

Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

NEWSLETTER

mssat.nic.in

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First Edition



Table of CONTENTS

1. Messages
2. About MSSAT
 - 2.1 Social Audit in Meghalaya
 - 2.2 Social Audit Timeline / Milestones
 - 2.3 Social Audit Process
 - 2.4 Capacity Building / Training of SARPs
 - 2.5 Schemes Coverage Under MSSAT
3. Best Practices / Impact of Social Audit in Meghalaya
4. Overview of SA for 23-24
5. IT Innovations
6. Social Audit in Pictures.

Shri. J. Pyngrope,
Director, Meghalaya Society for Social
Audit & Transparency (MSSAT)



As we embark on this journey with the inaugural newsletter of the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency, I am filled with immense pride and anticipation that our concerted efforts have come to fruition. The Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency have always strived to promote and ensure accountability, transparency, and social justice in Meghalaya, and this newsletter is a testament to our commitment to these principles.

The journey of Social Audit in Meghalaya has been of one marked by dedication, perseverance, and a relentless pursuit of fairness. From its humble beginnings to the impactful initiatives we lead, today, the evolution of social audit in our state is a testament to the power of collective action and grassroots activism. Through rigorous social audits and transparent processes, we strive to ensure that the voices of the common man in general and the marginalized in particular, are heard, their rights protected, and their needs addressed.

This newsletter serves not only as a platform to showcase our achievements but also as a means to engage, educate, and inspire. It is a space where we can celebrate our successes, reflect on our challenges, and chart a course for the future.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our staff, the various Implementing Agencies and Government Departments, and our various stakeholders who have been instrumental in our journey thus far. Your unwavering dedication and support continue to drive us forward.

As we launch this inaugural edition, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values of integrity, transparency, and accountability. Together, let us strive to build a more just and equitable society for all, with Social Audit being the bridge between the People and the Government.

Warm regards

(Shri. J. Pyngrope)
Director
Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

1. MESSAGES

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It is a pleasure to learn of the release of the inaugural edition of the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT) Newsletter, a publication that offers valuable insights into MSSAT's activities and achievements.

Social audit has stood as a crucial practice, enhancing the State's capability to improve development outcomes through increased transparency and accountability. In April 2017, Meghalaya proudly became the first state in India to pass social audit legislation, the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act (MCPSSA). This landmark Act mandated social audits across 21 schemes and 11 departments, thereby institutionalizing a comprehensive process of auditing government schemes. Since its inception, the Social Audit Act has catalyzed significant reforms in public service delivery and in bridging the citizen-state divide.

The social audit process in Meghalaya has been empowering communities through a rights-based approach, aligning with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of a community-led development process. By enabling citizens to hold government functionaries accountable for the services they are entitled to, the social audit process has fostered a sense of ownership among citizens over government initiatives. This empowerment has emboldened citizens to become confident participants in the development process, significantly enhancing the quality of governance and public service delivery.

A unique feature of Meghalaya's Social Audit Act is the institutionalization of concurrent audits, which involve simultaneous auditing of government schemes during their implementation. These concurrent audits and hearings have unearthed field evidence, facilitating timely course corrections by departments. This approach has not only increased awareness of entitlements among communities but also established a robust system of public participation, thereby ensuring accountability and fostering a collective pursuit of holistic development goals.

Furthermore, while reinforcing the accountability framework, MSSAT has also been instrumental in training community members as social auditors, promoting inclusivity and local participation. By engaging local communities directly in the audit process, MSSAT has ensured that the voices of the marginalized and underserved are heard and addressed.

As the first state to enact social audit legislation, Meghalaya's experience serves as an instructive model for other regions. Our journey demonstrates the transformative power of social audits in promoting transparency, accountability, and community empowerment. I am optimistic that this newsletter will not only highlight our achievements but also inspire further innovations in social auditing practices across the country.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team at MSSAT for their dedication and hard work. Let us continue to build a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance system for the benefit of all our citizens.

Sampath Kumar, IAS
Principal Secretary & Evaluation Commissioner
Programme Implementation & Evaluation Department (PIED)
Government of Meghalaya

Shri. Ram Kumar S., IAS
Director, P.I & Evaluation Department
Executive Director MSSDS,
Mission Director, NHM
Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Deptt. & Other Deptt.



I am delighted to know that the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency (MSSAT) is releasing the inaugural edition of its Newsletter which gives glimpses of the various activities and achievements of the Society. Social Audit is a method designed to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of the development programmes as well as public services and to encourage transparency in these interventions. It also builds the confidence of the people, making them aware of their rights and entitlements and enhancing their ownership in the development initiatives taken up by the Government.

