

# Women Empowerment Through Mgnrega In Bihar With Special Emphasis On Patna District

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**Abstract-**The empowerment of rural women is crucial for the development of the rural Bharat. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is such type of scheme of Central Government which does not discriminate between men and women on the basis of Gender. Various provisions under the Act and its Guidelines, aim to ensure that women have equitable and easy access to work, decent working conditions, equal payment of wages and representation on decision-making bodies. The data analysis has been done in this work to find how far women have been benefitted from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Schemes.

**1. Introduction-**As we all Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is such type of scheme of Central Government which does not discriminate between men and women on the basis of Gender. It has been explicitly mentioned that at least one-third of the workers should be women. So women are encouraged everywhere to actively participate in MGNREGA work. As far as wages is concerned women are paid equally like men in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme whereas the women have to perform less work in MGNREGA as compared to men. For example men have to cut 80 CFT of soil per day whereas women have to cut only 68 CFT of soil per day but both will get the equal wages.

There is also a provision of Creche Facility for children at the work site for women labourers who have small children. Moreover, a women is specially employed at each work site to look after the small children in these crèches so that the women labourers can concentrate

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on their work. These facilities encourage women to take active part in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Not only these, the elderly and handicapped women are given preferences in MGNREGA work.

Various provisions under the Act and its Guidelines, aim to ensure that women have equitable and easy access to work, decent working conditions, equal payment of wages and representation on decision-making bodies. From FY 2006–07 up to FY 2012–13 (upto Dec, 2012), around Rs 62,000 crore have been spent on wages for women. Women participation rate has ranged between 40-48 per cent of the total person-days generated, much above the statutory minimum requirement of 33 per cent. Infact, the participation rate of women under the Scheme has been higher than in all forms of recorded work.

Dev (2010) concluded that one of the successes of the NREGA is that the participation of women in the scheme is higher than the stipulated reservation of 33%. Pankaj and Rukmini (2010) have studied empowerment effects of the NREGA on women workers in four states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh and it was found that women have benefitted more as workers than as a community. Dheeraja et al. (2013) conducted a research study on 'factors facilitating participation of women in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA' in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal. Salian and Leelavathi (2014) have presented the implementation of MGNREGA in Karnataka. It is concluded in this work that the MGNREGA is treated as an exercise in empowering the poor economically and politically to help them get out of poverty and share the benefits of development.

**2. Role of MGNREGA in upliftment of Women-**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has played a very important role in the upliftment of the women socially as well as economically. Due to economic empowerment of the women the standard of living of the women has also improved to a great extent because of the MGNREGA scheme. The women workers of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme now also have started the habit of savings because of the regular assured income coming from MGNREGA. Not only this, women workers of MGNREGA scheme are now organizing themselves and they have started forming groups known as Self Help Groups (SHG).

These Self Help Groups have played the role of catalyst in transforming the lives of these women workers. These SHG have not

only liberated the women folk from the clutches of poverty and moneylenders but have also made them self reliant so that they can stand on their own feet. Thus it can be safely said that these SHG have become a savior for these women in times of need.

One of the most prominent initiatives taken in this regard has been done by the Government of Bihar by setting up Jeevika under the Bihar Rural Livelihood Mission (BRLM). In a very short span of time Jeevika has been able to make a tremendous progress not only in setting up the SHG but also in strengthening these SHG to a considerable extent. These Self Help Groups have enough corpus of fund at their command which they utilize it by lending loans to their women members. Thus these women workers are able to get loans easily and that too at a cheaper rate of interest from banks because of these Self Help Groups (SHG). These women workers often take the loans for the purpose of their education of their children, marriage of their daughter or for starting some business venture. In this way the women are empowered economically.

**3. Benefits of MGNREGA to Women: Data Analysis-**The whole scenario becomes much more clear when we do the data analysis that how far the womens have been benefitted from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Schemes. We arrive at many interesting facts after data analysis. In this particular article we have done Data Analysis of past four years starting from 2015-2016 to 2018-2019.

**3.1 Financial year 2015-2016-**In this paragraph we will be doing the data analysis for the financial year 2015-2016. In terms of mandays generation by women in the year 2015- 2016 many surprising result came forward. Saharsa District of Bihar came to the forefront for the first time in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 18,76,929 mandays in 2015-2016. At the second place was Madhepura District of Bihar in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 16,90,089 mandays in the financial year 2015-2016. Nawada District of Bihar was at the third place in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 13,44,902 mandays in 2015-2016. The worst performer district in terms of mandays generation by women was Khagaria District of Bihar who generated merely 2,23,169 mandays in the financial year 2015-2016.

**3.2 Financial year 2016-2017-**After the financial year 2015-2016 now we move on to the next year that is 2016-2017. Here what we notice is that in the financial year 2016-2017 Saharsa District was at the top

place in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 19,73,475 mandays in 16-17. Next in line was Madhepur District of Bihar in terms of mandays creation by women by generating 18,33, 590 mandays in 16-17. At the third place was Samastipur District of Bihar in terms of mandays generation by women by creating 17,54,539 mandays in 16-17. The worst performer district was Khagaria District of Bihar in terms of mandays generation by women by generating merely 4,29,628 mandays in 16-17.

Now we will be analyzing the data of Patna District in detail in this paragraph for the financial year 2016-2017. The best performer block of Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women during the financial year 2016-2017 was Punpun Block who generated 1,27,653 mandays in 16-17. At the second place was Masaurhi Block of Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 1,09,641 mandays during the financial year 2016- 2017. The third position was held by Paliganj Block of Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 1,03,825 mandays in 2016-2017. The worst performer block in terms of mandays generation by women was Patna Sadar Block of Patna District who generated merely 11,781mandays in 2016-2017.

**3.3 Financial year 2017-2018-**Following sequential pattern now we will be analyzing the data for the financial year 2017-2018. In the year 2017-2018 the pioneer district in terms of mandays generation by women was Samastipur District of Bihar who generated 21,56,406 mandays. Madhepura District of Bihar was at the second place in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 18,95,225 mandays in 2017-2018. At the third place was Saharsa District of Bihar in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 18,11,139 mandays in 2017-2018. And the worst performing district in terms of mandays generation by women was Sheohar District of Bihar who generated merely 3,39,678 mandays in 2017-2018.

In this paragraph we will be analyzing the performance of various blocks of Patna District in detail during the financial year 2017-2018. In the financial year 2017-2018 Paliganj Block of Patna District was the champion block in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 95,639 mandays during the financial year 2017-2018. At the second place in terms of mandays generation by women was Masaurhi Block of Patna District who generated 69,230 mandays in the financial year 2017-2018. The third position was held by Punpun Block of Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 67,765 mandays in the

financial year 2017-2018. And the worst performer block in terms of mandays generation by women was Patna Sadar Block of Patna District who generated merely 7725 mandays in the financial year 2017-2018.

**3.4 Financial year 2018-2019**-Following the sequential pattern finally we have arrived at the current financial year that is 2018-2019. In this particular financial year what we see that Saharsa District of Bihar topped the list in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 13,21,712 mandays during the financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-18. Katihar District of Bihar stood at the second place in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 8,82,817 mandays during the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-18. At the third position in terms of mandays generation by women during the current financial year 2018-2019 was Samastipur District of Bihar who generated 8,59,727 mandays in 2018-2019 till 27-6-18. But the worst performer district in terms of mandays generation by women was Khagaria District of Bihar who generated merely 1,23,287 mandays in the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-18.

Now we will look at the performance of the various blocks of the Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women during the current financial year 2018-2019. Masaurhi Block of the Patna District emerged as the winner block in the whole district in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 67,168 mandays in the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-18. At the second place was Paliganj Block of the Patna District in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 31,101 mandays in the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-2018. Punpun Block of the Patna District stood at the third place in terms of mandays generation by women by generating 29,856 mandays in the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-2018. Whereas the worst performer block in terms of mandays generation by women was Athmalgola Block of the Patna District who generated merely 2583 mandays in the current financial year 2018-2019 till 27-6-2018.

All the above mentioned facts and figures of mandays creation by women have been well represented here in the form of Pie Charts.

