

**UTILITY OF “MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MNREGA)”
IN INDIA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DISTRICT SULTANPUR (U.P.)*****Dr. Veena Upadhyay**

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Abstract

India is an agricultural country where about 74 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture.. Therefore the development of India depends on the development of the village. But there are many problems and challenges in the path of rural development. Rural unemployment is one of their major problems. After independence, the government has started many rural employment and development schemes. Due to various reasons poor people could not take advantage of all the above schemes properly, Indian Parliament passed a revolutionary unique act i.e. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. Its name was changed to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2 October 2009. It aims at preventing migration of rural households in search of employment by developing economic and social infrastructure in rural areas and enhancing the livelihood security of rural people on an ongoing basis.

Keywords: Role of MNREGA in Rural employment.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act i.e. MGNREGA has played an important role in this background of holistic development. There is no denying the fact that MGNREGA has acted as a safety net for rural farmers and landless laborers in times of agrarian crisis and economic slowdown. The current economic slowdown has especially affected the rural areas of the country and has significantly reduced employment opportunities and the demand for work under MGNREGA has suddenly increased, due to which the budget challenge has arisen before the states. . An amount of Rs 60,000 crore was allocated for MNREGA in the proposed budget for the year 2019-20. India is a developing country. 72 percent of India's population lives in villages. Therefore the development of India depends on the development of the village. But there are many problems and challenges in the path of rural development. Rural unemployment is one of their major problems. After independence, the government has started many rural employment and development schemes. The Community Development Scheme was launched on 2 October 1952 for the integrated development of the poor. Twenty Point was started in 1975 to raise the standard of living of the poor people. Food for work program was started in 1978 to provide employment to rural laborers. TRYSEM program was started in 1979 to train rural youth for self-employment. CBT for the development of women and children in rural areas in 1982-83. DWCRA (Development of Women And Children in Rural Area).Development of women and children in Tamil rural area) was started. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was launched on 1 April 1989 to provide employment to rural unemployed youth, which is the largest employment scheme in the world. Received on 15th August 1992 for supply of advanced tool kits to rural artisans living below poverty line.

The program was launched. On 1st April 1999 a new self-employment program was launched known as Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which included all the earlier rural employment and development schemes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, MWS (Million Well Scheme) GKY (Ganga Kalyan) scheme) was merged on 25 September 2001 under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana to provide employment to the poor people. Due to various reasons poor people could not take advantage of all the above schemes properly, Indian Parliament passed a revolutionary unique act i.e. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. The ongoing programs of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the National Food for Work Program (NFFWP) were subsumed within the NREGA. Its name was changed to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2 October 2009. It aims at preventing migration of rural households in search of employment by developing economic and social infrastructure in rural areas and enhancing the livelihood security of rural people on an ongoing basis. In the past, all employment programs in India targeted the poor who were generally identified with the objective of poverty alleviation. MGNREGA is the largest public employment program ever in human history and goes beyond poverty alleviation and recognizes employment as a legal right. This legal commitment is a landmark event in the history of India's poverty alleviation strategies. This is also a unique welfare program in the world, because no country in the world has ever given such a legal right to such a large population. This legal right means that the constraint of a fixed budget allocation will no longer affect the eligibility of an employment attendant. MGNREGA guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to rural households whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work in rural areas. This Act came into force on 2 February 2006 in 200 backward districts of the country. With effect from 1st April 2007 it was expanded to 130 more districts. This Act has been implemented in all remaining 266 districts (except urban districts) with effect from 1st April 2008. It ensures grassroots

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participation of every rural citizen through democratic process, multi-layered transparent social audit, participatory planning, monitoring and implementation at village level etc. MGNREGA is not a welfare program which gives charity. It is a development initiative with significant public investment to create durable productive assets that accelerate the development process, prevent rural-urban migration and empower rural women in backward areas of rural India. It focuses on village level planning of works and mechanism of social audit. The scheme is implemented through a collaborative partnership from the Gram Sabha to the Central Government. This employment guarantee can also serve other purposes such as creating productive assets, protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and promoting social equality. MGNREGA promotes conditions for inclusive growth, from basic wage security and recharging the rural economy to the transformational empowerment process of democracy. The Act is also an important means of decentralizing democracy and strengthening intensive processes by investing in rural areas. To provide an important role to Panchayati Raj Institutions in planning, monitoring and implementation, with its rights-based framework and demand driven approach. The Act also provides for 33% participation of women.

