

Social Audit in MGNREGS

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What is social audit

- Can be interpreted in many ways
- Assessment of how well a company has discharged its social obligations
- In development programmes, social audit is a process by which the people, the final beneficiaries of any scheme, programme, policy or law, are empowered to audit such schemes, programmes, policies and laws.
- A social audit is an ongoing process by which the potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders of an activity or project are involved from the planning to the monitoring and evaluation of that activity or project.
- However, 'social audit' can also be understood in a broader sense, as a continuous process of public vigilance.

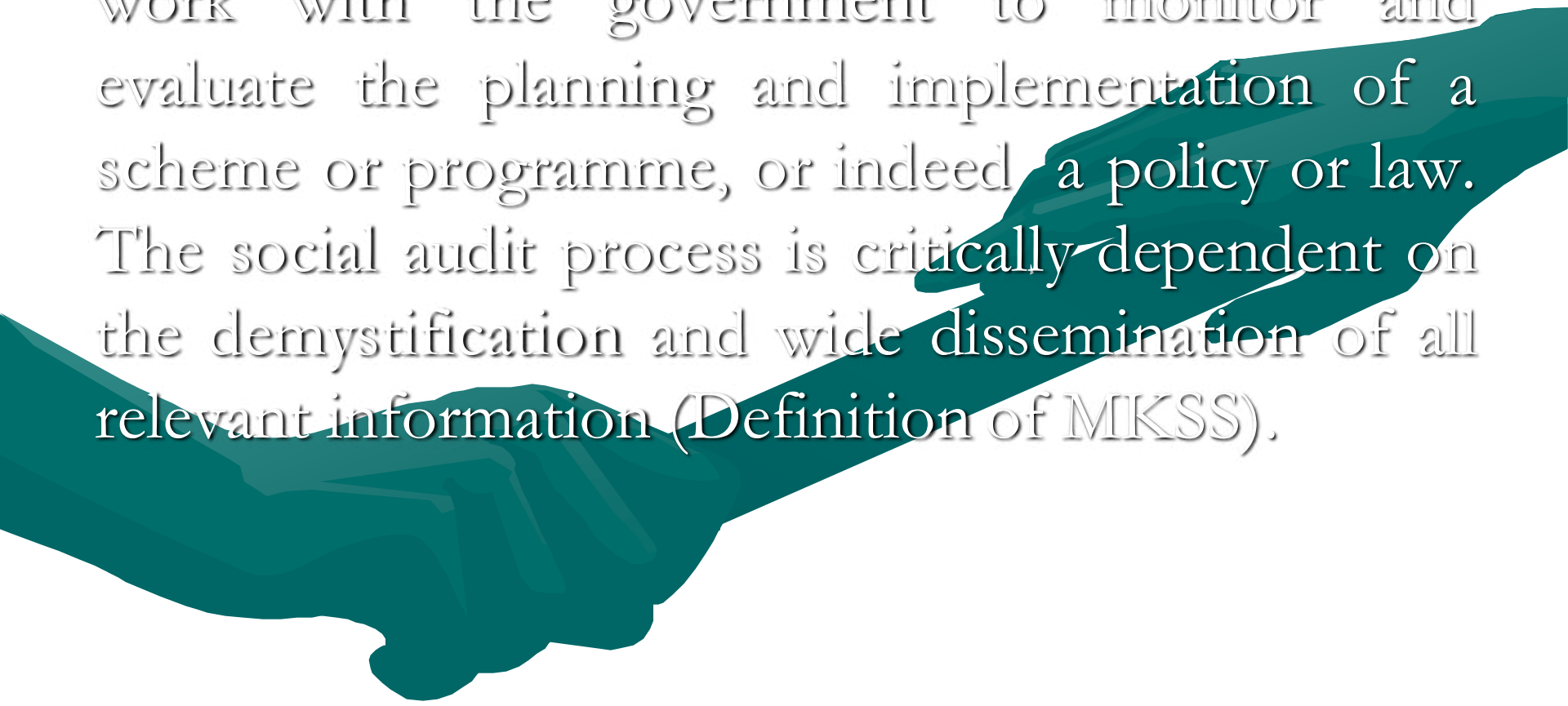
Meaning of Social Audit

Social Audit is the process in which, details of the resource, both financial and non-financial, used by public agencies for development initiatives are shared with the people, often through a public platform. Social Audits allow people to enforce accountability and transparency, providing the ultimate users an opportunity to scrutinize development initiatives.

(Vision Foundation)

Meaning of Social Audit

A social audit is a process in which the people work with the government to monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of a scheme or programme, or indeed a policy or law. The social audit process is critically dependent on the demystification and wide dissemination of all relevant information (Definition of MKSS).

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Types of Audits

- Government or Institutional Audits
(External and Internal)- Financial audits,
Performance Audits
- Public Audits- Peoples audit
- social audit



- Government audit –
- usually by professional auditors without significant involvement of affected people.
- Assesses primarily procedural integrity and outputs,
- Little ability to get public perceptions or verify outcome

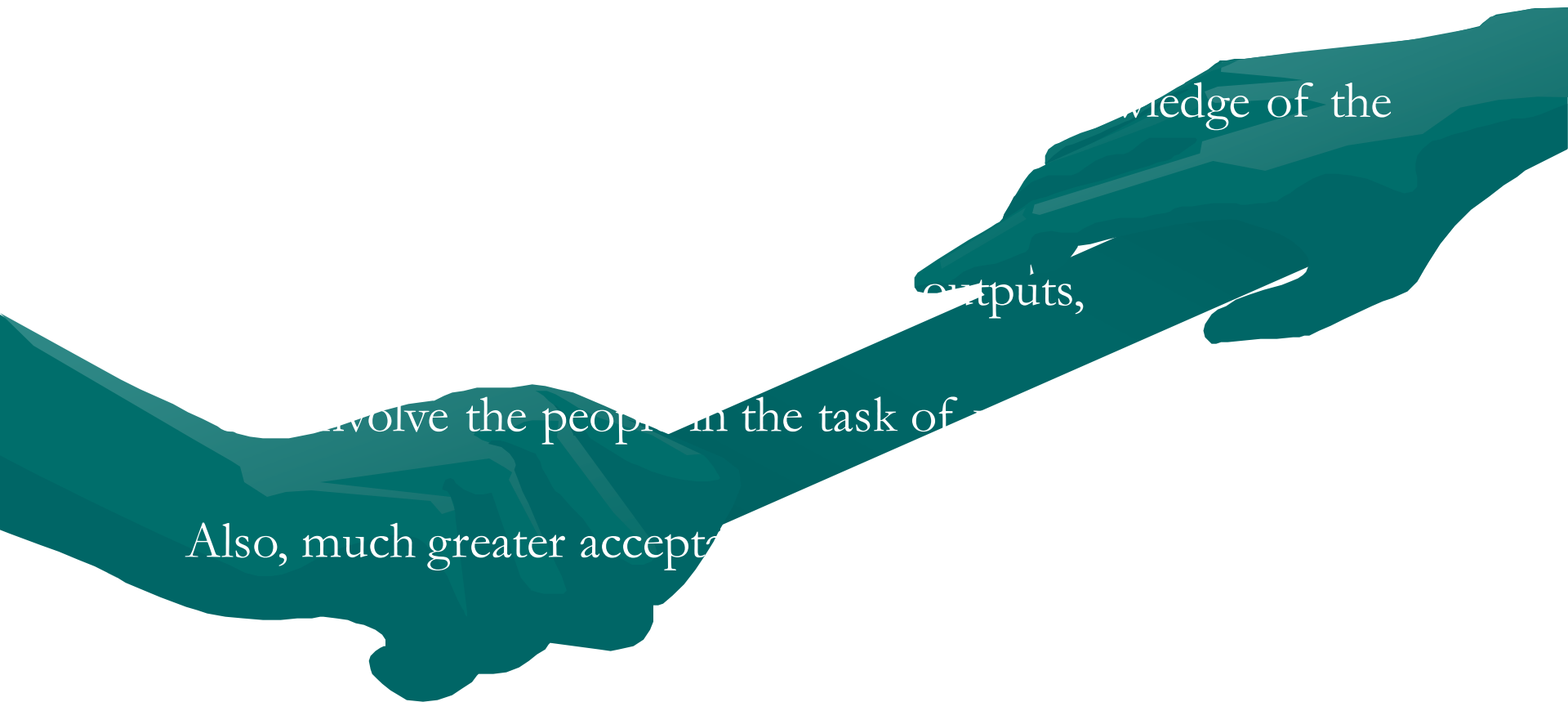




However, low acceptance of findings

studies.

