

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AUDIT IN PAIKAPHULBEDA BY GRAMSABHA

Facilitated by SPREAD.

The Gram Sabha of Paikaphulbeda village of Paikaphulbeda Gram Panchayat have successfully initiated a social audit process and organized a public hearing on 15th November 2007, of an NREGA road work which was executed in their village during the year 2006-2007.

This social audit process was fully organized by the Gram Sabha with the formal notice supplied by the Sarpanch to all the villagers and government officials as per the provisions of the NREGA-Central Operational Guidelines.

About the Village:

Paikaphulbeda is village comes under the Paikaphulbeda Gram Panchayat of Dasbantpur block of Koraput district. However the village situates by around fifteen kilometers from the district head quarter but there was no such availability of good communication. As per the primary survey data, the total house hold of the village is 231, out of which 108 Schedule Tribes are, 59 are Schedule Castes and 65 are from the OBC community. The total population of the village is 920, out of which 389 are schedule tribes, 235 are schedule caste and 296 are from OBC community.

The Process of Social Audit:

It was long back few villagers of Paikaphulbeda village have participated in a social audit programme for their learning which was held in Jalaput Gram Panchayat of Nandapur block of Koraput district. These villagers came back and in the mean time an NREGA road work was being executed in their village. After the work executed they have decided to conduct a similar type of social audit in their village. With the initial training support from an NGO working in the village, they have organized a village meeting where all the villagers have decided to initiate a social audit process of the road work which was executed in their village.

In order to carry out the process and especially for collecting and analyzing information, the villagers formed a committee called "Paikaphulbeda Gram Samajik Samikhya Jana Manch" (Paikaphulbeda village social audit forum). There were eleven members in the committee who had taken all the efforts for collection and analysis of information as well as creating awareness on NREGA among other villagers during the process.

On behalf of the committee, a member has applied for information of the road work (Paikaphulbeda to Podas-Metal fast coat) under the Right to Information Act at the Paikaphulbeda Gram Panchayat office. He has asked for the detail case record including the copies of Palli Sabha resolution, Muster Roll, Bills and vouchers etc during the second week of September. The PEO of Paikaphulbeda GP has failed to provide information and tried to avoid people by giving various reasons. Finally the member of the social audit committee has reapplied for the same information at the block office during the 1st week of October. However they have provided information on 22nd October 2007, but the full case record have not provided. The Palli Sabha resolution and the final bills and vouchers have not provided. But the Social Audit Committee members have decided to go ahead with the idea of conducting the social audit with the information supplied by the block office.

The Committee Members with the support of the group from Jalaput (the villagers who have conducted a social audit in Nandapur block of Koraput) have compiled the information from the muster roll, verified them with the Job cards and with the statements of the labourers. The

committee members have organized village meetings and met the people in their houses to collect other information regarding the process of registration, wage payment, worksite facilities etc. All these information were written in the large sheets and putted near the GP office three days before the Public hearing. Before the public hearing day the committee members along with other youth volunteers conducted a rally by giving slogans to motivate other villagers to attend the public hearing on the next day.

Before the public hearing, the committee members with a written invitation went to the BDO, Dasbantpur, Collector and Project Director, DRDA, Koraput and requested them to present on the public hearing day. The officials avoided the request of the Social Audit Committee and were not attended in the programme.

The Public Hearing:

A special Gram Sabha for the Public hearing was called by the Sarpanch of Paikaphulbeda Gram Panchayat on 15th November 2007 near by the Panchayat office. A common notice was issued by the Sarpanch stating that for awareness generation a social audit of a NREGA road work (from Paikaphulbeda to Podas-Metal fast coat) shall be conducted where all the villagers of Paikaphulbeda Panchayat were requested to participate. There were two issues raised in the letter for discussion in the special Gram Sabha. They were:-

1. Awareness programme on Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
2. Social Audit of the road work from Paikaphulbeda to Pondas (metal fast coat).

In order to carry forward the social audit process, the Paikaphulbeda village social audit committee has played a vital role. They have collected the information and shared that with the villagers. Major findings were drawn and kept for the final presentation on the public hearing day.

