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## Impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA on Women Empowerment

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### **Abstract:**

*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was introduced in 2006 by Government of India. With an objectives of improving the livelihood security of the rural poor by providing guaranteed employment for 100 days.*

*The paper examines the impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS on the women empowerment. MGNREGS is the first ever law that guarantees of wage employment to the rural population at a present scale and strengthening the natural resources through works. The concern of this paper is to study the participation level of women in MGNREGA. The study further reflected that decision making power of women improving after the implementation of this employment programme.*

**Keywords:** Women, rural, economic, employment, empowerment, MGNREGS

### **Introduction:**

Indian country one of the male dominated society women have always suffering the life specially social and economic indicators of life. Women still don't get equal rights and live in almost poverty. Women employment refers to term means special economic and social status. MGNREGS is one the largest public work's programme in the world. It legally entitle all rural 100 days of work in public works per household per year at minimum wages given its prominence, MGNREGS and its impact on women employment in India.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS was enacted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2005 and got presidential assent on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2005. It come in to force in 200 districts on February, today, it cover all the districts in India except those with 100 per cent urban population.

An act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas

of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wages employment in every financial year.

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the women employment generation under MGNREGS in India.
2. To find the impact of MGNREGS on women empowerment in India.

### Assumptions of the Study

1. There is a significant level of economic empowerment for women after joining MGNREGS compared to their respective status before joining MGNREGS.
2. Further reflected that decision making power of women improving after the implementation of this MGNREGS programme.

### Methodology and Data Sources:

The present study is descriptive analytical and exploratory in nature. We have used quantitative analytical methods and observation methods for data collection for the present research. The study is based a secondary data, the main being documentary sources in the form of written material and non-written materials.

The data has been collected from various issues of economic survey of government of India, economic, report of labour ministry, RBI reports & hand book, and related research paper in journals and magazines like EPW, Yojana, statistical base and various issues of economic survey of government of India, RBI bulletin and various internet websites.

### Women's Empowerment and MGNREGS:

India as noted in the section, the rate of participation of women in the labour markets is low and declining even at a time of high economic growth. In this context even though MGNREGS did not have a stated in ethics to enhance women's participation this seems to be one of the areas where it made the maximum impact.

#### Year wise Women's share in MGNREGA work days (2005-06 to 2016-17)

**Table no. 1**

Year	Share of Women's work days	Year	Share of Women's work days
2005-06	40.1	2011-12	48.1
2006-07	40.6	2012-13	47.2
2007-08	40.5	2013-14	49.3
2008-09	47.9	2014-15	49.1

2009-10	48.1	2015-16	48.6
2010-11	47.1	2016-17	48.2

Source- National sample survey of India -2016-17

The rise of women share of total work days in MGNREGS is line with too trends observed in the NSS data. From 2005-06 to 2016-17 there were increase both in women's employment in casual public work and in their engagement in the labour force in subsidiary capacity MGNREGS with 100 work days limit.

We found that women employment share has continuously increase in MGNREGS pogramme in India.

### Share of women and spouses in MGNREGS work status in 2016-17

Table no. 2

	Women	Spouses
No MNREGS work	86.7	84.6
MGNREGS work	14.3	16.4
Total	100	100

Source- Economic Survey of India -2016-17

### Impact of MGNREGS on empowerment of women based on financial security

Table no. 3

Option	Before MGNREGS (Per cent)	After MGNREGS (Per cent)
Very Little	27.3	3.7
Little	45.5	15.4
Much	20.1	36.9
Very Much	4.9	36.0

Study found the 27.3 percent left they had very little financial security before MGNREGS this number has reduced to 3.7 percent post MGNREGS.

When only 20 percent respondents had left that they used to enjoy considerable financial security before joining MGNREGS, 36.9 percent respondents accounting believed thus now. When only 4.9 percent had believed that they were financial secure to large extent to 36.0 percent even before joining MGNREGS. Thus overall it can be concluded that the level of financial security has increased since the advent of MGNREGS.

**Impact of MGNREGS on women empowerment about various economic indicators**

(Percentage)

**Table no. 4**

Particular	Before	After
Expenditure Efficiency	8.9	11.7
Paying Back Debt	4.2	8.5
Saving Efficiency	11.3	17.1
Participation in Economic transactions	14.6	17.3

Source-Report of Ministry of labour government of India -2015-16

Research found that the positive impact on women's economic status after joining MGNREGS. When 8.9 percent of women had expend on various need but joining MGNREGS after has increased expend efficiency to 11.7 per cent. When the 11.3 per cent of respondents who saving thus has increased to 17.1 percent after joining MGNREGA. When the overall economic participation in economic transactions has increased to 17.3 percent.

The paper found that obviously has increased share about various indicators of women after joining MGNREGS.

**Share of Rural women employment before and after joining MGNREGS****Table no. 5**

Particulars	Women Employment (Percentage)
Before MGNREGS	38.2
After MGNREGS	51.2

Above table examine that women employment defiantly has increased after MGNREGS joining in rural region of India.

**Year wise Women Participation Rate in MGNREG Scheme****Table no. 6**

Year	Women Participation (Percentage)
2015-16	55
2016-17	56
2017-18	53
2018-19	53



Which has been above the statutory requirement of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> women participation under MGNREGS Act 2005.

### Distribution of different activities under the wages employment

Table no. 6

	No. of household members engaged in employment		Total
	Male	Female	
<b>MGNREGS</b>	114 (38.3 %)	183 (61.6%)	297 (37.3 %)

Source-Survey data-2015-16

The above table shows the information relating to number of household members involved in MGNREGS. It is observed from the table no. 6 that 297 (37.31%) household members are engaged in MGNREGS in which women work participations high in comparison to male work participation. The study found that majority of women members are joining in MGNREGS.

#### Challenges in MGNREGS are women empowerment:

There are some issues which under women participation MGNREGS

1. No availability of child care facilities
2. Less than 100 days of employment
3. Late delivery of wages
4. Late allotment of job after demand
5. Work availability are not nearby location
6. Mostly job availability for less time period under MGNREGS

#### Conclusion:

Women are an important part of our society in India, but their status is always considered is next to men.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS become a new light for rural women which provide recognition in the society though including the women in the community level work from this they become self-independent improvement in the decision making process in village and their family respectively MGNREGS had a positive impact on the socio-economic condition of the women.

The paper it may be opined that India has got excellent potential to become a role model for the whole nation for effective use of MGNREGS for economic development of the poor particularly the women. The programme can play a responsible role in rural women empowerment. The prospect of MGNREGS seem to be quite bright in India.

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