age and



Also, much greater acceptance

involve the people in the task of

outputs,

wedge of the



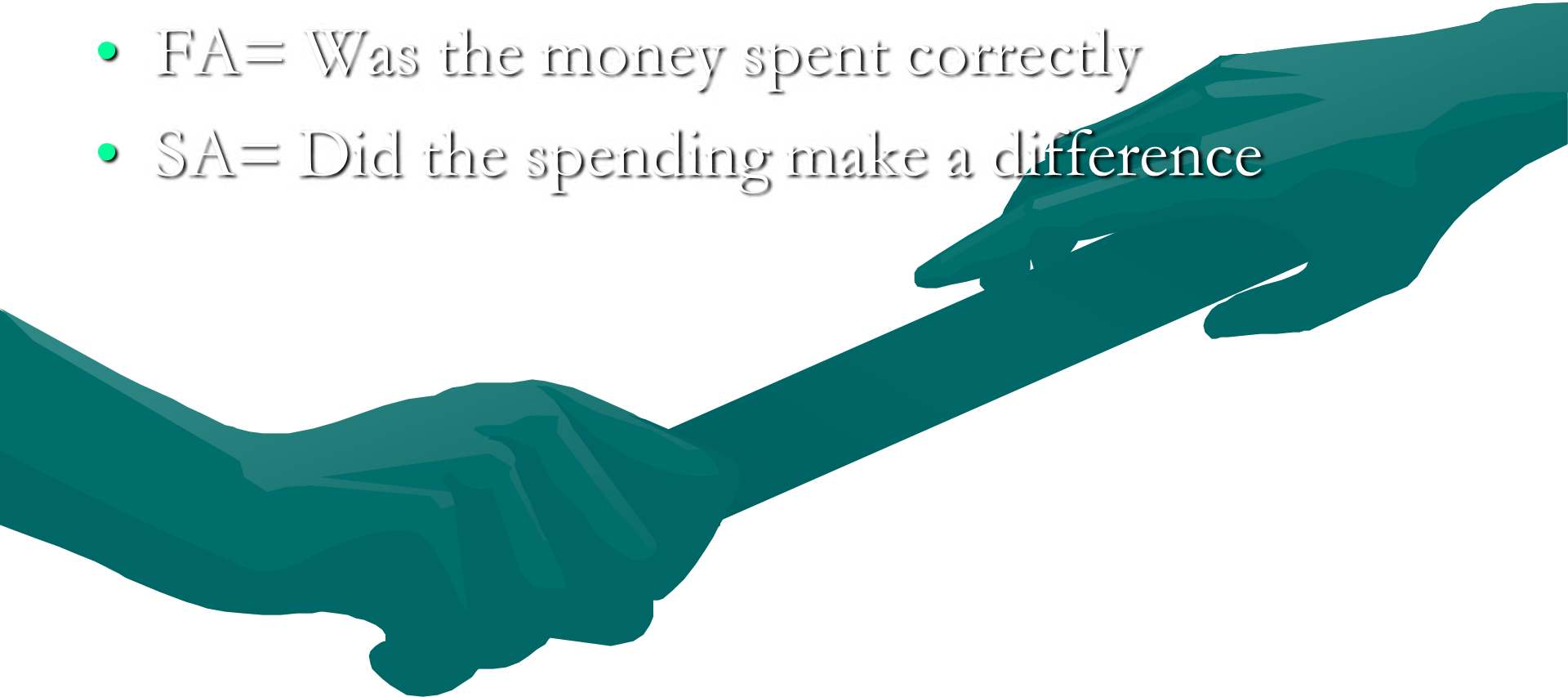
failed

auditing process

types of schemes
expenditure and

Social audit V/s Financial Audit

- FA= Was the money spent correctly
- SA= Did the spending make a difference



Why Social Audit

- One approach to strengthen good governance through a process, which promotes transparency and accountability
- To increase public participation
- To enable people exercise their rights
- For the effective implementation of the scheme
- To control irregularities



Origin of Social Audit

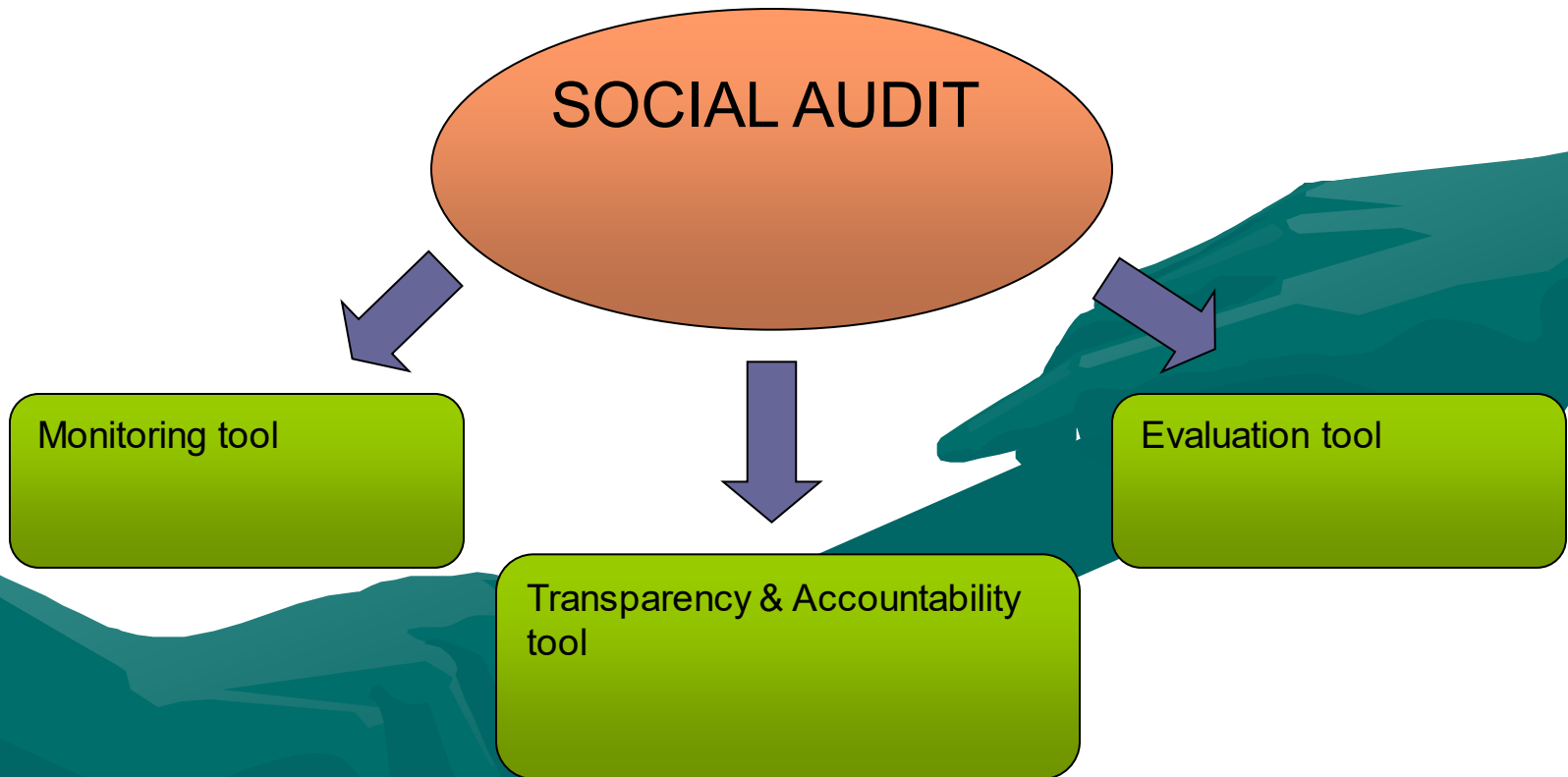
- To casual observer social auditing is a new phenomenon.
- In reality, the concept of a social audit was formed much earlier
- In 1940's by Theodore Krepes from Stanford university
- Howard Bowen in 1953 and modern version in 1970
- Mostly called on companies to acknowledge their responsibilities to citizens, how well discharged its social obligations and organisations social performance.

