

# A Study on Role of MGNREGA in creating social assets in Nagaland

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**Abstract-**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act was passed in the year 2005. The primary objective of this program was providing guaranteed employment to at least one member of every landless household up to 100 days in a year and creating durable assets for strengthening infrastructure so as to meet the growing requirements of the rural economy. MNREGA is meant for US & OUR groups. WE are work or creating productive (agricultural) assets for OUR (optimum users of resources) own usage. Among other things eight priorities are mentioned in the Act to create productive agriculture assets only. They include water conservation and harvesting, irrigation canals; land development, rural connectivity etc. This study aims to analyze the extent to which such community assets have been created at the all India level and also with special reference to Nagaland.

**Keywords:** Social Assets, MNREGA, Development, Rural Population

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The creation of social assets was an important objective of this program. The program was responsible for the creation of a wide variety of social assets which could be expected to help raising the levels of the rural population. Central assistance was provided to the states on the basis of proportion of the rural poor in a state to the total rural poor in the country. Of the total allocation at the state level, six percent of the total resources were ear marked for housing under Indira Awaas Yojana which were allotted to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe and freed bonded labour. In addition 20% were earmarked for Million Wells Scheme. The objective was to provide open wells free of cost to poor scheduled tribe and scheduled caste small and marginal farmers, the amounts are also utilized for other programs like minor

irrigation, tank irrigation, and water harvesting structures and also for development of lands.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The primary objective of the Act is increasing wage employment. The secondary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address the causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and thus encourage sustainable development.

In Nagaon district of Assam micro and small irrigation development works under MGNREGS result in steady increase in single cropping pattern to double cropping pattern with increase in irrigation and other facilities. Earlier in this district farmers used to sell their products to the local merchants and get minimal prices. Now more farmers are willing to sell their produces in the procurement centers due to improved rural connectivity under through MGNREG Schemes. In Chhattisgarh the land belonging to the tribal's in village Jyhalma, gram Panchayat Bordla was of undulating nature. The land development department and MGNREGA have helped in leveling such lands. This has helped in rendering the land fit for agricultural practices, thereby increasing the productivity of land and income of the tribal population. The assets are created mostly by the marginalized sections of the society. Check dams also provided water to wells which had dried to be recharged.

Ratanpur village of Porbander district in Gujarat had defunct mines which have been converted into water tanks through convergence. This has resulted in increase in income of the farmers as the flood waters have been channelized, harvested and used for

irrigation purpose during lean season and weak monsoon period.

Land development activities, development of water bodies, forestry and road connectivity were the works carried out in Andhra Pradesh. In Bihar most of the works taken up were construction of roads and water conservation.

Small water bodies are the main water resource in rural areas. The small water bodies have been utilized for various purposes like drinking water, bathing, washing clothes, cattle use and also to irrigate their lands. MNREGA has spent around 45 percent of the allotted amount for desalting and deep digging of small water bodies and got them rejuvenated.

### 3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study has been conducted based on secondary data. The secondary source of data includes Statistical Handbook of Nagaland, Magazines, Bulletins, Journals and Government portals. Simple statistical tools used to analyze data.

#### 3.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the nature of social assets created under MNREGA at All India Level.
2. To study the nature of social assets created under MNREGA in Nagaland.

#### 3.2 AREA OF STUDY

The state of Nagaland has been taken as area under study. The functioning of MGNREGA in Nagaland state and the implementation of the scheme in rural areas of the state is analyzed based on official data available.

#### 3.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to the rural areas in which MNREGA has been implemented in the state of Nagaland for which official data is available. This study is based on secondary data from various official sources.

### 4. STUDY REPORT

Since the inception of this scheme the performance regarding community asset creation and development programs is mentioned below:

TABLE 1 PERFORMANCE OF THE MAHATMA GANDHI NREGA (NATIONAL OVERVIEW)

