



## AN EVALUATION OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT IN THE JHALAWAR DISTRICT RAJASTHAN

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**ABSTRACT** The paper tries to critically analyze MGNREGA scheme in the Jhalawar district. It tries to identify the problems and challenges dealing with the scheme in the region and also coming up with suitable prospects as a solution. The paper tries to examine the implementation and effectiveness of MGNREGS in providing rural support in various forms, through the case study method it also deals with major findings from field study and observation. Followed by conclusion where it analyses the outcome of field study and also attempts to provide suggestion in the form of policy recommendation.

### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION:-

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). This flagship program was enacted by the Government of India as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in September, 2005. This social welfare programme is primarily intended to enhance the livelihood securities of the people in rural areas by supplementing wage employment opportunities to the unskilled labor force. The programme is in force with the intention that it would act as a strong safety net for the poor in the wake of lack of alternative employment opportunities. In an attempt to ensure the rural economy to grow, the scheme is expected to regenerate the rural natural resource base for sustainable livelihood by carrying out soil and water conservation activities. What is considered most crucial is the empowerment of the poor through the provision of a rights-based law. The other key attributes of this scheme are time bound guarantee, labour-intensive work, decentralized participatory planning, women's empowerment, work site facilities and above all, transparency and accountability through the provision of social audits and right to information. The payment of wages through bank and post office accounts is another innovative step that is likely to reduce fudging of the muster rolls on the part of the implementing agencies since the actual payments are beyond their reach.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To provide 100% wage rate by achieving 100% task though quality works.
- To create useful Water Conservation Assets, to create Model Work-Culture under the project.
- To strengthen the village level governance of biomass and water resources by village communities, including involvement of Panchayats in addressing Natural Resource Management.

To assist communities in effectively integrating agriculture and natural resources management and in regulating the demand for biomass and water through rules, regulations and mechanisms evolved by community institutions at village and inter village levels.

- Strengthen the inter-linkages between different production systems and productivity enhancement through appropriate intervention thus improving the cash flows in the village economy.
- To assist individual farmers through appropriate soil and water conservation measures to improve water availability for agriculture, livestock improvement and thereby, improving agricultural productivity. To increase the availability of biomass through re-vegetation of the common lands and increased availability of surface and ground water through soil and moisture conservation and retention measures.

#### Project Area

##### Geography and Terrain:

The watershed area lies at the edge of Malwa plateau, an area of low hills and shallow plain. The hills of area are covered with grayish brown to dark grayish brown clay loam to clay soils. Plains are having fertile rich black cotton soil, some places Black cotton soil mix with rocky outcrops.

The area has fairly dry climate. The average annual rainfall is 1044.7 mm, maximum and minimum temperature in the district ranges between 47° C. to 3° C. respectively. Monsoon season starts from Mid-June and lasts till around September. The post-monsoon period i.e.

September end to October month experiences again a rise in temperature. Winter extends from November to February. Summer has its peak during the month of May.

The project area comprises of three blocks of Jhalarpatan, Pirawa and Bakani of Jhalawar District of Rajasthan State. The project covers 21 villages of 7 Gram Panchayats benefits. The geographical area under the project is uneven with varying slopes and exposed barren hilly terrain in between.

#### Socio-Economic conditions & Demographic features:

The economic condition of the people in the watershed area is poor as data revealed in the given table that 21.92 percent households belong to SC/ST families in the area. The main sources of livelihood are agriculture and livestock and for some families labor is primary livelihood source. annual crop production is highly fluctuating between low and high depending on the rain fall during that year. Farmers who have water sources and investment capacity are growing horticulture crops.

#### Rational of the project:

The Gram Panchayat has a pivotal role in the implementation of MGNREGS. It is responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 50 per cent of the works and monitoring the implementation of the Scheme at the village level. Therefore, it is imperative to build capacities of institutions responsible for local self-governance so that they can effectively and efficiently plan and execute the work without undermining quality. Certain enabling provisions in the Act call for the involvement of NGOs and mature community based organizations like SHGs in the implementation of the physical work under MGNREGS. Interested private sector companies can sponsor reputed NGOs/CBOs for the implementation of plans under NREGS. Such a strategic collaboration under NREGS will not only provide managerial support to the overall plans of government.

#### Project goal:

To improve livelihoods of the community through implementation of watershed development project and enhance agriculture production in the region

#### Outcomes

- The project started with IIRD in June, 2010 during sixth year of the project following outcomes achieved
- 25 Farm ponds were constructed for vulnerable families.
- 5 Percolation Tanks constructed at Maroomkheri, Nayapura, Vajindpura, Semlikalan & Gadiya villages.
- Continuous Contour Trench dug on 44 Ha pasture land to protect area from erosion.
- 18 Ha field demos demonstrated in Kharif and Rabi season benefitting 525 farmers.
- 20,000 Bamboo plants were planted on 400 Ha farmers land to protect area from erosion.
- Land Leveling works done in 9 Individual Beneficiaries' fields at Jhumki, Soyla & Parasali.
- 9 Vermi Compost Beds constructed at Jhumki, Soyla & Parasali.
- 15 Cattle Sheds constructed at Jhumki, Parasali & Soyla & 2 New Customer Hiring Centers commenced at Shyampura & Dubliya.
- 5 New Water User Groups created with 51 beneficiaries.

- 7 New women FFS formed at 7 villages with 175 female student farmers.
- 10 Animal health camps were organized benefitting 416 cattles of 10 villages.
- Farmer Field Day celebrated in to 5 villages.& Savlon Hand Wash Day celebrated at 15 project area villages.
- Classmate Drawing Competition organized in 38 Primary and Middle School at all project villages around 3020 students participated.
- 120 new Women Self Help Groups made with 1,211 women participants in different villages.
- 20 capacity building training organized on institutional development, technical aspect, book keeping, awareness, FFS Ugs including 691 total number of participants.
- 28 CRISIL Module trainings conducted for Ultra Poor Women Self Help Group members.
- A loan of Rs. 15 lac disbursed to 11 Women Self Help Groups of different villages.
- 1,315 rural marginal to small farming families benefitted by the project.
- 40,490 person days employment generate

**Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited to inspect the activities done under Watershed Management and awarded with best managed watershed award**

### CONCLUSION

As Seventh year of the project is completed in the project, water harvesting, soil conservation and pasture land development activities are done. By doing such activities water table in the area is raised and some fodder availability increased though pasture development works. As MGNREGA is scheme for providing employment to rural residents. There is still need to work with small land holding farmers for optimum income per unit of the land and also need to provide livelihood/employment to land less labor. Initially project aim was to provide employment to poor and unemployed labor now we realize instead of increasing labor we need to focus on women initiate for skill employment and empowerment (WISEE) for whole watershed development.

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