

## “Contribution of Social Audit in the Implementation of Rural Development Programs”

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**Summary:** - India is a country of villages and about 70% of its population lives in villages, in such a situation the development of the country is depend on the research of the villages. It is impossible to increase the development of the country till the rural area is not developed equitably. For this, crores of rupees are spent every year by implementing golden projects and programs of development from the government level. Like this for the last 40-50 years. Crore of rupees the amount has been spent by the government of our country for rural development works. But the expected success is not achieved in rural development.

One of the main reasons for which are the lack of proper implementation and monitory of schemes, Social audit method has been adopted for monitoring the works of rural development and checking the expenditure of funds. In the social audit, information about the rural development works by the people, the expenditure incurred on them etc. can be collectively sought in the Gram Sabah. This can prevent misuse of money. The role of the judge to the general public rural development is being strengthened by giving therefore, definitely through social audit, rural development will gain momentum and touch the heights.

**Keywords:** - Social Audit, Rural Development.

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### I. Introduction: -

Rural development usually refers to the method of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of individuals, specifically living in populated and remote areas. Traditionally, rural development was centred on the misuse of land-intensive natural resources such as forestry and agriculture. However today, the increasing urbanisation and the change in global production networks have transformed the nature of rural areas. Rural development still remains the core of the overall development of the country. More than two-third of the country's people is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, and one-third of rural India is still below the poverty line. Therefore, it is important for the government to be productive and provide enough facilities to upgrade their standard of living. Rural development is a term that concentrates on the actions taken for the development of rural areas to improve the economy. However, few areas that demand more focused attention and new initiatives are Education, Public health and Sanitation, Women empowerment, Infrastructure development (electricity, irrigation, etc.), Facilities for agriculture extension and research, Availability of credit, Employment opportunities.

Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population residing in rural areas, but also for the overall economic expansion of the nation. Rural development is considered to be of noticeable importance in the country today than in the olden days in the process of the evolution of the nation. It is a strategy that tries to obtain an improved and productivity, higher socio-economic equality and ambition, and stability in social and economic development. The primary task is to decrease the famine that exists in roughly about 70 percent of the rural population, and to make sufficient and healthy food available. The secondary task is to ensure the availability of clothing and footwear, a clean environment and house, medical attention, recreational provision, education, transport, and communication.

The objectives composed by the government in the sixth five-year plan for rural development are; to improve productivity and wages of rural people, to guarantee increased and quick employment possibilities, to demolish unemployment and bring a notable decline in under-employment, to guarantee an increase in the standard of living of the underprivileged population, to provide the basic needs: elementary education, healthcare, clean drinking water, rural roads, etc.

In a democratic country like India, public participation should be increased in the implementation of rural development programs and to solve these basic problems and as a means of increasing this public participation. 'Social Audit' has been brought into existence; Social audit can be strong bases for rural development, if programs and plans are implemented with their original objectives, then they are not implemented properly, which results in slow development. Social audit will create the qualities of fear and

honestly in system, which will benefit the rural beneficiaries. Right implementation will happen, right India will develop. In view of these problems, the research topic has been selected.

**Objectives of research study:-**

1. Role of Social Audit in rural development program
2. To Study the field of Social Audit
3. To study the process of Social Audit
4. To know the purpose and importance of Social Audit.

**II. Methods of study: -**

The presented research study is based on secondary data. By getting the secondary data through the reference books, magazines and the website of the rural development Department, use it in place in the study was done.

Social audit is the process of monitoring which its main objective is to ensure accountability, transparency, promptness, accountability and grievance redressal. Therefore, in social audit, the progress of expenditure on rural development programs, the allocated amount and its utilization and other works should be checked by the rural people. In this, accountability is fixed and there is transparency in the work. In this, the responsibility of getting the budget allocation and progress of all development works checked by the people twice a year has been ensured by the heads of the Gram Panchayat. For this, operation is done through Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram Sabhas. Social Audit has become Mandatory after the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the constitution. Due to this, the rural Community has been given the right of social audit of all types of development work in their respective areas.

In India, the process of social audit has been duly accepted for the first time in the National Rural employment Guarantee Act 2005. Revolutionary efforts have been made to prove accountability, transparency, and development meaningful, under NREGA Article 17(2) states that the Gram Sabha will conduct regular social audit of all the schemes running.

In a Gram Panchayat under NREGA, then Article 17 (3) it has been said that it is the responsibility of the Gram Panchayat to provide all the necessary documents for audit. Thus after the MNREGA law in India, it is Mandatory to conduct social audit in every Panchayat. It is done twice a year on the prescribed date. In this direction, the work of regular audit is being done in many states due to which the status of rural development works has started coming in front of the society. Progress is being made in rural development works. Corruption is reducing to some extent. Benefit of schemes is being given to genuine poor families. Overall social audit has provided the basis for the progress of rural development and has stopped unnecessary wastage of money.