Key features of MGNREGA

Unlike the earlier employment guarantee schemes, under MGNREGA, adult youth from rural families have been given legal right to employment. According to the provision, it is mandatory for one-third of the MGNREGA beneficiaries to be women. Along with this, provision has been made to increase the participation of disabled and single women. Wages under MGNREGA are paid according to the wages specified for agricultural laborers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, unless the central government notifies the wage rate and it cannot be less than Rs.60 per day. As per the provision, employment will be provided to the applicant within 15 days from the date of submission of application or from the day the work is requisitioned. Panchayati Raj Institutions have been made responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of works being done under MGNREGA. Provisions have also been made for basic facilities like drinking water and first aid etc. for all the employees in MNREGA.

The economic burden under MGNREGA is shared by the central and state government. Under this program, funds are spent on three sectors –

1. Wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers
2. Materials required
3. Administrative cost. The central government bears 100% of the cost of unskilled labour, 75% of the cost of semi-skilled and skilled labour, 75% of the cost of materials and 6 per cent of the administrative cost, while the rest of the cost is borne by the state government.

Achievements of MGNREGA

MGNREGA is the world's largest social welfare program which has inspired a positive change in rural labour. As per the data, a total of Rs 3.14 lakh crore was spent in the first 10 years of the programme. The program has certainly succeeded in lifting millions of rural people out of poverty while fulfilling its objective of reducing rural poverty. MNREGA has emerged

as a powerful tool for the empowerment of rural poor women from the point of view of livelihood and social security. According to the data, in the financial year 2015-16, 56 percent of the total employment generated through MGNREGA was for women. According to the data, the number of people working under MGNREGA in the year 2013-14 was 7.95 crores, which decreased to 6.71 crores in the year 2014-15, but after that it increased to 7.21 crores respectively in the year 2015-16, year 2016. 7.65 crore in -17 and 7.76 crore in the year 2018-19. An analysis of age-wise data of persons employed in MGNREGA shows that there has been an increase in the number of workers in the age group of 18-30 years after FY 2017-18. MGNREGA has also helped in the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through the creation of livelihood opportunities. MNREGA was recognized by the World Bank in 2015 as the world's largest public works programme. According to the report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (Chhattisgarh), MGNREGA has played an important role in reducing poverty among the poor and socially weaker sections, such as labourers, tribals, Dalits and small marginal farmers. MNREGA work in the village panchayats of Sultanpur district

Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar are situated on the northern border of Sultanpur district, Barabanki in the northwest, Jaunpur and Azamgarh in the east, Amethi in the west and Pratapgarh in the south. The river Gomti flowing in the district divides the district into two parts from the natural point of view. The Gomtiriver enters this district near the north-west and flows southeast to Jaunpur near Dwarika. Apart from this, there are lakes like GabhadiaNala, MajuiNala, JamurayaNala, and Bhat village Kakarhawa, SobhaMahona etc. The land of the district is mainly Matiyar. Administratively, Sultanpur district has five tehsils – Sadar, Baldi Rai, Jaisinghpur, Kadipur and Lambhuwa and 14 development blocks – Akhand Nagar, Dostpur, Karaodi Kala, Kadipur, Motigarpur, Jaisinghpur, Kurebhar, Pratappur, Kamaicha, Lambhuwa, Bhadaiya, Dhanpatganjpur, There are Kudwar and Baldi Rai and 986 Gram Panchayats. The work of providing employment to the poor in some villages under the MNREGA scheme in Sultanpur district is not satisfactory. Out of 986 grampanchayats of the district, MGNREGA work is going on in only 626 villages. In 360 villages, the workers have to go to the city for employment due to the stoppage of MGNREGA work.

Transparency and accountability to the public and social accounting is an important aspect of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In the context of MNREGA in Sultanpur district, continuous public monitoring of social accounts and checking of registration of families, distribution of job cards, receipt of work requests, issuance of dated receipts, preparation of details of projects, spot identification Ensuring employment of applicants, payment of wages, payment of unemployment allowance, performance of work and maintenance of master role.

Special attention is given to the following ancillary works of employment in the district:-

- Receiving applications of job seekers and verification of applications.
- To do the work of registration after verification.
- Issue of job cards.
- Acceptance of applications from those seeking work in the Panchayat area.

