
In two parts, this volume discusses accountability as an instrument in improving women's lives around the world. Part 1 consists of seven chapters discussing accountability--its elements, forms, mechanisms, and examples in the contexts of politics, public services, the economic sector, the justice system, and international development and security structures. Part 2 examines the progress of the eight Millennium Development Goals from a gender equality perspective. It reveals that despite decades of national and international commitments and declarations, numerous cases of gender discrimination and inequality structures persist, reflecting a crisis of accountability. The volume provides examples of accountability deficit as well as innovative accountability measures taken for gender equality by both governmental and civil society institutions in various countries. It also specifies the conditions and criteria that permit women--when and where gender-based injustices occur in spite of laws and official goals--to demand redress and institute both vertical and horizontal gender-responsive accountability measures. Numerous explanatory panels, text boxes, and figures enhance the presentation of materials in each chapter. Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.

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