

Social Audit on NREGS Under Yangang BAC
May 2008

Pacific Club, a Non Government Organisation had conducted Social Audit on NREGS, work within Sripratam Gagyong Gram Panchayat Unit by Dated 12th and 13th June 2008. Which consists of six wards. Stone Soling footpath was the sanctioned work under the scheme of last financial year 2007-08 and under takes the social Audit on NREGS wage payment at work site and ask the following question to the labourers. The following information was found from them and the report is prepared based on their response.

Submitted to:
Joint Secretary,
NREGS, RM& DD.
Govt. of Sikkim
Gangtok

Submitted by:
Pacific Club, A Non-Governmental
Organization
Regd. 1291/LD
Head Office: Menglee, South Sikkim
737 134

“Completed Worksite” Questionnaire

Gram Panchayat: Sripratam – Gagyong G.P.U. Under six wards. They are

1. *Menglee*
2. *Namphok*
3. *Lower Sripratam*
4. *Upper Sripratam*
5. *Lower Gagyong and*
6. *Upper Gagyong*

Block: Yangang

Name of investigators: Durga Basnet, Basanti Sharma, Rudra Pd. Gautam.

Name of work: Construction of stone soling Foot path.

Description of work: Stone soling foot path in steep hills, cutting.

Starting Date: 15th Nov.’ 07.

Date of completion: Incomplete

A. Job Cards

1. Did the labourers employed at this worksite have to pay any fees, bribes or other charges to get a job card?

Most people got it free.

2. If any charges were imposed, what were labourers charged for?

Tick ✓ on the following bullets according to your investigations.

- For the job card
- Photographs on job cards
- Other (Please specify, e.g. bribes)

Not applicable.

3. If any charges were imposed, how much on average (Rs.)?

- For the job card
- For the Photographs
- Other (Please specify, e.g. bribes)

Not applicable

4. What is your assessment of the maintenance of job cards in this Gram Panchayat, based on your investigation of the sample worksite?

Job card entries are being made.

5. Did you find evidence of any of the following irregularities (for any of the job cards you examined)?

Some entries had been over-written.

The signature column was blank or partly blank.

6. Where were the job cards generally being kept, at the time of your survey?

With the card holders

7. Did you find any evidence that the job cards had been returned to the cardholders just before the survey, and were kept elsewhere earlier?

No the card was with job card holders only.

8. If the job cards were generally not with the card holder (at the time of the survey or just before the survey), what was the reason for this, according to the cardholders?

No such cases

9. What do you feel might have been the reason for job cards not being kept by the cardholders?

Not applicable

B. Work Applications

10. Did most labourers employed at this worksite get employed in response to an application for work?

No, most labourers filled the application form after they got work;

11. If they applied, did they get a dated receipt for their application?

Not applicable

12. If they applied, did they get work within 15 days of applying?

Yes, in most cases

C. Selection of work

13. Does this Gram Panchayat have a shelf of projects?

Yes All the Panchayat wards have separate projects.

14. Was this work sanctioned from the Gram Panchayat's shelf of projects?

Yes

15. Was this work selected or recommended by the Gram Sabha?

Yes

16. If the Gram Sabha did not select it, how was it selected?

Not applicable (work was selected by Gram Sabha);

17. Did any of the labourers employed at this worksite live further than 5km from the worksite?

No

D. Payment of Wages

18. Did the labourers at this worksite earn the minimum wage?

Everyone got the minimum wage;

19. Did you notice any cases of labourers earning *more* than the minimum wage?

No.

20. Were the wage rates the same for men and women?

Yes

21. Was the wage paid on a “daily-wage” basis or on a “piece-rate/task-wage” basis?

Daily wage basis

22. If the wage was paid on a “daily-wage” basis, how much was it (Rs/day)?

Rs 85/day

23. If the wage was paid on a “piece-rate/task-wage” basis, did everyone employed in a particular week earn the same wage, or did different (“unskilled”) labourers earn different wages?

NA

24. If “piece-rate/task-wage”, were the wage payments based on actual work measurement?

NA

25. If the work was measured, how was the measurement made?

Not applicable (work was not measured);

26. Were wages generally paid within a fortnight of the end of the 15 days?

No, and generally payment was not even made within a month;

27. What was the longest time labourers had to wait for payment, after the end of a 15 days.

100 days

28. Who made the wage payments?

Concerned Panchayat and other government official.

29. Was the payment agency the same as the implementing agency?

Yes

30. Were wages paid in front of the labourers?

Yes

31. Were different labourers paid separately, or at the same time and place?

Together;

32. Where was the payment made?

Worksite

33. Were payment details read out aloud in public while making payments?

Yes

34. Were job card entries made in front of labourers at the time of the payment of wages?

Yes

35. Do the labourers have any complaints regarding the payment of wages?

Yes, Delays in wage payments

E. Worksite Facilities

36. Was there a board at the worksite giving details of the sanctioned amount, work dimensions and other requisite details?

Yes

37. Was the wage rate mentioned on the board?

No

38. Did the worksite have any facilities?

- **Drinking water**
- **First aid kit/medicines**

F. Monitoring

39. Was a “vigilance committee” formed for this worksite?

Yes

40. Was the vigilance committee active, or was it just a paper committee?

Vigilance committee is moderately active.

41. Did the vigilance committee prepare a report? _

No.

42. Was any written/formal complaint relating to this worksite submitted (by labourers, the vigilance committee, the implementing agency, or others) to the Gram Panchayat, Programme Officer or other officials?

No.

If yes, please give details (what was the complaint, who submitted it, etc.)

43. If yes, has any action been taken on these complaints?

Not applicable.

Please elaborate if possible.

Na

G. Investigators' Observations

44. Assessment of the labourers' awareness of the following?

The Employment Guarantee Act/Scheme being implemented in this area.
Their right to apply for work at any time and to be employed Within 15 days

The work application procedure
Their right to minimum wages
The level of minimum wages
The wage calculation method
Their right to the unemployment allowance.
Minimum worksite facilities (water, first aid,)
Mandatory availability of muster rolls at the worksite

45. During your discussion with NREGA labourers, did you notice any actual examples of the following potential benefits of NREGA?

NREGA enhanced food security

After payment they have power to invest some amount for food security

NREGA provided some protection against extreme poverty

After payment they run their family

NREGA helped to reduce distress migration

Yes

NREGA helped to reduce indebtedness

To some extent

NREGA gave greater economic independence to women

Yes

NREGA generated purchasing power in the local economy

Yes

46. What is your assessment of the economic usefulness of this work (e.g. in terms of asset creation or productivity-enhancing value)?

Comfortable movement of people

Time Saving.

Confident to the strangers.

Added beautification in village tourism

47. Did you find any evidence of a contractor acting as the implementing agency, or being involved in any manner, at this worksite?

No, no private contractors are being involved.

48. Did you come across any evidence of corruption at the sample worksite (e.g. in the payment of wages, purchase of material, selection of works, and so on)?

No

If yes, please describe in detail.

NA

[Investigators: Please feel free to use extra sheets for the questions that follow]

49. If the labourers at this worksite had any complaints or problems other than those already recorded earlier in this questionnaire, please explain below.

All the labourers should work equally for equal wage.

50. Finally, please record below any further observations of interest about this worksite.

- 1. Excess of 100 days in a financial year by three house hold from one job card each by 8 days, 2 days, and 1 days respectively.**
- 2. Excess of mandays from sanctioned mandays.**
- 3. Absence of technical person in worksite.**