

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN  
KARNATAKA THROUGH MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL  
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT**

**Dr. G. M. Dinesh**

Associate Professor of Economics, Government First Grade College, Mayakonda, Karnataka.

**Dr. Komala**

Assistant Professor of Economics, Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Law, Bangalore,  
Karnataka.

**Dr. Jagannatha**

Associate Professor of Economic, Government First Grade College, Tiptur, Karnataka.

**ABSTRACT**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Government of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments. This Paper discusses the key developments in the agricultural sector in India is a country where most of workers depend on the informal sector for their livelihood people have to leave their home district to work and work elsewhere, and due to improper working conditions, many uncertainties have to be faced. These migrants live in the slums of the city also which people are not able to migrate from one place to another place. They depend on meager assets and have limited their expenses to a great extent. MGNREGA, started in 2005 by the government of India, is trying to solve the problem of migration by providing the means of employment in its own place, under 100 days of employment benefits of rural population.

**Keywords:** MGNREGA, Rural Development, Economic empowerment

**I. INTRODUCTION**

“Only through empowerment of women the nation become strong. We have to start dreaming today about the success of our nation. We are born with such capacity and we will fulfil it.” - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Rural Development and Rural Unemployment has been a major problem of India since independence. In the last nearly 6 decades, many schemes and programs have ben launched from time to time by the central and state government with the intention of crating new employment opportunities in the villages and to alleviate poverty.

The MGNREGA creating sustainable assets in rural areas and strengthening the livelihood resource base of rural poverty is an important objective of the scheme. The MGNREGA scheme help in building all kinds of assets in rural areas. Promoters' 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 out as an engine of rural development. Due to this, development works and construction 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 decentralisation due to the important role of panchayat state institutions in running it and thus strengthening the roots of democracy and transparency.

## **II. OBJECTIVE OF THE ACT**

The objective of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

## **III. MGNREGA GOALS**

- Strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment source, when other employment alternatives are scarce or inadequate
- Growth engine for sustainable development of an agricultural economy. Through the process of providing employment on works that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. Effectively implemented, MGNREGA has the potential to transform the geography of poverty
- Empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a rights-based Law
- New ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy Thus, MGNREGA fosters conditions for inclusive growth ranging from basic wage security and recharging rural economy to a transformative empowerment process of democracy

## **IV. SCHEME COVERAGE**

The Act was notified in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006 and then extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008 (113 districts were notified with effect from April 1st 2007, and 17 districts in UP were notified with effect from May 15th 2007). The remaining districts have been notified under the NREGA with effect from April 1, 2008. Thus NREGA covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population.

## **V. METHODOLOGY**

In order to realize the set of objectives on MGNREGA in Karnataka. The data required for the present study was collected through pre – tested sources; the primary data were collected through schedule methods. And the secondary data was collected through published and unpublished records from the PRIs, reports from government of Karnataka and from the department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), MGNREGA report etc.,.

A sample of 340 women were selected for the present study through random sampling technique and the data were collected by interviewing 340 respondents from the selected villages using a detailed interview schedule across the selected districts from Bangalore Rural district and Tumkur district of Karnataka. From both the districts, two taluks were selected and from each taluk, four villages were selected. The data gathered through primary investigation were analysed by using appropriate statistical methods like mean, correlation, regression, chi-square test, ANOVA etc. to validate the hypothesis.

**Table: Rotated Component Matrix**

**Rotated Component Matrix**

	Components				
	1	2	3	4	5
Do you have any role in family decision making after joining scheme	.804				
Whether your general Knowledge has increased after joining the scheme	.742				
Whether you have joined any SHGs after joining the scheme	.599				
After joining the scheme, whether your Leadership quality as increased in SHGs	.512				
Whether economic and socio status have increased	.502				
After joining the scheme whether your daily routine has changed					
Is there any changes in income level after joining the scheme		.714			
Have you purchased any property after joining the scheme		.670			
Whether household expenditure has increased after joining the scheme		.588			
Is there any changes in activities under MGNREGA		.573			
	Components				
	1	2	3	4	5
Whether Purchasing ability of independently has increased		.548			
What is your position in the society after joining the scheme			.791		
Whether you got any power in your family after joining the scheme			.704		
I have involved in decision making of family			.601		
I have participated in setting my Childers future				.811	
I got opportunity to access the information about politics and SHGs				.700	

