

Analysis of the Ground Reality of MGNREGA in Ranchi- A Skilled Thought for Unskilled Workers in Context of Social Security

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Abstract

MGNREGA is a crucial governmental scheme for the people living in villages for their personal development along with development of the villages. This scheme works on the principle of sustainable development. Now there we find many flaws in the implementation parts. Without implementation the laws seem to be dead so the actual implementation is in right way or not, this is the main area of focus. The researcher will try to evaluate the implementation issues of this scheme. Gender equality is myth as per many intellectuals in economic sectors specially in villages. MGNREGA scheme is a stand against this myth where we can see a large number of women power is working in betterment of the villages and earning their livelihood. Government tries to improve their life and give them the comfortable condition where they learn the development and earn the money by labour. But does government treat them equally as compared to men, do the families allow them to go to work. These all are the grey areas where research is the need of the hour. The researcher will also engage herself in finding the gap of gender in the working procedure of MGNREGA. Without basic welfare we can't imagine a village to be developed. MGNREGA scheme is far than the basic welfare because it is not only working for the basic facilities but also for some extraordinary works in the villages. This results in many villages to be in process of greater ambit of development. But all the people are aware about the schemes of MGNREGA or not, this is an issue. Does needy get 100 days legal work guarantee or it is limited to very few. This research paper deals with these types of issues based in Ranchi in solution oriented approach. The researcher will also provide suggestive measures to eradicate these issues in the society.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Social Solidarity, Vocal for Local, Economic Support.

Introduction

In 2005, The Government of India came with this scheme to provide work security to the people who live in villages and dependent on villages for their survival in the society. It also includes community as human capital to increase national asset under the umbrella of Panchayati Raj system.¹ One of the most important goal of this scheme is to safeguard the right to work. By offering 100 days work in a fiscal year to the adults in the villages to do perform unskilled labour work shows the safety and security of livelihood of the people. Many administrative experts termed this initiative as the strongest and the most flexible form of social security and a great initiative to public interference and interaction with the governmental institutions by the means of providing labour. .

Under this scheme, 691 out of 712 districts and 6981 among 262, 432 blocks are now operating under the lowest tier of local self government with satisfactory outcomes. It is also the world's largest employment programme with approx 128 millions households are registered in this scheme which is 30 percent of the rural population in India. In 2017-18, this scheme has achieved a record by providing job to 52 million people with 2.35 billion working days. It had a core name NREGA as "National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" but subsequently modified as MGNREGA, "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act". It was implemented in only 200 districts initially and originated in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh. After five of serious implementation, it has covered the entire nation. There are mainly few objectives of this scheme in real sense- ²

- In agricultural industry, it creates jobs.
- Establishment of infrastructure in rural areas.
- Through income, it will safeguard livelihood.

The main features of MGNREGA scheme are-

- Guarantee of employment- it gives every rural household an opportunity to get 100 days work in the very same village. It also lead to the employment and reduces migration.³
- Wages' payment- The workers surely get the wages once in a week. The wages are also not less than the minimum wages as fixed by the government in The Minimum Wages Act.

¹ Toppo, Namita (2024). "Employment Generation and Livelihood: Special Reference to MGNREGA scheme in Ranchi District of Jharkhand", published in IJFMR, Volume 6, Issue 2

² Toppo, Namita (2024). "Employment Generation and Livelihood: Special Reference to MGNREGA scheme in Ranchi District of Jharkhand", published in IJFMR, Volume 6, Issue 2

³ Shankar, Prem and Bhaskar, Prem (2021). An Exploratory Study on Recent Inclusive Approach under MGNREGS for Underprivileged Women, Tribal Community & Small holders Becoming Self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) in Jharkhand State in India, JEMSS, Volume 2, Number 1.

- A base to local self government- it definitely improves the decision capacity of the villages in process and planning of the projects under this scheme for the betterment of villages.
- Creation of Assets- In process of developing infrastructure in rural areas, it is a great scheme in building personal asset to and which in whole seems to be the development of that village in whole.⁴

Literature Review

In 2005, The government of India came with this scheme to improve livelihood and reduce poverty. Below are the few reviews of the earlier works regarding MGNREGA.

