

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for  
the Women Employment  
(A Study of Bharuch District of Gujarat State)**

**Dr. Pragnesh J. Mistry**

**(M.Com., B.Ed., Ph.D., NET, GSET)**

**Assistant Professor**

**Mahamandaleshwar Shri Krishnanandji College of Commerce,**

**Bharuch (Gujarat)**

**(Affiliated to Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Gujarat)**



### **Abstract:**

By giving every rural home whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labor at least 100 days of guaranteed pay employment within a fiscal year, the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA aims to improve the livelihood security of rural households nationwide. By reaching the most vulnerable segments of rural communities, including as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households, and other marginalized groups, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA acknowledges the significance of bolstering the poor's foundation of livelihood resources.

By bolstering Panchayat Raj institutions, the program promotes a feeling of community and shared responsibility. By encouraging a bottom-up approach to planning and implementation, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA gives local people the ability to direct their own development. The plan meets short-term financial demands while establishing the groundwork for long-term success by producing productive assets of the required calibre and longevity.

The primary aim of this article is to assess the effectiveness of MGNREGA in giving women jobs in rural, underdeveloped areas. The Bharuch district's most impoverished and troubled subdistricts—Jhagadia, Valia, and Netrang—were chosen for the study. For the purposes of this study, only secondary data have been examined. The information was gathered from websites and government offices. These statistics serve as the foundation for the outcome and conclusions.

### **Acknowledgement:**

The research paper is a part of research project funded by UGC cell, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat (Gujarat)

### **Introduction:**

Since independence, the Indian economy has been plagued by issues such as poverty, unemployment, and the disregard for the primary sector. India is referred to be the "country of villages." The majority of people's livelihoods are derived from agriculture and related businesses. The primary issue of rural unskilled unemployment was brought up with great seriousness. Additionally, amid the agricultural collapse, there was less demand for labor. In order to address this, the government implemented numerous initiatives pertaining to rural poverty, job creation, and agricultural advancement. However, no one was able to guarantee work for the rural poor. On August 23, 2004, the government approved the guaranteed employment plan in the Lok Sabha, and on September 5, 2005, the president signed it.

In underdeveloped rural areas, the MGNREGA was primarily implemented to improve livelihood security. By giving every rural home whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labor at least 100 days of guaranteed pay employment within a fiscal year,

the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA aims to improve the livelihood security of rural households nationwide. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA acknowledges the significance of reaching the most vulnerable segments of rural communities, such as women-headed households, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and other disadvantaged groups, in order to build the poor's base of livelihood resources.

By bolstering Panchayat Raj institutions, the program promotes a feeling of community and shared responsibility. By encouraging a bottom-up approach to planning and implementation, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA gives local people the ability to direct their own development. The plan meets short-term financial demands while establishing the groundwork for long-term success by producing productive assets of the required calibre and longevity.

### **Problem:**

The main objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to provide employment opportunity to people outside agriculture so that they can earn a sustainable living. Hence, there is the need for research on programme effectiveness especially for the women population in rural areas.

### **Scope of the Study:**

To check the effectiveness of MGNREGA for rural women of tribe domain and backward rural areas, the researcher has selected the most backward sub-districts named Jhagadia, Valia and Netrang of Bharuch district of Gujarat state for the study purpose. These selected sub-districts are tribe domain areas.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the program for the employability to rural women in the study area.

### **Methodology:**

Only secondary data has been considered for the study purpose. The data have been discussed which are collected from the government website for the program and government offices. Simple percentage and co-relation have been used to analyse the data.

### **Benefits of the Study:**

When evaluating the program's effectiveness in providing jobs for rural women, the research is quite useful. Additionally, it provides the necessary direction for policymakers or officials to take the necessary steps to improve the program's efficacy, particularly for rural women.

### **Limitations of the Study:**

The main limitations of the study are:

