



## “MGNREGA in Panjab: A Case Study of Patiala District of Panjab”

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**Abstract:** The development of any nation is depending on the economy of nation and living standard of citizens of the nation. The government of India is always trying for the welfare of their citizens. There are many schemes at central level and state level in India for the welfare of Indians such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM Modi Health ID Card, Ownership plan, Ayushman Sahakar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kusum Yojana, Swanidhi Yojana, Anratyodaya Annan Yojana, National Education Policy Plan, MGNREGA program etc. The major problem that Indians are facing is of unemployment. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act i.e. MGNREGA was enacted by the Government of India in the year 2005 as National Rural Employment. Introduced as Guarantees Act, 2005 (NREGA-NREGA). In the year 2010, the name of NREGA was changed to MGNREGA (MGNREGA). MGNREGA, which introduced rural India to the ‘dignity of labor’, is the world’s largest legal guarantor of employment. There is 100 days guaranteed employment for adult members of each family wishing to do unskilled labor under MGNREGA program, daily Provision has been made for unemployment allowance and transport allowance (in case of distance of more than 5 km). It is to be noted that there is a provision of 150 days employment under MGNREGA in drought prone areas and tribal areas. The current work focuses on the MGNREGA scheme in Panjab and its outcome in the Patiala District of Panjab.

**Key Words:** Government of India, Patiala, schemes, unemployment, employment, guarantee, Panjab, MGNREGA etc.

### I. INTRODUCTION:

MGNREGA is a national level program in India. At present all the states of the country except a few districts which fall in the category of cities in this program. The Central and State Governments have the right to determine the salary received under MGNREGA. Center from January 2009. Despite decades of planned development and poverty alleviation programs at the national and state levels, poverty still persists. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been the subject of discussion. It aims at the right to work in rural areas with the guaranty of 100 days of employment in a financial year for the survival of the rural people. Families who volunteer for unskilled manual work, the government revises the MGNREGA wage rates notified for all the states every year. According to the provision, one-third of MGNREGA beneficiaries must be women. As well as women with disabilities and single women, provision has been made to increase participation. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was approved by the Indian Parliament in September 2005. On 2-10-2009, it was renamed as ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’. The law came into force on February 2, 2007. Initially it was started in 200 districts of the country and later it was extended to all the districts of the country. The main objective of this law is to increase the purchasing power of rural people.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW:

- a. **Adhikari, Anindita and Kartika Bhatia (2010):** Adhikari, Anindita and Kartika Bhatia studied on the NREGA schemes special reference with the wages and payment. The team published their paper on the title, “*NREGA Wage Payments: Can We Bank on the Banks?*” in the journal named ‘Economic & Political Weekly’, 5 (1).
- b. **Bhatia, Bela and Dreze, Jean(2006) :** Bhatia, Bela and Dreze, Jean, conducted field work in Jharkhand which has expressed the ground reality of this scheme. They published their research paper with

the title “*Employment Guarantee in Jharkhand: Ground Realities*”, in the weekly journal entitled as ‘Economic and Political Weekly, XLI (29)’.

c. **Chandrasekhar C. P. and J. Ghosh (January 27, 2005):** Chandrasekhar C. P. and J. Ghosh published their work on “Social Inclusion in the NREGS, in Business Line (India).

d. **Dreze, J., Khera, Reethika and Sidharth (2007):** Dreze, J., Khera, Reethika and Sidharth, studied on NREGA in Orissa: Ten loopholes and the silver lining; Interim survey report (mimio). For this research, the survey was conducted by G.B Pant Science Institute in 2007.

e. **Patel, Amrit (2006):** Patel, Amrit conducted a study on “Role of PRIs in Implementing Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.”

f. **Saha Roy, Chhanda (2013):** Saha Roy, Chhanda, completed a case study on the title “Right Based Approach in Accessing Social Sector Services – A Case Study of MGNREGA”, and it was published in Global Research Methodology Journal, Feb-Mar-April, II

g. **Goswami, H. K. (2015):** Goswami, H. K. work is on the implementation of NGRGA in Andhra Pradesh. The published work has the title, “NGRGA Implementation in Andhra Pradesh.” It was published in The Assam Tribune, October15.

There are such many studies which observed that this is one of the most successful schemes of Government of India. This programme is run across the nation at all rural sectors of India.

#### **Aims of the Study:**

- To study the importance of MGNREGA schemes.
- To find out the status of MGNREGA in Panjab special reference with Patiala District.
- To find out the outcome of MGNREGA in Panjab special reference with Patiala District.

#### **Significance of the Study:**

The central government and state government of India is working for the welfare of Indian society through several schemes. It is very essential to focus on those schemes which are working to solve the major issue of unemployment in India. The current work is an attempt to focus on Panjab government and MGNREGA scheme.