I am hopeful that the Social Audits and Public Hearings carried out by MSSAT will help in bringing greater efficiency, accountability and public participation, for the overall development of the State.

With Best Wishes

(Ram Kumar S., I.A.S.)
Director
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I am immensely proud and delighted to know about the release of the inaugural edition of the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency Newsletter. This marks a significance milestones in our on going journey to promote transparency accountability and social responsibility with in our community and beyond. The Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency was established with a vision to empower citizens and foster a culture of accountability in governance. Over the years their collective efforts in conducting Social Audits of the Rural Development Schemes have enabled the Department to make substantial strides in ensuring that public resources are utilized effectively and that voices of the most vulnerable are heard and respected.

I believe that the newsletter will be a source of inspiration, a tool for advocacy, and a beacon of our collective resolve to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.

With Best Wishes

(Smt. R. M. Kurbah, I.A.S.)
Director,
Community & Rural Development.



2. About MSSAT

The Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT) was established in 2014 to facilitate and conduct social audits, initially focusing on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act & the Indira Gandhi Awaas Yojana (now known as PMAY-G). It began its operations in 2015. Meghalaya became the first State to pass the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit (MCPSSA) Act in 2017. The MSSAT serves as the technical secretariat to facilitate and conduct the social audits under MCPSSA Act. The Act aims to promote accountability, transparency, and citizen participation in Meghalaya, ensuring efficient government projects, discouraging corruption, and enhancing citizen ownership in development initiatives. The objectives of this initiative are to facilitate audits of schemes and programs, monitor implementation effectiveness, increase transparency, educate citizens about rights, enhance citizen ownership in development initiatives, gather field-level information, solicit feedback, and provide a grievance registration platform.

Initially, paper-based methods were used to collect data during social audits in the later part of March 2020, MSSAT introduced paperless data collection through a mobile application for enhanced efficiency.



2008 - Social Audit was carried out for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)



2014 - Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency (MSSAT) was formed on the 18th November, 2014



2015- MSSAT began its operational functions on the 1st April 2015 to facilitate the conduct of Social Audits.



2017 - "Meghalaya Community Participation & Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017"



2019 - On the 2nd July 2019, the MCPSSA Act, 2017 was enforced



2020 - Social Audit Mobile Application was used to replace paper mode of conducting social audit



2.1 Social Audit in Meghalaya

In Meghalaya, initially, social audit was carried out in 2008 for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. This marked the inception of a transformative process in our state's governance. After which, on November 18, 2014, the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency (MSSAT) was officially established. This organization became instrumental in advocating for transparency and accountability in public service and the implementation of schemes.

In April 2015, MSSAT commenced its operational functions, paving the way for the conduct of social audits across various schemes. This marked a significant step towards empowering citizens to actively participate in the social audit processes.

2.2 Social Audit Timeline / Milestone

In 2017, the 'Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act' was enacted, emphasizing citizen engagement, transparency, and accountability. Subsequently, on July 2, 2019, the associated rules were implemented, enhancing the framework for social audits. MSSAT as an independent entity under the Governing Body and State Social Audit Council, with staffing at various levels. An independent director was appointed in September 2022 to oversee operations. Additionally, Social Audit resource persons were strengthened at the State, District, Block, and village levels, for oversight and coordination.

Social Audit Coverage as per the MCPSSA Act 2017.

 <p>Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Midday Meal)</p>	 <p>Roads & Transport (Public Works Department, PMGSY)</p>
 <p>Health (immunization, services of Sub Center, PHC, CHC)</p>	 <p>Agriculture & Allied activities</p>
 <p>Forest & Environment (Joint Forest Management Committee)</p>	 <p>C & RD (MGNREGA, PMAY -G, NSAP)</p>
 <p>Power (Village Power Committees, services of MoECL)</p>	 <p>Security (local police, village defence parties)</p>
 <p>Water & Sanitation (services of PHE Dept, Swachh Bharat Mission)</p>	 <p>Food & Civil Supplies (PDS)</p>
 <p>Employment & Skilling</p>	 <p>Social Welfare (ICDS)</p>