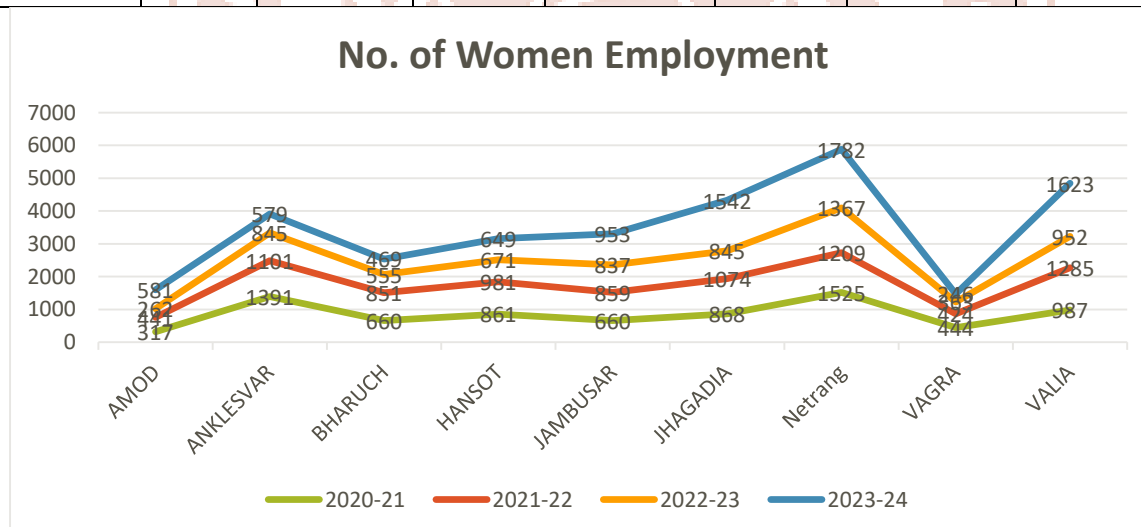
- (1) Only secondary data have been considered for the study purpose.
- (2) The study is restricted to Bharuch district of Gujarat state only.

## Data Analyses & Discussion:

The data focuses on the employment provided under the scheme to women in the study area for the last four years i.e. from 2020-21 to 2023-24. The data have been collected from the government websites and offices, published by the government publicly.

**Table -Employment to Women in Bharuch District under the Scheme**

S.No	Block (Sub-district)	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		No. of Women	Person X Days	No. of Women	Person X Days	No. of Women	Person X Days	No. of Women	Person X Days
1	AMOD	317	9540	441	12503	262	6750	581	19239
2	ANKLESVAR	1391	43447	1101	33323	845	20059	579	15823
3	BHARUCH	660	22779	851	25119	555	18394	469	15453
4	HANSOT	861	38437	981	37648	671	20183	649	29085
5	JAMBUSAR	660	13197	859	23966	837	24083	953	28417
6	JHAGADIA	868	18941	1074	25321	845	22347	1542	50332
7	NETRANG	1525	34368	1209	29415	1367	31590	1782	33914
8	VAGRA	444	14536	424	11653	363	10490	246	11588
9	VALIA	987	17042	1285	24824	952	20803	1623	36619
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7713</b>	<b>212287</b>	<b>8225</b>	<b>223772</b>	<b>6697</b>	<b>174699</b>	<b>8424</b>	<b>240470</b>



The above data of the table clearly indicates that there can be seen fluctuation in the data of women employment under the scheme. The number of employments to women is not showing continuous growth in the district. The program provides employment to the women in a certain limits. Compare to 2020-21, the 6.64 % growth can be noticed for the year 2021-22, 13.17 % decline for the year 2022-23 and only 9.22 % growth for the year 2023-24. If considered the selected sub-district i.e. Jhagadia, Valia and Netrang, the same trends can be seen for the women employment under the scheme. It is also notice that the performance of the scheme to provide the employment to rural population especially to the women, it seems fluctuated. So,

it can be said that the scheme is not performing satisfactory in terms of continuous growth in employment.

### **Conclusion:**

The MGNREGA was created to give the impoverished in rural areas a minimum of 100 days of employment in industries other than agriculture. Given that the chosen sub-districts are primarily tribal domain areas, it is abundantly evident from the data and the explanation above that the majority of women who profit from the program are from the backward population, i.e., ST and SC. The data also suggests that there hasn't been any noteworthy, ongoing expansion in the number of rural women employed. Throughout the research period, there was a noticeable shift in employment.

### **Recommendations:**

Under the program, the government must raise the employment rate for impoverished rural residents, particularly for women, on an annual basis. The government should investigate whether workers obtained alternative employment elsewhere or if there are other socioeconomic factors at play if there is a variation in the availability of jobs.

### **References**

1. Bamniya, Jitendra (2011) "Impact of MGNREGA on Employment Income and Consumption of Rural household in Rajasthan" Ph.D thesis Dep.of Agriculture Economics, S.K.N. college of Agriculture, Jobner-swami keshwanand Rajasthan, Agri. uni.bikaner.pp-1415.
2. Ghosh, J (2011), "Impact of NREGA on Wage Rate, Food Security and rural Urban Migration in West Bengal", Agro-economic Research Center, visva bharti santiniketan, 2011. pp-9-13.
3. Satveer Kaur (2013), "MGNREGA AND ITS IMPACT ON PUNJAB" M. Phil Thesis, 2013 Tripura University Patiala, Punjab. pp-1 to 12.
4. Saksena R. B and D. A. Oja (2015), "Socio-economic Impact of Implementation of MGNREGA in India" Two day U.G.C Sponsored National Seminar, P.G. Department S.P. University, V. V. Nagar, January 2 & 3, 2015. pp-5-6.