

# Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

## NEWSLETTER

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## YEAR ENDING REVIEW OF THE STATE AND DISTRICT

### SOCIAL AUDIT IN MEGHALAYA: YEAR-END REVIEW FOR 2023-24

The Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT) recently completed its year-end review of social audits for the financial year 2023-24, with key district and state-level meetings held in May 2024. These reviews aimed to assess the effectiveness and coverage of various welfare schemes across the state, ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

Key Schemes Audited: The social audits covered several major schemes, including:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- Public Distribution System (PDS)
- Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)
- Community-Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)
- Border Area Development Programme (BADP)
- Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC)



### STATE SOCIAL AUDIT COVERAGE & SCHEME-WISE ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2023-24

#### Scheme-wise State Achievement for 2023-24

Schemes	Planned	Social Audit Completion	Social Audit (% Achievement)
BADP	101	77	76
CLLMP	291	256	88
ICDS	4745	3345	70
PM-POSHAN	213	213	100
MGNREGS	5813	5314	91
MGNREGS-CSA	1475	1475	100
NSAP	50932	36480	72
PDS	460	423	92
PMAY-G	42320	23961	57
SSA	233	223	96
XVFC	995	733	74

Shri. Sibhi C. Sadhu, I.A.S  
Secretary & Director,  
Community & Rural Development.



On behalf of the Community and Rural Development Department, Meghalaya, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT) for its contribution in conducting social audits across various rural development programs in our state, including NSAP, MGNREGA, and PMAY-G. We believe these efforts have ensured transparency, accountability, and community participation, all of which are instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of these programs. This aligns perfectly with our vision of fostering sustainable rural development through greater inclusivity and openness.

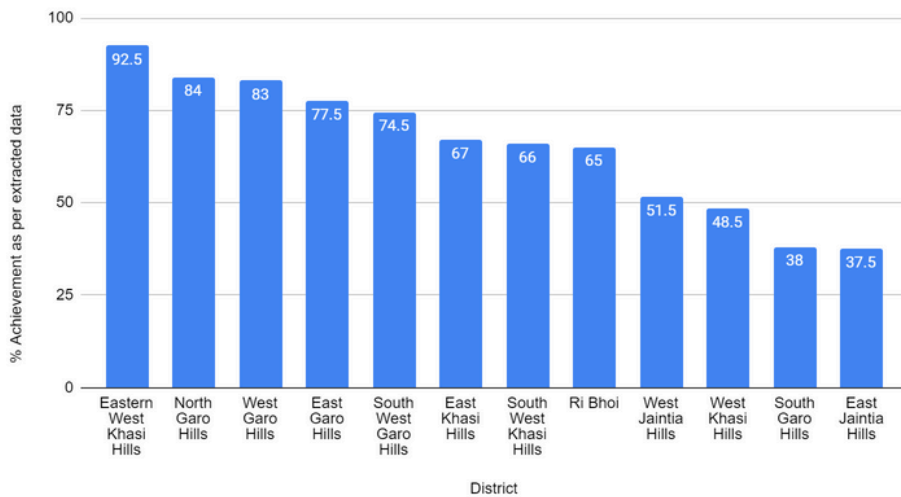
We value the significant role MSSAT plays in strengthening governance structures at the grassroots level, and we look forward to your continued efforts in building trust and integrity within our systems, as well as your tireless dedication toward rural empowerment.

With Best Wishes

Sibhi C. Sadhu, I.A.S  
Secretary & Director,  
Community & Rural Development.

- The Overall Percentage Achievement as per the Physical Completion is 83%
- The Overall Percentage Achievement as per the Extracted Data is 82%

## DISTRICT-WISE PERCENTAGE ACHIEVEMENT



### 1.1 PUBLIC HEARING ACHIEVEMENTS (OFFLINE & ONLINE)

MSSAT conducted a total of 112 public hearings across various districts, where 3,204 issues were reported. Decisions were taken on 2,750 issues, with 1,972 resolved through Action Taken Reports (ATRs). Additionally, 18 online public hearings were conducted, enhancing accessibility and participation.

#### CHALLENGES FACED

The year witnessed several challenges:

- **Engagement of SHG Members:** Self-Help Group (SHG) members, engaged as Village Social Audit Resource Persons (VSARPs), faced a steep learning curve since as per the monthly monitoring over the year there is no proper monitoring by the BSARPs, DSARPs even SRPs at the village level.
- **Appverse Transition:** The shift from the Sangrah app to Appverse brought technical difficulties, with data integration issues and QR code compatibility problems hindering the process.
- **Technical Competency:** The limited technical skills of SHG members posed significant barriers to effective data collection and submission. However, various trainings including refreshers training will be conducted to build the capacity of the SHG members.

