

## Role of MGNREGA in Rural Development

Dr. Devendra Prasad, Kishore Kumar Rana

Supervisor, Asst. Prof. Department of Economics, St. Columba College, Hazaribag, V.B.U.  
(Jharkhand)  
Research Scholar, (B.B.M.K.U, Dhanbad)

### Abstract :

India is a country of villages because around 908.8 million people in India live in the rural areas in 2022. And most of the population depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. MGNREGA has been playing a vital role in reducing poverty and providing social security to rural households by guaranteeing 100 days of employment per year. MGNREGA started in 2005 by the government of India. As we know today migrants from villages has been a big problem and a big challenge to the development of rural India. Indeed it has been helpful to reduce the problem of migration. Apart from this the creation of sustainable assets in rural areas and strengthening the livelihood resource base of rural poverty is an important objective of the scheme. The MGNREGA scheme helps in building all kinds of assets in rural areas. Promotes empowerment and capacity by increasing the creation of assets in the rural sector and promoting people's access to it. Another dimension of MGNREGA's success is that it is coming as an engine of rural development. Due to this development works and constructions of permanent assets are gaining new momentum in the village. While another is proving to be helpful in strengthening the ago based rural economy, rural administration is being decentration due to the important role of Panchayat state institutions is running it and the strengthening the roots of democracy and transparency among the people of rural areas.

**Keyword:** MGNREGA, Development, Employment, Poverty, Rural, Government.

**Introduction :** Rural unemployment has been a major problem of India since independence. In the last nearly 6 decades, many schemes and programs have been launched from time to time by the central and state government with the intention of creating new employment opportunities in the villages and to alleviate poverty, but due to population growth the problem of unemployment increased. The use of modern equipment and techniques in agriculture also led to a decrease in unemployment directly related to farming. its direct effect came in the form of migration from the village to the cities. There is no denying the fact that without making the villages happy, dream of prosperity of India will remain incomplete, against this backdrop, the government enacted a unique law to guarantee employment in villages which sparked a revolution in rural India.

Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee Act is an employment guarantee scheme implemented in India, enacted by legislation on 7 September 2005. Initially it was called the national rural employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), but in 2009 it was renamed the mahatma Gandhi national rural employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This scheme provides 100 days of employment in each financial year, which is rupees 220 wages per day.

Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee (MGNREGA )scheme is an effective protective shield against hunger in rural area of the country. MGNREGA is the largest social welfare program in the world which has inspired a positive change in rural labor. According to the data a total of rupees 3.14 lac crore was spent in the first 10 years of the program, Since

2008, on an average five crore rural households have received wage employment every year. In this scheme, millions of rural people have been successful in bringing them out of poverty. MGNREGA has emerged as a powerful tool for empowerment of rural poor women in terms of livelihood and social security. MGNREGA has also helped in the upliftment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes through livelihood opportunities.

**Objective of MGNREGA :**

1. Provide 100 days of employment to at least one member of each family in rural India.
2. Employment should be obtained at minimum wage.
3. Unemployment allowance will be given if employment is not available.
4. In this plan, works will be done which will help in increasing the production from the land in future.
5. Role of planning in the empowerment of women in rural areas.
6. To strengthen livelihood and provide resources to the poor.
7. This act has been started with the objective of increasing the purchasing power of rural people.

**MGNREGA action plan :** Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is an extraordinary national employment scheme that ensures the right to work as a legal right. The main role in the implementation of this scheme is played by the gram panchayat. Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most important and distinguishing features of NREGA, for beyond the previous employment. The scheme is to arrange the work on demand by the wage laborers and provide them work as their legal entitlement. In most of the employment programs of the past, jobs were

ensured when the government decided to provide work and on the contrary, MGNREGA is a demand based program.

Wherever is demanded work is given. That is "work will open when you ask for work". Here it is necessary that the executing agency on creating awareness among the potential laborers and make such a system that help in actively keeping record of registration of work, demand related applications and issue of job cards.

The job card is a main document that records the entitlement of workers under the MGNREGA. In this, the beneficiaries are legality empowered to apply for work, ensure transparency and protect them form corruption. In order to be registered in the scheme, eligible familiar are already registered under the act.

