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PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN MGNREGA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO MIZORAM

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Abstract: MGNREGA is a scheme that ensure 100 days of employment to all those willing to do unskilled manual works to rural households in India. MGNREGA open new opportunities for women across the country. The scheme encourages higher participation of women by giving priority to women in such a way that at least one-third (33.3) percent of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the scheme. However, it is found that to encourage greater women participation, it is important to classify clear cut division of labour between men and women.

Keywords: Employment, Empowerment, MGNREGA, Women Participation, Mizoram.

I INTRODUCTION

MGNREGA is a scheme that ensure 100 days of employment to all those willing to do unskilled manual works to rural households in India. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), formerly known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) was enacted on 25th August, 2005. The scheme encourages higher participation of women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes participation.

MGNREGA is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the States as determined by the Act. The goal of the Act includes ‘Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities, livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity and empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedules Tribes (STs) through the processes of a rights-based legislation.’

According to the MGNREGA Act, work site facilities like Crèche, drinking water, first aid and shade should be provided at worksites. According to MGNREGA Section 3 (1) and para 9 of Schedule-II, if more than 5 Children under the age of 6 years are present, child care facilities should be provided at work. According to MGNREGA, Schedule II, Para 6, While providing

employment, priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third (33.3) percent of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the scheme.

II OBJECTIVES

1. To study the participation of women in MGNREGA
2. To examine the factors that hinder women participation in MGNREGA

III OVERVIEW OF MGNREGA, MIZORAM

In the State of Mizoram, MGNREGA is implemented in the third phase of implementation. Rural Development Department is the implementing Department for the Schemes. At the District level, the Governing Body of the DRDA is the District Employment Council and they are vested with the responsibilities of the District/Zilla Parishad. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Mizoram has been assigned with the task of implementation of NREGA in the State of Mizoram from 1st April, 2008.

The objectives laid down by Government of Mizoram, Rural Development Department are as follows:

- i) Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.
- ii) Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;
- iii) Proactively ensuring social inclusion and

iv) Strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions.

According to Rule No 3 of Government of Mizoram, Rural Development Department vide No.F.19016/2/09-RD (MGNREGS), Entitlement to Receive Unemployment Allowance, A person who is registered and having a valid job card under the scheme and who has given an application to Village Employment Council or the Village Level Administrative Assistant asking for wage employment under the Act and is not provided employment within fifteen days of receipt of the application seeking employment then that person shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance at such rate of one-fourth of the wage rate rounded off to the next rupee for the first thirty days during the financial year and one-half of the wage rate rounded off to the next rupee for the remaining period of the financial year.

The Physical progress of MGNREGA, Mizoram for the financial year 2018-2019 is shown in Table no 3 : 1.

TABLE NO 3 : 1

Physical Progress of MGNREGA, Mizoram, 2018-2019

1.	Approved Labour Budget	10000000
2.	Persondays Generated so far	6196180
3.	Percentage of Total Labour Budget	61.96
4.	SC persondays percentage as of total persondays	0.02
5.	ST persondays percentage as of total persondays	99.31
6.	Women Persondays out of Total percentage	32.95
7.	Average days of employment provided per household	33.11
8.	Average Wage rate per day per person in Rupees	193.99
9.	Total No of Households completed 100 days of wage employment	0
10.	Total Households Worked	187142
11.	Total Individuals Worked	191271

Source :Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Retrieved from http://ruraldiksha.nic.in/RuralDashboard/MGNREGA_NEW.aspx#

As shown in Table No 3 : 1, the approved Labour Budget for Mizoram 2018-2019 is 10000000. The Persondays Generated so far is 6196180 and the percentage of total Labour Budget is 61.96 p.c. The percentage of Scheduled Caste (SC) of total persondays stood at 0.02 p.c. and the percentage for Scheduled Tribe (ST) of total persondays stood at 99.31 p.c. Women persondays out of the total

percentage is 32.95 p.c. and the average days of employment provided per household is 33.11 p.c and the average wage rate per day per person is Rs. 193.99. The total number of households completed 100 days of wage employment is 0 and the total number of Households work under the scheme is 187142 and the total individuals work in the scheme is 191271.

The programme specific of MGNREGA, Mizoram during the financial year of 2018-2019 is shown in Table No.3 : 2.