**Objectives and importance of social audit to bring-**

1. Transparency and accountability in the development system
2. Increase the effectiveness of rural development programs
3. Anticipate physical and financial imbalances
4. To make policies and decisions for the poor people
5. To create awareness among the local producers and services providers
6. Establishment of values of democracy and good governance
7. To make proper arrangements for exploitation of local resources.

**Tools of Social Audit: -**

1. Direct observation of work
2. Open hearing in public meeting
3. Right to information, information dissemination and publication through media, research and survey reports, interviews with beneficiaries, etc.

**Procedure for general audit: -**

1. Providing documents in progress of works as per prescribed format
2. Social audit work wise construction works and material purchase bills getting the information report prepared
3. Appointment of two social audit associates
4. Quorum should be complete in the village society which is 10 percent of the electorate
5. The selection of the venue of the Gram Sabha is according to the wishes of the people
6. Give full opportunity to all the members to have their say.
7. There should be an essential agenda of the audit
8. Acceptance and transparency of works

9. The summary of muster roll of Gram Sabha is read out.

**Things to note:-**

1. Detail the information about social audit
2. The names of the members of the audit are written on the main wall of the Gram Panchayat
3. The Gram Sabha register must be signed by all the attendees
4. Informing Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers
5. Reading out the reports of the previous Audit.

**Social Audit Efforts as per section 17 of MNREGA Act 2005 -**

- 1 Monitoring of implementation of the scheme on Gram Sabha Gram Panchayat
- 2 All the documents of the Gram Panchayat should be made available to the committee
- 3 The Gram Sabha will do the social audit of the works of the Gram Panchayat
- 4 Section 19 of MGNREGA provides that the state Government shall, in the course of implementation of the scheme, determine by rules the appropriate Mechanism at the block level, district level for the disposal of any work by any person. The following essential elements were included to ensure social audit in the implementation of MGNREGA -
  - 1 Regular Maintenances of key documents
  - 2 Payment of fair remuneration
  - 3 Registration of Beneficiaries
  - 4 Selection of projects
  - 5 Execution of Tasks
  - 6 Acceptance of applications seeking work
  - 7 Issue of JAVAKARS and updating entries therein
  - 8 Providing all the documents in the Gram Sabha at the time of social audit by the Gram Panchayat
  - 9 Social Audit should be regulars.

**Social Audit Problems: -**

- 1 Lack of awareness among rural people
- 2 Non-Maintenances of records by Gram Panchayat
- 3 Non-Cooperation by the public for the absence of
- 4 Regular Meeting of the Gram Sabha
- 5 Lack of Knowledge of the process of Social Audit
- 6 Rural people not interested in Audit
- 7 The old report of Gram Sabha is never read at the time of Social Audit
- 8 The Sarpanch and the Secretary do not cooperate and do not disseminate correct information to the villagers. This class encourages corruption.

**Suggestions: -** The rural can be strengthened by making the Social Audit successful and effective in relation to the above problem as -

1. Information should be disseminated to social audit in rural areas
2. Rural people should be motivated to take initiative for participation in rural development
3. To strengthen the Social Audit, training of social audit should be given to the villagers and the youth
4. The villagers should be informed one month before the date of Social Audit
5. The details of the works of the Gram Panchayat should be marked on the walls of the Gram Panchayat
6. Meeting of Gram Sabha should be held from time to time
7. Social Audit should be completed in the prescribed manner
8. Social Audit should be given wide publicity along with increasing public participation in rural development works

**III. Conclusion: -**

Therefore, it can be said as a conclusion that the development of the country is possible only through rural development and rural development comes, from the Gram Panchayat and its associated systems, for which lakhs of rupees are spent every year, but due to the extreme extent of corruption, the benefits of rural development schemes are not available to the real beneficiaries, due to which, apart from rural development, in equality is being created in rural areas. The benefits of the scheme of rural development are taken by the rich farmers and influential persons. Due to which they become rich and the other class which is poor in getting poorer. This inequality is becoming a serious challenge for the development of the country. Therefore, if the real rural and country is to be developed, then an important scheme should be implemented by merging thousands of

schemes of rural development, implement one important plan and its continuous evaluation should be done. Also, to prevent misuse of funds, the allocation of development works by the people of rural areas and Social Audit should be two or three times a year. The social audit will end corruption in the rural development system, nepotism, dominant dominance and the real beneficiaries of the village for whom the plan has been made will get benefit and the process of rural development will improve therefore, social audit is an important tool in the present context in rural development.

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