Age wise persons working in MNREGA (Financial Year - 2021-2022)

No.	Gram panchayats	Age wise Employed Person					
		Working Person	Working Person	Working Person	Working Person	Working Person	Working Person
		18.30	31.40	41.50	51.60	61.80	Above 80
1	Ahiri Ferozepur	6.94	52.78	20.83	12.5	6.94	0
2	Alauddinpur	6.25	25.78	19.92	12.11	7.42	0.39
3	Alimuddinpur	3.1	9.58	5.92	5.63	3.66	0
4	Alipore Kanpur	1.9	6.75	10.34	4.64	1.27	0.21
5	Aniruddhapuri	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	sandy	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	BanbahaSirkhinpuri	1.02	9.14	11.9	5.22	3.63	0.29
8	BanagwaDeh:	1.12	4.84	5.46	2.23	0.87	0
9	Baramadpuri	0.97	4.2	3.88	2.48	1.62	0
10	BaroraKhwajapuri	0.1	3.9	2.53	1.85	1.17	0
11	Behra heavy	0.78	3.84	3.57	1.66	0.7	0
12	BelvaiMadhavpuri	4.84	5.06	2.6	1.71	0.45	0
13	bhelra	1.74	2.61	6.72	2.36	2.99	0
14	Bhiura	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Brahmapuri	0.06	1.87	1.4	1.57	1.34	0
16	Dasopuri	0.28	1.02	1.07	0.45	0.34	0.06
17	Dharampur	0.54	1.41	1.57	0.54	0.05	0
18	Dompuri	0.72	1.03	2.21	0.67	0.26	0
19	Faridpur	0.68	1.69	2.51	1.01	0.24	0.05
20	Ghatampur	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Gidhona	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	golahanpara	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	HajipurBiri	0.62	1.83	2.23	1.78	1.25	0
24	Hakimpur	0.44	0.87	0.35	0.13	0	0.04
25	Harpuri	0.08	1.01	2.14	0.38	0.5	0
26	HarthuaBabhanpuri	0.69	0.97	0.97	0.73	0.08	0
27	HasanpurTani	0.31	1.55	1.32	0.54	0.62	0.04
28	jagdishpuri	0.08	0.27	0.38	0.12	0.08	0
29	jagdishpur	0.07	0.86	0.97	0.37	0.07	0
30	JalalpurKaithi	0.15	1.56	0.98	0.15	0.15	0
31	jaunaras	0.38	1.25	1.6	0.91	0.03	0
32	Kalan	0	0.14	0.62	0.24	0.03	0
33	Kalyanpuri	0.67	1.17	1.07	0.47	0.07	0
34	KamiyaBahadurDinpur	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	kanakapuri	0	0.43	0.53	0.07	0.03	0
36	got it done	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Khanpur Pili	0.1	1.19	0.64	0.51	0.19	0.03
38	KundaBhairpuri	0.49	1.23	1.32	0.77	0.22	0
39	Loknathpuri	0.18	0.39	0.73	0.39	0.06	0
40	Lorpuri	0.12	0.33	0.27	0.18	0	0
41	Mehmadpuri	0.06	0.15	0.24	0.21	0.18	0
42	Marui Kishundaspuri	0.17	1.0	1.49	0.63	0.46	0
43	Mussoorie	0.17	0.62	0.59	0.11	0.08	0
44	Mirpur Pratappuri	0.62	0.83	2.04	1.04	0.32	0
45	mishirpurdhakaha	0.08	1.11	1.19	0.78	0.1	0
46	MisirpurJalalpur	0.25	1.23	1.05	0.48	0.13	0
47	Moradabad	0.44	0.66	0.52	0.27	0.32	0
48	city	0.29	0.89	0.67	0.34	0.07	0
49	Narayanpur Art	0.87	1.46	1.41	0.78	0.34	0.02
50	narvari	0.53	1.35	0.75	0.38	0.29	0
51	PaharpurBastipur	0.07	0.65	0.72	0.04	0.02	0
52	Para Basupuri	0.13	0.66	0.64	0.34	0.26	0
53	Pasia Para	0.04	0.17	0.69	0.27	0.08	0
54	Patar Khasi	0.51	0.51	0.78	0.39	0.27	0
55	PatjuPaharpuri	0.12	0.54	0.73	0.16	0.04	0
56	PaudhanRampuri	0.12	0.44	0.44	0.26	0	0
57	pepper strip	0.06	1.08	1.1	0.87	0.17	0.02
58	PrannathpurBachharia	0.11	0.34	0.55	0.17	0.11	0
59	Raipur	0.44	0.19	1.45	0.3	0.17	0
60	Ratanpuri	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	Rupaipuri	0.17	0.15	0.55	0.13	0.04	0
62	Sanghia	0	0	0	0	0	0
63	Sahatpuri	0	0	0	0	0	0
64	sajampur	0.22	0.36	0.42	0.07	0.04	0
65	sansarpur	0.05	0.39	0.45	0.16	0.16	0
66	SaraiyaMubarakpuri	0.09	0.23	0.14	0.05	0.07	0
67	Sarawani	0.04	0.26	0.28	0.28	0.05	0
68	Selhu Para	0.56	0.63	1.87	0.48	0.22	0
69	Tajuddinpur	0.18	1.11	0.94	0.56	0.12	0
70	Tikri	0.18	0.84	0.8	0.76	0.06	0
71	Udri	0	0.46	0.47	0.4	0.21	0
72	Umri	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	Unurukha	0	0.25	0.36	0.25	0.11	0