Suraj S, Hetal Bafna, Smrithi R B, Vansh Sha (2023) talk about the benefits and drawbacks of the scheme based on case studies and few more criteria to know the situation of implementation but there is lack in suggestive part from the side of authors to do focus on betterment of this scheme on ground properly.⁵

Prem Shankar, Prem Bhaskar & Dr. Arvind Hans (2021) reveals that it has great inference on the life of workers who are not skilled. This paper is critical in nature in context to describing the problems faced by workers before this scheme comes into the picture. But definitely they must be cons of this scheme too in the society which we need cure as per this research. But the solution given by the researcher is very generic in nature and can not be applicable all over the India in a single pattern.⁶

Namita Toppo (2024) deals only in the concept of women labour positively along with drawbacks in regard to the proper implementation. At same time, it is based on secondary data only and also fails to give more positive overview in regard to this golden scheme MGNREGA.⁷

Dr. Mukesh Kumar (2018), provides the data regarding the achievements and criticism of the scheme MGNREGA. He argues in such a way that the scheme has its criticism too along the safeguard of the livelihood of the people and the development of the rural infrastructure. There are no proper monitoring of the scheme in the relevant process of implementations. But the author fails to point out the lacks and the genuine real remedy for reformation.

⁴ Shankar, Prem and Bhaskar, Prem (2021). An Exploratory Study on Recent Inclusive Approach under MGNREGS for Underprivileged Women, Tribal Community & Small holders Becoming Self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) in Jharkhand State in India, JEMSS, Volume 2, Number 1.

⁵ S., Suraj; Bafna, Hetal; B, Smrithi and Sha, Vansha (2023). Study on MGNREGA, IRE Journals, Volume 6 Issue 10.

⁶ Shankar, Prem and Bhaskar, Prem (2021). An Exploratory Study on Recent Inclusive Approach under MGNREGS for Underprivileged Women, Tribal Community & Small holders Becoming Self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) in Jharkhand State in India, JEMSS, Volume 2, Number 1

⁷ Toppo, Namita (2024). "Employment Generation and Livelihood: Special Reference to MGNREGA scheme in Ranchi District of Jharkhand", published in IJFMR, Volume 6, Issue 2

Theoretical Orientation

The theoretical orientation is a framework that give literal base to your ideas and the issues which you are going to deal with.-

JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS-

In 1921, he was born in Batimore city of Maryland. His father was a commercial counsel. His mother was activist specially related to rights of women.⁸ He attended many private seminars before attending Priceton in 1939.⁹ Initially he was a little bit confused regarding career but lastly he decided to proceed in Gospel.¹⁰ It is very clear that religion is the core interest of Rawls. After graduation, he went in the army and had done work for two times as a personnel in intelligence unit. After this he again went to Princet and got another degree. In 1948, he got his Phd. Then he hired in Gospel department as lecturer and after in US, he joined ss faculty of Gospel and at same time continued another degree in the field of economics. He was an academic man wwith higher level of intellect and intelligence. He developed the principles of social justice that can easily be applicable in the society also in present era.¹¹

He argues under the umbrella of justice as fairness in the context of free and equal citizens and also emphasises on the idea of fair society. In modern political ideas, Rawls observes this principle of justice as fairness is the higher set of traditions. Moral acceptance is important because legitimacy is only the minimal standard of moral aspects of rules. But justice definitely sets the maximum standards in the path of social institutions. It deals to explain the structured arrangement of major social and political institutions of society which is liberal in nature.¹² Rawls calls this statement as a basic structure of the society. It gives gravitation to justice because this institution deals with major burdens and benefits.

There are mainly two principles of justice as fairness. The two principles are as follow- Every person has same and equal claim in context of liberty in society as the first principle of justice as fairness. Second principle is related to inequalities which is social and economic and to achieve fairness, it has to satisfy two conditions-¹³

- They are to be attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity.
- They are to be to the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members of society.