#### **Methodology of the Study:**

The Patiala district of Panjab is selected for the current study with selecting the Block, BHUNER HERI, GHANAUR, NABHA, PATIALA, PATRAN, RAJPURA, SAMANA, SANOUR, SHAMBU KALAN. The complete data study is based on secondary data collected from the website of MGNREGA. It has even gone through several research studies from different sources - Journals, News-papers etc. available as the secondary source for this study. The data is collected for the year 2017-18. The graphical representation of it is given in the table number 1.1 as the result of study.

#### **Limitation of Study:**

No data is collected out of Patiala district of Panjab and it is limited with the year 2017-18.

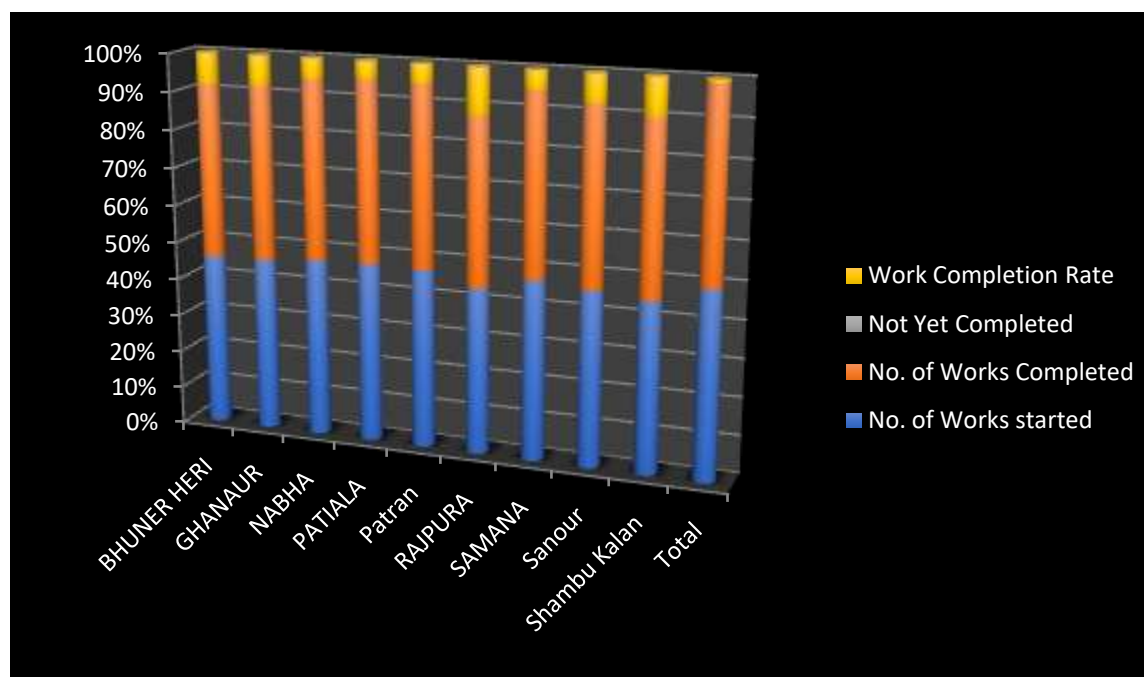
#### **Result of the Study:**

The outcome of study is given in the below table with special reference to MGNREGA scheme in Patiala District of Panjab for the year 2017-18:

Block	Financial Year 2017-2018 and Earlier			
	No. of Works started	No. of Works Completed	Not Yet Completed	Work Completion Rate
2	3	4	5=3-4	6=(Coln(4)*100/Coln(3))
<a href="#">BHUNER HERI</a>	567	566	1	99.82
<a href="#">GHANAUR</a>	604	604	0	100
<a href="#">NABHA</a>	918	918	0	100

<a href="#">PATIALA</a>	1068	1068	0	100
<a href="#">Patran</a>	989	989	0	100
<a href="#">RAJPURA</a>	372	372	0	100
<a href="#">SAMANA</a>	1010	1010	0	100
<a href="#">Sanour</a>	641	641	0	100
<a href="#">Shambu Kalan</a>	471	471	0	100
<b>Total</b>	6640	6639	1	99.98

**Table 1.1 The Outcome of MGNREGA in Patiala Panjab**



**Graph 1.1 The Outcome of MGNREGA in Patiala Panjab**

As shown in the above table 1.1 and graph 1.1 indicates the success ratio of MGNREGA in Patiala Panjab-one of the states of state of India. The work completion ratio is around 99.99 which is started in Patiala district of Panjab.

**Aims of MGNREGA:**

- 1) To provide at least 100 days of unskilled work on demand per household per annum within 15 days and within 5 KMS radius near to his/her address to all adults who have completed 18 years of age, thus by ensuring economic security to rural people.
- 2) Equal wages for men and women and preference should be given to women in each work and at least one-third (33%) of persons to whom work is allotted have to be women, thus ensuring women empowerment and social equality.