2.3 Social Audit Process

- The social audit process is initiated by meeting the concerned departments (implementing agencies) to conduct social audits.
- The concerned government officials are sensitized on their role in the social audits and access to official records.
- The preparation of the Social Audit Calendar is formulated by the social audit team.
- This is followed by the downloading of the MGNREGA MIS Verification Format by the District Social Audit Resource Person and submission to the Block Social Audit Resource Person & Village Social Audit Resource Person for the MGNREGS. For other schemes, viz the PMAY-G, and NSAP the information for social audit verification is also downloaded from the MIS of the scheme website.
- The collection & Collection of information are done at the Block office. In contrast, document verification & site verification are done at the village level as well as Institutional visits & Door-to-door interactions.
- After which a report is compiled & prepared for the Jan Sunwai/Social Audit Gram Sabha at the Village level.
- A report is then submitted by the Village Social Audit Resource Person to the Block Social Audit Resource Person (within 5 days after the gram sabha) after which a public hearing is conducted as per the scheduled date, which is scheduled within a period of at least 15 days after the social audit gram sabha.
- The block social audit resource person then submits the reports to the District Social Audit Resource Person (within 15 days after the public hearing).
- The uploading of MGNREGS social audit reports in the MIS of the ministry is done by the District Social Audit Resource Person.
- Then the final social audit report of the MGNREGA which includes the social audit reports of other schemes is then submitted to the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency Headquarters (soft copy and hard copy by the DSARP).

2.4 Capacity Building / Training of SARPs

Types of Training:

- Induction Training Programme for SAURPs.
- Capacity Building Training on Social Audit- RCT (Survey)
- Capacity Building and Training Programme for the SAURPs, (SRPs, DSARPs, BSARPs, SHG-VSARPs) on "Social Accountability, Transparency, and Social Audit
- Deputation of SAURPs for training on Social Accountability, Transparency and Social Audit , Social Audit Unit Management Programme, Office Management conducted by other Institution or department [NIRDPR, MATI, SIRD,IIPH],
- MGNREGA-MIS training for SAURPs (SRPs, DSARPs)



2.5 Schemes Coverage Under MSSAT

FY - 2015 - 16		FY - 2020 - 21	
NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME		SCHEME
3765	MGNREGS	1819	PM-POSHAN (MDM)
7205	IAY	1865	NHM
		199	BADP
FY - 2016 - 17		FY - 2021 - 22	
NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME	NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME
3135	MGNREGS	5666	MGNREGS
4814	IAY	2509	MGNREGS-CSA
		11364	PMAY_G
		42358	NSAP
		263	CLLMP
		85	BADP
		4052	COVID - 19 BCC
FY - 2017 - 18		FY - 2022 - 23	
NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME	NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME
5960	MGNREGS	1657	MGNREGS
6656	PMAY-G (IAY)	3459	MGNREGS - CSA
104	NSAP	14321	PMAY - G
17	PM-POSHAN (MDM)	24329	NSAP
16	SSA	248	MISSION ORGANIC
17	PHE	1416	PM-POSHAN (MDM)
06	SBM	1202	PMAY - U
05	HORTICULTURE - MIDH	4329	ICDS (WITH SAM & MAM)
02	AGRICULTURE - NSAP	310	CLLMP
01	VERTERINARY		
23	ICDS		
38	CMPS		
18	NHM		
18	PDS		
02	POWER SERVICE		
01	BADP		
FY - 2018 - 19		FY - 2022 - 23	
NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME	NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME
6188	MGNREGS	4912	MGNREGS
15903	PMAY-G	1649	MGNREGS - CSA
		16305	PMAY - G
		14913	NSAP
		306	PM-POSHAN (MDM)
		310	CLLMP
		05	NRLM (INTERVENTION)
		79	ICDS (INTERVENTION)
		50	PDS (INTERVENTION)
		36	NHM (INTERVENTION)
FY - 2019 - 20		FY - 2022 - 23	
NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME	NO. OF SOCIAL AUDIT CCONDUCTED	SCHEME
6238	MGNREGS		
3172	PMAY-G		

3. Best Practices / Impact of Social Audit in Meghalaya

Impact of Social Audit from: Mrs. Mary Jubilee Pasi Scheme: PMAY G Scheme ID: MG124760735

Mrs. Mary hails from Nanbah Village under Thadlaskein C&RD Block, West Jaintia Hills District. Having only completed her Middle School and a mother of 5 children and a father who works as a labourer, Mrs. Mary's application for the PMAY-G scheme was approved. The house construction was sanctioned for FY 2021-22. The house construction has not started since the sanctioned date because there has been a mixed up with her bank details. After the conduct of social audit, the social auditors brought forward the issue before the PMAY G officials from the Block Office on 27th October 2023 during the Public Hearing forum. The Block officials clarified that the beneficiary has two Accounts numbers and so she has submitted to the block office the Account which is not linked with Aadhar. And after rectifying the issue, she has received the 1st instalment and started the house construction. The beneficiary said **"The scheme has been very helpful. I have no land of my own. When I applied for the scheme, my relatives gave me a small plot of land to build the house. Now, I feel hopeful that I own a house where my children can be safe."**