⁸ Edor, John (2020). John Rawls's Concept of Justice as Fairness, PINISI Discretion Review 4(1):179.

⁹ Edor, John (2020). John Rawls's Concept of Justice as Fairness, PINISI Discretion Review 4(1):179.

¹⁰ Edor, John (2020). John Rawls's Concept of Justice as Fairness, PINISI Discretion Review 4(1):179.

¹¹ Wenar, L. (2021). John Rawls. In: Edward N. Zalta (ed.), The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2021 Edition).

¹² Edor, John (2020). John Rawls's Concept of Justice as Fairness, PINISI Discretion Review 4(1):179.

¹³ Wenar, L. (2021). John Rawls. In: Edward N. Zalta (ed.), The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2021 Edition).

The interpretation of the concept of justice as fairness in the words of John Rawls is related to free and equal status of citizen in the society. The society should be fair in the context of rights of citizen. Justice as fairness is also a higher set of moral standard in the tradition of modern society. This theory tries to explain the major arrangement of social and political institution of liberal society.

Constitutional Framework of Mgnrega Under Article 41

This provision states that the state has to ensure the right to work along with education and public assistance in definite cases such as unemployment, old age sickness, other cases. Under the economic capacity and development model, the State has to do provides these as the basic right. It is based on principle of social construction under the ambit of Article 41 as DPSP so it helps in guiding the policy not legally enforce the same.

Article 41 is an umbrella provision which give a base to many social schemes in which MGNREGA is one the most important schemes. The right to work denotes a positive work environment, a mechanism to reduce the burden of unemployment and providing opportunities on equal footage.

Data as Per Mgnrega in Context to Jharkhand

No. of Districts	24
No. of Blocks	264
No. of Gram Panchayats	4388

Table1 / Source- MGNREGA

Table 1 shows data about the number of districts, blocks and gram panchayats in the State of Jharkhand. Now we will see the job creation report in the State of Jharkhand under the umbrella of MGNREGA scheme. This data is updated till 17.11.2024.

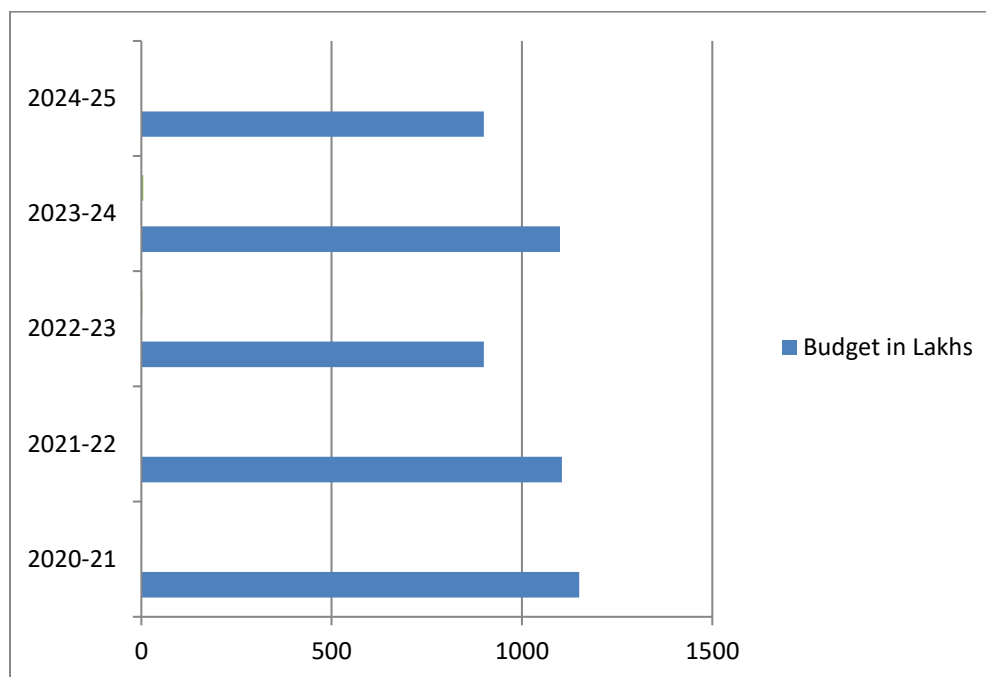
We will see in next table that how many jobs are there , how many workers are working under this scheme. How many workers and jobs are active right now in the State of Jharkhand. Alos it touches the ambit of workers who belong to SC/ST communities.

