

# IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA IN JAMMU DIVISION - A CROSS DISTRICT ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** MGNREGA is one of the flagship programme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development Department (MoRD), Govt of India for eradicating the problem of unemployment and poverty in the rural areas of the country. It is the largest social security scheme in the world implemented through an Act called MGNREGA Act 2005. The mandate of the Act is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The other objective of the scheme is to build durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural people. The present paper makes an attempt to evaluate the performance of MGNREGA in all the ten Districts of Jammu Division i.e. Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch of Jammu and Kashmir State for the year 2016-17 by evaluating various indicators such as Average person days per household, Percentage of SC/ST households provided employment, Percentage of Household completed 100 days of work in a financial year, Percentage of wage paid within 15 days of work allotted as envisaged in the MGNREGA Act. The paper also study the performance of Districts for providing employment to women as the Act provides 33% reservation for women in work force who have registered and requested for work under the scheme. The composite achievement index in respect of all the Districts of Jammu Division is calculated by summing the score of these indicators.

**Index Terms – MGNREGA, Employment, Women**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was notified by the Govt. of India in September 2005 and launched in erstwhile District Doda and District Poonch of Jammu Division in Feb 2006 under Phase-Ist. The same was extended to District Jammu and Samba of Jammu Division w.e.f. 01-04-2007 & w.e.f. 01-04-2008, to other remaining districts of Jammu Division, with the objective of enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing atleast 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act is a right based framework for adult members of a rural household willing to do manual work. It prescribes time bound guarantee wherein if employment is not provided within 15 days from the date of application for work, the state Govt. has to give unemployment allowance. The sharing pattern of the scheme is in the ratio of 90:10 (Central/State share) in which the ratio of wages & material component is 60:40. MGNREGA is demand driven and the use of machinery is not allowed under the scheme. The programme was rechristened as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in October 2009.

**GOALS OF THE MGNREGA ACT:** Every Act has some goals and aim to be achieved. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was also enacted with some aim and goals. These goals are:

- To provide Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities to them.
- To provide Livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity.
- To have efficient Drought-proofing and flood management in rural India
- Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged people, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedules Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation.
- Strengthening decentralized, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.
- Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance

Thus, MGNREGA is a powerful instrument for ensuring inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment.

**SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ACT:** The salient features of the Act are as follow:

- All adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work have the right to demand employment.
- Such a household will have to apply registration to the Gram Panchayat
- After verification, the Gram Panchayat will issue a Job Card with photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under the programme.
- The Job Card must remain in the custody of the household.
- Job Cardholder can apply for work to the Gram Panchayat which will issue him/her a dated receipt of the work application
- Employment will be provided by the Gram Panchayat (local self governing body) within 15 days of work application, failing which unemployment allowance will be paid.
- Disbursement of wages has to be done weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight.
- Wages will be paid at the wage rate to the wage earners through their Bank/Post office accounts.
- An annual shelf of works to be prepared in advance for each year.
- A ratio of 60:40 for wage and material costs should be maintained at GP level.
- No contractors/and no labour-displacing machinery shall be used in execution of works.
- Panchayati Raj Institutions will have a principal role in planning, monitoring and implementation
- At least one-third of the workers should be women.
- Inbuilt incentive-disincentive structure to the State Government for guaranteeing employment.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To evaluate the performance of MGNREGA of all the ten Districts of Jammu Division under various indicators.
- To study the participation of women with respect to person days generated in respect of women in all the ten Districts of Jammu Division.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

- i. **Data and Sources of Data:** The study is based on the secondary data collected from Books, Journals, articles, newspapers and websites of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, and Directorate of Rural Development Jammu. The data has been taken for the year 2016-17.
- ii. **Theoretical framework:** The comparative study of the performance of the Districts of Jammu Division has been measured by using the following indicators.

- Average person days per household.
- Percentage of SC/ST households provided employment.
- Percentage of Household completed 100 days of work in a financial year.
- Percentage of wage paid within 15 days of work allotted.
- Person days generated for Women.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Evaluation of Performance of MGNREGA of the Districts:

The data regarding the various indicators for the year 2016-17 is given here in table 1

Table – 1.1: Performance Evaluation

S.No	Name of the District	Average persondays per Household	Percentage of SC/ST Households provided employment against registered SC/ST	Percentage of Household completed 100 days of work in a financial year	Percentage of wages paid within 15 days of closing the muster roll	Percentage of Persodays generated for women
1	Jammu	45.42	45.95	3.33	4.39	15.68
2	Samba	34.72	32.64	2.01	9.91	27.02
3	Kathua	34.97	48.44	1.69	2.98	17.13
4	Udhampur	32.54	44.27	0.60	0.97	11.18
5	Reasi	47.61	61.45	1.18	8.41	30.97
6	Ramban	45.5	45.79	0.88	18.2	22.14
7	Doda	67.22	74.24	10.21	0.49	33.79
8	Kishtwar	80.02	78.14	26.96	0.06	31.12
9	Rajouri	53.1	58.68	6.94	1.31	23.79
10	Poonch	58.86	50.05	8.04	2.46	30.4

Table-1.1: displayed the performance of the Districts of Jammu Division by measuring the following indicators.