**TABLE NO. 3 : 2
PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OF MGNREGA,
MIZORAM, 2018-2019**

1	Total No of job cards issued	189520
2	Total No of Active Job Cards	188479
3	Total No of workers	384066
4	Total No. of Active Workers	257397
5	Total No. of works taken up (new+spill over)	14180
6	Number of ongoing work	11470
7	Number of completed work	2709
8	Number of GPs with NIL exp	2
9	Percentage of NRM Exp (Public and Individual)	69.45
10	Percentage of category B Works	34.98
11	Percentage of expenditure on Agriculture allied works	73.58

Source: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Retrieved from http://ruraldiksha.nic.in/RuralDashboard/MGNREGA_NEW.aspx#

As shown in Table No. 3 : 2, the total number of Job Cards issued are 189520 and the total number of Active Job Cards are 188479. The total numbers of Workers are 384066 and the total numbers of Active Workers are 257397. The total number of Works Taken up (New+Spill Over) is 14180 and the numbers of Ongoing Works are 11470. The number of Completed Works are 2709 and the number of GPs with NIL exp is 2. The percentage of NRM Exp.(Public+ Individual) stood at 69.45 p.c. The percentage of Category B Works is 34.98 p.c. and the percentage of Expenditure on Agriculture and agriculture Allied Works is 73.58 p.c.

The number of employment provided to women in MGNREGA, Mizoram during the financial year of 2018-2019 are provided in the table below.

As shown in Table No. 3 : 3, In Aizawl District, the total number of women employed stood at 287924 out of the total 1107302. The total number of women in Champhai District stood at 377102 out of the total 964906. In Kolasib

District, the number stood at 266366 out of 624784. In Lawngtlai District, the number amounts to 238923 out of 825285. The number amounts to 701075 in Lunglei District out of 1801689 and 282698 out of the total 764059 in Mamit District. In Saiha District, the number of women participations stood at 109175 out of the total 367147 and 222674 out of the total 593436 in Serchhip District. The total person-days women employment in the State of Mizoram amounts to 2485937 out of the total 7048608 employments.

TABLE NO. 3 : 3
WOMEN PERSONDAYS EMPLOYMENT
GENERATED DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-2019

Sl No.	District	No. of Women	Total No
1	Aizawl	287924	1107302
2	Champhai	377102	964906
3	Kolasib	266366	624784
4	Lawngtlai	238923	825285
5	Lunglei	701075	1801689
6	Mamit	282698	764059
7	Saiha	109175	367147
8	Serchhip	222674	593436
	TOTAL	2485937	7048608

Source: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Retrieved from http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/state_html/empstatusnewall_scst.aspx?page=S&lflag=eng&state_name=MIZORAM&state_code=22&fin_year=2018-2019&source=national&Digest=/4KG/2YuHX4yd+8XFgImJw

The type of works performed under MGNREGA, Mizoram include construction of Anganwadi and other rural infrastructure, Coastal Areas, Drought Proofing, Rural Drinking Water, Food grain, Flood Control and Protection, Fisheries, Micro Irrigation Works, Works on Individuals Land, Land Development, Play Ground, Rural Connectivity, Rural Sanitation, Water Conservation and Water Harvesting, Renovation of traditional water bodies.

IV ANALYSIS

MGNREGA open new doors for women across the country. The Act encourages women participation in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries should be women. The Act also highlights Creche among the facilities to be provided by the State Government so that mothers of small children can also work under MGNREGA without having to worry about their small children. However, it is found that the total person-days of women participation

according to the latest report in Mizoram stood at 32.95 p.c. out of the total percentage only.

MGNREGA aims at providing durable assets and infrastructures for the rural community hence the works executed under the scheme involves heavy manual works like construction of roads, buildings, digging pit holes etc. There are no distinction or separation of works for men and women in MGNREGA scheme. So, for some women, the works executed under these schemes are beyond their physical strengths and that discourages many women. In some cases, it is also found that women are not exactly encouraged to come to work as the work involves heavy manual works that require physical strength most suited for men.

V CONCLUSION

MGNREGA provides new opportunities for employment across the country. Participation of women in MGNREGA is sought to bring economic independence among women. However, it is found that women are also working in the construction of roads, buildings and engaged in heavy manual works that require lifting heavy weight which are best suited for men. To encourage higher women participation, it is important to provide clear cut division of labour for men and women and provide different work, tasks and responsibilities in the 100 days employment guarantee scheme.

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