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## Rural Development Through MGNREG Scheme- An Evaluation

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### Abstract

India is a rural country. In India, villagers have long been the norm, with agriculture serving as the primary source of income. Additionally, agriculturally linked employment have been undervalued. Most of the people lack access to sanitary facilities, food, housing, and drinkable water, and they do not have any additional sources of income. Many are also impoverished and do not have family employment. It's a great task to raise them relentlessly above the poverty line. The nation's top priorities include eradicating rural poverty inequality and giving peasants a life of dignity.

The Indian government is implementing numerous employments generating initiatives to close the employment generation gap in rural areas of the country. The first law in Indian history to guarantee employment and pay is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This study examines the impact of MGNREGA on job creation, the kinds of jobs carried out under this legislation, and the degree to which this initiative has reduced rural India's poverty. This paper examines and describes how MGNREGA helps impoverished rural residents improve their standard of living by combining labour and skill. Additionally, the challenges faced by the beneficiaries and satisfaction of them too.

Key Words: MGNREG, Agriculture, Employment

## 1.1 Introduction

An Indian law known as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) seeks to protect livelihood security and the "right to work." In rural areas, by offering any household whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labour at least 100 days of guaranteed pay employment in a fiscal year.

The MGNREGA's mandate is to give every rural household whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labour at least 100 days of guaranteed pay employment per fiscal year.

On August 23, 2005, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed by the Indian Parliament. Subsequently, it was publicised via the India Gazette (Extraordinary) Notification dated September 7, 2005; 200 backward districts saw its implementation on February 2, 2006.

In the first phase, MGNREGA was rolled out in 200 districts starting in February 2006; it was then extended to an additional 113 and 17 districts, starting on April 1st and May 15th, 2007, respectively. The Act was implemented for the remaining districts on April 1st, 2008. The Act is currently being implemented in 644 districts around the nation that have a sizable rural population.

## 1.2 The Concept of Rural Development

The term "rural development" was first used in reference to agriculture, and for a very long time, it was used synonymously with agricultural development in India. For instance, the Planning Commission Tustio Force, the Task Force on Rural Development of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, compares rural development to agricultural development. It includes all actions that are in line with crop protection in a worldwide setting.

India has undertaken several initiatives to help its rural residents develop. Following independence, the Indian government received the highest prize for rural development; through five-year plans, the government put attention to programmes for rural development. One such program is the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme implemented in 2005. The rural populace benefits greatly from this approach.

## 2. Review of Literature

**Dr. G Vedanthadesikan (2018)**, One of his research found that the Indian government is implementing a number of employment-generation initiatives to close the employment-generation gap in rural areas of the country. The first law in Indian history to guarantee employment and pay is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Without a question, MGNREGA is the cornerstone programme that has benefited India's rural development. MGNREGA has altered the job system. Still, there are a lot of areas in the programme that want improvement. This MGNREGA's drawback is that it does not guarantee work when cardholders need it, which means the government is not compelled to pay wages for that.

**Dr. Nagaraja J and Dr. N Honnurswamy(2021)** Development economists frequently issue warnings that the nation cannot flourish unless poverty is eradicated and that it is not reasonable to restrain the growth-oriented economy. Therefore, the idea of job opportunities for developing nations like India is crucial to the distribution of natural resources. The portion of the cost that goes towards purchasing

machines is also preset. Unemployment payment is to be paid if the Gramme Panchayat refuses to hire individual registers and requests employment. India is currently the second most popular country in the world, with the sixth largest economy globally and the third largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). It is also one of the most impoverished nations.

**Sharvari Patwardhan (2022)**, According to his research, one way to combat long-term poverty is to promote capital spending in public expenditures for social, economic, and physical infrastructure through the income-generating opportunities that MGNREGA offers to rural households. In order for this to occur, it is imperative that the structural shortcomings in the MGNREGA implementation, as well as the variations between and within states, are addressed. Therefore, MGNREGA must continue to run in order to give the impoverished rural population a rights-based source of income; livelihoods cannot be strengthened until there is a steady increase in rural income.