#### WAY FORWARD

For the upcoming financial year 2024-25, MSSAT plans to strengthen its approach through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society (MSRLS) to better engage SHG members. Enhancements to the Appverse platform are also on the horizon, including localized questionnaires, improved user interfaces, and better data integration to ensure smoother audits.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) in Hyderabad conducted a transformative Management Development Programme (MDP) from the 6th to the 10th of May 2024. This prestigious programme included the participation of four State Resource Persons (SRPs) from the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT). The initiative aimed to elevate the skills and capacities of SRPs associated with Social Audit Units (SAUs) under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The programme's mission was multifaceted, focusing on reviewing institutional arrangements for social audits, addressing challenges faced by SAUs, and sharing state-specific innovations that enhance transparency and accountability within the social audit process.

The programme was meticulously structured, offering a blend of diverse and interactive methodologies including lectures, interactive sessions, case studies, group discussions, and field visits. Participants engaged with a rich curriculum that encompassed thorough examinations of Audit Scheme Rules and Auditing Standards. Discussions extended to institutional arrangements necessary for adopting social audits and the administrative frameworks involved, such as registration processes under the Societies Act. The SRPs received training in key areas such as administration, financial management, human resources, and mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability in social audits. Additionally, the program focused on identifying capacity-building initiatives for stakeholders and preparing a strategic

roadmap to improve the overall efficacy of social audits. Participants were also exposed to successful social audit processes from various schemes, including MGNREGS, PMAYG, IWMP, and ICDS. These activities provided participants with direct learning experiences from stakeholders actively engaged in rural development.

The Management Development Programme has significantly empowered the SRPs from MSSAT by equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to strengthen social audit processes. Under the guidance of Dr. Srinivas Sajja, alongside Dr. C. Dheeraja and Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, the comprehensive training and shared experiences from this course have not only enhanced their capacity to tackle existing challenges but also laid the foundation for innovative approaches to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of social audits across Meghalaya.



### CAPACITY BUILDING: SHG/VSARP

The capacity training program, which lasted for 6 days, was designed to build capacity for the Village Social Audit Resource Persons (VSARPs) on "Social Accountability, Transparency, and Social Audit." It was conducted at 35 venues across the 12 districts of Meghalaya, including Ri-Bhoi, East Jaintia Hills, West Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, North Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, and East Khasi Hills, where 648 SHGs/VSARPs have been trained. The program featured a structured schedule that included sessions on key government schemes like MGNREGA, PM POSHAN, ICDS, PDS, PMAY-G, PMAY-U, NSAP, SSS, BADO, and XVFC, as well as Field Immersion Practical sessions and the preparation of Gram Sabha reports for village-level presentations. The training program involves various stakeholders, including the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), District Officers, Block Officers, State staff of MSSAT, DSARPs and BSARPs of MSSAT, District Social Audit Coordinators or the Deputy Commissioners under the MCPSSA Act, SHG members from MSRLS as SHG VSARPs. This stakeholder plays a crucial role in implementing the program and fostering a collaborative network dedicated to promoting social accountability, good governance, and empowering local communities through social audits.

# Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

Sl. No	Types of Training	Date	No. of Participants	Venue	District Name	Training Conducted for
1	Capacity Building for the VSARPs on "Social Accountability, Transparency and Social Audit"	24th June-29th June 2024	40	VTC, Williamnagar	East Garo Hills	All Blocks
2			9	Wahpathaw Community hall,Pynursla	East Khasi Hills	Pynursla C&RD Block
3			11	Mawsynram C&RD Block		Mawsynram C&RD Block
4			12	Mawryngkneng Block office		Mawryngkneng C&RD Block
5			14	Mawphlang Block Office		Mawphlang & Sohiong C&RD Block
6			10	Shella Bholaganj Block Conference Hall		Shella Bholaganj C&RD Block
7			8	Khatarshnong Laitkroh C &RD Block		Khatarshnong C&RD Block
8			6	Myllem Block Office		Myllem C&RD Block
9			14	Mawkynrew C &RD Block		Mawkynrew C &RD Block
10			4	Mawlai Block Office		Mawlai & Mawpat C&RD Block
11			12	Umsning Block		Ri Bhoi
12			20	Umling C&RD Block	Umling C&RD Block	
13			18	Bhoiryngbong Block	Bhoiryngbong C&RD Block	
14			40	Jirang C&RD Block Hall	Jirang C&RD Block	
15			37	Bishop's House, Jowai	West Jaintia Hills	All Blocks
16			11	Ranikor C&RD Block Hall , SWKH.	South West Khasi Hills	Ranikor C&RD Block
17			26	Woman Hostel Sngap Syiem Collage , Mawkyrwat, SWKH		Mawkyrwat C&RD Block
18			46	Circuit House, Ampati and MFC DC office Ampati	South West Garo Hills	All Blocks
19			25	Rizwan Guest House Conference Hall, Khliehriat	East Jaintia Hills	All Blocks
20			23	Mawthengkut Dorbar Hall, Mawshynrut.	West Khasi Hills	Mawshynrut and Ri Muliang C&RD Block
21			44	TRYSEM Hall, DRDA Nongstoin,		Nongstoin,Shallang and Rambrai C&RD Block
22			23	Wellspring Social Service Centre,Mairang	Eastern West Khasi Hills	All Blocks
23			46	Circuit House, Ampati and MFC DC office Ampati	South West Garo Hills	All Blocks

# Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

Sl. No	Types of Training	Date	No. of Participants	Venue	District Name	Training Conducted for	
24	Capacity Building for the VSARPs on "Social Accountability, Transparency and Social Audit"	24th June-29th June 2024	11	Dingkajora Community Hall, Dalu	West Garo Hills	Dalu C&RD Block	
25			9	Shyamnagar Community Hall under Demdema C&RD Block		Demdema C&RD Block	
26			21	Kathalbari II Community Hall under Tikrikilla C&RD Block		Tikrikilla C&RD Block	
27			16	Selsella MFC, Selsella C&RD Block		Selsella C&RD Block	
28			16	Asanang Multi Facility Hall		Rongram C&RD Block	
29			12	Gambegre C&RD Block Headquarter Conference Hall		Gambegre C&RD Block	
30			11	Batabari Community Hall, Batabari C&RD Block		Batabari C&RD Block	
31			12	Multi facility centre Building Dadenggre C&RD Block		Dadenggre C&RD Block	
32			36	Baghmara Bakdil Training Centre Hall & Chokpot C &RD Block		South Garo Hills	All Blocks
33			15	Kharkutta C &RD Block Conference Hall		North Garo Hills	Kharkutta C&RD Block
34	6	Adokgre multi-facility hall	Adokgre C&RD Block				
35	15	Multi Facility Centre, Bajengdoba	Bajengdoba C&RD Block				
36	15	SGSY Block Hall, Resubelpara	Resubelpara C&RD Block				
<b>Total No of participants</b>			<b>648</b>				



SHG of Ampati attending training



SHG of Mawkyrwat attending training



SHG of Mawkyrwat attending training



SHG of Williamnagar attending training



SHG of West Jaintia Hills attending training



SHG of Selsella attending training

## TRAINING OF TRAINERS - ON SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEMES (SSS) CONDUCTED BY NIRDPR IN COLLABORATION WITH TRIPURA SAU, AGARTALA.

The social audit training in Agartala was conducted for 5 days on Samagra Shiksha Scheme for all North-east region Social Audit Units comprising all 8 States, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim And Tripura. The Training of Trainers (TOT) session held on 29th April to 3rd May 2024 aimed to equip trainers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement and disseminate information on various Social Security Schemes (SSS) across different regions. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the training session, highlighting the key topics covered, methodologies employed, challenges identified, and the action plan for moving forward.

The objective of the training is to enhance the capacity building on the new policy of Samagra Shiksha Scheme that has been developed by NCERT into 3 modules.

**Activities and Interaction:** The topics that are covered on Samagra Shiksha Scheme were facilitated by Resource Persons from NIRDPR and Education Department, Tripura. Main focus of the topics were about National Education Policy, 2020, Guidelines of Social Audit for Samagra Shiksha Scheme and a 2 day field visit to pilot the social audit of Samagra Shiksha Scheme in the two schools in and around Agartala.

**Observations and Findings:** The social audit conducted at PMSHRI Navagram Higher Secondary School and Pallimangal Higher Secondary School, in Tripura focused on evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of various Samagra Shiksha Schemes (SSS). The audit covered critical areas, including infrastructure, teacher performance, student welfare, administration, safety, and vocational training. The findings revealed several key issues, such as inadequate infrastructure for students with special needs, lack of a special educator, and gaps in the distribution of student entitlements like scholarships and uniforms.

**Learnings:** The report highlights the need for immediate improvements, such as upgrading infrastructure for better inclusivity, recruiting specialised staff, ensuring timely distribution of student benefits, and enhancing financial transparency. The establishment of a dedicated School Safety Committee and regular equipment assessments for vocational training are also recommended. These steps are essential to address the identified shortcomings and enhance the overall educational environment at the school.

