

**APPRAISAL OF MANREGA IN THE RURAL AREAS OF MUZAFFARPUR
DISTRICT**



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M.Phil., Roll No. 140516, Session: 2014-15

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ABSTRACT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is regarded as a "Silver Bullet" for the elimination of rural poverty and unemployment since it creates a demand for productive labour force in rural areas. It provides an alternative means of subsistence, which has the potential to reduce migration, limit the employment of children, alleviate poverty, and enable rural communities to become self-sufficient through the development of productive assets, such as the building of roads, the cleaning of water tanks, and the preservation of soil and water, among other things. These benefits have the potential to reduce migration, limit the employment of children, alleviate poverty, and enable rural communities to become self-sufficient. As a consequence of this, it has been referred to as the anti-poverty project that is the most comprehensive in the entirety of the entire world. However, the success of this Act is dependent on it being implemented in the suitable manner in order for it to be successful. As a result, the objective of this research is to carry out an in-depth examination of the steps involved in the execution of this programme as well as the effects that the programme has had on the means of subsistence utilised by tribal communities. To be more specific, the question that will be investigated is to what extent the MGNREGS has done justice in sustaining the livelihoods of low-income tribal communities in a panchayat that is dominated

by tribal people in the district of Muzaffarpur in the state of Bihar. This panchayat is located in the Muzaffarpur region of Bihar.

keywords: Rural, Areas, Manrega

INTRODUCTION

By creating a demand for productive labour force in rural areas, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is regarded as a "Silver Bullet" for the elimination of rural poverty and unemployment. The number of people living in poverty and without work in India's rural areas has increased at an alarming rate over the past several decades. Illiteracy, blind faith, people going hungry, malnourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration as a result of inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts are all on the rise. There is also a growing incidence of starvation deaths. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was adopted in 2005 by the Government of India (GOI) in order to create a solution to these difficulties and to offer rural people who are jobless with security for their means of subsistence. It was begun with an initial investment of Rs. 11,300 crore in the year 2006-07, and as of today, the total cost of the programme is Rs. 40,000 crore. It is the largest poverty alleviation initiative in the world (2010-11). This Act is currently known as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Adult members of each rural family are eligible to receive a legal guarantee of employment for a total of one hundred days during each fiscal year if they are willing to perform unskilled manual labour linked to public projects at the statutory minimum pay. This guarantee is provided under the Act. As a result, it is a programme for everyone. This minimum salary varies from state to state; while it is Rs. 80 in some states, it is Rs. 125 or Rs. 120 in others. Some states even have a higher minimum wage than others. The Act stipulates that the minimum wage cannot be set at a level lower than Rs. 60. Because the agricultural season is only expected to last around about 250 days and unskilled people have no alternative source of income during the other parts of the year, the number of 100 days of employment was projected.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. Having an understanding of the process through which MGNREGA is being implemented in the study village.

2. Gaining an understanding of how MGNREGA would affect the way of life in indigenous communities

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to the findings of Pattanaik's (2009) research on NREGA in the Hoshiarpur District of Punjab, 25.56 percent and 40.00 percent of the district's young belonged to the age category of less than 30 years old and between 31 and 40 years old, respectively. Young people were thus the group that benefited the most from the plan.

In their research on the NREGP-Facet of inclusive growth in the Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, Rajanna and Ramesh (2009) found that 39 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 30 and 40 years old, while 35 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 20 and 30 years old, and the remaining respondents were in the age group of 40 to 50 years old. This indicates that the bulk of the responses are under the age of forty years old.

According to the findings of a study that was conducted by Sankari and Murgan (2009) on the effects of the NREGA in the Udangudi Panchayat union in Tamil Nadu, forty percent of the beneficiaries were in the age range of 26 to 35 years old.

According to a study conducted by Maulik (2009) in the Barbanki district of Uttar Pradesh, more than half of the homes that had enrolled for NREGA belonged to a scheduled caste. The percentage of houses belonging to other communities and tribes was 40.04 percent and 3.11 percent respectively.

According to Rajanna and Ramesh's (2009) findings, this was the case in the Karimnagar area of Andhra Pradesh. 51.60 percent of those who participated in the NREGA were from communities considered to be of a backward class, 46.60 percent of those who participated were from the SC category, and the remaining participants were from ST and other groups.