I got opportunity to suggest in purchase of durable items				.631	
Nature of work changed after joining the scheme					.757

**In Factor 1.** The variables related to role in family decision making after joining scheme.

- Respondents decision making in their family after joining the scheme
- Encouragement for women decision
- Encouragement for women ideas
- Respondents' knowledge about decision in their family.

Are grouped together and a latent variable called scheme has created environment so that respondents take a decision in their family matters.

In factor 2. Respondents general Knowledge has increased after joining the scheme

- Respondents awareness of SHG's group benefits has increased
- Political participation in grama panchayath has increased
- Awareness of equal wages knowledge has increased
- Awareness about government scheme and its benefits

Have been grouped to create a latent variable called general knowledge of respondent.

In factor 3. After joining MGNREGA respondent's participation in SHG's

- Awareness of SHG's among women created
- Group decision capacity has increased in women
- Respondents political ideas have been created
- Women's savings percentage has increased

Have been grouped together as a latent variable called awareness of SHG's

In Factor 4. Respondents Economic and Socio Status Has increased after joining MGNREGA

- Women's income has increased from the scheme
- Women's expenditure capacity has increased
- Respondents social status has increased
- Respondents respect has increased in family and society.

Have been grouped together as a latent variable called respondents socio and economic status has increased

In Factor 5. Changes in income level of the respondents after joining the scheme

- Respondents income level has changed
- Respondents independent purchasing capacity has increased
- Women's savings has increased
- Women economic foundation has become strong.

Have been grouped together as a latent variable called respondents economic and socio status has increased

In Factor 6. Respondents purchasing ability of independently has increased after joining MGNREGA

- Respondents employment days has increased
  - Women's income percentage has increased
  - Women's awareness on income has created
  - Women's purchasing capacity independently has increased after joining the scheme
- Have been grouped together as a latent variable called respondents economic and socio status has increased

Hence, the factors influencing Women empowerment through MGNREGA have been grouped into seven variables

Group 1- Awareness of Women Group 2 – Economic conditions Group 3 – Economic and socio status Group 4 – Participation in SHG's Group 5 – General knowledge Group 6 – Expenditure pattern

#### **Group 7 – Awareness of family decision**

The table clearly gives the picture of depicts that after joining the scheme, respondent's expenditure on food and non-food changed significantly or substantially. Thus, respondents are empowered by joining MGNREGA.

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 in 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 his 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 realizing employment right.

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.

## VI. LIMITATIONS

The present study is subject to following limitations. Firstly, the time and resources allotted to this study was not sufficient. The sample size could be extended for a closer to universe result for which more resources (money and people) are required. The study is mainly dependent on the findings based on the respondent's responses, because there is a dearth of women problems and social factors in Karnataka. As the present study has considered only the current practices and benefits gained by the women of the selected districts of Karnataka, the results of the study would be more applicable to only selected geographical location of the state.

## Reference

1. <https://rural.nic.in> [www.india.com](http://www.india.com) <https://www.gramvikas> <https://mhrd.gov.in>

2. <https://m.economictimes.com> <https://nrega.nic.in> <https://rstv.nic.in>
3. Mrs. SeemaGotwal Research scholar - 1. Dr.Jatin Yadav 2. Dr. Anil Upadhyay Research supervisor, Department of commerce, Bhagwant university Ajmer. 2020 JETIR July 2020, Volume 7, Issue 7 [www.jetir.org](http://www.jetir.org) (ISSN-2349-5162) JETIR2007354 Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR) [www.jetir.org](http://www.jetir.org) 444 Role of MGNREGA in rural development.
4. SpanditaKar (2000): “Empowerment of Women through MGNREGA: Issues and Challenges”.