Social audit of Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna (Urban) in Jharkhand

“A step towards establishing transparency and accountability”

Background:

Urban Mission is being systematically monitored by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation which has evolved mechanisms for monitoring and social audit has been mentioned as one of such processes. Mission intends to provide assistance to State/UT Governments in carrying out social audits through credible institutions for ensuring better implementation, accountability, transparency and participation in Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) Housing for All (HFA).

Taking this forward, the Directorate of Urban Administration of Urban Development and Housing Department Govt. of Jharkhand initiated the social audit process by conducting pilot social audit through Social Audit Unit, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Jharkhand.

The Process:

The key features of pilot social audits are:

- Initially 7 cities selected for social audit (Ranchi, Chas, Deoghar, Mango, Medininagar, Koderma and Sahibganj)
- 1500 DUs have been selected for social audit under BLC projects of 2015-16 and 2016-17

Door to Door Verification  
Social Audit Public Hearing at Jamsehdpur
- **Independent Facilitating Agency**: “Social Audit Unit” Rural Development Department, Govt. of Jharkhand
- Beneficiaries were selected by Random Computerized System under selected wards.

- State level orientation training programme was organised at State Institute of Rural Development, Ranchi.

- City level orientation meetings with senior ULB officials conducted at 7 ULBs
- Constituted the Social Audit Committees
- Verification and validation of data, BLC files and payments at ULB Level.
- Interaction and interview of officials, beneficiaries and ward councilors
- Public Hearings were conducted to present the findings of the social audit in 6 ULBs.
- State Level Social Audit Hearing is proposed in December.
New Paper Coverage of Social Audit

Sample of Analytical Reports used for Policy Decisions

*Report from Sahebganj District

*Report from Mango, ULB
**About Social Audit Unit**

Social audit is a democratic process that ensures public accountability of agencies through a systematic demand of information by the community. This is in response to the works/programmes that have already been implemented by the government or other agencies for that particular area/community. Within its ambit, it covers issues of quality of implementation of the Programme along with audit of expenses and decisions. It is an empowering process for the people to participate in the process planning and implementation of works and make the implementing agency accountable for the same. Thus it ensures participation, helps maintain transparency and culminates in accountability. In a social audit, the people and the Government jointly monitor the project. It brings on board the perceptions and knowledge of the people, involves them in the task of verification and also brings about much greater acceptability of the government.

After the enactment of the MGNREGA, social audits became a statutory requirement to be conducted by government on a periodic basis. To promote transparency and effective implementation of schemes, the State Government of Jharkhand has established an independent cell Social Audit Unit, Jharkhand within JSLPS for smooth conduct of social audit of MGNREGA and other flagship programmes.

“Truth is the greatest national possession. A state people and a system that suppresses truth or fears to publish it, deserves to collapse”
-Kurt Eisner