

## **Role of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Alleviation of Poverty in Jagannath Prasad Block in Ganjam District of Odisha**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Poverty is the result of economic, social and political phenomenon that interact with each other in way that exacerbate the deprivation in which poor people live. Major assets, in inaccessible market and care job opportunities lock people in abject poverty look. There are large numbers of families who are living below the poverty line. The families living in backward district like Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri have vulnerability to ill health and economy distortion. Natural calamities not only cause untold miseries to physical natural and human assets at the time of occurrence but push the economic development in to the cocoon of backwardness for yes to come. Therefore, the sign of backwardness in the form of individual mortality rate illiteracy, poor health, poverty in accessibility deprivation continue in the state. There are certain tribal districts like Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj who are bate of the poverty. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households and provide the basis of a permanent social security system and even act as an instrument for planned and equitable rural development. The provisions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act will be implemented at the state level through the state Employment Guarantee Council, which will be the nodal agency to monitor and review the implementation of the act at the state level. The Panchayats at the districts, intermediaries and village levels shall be the principle authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes, under the Act.

**Key Words :** Poverty, MGNREGS, Livelihood security

### **INTRODUCTION**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was approved by the Indian Parliament in September 2005. This Act started functioning from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. It was launched in a remote village Bandlapalli in Anantpur District in Andhra Pradesh. In this first phase the NREGS was implemented in 200 most backward districts and 130 more districts were included in second phase from April, 2007. Although it was aimed in NREGA that the scheme shall cover all the districts in next five year however government of India made it possible to implement the scheme across rural India in its third phase (w.e.f. April,

2008). The coverage was extended to all rural districts of the country in 2008-09 where 619 districts were covered under the NREGS. It is flagship rural development programme that provides legal guarantee of 100 days of unskilled wage employment to one adult member of any rural work. The central government will increase the number of workdays under the rural job guarantee scheme from 100 to 150 in drought-affected areas, said sources. MGNREGA promises 100 days of work every year to rural households across the country. On second October 2009 the scheme is renamed in the name of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and is now called Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The scheme is a

strategic attempt to fight poverty and unemployment, which are intrinsically interlinked. In Orissa, the programme is being implemented in 19 districts including the three improvised districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput known as India's hunger. Poverty alleviation is a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian, that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty. Poverty alleviation also involves improving the living conditions of people who are already poor. The Oxford Dictionary defines poverty as the state of being extremely poor wherein one lacks the basic human needs such as food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter, health care and education.

**Salient features of the act:**

**Right based Framework:**

For adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.

**Time bound Guarantee:**

15 days for provision of employment, else unemployment Allowance.

Upto 100 days in a financial year per household, depending on the actual demand.

**Labour intensive works:**

60:40 wage and material ratio for permissible works; no contractors/machinery.

**Decentralized planning:**

- Gram Sabhas to recommend works
- At least 50% of works by Gram Panchayats for execution
- Principal role of PRIs in planning, monitoring and implementation.

**Work site facilities :**

Crèche, drinking water, first aid and shade provided at worksites

**Women empowerment:**

At least one-third of beneficiaries should be women.

**Transparency and accountability:**

Proactive disclosure through Social Audits, Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

**Implementation:**

Under Sec 3, States are responsible for providing

work in accordance with the Scheme. Under Sec 4, every state government is required to make a scheme for providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year, to those who demand work.

**Funding:**

- Central Government -100% of wages for unskilled manual work, 75% of material cost of the schemes including payment of wages to skilled and semi skilled workers.

- State Government- 25% of material including payment of wages to skilled and semi skilled workers cost. 100% of unemployment allowance by state government.

**Non negotiable :**

- Only Job Card holders to be employed for MGNREGA works.

- To provide employment within 15 days of application.

- No contractor.

- Task to be performed by using manual labour & not machines.

- Muster rolls to be maintained on work sites.

- Proactive disclosure of information..

- Wage payments to be through accounts in banks/ post offices.

- Wage material ratio- 60:40.

- At least 50% of the works in terms of cost under a Scheme to be implemented.

- through GPs.

**Objective of the study:**

1. The objective is to make a survey on demographic profile.
2. To review the implementation of MGNREGS.
3. To evaluate the economic benefits derived by the beneficiaries.
4. To assess the level of economic security enjoyed by the poor families involved in MGNREGS work.
5. To motivate and to create awareness among rural people to enter into the scheme and to improve people's participation and also to maximize work opportunities.