On 15th November, near the Paikaphulbeda Gram Panchayat office, the most awaited public hearing was held. Around three hundred villages from different Villages of Paikaphulbeda Gram panchayat have participated in the hearing programme. One of the members of the social audit committee presided the hearing programme. All the members of the Paikaphulbeda social audit committee were present there. Two representatives of the social audit committee have presented the whole process and the findings of the social audit process before the audience.

Findings of the social Audit:

Registration Related:

Total Households	Registered Household
231	229

Job Card Related:

Total Households	Registered Household
231	227

- Two persons have registered but not provided job cards yet.

- Villagers complained that during the works the job cards are not maintained at the worksite, rather the PEO have collected them from the villagers and maintained them some where else without the knowledge of the people.
- The job cards of two households (Guru Rout and Sania Rout) are still with the PEO.

Application for work:

- The villagers have shared that they have not applied for the work and the work has provided from the GP side which is good. But they have also complained that not for a single time the GP officials have conducted an awareness meeting on NREGA till it has started.

Palli Sabha:

- Mr. Gopal Krushna Paika, one of the villager complained that Palli Sabha is not being conducted to prepare plan and even for the selection of the labour leader. The labour leader is selected by the PEO and even the Sarpanch was kept unaware of this.
- The Palli Sabha resolutions were not supplied to the social audit committee, even they have applied under right to information act.

About the Work:

Name of the Work	Road from Paikaphulbeda to Pondas (Metal Fast coat)
Financial Year	2006-2007
Total Estimation	2,27,000/-
Total work days	24
The Name of the PEO, Paikaphulbeda	Batakrushna Barik
Name of the JE	K.C Behera
Sarpanch	Smt. Damai Gadba

Mismatch between the Estimate & the work implemented

Though there was estimate for 500 Mt. Road for metal first coat without any earthwork but on the ground the earthwork was done and the expenditure was Rs. 75,660. And the work is mentioned as completed work.

Monitoring & Vigilance Committee:

- Mina Khila, One of the villager shared that no monitoring and vigilance committee is formed and the villagers are not aware of about the provision of such a committee.

Worksite Facilities:

- Sri Hari Paika, one of the labour who has worked in the same worksite, shared that no worksite facilities including the shed and drinking water was available on the worksite.

Payment of Wages:

- The villagers have complained that the wage has not been provided within fifteen days. They have received the wage after two month of the work executed.

- The VLL, Hari Mahandia said that fifty two women have worked in the worksite for around two days, whose names are in the job card nor have they given the wage.

Differences between the MR & Labourers statement:

	As per the Muster Roll	As per Labourers View	Differences
Total Person days Created	1372	1268	104
Total Wages Paid	75,660/-	65,450/-	10,210/-

- One Ghost entry was identified from the muster roll (Dhana Paika), by whose name no one resides in the village and even in the Panchayat.
- Three persons (Guru Muduli, Padalama Gadba and Dalaji Bagha) have not worked their but their names are found in the muster roll.

These were some of the major findings came to forefront on the public hearing day. Responding to the findings the Sarpanch of Paikaphulbeda said that the elected panchayat representatives are not aware of it and the Panchayat Executive officer is not seeking permission and even not informing the Sarpanch and to the ward members before taking any decision. Responding to the questions Sri Gupteswar Panigrahi, Senior Advocate said that criminal proceedings should be taken against the culprits. He has personally promised to take up steps for legal proceedings for fifty two women labourers who are not provided the wage. Sri Rajkishore Mishra, Adviser to the Supreme Court's Commissioner on Right to Food has condemned the officials for not joining the process even after the formal invitation from the Gram Sabha, which has the legal entity.

Finally the Gramsabha members decided to go to Block office to demand their unpaid wages and the ward members & Naib sarpanch supported this proposal and agreed to extend all cooperation.

Spread (Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development) working in the Paikaphulabeda GP facilitated the process of Social Audit by the Gramsabha.

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