



REVIEW OF RESEARCH



SOCIAL AUDIT AND ROLE OF GRAM SABHA

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ABSTRACT

Social review is generally another idea and it is significant that this social responsibility device is utilized best for guaranteeing straightforwardness and responsibility in implementing government plans and projects. Social responsibility instruments fortify majority rule forms, engage poor people, guarantee improvement adequacy through compelling assistance, conveyance and encourage great administration. The paper incorporates target of social reviews, method of social review, and usage of social review. It likewise clarifies the role of Gram sabha in usage of social review of different government plans.



KEYWORDS : Social audit, Accountability, gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat, Government.

INTRODUCTION

The term Social review was utilized as far back as the 1950s. More or less, it alludes to the means that are taken to guarantee that the work done by the administration is really profiting the individuals whom it is planned to profit. It depends on the rule that the neighborhood administration ought to be done, however much as could reasonably be expected, with the assent and in complete comprehension of the necessities of the individuals concerned. It is a procedure and not an occasion. In this manner, Social Audit is only getting, estimating, announcing, and above all improving the productivity and adequacy of the neighborhood administration. India being a government assistance express, a few projects and strategies are actualized to assist individuals. Legislators and administrators are normally the ones who control and actualize these arrangements. A few arrangements are regular to all and some are so exceptional that they are intended to profit the more fragile segments of the general public. To actualize every such arrangement, reserves are drawn from the state exchequer. The social command over withdrawal and use of this reserve is called Social Audit.

DEFINITION OF SOCIAL AUDIT BY PROF. RANJAN MOHAPATRA OF VISION FOUNDATION

Social Audit is a procedure where the subtleties of the assets, money related and non-budgetary, utilized by the open offices for the improvement activities, are imparted to the individuals, frequently through an open stage. It permits individuals to uphold straightforwardness and responsibility, consequently giving a definitive clients a chance to investigate the advancement activities.

Basis of social audit The main reason for the push for social audit is the huge disconnect between what the people need, what the government thinks it needs, and what is actually done. This lack of communication is represented by the following diagram in figure.

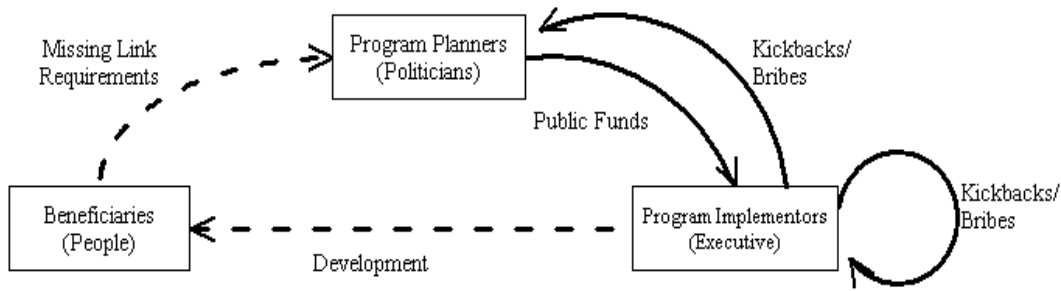


Figure 1 - Situation without Social Audit

OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL AUDIT

- Accurate identification of requirements
- Prioritization of developmental activities as per requirements
- Proper utilization of funds
- Conformity of the developmental activity with the stated goals
- Quality of service

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL AUDIT

Empowerment of people : Social Audit is a procedure where the subtleties of the assets, money related and non-budgetary, utilized by the open offices for the improvement activities, are imparted to the individuals, frequently through an open stage. It permits individuals to uphold straightforwardness and responsibility, consequently giving a definitive clients a chance to investigate the advancement activities.

Proper Documentation Everything directly from the necessity social affair to wanting to execution must be appropriately recorded. A portion of the archives that ought to be made available are: Applications, tenders, and proposition fiscal reports, salary - cost proclamations, Registers of laborers, Inspection reports.

Accessibility of Documents Merely generating documents is useless if they are not easily accessible. In this information age, all the documents must be available online.

Punitive Action the last and most significant arrangement, about which nothing is being done, yet, is to have reformatory activities for non-conformance of the procedure of social review. Except if there is legitimate discipline, there will be no impetus for the individuals in power to actualize the procedures in a reasonable way.

OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL AUDIT

- Assessing the physical and monetary holes among requirements and assets accessible for nearby turn of events.
- Creating mindfulness among recipients and suppliers of nearby social and gainful administrations.
- Increasing adequacy and viability of neighborhood advancement programs.
- Scrutiny of different approach choices, keeping in view partner interests and needs, especially of provincial poor.

- Estimation of the open door cost for partners of not getting convenient access to open administrations.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FOR SOCIAL AUDIT

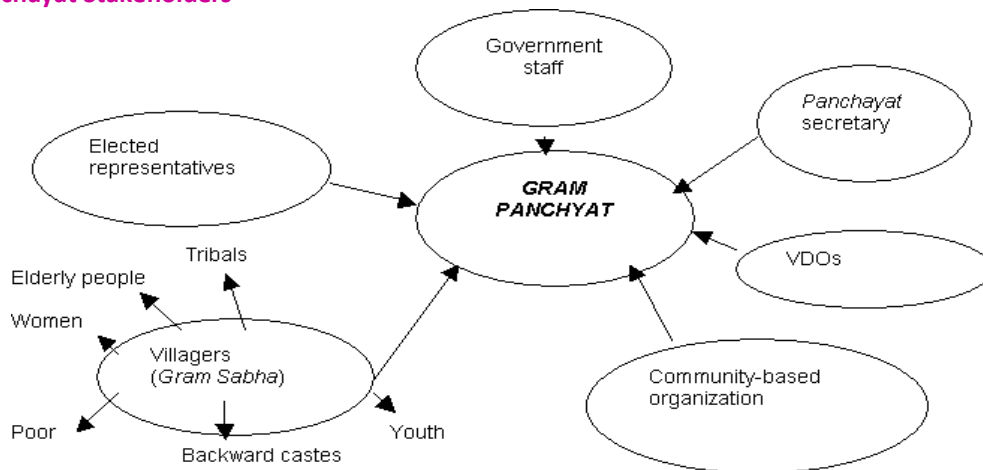
- (a) All spending assignments, recipient records, marshal moves, charges, vouchers, accounts, and so forth should be accessible for open investigation.
- (b) All applications for licenses/allows and authentications given by nearby self-government organizations must have a sequential number. Registers demonstrating date of utilization and date of leeway for each situation ought to be accessible for reference by any candidate.
- (c) Public appraisal of duty, exceptions, awards, and so on, to guarantee that there are no abnormalities requiring undue particular treatment.

A few states have proclaimed all Gram Panchayat plan archives identified with recipient choice, spending quotes, and so on to be available on open records. An every day notice to be posted at the site of all improvement works depicting records like names of laborers, compensation paid, cost and amounts of material, transport charges, and so forth.

APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL SOCIAL AUDIT

The most appropriate institutional level social audit is the *Gram Sabha*, which has been given ‘watchdog’ powers and responsibilities by the *Panchayati Raj Acts* in most States to supervise and monitor the functioning of *panchayat* elected representatives and government functionaries, and examine the annual statement of accounts and audit reports. These are implied powers indirectly empowering *Gram Sabhas* to carry out social audits in addition to other functions. Members of the *Gram Sabha* and the village *panchayat*, intermediate *panchayat* and district *panchayat* through their representatives, can raise issues of social concern and public interest and demand an explanation.

Gram Panchayat Stakeholders



Right to information for members of Gram Sabha

A few States have just passed Right to Information Act. Despite certain shortcomings, the Acts have opened the route for transparency in organization from the State to the panchayat level.

The Right to Information Act determines the modalities for getting data and give punishments to those outfits who neglect or provide bogus data. The Act encourages social enactment, for example, on minimum wages and gender rights and, all the more significantly, makes ready a platform for open discussion on improvement of government ventures.

In any case, none of the Acts have characterized the privilege to data to incorporate assessment of works and archives, and the taking of notes and concentrates. This is expected to make the social review by the Gram Sabha progressively viable.

The Gram Sabha ought to have the order to: assess every single open archive identified with spending distributions, rundown of recipients, help under each plan, assemble moves, charges, vouchers, accounts, and so on for investigation; look at yearly articulations of records and review reports; talk about the report on the nearby organization of the first year; survey neighborhood improvement for the year or any new action program; set up responsibility of functionaries seen as worthy of damaging set up standards/rules; recommend measures for advancing transparency in distinguishing, arranging, executing, observing and assessing applicable neighborhood advancement programs; and guarantee open door policy for rural poor to voice their interests while partaking in social review gatherings.

