


## Practice of Good Governance in Rajapur Municipality

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 <p>ISSN 2631-2131</p>	<p><b>“Good governance in local government is an effective rule on governing systems having systematic, capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent information in service delivery”</b></p>
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### Abstract

*Good governance is a vital part of the governing system based on conscious oriented and meaningful participation, followed by a legal system that is effective and efficient service delivery, accountable, transparent, responsive, equitable, and more inclusive. This study tries to explore the practice and policy of good governance in Rajapur Municipality. The theoretical underpinnings for the study are based on descriptive research design. The respondents are selected by purposive and convenience sampling methods. The interview and questionnaire were the main tool for gathering the required information. The study disclosed a low level of accountability and transparency at the Rajapur municipality. It is a case study of Rajapur Municipality. In conclusion the current good governance practice of Rajapur Municipality is weak and identified with a high level of rent-seeking among public servants as well as appointed and elected authorities. This research claims for the existence of governance which guarantees public appointment in decision making and prioritization of shared problems, accompanied by transparent and accountable government are recommendable.*

**Keywords:** Accountability, Good governance, Municipality, and Transparency,

## **Introduction**

The term 'good governance is considered a new paradigm in local governance which dedicates to creating the system by establishing the good rule. As Wilde et al. (2009) state that the degree of Good Governance is realized by the eight indicators i.e. rule of law, participation, transparency and its utility, the feeling of responsiveness, consent-based. Further it is related to equity, inclusiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability. It is participatory, transparent, and accountable. It is also effective and equitable service delivery. Additionally, it promotes the rule of law ensuring political, social, and economic priorities based on broad consensus in society. Likewise, the voices of the marginal and poorest people are heard in decision making, over the supply of development resources. United Nations Development Program(UNDP) states that Good governance refers to governing systems which are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent(Gisselquist, 2012).

Governance is the most important part of the governing system of government having a direct link with national and local government. The local government is responsible for local people because of its link with local people. The government is the closest unit of the grassroots peoples as they are not only undertaking to institutionalize the governance system and make enabling environment to promote the democratic ethics and community participation mainly from the marginal group in the decision-making process but also fast-track the economic development so that they boost the peoples' capacity and empower them. The quality of governance is expressed by local government. A local government (LG) is a public institution in a small geographic area, such as a city, town, or county, which is the most closet and reliable organization of the local citizen. Literature reveals that such institutions have been created by different bodies such as national constitutions (in Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, and Sweden), state constitutions (in Australia, and the United States), by ordinary legislation of a higher level of central government (in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, most countries), by provincial or state legislation (in Canada, Pakistan), or by executive order (in China) (Shah & Shah, 2009).

Good governance is that system which is based on conscious oriented and meaningful participation; it followed the legal system that is effective and efficient service delivery, accountable, transparent, responsive, equitable and more inclusive. Governance means good rule, 'good' to describe the features about the plan and workout of authority completed in the interests of the society and directly benefit the people within governance, as also the degree of accountability, transparency and participation acceptable to control its various processes of mechanism (Rijal, 2011 as cited in Lamichhane, 2021).

The constitution makes the provision of good governance that explains the major duties of Local Governments (LGs) being brought a range of specified services to defined territory. The existence of local government are playing crucial roles on fund, functions, and functionaries so that they deliver good services (Mathew & Hooja, 2009) whereas most of public trust raises to include the citizens in democratic exercise, determine public needs, and maintain accountability

(Sikhakane & Reddy, 2011). Moreover, they give power to formulate local public policies and strategies to manage the LGs stakeholders, supervises managerial officers to establish local governance system, and exercises local government powers and functions for effective service delivery (Pandeya, 2015). Local governments in federal states includes the third (or sometimes fourth) stage of government, while, in unitary states, local government generally holds the second or third tier of government, often with greater powers than higher-level administrative divisions influence the local governments representatives for responsive governance (Zeikate, 2002). He discourses on behalf of local government as having third layer of government regarding federal states which is different from unitary states.

The constitution of Nepal (2015) has deliberated that the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal's basic structure is three-tiered: federal, provincial, and local. These governments have formed and functioned accordingly with the specific purpose of government as guiding state policy principles. Likewise, good governance has guaranteed by confirming the equal and easy access of the people to the state's services and amenities.

