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Journal Name:	South Asian Journal of Social Studies and Economics
Manuscript Number:	Ms_SAJSSSE_96595
Title of the Manuscript:	Status of Social Accountability at Rural Local Governance in Bangladesh and the Way Forward: In the Case of Union Parishad
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. <u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>Yes. The manuscript is important for scientific community</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The references in this work are short and not new</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>No Minor REVISION comments</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Status of Social Accountability at Rural Local Governance in Bangladesh and the Way Forward: In the Case of Union Parishad</p> <p>This study intends to explore the present status of social accountability mechanisms at the Union Parishad as the lowest tier of rural local governance in Bangladesh and summarizes several recommendations as the way forward. Secondary data analysis and empirical knowledge have been exerted which would refer to a clear view of the current status of social accountability at the grass root level. In the first section importance of social accountability at the union level based on theoretical analysis have mentioned. Existing mechanisms to ensure social accountability at Union Parishad have been delineated in the second section. The third section develops a compact understanding of the current status of social accountability at the Union Parishad level. Discussion on the findings, recommendations, and conclusion would be shared in the fourth section.</p> <p>While corruption in public expenditure is rising rapidly, especially in developing countries, the urgency of social accountability is absolutely increasing. Bangladesh as a third-world country is not out of this condition. Hence, social accountability has a very important role to ensure good governance and to establish democracy as the state principle properly. In the present crucial stage of growth and development, the persistence of social accountability at the rural local governance would ensure the attainment of sustainable development through demand-based service delivery.</p> <p>The study followed qualitative analysis of trends and patterns in documents depending on secondary sources and analysis based on secondary sources. The urgency of social accountability at the local government to ensure good governance has been discussed based on the study of relevant literature such as journal articles, book chapters, research reports, newspaper reports, etc.</p> <p>Author underline that local government institutions have a key role to make the local governance process successful. Through the practice of social accountability at the local level, community members become empowered and they get a platform to raise their demands and problems to the locally elected representatives as well as to the local govt.</p>	

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	<p>officials. As social accountability seeks for citizens' engagement to monitor and oversee the performance of the public or private sector, so for better service delivery and for fair resource distribution it has become urgent to ensure social accountability at the local governance. Various malpractices like extortion, embezzlement, corruption, etc. at the local government level would be reduced for the continuous safeguard of the citizenry. The present local govt. in Bangladesh is segregated into urban local govt. and rural local govt.</p> <p>Very interesting are the conclusion of this research. It concluded that in a country where the majority of the citizens are not enough literate to be aware of their rights to take part in decision-making and to make the authority accountable, ensuring social accountability is a tough job there. Moreover, in Bangladesh, an asymmetric social stratification is prevailing based on income, religion, education, political views, etc. In these circumstances, deliberative spaces and forums would be an inclusive platform for the citizens to raise their demands and to take part in the decision-making process at the rural local governance. By ensuring social accountability it would be possible to establish tangible decentralization by empowering local citizens which would ensure better demand-based service delivery and also more revenue generation.</p> <p>An undoubted advantage of the reviewed work is the method of presenting the analyzed matter in a logical and clear structure. The advantage of the work is the way of narration, which allows the reader to recognize the credibility of the interpretation of the presented theories, facts, concepts, argumentations, and effects of project level strategies on performance of construction projects.</p> <p>Another advantage of the work is the use of impressive literature on the subject and sources. There are important in the scientific world: monographs and studies as well as articles printed in scientific journals. There are also theoretical works, based on which the Author create own theoretical and methodological approach.</p> <p>From this matter, subjected to critical, but at the same time constructive analyses, the Author create an innovative, methodically planned based on the adopted theoretical-methodological approach but the references in this work are short and not new.</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Zdzisław W. Puślecki
Department, University & Country	Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland