

# Periodic Research

## MGNREGA: 100 Days Employment Guarantee and Women Participation in Nagaon District

### Abstract

This paper aims at investigating some MGNREGA activities in Nagaon district of Assam. The aspects to be undertaken include Households engaged (Job cards), person- days, works completed and their distributions across social classification and over gender.

**Keywords:** MGNREGA

### 1. Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme that was notified on 7 September, 2005. The Act came into force on 2nd February, 2006. It is the biggest employment providing programme ever started in a country for the development of its rural areas. The main objective of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to participate in unskilled manual work. The Act is an important step towards realization of the right to work and aims at arresting emigration of rural household in search of employment simultaneously enhancing people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas.

The first phase of MGNREGA was started on February 2, 2006 in 200 districts of the country including seven districts of Assam. In the year 2007, the second phase of NREGA had started where five districts of Assam were also included. The third phase started on April 1, 2008 where remaining 15 districts of Assam came under the purview of the Act. Hence, at present all the districts of Assam are implementing the scheme of MGNREGA. On March 31, 2013 Assam completed seventh year of MGNREGA implementation.

The present work is carried out in the lines of (Sing, 2013) and (Das, 2012).

### MGNREGA and Gender

Gender is the inevitable push factor for growth and development of a nation like India. Women constitute a major share of Indian population. They are facing many problems in their life. Gender discrimination has been seen in terms of education, employment, control over property and resources involvement in decision making process etc. The Government has framed different programmes/schemes to uplift the women from poverty and vulnerability of life. MGNREGA is a highly gender sensitive scheme. It is mandatory that at least one third of the workers (33%) should be women. The important aspect of MGNREGS is the increasing participation of women in it. It not only provides employment to them but by giving wage rate equal to that of a man, it has empowered the women economically as well as socially.

### 2. Objectives

Objectives of the study under taken go as:

1. To examine 100 days Employment provided to women.
2. To examine the 33% job allocation for women

### 3. Source of Data

Data used under this study is of secondary in nature. The data are collected from District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon from the year 2007 onwards.

### 4. Methodology

Different aspects of MGNREGA such as job cards issued and jobs provided by the card holders, employment generated, person days, participation rates etc across social compositions, gender have been empirically examined. Descriptive, Graphic details have been used in the study.