Principles of Social Audit

- Transparency
- Participation
- Representative participation
- Consultation and Consent:
- Accountability
- Redressal:

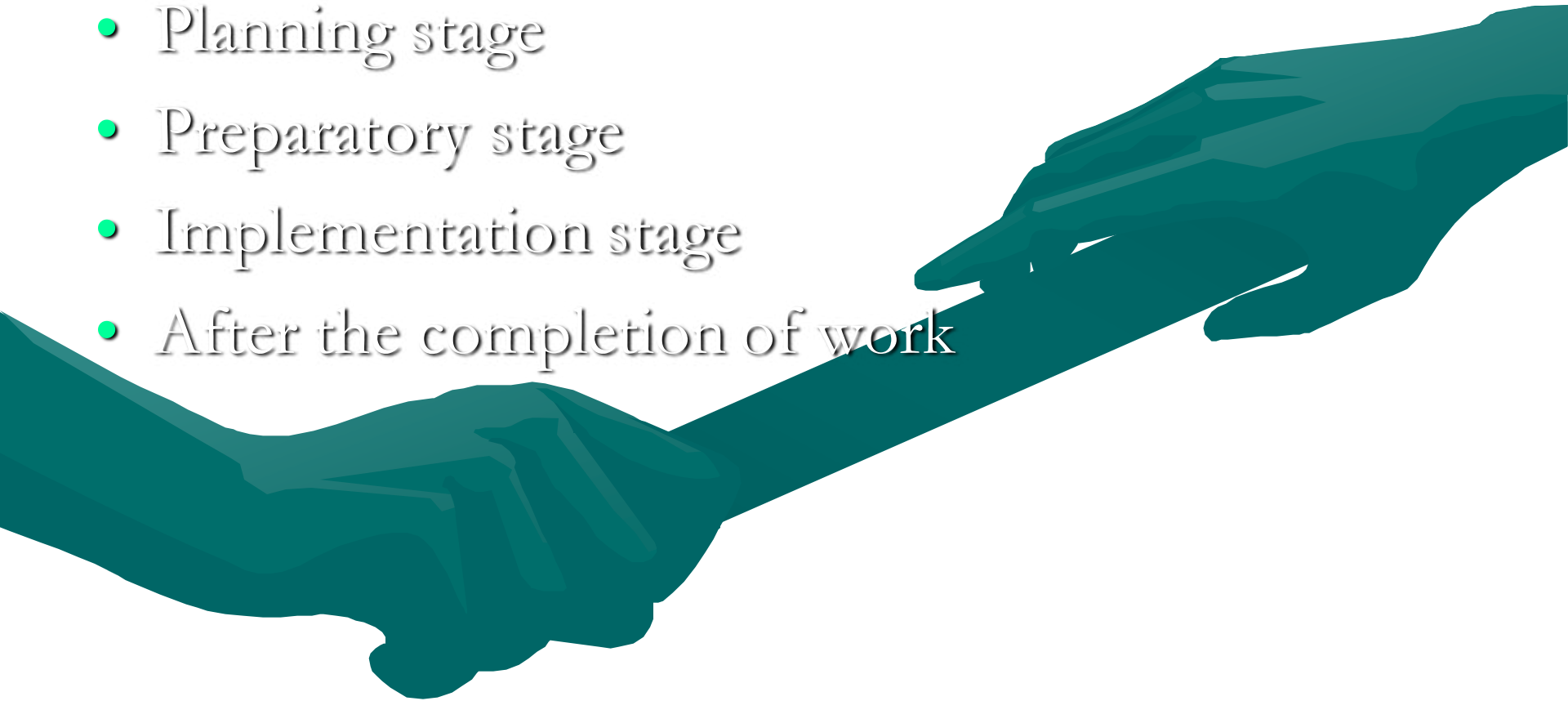


Scope of Social Audit



When should social audit be conducted

- Planning stage
- Preparatory stage
- Implementation stage
- After the completion of work