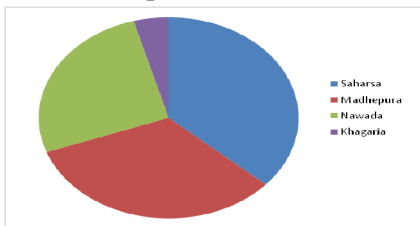


Figure 1: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2015-2016 in Bihar

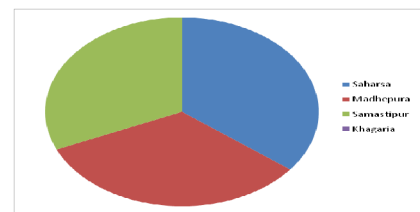


Figure 2: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2016-2017 in Bihar

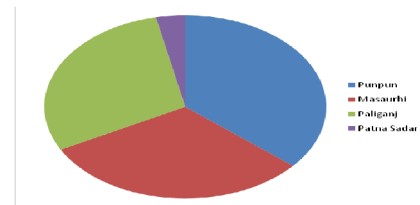


Figure 3: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2016-2017 in different Blocks of Patna District

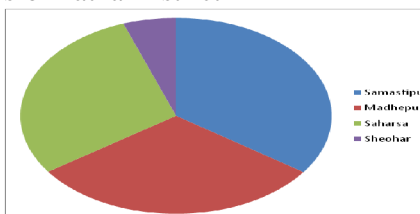


Figure 4: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2017-2018 in Bihar

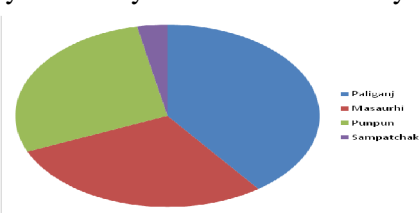


Figure 5: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2017-2018 in different Blocks of Patna district

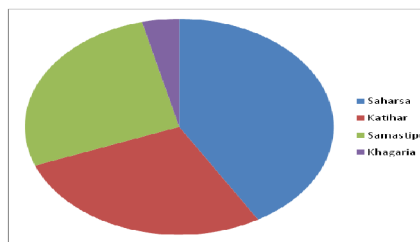


Figure 6: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2018-2019 in Bihar

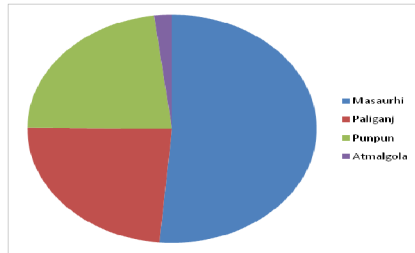


Figure 7: Mandays created by women in the financial year 2018-2019 in different blocks of Patna district



Photograph (1): Women workers actively participating in MGNREGA scheme in Aunta Panchyat Of Mokama Block of Patna District.



Photograph (2): Women workers actively participating in MGNREGA scheme in Aunta Panchyat of Mokama Block of Patna District.

**4 Conclusions**-Entire studies conducted in this chapter may be concluded as follows:

- (1) The biggest contribution of MGNREGA to the society is the upliftment of womenfolk.
- (2) There is a provision in MGNREGA Act that explicitly says that at least one third of the workers should be women.
- (3) During the course of the study it has been noticed that the women belonging to the lower strata of the society mainly works as a labourers in MGNREGA scheme.

- (4) During the course of the study it has also been found that the women belonging to the upper section of the society don't work in MGNREGA Scheme because of the social stigma.
- (5) There are some districts of Bihar like Gaya, Saharsa and Madhepura etc who have always performed well in terms of mandays creation by women.
- (6) There are some districts of Bihar like Munger, Khagaria and Sheohar who have always lagged behind in terms of mandays creation by women.
- (7) There are certain blocks of Patna District like Masaurhi, Paliganj, Punpun and Ghoswari etc who are the champions in terms of mandays generation by women.
- (8) There are certain blocks of Patna District like Patna Sadar, Sampatchak and Belchhi etc who have always lagged behind in terms of mandays generation by women.
- (9) One of the biggest contribution of MGNREGA Scheme towards women empowerment is that it has been able to liberate women both socially as well as economically.
- (10) Moreover, MGNREGA Schemes has been able to liberate the women from the shakels of deep rooted poverty as well as from the clutches of money lenders.
- (11) With regular and assured source of income because of MGNREGA scheme the women labourers are now able to provide education to their children as well as are also able to take proper care of their health and nutrition of their children.
- (12) Due to MGNREGA Scheme the women labourers have also started the habit of savings money and they have also started entrepreneurship on a small scale.

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