**Scope of the study:**

The scope of the study is confined to Jagannath Prasad Block in the District of Ganjam. The area taken

of the study is where National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme work is in progress. The people involved in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes are taken as source of information to the study of the subject.

### **Review of literature:**

Jean Drezeb (2009) from his survey in Khunt District of Jharkhand State revealed that the delays in MGNREGS wage payments were not just operational hurdles and they reflect a deliberate attack on the scheme. Further, the delays in the wage payment were not confined to the banking system. Very often, it takes more than 15 days for "payment orders" to be issued to the banks by the implementing agencies (for example, the Gram Panchayat). Thus, there were lapses outside the banking system too.

Pranab Mukherjee (2010), The Finance Minister of India, identifying the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as a major initiative to directly address chronic poverty and unemployment in rural India, pointed out that, the success of this programme has helped in mitigating the adverse impact of the crises. Further, he maintained that the momentum in rural economy has helped a relatively quick recovery of growth in the country. We need to replicate the successful models in other areas also to eliminate the stigma of having the highest number of poor people in our country.

Martin Ravallion (2012) has discussed the corruption index of Bhalla. Bhalla has defined poor as those households with consumption per person (as measured in the National Sample Survey for 2009-10) below the Tendulkar poverty lines produced by the planning commission. Consumption is highly needed for economic welfare of the country. It is seen that families having relatively high consumption rate are less likely to work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in low wages. They think, that will lower their income. But one of such family needs help from the scheme.

Dr Hanudra Raj Gautam and Dr MC Bharduraj (2013) has given emphasis on strengthening Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It reports that it is the largest and most ambitious social security public work programme in the world. It is the boon for the rural people to strengthening the economic condition. More farming activities should be brought to the ambit of the scheme for betterment of the farmers.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Area of the study:**

The area of the study is confined to Jagannath Prasad block in the district of Ganjam (Odisha). The block is situated north-east part of the district. Out of 22 blocks in the Ganjam district. Jagannath Prasad block has its unique features. Area of the block is 146.334 sq.Miles. The block has the population of 131,326. There are 65,975 of male population and 65,351 female population. There are 30,706 households in the block.

### **Samples of the study :**

Sampling in the section of some part of aggregate quality on the basis of which adjustment on inference about the aggregate is made. It is the process of eliciting information about an entire number of beneficiaries by examining only a part of their sample which is drawn from 100 beneficiaries out of which 40 male and 60 female of a block who are involved in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The study is being done personally through schedule questionnaires method the researcher has collected information from the beneficiaries.

### **Tools and technique :**

A research requires many tools and techniques for gathering data which may vary in their complexity and design. A questionnaire has been developed with care after referring to different related research studies such as background information of beneficiaries, level of poverty, problem involved in the implementation of the scheme, drawback of the scheme etc.

### **Data analysis:**

Prior to collection of data, B.D.O., Jagannath Prasad was contacted for data collection. The purpose and method of study has been explained to the B.D.O. vividly. The samples were taken from both male and female beneficiaries. The time taken to complete the questionnaires was about one hour per sample. The schedule was prepared in English and researcher translated the contents of the questionnaires into Oriya language for better understanding of the respondents. Analysis of data has been done by using statistical measures like percentage.

### **Implication of the study :**

The study implies that the gradual decrease of gap among the poor and rich. The level of poverty will be

determined through the study. It may also be helpful for social, economic, educational development of the people. It is an awareness of generation factor. There is a wide scope for cooperation of all section of people involved in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme work. Improvement of rural connectivity leads to development of every work of life. It lessens the gender discrimination in the working field. It encourages the people involved in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for savings mentality. Development of agriculture is also a result of successful implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme work for construction of new pond and renovation of old tanks. Social and economic security is derived out of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Data analysis is the most important step in any research. It leads the researchers to arrive at the results as required in the study. It is the means to derive valuable conclusion.

This paper is devoted to find out the socio-economic background of the respondents and their socio economics development through NREGS under study. More over an attempt is made to throw light on the socio cultural and economic characteristics such as age, sex, qualification, improvement of the respondents, awareness of beneficiaries.

The Table 1 signifies that 30% respondents belong to the 18-30, all groups 50% respondents coming under the age group of 31-45 yrs and 20% respondents belong to age group of above 46 yrs. Its clearly indicates that 50% respondents belong to age group of 31-45 yrs. From this table it is cleared that 31-45 age group have positive response towards the MGNREG Scheme.