Job Cards (in Lakhs)	70.49
Number of workers (in Lakhs)	100.61
Active Job cards (in Lakhs)	32.49
Active Workers (in Lakhs)	38.43
Active workers belong to SC	9.84
Active workers belong to ST	26.22

TABLE 2 / Source- MGNREGA

This tables a good number of workers are actively participating in the work related to the scheme. This table shows a good count of workers belongs to SC and ST category. This

also shows the empowerment. Approx 90 percent of total work force of MGNREGA, are secured by people who belong to the SC/ ST community. But there is lack in uploading the structure of data. There should be a separate row regarding the women worker under MGNREGA scheme. Now we will see the budget allocation in different years.



Source- MGNREGA

This graph shows the budget allocation in different years in this scheme in Jharkhand. In 2020-21, the people were migrating from cities to rural areas due to covid. So to protect their lives. So, it is duty of the state do initiate with programmes. So we can easily see the budget allocation in consecutive years. But definitely it is low in recent year. It is also an issue for the rural development.

Data of Mgnrega in Context of Ranchi District

Registered People	5320099
Registered Households	352726
Job demanded (People)	85376
Job demanded (households)	70466
Job offered (People)	85332
Job offered (households)	70431

TABLE 3/ Source- MGNREGA

This table shows the number of people and households are registered, demanded and get the job in MGNREGA in this year. Almost 99 percent of people and household who have demanded and get the job. It is an achievement not only in the view of the

society but also it is good in the terms of economics. This Scheme bridges the gaps between demand and supply with more than 99 percent of the success rate. It shows the importance of this scheme in the society.

Number of disabled worked in MGNREGA in 2023-24	5
Number of disabled worked in MGNREGA in 2024-25	4

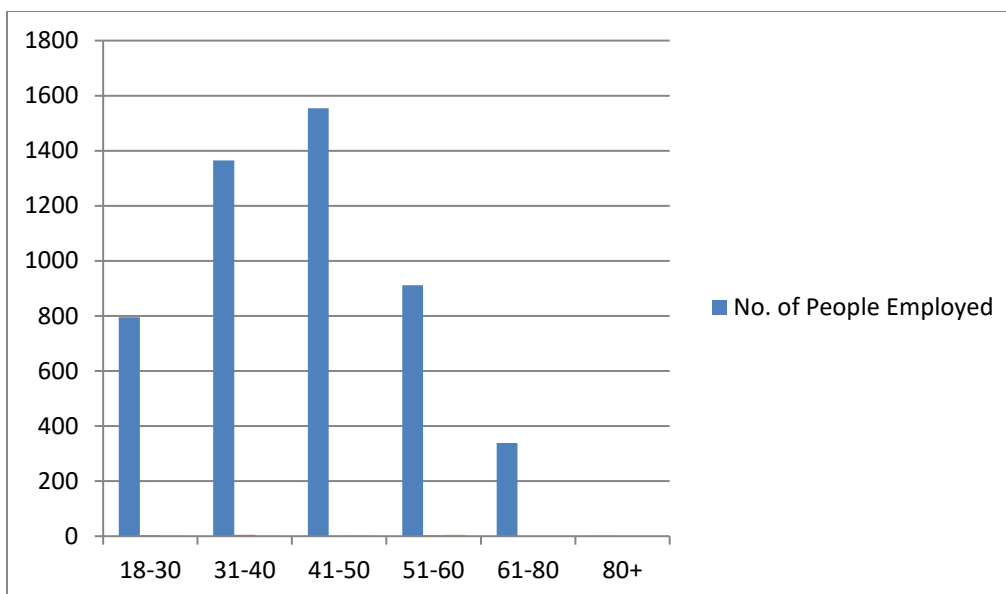
TABLE 4 / Source- MGNREGA

This table is an issue in the sense of social security because it not a good number when we see the number of specially abled person working in MGNREGA work in Ranchi district of State of Jharkhand. It is the duty of the government to do initiate more towards the future security of people who are specially abled and promote them to participate in various encouraging schemes of government of India.