Acharya (2018) states the local governments are closest government of the local people nearby unit, which helps institutionalize the governance system and make an enabling environment to promote democratic values and public participation, particularly from the borderline section decision-making process. It exposes that local governance is the significant part of the government's governing system so that local government represents the diffusion of political power in our society.

Addink (2019) claims that suitability, transparency, participation, effectiveness, accountability, and economic, social, and cultural human rights are vital aspects of good governance. It helps to maintains good governance of all level government not only local government.

In this sense, the good governance means having good rule for governing systems which are systematic, capable, responsive, more inclusive, and it also transparent information. Therefore, governance in some countries is still far from “good” because the governance systems are not as open as they should be. Moreover, most governments are incapable to fulfillment the basic needs and satisfaction of their people; accountability and transparency are low, and many people are unable to participate effectively in the governance process.

## **Objectives**

Local Level Government (LLG) as with the constitution of Nepal 2015 has been perceived as the third layer of government's third layer of government issuing on the executive power and the responsibility for using general directives, controlling and the administration to maintain good governance. Though, local governance system has not accepted as having effective and efficient performance, with the similar instinct of weak policy and law making, transparent implementation, involvement of stakeholder, accessible and quality service, capacity building of institution and mainstream approach. Similarly, the state of service delivery in local level areas

directly impacts on the lives of residents envisioning on diversified complaints over municipality and local governance service delivery. Due to such various problematic cases, the dissatisfaction level of citizen has been increasing although the state verbalized repeatedly about inclusive democracy, local autonomy and zero tolerance against corruption. Thus, this study tries to focus on the following research question.

a. What are the views of the people regarding the practice and policies of good governance in Rajapur Municipal?

The general objective of this study is to pose on the good governance at local level of Nepal. However, the specific objective is to identify the peoples' view on the practice including policies of good governance in the local level of Rajapur Municipality.

### **Literature Review**

The literature has emphasized the good governance which is concerned with global governance, national and local government practices and policy. The concept of 'Ram Rajya' is the basis of Gandhi's idea of an ideal social order, it can be said a symbol of Good Governance. Gandhi defined Ram Rajya as it is the sovereignty of the people based on moral authority at the local level. He did not view Rama as a king, and people as his subjects but a symbol. In the Gandhian thought, 'Ram' stood for God or one's own 'inner voice'. Gandhi believed in a democratic social order in which people and people's verdict of representations are supreme. It is subject to moral values (Badal, 2020).

### **Global Governance**

Global governance states on the institutions that coordinate the behavior of transnational actors, facilitate cooperation, resolve disputes, and alleviate collective action problems. Global governance generally requires the decision making, monitoring, and implementing rules and regulations. Schultz et. all (2015), quoted the governance means the structures and processes of societies where people decide and share power in terms of ordered rule and collective action or social coordination institutions. Similarly, Tylor (2016), focused that governance is a collective activity practice by a wide range of organizational forms, including governments, business firms, non-profit organizations, voluntary associations, and tribal, religious, or familial groups thus the global governance not includes only formal government it includes informal sector government. In this context, Acharya (2018), said that local government is a public organization in a small unite, which are most responsible governments of the local citizen. He added that local governance is an exclusive system meeting various executors together. In this system people direct and indirect discussed the local problems, with elected representatives for their further improvement.

The World Bank (1992) stated that governance is the workout of the political, economic, and organizational authority to manage a nation's activities. Legal authority highlights on the process that societies use to allocate power and manage public resources and problems to rule, to

exercise of power and authority over a certain organization, while good governance is a concern with systematic utilizing power, gathering of resources to maximize the people's welfare.

Most of democratic countries applying good governance policy for the maintaining the all-level government, the eight major elements of good governance which becomes meaningful participation of stakeholder, issuing on the consensus-oriented entity, accountability toward service receiver, transparent budge and information, responsive on own duty, effective and efficient service, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law.