Mahatma Gandhi remained the spirit of national rural employment guarantee scheme and developed and sustained wage related employment. Therefore, main priority in this is that the ratio of material expenses and wages expenses to the total cost of work done in gram panchayat should be 60:40. Under the scheme, case is also taken that the benefits of wage can be transferred directly to the beneficiaries account without any hindrance.

**MGNREGA achieved new heights** : MGNREGA sets new records on the number of working days generated and the number of households benefiting under it, a month has seen large scale reverse migration from cities. Last year, according to government figures, 417.7 million people-work, a 13% increase from a year earlier. The number of families covered under the scheme rose by 31% to 28 million last month. This is the highest since the launch of the scheme 15 years ago. Experts said that if this trend continued for a long time, it would increase

inflation by increasing wages in the regions. Challenging the government to maintain the employment guarantee scheme in the long run with the current demand. Rural expert said the programme had the potential to absorb as many people and create assets in rural India but the cost of doing it would be huge. The government has increased the allocation for the scheme by Rupees 40,000 crore out of the Rupees 61,500 crore approved in the budget 2020- 2021, which is more than Rupees 1 lakh crore since its rollout in 2005.

**Effect of MGNREGA scheme on environment :** Under MGNREGA, providing employment in rural areas without damaging the environment and improving the balance of the environment. Therefore, MNREGA is not based on development but on the concept of sustainable development. The objective of MGNREGA is to do rural development without damaging the environment, So that clean and pure environment can be achieved and problems arising due to environmental balance can be overcome. The main objective of MGNREGA is to ensure employment in rural areas. But under this, well-being implementation of the project does not cause any harm to the environment along with development and creation of employment. The demand of water is increasing day by day for the production of food gains, industrial development and to meet the domestic needs. Without water supply, production work is impossible but along with development excessive a huge problem of drinking water. Due to continuous exploitation of ground water and not enough amount of rainwater to be absorbed in to the land, the water level in the land is decreasing due to water related imbalance. Water conservation project has been included under MGNREGA. Along with this, emphasis has also been laid on the accumulation of essential water which is washed away in vain during the rainy season with this dams, ponds, canals, etc. Water harvesting and environment balance can be maintained.

**Economic empowerment of women :** In India since independence, there have been continuous effort at the government and non-government level for the welfare of women. In view of the weak position of women in education, health status, economic participation, legal knowledge of rural women, programs such as women empowerment are conducted in rural areas. The main objective of these programs is to make rural women, especially socially economically backward and disadvantaged women, that she can stand up against social customs and protect her existence. One of these programs is "MGNREGA". In order to make women financially stronger, the government of India has enacted a law to provide 100 days of employment to every family in the under MGNREGA, under which there is a provision to provide 50 percent employment opportunities to women. Most of the women have been benefited through this scheme so that the objective of women empowerment can be fulfilled.

The agriculture sector has an important role to play in growing population and labor force. In such a situation, MGNREGA has proved to be a milestone in the village. Under the MGNREGA, the panchayats have been instructed to provide employment to the unemployed family on non-arable land, fallow land and arable wasteland. So that the unemployment of the village can be eradicated by allocating these lands to women as per rules and for a certain time. Under the MGNREGA, women have been engaged in the development of small irrigation projects in various panchayats so that if the water is collected in the villages then the farming work can be possible. Priority has been given to these works under MGNREGA. Along with this women are also given information about advanced varieties of crops, new techniques of growing vegetable.

**Conclusion :** MGNREGA is an important step towards Creating employment in the villages. Economic and social infrastructure has been developed in rural areas through this law. Due to which people are getting regular employment opportunities. Also it mainly deals with problems like dry forest destruction, land erosion due to which poverty is spreading on a large scale. With the proper implementation of this law, the geographical map of poverty can be changed by employment. Under the MGNREGA, an attempt has been made to make the employment so that people can be saved from the rural of law and do not be exploited.

**Reference :**

<https://rural.nic.in>

[www.india.com](http://www.india.com)

<https://www.gramvikas>

<https://mhrd.gov.in>

<https://navbharattime.indiatimes.com>

<https://www.india.gov.in>

<https://m.economictimes.com>

<https://nrega.nic.in>

<https://rstv.nic.in>

<https://www.drishtias.com>

<https://m-hindi.indiawaterportal.org>