

Collective Action for Nutrition (CAN) is a project implemented by SPREAD with the support of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI). It aims at improving nutrition status among women and children by facilitating Transparency, People's Participation and Downward Accountability in Food and Nutrition programmes. The project is implemented in 240 Gram Panchayats of 6 districts. Social Audit is a key intervention under the project. During 3rd to 18th January, a total of 47 Social Audits were conducted in 47 Gram Panchayats. The 7-8 days Social Audit process covered ICDS, TPDS, MDM and Mamata Schemes and concluded with a Gram Sabha public hearing presided by the Sarpanch and in presence of other PRIs and local officials.

Number of Institutions verified during Social Audit				
Districts	GPs	AWW	AWW (Mini)	Elementary schools
Balangir	10	74	6	77
Kalahandi	10	40	13	71
Koraput	9	65	10	77
Malkangiri	6	45	15	54
Nabarangpur	8	76	15	78
Nuapada	4	47	7	18
Total	47	347	66	375



Gram Panchayat anchoring Social Audit

All the Social Audits were conducted in consultation and coordination of the Gram Panchayat. As per NFSA, Gram-Panchayat could conduct Social Audit and adhering to this mandate Sarpanch and PRI members were motivated to take lead. At the beginning a round of training was conducted for all the PRI members. Sarpanch wrote letters informing and inviting block level officials of concerned department and notified the date of Gram Sabha. Village meetings were conducted in presence of Ward members. In public hearing Gram Sabha all the findings were presented, also resolution were passed and accepted. Whole process includes collecting information from people and giving back to them as conclusive evidence for taking informed decision collectively.

Learning from 1st phase Social Audit

- ⇒ Higher Participation of people in village meetings (12449) during Gramsabha (13305) reflects that people have lot of expectations from the system and they too have faith on it. There is a need of proactive action from government side to meet these expectations and especially addressing the grievances
- ⇒ Social Audit Gram Sabha is creating the opportunity to discuss the issues and provide support to real beneficiaries. Panchayati Raj representatives especially Sarpanch are playing a very proactive role in organizing the Social Audit Gramsabha, presiding over it and facilitating discussion on food and nutrition issues
- ⇒ Transparency in all the NFSA schemes remains as a major concern. Disclosure of information as per norms are not done at the institution level. In many places, especially from schools it was a struggle to get basic information about Mid Day Meal. Teachers of number of schools denied to provide information even after the letter of the Sarpanch. This is against the spirit of down ward accountability and norms enshrined in NFSA and RTI act.
- ⇒ Understanding ICDS service as a right of the beneficiaries is absolutely absent among the Anganwadi officials. ICDS rule is not yet notified
- ⇒ There is absolutely no proper functional system in place at the Panchayat level for receiving and addressing grievances. In all the Gram Sabha, we had experienced an average of 80 grievances
- ⇒ Except few, almost in all the Gram Sabha public hearing some or other Government Officials were present. The officials were CDPOs, BDOs, GPEO, ABEO, MI and Anganwadi supervisors

NFSA Right holders verified

Districts	Number of Gram Sabha	Number of beneficiaries verified for different schemes			Average number of participants in each Gramsabha
		ICDS	MAMATA	TPDS	
Balangir	10	1523	263	1103	334
Kalahandi	10	1299	218	1283	288
Koraput	9	1090	235	966	185
Malkangiri	6	945	218	899	300
Nabarangpur	8	1334	269	1049	295
Nuapada	4	758	189	583	320
Total	47	6949	1392	5883	283 (average)

Verification Process

The Social Audit team followed a sampling method and selected 20% of the ICDS beneficiaries of all the categories. Verification has been done by visiting each households. The PDS and Mamata information collected from the same eligible beneficiaries. Along with the beneficiary verification, Anganwadi centre, ration shops, and school verification has been done to see the available facilities, maintenance of registers and other facilities. In addition to this, in 47 Gram Panchayats 349 village meetings were conducted. In these village meetings 12,449 people participated with 58% women participation. Mobile based data collection and analysis done to avoid data loss and overlapping.