According to the findings of Jadhav (2008), there is no discrimination in terms of caste or gender when it comes to offering labour. However, according to the findings of a field study conducted in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, there are situations in which people from higher castes are given the opportunity to work on sites with softer soil, while those from lower castes are assigned sites with more difficult soil. This occurs during the process of allocating work. In their study of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the Aizwal district of Mizoram, Joseph and Easwaran (2006) found that the majority of respondents were

between the ages of 40 and 60 years old. This was followed by 30.77 percent of respondents who were younger than 40 years old and 15.38 percent of respondents who were older than 60 years old. It was determined that the average age of the members was 48 years.

Shah (1989) came to the conclusion that among the beneficiaries, people from scheduled castes made up 40 percent, people from scheduled tribes made up 18 percent, and women made up 20 percent. There were landless labourers filling up to 46.0 percent of the jobs that were created.

According to Hirway (2008)'s findings, the NREGA programme was responsible for the creation of more than half a million productive assets during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The majority of these assets were water and soil conservation structures.

Dreze and Jean (2004) came to the conclusion that very high expectations are placed on the results of the Act in terms of protecting rural households from poverty and hunger, reducing rural-urban migration, increasing opportunities of employment for rural women, creating useful assets in rural areas, changing power equations in rural areas, and activating and empowering Panchayat Raj institutions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the process of doing research, methodology is an important factor to consider. This chapter discusses the research design, the methods and procedures used, and how they relate to the goals of the study. It defines the complete technique and procedure that was followed in selecting the site, sample, and statistical procedures that were used to get at results and conclusions. It describes the full method and procedure. In addition to assisting with the formulation of the research questions, it also directs the adoption of scientific technique in order to answer the research study. This research provides an evaluation of the current situation of the MNREGA programme in the state of Bihar, with a case study focusing on the Patna area. The following components make up the research technique used in this study:

RESEARCH DESIGN

Because it is predicated on a number of hypotheses that need to be verified, the approach used to research for this thesis takes a more conclusive rather than exploratory approach. Its primary function is descriptive, and it includes an in-depth analysis of the terms and circumstances that apply to the programme at hand. In the context of this descriptive research, a single cross sectional study has been chosen to gather the sample at a single point in time rather than over

a prolonged period of time. The qualitative research approach was utilised to collect data for the purpose of conducting an interactive, in-depth, and textual investigation of the sample issue.

SAMPLING

In most cases, conclusive study designs will enable probability sampling, which means that every participant will have an equal and same chance of being included in the sample. The probability sampling approach is also the sampling method that has been selected for this study. Additionally, the random sampling method has been adopted to support the validity of the findings. Another advantage of using random sampling is that it ensures compliance with the law of statistical regularity. This law asserts that if the sample selected is, on average, a random one, then the sample will have the same composition and characteristics as the universe. Random sampling provides this assurance. As a result, there is a potential reduction in sample mistakes. For the sake of this thesis, the district has been segmented into four zones; from each zone, two blocks are chosen at random, and then, using the lottery technique, eight villages are chosen for data collection. Following the selection of the area responders, a second random selection is conducted using an excel sheet.

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULT

Agriculture is the key element that influences the unemployment rate in rural regions; at the present time, around 64 percent of the overall labour force is employed in the agricultural industry. A significant factor that has led to a faster-than-average growth in the number of marginal and small farmers is the law of inheritance. Because of this, the number of rural areas in India that are impacted by hidden or partial unemployment has been expanding at a rapid rate. This is a direct effect of the situation described above. The majority of the industry's small and marginal farmers, as well as agricultural labour, have become almost unemployable as a direct result of the rapid implementation of recent technological advancements in the agricultural sector, such as the tractorization or mechanisation of farming. This is due to the fact that these innovations have been rapidly implemented. The amount of time spent working on a farm each year normally falls between between one and two months and is proportionate to the scale of the activity. These droughts, together with the failure of the monsoon and other natural calamities, have played a part in driving these farmers to remain unemployed and inactive for the balance of the season. Because of the rising unemployment rate among them, it is quite possible that they will be found to be living in poverty, which would put them either below or close to the federal poverty line. This will be the outcome of the widespread and

expanding nature of their poverty. The great majority of young people and adults who are not now employed and do not have employment have some degree of education in prosperous nations. Even among young educated people and within the country at the regional level (for example, in rural regions), the unemployment situation in India varies greatly depending on the characteristics of the location. For example, rural regions have a significantly higher unemployment rate than urban regions. In metropolitan areas, a disproportionate number of college-educated young people are among the unemployed, but in rural areas, unemployment is more subtle. The unemployment rate in rural regions is appallingly high, despite the fact that these areas are home to around 65 percent of the population. Following the country's attainment of its independence, the Indian government has devised a variety of distinct programmes with the goal of doing away with poverty and unemployment. On the other side, the government of India has undertaken a number of various plans, policies, and programmes in attempt to tackle the very significant issue of widespread poverty and the lack of employment opportunities. However, there has been no research conducted on the effect, nor has there been any research conducted on how the effect might affect individuals on the ground. The current study looks on the impacts of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which is widely recognised as the most effective programme for both earning income and creating wage jobs (MGNREGA.) The primary objective of this programme is to generate additional and supplementary wage employment in order to improve the dietary habits of people living in rural areas and make certain that there is an adequate supply of food. The establishment of sustainable community, social, and economic assets, in addition to the growth of infrastructure in rural areas, is the secondary objective of this effort. The provision of job opportunities is the fundamental objective of the programme, and it has been designed to be targeted in nature, with a particular emphasis on giving paid employment to women, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes in rural areas of India.

Table 1 Respondents View Towards Gram Panchayats

Gram Panchayat play their role well	Jhajjar		Mahendergarh		Total
	Dehkora	Chhudani	Rajawas	Digrota	
Yes	80 (78.43)	80 (59.26)	76 (91.57)	71 (78.89)	307 (74.88)
No	-	07 (05.19)	03 (03.61)	05 (05.55)	15 (03.66)

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Total	102 (100)	135(100)	83 (100)	90 (100)	410 (100)
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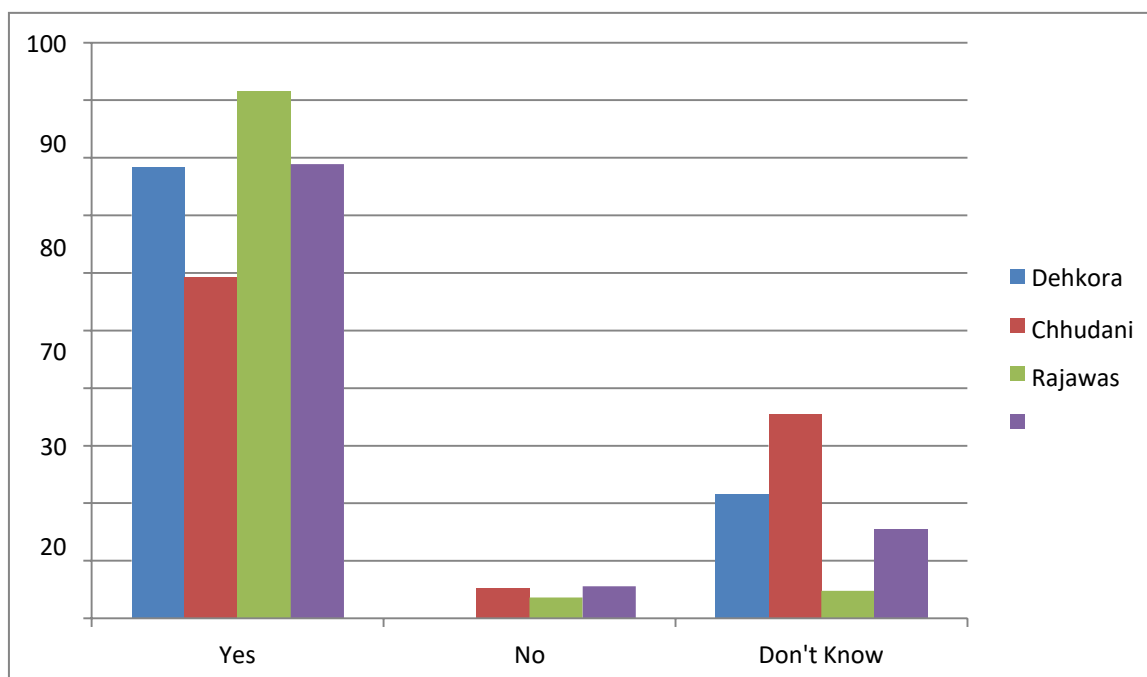


Figure 1 Respondent's Views About The Gram Panchayat's Role.