Impact of Social Audit from: Mr. Kuffle Dkhar Scheme: NSAP (IGONAP)

Mr. Kuffle Dkhar, a resident of Umniangriang Village in Mairang C&RD Block, Eastern West Khasi Hills District, was a beneficiary of the Old Age Pension Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Initially receiving an assistance of Rs. 550, his payments ceased on March 11, 2022, as his name was erroneously removed from the beneficiary database due to a reported demise. However, through a diligent Social Audit, it was discovered that Mr. Dkhar was indeed alive. The Social Audit Resource Person verified this discrepancy from his passbook, prompting action from the Coordinator in charge of NSAP. The Data Entry Operator rectified the error, and approval from the District Level is pending.

Expressing relief, Mr. Dkhar stated, **"Thanks to the Social Audit, I will finally receive the entitlements owed to me."**

Impact of Social Audit from: Mrs. H.Mawblei and Mrs. B.Marnagar Scheme: PM-POSHAN

Mrs. H. Mawblei and Mrs. B. Marnagar, who are parents, send their children to the MAWIONG JADAP Lower Primary School [Non-Govt.] located in Mawiong Jadap village under Mairang C&RD Block, Eastern West Khasi Hills District. They expressed that they have been facing problems over the past three (3) financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 due to the non-functioning of the school. The village headman also clarified that the school has not been functioning for the past three (3) financial years and that Mid-day meals were not provided to the children. Because of this, the parents have admitted their children to

other schools in the village. These two schools in the village, i.e. Mawlum [LPS-SSA] & Jadap RCLPS School, are functioning well and serving the Mid-day meals to the children. The education department, after receiving information about the non-functioning school, has decided during the (Social audit) public hearing to take actions against the school for misuse of funds and reimbursement of the funds amounting to Rs 84,684.92/- to the department.

Impact of Social Audit from: Mr. B. Majaw Scheme: ICDS)

Mrs. J. Majaw, the mother of a child B. Majaw, was asked if she availed the Supplementary Nutrition from the Anganwadi Centre. She responded that she did not collect the items regularly and also does not give the SNP to the child regularly. One reason being the distance between her home and the centre was too far, which makes it difficult for her. The child's BMI as of 26/2/2024 was recorded as height - 80 cm & weight - 10.2 kg. The social audit team then asked the mother to avail the Supplementary Nutrition (SNP) so that the child gets the required nutrition for proper growth and development.

The social audit team also instructed the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) to follow up on the same. After the intervention of the AWWs (Dong Nonglum & Madan Lyngkhi), the child's BMI as of 25/3/2024 was: height - 81 cm & weight - 10.4 kg. According to information, the mother now collects the SNP from the Madan Lyngkhi AWC, which is closer to her home after having completed the construction of her house in Madan Lyngkhi. The AWW of Madan Nonglum said that "the child's BMI has improved."

4. OVERVIEW 2023 - 24

SCHEME	COVERAGE
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)	5813
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - Concurrent Social Audit (MGNREGS - CSA)	1498
Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC)	771
Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY - G)	39857
National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	38373
Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme For Holistic Nourishment Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN)	210
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	4431
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	231
Public Distribution System (PDS)	497
Border Area Development Programme (BADP)	6361

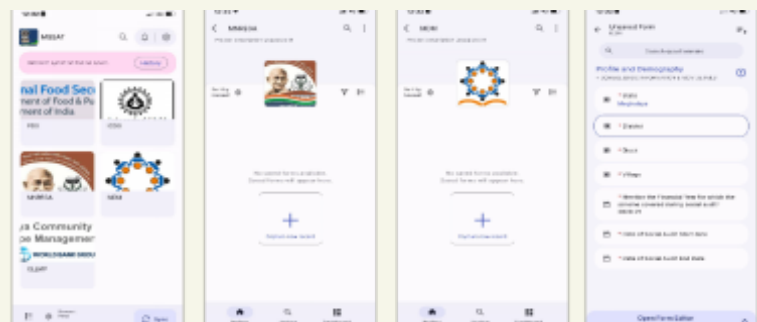
The Community Led-Landscape Management Project (CLLMP) will be undergoing Social Audits for 400 Village Natural Resource Management Committee (VNRMC) for the Financial Year 2023-24 during April 2024-May 2024 as per agreement with the implementing agency.