Social audit committees

Social review can likewise be utilized for inspecting the exhibition of every one of the three PRI levels with a social review board of trustees at each level. These boards of trustees need not be perpetual, yet they can be set up contingent upon the idea of projects/plans to be inspected.

Social review board individuals can be drawn from among program partners. It is prudent to utilize the services of resigned functionaries of various associations, educators or people of repute living in the Zilla Panchayat/Block Panchayat/Gram Panchayat locale. The two facilitators along with individual members of social review board of trustees can be prepared by social review specialists.

Steps in social audit in local bodies

1. Clarity of direction and objective of the nearby chosen body.
2. Identify partners with conviction on their particular jobs and obligations. Social examining intends to guarantee justice for all partners. It is especially significant that underestimated social gatherings, which are generally neglected, have a say on nearby improvement issues and exercises and have their perspectives on the real execution of neighborhood chose bodies.
3. Definition of execution pointers which must be comprehended and acknowledged by all. Pointer information must be gathered by partners all the time.
4. Regular gatherings to survey and examine information/data on execution markers.
5. Follow-up of social review meeting with the panchayat body auditing partners' activities, exercises and perspectives, giving responsibilities on changes and conceding to future activity as suggested by the partners.
6. Establishment of a gathering of dedicated neighborhood individuals including senior citizens, educators and other people who are committed, to be associated with their confirmation and to pass judgment if the choices dependent on social review have been executed.
7. The discoveries of the social review has to be shared with every single neighborhood partner. This promotes transparency with responsibility. A report of the social review meeting must to be conveyed for Gram Panchayat evaluation. What's more, key choices ought to be composed on dividers and sheets and conveyed orally.

HOW TO ENHANCE LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR SOCIAL AUDIT

- Organization of a mass battle to expand open mindfulness about the importance, extension, reason and targets of social review.
- Establishment of a group of social review experts in each area who are responsible for training social review board individuals (partners).
- Planning and implementation of programs on social evaluating strategies - leading and preparing social review reports, and presentation thereof at Gram Sabha gatherings.

Social development monitoring (SDM): a social audit process

SDM is an intermittent perception movement by socially burdened gatherings as nearby residents who are venture members or target recipients. It could likewise appear as an activity proposed to upgrade support, guarantee comprehensiveness, verbalization of responsibility, responsiveness and straightforwardness by actualizing organizations or nearby establishments, with a pronounced motivation behind creation of an effect on their financial status.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, the accompanying recommendations can be made to make social review a customary and viable organization to advance the way of life of transparency and responsibility through the Gram Sabha.

1. States should improve Gram Sabha forces to settle on them successful instruments of participatory dynamic and guaranteeing responsibility of PRIs in nearby advancement arranging.
2. An office like the Ombudsman can be set up to investigate protests of neighborhood maladministration.
3. Development functionaries seen as liable of damaging built up standards for neighborhood improvement arranging ought to be rebuffed.
4. It is imperative to guarantee that provincial poor are given due security when they wish to rise up to denounce any wrongdoing.

REFERENCES

- Sarpanch is legally bound to organize Gram Sabha meetings.
- It is an obligatory duty of Sarpanch to organize a minimum of two Gram Sabha meetings every year on the dates prescribed by the Government.
- Sarpanch should take steps to ensure larger participation of people at Gram Sabha meetings.
- Sarpanch should take all measures to ensure participation of people from all sections of society mainly, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Women, and he should encourage them to express their grievances and give suggestions in the Gram Sabha, which are discussed in detail in the next meeting.
- Sarpanch should preside over the Gram Sabha meetings, except that of Social Audit Gram Sabha.
- Sarpanch should sign the register meant for recording the minutes of Gram Sabha meeting.
- As the chairperson of the Gram Sabha meeting, the Sarpanch can answer the questions raised at the Gram Sabha by the members.
- The sarpanch has to ensure that the suggestions made in the Gram Sabha meeting, are discussed on priority basis in Gram Panchayat meetings.
- Sarpanch should play a pro-active role for initiating proper action on the Gram Sabha resolutions.