Likewise, Rijal (2013), pointed the governing institution legally and constitutionally are autonomy but practically they are not independent because of the lack of conceptual clarity on local autonomy, policy corruption, unclear provision of law and order, and unable institutional capacity. Daase and Daitelhoff (2019) focused on the theory of global governance has dealt with the political system, and it is a system of political rule to form the structures of super and subordination for the exercise of basic goods and opportunities which are influencing, distributing, and expecting to be stabilized the concerning compliances. Rahim (2019) emphasized that good governance is the lively source of fruitful outcomes. Governance has brought up the constructive nature of political, social and cultural development for governing system. Similarly, Kharel and many scholars (2019) view for good governance, "accountability and responsibility initiatives have taken democratization, governance, aid and development circles by storm since the turn of the several stakeholders involved with them concerning givers, supporters, program directors, performers and scholars" so they are arguing that governing system have been clear and fine for the good governance. Berenschot and Mulder (2019) claim that accountability makes for tyranny; democracy without capacity is a recipe for ineffectiveness where there is a lack of participation of authority and resources.

The worldwide trend of governments in terms of decentralization, have emphasized the importance of local leadership, civil society, and democratic accountability. Keuffer and Papazain (2020) explained the concept of local governance enriches the debate on methodological approaches such as top-down and button-top approaches. The formal top-down approach cannot capture the local reality's complexity as multiple local decision-making levels function differently. It is necessary to apply the bottom-top approach horizontally. It helps to comprehend the decentralization of agencies from the private sector to organizations from civil society or to other local governments under various schemes. It can take part policies accurately, active political interferences and initiatives, and donate to basics power of local self-rule; conceptually, local autonomy varies.

### **Policy and Practices in Local Governance of Nepal**

The local governance practices and policy have been becoming major problems in Nepalese policy. Though, local governance has been jumped furthering in Nepal after restoration of democracy in 1990. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal (1990), recognized the source of sovereign authority of the people, established the equitable distribution of power among all

governance organization. The constitution to conformed maximize involvement of the local people in local governance. Its intentions to provide the social, political, and economic power to the people, guaranteeing every citizen of Nepal's basic human rights that is not only its aim to provide the implemented of decentralization principles i.e., devolution of power, authority and responsibilities in local levels (Sharma, 2017). The Local Self-Governance Act (1999) state the local governance institutional structure, devolution of authorities, special provision (quota system) to include women in political and administrative organization, marginalized and deprived communities, systematic development process and judicial authorities to local institution. This act provided sufficient legal ground for the development of the capable to local bodies, responsive on duty and accountable local self-governance system. High-level Decentralization Coordination Committee (HLDC, 1996).

Temporarily, The interim Constitution of Nepal (2007). has managed of the good governance. In this article 33, mentions the responsibility of the state. All governing institution manages political, economic, social, and developmental in their territorial sector of the administrative and elected authority i.e. district development committees (DDCs), Municipalities and village development committees (VDCs) should made suitable plan for women, socio-economically disadvantaged and sidelined groups based on Local government. In the context of Nepal, The Constitution of Assembly 2007 first time declared the country for the Federal Democratic Republic regime.

The constitution of Nepal 2015, build the new structure of local governance. In its place of the new constitution creates local government bodies which are 753 local levels (6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities and 460 village levels) in the country (The Annapurna Post Daily, May 11, 2017). The constitution competitively provided the more power, resources, roles, and responsibilities at the local government. The constitution and the act have promulgated the provision for effective and efficient local government also. Though, the exercise of a good governance and accountability mechanism haven't been established yet, Government of Nepal (GoN), the constitution of Nepal (2015) provisioned the article 51(b) (4) has mentioned the guiding principle of the governance of the state policy to guarantee good governance by confirming the equal and easy access of the people to the services and facilities dispersed by the state. Moreover, while making public administration fair, reasonable, impartial, transparent, clear, corruption less, publicly accountable and participatory mechanism should be adopted. The constitution schedule eight and nine have given a mandate to the local government for 22 exclusive powers and additional 15 concurrent powers to function locally. Equally, article 56 (1) of the constitution has divided the provisions of a three-tier ruling institution joining the federal or central, provinces or state, and local governments. As with the categories of constitution, there are three levels of government: federal, provincial, and local, consisting of rural and municipalities. The local government is the third tier of government which uses the local government focusing on constitutional power.