	FY(2014-15)	FY(2015-16)	FY(2016-17)	FY(2017-18)	FY(2018-19)	FY(2019-20)	FY(2020-21)
Total works taken up (in lakhs)	93.11	114.72	153.75	185.01	209.23	208.70	177.50
Works completed	38.06	35.24	66.57	63.55	117.66	75.01	84.78
Works break up							
Water conservation	2.38 (2.5%)	2.43 (2.1%)	5.40 (3.5%)	3.71 (2.1%)	29.14 (13.9%)	3.03 (1.4%)	0.37 (0.2%)
Micro irrigation works	1.23 (1.3%)	1.34 (1.1%)	2.07 (1.3%)	1.33 (0.7%)	1.36 (0.6%)	1.44 (0.6%)	2.19 (1.2%)
Rural connectivity	4.31 (4.6%)	4.27 (3.7%)	5.17 (3.3%)	3.96 (2.1%)	3.84 (1.8%)	3.03 (1.4%)	4.19 (2.3%)
Land development	2.95 (3.1%)	2.90 (2.5%)	5.03 (3.2%)	2.77 (1.4%)	2.89 (1.3%)	2.72 (1.3%)	3.72 (2.1%)
Any other activities	0.50 (0.5%)	0.57 (0.4%)	0.61 (0.3%)	0.58 (0.3)	0.24 (0.1%)	0.10 (0.04%)	0.03 (0.01%)

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

From the above table 1 we understand the nature of activity taken up under this scheme. The number of districts in which this scheme has increased from 2014 and correspondingly the number of works taken up has also increased from 93.11 lakhs to 209.23 lakhs (2014-2019) but it went down to 177.50 lakhs in (2020-21). The above table also indicates that the performance of the scheme in the year 2018-19 has somehow been exceptionally good. If similar steps have been taken by the government administrators in the consecutive years better performance could have been recorded by the scheme.

Table 2 Social Assets Created in Nagaland under MGNREGA FY 2020-21

	Taken up	completed
Rural connectivity	1373	953
Flood control and protection	252	196
Water conservation and water harvesting	445	291
Drought proofing	1104	851
Micro irrigation works	124	103
Works on individual land	272	59
Renovation of traditional water bodies	25	15
Land development	417	351
Coastal areas	nil	nil
Rural drinking water	1	nil
fisheries	153	134
Rural sanitation	242	58
Total works taken up	7740	
Total works completed		3106
% of works completed		48.12

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

In the above table 2 latest details (2020-21) regarding performance of MNREGA in Nagaland are given. The Types of works taken up and completed for development in rural economy and the number of works taken up and completed are also mentioned. Out of the total of 7740 works taken up, 3106 works have been completed so far. From the table we understand that 48.12% of the total works taken up under this scheme has been completed.

Table 3 Top Six Performing States including Nagaland FY 2020-21

states	% of works completed
Tripura	99.8
Mizoram	99.78
Karnataka	99.41
Jammu	98.43
Manipur	98.34
Haryana	98.08
Nagaland	95

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

The above table 3 gives information about the top six states including Nagaland at the All India level in terms of performance regarding percentage of work completed. Nagaland is ranked twelve with 95% of work completed. Tripura and Mizoram hold the first and second positions with 99.8% and 99.78% respectively. We also understand from the above table that Nagaland is lacking far behind among the

northeast state in top ranking states of All India level regarding percentage of work completed.

### 5. FINDINGS

- ❖ Most important activities which constitute 74-80 per cent of the funds are earmarked for creation of assets.
- ❖ 50% slippage in the execution of works undertaken has been found.
- ❖ Fast performance in the top four states indirectly throw light on the good performance in other states too.
- ❖ There has been a decrease in the percentage of works taken up at the All India level.
- ❖ Only 48.12% of the total works taken up in Nagaland have been completed.

### 6. SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ To develop models for creating productive assets to improve agriculture scenario.
- ❖ Implementation of the scheme should be done more effectively.
- ❖ If small water bodies are maintained properly under this scheme it will help to improve rural development.
- ❖ Proper implementation of the scheme will also bring about empowerment of rural women in the near future.

## 7. CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is an important step towards realizing employment right. Economic and social infrastructure has been developed in rural areas through this law. Due to which people are getting regular employment opportunities. Also it mainly deals with problems like dry forest destruction, land erosion due to which poverty is spreading on a large scale. With the proper implementation of this law, the geographical map of poverty can be changed by employment. Under the MGNREGA, an attempt has been made to make the employment so that people can be saved from the rural of law and do not be exploited.

The purpose of the scheme is social economic inclusion of rural population is the stream of economic development. Special efforts have been taken to empower rural women and conservation of water bodies. Based on available data the success of the scheme is not up to the expectations of the people. So it is the duty of the government administrators to take necessary steps to implement the programme for the overall development of the economy and bring about equality between the rural and urban areas.

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