WORK CATEGORY	MEN	WOMEN
Rural connectivity	42	29
Water conservation	20	24
Renovation of water bodies	0	0
Flood control	0	0
Drought proofing	3	4
Irrigation canal	12	14
Irrigation facilities to SC/ST etc	35970	34383

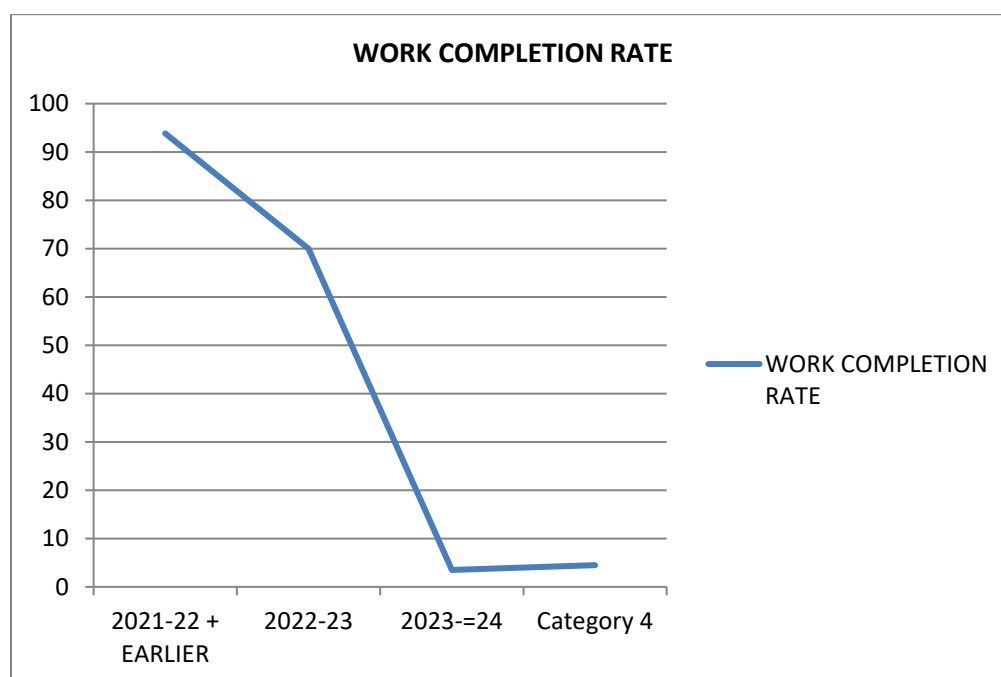
Table 5/ Source- MGNREGA

This table deals with the gender distribution in different works in MGNREGA. Here we see the great number of women participating in the works of MGNREAGA as comparison to men as well as they are even in many works higher in the number. It shows the empowerment of women in the rural areas and it is a shadow truth for our new Bharat that we are in right path as we are in process of following the principles of John Rawls in context Justice as Fairness. In near future it will again increasing with a high success rate in gender equality and this scheme shows the society the importance of women inthe working. But yes there must be the safety and security of dingnity of women in working places in rural areas.



Source- MGNREGA

This graph shows the representation of people in the MGNREGA in Ranchi in current financial year. It has a wide variety of workforce or human capital working in the sector of rural employment. Now we can not make a pseudo abstract idea that the people who are living in villages are dependent only on agriculture and they are not in service sector in rural area. But this data is delivering the current status of people who are working in this sector.



Source- MGNREGA

This graph is not good when we talk about the development of village, rural areas and creating asset in the society because the completion rate of work is decreases in every financial year/. It will create a serious problem in overall development of villages. It shows the shadow of corruption and ill implementation of laws and schemes on ground. The outcome in context of job security is good when we see this under the ambit of outcomes then definitely it is the alarming alert notion for implementation authorities.