Modes of carrying out Social Audit

- Campaign Mode
- By VMCs
- Separate Institution
- Third party like NGOs



Social Audit in MGNREGS

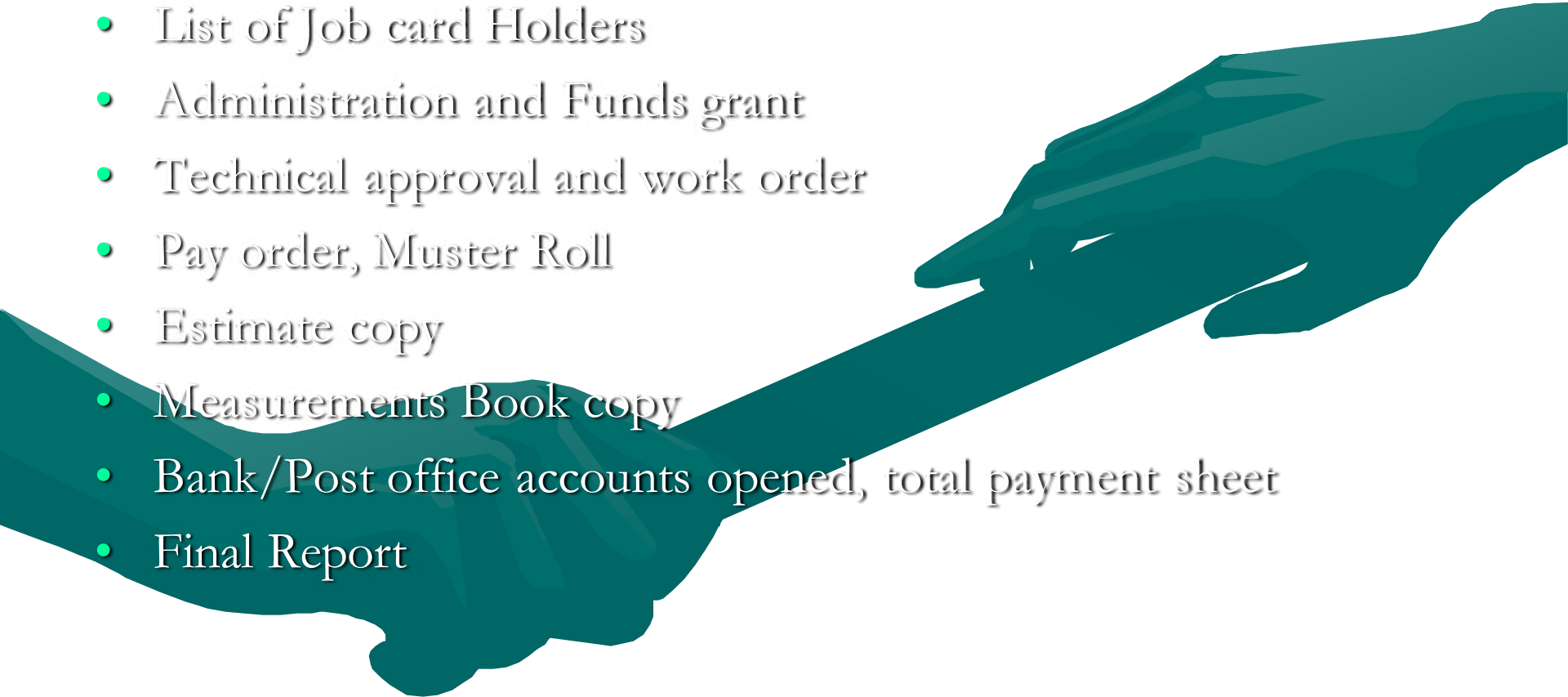
As per Guidelines

- Section 17 of the MGNREGA mandates conduct of SA by Gram Sabha
- Employment Guarantee Day(Rozgar Diwas) – One day in a week
- Social Audit Forums- Gram Sabhas- Twice a Year
- Use of RTI



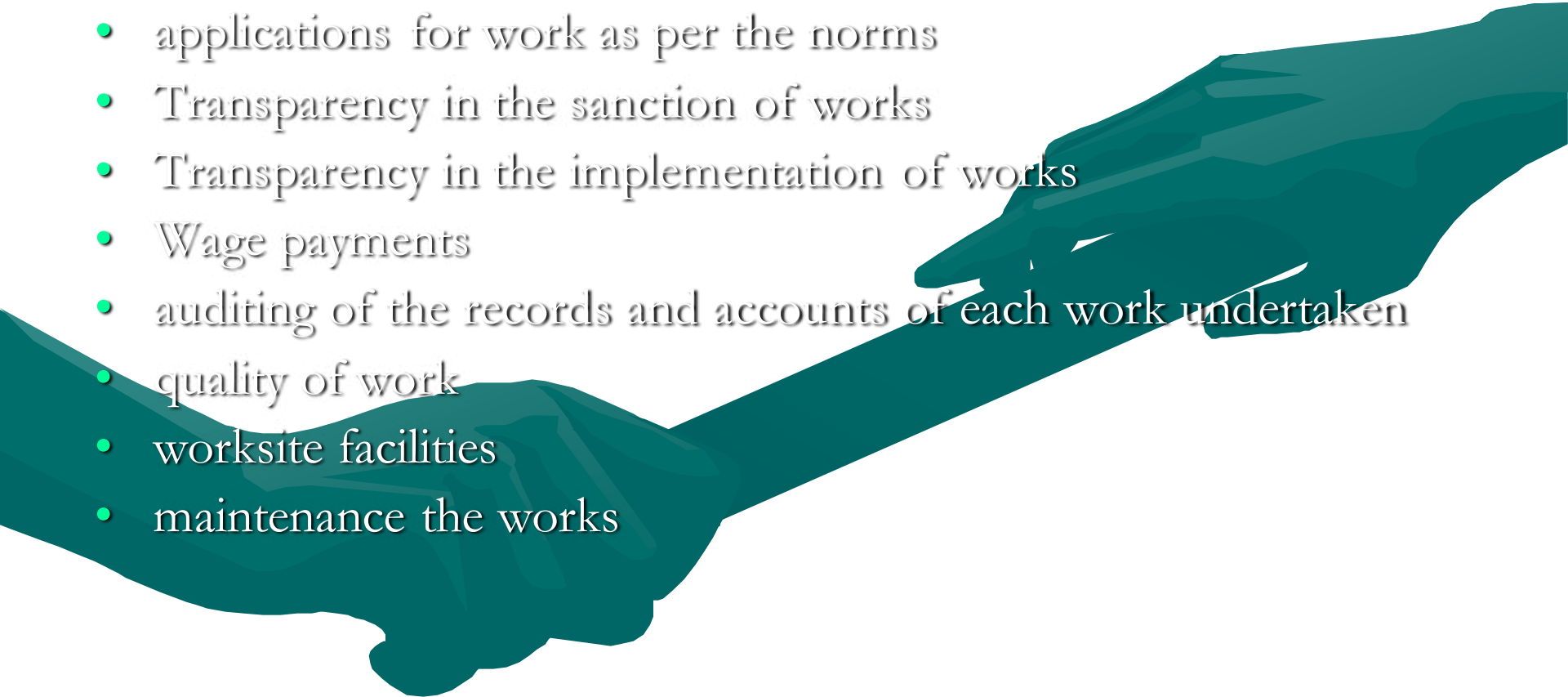
Information to be collected

- Plan of works
- Decisions of Gram Sabha
- List of Job card Holders
- Administration and Funds grant
- Technical approval and work order
- Pay order, Muster Roll
- Estimate copy
- Measurements Book copy
- Bank/Post office accounts opened, total payment sheet
- Final Report



Mandatory Agenda

- process of registration
- Transparency in job cards preparation and updating
- applications for work as per the norms
- Transparency in the sanction of works
- Transparency in the implementation of works
- Wage payments
- auditing of the records and accounts of each work undertaken
- quality of work
- worksite facilities
- maintenance the works