**Ajay Kumar (2023)** According to his study, seasonal variations in agriculture and allied activities are the main source of the irregularity of major livelihood activities in rural areas. Workers are occasionally forced out of the workforce as a result of this, particularly marginal labourers who switch between profitable positions and domestic work. A large number of workers move across the country in search of work. The primary causes of people leaving rural areas are a lack of alternative sources of income and a lack of opportunities for skill development. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural work Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides every rural household with a legal guarantee of one hundred days of paid work to undertake unskilled manual labour, is thought to be the most effective technique for enhancing the standard of rural living. MGNREGA offers an alternative source of income that will have an effect on lowering migration, limiting child labour, reducing poverty, and making villages self-sufficient by building productive assets like roads, water tanks, soil and water conservation activities, etc. It has been called the largest anti-poverty project in the world as a result. The development of rural India has been significantly impacted by MGNREGA, with notable advancements being achieved in the building of rural homes, roads, irrigation canals, and other infrastructure.

**Mamata Patra (2023)** in her one of the study says that without a doubt, the biggest public labour program, such as MGNREGS, offers the impoverished a fantastic chance to satisfy their basic requirements and livelihood in a dignified manner. Overall, the plan has been successful in securing livelihoods, stopping migration caused by hardship, building long-lasting communal assets, stopping the spread of left-wing extremism, protecting the environment, empowering fortifying village panchayats, and quickening the pace of inclusive progress.

However, the scheme's outstanding performance in the district is not without limitations. One of the main obstacles was found to be ignorance of several essential elements of the plan.

Significant obstacles to the scheme's operation include the development of brittle assets, low wages, postponed wage payments, and administrative red tape.

To get the most out of the plan, it is imperative that the Panchayati Raj system be strengthened and that accountability, transparency, and a strong civil society be established.

**Suraj (2023)**, in his one of the studies discussed that, The MGNREGA global literature analysis indicates that the program has improved rural households' livelihoods in India, with a special focus on women. The initiative has decreased poverty, raised incomes, enhanced agricultural output, and created job possibilities. MGNREGA has also been demonstrated to increase school attendance, decrease child labour, and decrease rural-urban migration. However, in order to guarantee the program's continuous success, issues including corruption, a lack of awareness among recipients, and delays in wage payments must be resolved. Notwithstanding these challenges, MGNREGA continues to be an essential social welfare program for rural India's people, providing both subsistence and a reliable source of work during hard times and in an unemployed but quickly growing economy.

**Mona Hazra (2024)**, one of his studies discussed that In addition to offering pay employment as a substitute means of subsistence, MGNREGA builds long-lasting assets including roads, land, irrigation systems, and water conservation, all of which have a significant impact on various facets of the village economy. Therefore, MGNREGA offers both social and economic security while lowering the risk factor for workers with enough workplace amenities, making it a fantastic place for mankind. Therefore, it is crucial to uphold that both the federal government and state governments properly examine the numerous projects carried out under the MGNREGA system. The MGNREGA secured rural poor people's livelihoods through paid work, bringing about confident and positive improvements in their lives.

By prioritizing women to make up one-third of the recipients, this program has boosted the confidence of unskilled workers, particularly women. MGNREGA helps recipients, especially women, transform their perspectives on life and work by giving them money directly and without the need for an intermediary. MGNREGA has a noticeable effect on beneficiaries, especially women, as it gives them financial stability and permits them to work outside. The beneficiaries' high knowledge, their waiting for work-related MGNREGA, and the reduction of gender discrimination through equal work and pay are all noteworthy. However, the beneficiaries encounter certain difficulties with the MGNREGA administration procedure in the area, which requires

Report (2025)The Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a wage employment program that is motivated by demand. It serves as a backup plan in the event that there are no better job opportunities. Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, in order to give willing rural households access to sufficient work possibilities, The government has taken a number of actions to raise awareness of the program. These include (i) launching suitable Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, such as wall paintings, to ensure that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005's provisions are widely known; (ii) broadening the scope and coverage of the demand registration system to guarantee that work requests under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are not unregistered; (iii) creating plans in a participatory manner and approving them in the Gram Sabha; and (iv) organizing "Rozgar Diwas."

### 3. Research Design:

#### 3.1 Objectives of the Study

- 1) To understand the concept of the MGNREG Scheme
- 2) To analyze the issue and challenges of beneficiaries of MGNREG
- 3) To evaluate the impact of MGNREG scheme on rural development
- 4) To analyze the factors influencing the satisfaction of the beneficiaries regarding the scheme

#### 3.2 Hypothesis:

The study has following hypothesis:

- 1)  $H_0$ : There is no impact of benefits derived by the people from MGNREGA scheme on rural development.  
 $H_1$ : There is an impact of benefits derived by the people from MGNREGA scheme on rural development.
- 2)  $H_0$ : The challenges faced by the Beneficiaries in availing MGNREG scheme is insignificant  
 $H_1$ : The challenges faced by the Beneficiaries in availing MGNREG scheme is significant
- 3)  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between socio- economic profile of the respondents and satisfaction on the MGNREGA scheme.  
 $H_1$ : There is a significant relationship between socio- economic profile of the respondents and satisfaction on the MGNREGA scheme.

