

The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, or Citizenship DRC, is an international research partnership exploring new forms of citizenship. It involves a network of researchers and practitioners working with research institutions and civil society organisations located in 7 different countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. The Citizenship DRC is coordinated from the Participation Group at the Institute of Development studies at IDS.

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For more information on any of these items visit www.drc-citizenship.org

1. RECENT DRC ACTIVITIES

Steering Committee Meeting, September 2004

The Steering Committee held a meeting in September 2004 at IDS to discuss the timetable for DRC work and activities as well as how to follow-up on Mid-Term Review recommendations. In addition, the Steering Committee continued discussions on how to organise a possible future phase of the DRC.

Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities Meeting, September 2004, IDS

The research programme on 'Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities' held a meeting in September 2004 at IDS. The group discussed interim results of the ongoing research projects, and developed connections and linkages between their work.

Citizenship DRC Internship Programme, June-September 2004

The four IDS students that were granted internships with DRC partners in Mexico, Bangladesh, Brazil and Nigeria have carried out their work successfully. Reports and photos on their work will be made available on the DRC website in November: www.drc-citizenship.org

Citizenship DRC Annual Report 2003-2004

This year's annual report describes important research insights to the field of citizenship, participation and accountability coming out of the work of the Citizenship DRC. It also provides updates on the work of each research programme, and on mutual capacity building and linking research and policy activities. The annual report can now be downloaded from the DRC website: www.drc-citizenship.org

Subscription to the Citizenship DRC Newsletter

Subscribing or unsubscribing to the Citizenship DRC Newsletter, in English and Spanish, can now be done online. In addition, past issues of our newsletter are available to be downloaded from the site.

Please visit our newsletter page at www.drc-citizenship.org

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Advisory Review Group (CARG) Meeting, October 2004

The Central Advisory Review Group is a committee formed by experts in the development field from around the world as well as donor representatives. This committee is meant to evaluate the work done by the Citizenship DRC and to provide recommendations on how the

Citizenship DRC can improve its practice and organization in all areas of its work. The CARG will be holding its annual review of the work of the Citizenship DRC at the end of October 2004.

DSA Conference, November 2004

The Citizenship DRC will be organizing an informational stall at the DSA Conference to be held in November in London.

3. NEWSLETTER FEATURE - Labour rights and Accountability in the garment sector in Bangladesh

The garment industry has increased considerably in Bangladesh over the last years, driven in part by the creation by the government of export processing zones (EPZ) in the outskirts of Dhaka in order to promote foreign investment in production for export. BIDS, the Citizenship DRC partner organisation in Bangladesh, has been undertaking research on mobilising for corporate accountability by workers in these areas. Preliminary research findings point to important contradictions in increasing accountability on labour standards in the garment sector. Though there are many positive elements for workers, such as a disposable income and generally better labour standards than outside EPZ, there are important difficulties in increasing accountability for workers. A main issue in this complex context is the important gender differences in the way workers are incorporated due to the internal structure of factory work. Women are often in a more vulnerable position. This is aggravated by tactics used by factory management to undermine any form of worker organization. In addition, the government, due to its economic interests, and national trade unions, due to their politisation at the national level, have relatively little impact on labour standards in the EPZ. Much of the significant pressure for labour standards comes from externally imposed standards, as the EPZ is closely linked to foreign investors and consumers. Internally, workers are increasingly taking informal actions and finding strategic openings to pressure companies for their labour standards. For more information on this project, please visit our website: www.drc-citizenship.org, or send an email to drcinfo@ids.ac.uk.

4. NEW AND UPCOMING DRC DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Online article: Luisa Paré and Carlos Robles, 'El manejo de cuenca como una estrategia de sobrevivencia común: reciprocidad y transparencia para una nueva relación entre ciudades industriales y áreas naturales: el caso Tatahuicapan'. This paper can be accessed online at:

<http://www.fondominkachorlavi.org/dtr/proyectosganadores.htm>

Article: Luisa Paré and Carlos Robles, 'Participación ciudadana en el manejo del agua: una nueva relación entre el campo y la ciudad en el sur de Veracruz' in Ziccardi Alicia (ed.), 2004, *Participación ciudadana y políticas sociales en el ámbito local*, UNAM-Indesol-Comesco- México. D.F.

Report: Adrián Gurza Lavalle, Arnab Acharya, and Peter P. Houtzager, 'Beyond Comparative Anecdotalism: Lesson on Civil Society and Participation from São Paulo, Brazil' Forthcoming in 'Exploring the Politics of Poverty Reduction: How are the poorest represented?', *World Development* Special Edition. This article can be downloaded from the Citizenship DRC website: www.drc-citizenship.org

IDS Working Paper 227: 'Corporate Accountability to the Poor? Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Strategies', by Niamh Garvey and Peter Newell, October 2004

5. TO RECEIVE OR STOP RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

NOTE: If you are not on our mailing list but would like to receive

this Newsletter, you can subscribe directly from our website: www.drc-citizenship.org or send an e-mail to drcinfo@ids.ac.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject line. If you want to stop receiving this newsletter at any time, you can unsubscribe directly from our website: www.drc-citizenship.org, or you can send an e-mail to drcinfo@ids.ac.uk with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line and we will remove your name promptly. Do feel free to pass this Newsletter on to others if you find it interesting.