**1. Average person days per household:**

Even though MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of employment, it can be seen from table 1 that Plain Districts like Jammu, Samba, Kathua averages is much below the state average of 50.85 whereas Hilly Districts like Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch have done well in this regard and is well above the J&K state average of 50.85 and National Average of 46 for the year 2016-17. This is owing to the fact that there is less employment opportunities in the hilly areas and less scope for agricultural activities. Comparing the average we found that Kishtwar was able to provide 80.02 days of employment on average followed by Doda, Poonch and Rajouri. Udhampur was at the lower end providing only 32.54 days of employment.

**2. Percentage of SC/ST households provided employment:**

One of the important goals of MGNREGA Scheme is to empower socially disadvantaged and nationally accepted vulnerable section of people like Scheduled Caste (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). In this regard it has been found that Kishtwar was able to provide 78 percent employment to these two categories of people followed by Doda with 74 percent and Reasi with 61 percent. Samba is at the lower end providing only 32 percent employment to Scheduled Caste (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

**3. Percentage of Household completed 100 days of work in a financial year:**

This is an important indicator which determines the successful implementation of MGNREGA Scheme as every scheme has the objective of providing maximum benefits to as many people as possible. In this aspect it can be seen from Table 1 that Plain Districts like Jammu, Samba, Kathua averages is much below the state average of 5.85 whereas Hilly Districts like Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch have done well in this regard and is well above the J&K state average of 5.85 with Kishtwar District is on top with 26.96 percent followed by Doda with 10.21 percent and Poonch with 8.04 percent.

**4. Percentage of wage paid within 15 days:**

MGNREGA Act provides that wages has to be paid to the workers within 15 days of closing the muster roll. During the year 2016-17 the performance of the Districts under study has not been satisfactorily with Ramban District stood out in this case with 18.20 percent of wages paid within the stipulated time while Kishtwar District who tops in other indicators was at the lower end with 0.06 percent of wages being paid within 15 days. According to the official who looks after the MGNREGA

Scheme in these Districts it has been found that timely release of funds from the higher authorities is the main reason for delay in payment.

#### 5. Person days generated for Women:

MGNREGA scheme was launched with one of the important goal is to improve the social as well as economic condition of the vulnerable poor especially women with the provision that at least one-third of beneficiaries should be women. Table 1 shows that only District Doda was able to generate more than 33% person days for women with 33.79 percent person days followed by Kishtwar with 31.12 percent and Reasi with 30.97 percent.

Table-1.2: Ranking of Districts

Based on the Table 1 Ranking of Districts in respect of various indicators is given at table 2.

S.No	Name of the District	Average persondays per Household	Percentage of SC/ST Households provided employment against registered SC/ST	Percentage of Household completed 100 days of work in a financial year	Percentage of wages paid within 15 days of closing the muster roll	Percentage of Persondays generated for women	Total Score	Final Ranking
1	Jammu	7	7	5	4	9	32	7
2	Samba	9	10	6	2	5	32	7
3	Kathua	8	6	7	5	8	34	8
4	Udhampur	10	9	10	8	10	47	9
5	Reasi	5	3	8	3	3	22	4
6	Ramban	6	8	9	1	7	31	6
7	Doda	2	2	2	9	1	16	2
8	Kishtwar	1	1	1	10	2	15	1
9	Rajouri	4	4	4	7	6	25	5
10	Poonch	3	5	3	6	4	21	3

Table-1.2: the overall Rank of the District is calculated by adding the Ranks of Districts in respect of various indicators to get the final score which is used to get the final ranking of the District.

The performance of MGNREGA in Districts of Jammu Division reveals that the Hilly Districts like Kishtwar, Doda, Poonch, Reasi and Rajouri have done well whereas the Plain Districts like Jammu, Samba, Kathua has lot to do in this regard. Also as far as women participation is concerned none of the District has provided statutory minimum of 33% persondays for women except District Kishtwar, therefore all the Districts except Kishtwar have to create awareness and conducive environment for women so that maximum participation of women can be achieved under the scheme.

#### REFERENCES:

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