

## Assessment of Effectiveness of NREGA in Haryana

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### *Abstract*

*Major part of population of India resides in villages; the role of rural economy is significant in overall development of country. Regional balance of growth is required to achieve the targeted growth rate and take the competitive advantage at global level. Main causes of rural backwardness are unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of facilities, inadequate infrastructure, corruption, and lack of Government support etc in terms of effective implementation of various programmes & plans made in this regard, but major cause is unemployment which is disguised in nature.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Major part of population of India resides in villages; the role of rural economy is significant in overall development of country. Regional balance of growth is required to achieve the targeted growth rate and take the competitive advantage at global level. Main causes of rural backwardness are unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, lack of facilities, inadequate infrastructure, corruption, and lack of Government support etc in terms of effective implementation of various programmes & plans made in this regard, but major cause is unemployment which is disguised in nature. As we know there are so many programmes and plans which have been framed by government at central as well as state levels and huge amount of expenditure is done on these programmes, so the question arise that why the problem of unemployment still exist at large scale, even after the implementation of such supportive programmes and plans especially NREGA? Need to answer this question initiate us to make the study on this topic. Study has been made to make the critical evaluation of NREGA with reference to Haryana.

### **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

Following are the objectives of the study:

- To know the objectives of NREGA
- To assess the effectiveness and implementation of NREGA in Haryana
- To find the causes of ineffectiveness in implementation of NREGA in Haryana (if any)

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## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is mainly based on secondary data gathered from various newspapers, magazines, journals, and websites. In addition to this primary data has also been collected through a snap survey using the questionnaire designed for this purpose to know the actual position and status of implementation of NREGA in Haryana.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF NREGA

- NREGA is designed as a safety net to reduce migration by rural poor households in the lean period through,
- A hundred days of guaranteed unskilled manual labour provided when demanded at minimum wage on,
- works focused on water conservation, land development & drought proofing,
- And if work is not provided to the labour within 15 days of application, the government need to pay them unemployment allowance

## ISSUES CRITICAL TO FULFILL THE OBJECTIVES OF NREGA

### Generating and processing applications for job cards:

- To guarantee that rural families likely to seek unskilled manual labour are identified
- To substantiate against reasonably reliable local data base so that non -domiciled contractor's workers are not used on NREGA works

### Issue of job cards:

- Ensuring job card verification is done on the spot against an existing data base
- Reducing the time lag between application and issue of job cards to remove the possibility of rent seeking, and creating greater transparency etc
- Ensuring that Job Cards are issued before employment demand and work allocation rather than being issued on work sites which could undermine the aims of NREGA

**Obtaining and acknowledging applications for employment:**

- To determine choices and perceptions of households regarding lean season employment
- To make certain exercise of the right to service within the time specified of fifteen days
- To ensure that works are started where and when there is demand for labour, not demand for works
- The process of issuing a dated acknowledgement for the application for employment needs to be thoroughly observed.
- In its absence, the guarantee cannot be exercised in its true spirit

**Selection of works** by gram sabha in villages and display after approval of ridge of projects-

- To ensure public choice, transparency and accountability and stop material rigorous, contractor based works and concocted works records

**Execution of Works:**

- At least half the works should be run by gram panchayats
- Maintenance of muster roll by executing agency -numbered muster rolls, which only show job cardholders, must be found at each work
- to prevent contractor led works

**Regular measurement** of work done according to a schedule of rural rates sensitive**Supervision of Works** by qualified technical personnel on time.

- Reading out muster rolls on work site during regular measurement
- to prevent bogus records and payment of wages below prescribed levels
- Payment of wages through banks and post offices
- to close avenues for use of contractors, short payment and corruption
- Provision of adequate quality of work site facilities for women and men labourers
- Creation and maintenance of durable assets

- Adequate audit and evaluation mechanisms
- Widespread institution of social audit and use of findings

### **FUNDS OF NREGA**

- NREGA Central Fund rules in process of finalisation
- Funds to be maintained in the form of non-lapsable public account and budget to be transferred to this account as desired by ministry
- Incremental fund release on demand by States and districts on 60% utilisation and
- On the basis of performance report on physical and financial parameters

### **PROCEDURE FOR REALISING FUNDS**

Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of demand for employment and fund requirement is being made based on reported number of those seeking employment Checked against

- Job cards demanded and issued &
- employment provided and average turnout at work sites (as reported by State and observed by field visits)
- Manner in which job card registration and demand for employment are being processed at field level (as seen from reports of area officers and NMs)
- fund availability (as reported by State)

The endeavour is to place at once funds to meet up to 100 days of employment for those reported to be seeking employment at district level. Fund allocation and utilisation and mandays generated in same districts under wage employment programs last year is looked at for placing some funds on ad hoc basis in States for which there is no demand and little data to ensure adequate fund availability, up-front.

### **IT INTERFACE TO NREGA**

- NIC developed generalized software being used by States with appropriate modification.
- Andhra Pradesh: IT solution being used to register households and generate formats for implementation of works at mandal level.
- Problem areas are:
  - Connectivity

- Last mile IT outreach at the cutting edge level of the village
- Non-familiarity of the beneficiary workforce with IT usages.
- Committee set up to suggest hardware alternatives at the village level:
  - Handheld devices utility is being assessed.
- A group set up for accreditation of IT software that private IT experts may wish to develop for NREGA that can then be recommended to States for their consideration.