**Table 1 : Age groups of the respondents**

Sr. No.	Age	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	18-30	30	30
2.	31-45	50	50
3.	45 to above	20	20
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

Table 2 reveals view of sample about beneficiaries belongs to the sex group. The 40% number of respondents belonged to male category and 60% number of worker belonged to female category. It clearly speaks that female participants have positive response towards the MGNREG Scheme.

**Table 2 : Household respondents to gender category**

Sr. No.	Sex	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	40	40
2.	Female	60	60
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

Table 3 reflects the Cast, Educational qualification, Land holder and BPL holders. The 45% respondents belong to SC community, 20% belong to ST community, 26% belong to OBC category and 9% belong to other category.

Similarly Education is concerned 50% belongs to illiterate, 10% having lower primary education, 25% belongs to upper primary level, 10% are having high school level and 5% respondents having higher secondary level.

When we think of landed property 35% respondents are having 0-1 acre of landed property, 15% respondents having land property of 2-3 acres, 40% respondents having land property of 4-5 acres and 10% respondents

**Table 3 : Distribution of Job card holder according to Caste, Religion, Educational qualification, Land holder and BPL card holder**

Sr. No	Particular	SC	ST	OBC	Other	
		45	20	26	9	
2	Educational qualification	Illiterate	Lower primary	Upper primary	High School	Higher secondary
		50	10	25	10	5
3	Land Holder	0-1 acre	2-3 acre	4-5 acre	Landless	
		35	15	10	40	
4	BPL Card Holder	BPL card holder	Non-BPL card holder			
		70	30			

Source : Primary data

are landless.

Also 70% of respondents are having BPL cards and 30% respondents are having without BPL cards.

Above table clearly reflect that SC populace which stands 45% of total respondents has positive response towards the Scheme. More Illiterate people are also involved in this programme than the higher educated population.

More number of respondents are sole participants in this scheme then those having BPL cards.

Table 4 reflects the different source of income generated by the respondents. Regarding source of income 21% of samples express that their source of income is crop. Similarly 17% of samples said that their main sources of income are sheep and goat. Where in 16% of sample mainly depend on milch animal for their income. The 13% numbers of samples have the opinion that they solely depended on Petty trade for their livelihood. There were 20% numbers of samples who depend on agricultural labour, for their square of meal in a day. Table shows 13% respondents main source of income is from non agriculture labour. The table clearly indicates that 21% of respondents source of income derived from crops.

**Table 4 : Sources of income of beneficiaries**

Sr. No.	Particular	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Crop	21	21
2.	Sheep and goat	17	17
3.	Milch animals	16	16
4.	Petty trade	13	13
5.	Agriculture labour	20	20
6.	Non-Agriculture labour	13	13
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

The Table 5 reveals the views of beneficiaries about the facilities provided at the working place. The 36% numbers of people know that there was the provision for first aid. The 24% people know that drinking water facilities were mandatory at the working place. The availabilities of crèches were also known by 24% of workers, provision of shade for the worker at the working places were in the knowledge of 16% number of worker. It is cleared from the above table that 36% respondents working places in have been provided with first aid facilities.

**Table 5 : Mandatory facilities at work site**

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	First aid	36	36
2.	Drinking water	24	24
3.	Crèche	24	24
4.	Shade	16	16
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

Table 6 discloses the awareness about the functioning of NREGS. The 13% of people were aware of the entitlements under NREGS. 14% of samples know the maximum number of days for guaranteed employment under NREGS. Only 11% of respondents had the knowledge regarding the provision of unemployment allowances. 14% of beneficiaries had the knowledge regarding the wages to be paid if work is given beyond 5 k.m. from their village. The 13% number of respondents knows the time limit for providing job after submission of application. Similarly there is the time limit for payment of wages which is known by 14% of samples. The historic act that is Right to information Act 2005 is known by 15% number of respondents. Important aspect of social audit is understood by 11% of respondents. Above table clearly shows that maximum respondents that is 15% are having the knowledge of RTI.

Table 7 reveals that there was changed in 14% of respondents in their food habit. The 16% respondents have improved housing pattern. There was changed in clothing amongst the 13% of respondents. Improvement of housing amenities was noticed in 15% of respondents. There was improvement in children’s education of the beneficiaries which was marked 14%. The 13% respondents have improvement in their financial condition. There was 15% of respondents have acquired some knowledge after engaged in the NREGS work. Above table clears that respondents have their improvement has been noticed in construction of their houses.

