

## **State of Governance in Bangladesh Project**

In the context of a developing country, studying governance is not an academic exercise but a means to understanding if and how transparency and accountability of the system will impact on the effectiveness of services delivered to the poor and the disadvantaged. The State of Governance project aims to enter the debate about governance by examining the evidence and analysis of the issues, in particular to enable assessment of change over time. Public institution's role in governance is imperative and this report looks into the institutions and analyzes their role on governance by examining the process as well as the outcomes.

The main objectives of the project are to:

- Widen knowledge about governance and to provide information about governance by developing research resources, working papers and studies on governance.
- Conduct research, using qualitative and quantitative methods for primary research and literature review, to identify constraints to governance and to inform policy change to remove the constraints.
- Tracking and comparative analysis, generating high quality data, that enables periodic (possibly annual) review and tracking of changes in the environment for governance.
- Develop a national perspective- an indigenous output developed by local scholars and practitioners

The project issues annual State of Governance (SOG) reports and working papers.

### **Methodology:**

**The Team.** The core research team should be formed with social scientists and practitioners with appropriate number of chapter advisers. A chapter can be authored by a number of authors.

**The Concept Note.** A concept note will set the context and the theoretical framework with possible chapter outline for the report. This will enable the core team to identify their area of interest and build a common understanding of the underlying issues and their link with the theoretical framework. The core team should organize a workshop to validate the concept note and finalize it.

**The Chapter.** A team of researchers can get involved in developing and writing the chapter. The team can prepare separate background paper and/or working paper on the topic. The working and background papers will be used as key materials for developing the chapter. Primary research should be conducted if it is necessary for the chapter. Chapter wise seminars can be organized for feedback to strengthen the chapter and identify the gaps.

Peer review. Peer reviewing is an integral part of the process. This ensures quality and enables the young researchers to develop their skills.

The Survey. A nationwide perception survey should be conducted to develop a dataset to gauge public perception on governance over time. This might also help to develop governance indicators. Thematic areas and issues to be covered in the survey for the report should be relevant to governance, development, service delivery, corruption etc. The survey team can prepare a separate document for their use and share it with the rest of the team for feedback. A workshop can be arranged with people external to the core team to validate the issues.

The Timeline. The team needs to identify a timeline with outputs specified to monitor progress, which enables the team to deliver in time.

The project should have following phases-

Quarter 1- 1<sup>st</sup> half: Concept note development and validation workshop

Quarter 1- 2<sup>nd</sup> half: Chapter outline development and literature review

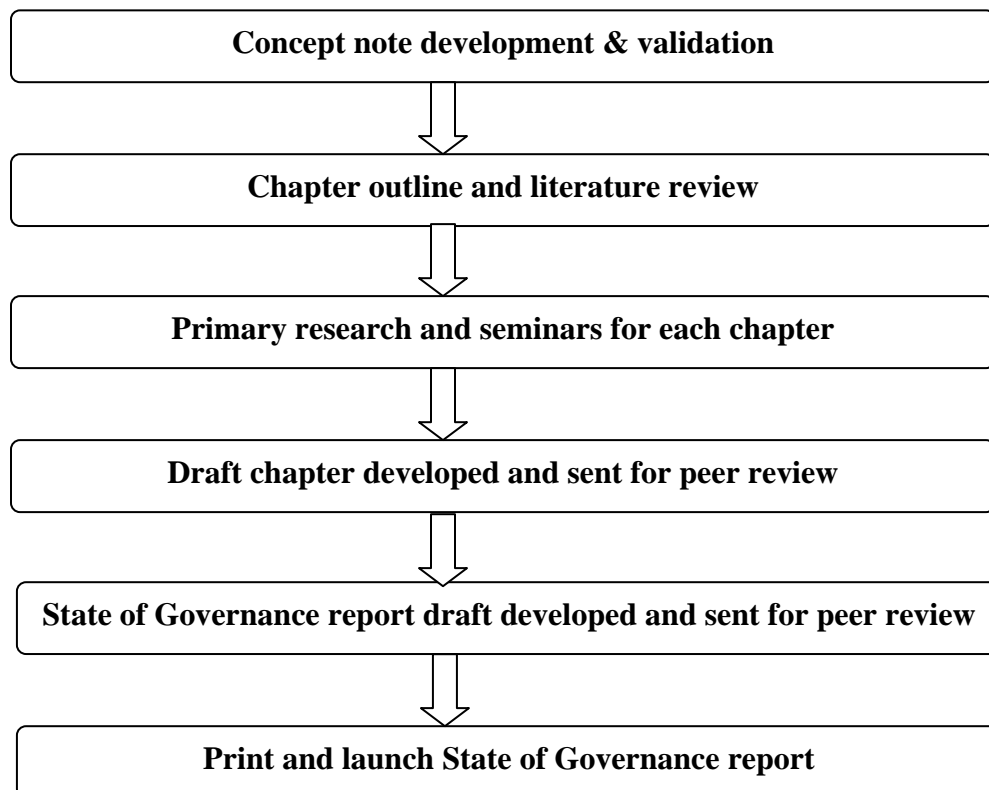
Quarter 2- 1<sup>st</sup> half: Thematic primary research and seminars for each chapter

Quarter 2- 2<sup>nd</sup> half: Chapter draft developed and sent for review

Quarter 3- 1<sup>st</sup> half: Chapter finalization

Quarter 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> half: Printing and launching

### **Flow Chart for State of Governance Report**



**Outcome:**

The report is likely to have a near terms and a long term outcome. The report and the working papers will generate debate and further research thus creating a knowledge base. This knowledge base can be used for developing appropriate policy for the relevant sector. These are near terms outcomes.

In the long term, the series of reports are a set of critically analyzed and periodically pursued source of information on governance related issues. This will be of interest to the academia for scholarly purpose and also to the practitioners for developing programs related to governance.