5. MSSAT IT - Innovations



5.1 AppVerse

The journey of embracing technological advancements in social auditing began in the later part of March 2020 with the introduction of the social audit app Sangrah application, by MSSAT in collaboration with the CDFI. This innovative step replaced the traditional paper-based method, streamlining the auditing process for enhanced accessibility and efficiency. Building upon this success, the app was updated to Sangrah 2.0 the following year. However, recognizing the need for further improvement, MSSAT is poised to launch a new app, Appverse, replacing Sangrah 2.0. This new iteration will incorporate updated questionnaires to include local languages such as Khasi and Garo, aiming to elevate the quality of data collected in the next financial year. This progression underscores MSSAT's commitment to harnessing technology to continuously enhance the effectiveness and reach of social audit processes, aligning seamlessly with the transition to digitized data collection highlighted earlier.



5. MSSAT IT - Innovations



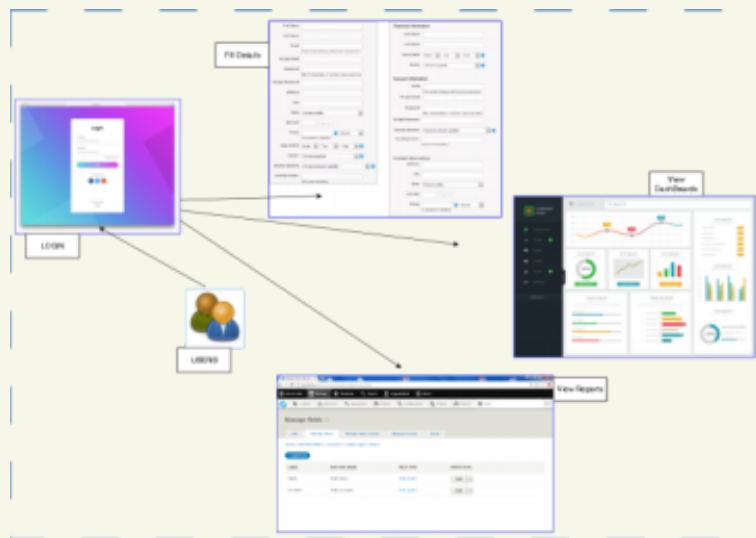
5.2 Sankalp & MSSAT Web Portal

SANKALP is a web portal designed to synchronize information collected from the Sangrah / AppVerse App ensuring secure storage via SSL encryption. Users with login credentials can access and view data collected on the Sangrah / Sangrah 2.0 Application, either by viewing or importing it from the MBDA SANKALP web portal. The portal provides features for data analytics, enabling users to assess the coverage of social audits and analyze collected data conveniently. Additionally, it offers the functionality to extract data in spreadsheet format for detailed analysis.



The upcoming MSSAT Portal represents a significant upgrade from SANKALP, set to revolutionize social audits for the MSSAT Social Audit Society. This platform will provide streamlined access and comprehensive analytics, enhancing transparency and accountability in the audit process. With a centralized hub for social audit activities, it aims to simplify procedures, facilitate data management, and promote informed decision-making. Key features include streamlined access, comprehensive analytics, simplified report submissions, and public access for increased transparency.

The MSSAT Portal holds immense promise for transforming social audits, promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability in governance.



5.3 Online - Public Hearing



Introducing Online Public Hearings, MSSAT launched a pioneering initiative where a total of 18 online public hearings were conducted across 8 districts of Meghalaya between February and March 2024. These hearings covered various blocks and discussed schemes like MGNREGS, NSAP, PMAY-G, SSA, PM-POSHAN, MDM, PDS, and CLLMP. The online platform extended the reach and accessibility of the initiative, fostering transparency and inclusive governance in the state. The hearings strengthened the bond between the government and the people by enabling public participation in the implementation of government schemes.



5.4 MSSAT - website

The MSSAT website, accessible at mssat.nic.in, serves as a platform for public access to the latest notifications, advertisements, and annual reports. The website has recently undergone a redesign, aimed at improving functionality and aesthetics to enhance the visitor experience. This revamp ensures that visitors can easily navigate the website and access the information they need efficiently.



6. Social Audit in Pictures



Collation and Consolidation of Records & information

6. Social Audit in Pictures



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION



Door to Door Verification



Social Audit Meeting /Gram Sabha at the Village level



Site verification

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