1060.
10. Ribot, J. C., & Peluso, N. L. (2003). A theory of access. *Rural sociology*, 68(2), 153-181.
11. Cooke, B., & Kothari, U. (Eds.). (2001). *Participation: The new tyranny?*. Zed books.
12. Cleaver, F. (1999). Paradoxes of participation: questioning participatory approaches to development. *Journal of international development*, 11(4), 597-612.
13. Mansuri, G., & Rao, V. (2004). Community-based and -driven development: A critical review. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 19(1), 1-39.
14. Narayan, D. (1995). The contribution of people's participation: evidence from 121 rural water supply projects. *World Development*, 23(12), 2121-2137.
15. Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.
16. Uphoff, N. (1992). *Learning from Gal Oya: Possibilities for participatory development and post-Newtonian social science*. Cornell University Press.

