

# Role of Panchayet Raj Institution in Rural Development for the Implementing MGNREGA: A Study of Gazole Block in Malda District of West Bengal in India

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## ABSTRACT

Panchayet Raj Institutions (PRI) is very important for the rural development, especially National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. Indian government have introduced number of rural development schemes which can help those rural people in improving their standard of living. Panchayet Raj Institution have been involve to development on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health, and allied sector, increase of income of rural households, the quality of life and socio economic well being of people different postulated area. In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increase participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralisation of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit of envisaged'. In India, 70% people belong in rural livelihood where in this study area 96.6% people live in rural counterparts. The worker must be allocated work within 7-15 days after the application. Otherwise the panchayet will provide daily unemployment wage. This unemployment wage will bear the statistical government. So I want to discuss that the impact of MGNREGA for the rural development at my study area.

*"Almost half of the population of the world lives in rural regions and mostly in a state of poverty. Such inequalities in human development have been one of the primary reasons for unrest and, in some parts of the world, even violence"*

- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

## 1. Introduction

The Government of India have formulated many programmes for Rural Development after independence particularly from 1947. The mass poverty in rural areas is the unique characteristic feature of Indian economy. Sixty-eight per cent of the present population live in rural areas. Government of India have introduced number of rural development schemes which can help those rural people in improving their standard of living. The programmes launched by the Government of India are as follows:

Community Development Programme (CDP) (1952), Intensive Agricultural Development Programme (IADP) (1961), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) (1962), Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP) (1962), High Yielding Variety of Seeds Programme (HYVP) (1966-67), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) (1970-71), Command Area Development Programme (CADP) (1974), Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA) (1970), Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Landless Development Agency (MFALDA) (1970), Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) (1974), Desert Development Programme (DDP) (1977), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) (1980), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) (1986), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) (1989) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1980) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (1999). National Rural Employment Guarantee Act made in September 2005, which was later

known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) are playing an important role in rural development in India, particularly during the 73rd amendment act in 1992 of the constitution of India. Panchayet Raj Institution have been involve to development on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health, and allied sector, increase of income of rural households, the quality of life and socio economic well being of people different postulated area. The term 'rural development' is the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. And it is a process leading to a sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people especially the poor (Ramesh, 2012). The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aim at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. According to Ministry of Rural Development (Govt. of India), 'Rural Development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increase participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralisation of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit of envisaged'. (Ministry-of-Rural-Development). In India, 70% people belong in rural livelihood where in this study area 96.6% people live in rural counterparts. They are mostly depending on agricultural field. The total marginal workers are 28.2% among the agricultural labourer that is marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months, and there were male marginal worker 30.06% and female marginal worker 69.94% according to Census of India 2011. The worker must be allocated work within 7-15 days after the application. Otherwise the panchayet will provide daily

unemployment wage. This unemployment wage will bear the statistical government. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is obviously important step of the central government for the rural development, particularly eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, under the Ministry of Rural Development. In an effort to made inclusive and overall development a reality through this scheme.

## 2. MGNREGA: The Historical Perspective

Mahatma Gandhi said 'I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj (i.e. self-rule/freedom) for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?' Source: Mahatma Gandhi [Last Phase, Vol. II (1958), P. 65]

On 1st April 1989, to coverage employment propagation, infrastructure development in rural areas, with the food security by the different scheme such as National Rural Employment Programme(NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme(RLEGP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana(JRY) of the central government. The most significant change was the decentralisation of implementation by involving local people through the panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

On 2nd October 1993, Prime minister P.V Narasimha Rao to provide employment to agricultural hands by the Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS) during the agricultural season, Rao had started discussion on this act in 1991 when the PRIs was reinforced with the local self government at the district level, later EAS was merged with Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana(SGRY) in 2001.

On 1 April 1999, the JRY was revamped and renamed to Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with a similar objective. The role of PRIs was further reinforced with the local self-government at the village level called the 'Village Panchayet' as the sole implementing authority. In 2001, it was merged with SGRY. (<http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/rural-poverty-alleviation-1/ministry-of-rural-development>)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, is being considered as a 'Silver Bullet' for the development. The act has come into force with effect from February, 2006 in 200 districts initially and later on, it was extended to all the rural districts of India from the financial year 2008-2009.(Panda & Majumder, 2013).

## 3. MGNREGA in West Bengal

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides legal guarantee for 100 days works for every financial year to adult member of any rural area, who are willing to do unskilled manual work at a minimum wage. MGNREGA first launched in 25th August 2005 by the government of India (GOI). But it finally launched in West

Bengal in February 2006. It is very important to rural people of West Bengal because approximately above 27% of state's population in West Bengal is below the poverty line. In West Bengal Panchayet, and Rural Development is responsible for the implementing the programme. It has implemented in 10 district of West Bengal (Bankura, Birbhum, Maldah, Purulia, N.Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, S. 24 Pargona, paschim Medinipur). Following this 10 district 7 more district has implemented in second phase (Purba Medinipur, Hoogly, Burdwan, Nadia, N. 24 Pargona, Coochbihar, and Darjeeling). Howrah is the least joined in this chart on 1st April 2008.

## 4. Aims of MGNREGA

The government of India launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) to following major aim.....

- a. To enhance the status of socio-economic condition of rural people.
- b. To increase the woman empowerment on economically.
- c. It aims to any house hold is entitled to 100 days employment at a financial year.
- d. Protecting the environment.
- e. To decrease the rural migration activities for the work purpose.
- f. It aims to develop the rural areas.
- g. To create strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups.

## 5. Salient feature of MGNREGA

Salient feature of the act is summarizing below.....

- a. Labourers may apply the unskilled for employment.
- b. The willing person has to apply for registration to the local panchayet in written.
- c. After the verification of the application, the gram panchayet will provide a job card to the household with the photograph. The job card is providing free of cost.
- d. After provide the job card, the Gram Panchayet will issue a date for the employment.
- e. The employment will give within 15 days of applications.
- f. If employment will not provide within 15 days, the Gram Panchayet will provide daily unemployment allowance, and this allowance will bear state government.
- g. The employment will provide within 5 km to the household, otherwise the Gram Panchayet will provide the 10% of extra wage.
- h. The work side facilities, such as drinking water, medicine have to provide.

## 6. Objectives of MGNREGA in the study area

The main focus on the Panchayet Raj Institutions (PRIs) level is.....

- I. To find out the progress of MGNREGA scheme in various Gram Panchayet or the Panchayet Raj Institutions (PRIs) of Gazole Block.
- II. To understand the impact of MGNREGA scheme on socio-economic status of various Panchayet Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Gazole Block.
- III. To highlight the implementation status of MGNREGA on Gram Panchayet level.

### 7. Implementation Status of MGNREGA on Panchayet Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Gazole block of Malda district

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA, 2005) is a government scheme. This is launched by the Indian government for the socio-economic growth of rural people. The National Rural Guarantee Act was passed by the parliament in 2005, and came into force on 2nd February, 2006. It was renamed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in October. The scheme had been initiated by the government of India for raising the productive employment of unemployment and under employed rural labourers. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) aim to enhance the status of all unskilled manual workers in rural areas.

Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, mal-nourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.

Starting from 200 districts, the coverage of NREGA was increased to all the rural districts in the country. However, despite coming out of a countrywide struggle for enactment of EGA, the performance of the NREGA varies a lot across the states.

The major question raises how to implement the Act, which can give justice to the poor for whom the act was designed. To a certain extent, the effective implementation is consequent upon greater awareness and participation of

beneficiaries and PRIs, since they have a greater role to play according to the Act. However, technicalities apart, effective implementation of the Act is also conditional on the effort of the state governments in ensuring effective implementation of the Act by doing away with the contractor system, simplifying the implementation design and above all, the political will to ensure its successful implementation.

One of the major objectives of the scheme is the improvement of the income levels and enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every registered household.

### 8. About The Study Area: on MGNREGA Perspectives

The initial 200 districts chosen for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) were the backward districts of this country. Malda District in west Bengal was selected for the implementation of such programme at its 1st phase. We have chosen a backward block named Gazole of Malda district. Extensive poverty is a major feature of this block. The socio economic determinatives are generally below the state as well as the district average. The literacy rate is lower than the state average. Also, the proportion of SC population in most of these areas is higher than in other areas. According to 2011 Census, the percentage of literacy population in Gazole block was 63.07 as against the state level 74.04; where live in SC population 37.4% and ST population 19.9%.

**MGNREGA daily job cards issue table on Gazole Block**

State : WEST BENGAL District : MALDAH Block : GAZOLE	As on 30-03-2018
Total No. of GPs	15
Job Card	
Total No. of Job Cards issued	47,983
Total No. of Workers	1,15,957
Total No. of Active Job Cards	38,393
Total No. of Active Workers	64,847
SC worker against active workers[%]	35.32
ST worker against active workers[%]	13.97

Source: [nrega.nic.in/netnrega/homestciti.aspx?](http://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/homestciti.aspx?) Retrived Date: 30.3.2018.

**MGNREGS daily status as per e-muster issued as on 30/06/2018**

State: WEST BENGAL District: MALDAH Block: GAZOLE

Select Executing Department: All

SNo.	Panchayet	Total No. Of Gps	No. Of Gps where works in progress	Unskilled Labour engaged	No. Of Ongoing Works on which MR Issued	No. Of Workers without UID
1	ALAL	1	1	209	22	28
2	BABUPUR	1	1	691	40	45
3	BAIRGACHHI-I	1	1	215	26	30
4	BAIRGACHHI-II	1	1	82	23	19
5	CHAKNAGAR	1	1	274	37	18
6	DEOTALA	1	1	256	12	23
7	GAZOLE-I	1	1	44	1	12
8	GAZOLE-II	1	1	56	3	3

9	KARKACH	1	1	60	60	22
10	MAJHRA	1	1	98	13	7
11	PANDUA	1	1	645	45	18
12	RANIGANJ-I	1	1	113	5	20
13	RANIGANJ-II	1	1	10	1	2
14	SAHAJADPUR	1	1	297	14	11
15	SALAIIDANGA	1	1	331	15	50
	Total	15	15	3381	317	308

Source: mnregaweb4.nic.in, Retrieved Date: 30/06/2018.

## 9. Observation of the study area

Through the MGNREGA, the security of 100 days of rural people was ensured through the security of people. Infact the central government took this decision for rural development and it also works. But there is considerable disagreement about how much benefit the rural people. MGNREGA scheme any politician can do any work before doing so such as excavation of road repair, pond mining and playground filling to the soil etc. But the political leaders are planning to use themselves or their Aryans to dig their own ponds, as a result people more benefited than rural over all development, making them powerful, and what is the government's plan to develop the development of political leader to rural development. We saw the amazing thing , for 2015-16 financial year social audit, many MGNREGA scheme's work in Pandua gram panchayet areas in Gazole block an about 90% of the pond mining scheme Pandua Gram Panchayet representative have given themselves all relative of people closed themselves as a result instead rural development political representative personally benefited. Where MGNREGA scheme aims to track different way by the political representative. MGNREGA tree plantation take pass the scheme by representative and themselves all relatives named. Misuse this scheme by the political leaders. Incase all the expenditure in this scheme fall under MGNREGS by the job card holder. As a result, benefited to the political representative. In 2015-16 financial year, Nasirsa Gram at Pandua Gram Panchayet pond mining work few these work but sadly, local poor families could not join the pond excavation because no job card of this village peoples. As a result, did not enjoy of MGNREGS benefit but yet most people are scheduled tribe in this village where member of panchayet is scheduled tribe.

On the other hand, Salaidanga Gram Panchayet under the Gazole block raises the different image in MGNREGS perspectives, Such as pond mining, road repair, playground filling of soil etc. Job card holder members, heisted to work on government scheme saying they do not have the guarantee amount of money. As a result, card holders were found to be discouraged by the MGNREGA, especially pond excavation and road repair. By utilising this opportunity, the contractor has emerged on the basis of several contract agreement in that village panchayet. Those who are working on certain job card holders, who do not hold job card holders doing in this scheme, work with fixed wages. These contractors, who do not have a job card, go to the villages and apply their job cards, and create of that job card, using their job card for 100 days of their own interest and some of the honourable jobs given to the job cards holder are unknown to any gram panchayet members. As a result, the members of gram panchayet and the contractor

work through these compromises and the panchayet corrupts work or decision becomes the powerful benefit other than the overall development village through these schemes. It is a matter of secret that political representatives and gram panchayet NREGS employees and contractor along with their low work. So the government was thinking about the idea of rural development but how much was implemented through this project.

## 10. Best state in rural employment

Good news for the government before the panchayet election in West Bengal, 2018 that the state became the most effective state in India in respect to the rural employment programmes. Rural employment through 100 days project has been the first in our country of West Bengal, exalted Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banarjee, She said in the social media – until last 31st March 2018, in West Bengal, 30.98 crores rural employment has been created in the state, which is the highest in the whole of India. In the last financial year, the state has spent 8007.56 crore in this sector. She claimed the cost became highest in all over India. In comparison to other big states of India, the state of West Bengal provides 59 days work per family in the state. The opposition however, is reluctant to accept this demand. The CPIM has already filed a complaint for 100 days in connection with the corruption of the Panchayet Raj. The CPIM alleged that many peoples and families of the village are not getting jobs despite having a job cards (Sambad Uttarbanga, 12 April, 2018).

## 11. Conclusion

In view of the above discussion, it can be said that there is a question about how successful the implementation of rural development and 100 days of rural poor people is implemented. There are many problems arising in implementing this scheme and corruption has spread to 100 days of work. Whose main achievement is to deprive the rural poor people and the gradual development of rural development? For 100 days work through panchayet, panchayet members and contractors and gram panchayet members of gram panchayet are implementing the work. None of their sugarcane is considered to be completely selfless in their own personal initiative; it is always increasing personal interest to see the overall interest. As a result, the work of 100 days of the people of rural areas is not guaranteed, and the socio-economic development of the village and where it is not going to be right. Those who are involved with MGNREGA scheme and who pass on to know and implement this schemes, they are mainly obstructing this work, as much as less work can be done in any scheme, instead of showing the full amount of money in the government account. The

development of the development of this eruption blooms. In order to implement the rural development, the government's responsibility for this scheme has been increased to the panchayet, increasing the inexhaustible growth. The infrastructure of the rural people is not being developed, social aspects of education in the field of health. However, due to this, by the work of rural people, the government is spending money for the development of the village through specific

remuneration so that the villages become self-reliant. This is one of the great steps of the government, through which the rural aid regime will become democratic and with its benefits, the rural people will enjoy it. Finally, it can be said that through this MGNREGA, the villages will be able to gradually become self-reliant. It is expected that one day it will certainly be implemented.

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