

WORKSHOP

"Building an Asian community of practice on monitoring and budget analysis"

09-11 July 2007 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by SILAKA and Social Watch
in collaboration with OXFAM- Novib/KIC

PARTICIPANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES
To be submitted before 3 July, 2007

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the workshop. Since this workshop is based on the exchange of knowledge contained in specific practices, please fill in this form as fully as possible so that we can make the most of it. If you have any queries about how to complete it, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

I. Personal and Contact Information

Gender | F | M

Name(s) | Himanshu

Surname (s) | Jha

Nationality | Indian

Name of the Organization/Movement/Community (and Acronym)

National Social Watch Coalition (NSWC)- Social Watch India

Describe your current position in the organization

I am the project officer at NSWC Secretariat . My job is to give extensive research support to the National Social Watch Secretariat and bring out the Indian Social Watch Report published annually. I am also involved in weaving the state based social watch networks.

Does your organization take part in or does it have bonds with local, national, regional or international networks? If so, which?

My organisation is part of the International Social Watch Coalition , Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (Keep you promises Campaign), India , UN-MDG Campaign and the GCAP.

II. Description of experiences and selection of a practice:

Please answer the following questions. Use the necessary space.

What is a practice?

We understand a practice to be a process, strategy or activity of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change. A practice may vary from an agricultural technique or an educational method to more complex processes like international coalition building. Its scope may be limited, but it may also correspond to entire projects or programmes.

1. ¿Which are the principal fields of expertise of your organization? (E.g., social development, human rights, budget monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, etc)

We look at the Social -political and economic development issues within the rights framework. Our main focus is governance and governance accountability.

2. ¿Which are the main strategies used in your organization? (E.g., education, research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, satisfaction of specific demands, etc.)

Our main strategy is knowledge driven advocacy with focus on research, advocacy and campaigning.

3. Among the activities and experiences of your organization, please chose one you consider relevant to be transmitted to the other participants. The practice selected should be a specific action, plan, intervention or process in one of the four topics that will be explored in the workshop (ESCR, Budget analysis, monitoring, advocacy). And you should be able to divide it into the following elements:

a. **Summary** of the practice (no more than 5 lines, please).

Social watch is a robust citizen's monitoring process on governance accountability issues from the Parliament to Panchayat. We look at the performance of the institutions of governance annually which is also an indication of how governance agenda is going to unfold in the coming years.

b. **Motivation:** Situation or problem that the practice aimed to resolve.

Undoubtedly, an effective governance mechanism is essential for uplifting a huge population from backwardness and poverty in a country like India. A constant process of evaluation of these institutions is therefore called for to enhance the efficacy of the institutions of governance, at least to ensure an efficient delivery system. It is extremely important for the citizens at the receiving end of the development process to remain alert and vigilant about the working of these institutions.

c. Objective(s)

The wider objective of the process is to keep the poorest and the most deprived sections in India at centre of the process of social development by effectively intervening in the process and the functioning of institutions of governance and create governance discourse which is sensitive towards the citizens in general and marginalized in particular.

d. Strategies used to solve the problem or situation.

1. Use of Social Watch Report -“ Citizens Report on Governance and Development” as an advocacy tool
2. Constant interaction with the legislators, policy makers , academia and media
3. Strategic Alliance Building with people's based campaigns
4. Establishing similar processes at the regional level right upto the grassroots.

e. Resources (financial, human, materials, etc.).

Not clear

f. Level of action (local, national, regional and/or international, and if there are any relations among them)

National – regional- local. Each level has got a dynamic synergy with each other with constant feedback mechanism.

g. Brief description of the process (main activities, beneficiaries, when and where it was carried out, methodology, collaboration with partners, etc.).

The main activity is a sustained knowledge driven advocacy process through Report, policy papers, developing database , regular consultations with the concerned actors like the legislators,policy makers, media and citizens. It is also to monitor the processes that make the governing institutions at central, state and local level accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of people and also explore the scope and means of legislative influencing on emergent critical issues affecting the poor and marginalized.

h. Main results and changes made during the implementation (if it is still running, please comment on the potential outcomes, obstacles, etc.)

The findings of the Social Watch India Report was highlighted in the national and international media ,putting the issues in the public domain and creating a favourable governance discourse.

The National process led to the emergence of the processes at the regional level as well- thereby broadening the coalition

Varied actors not only from the civil society but also from the government , academia , media and other groups and citizens are now part of the process and more want to join

A process of putting the our agenda of pro-poor governance from within has been initiated

3 Evaluation of the Practice.

1. What is the general evaluation of the practice? Was the practice successful in achieving the objectives stated? Was the situation/problem resolved?

The process is still evolving. In the initial few years since its inception it has grown in its constituency and shows lot of promise. Issue like governance needs to have a longitudinal approach to achieve any kind of change.

2. What were the key factors for success or failure?

Success:

Focus on continuity and sustained efforts

Dissemination of your work and findings and use of credible research techniques

Sincere efforts to broad base the process and not limiting it to the civil society realms

Failure:

Given the size of the country spreading the coalition at the regional/state level was a challenge

Resources limiting the capacity and scope

expectations and overloading the process

3. What are the major lessons learned?

Focus

Continuity

Broad base