In local level, several problems, issues and challenges in the governing system at the local government problems in the policy making level, lack of active participation. Lack of conciseness of people about their role and sometimes lack of honesty on bureaucracy is local governance matters. Though, the Good Governance Act (GGA2008), by Nepal Law Commission 2008 confirms that good governance is convenient to make rule and regulation provision regarding good governance by making public government of the country pro-people, more accountable, transparent information, inclusive, and meaningful participation and make accessible its result to the people. It also focused the legal regime, corruption less and fair administration, cheap and experienced management of public work and civic services quickly and low cost-effectively. Article 8 remarks that the duty of the concerned administrative and elected authority shall carry out the local and nation's administrative function according to this Act rules regulation or other prevailing laws, in a quick method, to managed the good governance and make accessible its results to the people in time. The concern of good governance policy in Nepal is to make effective public service delivery to the lower people, accountable, transparent and responsible toward the local people.

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design**

The study is based on both descriptive as well as exploratory research design. Descriptive study explores the policy of good governance of local government and practice how apply accountability and transparency, law, rule, regulation and directives of municipality.

### **Selection of the study area**

This study covers the area of Rajapur municipality which is the second largest municipality in Bardia district as a study area. Municipality has ten wards. It comprises elected representatives, service providers, beneficiaries and civil society as a respondent.

### **Population and sample of the study**

The population of this study comprises all the elected executive body, like chairperson representing ward no. 1,2,5,7, service providers, members, beneficiaries' and civil society of Rajapur Municipality. Among them, 44 respondents have been selected as sample size using non-random purposive sampling method. Executives 11, Service-providers 11, Beneficiaries 11, and Members of Civil Society 11, all together 44 were selected.

### **Sources of Primary Information**

The major sources for the primary information (data) are Key Informants' interviews, about policy and practice of good governance system, the state accountability, and transparency, Public Hearing and Social Auditing, consulting stakeholder, clear law-making process of local government and practices of law etc. are extracted from the respondent's person.

### Source of Secondary Data

The secondary sources of information (data) has been collected from the available literature such as book, articles, dissertations, laws regulations etc. and complied for another purpose. The available information about the study area from the experiences of local level published in an article has been utilized in the respective context.

### Analysis, Result and Discussion

#### Likert Scale

In this study Likert scale has been used to explore the perception of people towards institutional good governance. In this regard, the subsequent five scales Likert used—strongly agree (SA), agree(A), neutral(N), disagree(D) and strongly disagree (SD).

#### Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedure

Descriptive analysis is the used as analysis techniques in this research. The descriptive analysis is followed to transform raw data by summarizing, rearranging, categorizing and presenting into the more reasonable format. Descriptive statistics have been used to describe the demographic data of the respondents. Data analysis is the main part of research methodology to draw meaningful result from the collected data are manually tabulated and prepared in an appropriate from to analysis. Besides, these charts and diagrams are presented from the findings have been generated by the computer SPSS program.

#### State of Accountability

Accountability means enacting every person accountable for his/her own behavior. In public administration, it refers to the duties related to a certain position or institution and its corresponding obligations. The relegation over being aware of his/her responsibility, accountability in a person cannot be maintained. If he/she bears more accountability towards, public officers and administrative bodies, higher level good governance seems to be occurred. In this regard, good governance requires the employment of both law and ethics to enhance the accountability of individuals and institutions. Respondents were asked about Rajapur Municipality as shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Tikapur Municipality must be Accountable for Everything it Does.**

Respondents	Rajapur Municipality become accountable for everything it does			Total
	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	



Civil Society	2.3%		22.7%	25.0%
Beneficiaries	2.3%	6.8%	15.9%	25.0%
Service provider		2.3%	22.7%	25.0%
Executives		11.4%	13.6%	25.0%
Total	4.5%	20.5%	75.0%	100.0%

*Source:* field survey 2021

Table 2 shows that both civil society and service provider were equally 22.7 percent strongly agreed and only 2.3 percent disagreed with accountable for their responsibility. Beneficiary also 15.9 percent strongly agreed, 6.8 percent agreed, and 2.3 percent were disagreed for their responsibility and only 13.6 percent strongly agreed and 11.4 percent executive respondents were agreed. Executive respondents were in low level support for this statement and not accountable for their own responsibility. It is not good for institutional good governance. In total, this research clearly shows that most of the respondent (75%) strongly agreed, 20.5 percent agreed, and 2.5 percent of the respondent were disagreed. This study found that most of the respondent were hold every person accountable for responsibility.