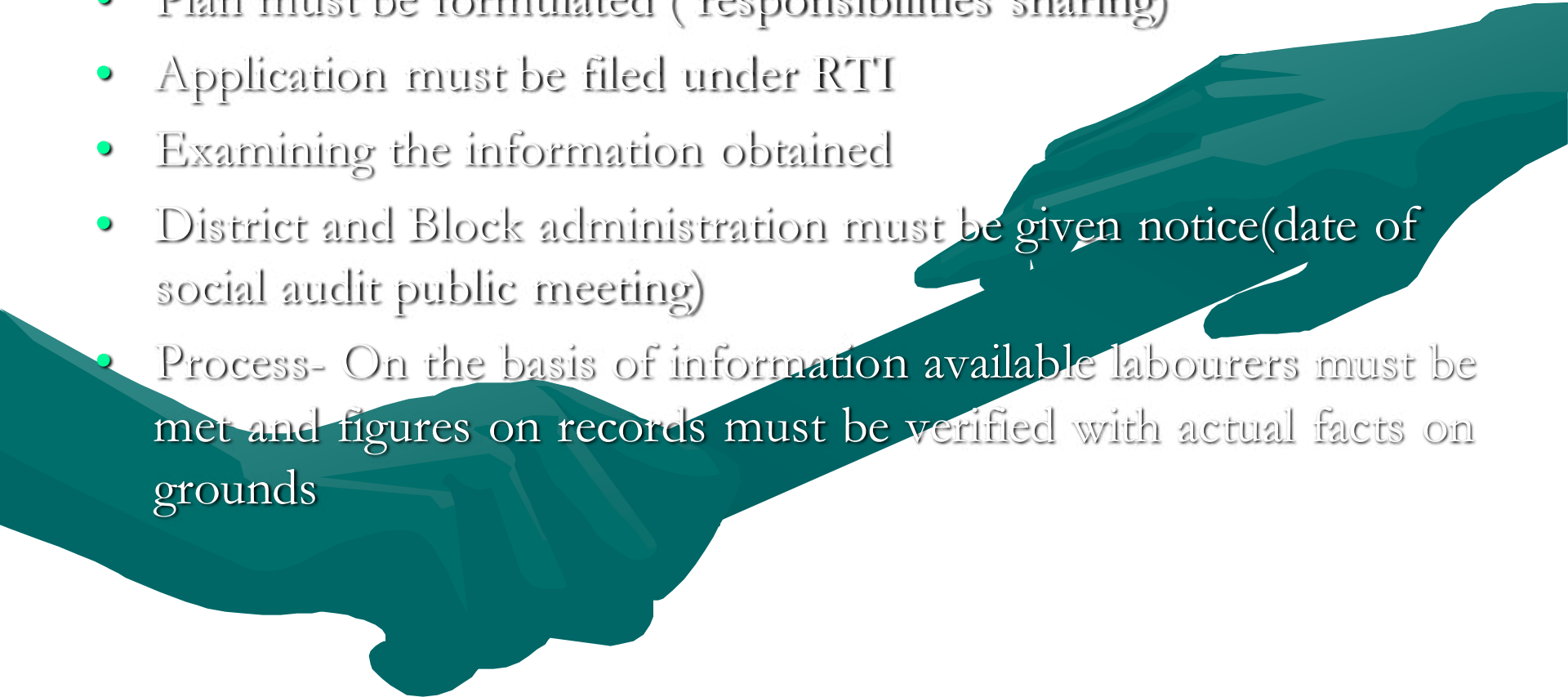
Social Audit Process

- Verification of facts and figures by verifying records
- Focused group discussions Night meetings with villagers, door to door visit
- Physical verification of works
- Conduct of Social Audit Public Meeting




How the SA is carried out- process

- All the details of work/works to be collected
- Concerned committee should come together
- Plan must be formulated (responsibilities sharing)
- Application must be filed under RTI
- Examining the information obtained
- District and Block administration must be given notice(date of social audit public meeting)
- Process- On the basis of information available labourers must be met and figures on records must be verified with actual facts on grounds



- Through FGDs and one to one interviews, the details of implementation of MGNREGS must be found out (identification of works, payment of wages, maintenance of muster rolls, worksite facilities, promptness in showing the work etc)
- If discrepancies are found thorough verification of facts and written note of them duly signed by the labourers concerned must be taken. This should be included in social audit report
- The information must be filled in social audit formats and must be analyzed
- Public meeting should be arranged to discuss the findings of Social audit
- Build Awareness among wage seekers on Rights and Entitlements under MGNREGS

Elements of a Social Audit

- 1. Raising awareness of rights, entitlements and obligations under a scheme.*
 - 2. Specifically, about the right to participate in a social audit.*
 - 3. Ensuring that all forms and documents are user friendly.*
 - 4. Ensuring all relevant information is accessible, displayed and read out.*
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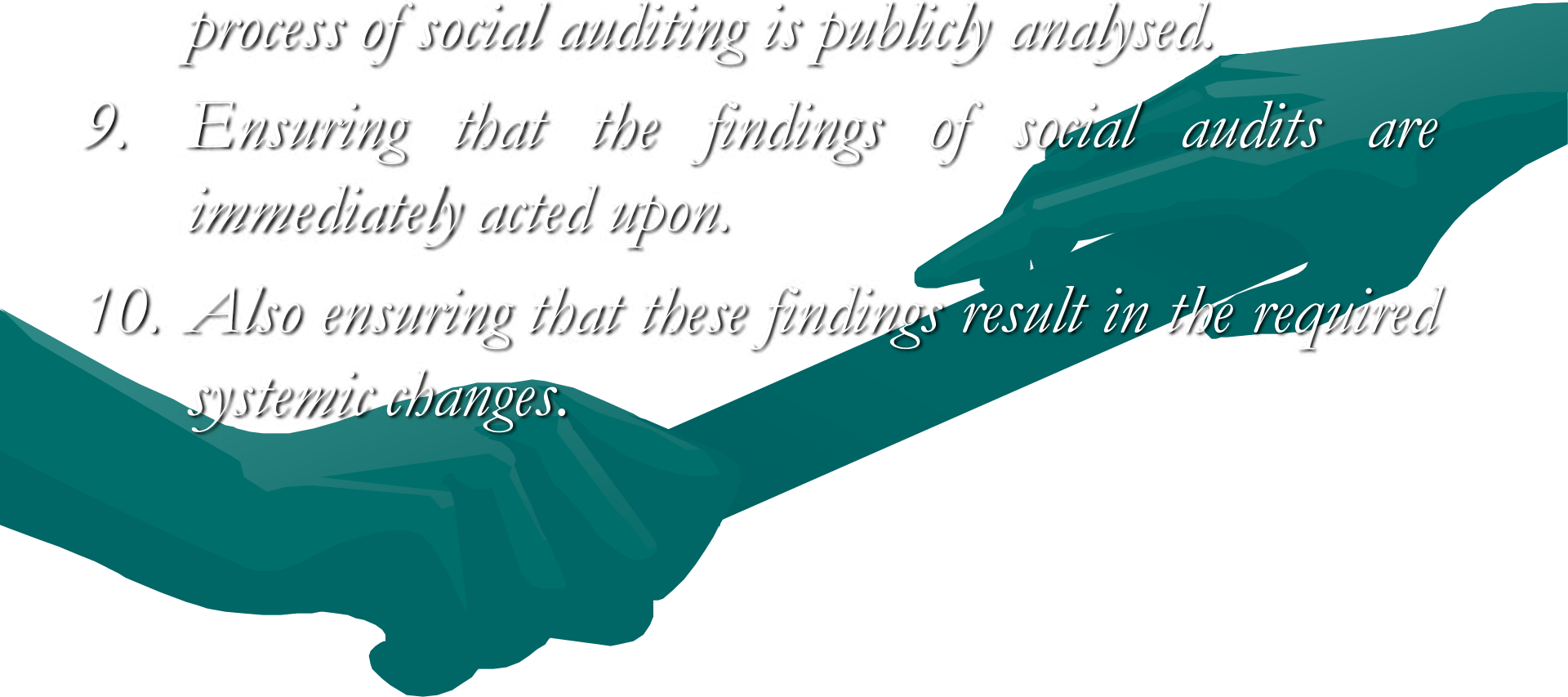
Elements of a Social Audit

5. *Ensuring that the decision making process is transparent, participatory and, as far as possible, carried out in the presence of the affected persons.*
6. *Ensuring that all decisions, and their rationale, are made public as soon as they are made.*
7. *Ensuring that measurements, certification and inspection involves the affected people on a random and rotational basis.*



Elements of a Social Audit

8. *Ensuring that there are regular (six monthly) public hearings (jan audit manch) where the scheme and the process of social auditing is publicly analysed.*
9. *Ensuring that the findings of social audits are immediately acted upon.*
10. *Also ensuring that these findings result in the required systemic changes.*



A. Registration and receipt of job cards

Social Audit measures by the people

- 1. The people must attend all such gram sabhas in large numbers and be vigilant.*
- 2. They must protest if either ineligible people are being registered or given job cards, or eligible ones are being denied.*
- 3. They must check the authenticity of all the information that is recorded and verify all lists and registers.*
- 4. They must regularly check whether the lists and registers are being updated as required.*

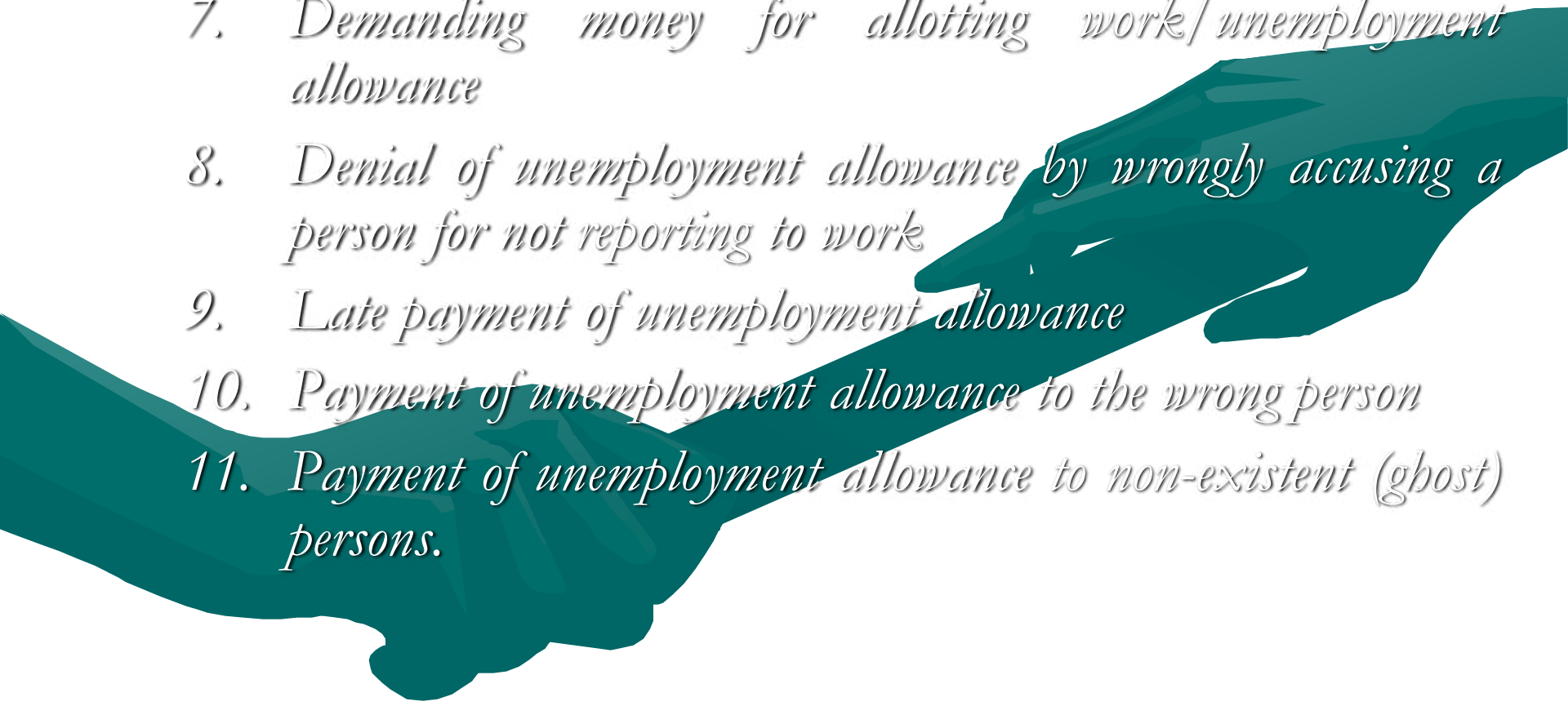
B. Applying for work, getting work in time or receiving unemployment allowance

Some Vulnerabilities and Dangers

- 1. Non-acceptance of work application by the relevant functionary*
- 2. The wrong date or no date recorded on the work application.*
- 3. Giving out-of-turn allotments for work.*
- 4. Favouring or discriminating against people in allotting type/location of work.*
- 5. Not respecting the gender quota.*
- 6. Not informing the applicant and then showing him/her as absent.*

B. Applying for work, getting work in time or receiving unemployment allowance

Vulnerabilities and dangers contd...

- 7. Demanding money for allotting work/unemployment allowance*
 - 8. Denial of unemployment allowance by wrongly accusing a person for not reporting to work*
 - 9. Late payment of unemployment allowance*
 - 10. Payment of unemployment allowance to the wrong person*
 - 11. Payment of unemployment allowance to non-existent (ghost) persons.*
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- A large, stylized teal hand graphic that appears to be reaching out from the right side of the frame, partially overlapping the list items. The hand is rendered in a solid teal color with some shading to suggest depth and movement.

C. Participating in the identification of projects and sites, approval of technical estimates and issuing of work order

Some Vulnerabilities and Dangers

- 1. Selection of a low priority or inappropriate work.*
- 2. Selection of work that serves a vested interest.*
- 3. Lack of public participation/ consultation for selecting work/ sites.*
- 4. Exaggerated/ inaccurate technical estimates.*
- 5. Inclusion, in estimate, of unnecessary expenditure.*
- 6. Excessive rates and material.*
- 7. Unclear work order that does not make the details of the work clear/ leaves scope for mis-interpretation.*

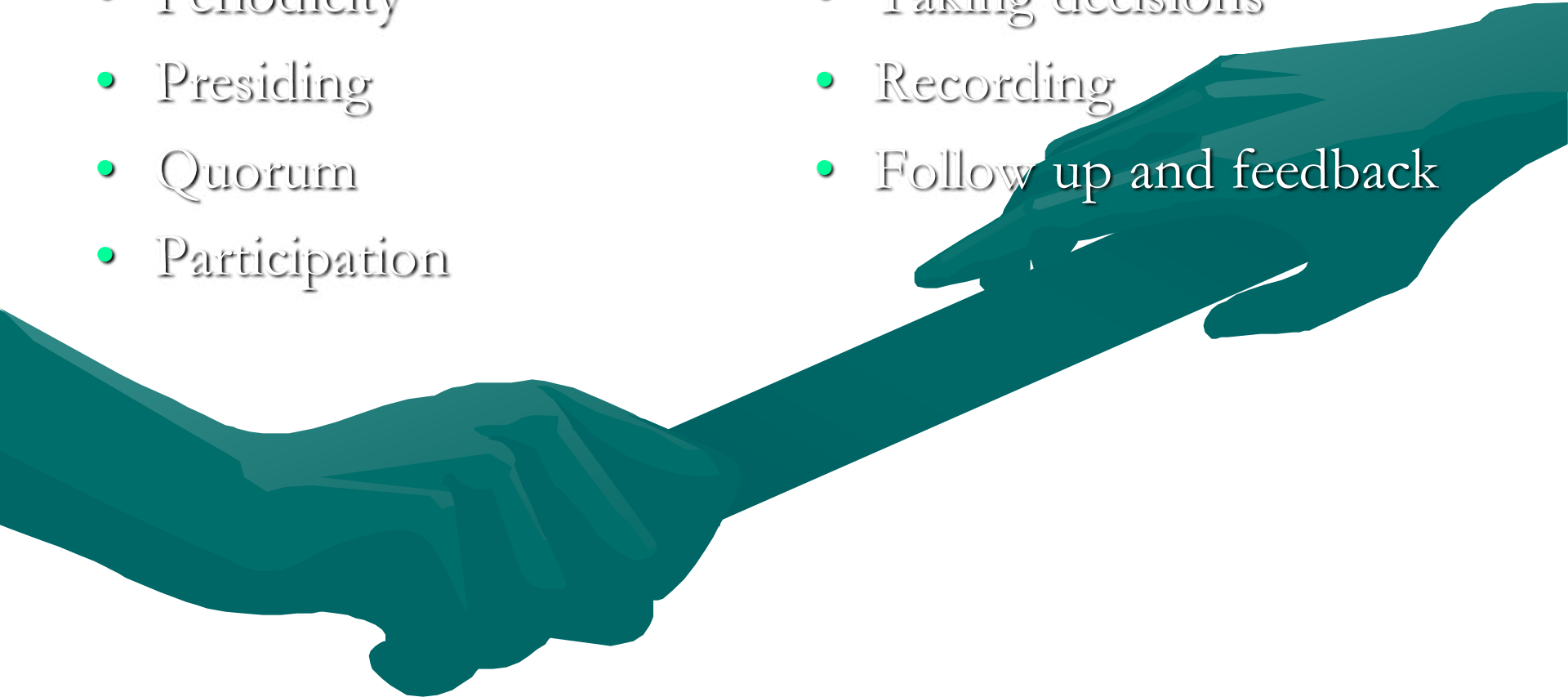
D. Participation in the supervision and measurement/evaluation of work.