#### 3.3 METHODOLOGY:

##### a. Scope of the Study

Scope of the study is limited to the geographic area and the conceptual scope of the study is the role of MGNREG scheme in providing employment to the rural people and also other facilities to rural development in the study area.

##### b. Methods of Data Collection

In order to reach the above stated objectives, the required information has been collected by both primary and secondary data. Primary data for the study is collected through structured questionnaire. The beneficiary groups include the people availed the benefits of MGNREG scheme and includes different education background, gender and age group. The secondary for the study is collected through the published sources like books, journals and e sources.

##### c. Statistical Tools Adopted for the Study

To analyse the collected data simple percentages, one sample t-test and chi-square test has been used. The sample size for the study is limited to 100 beneficiaries of different schemes. Simple random sampling technique is used to collect the data.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

Below part of the article devoted to explain the demographic profile of the respondents and the collected data regarding the performance of MGNREG scheme in the study area. The performance of the MGNREG scheme is measured by the benefits derived by the beneficiaries, challenges faced by the beneficiaries and satisfaction of the them regarding the performance of scheme.

##### 4.1: Demographic Profile

Particulars	Response	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
25-35	20	20
35-45	50	50
45-55	30	30
55 and above	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	61	61
Female	39	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	54	54
Unmarried	15	15
Widow	31	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Education Qualification</b>		
Below SSLC	23	23
SSLC	25	25
PUC	26	26
Any Degree	13	13
Others	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Family Background</b>		
Nuclear Family	68	68
Joint Family	32	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
Below 10000	13	13
10000-20000	69	69
20000-30000	10	10
30000-40000	2	2
40000-50000	2	2
Above 50000	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data



From the table above the following conclusions can be done.

1. Out of 100 respondents 50% are belongs to the age group of 35-45, 30% are belongs to the age group of 45-55, and 20% respondents belongs to the age group of 25-35. Only 10% respondents belong to the age group of above 55.
2. Out of 100 respondents 61% are Male and 59% are Female
3. Out of 100 respondents 54% are married, 15% are unmarried and 31% are widow
4. Education qualification of Out of 100 respondents is demonstrated in the above table out of that 23% are below SSLC, 25% are SSLC, 26% are PUC, 13% are degree, 13% are other technical courses
5. Out of 100 respondents 68% respondents are living in nuclear family and 32% respondents are living in joint family.
6. Out of 100 respondents 69% have 10000-20000 income, 13% respondents have below 10000 and only 10% have income of 20000-30000.

**Table:4.2 Benefits Derived by the Beneficiaries by MGNREG Scheme**

Benefits	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Dis agree	Strongly disagree	Mean
Sanitization,	26	56	18	0	0	1.87
Infrastructure	54	0	21	0	0	1.96
Cattle breeding	36	44	20	0	0	2.21
Agricultural land development	28	72	0	0	0	2.12
Growing agriculture/crop/fruits	34	56	10	0	0	1.86
Raised standard of living women/lower castes.	56	0	44	0	0	2.06
Income support to the local public.	45	0	13	0	0	1.87
Income in the agricultural lean season.	54	46	0	0	0	2.10

Source: Primary Data

The table above depicts the benefits derived by the respondents by the scheme, out of 100 respondents majority respondents are positive regarding sanitization, Infrastructure, cattle breeding, agricultural land development, growing agricultural land development, raised standard of living, women, and lower caste, Income support to the local public, and income in the agricultural lean season the same is proved with the mean value 1 to 3. This proved that the beneficiaries are benefited by the scheme of MENREG in the study area.