Some Positive Findings

- ⇒ Anganwadi are opening regularly
- ⇒ Initiatives have been taken by the ICDS officials to short out pending Mamata cases
- ⇒ Quality of ration under TPDS is good in last three months
- ⇒ In most of the cases it is found that MDM is regularly distributed

Trends Emerging from 1st Phase Social Audit

1. Intra household exclusion coming up as a major issue in all the 47 Gram Panchayats with 15.85% rate. The RCMS is focusing on deletion of the names rather than adding excluded individual beneficiaries.
2. Introduction of POS with mandatory biometric Aadhaar authentication is leading to problems for single member or aged only households in terms of commuting to the FPS and finger print mismatch.
3. Online POS has made the distribution process lengthy and cumbersome & many a time due to connectivity failure beneficiaries have to come to the FPS more than once
4. Beneficiaries not receiving Chhatua packets remain high with 13.3% beneficiaries have not received single packet Chhatua, 41.4% received one packet and 45.3% received two packets of Chhatua.
5. Mothers and Children are not receiving entitled number of eggs under THR. 32.6% beneficiaries have not received any egg, 21.5% received 8 eggs.
6. 11.7% mothers have not received a single instalment under Mamata Yojana even though there child is more than 6 months.

Some Specific Scheme wise Findings

ICDS:-

- ⇒ 4220 THR beneficiaries verified on the status of receiving number of Chhatua packets in the month of November 2017, out of which 561 had not received a single packet. 1746 received only one packet. 1,909 beneficiaries received two packets as per the norm
- ⇒ 1376 out of 4220 beneficiaries verified did not receive a single egg in November 2017. Only 908 received 8 eggs in the month. The average egg received by the beneficiaries in the month of November was 3.3
- ⇒ Out of 5176 children verified, 1217 children were not weighed even once in last three months whereas 2,005 were weighed thrice in last three months. In 50% MCP cards growth plotting has not been done. No MUAC has been done for 18% children in last three months
- ⇒ 61% respondents out of 2709 mentioned that pre-school activities are not done regularly

Mamata:

- ⇒ Out of 1392 Mamata beneficiaries verified, 817 did not receive any single instalment, of these 163 are such women whose child's age is now more than 6 months.

MDM:-

- ⇒ Almost in all the schools, MDM found to be regular. However in Gambharipani Primary school in Sunabeda GP it is discontinued from last 3 months

TPDS:-

- ⇒ There are 25366 people actually in 5249 verified PHH households. However, 21,344 names are included in the cards for receiving food grains. These beneficiary names are not included in the existing PHH cards even after they made applications number of times
- ⇒ 604 household out of 5249 verified are found to be eligible for AAY but have PHH cards. 52 of these are PVTGs, 51 are aged, 76 single women, 19 disable and 406 destitute households respectively
- ⇒ 95% of the households verified wanted millets to be included under TPDS
- ⇒ 93% of the total households verified were of the view that the quality of rice was good in last three months

Glimpse of Impact

Itirani Banchard wife of Biraballa Banchard of MV92, Sherpalli Gram Panchayat in Malkangiri district was denied of ration since July 2016. She has three members in her family and has a ration card no. 21051010851. She had received the rice last time on 17th June 2016 as mentioned in her ration distribution card. She participated in Sherpalli Social Audit Gramsabha held on 12th January 2018 and presented her case. She mentioned that the Jogan Sahayak is denying the rice because her husband got a pick up van (three wheeler) on ledge. However, the online record shows, she still posses the ration card. The Jogan Sahayak promised to address the issue in the Gram Sabha. On 14th January itself, she got 15KG of rice. The Jogan Sahayak also mentioned that she will be getting rice regularly now onwards.

Social Audit is a process of Deepening Democracy. It is a process, where the right holders obtain information on all such schemes, programmes, systems impacting their lives; validate their truthfulness and work towards bringing a **positive and reformative change**. It is a **participatory process** which **empowers citizens**. Social Audit adds value to the whole **idea of decentralization** and establishes the Community's capacity for **Planning, Monitoring and Course Correction**.

**Collective Action for Nutrition, SPREAD, 123, VIP Area, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar,
Ph- 0674-2551227, Email:- spread@spread.org.in**