Theoretical Co-Relation with this Scheme in Ranchi

Justice as fairness aims to describe a just arrangement of the major political and social institutions of a liberal society: the political constitution, the legal system, the economy, the family, and so on. Now we consider this scenario MGNREGA scheme. It also provides equal basic opportunities to both men and women in rural areas to go for works and to earn livelihood with dignity in the society. This scheme seems to be a scope for the rural who are not in condition to go for job in other states. So this scheme eradicate economic inequality, give political stability and societal liberty to access maximum justice in a fair manner.

Apart from this theory we can also capability theory in existence. Here this scheme utilises the potential of human force to achieve goals in the society. It is beneficial for both societal benefits as well as personal empowerment. Human Capital theory is also emerging in this concept with a great count of human force working under the beneficial umbrella scheme where the men as well as women can participate in the 100 days work to earn the livelihood with dignified life.

Findings

- **INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD** – MGNREGA has had a positive impact on the households of people living in rural areas, as reported submitted by NCAER in 2011. After analysing above data, it is clear that definitely it helps the people to do work and earn livelihood and to eradicate poverty in the society. It gives a source of dignified and a secured income to people who are living in rural areas.
- **SOCIAL SECURITY**- MGNREGA scheme has played a crucial role in achieving the notion of social security in real sense. It provides a secured opportunity to people who are living in rural areas to come out for work. It also gives the ambit of insurance to the workers who are working in this scheme. It also emphasis on facilities like health care to the workers. The special opportunities regarding the definite section of the society who are in need of social reformation are also attached in this scheme. Overall, it is a reformative scheme.
- **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT** – This scheme plays an important role in upgrading the status of women in rural areas specially for the working atmosphere in the

society. Women who used to live under pseudo pardah of tradition now in this era has all the rights and freedom to go to work in their out society without any hesitation. This scheme also provides equal pay for equal work to women as well as men. It also shows the contribution of women in decision making power specially in local level of government.

- ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE- India is a country of villages. The cities along with higher development t spreading pollution in the society by the means of use of many technological things. Without environment we can not see the development of the society. So the scheme of MGNREGA not only providing works to the human capital but also at same time tries to do use less technical means to decrease in the pollution in the society to protect the health of the people also safeguards the gifts of nature.
- JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS- This scheme seems to be a scope for the rural who are not in condition to go for job in others states. So this scheme eradicate economic inequality, give political stability and societal liberty to access maximum justice in a fair manner. But due to a large degree of corruption and political interference in the implementation phase of MGNREGA scheme which results in non completion of the work in the society.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is a crucial governmental scheme for the people living in villages for their personal development along with development of the villages. This scheme works on the principle of sustainable development. Now there we find many flaws in the implementation parts. Without implementation the laws seem to be dead so the actual implementation is in right way or not, this is the main area of focus. The researcher has tried to evaluate the implementation issues of this scheme.

In context of Social Security, the research has tried to do explore the ambits of MGNREGA to protect the society and to improve the standard of living, we need to improve the living condition of individuals. This scheme gives the sense of social society and balance the personal interests along with development of villages. This can be one of the means to value vocal for local concept in which our government initiates the promotion of local arena at global level. To make the village global village, this scheme is one of the best for implementation of that thinking. So we need to observe the lacuna in the scheme for further modifications. And also while addressing poverty and unemployment, the research tries to see how MGNREGA was created to address the high rates of poverty and unemployment in rural India, especially among underprivileged groups. So this research tried to analyse this in Ranchi on basis of data which are secondary in nature.

There must be some better ways on which we can work to achieve maximum justice-

- We should increase the working days from 100 to 150.
- We should monitor the corruption in the implementation stage.
- We should also focus on skilled labour force for better outcomes.
- We should increase the wages of worker because apart from shelter, cloth and food there are other essentials on which they have to crucially spend in achieving basic livelihood.
- We should aware villages to participate more in this scheme by various means of awareness programmes.

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