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# Periodic Research

## 5. Results and Analysis

### 5.1 Job Card Issued

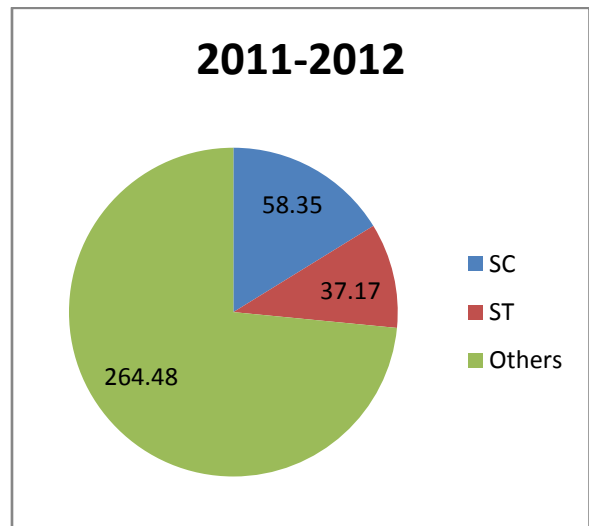
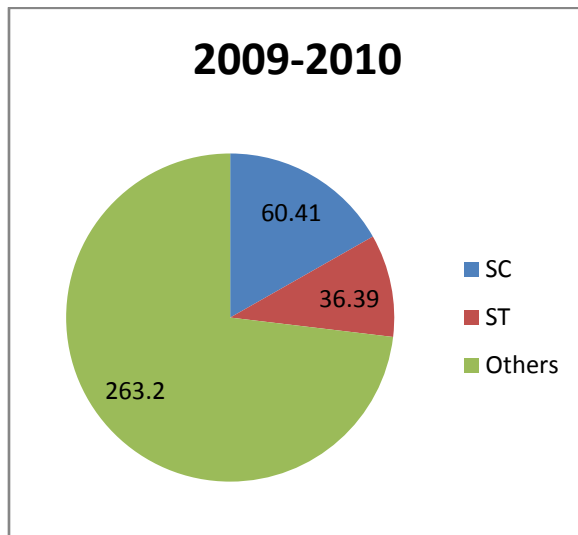
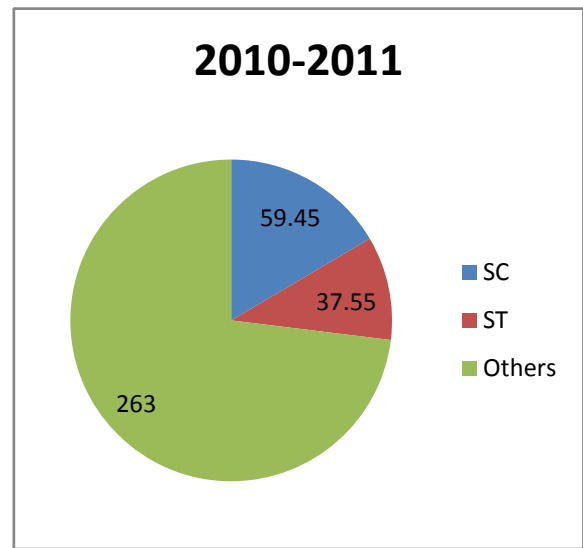
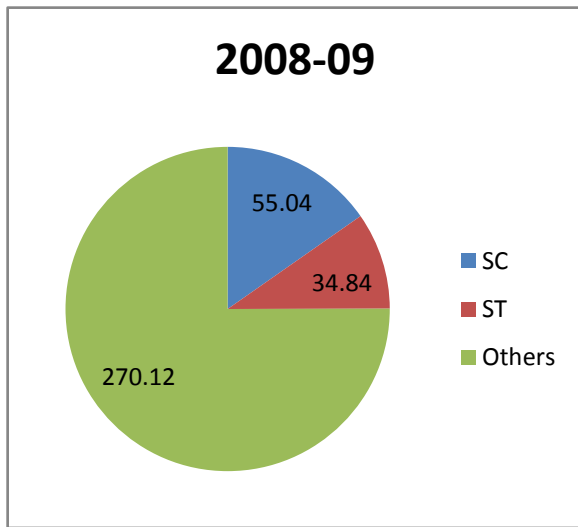
Job cards issued across social compositions in Nagaon District under MGNREGA is presented in a tabular form in Table 5.1.1. These are expressed in the form of share in angle and in percentage (Relative frequency). The social compositions are SC, ST and

Others and cards issued are spread over the years 2008-09 to 2012-13. So far as share in Job card issued is concerned, ST sharing is about 10% (9.68% to 10.46%) while in case of SC ranges of share is between 11.70% to 16.78%. In case of others category range in share varies from 73.05% to 77.83% over the implementation periods.

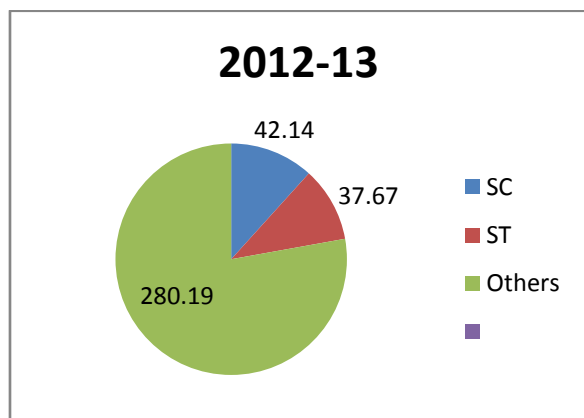
**Table 5.1.1: Job cards issued across social compositions in Nagaon District**

