

“Case Study- Social Audit of Village Development Programme: an extension activity conducted by Smt. P. N .Doshi Women’s College, Ghatkopar.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In India about 70% of population still resides in rural and semi urban areas. It is in rural India that a vast potential of talent and untapped creative and intellectual energy lies. If this group of people is not empowered, the nation as a whole cannot flourish and develop. With the focus of developing this human force, Smt. P.N. Doshi Women’s College started to think of ways to empower the rural India. Apart from imparting education, the Institution is conducting number of extension activities considering the fact that despite of the investment of thousand of corers of rupees made by the Government on development programmes, the impact it has made is not justified. In light of this, the Institution had decided to undertake village development programmes in those few remote villages which are economically, socially & environmentally backward. The Rural Development Projects are undertaken by Smt. P.N. Doshi Women’s College with the support of many sponsoring agencies. The Institution has planned to carry out projects in the main areas like Health & hygiene, environment, education and economic empowerment.

Considering the scale of the projects and its sponsors, the important concern of the Institution has been to ensure that the intended humanitarian outcomes are achieved while at the same time building trust among sponsors, and between the project and public. In order to realize this goal, the Institution was eager to know how far it is lived upon the goal set by it.

In order to know how far Institution has succeeded in achieving its goal there was a need to evaluate the projects under taken by the Institution. Under this back ground and also considering the need to scrutinize the internal and external social obligations of the various development programmes undertaken by this Institution, it is decided to carry out this study of conducting social audit of few of such programmes under taken by the Institution covering all the areas where in the developmental activities are carried out like economic empowerment, environment, health & hygiene and education, in one of the villages i.e. village Mhaskal with a view to taste its transparency and enhance project accountability.

As the focus of the Institution is on imparting education, community participation and developing inclusive villages, it is important to initiate a formal process and mechanism to review/evaluate the social impact of the mission and its relevance from the point of view of the target groups, citizens and the society at large. Therefore, the major objectives of the study is to institutionalizing the social audit process to regularly monitor and improve such projects and to conduct study of the changes incurred in the beneficiary family due to the implementation of

development programmes. The usefulness of this study to conduct social audit was to monitor development projects at two levels viz., at the community level and at an Institutional level.

The study reveals that the Institution and the beneficiaries are educated about the benefits of social audit and the social audit of the village development programmes helped the Institution in evaluating the efficacy and effectiveness of programmes implemented. This also enabled the Institution to reframe its future programmes and policy decisions keeping in mind the outcome of the social audit in relation to the present needs of the stakeholders and the expected future difficulties of implementing such programmes. The Villagers are enlightened about the various developmental programmes and became more alert about their rights. The efforts were made for more community participation and training which helped in strengthening loyalty / commitment, self confidence and sustenance of the people. Ultimately the study leads to improved quality of work and service delivery at all the levels.