**Table:4.3 Challenges Faced by the Beneficiaries in Availing the Scheme**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Dis-Agree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Lack of Awareness about the scheme	98	2	0	0	0	<b>1.28</b>
Officers are not cooperating to avail the benefits	98	2	0	0	0	<b>1.28</b>
Not receiving payments in time.	85	15	0	0	0	1.36
Inadequate staff and resources	45	55	0	0	0	2.69
Not utilizing local resources/ people to do the works under the scheme.	41	59	0	0	0	1.42
Due to corruption quality of work is not maintained	64	36	0	0	0	<b>1.46</b>
Miss utilization of resources.	78	22	0	0	0	1.56
Miss utilization of schemes or Benefits.	80	20	0	0	0	<b>1.30</b>
Intervention of local/State Government politicians.	81	72	0	0	0	<b>1.12</b>

Source: Primary Data

The table above clearly denotes the opinion of the respondents regarding the challenges faced by them in availing the schemes under MGNREG for rural development, for the issues given for most of them are agrees the statement. They say that there is lack of awareness about the scheme, officers are not cooperating to avail the benefits, not receiving payments in time, inadequate staff, and resources, not utilizing local resources/ people to do the works under the scheme, due to corruption quality of work is not maintained, Miss utilization of resources, Miss utilization of scheme or benefits and intervention of local/ state government politicians. Hence it is concluded that even though beneficiaries get benefit from the scheme, they face challenges too in availing the scheme as discussed above.



Table:4.4 Satisfaction by the services availed under the scheme

Performance	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dis-Satisfied	Highly Dis - satisfied	Mean
Employment provided by the scheme	64	0	36	0	0	2.63
Co-operation by the employees of the gram panchayat	10	90	0	0	0	1.26
Corporation Of The contractors	74	26	0	0	0	1.21
Cooperation of officers	58	42	0	0	0	1.23
Timely payment	0	36	0	0	64	4.23
Utilization of local resources.	0	88	12	0	0	1.86
Quality of work done under the scheme.	0	13	0	87	0	4.76
Activities undertaken under the scheme.	20	40	40	0	0	3.67

Source: Primary Data

The table above clearly explains the satisfaction of the beneficiaries the schemes availed by them. Except the variables like Timely payment (4.23), Quality of work done under the scheme (M=4.76) and Activities undertaken under the scheme (3.67) for all the variables the mean value is below 3 hence it is proved that the beneficiaries are satisfied with all other issues but they are not satisfied with the timely payment, quality of work done under the scheme and activities undertaken by the scheme.

## 5. TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

### Hypothesis-1

1. **H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no impact of benefits derived by the people from MGNREGA scheme on rural development.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is an impact of benefits derived by the people from MGNREGA scheme on rural development.

Table:4.5 One Sample T-test for Benefits Derived by the People from MGNREG Scheme

One-Sample Test						
Benefits	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Sanitization,	19.463	99	.000	1.77500	1.5905	1.9595
Infrastructure	20.668	99	.000	2.02500	1.8268	2.2232
Cattle breeding	19.580	99	.000	2.12500	1.9055	2.3445
Agricultural land development	28.102	99	.000	2.70000	2.5057	2.8943

Growing agriculture/crop/fruits	28.323	99	.000	2.77500	2.5768	2.9732
Raised standard of living women/lower castes.	23.000	99	.000	2.87500	2.6222	3.1278
Income support to the local public.	14.755	99	.000	2.10000	1.8121	2.3879
Income in the agricultural lean season.	18.510	99	.000	2.62500	2.3381	2.9119

Source: SPSS Output

### Analysis and Interpretation:

From the above table it is clear that in the all the cases the significance value is  $p < 0.005$  at 5% significance level hence it is prove that the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted. Therefore it is said that the MGNREG schemes are benefited to the rural people there by it helps to rural development. The scheme is effectively functioning in the study area by providing proper guidelines and monitoring and supervision.

### Hypothesis-2

2.  $H_0$ : The challenges faced by the Beneficiaries in availing MGNREG scheme is insignificant

$H_1$ : The challenges faced by the Beneficiaries in availing MGNREG scheme is significant

**Table:4.6 One Sample T-test for the challenges faced by the Beneficiaries in availing MGNREG Scheme**

One-Sample Test						
Challenges Faced	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Lack of Awareness about the scheme	19.463	99	.000	1.77500	1.5905	1.9595
Officers are not cooperating to avail the benefits	20.668	99	.000	2.02500	1.8268	2.2232
Not receiving payments in time.	19.580	99	.000	2.12500	1.9055	2.3445
Inadequate staff and resources	28.102	99	.000	2.70000	2.5057	2.8943
Not utilizing local resources/ people to do the works under the scheme.	28.323	99	.000	2.77500	2.5768	2.9732
Due to corruption quality of work is not maintained	23.000	99	.000	2.87500	2.6222	3.1278
Miss utilization of resources.	14.755	99	.000	2.10000	1.8121	2.3879
Miss utilization of schemes or Benefits.	18.510	99	.000	2.62500	2.3381	2.9119
Intervention of local/State Government politicians.	29.950	99	.000	2.87500	2.6808	3.0692

Source: SPSS Output

### Analysis and Interpretation:

From the above table it is clear that in the all the cases the significance value is  $< 0.005$  at 5% significance level hence it is prove that the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted. Therefore it is said that There is an impact of benefits derived by the people from MGNREGA scheme on rural development. The scheme is effectively functioning in the study area by providing proper guidelines and monitoring and supervision.