In Table 1, you can see how the Respondents are broken up in terms of the opinions they have on the Gram Panchayat. What exactly does it bring to the table in terms of making the MGNREGA programme a resounding success? The other 3.66 percent of respondents stated that they did not think the Gram Panchayat did a good job of performing their responsibilities in the MGNREGA implementation. A total of 74.88 percent of respondents said that the Gram Panchayat does a good job of playing their role in the implementation of MGNREGA works. Another 21.46 percent of respondents refused to answer about the Gram Panchayat's role, claiming that they were unaware of what it entailed, and 21.46 percent of respondents refused to answer about the Gram Panchayat's role.

An analysis of the data categorised by district reveals that 78.43 percent of respondents originated from the village of Dehkora, 59.26 percent of respondents originated from the village of Chhudani in the district of Jhajjar, and 5.9 percent of respondents originated from the village of Rajawas in the district of Mahendergarh. Among respondents from the village Digrota, 91.57 percent and 78.89 percent indicated that the Gram Panchayat does their part well in the execution of MGNREGA works, but among respondents from the villages Dehkora, Chhudani, and Rajawas, 21.57 percent and 35.55 percent said the same thing. 4.82 percent of respondents, including 15.56 percent of respondents originating from the town of Digrota,

declined to answer any questions about the function of the Gram Panchayat, indicating that they were uninformed of the existence of the organisation. In the village of Digrota, respondents at the rate of 03.61 percent and 05.55 percent claimed that the Gram Panchayat did not do a good job of playing their part in the execution of MGNREGA activities. The village of Chhudani is located in the district of Jhajjar. The remainder of the respondents were from the village of Rajawas, which is located in the district of Mahendergarh.

Table 2 Classification Of The Respondents According To Employment Availability In A Year

Employment available in a year	Jhajjar		Mahendergarh		Total
	Dehkora	Chhudani	Rajawas	Digrota	
Below 20 days	02 (1.96)	06 (04.44)	01 (01.20)	-	09 (02.20)
21- 40 days	13 (12.75)	23 (17.04)	04 (04.82)	13 (14.45)	53 (12.93)
41- 60 days	12 (11.76)	24 (17.78)	51 (30.13)	12 (13.33)	73 (17.80)
61- 80 days	50 (49.02)	48 (35.56)	28 (33.73)	49 (54.44)	175 (42.68)
81- 100 days	22 (21.57)	32 (23.70)	24 (28.92)	14 (15.56)	92 (22.44)
Above 100 days	03 (02.94)	02 (01.48)	01 (01.20)	02 (02.22)	08 (01.95)
Total	102 (100)	135 (100)	83 (100)	90 (100)	410 (100)

