



Civic Engagement through Social Audit

PRIA is an international centre for learning and promotion of participation and democratic governance



Social Audit

- Conventionally audit means upward accountability of the states and its agencies by checking and verifying transactions
- In New Public Management paradigm audit looks at compliance, quality management and efficiency
- Social audit focuses on downward accountability to citizens at large and helps create voice from below
- Not only looks at govt. institutions but also looks at private sector performance

Contribution of Social Audit

- Initiate public dialogue and scrutiny
- Ascertain relevance of purpose of the service
- Examine whether benefits are rightly targeted
- Examine potential of use of local solutions and technology
- Change policies and guidelines from governance reforms
- Liberates the system from inspection era

Decentralization in Indian

- 8 states have the special social audit provisions in the Act, rest use Village Council (Gram Sabha) meeting to conduct social audit
- Some states have made exclusive provisions for involving women
- Social audit forums, beneficiary committee and Gram Unnayan Samiti (village development committee), social justice committee are specially created to conduct social audit

Decentralization in Indian

- Provisions for pro-active disclosure like expenditure, beneficiary are part of social audit
- Report card is another form social audit with collaborative action
- Public hearing (challenging the corruption) is another form of social audit

Steps of Social Audit

- **Critical balance between demand and supply side interventions**
- **Enabling environment supported by the policies, programmes and institutions**
- **Mobilization and organization building hold the key**
- **Ongoing capacity building and hand holding to break the culture of silence**
- **Cross-sectoral partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement**

Key Lessons

- **Critical balance between demand and supply side interventions**
- **Enabling environment supported by the policies, programmes and institutions**
- **Mobilization and organization building hold the key**
- **Ongoing capacity building and hand holding to break the culture of silence**
- **Cross-sectoral partnership and multi-stakeholder engagement**