The ToT on social audit of Samagra Shiksha Scheme has identified several areas where the school can improve, particularly in infrastructure, teacher engagement, student welfare, and financial management. It has also provided crucial insights and practical strategies for effective implementation. By addressing the identified challenges and leveraging opportunities for improvement, the trainers are well-equipped to make a significant impact in their respective areas. Continuous support, monitoring, and evaluation will be key to ensuring the success of these schemes.



Organized by SAU - Tripura  
In association with  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad -500030



## REVIEW OF SOCIAL AUDIT TRAININGS- ONE MONTH CERTIFICATE COURSE AND SHG-VRP TRAINING (15-16 APRIL 2024)

The review meeting was conducted by the Centre for Social Audit, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj on the One-month Certificate Course on Social Accountability and Social audit to BRP/DRP/SRP of social audit units and also SHG-VRP Trainings for the selected States which have been conducted by the CSA, NIRD & PR in collaboration with SIRDs, SAUs and Lead Course Coordinators to streamline and strengthening the SAU and adhering to the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) and in some States several issues, to address issues faced by LCCs in conducting the one-month certificate course and completion of targets including the SHG-VRP trainings and to revise the training manuals/modules. The key take ways are as follows: -

- Sharing and Learnings from SAUs across all States on the 30 days Training programme for SAURPs (SRPs/DSARPs/BSARPs) during 2022-23,
- 30 Days training plan across all States for the FY 2023-24 & 2024-25,
- Role of the SAU & SIRD & LCC,
- Update of the Training Manual,
- Update of Material in the Tool Kit,
- Activities to be taken up as per the training Manual viz, Venue [SIRD or other venue], Implementing or Subject Specific Resource Persons other than LCC, Field Practicum, Selection of villages, Social Audit Verification Exercise, Social Audit Gram Sabha, Social Audit Public Hearing, Upload of Social Audit Reports,

# Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency

The SAU, MSSAT have taken further steps to strengthen the SAURPs and shall trained another batch of SAURPs (SRP, DSARPs,BSARPs) - 46 nos. of SAURPs in the SIRD during FY 2024-25 w.e.f 4th November 2024-7th December 2024.



## MASTER TRAINERS ON SOCIAL AUDIT OF SCHOOLS UNDER THE SAMAGRA SHIKSHA SCHEME

On 9th May 2024, the Department of TE, NCERT, Ministry of Education conducted a one-day training session for 75 Master Trainers on Social Audit of Schools under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme at the MIIT, Shillong, Meghalaya. The training was conducted by Prof. Sharad. Sinha, Head of the Department of TE at NCERT, along with Dr Jitendra Kumar and Dr B.Pradhan from NCERT, in the presence of Smt Aitinora Myrthong Jt Director, Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency, Smt Meirilang Kharbynngar and Smt Jennyfer J Synrem State Planning Coordinator SEMAM-SSA and officials from Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, Shillong and MSSAT (the SRPs,DSARPs,BSARPs). The training sessions include the scheme details under Samagra Shiksha Scheme, Holistic Approach and Education for All, SSS as per the RTE Act 2009 and the NEP 2020, Social Audit Process including composition and roles of social audit facilitation team, participation of all stakeholders, ensuring beneficiaries access to rights and entitlements, presence of officials during the social audit public hearings and redressal of grievances and the three modules I, II, III for social audits under Samagra Shiksha Scheme. Social Audit for the SSS commenced from August 2024 onwards in 1571 nos. of targeted schools and as on date the total nos. of schools covered is 67 nos. and shall be completed within March 2025 including with the conclusion of the social audit public hearings.



## SOCIAL AUDIT & PUBLIC HEARING

Social audit public hearings have been scheduled and held across the State for Schemes covered under social audits during 2023-24 to address issues and grievances pertaining to implementation of schemes and programmes and access of rights and entitlements by the beneficiaries and communities. Altogether a total of 2086 nos. of participants (implementing agencies, communities, beneficiaries, village functionaries, village representatives) participated during the public hearings. The social audit findings reported in a total of 26 nos.of such public hearings from the period of April 2024- June 2024 were listed below:

### 1. MGNREGA -

- NMMS and network connectivity issues,
- Delay in receipt of payment of wages,
- Non maintenance of records and documents at the VEC, viz. the NMR, VMC Report, MIS 7 registers, three stages of photographs, JC (no updates), Cash book,
- Delay in receipt payment of MC,
- Lack of provision of worksite facilities at the VEC,
- JCHs' request for increase of wages,

### 2. NSAP

- Non receipt of pension monthly,
- Records not available for verification,
- Beneficiaries' request for increase of pension amount,
- Beneficiaries' problem faced due to failure of the passbook update machine at the banks,
- No verification of expired/untraceable/migrated beneficiaries,



Social Audit Public Hearing for MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NSAP in Mawsynram C&RD Block, EKHD, Meghalaya, 22nd April 2024.

