



**ROLE OF GRAM PANCHAYAT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
MGNREGA: A SAMPLE SURVEY OF SOME VILLAGES OF
CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT:

The effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National rural employment Guarantee Act would provide employment and income to individuals and develop community assets and thus reduce poverty backwardness and even social inequalities in the backward areas of Maharashtra. Rural development can be defined as a programme which has strategy aimed at transforming the citizens in the rural areas from victims of poverty, ignorance and diseases into a contented human beings able to earn income capable of sustaining reasonable standard of living for himself and his family. This paper presents findings of Maharashtra state and its impact on environment and biodiversity. The programme has played vital role in awareness among villagers or poor peoples. Education and awareness of the women and proper training seems to be one of the most proved options till today.

Keywords:

MGNREGA, Rural development, Gram panchayat

INTRODUCTION:

For more effective implementation of MGNREGA, it is imperative that the social Audit need to be conducted judiciously and objectively which is also necessitated by the provisions of the Act and its operational guidelines issued by the Government of India. Though all the states of India have made efforts to institute Social Audit practices but the success achieved in this respect differs from one state to other state. Social audit has become popular in the recent past since the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by the Department of Rural Development through Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. The programme





implementation strategy has been designed to enable the primary stakeholders i.e. beneficiaries to gain control over the implementation of programme in a participative manner. Section 17 of MGNREGA Act provides for public vigilance and verification of different stages of implementation through the process of Social Audit of all the projects taken up within the Gram Panchayat under the scheme. To ensure continuous public vigilance, MGNREGS through Social Audit mandates involving potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders at every stage i.e. planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This process is followed to ensure that a project is designed and implemented to suit local conditions, reflecting priorities and thus effectively serving the public interest. Standard procedures and processes of Social Audit are to be adopted by all the states, under the scheme. It is worthwhile to understand how various Gram Panchayats have responded to the mandatory social audit process in MG NREGA and how the scheme accumulated experience in the process of Social audit. It is necessary to understand how different agencies, engaged in meeting the objectives as laid down in various provisions of MG NREGA, are adopting social audit process in improving their organizational performance. Further MG NREGA Operational Guidelines (Government of India, 2008) mentions that Gram Sabha to undertake social audit of the works executed in Gram Panchayat and social audit should include public vigilance and verification of the following eleven stages of implementation. 1. Registration of families, 2. Distribution of job cards, 3. Receipt of work applications, 4. Preparation of shelf of projects and selection of sites, 5. Approval of technical estimates and issuance of work order, 6. Allotment of work to individuals, 7. Implementation and supervision of works, 8. Payment of unemployment allowance, 9. Payment of wages, 10. Evaluation of works and 11. Mandatory social audit in the Gram Sabha. Keeping in view the above responsibilities entrusted to the members of





Gram Sabha, they are perceived to have desirable 'capacity' to undertake the social audit.

MATERIAL AND METHOD:

Though MGNREGA was enacted in the year 2005 and sufficient efforts have been initiated by all the states of India in building capacity of all the stakeholders in undertaking social audit yet there appears to be evident capacity gap to deliver this responsibility judiciously and objectively. 2. Literature Review : (a) Review Concept & Theories : i) MG NREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MG NREGA) is an ambitious initiative of Government of India which provides a legal guarantee of 100 days wage employment to every rural household whose adult family members volunteer to do unskilled manual work at the notified wage rate in a financial year (gazette of India, 2005). In the first phase, MG NREGA covered 200 backward district w.e.f 2nd February, 2006; in the second phase, another 130 district were brought under MG NREGA coverage w.e.f. 1st April, 2007 and finally in the third phase, all the remaining 266 rural districts of India were covered from 28th September, 2007. ii) Social Audit – Social audit is a process by which the people, the final beneficiaries of any scheme, programme, policy or law, are empowered to audit such schemes, programmes, policies and laws. John Pearce defined “Social Auditing is the process whereby an organization can account for its social performance. It assesses the social impact and ethical behavior of an organization in relation to its aims and those of its stakeholders (RAISE, 2005). Social audit is an ongoing process by which the potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders of an activity or project are involved from the planning to the monitoring and evaluation of that activity or project. Social audit can be described as a checking and verification of a programme/scheme implementation and its results by the community with the active involvement of the primary stakeholders. It is a process of holding





executive branch on the government responsible for their acts. The aim is effective implementation and control of irregularities. The administrative machinery is expected to extend full support in carrying out a social audit by the community. "Auditing is more about securing orders than improving the welfare of the workers, that is why the management only makes cosmetic change to impress the auditors and not to better the conditions of workers". (Clean Clothes Campaign, 2005) Social audit under MG NREGA refers to an audit of all processes and procedure under the Scheme, including wage payments, muster rolls etc. It normally involves scrutiny of all documents and records on work done (MG NREGA SAMEEKSHA, 2012). The basic objective of social audit is to ensure public accountability in the implementation of projects, laws and policies. (MG NREGA Operational Guidelines, 2013) Social audit covers the quantity and quality of works in relation to the expenses incurred/disbursement made, number of works/materials used and also selection of works and location of works. iii) Capacity Building – Training is often presumed as a synonym of capacity building whereas they are distinct (MoPR, 2010). Capacity is defined as "ability". Operationally, in work situations, capacity is defined as "ability to perform." UNDP defined capacity as "the ability of individuals, institutions and societies to perform functions, solve problems, set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner." (UNDP, 2005). Capacity of human resources is dependent on internal factors viz. Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes and external factors i.e. Environment (to what extent it is enabling or otherwise?). Training has been defined as a planned process to modify attitude, knowledge or skills behavior through learning experience to achieve effective performance in all activity or range of activities. 3. Objectives a) To determine the state of awareness of social audit in MG NREGA for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Departments and Programme Officers. b) To determine the level of importance of capacity





building for social audit in MG NREGA for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Departments and Programme Officers. c) To assess the capacity of members of Gram Sabha to undertake Social Audit in MG NREGA. d) To measure the status of Social Audits undertaken with the existing capacity and to determine the effort associated with capacity building for Social Audit in MGNREGA in HP besides its need and importance. e) To measure worker' awareness, preparedness and satisfaction with the transparency in implementation of MG NREGA.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

The result of the present study suggest that there is a major role of gramsabha in MG NAREGA. Accordingly the quality improvement that is (Gunatmak darja) is also improved .

CONCLUSION:

1. Participation of the marginalized groups have been increased.
2. Transparent system of financial distribution.
3. Awareness is increased among villagers.

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Table : 1 ROLE OF GRAMSABHA

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	340	84.0	87.2
	No	16	4.0	91.3
	To some extent	27	6.7	98.2
	Total	390	96.3	100

Table : 2 GUNATMAK DARJA

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	198	49.5	49.5
	No	8	2.0	51.5
	To Some extent	194	48.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	