### **Public Hearing and Social Auditing**

Public hearings are held as part of the public inquiry process. This provides interested parties with the opportunity to expand on written submissions and to discuss inquiry issues with Commissioners in a public forum. Any organization or person can attend a hearing, either to speak to a submission or simply to observe the proceedings. Therefore, it is necessary to have social audits and public hearing for institutional good governance with respondents is shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Public Hearing and Social Audit**

<b>Respondents</b>	The Municipality organises public hearing and social auditing for maintaining effective performance.			<b>Total</b>
	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Civil Society		9.1%	15.9%	25.0%
Beneficiaries		2.3%	22.7%	25.0%
Service provider		4.5%	20.5%	25.0%

Executives	2.3%	6.8%	15.9%	25.0%
Total	2.3%	22.7%	75.0%	100.0%

**Source:** field survey 2021

Table 3 shows that 22.7 percent beneficiary's respondent were strongly agreed and only 2.3 percent were agreed to organized public hearing and social audits. 20.5 percent service provider respondents were strongly agreed and 4.5 percent agreed. Civil society and executives' respondents were equal 15.9 percent strongly agreed, tortuously 9.1 percent and 6.8 percent were agreed. Executive respondents were only 2.3 percent neutral. All respondents are as same to organized public hearing and social audits. The majority of the respondent were (75%) strongly agree, 22.7 percent are agreed and only 2.3 percent respondent are neutral to organize public hearing and social audit for effective performance of institutional good governance. It becomes clear that the public hearing and social audits supporting to maintain the good governance in local level.

### Transparency in Decision Making

Transparency refers to the publicity of political information. All the citizens are entitled within the information on State policies that are related to their own interests, including legislative activities, policymaking, legal provisions, policy enforcement, administrative budget, public expenditure and other relevant political information. Transparency requires that the aforementioned political information be duly communicated to citizens through implementing various media vehicles so that they can participate in public policy-making and supervise the process of public administration in an effective manner. The higher the degree of transparency is, the higher the level of good governance will be. Respondents are asked that the municipality should be transparent in decision-making process. Their responses are placed in the succeeding table.

**Table 4: Transparent Decision-Making Process**

Respondents	Rajapur Municipality becomes transparent in decision making process.		Total
	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Civil Society	11.4%	13.6%	25.0%
Beneficiaries	9.1%	15.9%	25.0%
Service provider	6.8%	18.2%	25.0%
Executives	6.8%	18.2%	25.0%
Total	34.1%	65.9%	100.0%

Source: field survey 2021

Table 4 shows that civil society respondents are 13.6 percent strongly agreed and 11.4 percent agree to the transparent is decision making process. Beneficiary were 15.9 percent strongly agreed and 9.1 percent respondent are agreed. Similarly, service provider and executive respondents are 18.2 percent strongly agreed and 6.8 percent agreed. In total, most of the respondents (65.9%) were strongly agreed and Only 34.1 percent respondents were agreed to the transparent decision-making process.

### **Making of Law, Policy and Rule**

Rule of law means that law is the supreme principle in public political administration that should be observed by all government officials and citizens, who should be all equal before the law. It is a basic requirement of good governance, which would be impossible without a sound legal system, due respect for the law or a social order based on the law. Respondents are asked about municipality should make law, policy and rule meeting the address of people which is given below.