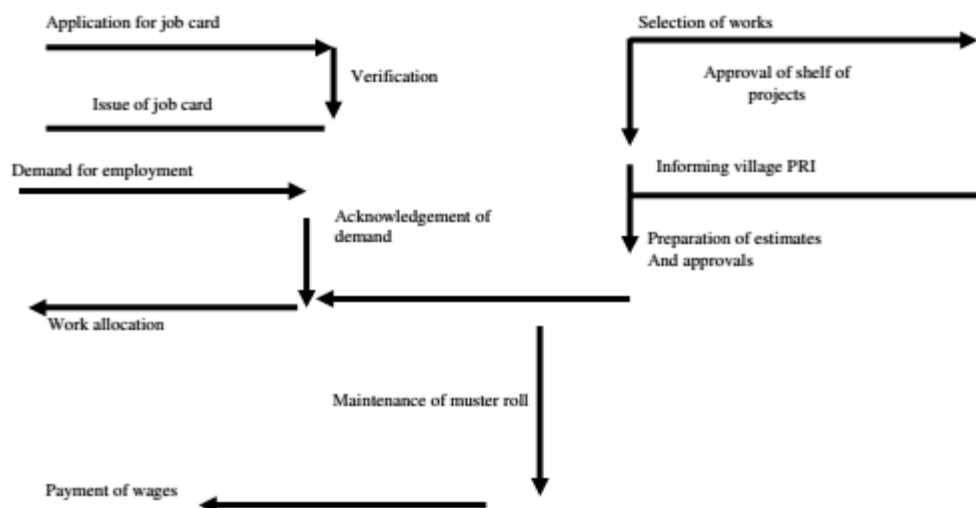
### QUALITATIVE MONITORING AND BY PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES

- Five institutions of repute identified to undertake studies in 12 States
- Report to be submitted in 90 days
- Covering roughly 10 villages over 2 blocks and 20 households to be covered in each village

### Institutional Systems

- NREG Council rules formulated and notified
- Council structure decided
  - Process of nomination initiated
  - Technical secretariat being set up
- Technical Advisory Group consisting of experts set up to advise on implementation of NREGA
  - two meetings held,

### KEY PROCESSES



**STATUS OF HARYANA****Table 1: Status of Haryana**

SI. No.	Name of the Districts	DRDA Code	Fund being released (Amount In Rs. Lakh)
1	Ambala	HR001	157.38
2	Bhiwani	HR002	106.82
3	Fatehabad	HR004	122.03
4	Hissar	HR006	32.73
5	Jhajjar	HR007	8.87
6	Jind	HR008	77.60
7	Kaithal	HR009	37.06
8	Karnal	HR010	69.61
9	Kurukshetra	HR011	30.13
10	Panchkula	HR013	104.60
11	Panipat	HR014	51.06
12	Rohtak	HR016	39.84
13	Sirsa	HR017	16.56
14	Yamuna Nagar	HR019	24.14
15	Mewat	HR020	19.38
16	Palwal	<b>HR021</b>	15.54
	<b>Total</b>		<b>913.35</b>

■ Source: Nrega.nic.in.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA**

One section of questionnaire was designed to assess effectiveness of implementation of NREGA in Haryana. The mean perceptions scores were compared to mean expectation scores for the various constituents of NAREGA to find the gap between legal framework for rural employment (mean expectations) and its implementation (mean perceptions) as given in

Table1. The values of expectation and perceptions have been collected through survey of 100 rural people based on five point rating scale.

**Table2: Evaluation of NREGA in Haryana**

S.No.	Constituent of NAREGA	Mean Expectations	Mean Perceptions	Gap
1.	Employment	6.5	1.3	4.2
2.	Monitoring	3.0	1.1	1.9
3	Execution of work	4.3	0.3	4.0
4	Allocation of funds	5.4	2.1	3.3
5	IT interface	3.4	0.2	3.2

#### **GAP ANALYSIS:**

People evaluate the rural development programmes of Government, especially NREGA on the basis of real situation of rural unemployment with reference to expectations to know the effectiveness in its implementation. The difference in Gap scores (Perceptions-Expectations). Such gap points out the failure of NREGA to achieve its objective but it is not hundred percent true. To some extent it has been failed because of various difficulties in its execution due to illiteracy, corruption, unawareness of people about this programme.

#### **CONCLUSION**

India is agriculture and rural based economy, of which economic growth depends on rural development and upliftment, so keeping this in view Government frames various programmes in this regard and one of which is NREGA that is meant for providing the employment to rural people to remove the disguised unemployment. NREGA is designed as a safety net to reduce migration by rural poor households in the lean period through a hundred days of guaranteed unskilled manual labour provided when demanded at minimum wages on works focused on water conservation, land development & drought proofing. Study reveals that implementation of NREGA is at initial stage in Haryana where a little bit of plan has been executed because of many barriers occurring in its implementation like support of state governments, lack of funds, framework of projects of works, unawareness and illiteracy of

rural people etc. So government should focus on removing these barriers taking various initiatives to ensure its effective implementation.

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