Workers working in MNREGA and total budget (District Sultanpur U.P.)

Total number of blocks						14
Total No. of Gram Panchayats						986
Total number of job cards issued (in lakhs)						4.72
Total number of workers (in lakhs)						5.95
Total number of active job cards (in lakhs)						2.47
Total number of active workers (in lakhs)						2.92
Scheduled Caste Workers to Active Workers Ratio:						30.06
ST workers against active workers:						0.26
second progress	Financial year	Financial year	Financial year	Financial year	Financial year	
	2021--2022	2020--2021	2019--2020	2018--2019	2017--2018	
Approved Labor Budget (in lakhs)	45.88	80.42	38.88	30.59	27.35	
Persons generated so far (in lakhs)	42.39	71.6	41.06	39.75	32.85	
of total labor:	92.39	89.03	105.61	129.92	120.1	
SC Person Days : In terms of total days	35.32	28.08	23.36	27.92	30.23	
ST Persons as Total Person Days:	0.36	0.2	0.24	0.23	0.18	
Women's Day out of total:	47.69	38.79	39.59	40.23	38.51	
Average days of employment per household	37.06	45.61	50.84	46.09	40.26	
Average wage rate per person per day (Rs.)	203.64	200.79	181.97	174.99	174.97	
Number of people who have completed 100 days of employment	3,185	14,998	2,079	784	484	
Total working families (in lakhs)	1.14	1.57	0.81	0.86	0.82	
Total persons worked (in lakhs)	1.32	1.8	0.9	0.99	0.96	
disabled people worked	175	192	95	120	125	
Third act						
Number of Gram Panchayats with Zero Expenditure	4	0	0	2	1	
Total number of works done (in lakhs)	0.64	0.52	0.32	0.47	0.38	
Number of running tasks (in lakhs)	0.46	0.37	0.14	0.18	0.3	
Number of tasks completed	17,682	14,962	17,597	28,944	7,444	
Of NRM Expenses : (Public \$ Personal)	37.9	60.2	48.49	29.77	36.06	
Category B Functions:	75.22	62.28	68.02	79.14	73	
Expenditure on agriculture and allied activities:	71.83	59.72	61.19	48.49	56.25	
Fourth Financial progress						
Total Expenditure (in lakhs of rupees)	12,419.54	22,162.77	10,500.81	11,974.23	9,143.01	
Wages (Rs. in lakhs)	8,490.07	14,256.85	7,626.4	7,204.82	5,942.23	
Material and Skilled Wages (Rs. in Lakh)	3,849.83	7,748.34	2,071.25	3,828.83	2,728.68	
Content(:)	31.2	35.21	21.36	34.7	31.47	
Total Administrative Expenditure (Rs. in Lakh)	79.63	157.58	803.16	940.58	472.1	
Admin Expenses (:)	0.64	0.71	7.65	7.86	5.16	
Average cost per person per day (in Rs.)	261.71	280.18	189.25	255.4	229.04	
Of the total expenditure through EFMS:	100	99.97	99.87	100	100	
Payment within 15 days:	97.23	98.29	99.66	85.85	53.21	

- Acceptance of applications from those seeking work within the stipulated period.
- Maintenance of mastol for the workers engaged in the work.
- To keep an account of the amount received in the Gram Panchayat.
- To enter in the job card of the workers engaged in the work.
- To organize village meetings.
- Preparation of annual plan of Gram Panchayat areas under the scheme.
- To send the annual action plan to the program officer approved by the Gram Sabha and Panchayat.
- To get wall painting done at the main main places for publicity under the scheme.
- Computation of all types of records under the scheme.
- Ensuring payment within the stipulated period.
- To provide information by depositing the prescribed fee after approval from the competent level.
- Conducting social audit.
- To perform other works which are necessary for the implementation of the plan at the Panchayat level.
- Replacing unsuccessful mates and getting other mates to be trained and trained.

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