Table 8 reveals the type of works under taken during the time from 2010 to 2018.136 Projects like Water harvesting and Water conservation have been taken up during the above period out of which 78 have been completed and 58 is still going on. There were 51 Anganwadi/ Other Rural Infrastructure taken up out of which 6 were completed and 45 are going on. 615 no. of Drought proofing projects, 225 are completed and 390 are going on. One irrigation Canal taken up and is going

Sr. No.	Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Aware of entitlement under NREGA	13	13
2.	Maximum number of days guaranteed employment	13	13
3.	Unemployment allowance	11	11
4.	Wages to be paid if work is given beyond 5 k.m.	12	12
5.	Time limit for providing employment after submission of application	13	13
6.	Time limit for payment for wages	12	12
7.	Aware about Right to information act	15	15
8.	Aware of social audit	11	11
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

Sr. No.	Particular	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Food habit	14	14
2.	Housing	16	16
3.	Clothing	13	13
4.	Housing amenities	15	15
5.	Children's education	14	14
6.	Financial condition	13	13
7.	Change in knowledge	15	15
	Total	100	100

Source : Primary data

Sr. No.	Types of Work	Total Project	On going work	Complete work	% of work achievement
1.	Water conservation and Water harvesting	136	58	78	57
2.	Anganwadi/ Other Rural Infrastructure	51	45	6	12
3.	Drought proofing	615	390	225	37
4.	Irrigation canal	1	1	0	0
5.	Renovation of traditional water bodies	283	108	175	62
6.	Works on lands of SC/ST/BPL/SMF/IAY& land reform	1937	1172	765	39
7.	Rural connectivity	808	319	487	61
8.	Other(BNRGSK)	25	1	24	96

Source : Secondary data

on new. Out of 283 Renovation of traditional water bodies, 175 have been completed and 108 are going on. Total 1937 Projects under Land Reform of SC/ST/BPL/SMF/IAY taken up out of which 765 are completed and 1172 are going on. In Rural connectivity sector projects 808 have been taken up and 487 completed leaving 319 is ongoing stage. 25 BNRGSK (Bharat Nirmal Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kenrda) have been taken up and 24 nos have been completed. From the field verification of the projects it reveals that almost all the on going projects have been physically completed.

**Summary:**

The main aim and objective of the MGNREGS programme is to socio-economic and political development of the vulnerable people of the rural India but still now involment in the scheme are of age group 31-45 yrs. Though it has promised to 100 days of job guarantee to the every households. Also female participate are more than the male participates though it has no restriction on gender. It indicates the empowerment of women. The SC category people are very much inclined towards the scheme. Illiterate are positive

response towards the MGNREGS .BPL card holders have positive response towards the programme than Non-BPL card holders.

The source of income generated by the respondents mainly depend on crop only and facilities provided in the working place is First aid.

Regarding awareness of beneficiaries in the programme shows that maximum respondents have awareness about RTI Act.

### Conclusion :

In the present study it was found that the economic status of the people was improved due to their involvement in the MGNREGS work. Observation depicted that the people were very much industrious and their economy solely depend on agriculture. Education has not flourished in the locality for which majority respondents were illiterate fellows. The women education is in dismal condition, superstition and blind believe still prevails in the rural area. The Jagannath Prasad block is thickly populated but women participate out numbered their male counter parts in the MGNREGS work. People in this block area preferred to live nuclear family. Implementation of MGNREGS work in this block has lifted the BPL families to the APL families. People gathered information about MGNREGS from source like campaign door to door survey and Panchayat Raj Institution. Many facilities were provided in the working place. Gram Panchayat plays a vital role for successful implementation of the programme. As it is a poverty eradication programme poor people should come forward to work to in the scheme and fruit of MGNREGS should reach the knock and corner of the country.

### Suggestion:

- Widely publicity of NREGS is required to educate the people regarding provision of MGNREGS.
- Care should be taken for safe guard the interest of the farmers.
- NREGS should be purposefully implemented to achieved the goal and objective.
- Procurement of job cards by the job seeker should be ensured.
- Payment should be made at the working place to avoid delay in getting their wages.

- Distribution of Rs. 2 a k.g. rice programme should be confined to the age old and disabled person so that work culture will be improved.

- Half yearly review should be conducted whether actual interested people were getting job or not.

- Construction of bridges, building, and concrete road should be included under the preview of NREGS.

- Regular health camp is essential to check the health condition of the worker.

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