**Table 5: Make Law, Policy and Rule Meeting the Expectation of the People.**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>The Municipality makes law, policy and rule meeting the expectation of the people.</b>				<b>Total</b>
	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	
Civil Society	2.3%		2.3%	20.5%	25.0%
Beneficiaries		2.3%	11.4%	11.4%	25.0%
Service-provider			11.4%	13.6%	25.0%
Executives			13.6%	11.4%	25.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: field survey 2021

The above table 4.6 clearly indicates that 20.5 percent respondents strongly agreed, 2.3 percent respondents agreed, and 2.2 percent civil societies were disagreed. Beneficiaries and executives' respondents were strongly agreed and agreed 11.4 percent and 2.3 percent beneficiary were neutral. Service providers suggest that of 13.6 percent strongly agreed and 11.4 percent were agreed to make law and policy meeting expectation of people. With this, 11.4 percent strongly agreed, and 13.6 percent executive were agreed. Executive respondents are not positive meeting expectation of people. In total most of respondents (56.8%) were strongly agree to make law,

policy and rule the meeting expectation of people. Similarly, 38.6 percent respondents were agreed of this statement and only few respondents were neutral and disagreed.

### Laws and Policies

The objective of law is to regulate citizens' behavior, manage social affairs and maintain a normal order in social life, while its ultimate goal is to protect citizens' basic political rights, including freedom and equality. Therefore, question to respondents' concerns whether municipality should consent with stakeholder for the ownership of law their answers are listed below.

**Table 6: Discuss with Stakeholders for the Maturation and Ownership of Law.**

Respondents	Municipality discussed with stakeholders for the maturation and ownership of law.			Total
	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Civil Society	2.3%	13.6%	9.1%	25.0%
Beneficiaries	4.5%	13.6%	6.8%	25.0%
Service provider		9.1%	15.9%	25.0%
Executives		9.1%	15.9%	25.0%
Total	6.8%	45.5%	47.7%	100.0%

*Source:* field survey 2021

The above table shows that, 6 clearly indicates that equally 15.9 percent strongly agreed, and 9.1 percent service provider and executives' respondents were agreed. 9.1 percent strongly agreed, 13.6 percent agreed, and 2.3 percent respondents were neutral. Moreover, 6.8 percent strongly agree, 13.6 percent agreed, and 4.5 percent respondents were neutral. In total, 47.7 percent strongly agreed, 45.5 percent agreed, and 6.8 percent respondents were natural. This study is found out the result of the most of respondents (47.7%) were strongly agreed similarly something less percent (45.5%) respondents were agreed to discuss with stakeholder for the ownership of law. Only 4.5 percent respondents were neutral. It becomes clear that the majority of respondents had positive perception of institutional good governance in municipality.

### Standardized Procedure for the Law-making Process

According to constitution of Nepal 2072, Municipality is the third layer of government. Municipal assembly shall make necessary laws on the subjects mentioned in the list of competencies of the local level. The procedure of drafting of laws pursuant to shall be as provided for in the provincial law. The operation of the municipal assembly, meeting procedures

of committees, condition of vocation of the post of members of the municipal assembly and other arrangements of municipality personnel and office creates urgency in the provincial law.

**Table 7: Standardized Procedure for the Law-Making Process**

Respondents	The Municipality follows the standardized procedure for the lawmaking process.				Total
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Civil Society	2.3%		15.9%	6.8%	25.0%
Beneficiaries		2.3%	15.9%	6.8%	25.0%
Service provider			15.9%	9.1%	25.0%
Executives			18.2%	6.8%	25.0%
Total	2.3%	2.3%	65.9%	29.5%	100.0%

*Source:* field survey 2021

The table 7 above, shows that civil society, beneficiaries and executives’ respondents were equally 6.8 percent strongly agreed. Civil society, beneficiaries, and service provider respondent were 15.9 percent agreed to follow the standardized procedures for the law-making process. In total this study found that most of respondent (65.9%) were agreed and 29.5 percent were strong agreed. Only few (2.3%) respondents were neutral and disagreed. This research vividly shows that most of the respondents were agreed to follow the due procedure for the law and policy making process whereas 29.5 percent respondents were strongly agreed of this statement. It became clear that that majority of respondents were not followed the standardized procedure for the law making.

### **Periodical Review of Rules and Regulation**

Law is a system of rules and guidelines which are enforced through social institutions to govern behavior, wherever possible. It shapes politics, economics and society in numerous ways and serves as a social mediator of relations between people. The law is important for a society for it serves as a norm of conduct for citizens. It was also made to provide for proper guidelines and order upon the behavior for all citizens. It keeps the society running. Without law there would be confusion and it would be survival of the fittest and everyman for himself. Not an ideal lifestyle for most part. So, the respondents are asked about municipality.