### 3. PMPOSHAN

- Requirement for maintenance / repair of kitchen shed,
- Request for increase of food grains from 200 gram per child to 250 grams per child,
- Lack of access to / no potable drinking water as well as water for cooking, cleaning and washing purposes,
- Measurement of food grains not as per norm,
- Food grains not received at the doorstep level,
- Payment of cost of transportation, courier / porter however no reimbursement,
- Requirement for Maintenance / Replacement of storage facilities,
- Lack of maintenance of records and documents viz. Stock register, PM POSHAN & nos. Of times food is served register, Taste Register, Testing Register, Menu (not display), Bill & Vouchers, Cooking and Conversion cost register, foodgrains sample register, grievance register.,
- Requirement for training on PM POSHAN to teachers/supervisor/cook/helper,
- Lack/no awareness on tithi bhojan
- Lack / No Provision for fire extinguisher,
- Lack / No Handwashing facilities,
- Maintenance/ Repair of toilets,
- Lack / No Provision of school fencing, playground,
- Vitamin A & folic acid distribution not regular,
- Irregular/ No inspection from the department,



**Social Audit Public Hearing for the PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman in Nongstoin C&RD Block, WKHD, Meghalaya, 26th April 2024.**

### 4. SSS -

- Requirement for maintenance / repairs of toilet, chairs, fencing, school buildings,
- Lack of maintenance of records and documents viz. key documents under SSS, school health register
- Lack of separate urinals for boys and girls,
- lack/no library room,
- Lack of electricity connection/no supply.
- Irregular/no visits or inspections from the department,

### 5. ICDS

- Lack / No weighing machine/ required replacement,
- Lack/No proper AWC/No AWC/AWC in AWW or Helper house/No support for rent allowance
- Lack/no training for the VLCC,
- lack/required repair & maintenance for kitchen shed, water supply, toilet
- lack/no maintenance of records viz. SNP register ( not updated), handover of documents from previous office bearers, menu (not display)
- Lack/no training on SNP to AWW/Helper



**Social Audit Public Hearing for the ICDS in Mairang C&RD Block, EWKHD, Meghalaya, 10th April 2024.**

### 6. Public Distribution System

- **No Beneficiary Lists:** Many villagers pointed out that beneficiary lists were not displayed in their areas. Displaying these lists is crucial as it helps residents verify their entitlements and ensures that everyone eligible can access their share of benefits without confusion.
- **Infrequent Inspections:** The lack of regular inspections at Fair Price Shops (FPS) was another issue highlighted. Regular inspections are vital to ensure that FPSs are functioning correctly and that there are no discrepancies in the distribution of goods. The infrequent checks may lead to lapses in quality and service.
- **Missing Information Boards:** The absence of information boards in some areas was noted. These boards are important for providing up-to-date information about the PDS, including procedures, entitlements, and other relevant details. Without them, residents may not have the necessary information to make informed decisions about their entitlements.

The Sub-Inspector of Supply who attended the hearing listened to these concerns attentively.

They provided explanations where possible and committed to addressing the issues raised. The hearing was an opportunity to not only highlight these problems but also to take actionable steps towards resolving them.

Participation and feedback from community members are vital for identifying and addressing issues within the Public Distribution Scheme. Efforts will continue to address these concerns and provide updates on progress. This ongoing engagement helps make the PDS more effective and responsive to the community needs.

The Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency (MSSAT) has successfully conducted a series of public hearings regarding the Public Distribution System. These hearings took place across four districts from April 12, 2024, to June 14, 2024.

#### Summary of Completed Hearings:

- Total hearings conducted: 17
- Districts covered: Ri Bhoi, East Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills
- Duration: April 12, 2024 - June 14, 2024

#### District-wise Breakdown:

1. Ri Bhoi District: 3 hearings completed
2. East Khasi Hills District: 10 hearings completed
3. Eastern West Khasi Hills District: 2 hearings completed
4. West Khasi Hills District: 2 hearings completed

The MSSAT extends its gratitude to all participants who contributed to these hearings, ensuring transparency and providing valuable community input.



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