

Union Parishad (UP) is the local body and lowest tier of the local government that has hinge potential in poverty reduction. This 140 years old institution has wide roles and responsibilities in rural development and poverty reduction empowered by the Constitution and Ordinance but partyarchy and patron-client relationship impacted largely on the governance system. Governance failure affected and impeded the access of the poor and vulnerable community to the public resources. The ruling party run the parallel UP to pull public resources for addressing the patron-client relationship.

The study finding reinforced the assumption of impacts of patron-client relation relationship and partyarchy over the UP governance which impeded UP's role of poverty reduction. The key findings of the study are:

- The informal power system is stronger (supported by the partyarchy) than that of the formal power system in UP. The ruling party run parallel UP;
- UP representatives are delegated authority and power officially but they are not empowered enough to perform their roles and responsibilities properly avoiding the pressure of ruling party
- Most of the decisions come from top means the decision making process is topdown. A bottom up decision making process is far away;
- Public resources are managed by the ruling party to strengthen patron-client relationship:
- UP's relationship with MP, ruling party members and local level bureaucrats are not beneficial but sometime a hostile relationship is exist;
- Patron-client relationship and partyarchy is very strong and emerging in the UP governance system:
- People's participation in the decision making process is a symbolic process. practically people's participation specially the poor and vulnerable communities' participation occurred in very low degree.

The overall recommendation included empowerment of the constituency to raise their voice and involve the media and civil society to reduce the impact of partyarchy and patron-client relationship.