Some Vulnerabilities and Dangers

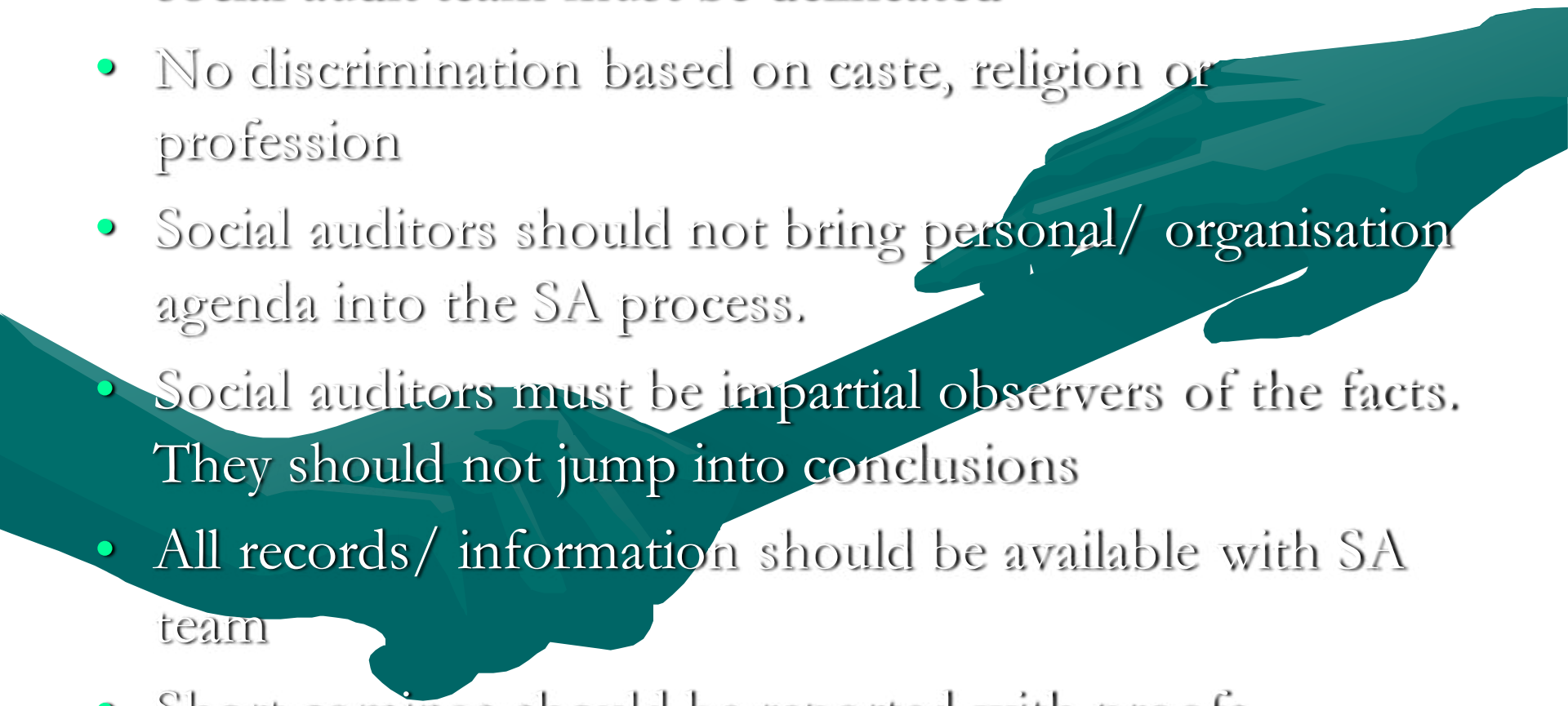
- 1. Recording of ghost works/ workers.*
- 2. Work not conforming to specifications/ standards*
- 3. Supply of less than sanctioned/ poor quality materials and tools.*
- 4. Taking or recording of improper measurements*
- 5. Not consolidating the information regarding the works in one place.*
- 6. Issuing of false completion certificates*
- 7. Data recorded in a confusing/ incomprehensible manner.*

Social Audit Gram Sabha

- Convening
- Periodicity
- Presiding
- Quorum
- Participation
- Presenting information
- Taking decisions
- Recording
- Follow up and feedback



Non- Negotiable Principles of Social Audit

- Not be politicized
 - Roles and responsibilities of the administration and social audit team must be delineated
 - No discrimination based on caste, religion or profession
 - Social auditors should not bring personal/ organisation agenda into the SA process.
 - Social auditors must be impartial observers of the facts. They should not jump into conclusions
 - All records/ information should be available with SA team
 - Short comings should be reported with proofs
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- A stylized illustration of two hands, one in a dark teal color and the other in a lighter teal color, shaking in a firm grip. The hands are positioned diagonally across the lower half of the slide, with the fingers interlocked. The background is a solid light teal color.

SA: Critical issues

- Formation of Social Audit Committees from the community and identification of facilitators (either from NGO/CSOs or as identified by state government) who together constitute as 'Social Audit Team' for all Gram Panchayats to conduct the social audits on regular basis.
- Training to members of Social Audit Committee and Social Audit on the process of social audit is necessary to come out with factual.
- Presentation of findings in Social Audit forum (Jan Sunwai) and discussions and decisions on the findings of social audit

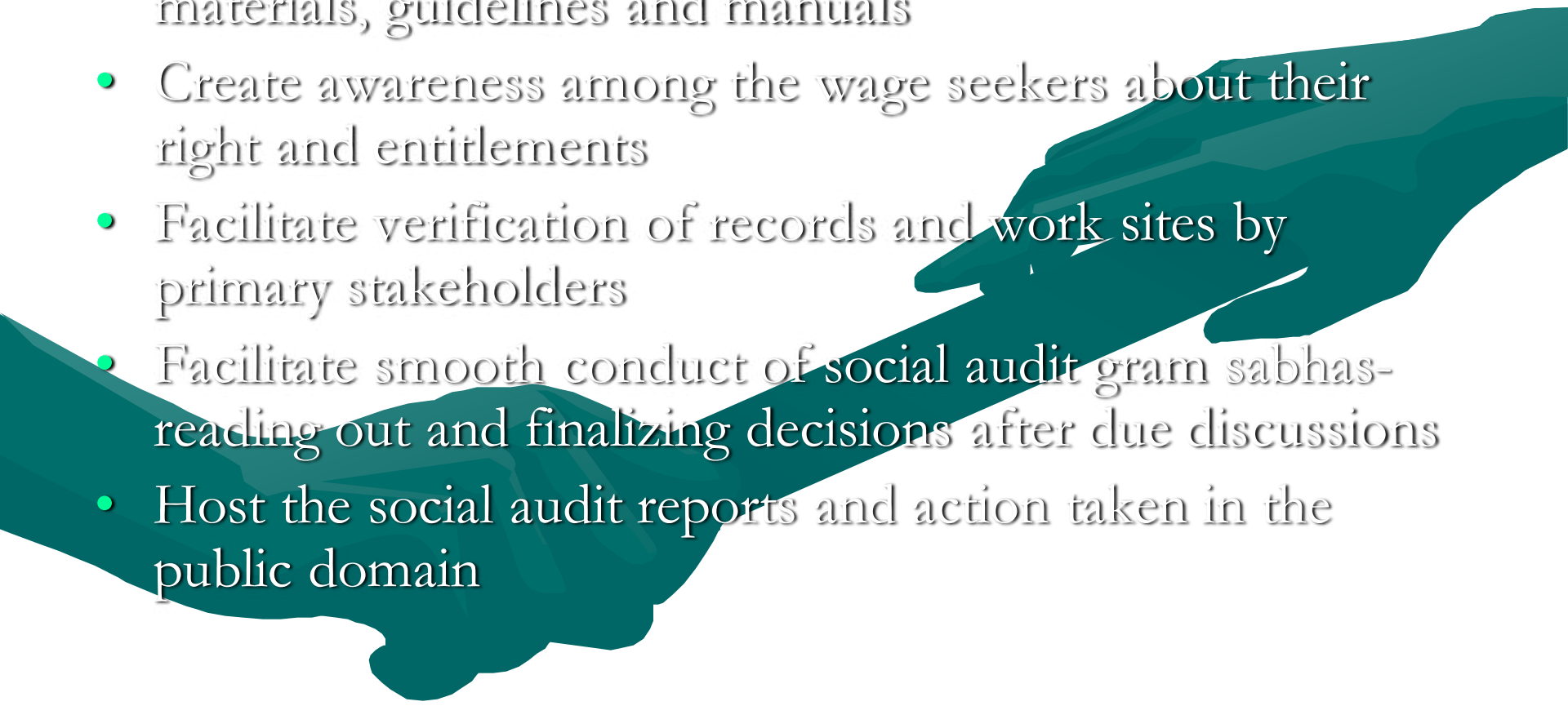
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- Keeping the follow-up action taken report in public domain
- Policy support by the State Governments to operationalise the Social Audit process effectively.
- Institutional support from the government to support Social Audit Committee members in difficult situations (during social audit).
- Financial support from Government to carry out social audit on regular basis.
- Institutionalisation of social audit process and make Social Audit really social (not dominated by officials)