3) Creation and maintenance of rural assets and environmental protection.

4). Lowering of rural-urban migration.

5). Panchayat Raj Institutions to have a principal role in planning and implementation and each district has to prepare a shelf of projects.

#### **Special Features of MGNREGA:**

- a. MGNREGA provided legal right of employment to adult youth from rural families.
- b. Payment of wages under MGNREGA under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for wages specified for agricultural laborers in the State is done as per, unless the Central Government notifies the wage rate and it is not less than Rs. 60 per day.
- c. It provides employment to the applicant within 15 days of submission of application or from the day work is sought as per provision.
- d. Panchayati Raj Institutions have been made responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of works being done under MGNREGA.
- e. Provisions of basic facilities like drinking water and first aid etc. have also been made for all the employees in MGNREGA.
- f. The economic burden under MGNREGA is shared by the Central and State Governments. Funds were spent on a total of three areas under this program
- g. Wages (1) Wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers (2) Necessary materials (3) Administrative costs. Central Government Unskilled Labor
- h. There is 100 percent of the cost of, 75 percent of the cost of semi-skilled and skilled labor, 75 percent of the cost of materials and administrative,
- i. There is 6 per cent of the cost is borne, while the remaining cost is borne by the State Government.
- j. It spends a huge budget as compare to other several employment generation programmes.
- k. It is the largest wage employment programme in India.
- l. There are around 25% of rural households participating in this scheme.
- m. An annual expenditure of central government about 0.5% of GDP.

#### **Outcome of MGNREGA:**

MGNREGA is the largest social welfare program in the world which has led to a positive change in rural labor. The outcome of MGNREGA is as below:

- a. According to the statistics there was a total of Rs 3.14 lakh crore spent in the first 10 years of the program.
- b. This program, while fulfilling its objective of reducing rural poverty, has certainly lifted millions of people out of poverty.
- c. The scheme has succeeded in extracting.
- d. In terms of livelihood and social security, MGNREGA emerged as a powerful tool for the empowerment of rural poor women.
- e. According to statistics, more than 55 per cent of the total employment generated through MGNREGA in the financial year 2017-18 in Patialya District of Panjab.
- f. Analysis of age-wise statistics of persons working in MGNREGA shows that after the financial year 2017-18, the age group of 18-30 years.
- g. The number of workers has increased.

Thus, MGNREGA has also helped in the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through creation of livelihood opportunities. MGNREGA was recognized by the World Bank in 2015 as the largest public works program in the world.

According to a report by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), poor and socially vulnerable groups, such as-

- a. MGNREGA has played an important role in reducing poverty among laborers, tribals, dalits and small marginal farmers.
- b. Insufficient budget allocation.
- c. The budget allocated under MGNREGA has been very low in the last few years, the effect of which is to be seen on the salaries of the employees working in MGNREGA.
- d. The reduction in wages has a direct effect on the power of the villagers and they reduce their demand.
- e. Delay in payment of wages.
- f. One study found that 78 per cent of payments made under MGNREGA are not made on time and 45 per cent of payments.
- g. Compensation as per guidelines for late payments was not included, which is 0.05 percent of wages earned per day.
- h. Poor wage rate.
- i. Due to non-determination of MGNREGA wage rate on the basis of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the wage rate has become quite stable.
- j. At present, the wages received under MGNREGA in most of the states are much lower than the minimum wage. This situation to the weaker sections
- k. Corruption is a major challenge related to MGNREGA which needs to be dealt with. It is often observed that most of the money allocated under this goes to the intermediary's. The way forward Offenses like not entering employment information in the job card should be declared a punishable offense under the Act.

#### **Suggestions of the Study:**

- a. It should be noted that the income of female workers plays a more important role in improving the standard of living at home than that of male workers. Therefore, the participation of women in MGNREGA needs to be further enhanced.
- b. The Central Government should analyze the causes of under-utilization of allocated funds and take necessary steps to rectify it.
- c. Proper Investigation of implementation of the schemes is demanded.
- d. There are people who are being made to work as tribals, it should be investigated. Officer mistake can't escape under cover.

#### **III. CONCLUSION:**

Thus, the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was implemented in the country on September 7, 2005 with the main objective of the scheme is rural development and employment of rural people and to provide the employment at a large number of workers. Workers moved to cities for employment and the urban population began to grow rapidly. Under MGNREGA, one gets a daily wage of Rs. 210. In such a case, a household will get Rs 21,000. Big and stop the migration from villages to cities. MP Ravneet Bittu said, the official record states that ST people worked in MGNREGA done, but there are no tribals in Punjab. This disturbance in the scheme must be investigated.

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