### Hypothesis-3

**3.  $H_0$ : There is no significant relationship between socio- economic profile of the respondents and satisfaction on the MGNREGA scheme.**

**$H_1$ : There is a significant relationship between socio- economic profile of the respondents and satisfaction on the MGNREGA scheme.**

**4.23. Table showing the hypothesis that significant relationship between socio- economic profile of the respondents and satisfaction on the MGNREGA scheme.**

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	101.133 <sup>a</sup>	90	.198
Likelihood Ratio	75.275	90	.867
Linear-by-Linear Association	.235	1	.628
N of Valid Cases	100		
a. 110 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.			

Source: SPSS Output

### Analysis and Interpretation:

In all the cases of above table the significance value  $p > 0.005$  at 5% significance level hence it is proved that the null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis rejected. Therefore, it is said that there is no relationship between the socio-economic profile and satisfaction of performance of MGNREGA scheme.

## 6. FINDINGS

1. In the rural development MGNREG scheme is playing a viatla role, according the opinion of the respondents in the study area, the scheme is providing sanitization, infrastructure, cattle breeding, agriculture development, income support and improved standard of living of lower caste and women etc.
2. Even though the respondents are positive about the benefits of the scheme some of the challenges are also faced by the respondents namely corruption, mis-utilization of the resources, mis-utilization of benefits under the scheme and lack of awareness about the scheme etc.

3. With respect to the employability under the scheme the beneficiaries are satisfied with the employment provided, employees cooperation at the gram panchayaths, cooperation of contractors, utilization of local resources, activities of the scheme.
4. The beneficiaries are not satisfied with the timely payment, quality of work done under the scheme.

## 7. SUGGESTIONS

- It is suggested that the Wage rate must be increased as the it will facilitate the livelihood of the people. As they can never meet their needs with the existing wage.
- It is suggested that the works of this project should not be carried out during the harvest season. Because farmers are very busy during the harvest season. And agriculture requires more people. Therefore, if the works of this project are started after the harvest i.e. during the spare time in agricultural activities, they can get employment and improve their standard of living.
- It is suggested that the most of the contractors are using the machines and vehicles to complete the work. This should be avoided so that the people will get the job.
- It is suggested that it is necessary to educate the rural people must be educated through medias like street play, poster, press campaign, attractive wall writing etc.
- It is suggested that under this scheme all categories of castes below poverty line should be employed. And do not discriminate based on caste and religion.
- It is suggested that equal opportunity should be provided at the rural level without discrimination of male and female.
- It is suggested that the authorities should take steps for afforestation, rain water harvesting and construction of small irrigation canals, not limited to the few factories under this project. Such works will be useful to rural development too.
- It is found from the study that the beneficiaries are not satisfied with the Timely payment, quality of work done under the scheme and activities undertaken under the scheme, therefore it is suggested that monitoring the implementation and activities of the scheme is a required factor for the success, that need to be focused and strengthened.

## 8. CONCLUSION

By giving unskilled people in rural areas job chances, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has granted them the right to employment. Additionally, by putting the human resources that were being squandered to good use, it has lowered the unemployment rate. One of the current top concerns is giving working people the chance to lead self-sufficient lives through their occupations, as this will help the rural population live better. occupations should be assigned to labourers without regard to gender to meet the requirement for working capacity. It has come to light during this investigation that the project also aims to create a sustainable society. The programme, which helps many impoverished and economically disadvantaged groups make ends meet, is a creative way to do things in

the modern world. and a guiding light throughout his life. It is imperative that such a significant undertaking be carried out successfully both now and shortly after.

Therefore, local governments are essential to the project's success. This is a result of India's extensive democracy and parliamentary system of governance, which prioritises decentralisation. When authority is centralised in one location, local issues are neglected and dictatorship is permitted. Therefore, state and municipal governments ought to have more decentralised authority. Because local people representatives are present in local governments, they aid in achieving the welfare and ambitions of the local populace. Thus, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme's effective execution is greatly aided by the Panchayat Raj Institutions of Karnataka. Additionally, they will need to play a bigger part in the days to come.

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