

Study of Social and Economic Progress of Rural Women Under MANREGA, With Special Reference to Dhar District

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Abstract

The notification of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was issued on 7 September 2005. The main objective of this act is to provide guaranteed employment of at least 100 days in a financial year to such rural families whose adult members want to do unskilled manual work. In which the person residing at the last end can also ensure his active and creative participation in the main stream of development of the nation by endowing sovereignty.

In the present paper, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, it is based on the study of three villages of Dhar Janpad Panchayat, Berchha, Lebar and Sadalpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. In which an important effort has been made to know how helpful and successful Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is proving to be successful in the social and economic progress of rural women. Efforts have been made to know also.

Keywords: Social; Economic; Rural Women; Manrega.

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Introduction

India being a country of villages, better development of villages is the all round development of India. Therefore, if India is to develop, first of all it is very important to emphasize on the development of women in villages along with education, health, housing, roads, drinking water, irrigation, transport, etc. If this development work is done then only we can expect change in the society. Therefore, in order to bring these necessary changes, the Panchayati Raj system has been implemented in the country in the present time.¹

In fact, after the independence of the country, many efforts have been made in the direction of democratic decentralization. In which the

most important effort is the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. Through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, where decentralized institutions have been given a legal form on the one hand, on the other hand, such appropriate provisions were made, so that it can function as an independent unit of self government and as the third level of government. By removing the problems, they can be included in the main stream of development. Because in reality, gradual development is a basic requirement for the existence of any society or class, which gives rise to competition between any social unit and leads the mutual society to the complex society. At present, the weaker section in India is progressing at a slow pace, whose social, economic, and educational status is very backward. To improve their condition, many schemes of the government have proved to be effective, but even today many problems of the weaker sections are still standing in front of our country as a big challenge. Due to which many basic conditions of weaker sections cannot be called very good.²

In a developing country like India, where the condition of women has already been bad and

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pathetic and even in the present time, the condition of women cannot be said to be very good, with the aim of improving that situation, a scheme like MNREGA has been implemented. Rural women face many problems together like exploitation, poverty, unemployment etc. This scheme is an important and worthwhile initiative to deal with all such problems. Through which the path of empowerment of rural women can be further improved.³

Area of Study

The present research paper is based on the study of three villages Berchha, Lebar and Sadalpur of Dhar Janpad Panchayat of Madhya Pradesh state.

Overall Study

Families receiving benefits under the scheme through objective selection method in selected Gram Panchayat of Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Unit of Study

Individual women beneficiaries and families have been included under employment guarantee.

Demonstration

To fulfill the purpose of research, rural women from 75 beneficiary families have been included on the basis of sampling method.

Method of Data Collection

Primary Compilation

Important information was obtained from the respondents through interview, schedule, observation and group discussion.

Secondary Compilation

Important books, magazines, newspapers, website of MNREGA, government records etc.

Evaluation of Data

A provision has been made in the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 that the meeting of Gram Panchayat must be organized at least once in every month. Therefore, in order to complete the research work, an attempt was made to get information about the social and economic benefits of the respondents under MNREGA which is as follows-

The percentage of women earning less than Rs 2500 under MNREGA is 34.67. And the percentage of women earning more than Rs 2500 is 21.56. According to the data received, the percentage of women who got less than thirty days of employment is 34.67 and the percentage of women who got more than thirty days of employment is 21.56. About 55.31 percent of women say that migration due to unemployment has come down. At the same time, 32 percent of women believe that help has been received under MGNREGA in fighting the disease. 59 percent of women say that they keep their wages with themselves, 26 percent of women say that they have got help in paying off debt and 64.02 percent of women feel that they have got help in sending their children to school. 41 percent of women believe that they have to face problems at the place of work. And 75 percent of the women believe or say that the wages received are very less, there should be an increase in it. The same 13 percent women did not express their opinion.

Therefore, on the basis of a suitable discussion, it can be said that in the present time, the participation of women through employment has not been behind men in playing an important role in the progress of society and the country.

At present, rural women are self-dependent as well as walking shoulder to shoulder with the male class.⁴

There are two sides to every coin, this is also true in MNREGA, in the implementation of which many problems are being faced such as - mistreatment of women at the place of work, exploitation, delay in providing wages, negative behavior, Promotion of nepotism etc.⁵

The main reason for all these problems with women is the lack of awareness among them. At the same time, rural women are also unable to face these conditions due to being backward educationally, socially, and economically. In view of all these problems, the government has made policies from time to time to improve the social status of rural women as well as for their development and to increase the participation of women employment.⁶

In order to give the desired impetus to the overall development of women and children, the Department of Human Resource Development was formed in 1985, which has been given the status of an independent ministry in 2006. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, as the main agency overseeing the development of women, prepares plans, policies and programs as well as makes laws regarding women and amends them as

needed. Directs and coordinates the efforts of both government and non-government organizations working in the field of women's development. MGNREGA is also playing its important role in fulfilling these objectives, if seen, in present times MNREGA has brought a big change in the condition of women.⁷

Rural women after completing the household work are working under this scheme in their own village and they are getting the same wages as men. The role of MGNREGA in the direction of women's employment appears very important.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that in fact, women are becoming self aware in the present time, which is giving courage to women to work with men and stand with them equally. Along with becoming self-reliant, women are also becoming conscious of self-respect, because today they are facing the challenges of society with great courage by earning their own income. Rural women are becoming aware of their rights through MNREGA and are also recognizing the importance of education. At present, rural women are becoming able to live alone through MNREGA. Along with this, she is also providing support to her family. From the latest data related to the implementation of MGNREGA, it is known that changes are also visible in the size, type, thinking etc. of rural areas. Now the rural society has also started allowing women to work outside the house, due to which gradually the development of villages has also started. Therefore, it can be said that MNREGA scheme is an excellent scheme which is doing economic, social and political development of the country and is also helping to overcome the stigma of unemployment.

Suggestion

It is very important to provide complete information about MNREGA scheme to rural women, it is also necessary for the people working under MNREGA to get their fair wages on time. It is also very important to evaluate the MNREGA scheme from time to time. And knowing the problems that the workers are facing, it is also necessary to know them. The provision of toilets at the workplace for women is also necessary. Village heads should adopt a fully cooperative attitude with women and help women when needed. Along with this, it is also very important to establish proper coordination between the administration and the village panchayats, whose benefits can be availed by the women working under MNREGA.

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