**Table 8: Review of the Rules and Regulation.**

Respondents	Municipality periodically reviews the rules and regulation.			Total
	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Civil Society		11.4%	13.6%	25.0%
Beneficiaries	4.5%	13.6%	6.8%	25.0%
Service provider		20.5%	4.5%	25.0%
Executives		13.6%	11.4%	25.0%
Total	4.5%	59.1%	36.4%	100.0%

*Source:* field survey 2021

The table 8 above clear that civil society respondents are (13.6%) strongly agreed, and 11.4 percent are agreed to review the rule and regulation. 6.8 percent beneficiary respondent were strongly agreed, 13.6 percent beneficiary and executive respondents were agreed and 4.5 percent beneficiary and respondents were neutral. 20.5 percent service provider were agreed, 4.5 percent strongly agreed. 13.6 percent civil society respondent were strongly agreed and 11.4 percent agreed to review the law and regulation. 11.4 percent executive respondents were strongly agreed and 13.6 percent were agreed. This study shows that 59.1 percent agreed, 36.4 percent strongly agree, and 4.5 percent respondent are neutral. It shows that only 36.4 percent respondents are strongly agreed whereas 59.1 percent respondents are agreed. It is bad symbols for institutional good governance of municipality.

### **Conclusion**

The study has analyzed government policies and explored local governance practice status in terms of active participation, accountability, and transparency in local governance activities. It may provide insight into governance practice to the representatives and implementers for adopting the suitable mechanism to put the policy into practice. Due to the lack of the existing policies of Nepal, the implementation mechanism revealed by the study have been utilized to make the implementing system more inclusive, accountable, participatory, and result-oriented. As the research study has tried to explore the gap between policies and practice at a local level, it has investigated how the local levels implement and practice good governance policies and issues? What are existing rules along with gaps between policy and practice?

To sum up, poor service delivery, the gap between local government representatives and the municipal people, high level of rent-seeking, weak political leadership, lack of timely response

for a civic interest, and public detachment in shared affairs were found to be problems and challenges of good governance.

Local governance system has not been adopted effective and efficient performance. Similarly, due process of policy and law making, transparent implementation, corruption mitigation provision, peoples' participation, accessibility of quality service, capacity building of institution and mainstreaming to the excluded persons are also very much weak. In most of such cases, allegations centred on poor service delivery, maladministration, abuse of public funds, abuse of authority, deceitful dealings and corrupt tendencies are also equally seen. It is necessary to study the institutional good governance to promote for maintaining their status and make further plans so the title "Policy and Practice of Good Governance in Rajapur Municipality" was selected. Though, it is ongoing just for formality, which allows many points to raise questions about public audit's effective practice. In conclusion, the study has exposed an actual condition of governance that needs to be enhanced to performance local development. The research study has established the importance of local governance at a local level for meaningful participation, accountability, and transparency for local-level activities.

### **Recommendation**

The local government has to guarantee the approachable of notice to the people. Further, it has to set strong policies to broadcast information to service users. Circulating information via public mass media and making people conscious through regular public assemblies are some of the systems which have been helpful to the local government. The local government has to controlled regular and supportable discussion with its local people concerning different matters of the grass root people i.e. service delivery, development planning, and prioritization of public needs to mention some.

The local government has to conform budgetary or financial transparency and accountable towards on duty, by permitting public active representatives participation in financial meeting and continuously declaring budgetary offer through declaring it on places where people can simply entrée and access to see them.

In overall, the local administration there has to be continuing discussion concerning good governance issues and problems. It helps the local government representatives to make awareness themselves nearby to the local publics, get response, and appreciate the problem and issues of good governance in alliance with local publics. Lastly, the researcher friendly counsel interested researchers to explore practice and policy of good governance at local government concentrating on municipalities and service delivery issues. Equally, making of law, policy and rule with proper implementation, stakeholders' participation and discussion, building of corruption discouraging mechanism problems becomes vital.

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