year	Job cards issued for SC	Job cards issued for ST	Job cards issued for Others	Total No. of job cards issued	Relative Frequency			Share in Percentage (%)		
					SC	ST	Others	SC	ST	Others
2008-09	25047	15855	122924	163826	0.153	0.097	0.750	15.29	9.68	75.03
2009-10	33676	20285	146714	200675	0.168	0.101	0.731	16.78	10.11	73.11
2010-11	34813	21992	154013	210818	0.165	0.104	0.731	16.51	10.43	73.05
2011-12	35181	22413	159462	217056	0.162	0.103	0.735	16.21	10.33	73.47
2012-13	26033	23273	173112	222418	0.117	0.105	0.778	11.70	10.46	77.83

Sharing of Job Cards is Displayed in the Pie Diagram



# Periodic Research



## 5.2 Jobs Provided (Person Days Generated)

Person days generated/ Jobs provided across social compositions and gender over the period under study in Nagaon district is exhibited in the Table 5.2.1. Person days for SC appear to range from 9.79% to 26.86% that for ST ranges from 6.84% to 22.63%, while in case of others it ranges from 50.51% to 82.91%. The person days generated are observed to be 81.96% and 82.91% in 2011-12 and 2012-13 in others- category. While considering the person days over gender it is found that person days generated for women is found to be of not encouraging, as it ranges from 3.57% to 12.79% over the period. It indicates a poor women participation in the MGNREGA.

**Table 5.2.1: Person days Generated Over Social composition and Gender in Nagaon District**

Year	Total jobs provided	Jobs for SCs	% of Jobs for SCs	Jobs for STs	% of Jobs for STs	Jobs for Others	% of jobs for Others	Jobs for Women	% of jobs for Women
2008-09	1363600	222500	16.32	143800	10.55	997300	73.14	48700	3.57
2009-10	2282700	613200	26.86	516500	22.63	1153000	50.51	78200	3.43
2010-11	1674300	314000	18.75	340000	20.31	1020300	60.94	132000	7.88
2011-12	1885000	211000	11.19	129000	6.84	1545000	81.96	241000	12.79
2012-13	3096000	303000	9.79	226000	7.30	2567000	82.91	310000	10.01

## 5.3 Employment Status

Considering the employment status under MGNREGA in Nagaon district, Table 5.3.1 is developed. From table we have seen that jobs demanded are equal to jobs provided by the MGNREGA in all the years. However, in regard to completion of 100 days by households is quite

discouraging. In 2008-09 none completed 100 days while during 2009-10 to 2012-13 the percentages of completion of 100 days are very poor, they range from .07% to a maximum of 1.53%. In fine, the trajectory of completion of 100 days is not healthy.

**Table 5.3.1: Employment Status under MGNREGA in Nagaon District**

Year	Job Card Issued (Hh)	Jobs Demanded (Hh)	Jobs Provided (Hh)	100 Days Completed (Hh)	% of Completed 100 days (Hh)
2008-09	163826	84675	84657	0	0.00
2009-10	200675	140193	140193	93	0.07
2010-11	210818	125208	125208	115	0.09
2011-12	217056	122334	122334	339	0.28
2012-13	222418	218726	218726	3346	1.53

Hh: No of Household

## 6. Conclusion

The conclusions that may be drawn from the study go as follows:

1. There is a good amount of parity between jobs demanded and jobs provided in the district.
2. Number of jobs provided to women in the district is very poor. While considering the person days over gender it is found that person days generated for women is found to be of not encouraging, as it ranges from 3.57% to 12.79% over the period. It indicates a poor women's participation in the MGNREGA.
3. In regard to employment status, performance in completing 100 days is dismal in figure.

Percentage of completed 100 days starts from 0.07% to a maximum of 1.3% in the district.

## References

1. Das. Dinesh (2012), "Examining India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): Its Impact and Women's Participation", International Journal of Research in management, Issue 2, vol 6.
2. Sing.Surendra (2013), "MGNREGA: 100 days Employment Guarantee in Bundelkhand (M.P.)?", International Journal of Management and Development Studies. Vol. 2. No. 4.