Modules

1. Auditing for Accountability
2. Unpacking the MGNREGA
3. Social Audit of the MGNREGS: The Process
4. Social Audit Experiences from the Ground

Key Features:

- Self-paced, flexible
- Mentoring and doubt-clearing by expert tutors
- Regular testing
- Discussion forum for sharing and debating ideas
- Real-life insights
- Certificate upon completion

For Registration and more details write to school@samrthan.org or visit http://www.samarthan.org/school/

SAMARTHAN

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Fee: Rs. 3000/- (US$ 60)

Samarthan

Announces

Online Certificate Course
in
Social Audit for the MGNREGS: Practical Experiences from the Ground

Hurry! Places Limited.

The Need for Accountability

Corruption has been plaguing the implementation of welfare and development programmes in developing countries like India. Public spending on programmes has given abysmally poor results on the ground. Government departments are accountable to the citizens for the effective, efficient and corruption-free delivery of these programmes.

Top-down centralized mechanisms to ensure accountability are considered inadequate because they do not significantly involve the primary stakeholders: the intended beneficiaries of the development programmes. The inadequacy of top-down auditing mechanisms has given rise to the need for bottom-up stakeholder-based mechanisms to complement them. **Social Audit** - the audit by the people - is one such mechanism.

Social Audit is the a process in which, details of the resources, both financial and non-financial, used by public agencies for development initiatives are shared with the people, often through a public platform. 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.

Accountability under MGNREGS

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) that came into force in 2005 seeks to ensure rural livelihood security by guaranteeing 100 days of wage-employment to each rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work related to public works. The Act became the basis of MGNREGS, the biggest national flagship development scheme of independent India in terms of the budgetry outlay. In fact, close to 50% of the outlay for rural development is being allocated to NGREGS every year.

The passage of MGNREGA was accompanied by the apprehension by many experts that corruption and inefficiencies will be major impediments towards achieving the developed objectives envisaged by the Act. It seems that such skepticism was not entirely misplaced as a number of field studies have brought to light rampant misappropriations and leakages in MGNREGS. The framers of the MGNREGA had enough foresight to factor-in social audit as one of the accountability mechanisms in the scheme.

Social Audit of the MGNREGS

Social Audit of the MGNREGS involves the audit of the works undertaken by the Gram Panchayat (the village-level government) by the Gram Sabha (the village electorate). As per the provisions of the Act, the Gram Sabha is authorized and expected to scrutinize all the official records pertaining to the MGNREGS works conducted in the village, with the objective of exposing corruption and pointing out inefficiencies.

About the course

This online certificate course offers in-depth insights into the provisions and processes of Social Audit of the MGNREGS. Learners will gain a thorough understanding of the nuances of the implementation of the MGNREGS. A unique feature of the course is an insight into the real-life experiences of Samarthan in facilitating social audits in the villages of the Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh state.

Who is this course for

The course is meant for development practitioners, academicians, students or anyone interested in the issues of accountability and transparency.

Eligibility

The minimum qualification is Class X .

Mode of Delivery

This course will be delivered through an online platform. Expert faculty will guide learners through the course and clarify their doubts. Learners will also be able to interact with one another through an online discussion forum to debate issues and exchange ideas. Learners will have to take and pass tests and assignments for earning the certificate of completion. The medium of instruction is English.

Duration

The course will run for 45 days.