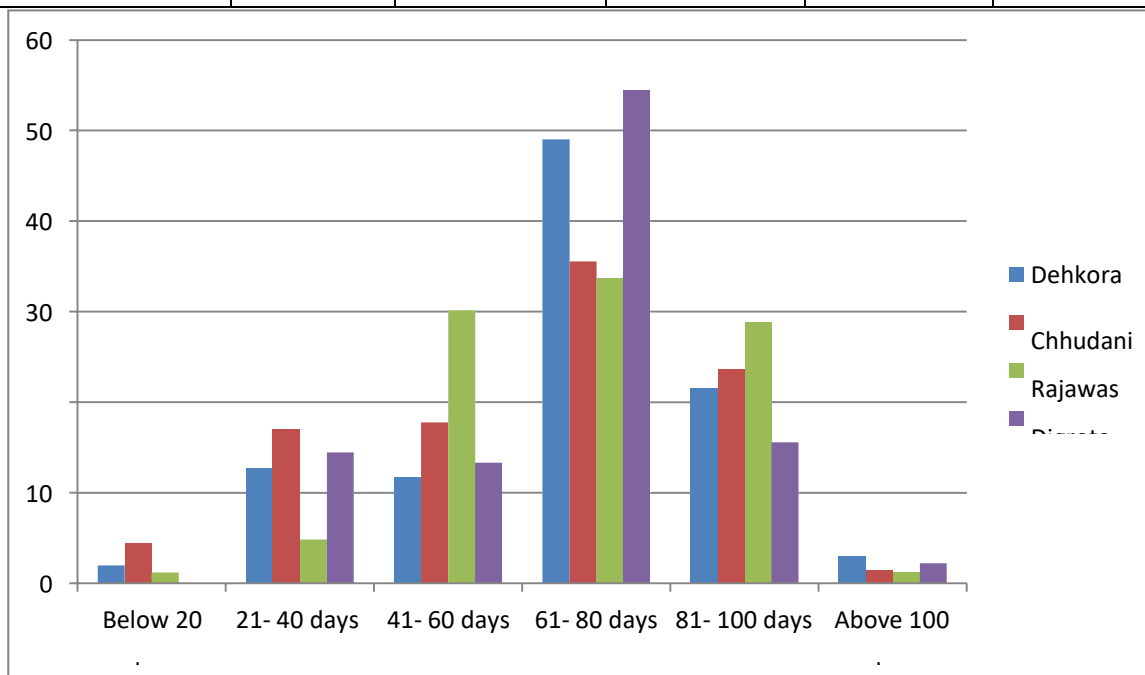


Figure 2 Availability Of Work In A Year

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the respondents into several groups based on the employment opportunities that were currently available during the survey year. The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA served as the inspiration for this categorization. 42.68 percent of respondents earned their living from MGNREGA for 61-80 days, while 22.44 percent of respondents received work under MGNREGA for 81-100 days in a year. In all, the MGNREGA programme was in operation for a total of 100 days. And out of the entire sample, 01.95 percent of respondents not only completed their 100 days of labour under MGNREGA in a financial year, but they also worked a few days over than 100 days, roughly 104 days in total. 02.20 percent of respondents worked under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA up to 20 days, 12.93 percent of respondents were employed under MGNREGA 21-40 days, 17.80 percent of respondents got employment under MGNREGA for 41-60 days, and 02.20 percent of respondents. With this, the total number of days worked under the MGNREGA programme has reached around 104. According to the analysis that was done district by district, 1.96 percent of respondents came from the village of Dehkora in the district of Jhajjar, while 4.44 percent of respondents came from the village of Chhudani in the district of Jhajjar. 1.96 percent of respondents, on the other hand, came from the village of Rajawas in the district of Mahendgarh. One tenth of one percent of participants in the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme were successful in earning enough money to support themselves for up to twenty days apiece. In addition, 12.75 percent of respondents originated from the village of Digrota, 17.04 percent originated from the village of Chhudani, 4.82 percent originated from the village of Rajawas, and 12.75 percent originated from the village of Dehkora. 14.45 percent of people who filled out the survey had worked for MGNREGA for a length of time ranging from 21 to 40 days.

In addition, 11.76 percent of respondents from the village of Dehkora, 17.78 percent of respondents from the village of Chhudani, 30.13 percent of respondents from the village of Rajawas, and 13.33 percent of respondents from the village of Digrota were employed for 41-60 days under the MGNREGA programme. The respondents who had been working for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for 61-80 days were from the villages of Dehkora (49.02 percent), Chhudani (35.56 percent), Rajawas (33.73 percent), and Digrota (54.44 percent), respectively, according to the district-wise figures. Additionally, 15.56 percent of respondents from the village of Digrota, 21.57 percent of respondents from the village of Dehkora, 23.70 percent of respondents from the village of Chhudani, and 28.92 percent of respondents from the village of Rajawas had participated in MGNREGA employment for 81-100 days. In addition, among

the persons who responded, there were eight individuals from each of the four villages who were counted as having worked for MGNREGA for more than one hundred days. MGNREGA hired 02.94 percent of those people hailing from the village of Dehkora, 01.48 percent of those people hailing from the village of Chhudani, 01.20 percent of those hailing from the village of Rajawas, and 02.20 percent of those hailing from the village of Digrota.