Social Audit Rules

- Called as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011
- Published with vide notification of GoI in MoRD number GSR 307(E) dated 6th April, 2011
- State Government s shall establish an independent organization (social audit unit) to facilitate Social audit Gram Sabhas
- Social audit process shall be independent of other processes
- The implanting agency shall not interfere with the conduct of social audit other than providing information at least 15 days prior
- The resource person deployed for facilitating the conduct of social audit shall not be resident of the same panchayat

Responsibilities of Social audit unit

- Capacity Building
 - Preparing social audit reporting formats, resource materials, guidelines and manuals
 - Create awareness among the wage seekers about their right and entitlements
 - Facilitate verification of records and work sites by primary stakeholders
 - Facilitate smooth conduct of social audit gram sabhas-reading out and finalizing decisions after due discussions
 - Host the social audit reports and action taken in the public domain
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- A stylized illustration of two hands, one in a dark teal color and the other in a lighter teal color, shaking in a firm grip. The hands are positioned diagonally across the lower half of the slide, with the fingers interlocked. The background is white, and the text is in a light teal color with a subtle drop shadow.

- State shall be responsible for follow up actions
- SEGC shall monitor action taken by State Governments and it is incorporated in the annual report which is laid before State Legislature
- Cost of establishment of the social audit unit shall be met by central government

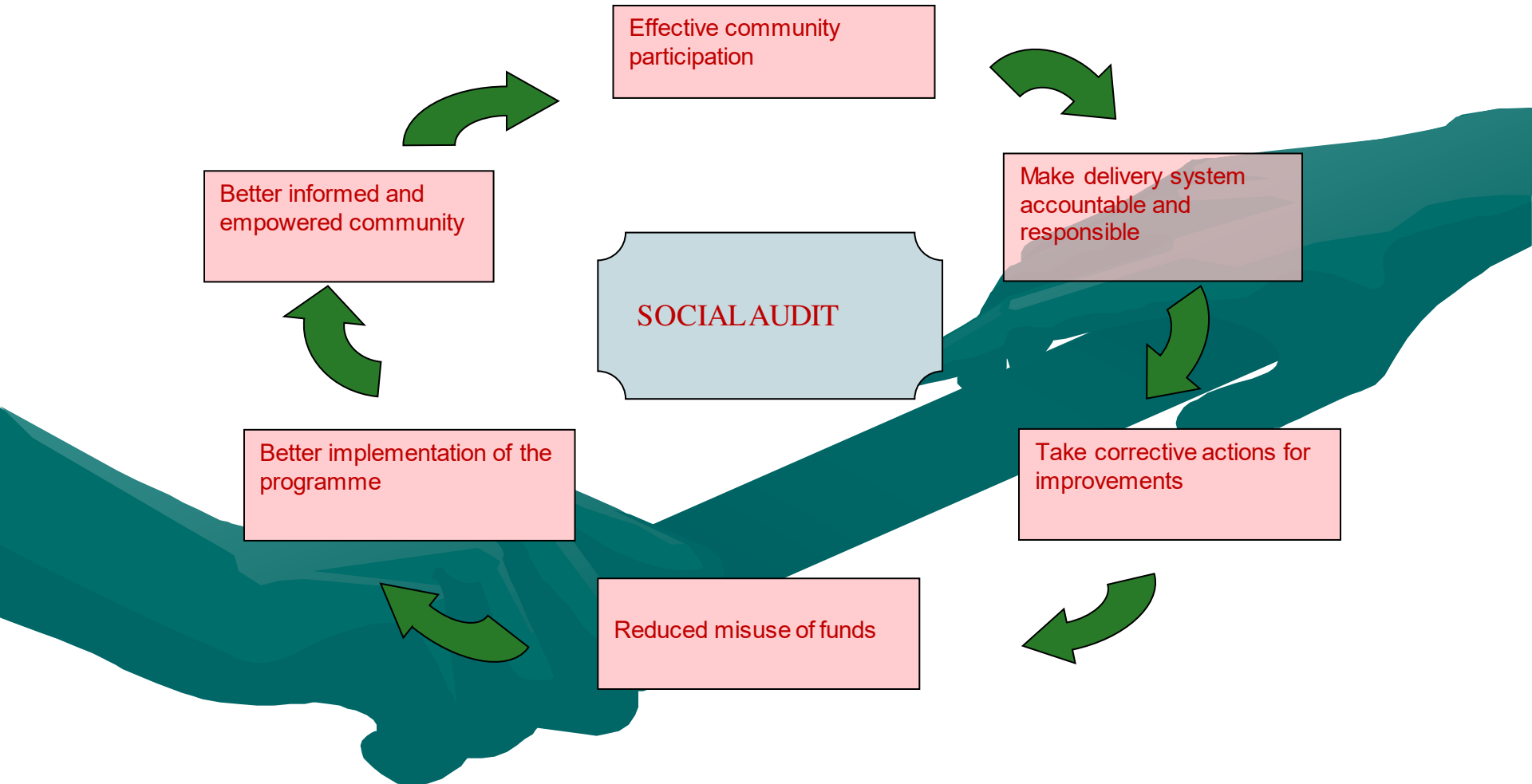


Benefits of Social Audit

- Awareness generation
- Monitoring
- Evaluation and Impact assessment
- Grievances Redressal and follow up of corrective actions



Empowerment of community



Verification of Records by Village Social Auditors



Verification in the Villages with the labour



Labor testifying in the public meeting



More testimonies



Public in a social audit meeting



Thank You



Concept of Accountability



The diagram illustrates the concept of accountability through a stylized illustration of two hands shaking. The left hand is light blue and labeled 'Citizens', while the right hand is dark teal and labeled 'Government'. The word 'Power' is written in green above the hands, and 'Accountability' is written in green below them. A white horizontal line separates the two hands, symbolizing the transfer of power and the resulting accountability.

Citizens

Power

Government

Accountability

[back](#)