

Social Watch India

Citizens Report on
Governance and Development
2003



Editors
John Samuel
Jagadananda

Editors

John Samuel
Jagadananda

Editorial Co-ordinators

Bobby Kunhu
Gnana Prakasam

Contributors

A Surya Prakash Seeking Accountability – Parliament Watch
Praveen Jha Rhetoric and Reality – Policy Watch
Joseph Pookatt Access to Justice – Watching the Supreme Court
Yogesh Kumar Grassroot Democracy – Watching Local Governance

Research Team

Barnali Bose, Deepak L Xavier, Nesar Ahmad
Prakash Gardia, Sibasankar Mohanty, Subrat Das
Sunila Singh, Vineet Kohli and Vinod C B

Assistance

Himmat Singh Negi

Social Watch India
Citizens Report on Governance and Development

National Social Watch Coalition
B-102, First Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave
New Delhi - 110 017
India
Tel: +91-11-26567309/26518302
e-mail: socialwatch@ncasindia.org

This work can be reproduced in whole or in parts for any use except commercial purposes by any individual or institution with due acknowledgement to this report.

© National Social Watch Coalition 2003

Published by

Centre for Youth and Social Development, Bhubaneswar and
National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune

Design by

Dhārana, Email: studiodharana@vsnl.com

Printed by

Mehta Offset Pvt. Ltd., Delhi

ISBN: 81-901742-0-7

Price: Rs 250

Parliamentary Advisory Committee

Madhusudhan Mistry

Nilotpal Basu

Beatrix D'Souza

M V Rajasekharan

N K Premachandran

Media Advisory Committee

Ajit Bhattacharjea, *Press Institute of India*

V K Madhavankutty, *Senior Journalist*

Pamela Philippose, *The Indian Express*

KV Ramesh, *Freelance Journalist*

Gowridasan Nair, *The Hindu*

Civil Society Advisory Committee

Jean Dreze, *Delhi School of Economics*

W R Varada Rajan, *CITU*

Kamla Bhasin, *Jagori & South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers*

Rajesh Tandon, *Society for Participatory Research in Asia*

P V Rajagopal, *Ekta Parishad*

Mohini Giri, *Guild of Service*

Maja Daruwala, *Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative*

Babu Matthew, *New Indian Trade Union Initiative*

Vinod Vyasulu, *Centre for Budget and Policy Studies*

Foreword

We are happy to present Social Watch India Report 2003 and the first Citizens Report on Governance and Development. This has evolved out of the self-need by a number of development agencies, social action groups and citizens to ensure that there is a critical engagement with the process of governance. This, we consider, is a part of the initiative to make Democracy meaningful and participatory. This is also a concrete effort towards seeking an accountable and transparent Government.

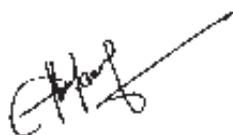
The National Social Watch Coalition is an attempt at a broadbased network of civil society organisations, citizens and communities to build a process of monitoring governance towards professed goals of social developments, particularly with respect to the marginalised sections of our country. As an attempt to check rhetoric against the real, it tries to audit governance institutions per se, and their commitment towards evolution as real democratic institutions.

The process is attempted as a model with multiple stakeholders and ownership rather than a mere institutionalised or academic exercise that would remain within the confines of academia or accessible to just a few of the intellectual elite. The model will have varied ownership, its course would be determined by the multiple interests of the participants in the process. The process would involve different levels of actors at different levels of audit.

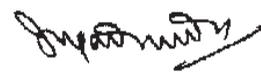
The National Social Watch Coalition is bringing out this Social Watch Report on governance review of the Central Government Institutions of India—particularly, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, the first of its kind in the world. The focus is on the National Parliament, the Union Executive and the Supreme Court. There will also be a study on the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The review is being done by experts with long-standing experience in their respective fields. However, this is just an experimental model that would have to be perfected with the evolution of multiple ownership and regional level reports. It is envisaged that the Social Watch Report will emerge as the Citizens' Report on Governance and Development.

This report is broadly divided into four parts examining the Central governance institutions broadly in the year 2002. The first part of the report examines the working of the parliament and the quality of business that has been transacted. The second part takes a look at three important focus areas of policy viz. health, education and poverty alleviation in the context of globalisation and the policy initiatives in 2002. The next part takes a critical look at the Supreme Court and its functioning and the last part is an analysis of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

We hope that the initiative by the National social Watch Coalition will further be deepened and there will be such efforts in all the states in India right from the panchayat level to the national level. This is a part of our initiative to democratise knowledge and to strengthen informed citizenship and participatory governance. We welcome any suggestion and comments to further improve this report and the process.



John Samuel



Jagadananda