Table 3 Distribution Of The Respondents According To Their Satisfaction Level Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Satisfaction level	Jhajjar		Mahendergarh		Total
	Dehkora	Chhudani	Rajawas	Digrota	
Satisfied	98 (96.08)	106 (88.52)	46 (55.42)	79 (87.78)	329 (80.25)
Partially Satisfied	04 (03.92)	26 (19.26)	37(44.58)	11 (12.22)	78 (19.02)
Not satisfied	-	03 (02.22)	-	-	03 (0.73)
Total	102 (100)	135(100)	83 (100)	90 (100)	410 (100)

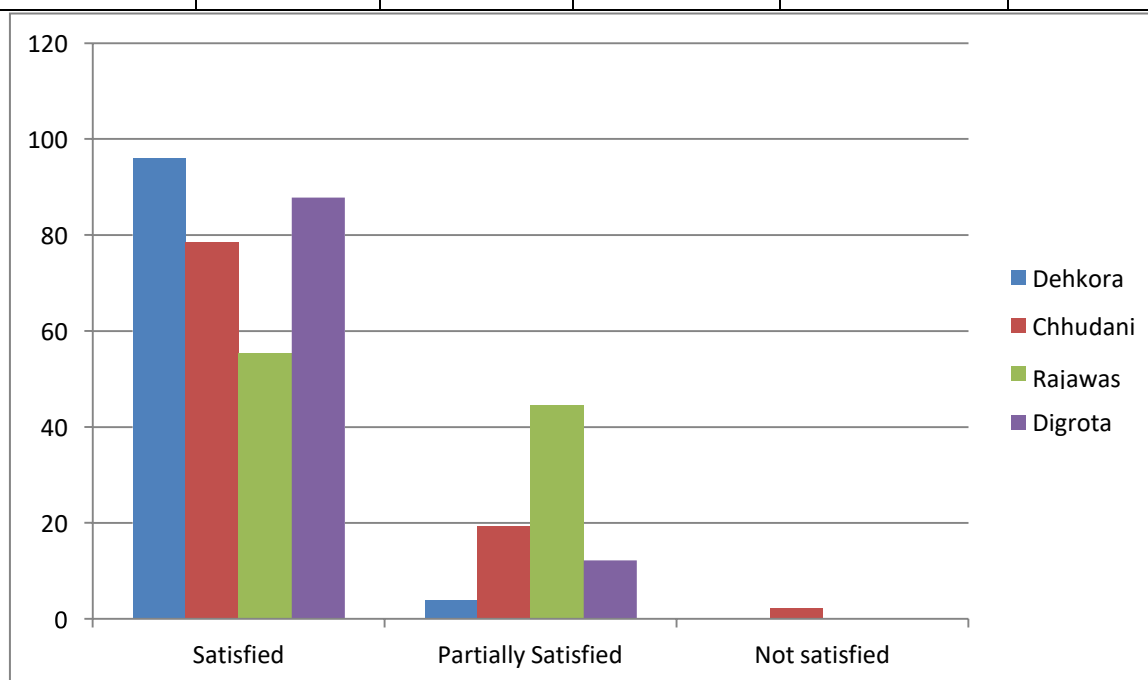


Figure 3 Distribution Of The Respondents According To Their Satisfaction Level

CONCLUSION

MNREGA has the potential to eliminate poverty in Bihar through the revenues from work, but there are also a number of particular performance concerns that prevent that promise from

being realised in reality. The findings demonstrate that there are gaps in the plan and that there is a significant need for further work on the project; yet, the administrative statistics do not show that there is this additional demand. The rationing system is in any case beneficial to the poor, and low-income families are participating in the programme; but, middle-class and affluent families are also sharing in the benefits of the programme. There is a significant discrepancy between the pay that employees actually report receiving and the wages that they are intended to get according to the plan for those individuals who do engage in the programme. Administrative documents on wage disbursements shed light on a discrepancy that is comparable to this one. There have also been some obvious achievements, particularly in certain districts and states. It is already clear from field reports that there has been some improvement in the consumption of the poor, a reduction in distress migration, and slight increases in lean season wage rates (especially for women) in the regions where the programme has functioned successfully. Additionally, there has been a slight increase in the number of jobs available to women.

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