

Participation of Women in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: A Case Study of Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract: The study is based on secondary data to determine the work participation of women under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Jammu and Kashmir and also to analyze the inter-district variations. The study finds that Jammu and Kashmir has shown the increasing trends of women's participation in MGNREGA among the consecutive years. The participation of women in MGNREGA has been increasing day by day which creates self-confidence, positive thinking and decision-making ability of women in the society. The social security scheme that aims to guarantee the right to work, easy access to work and equal payment of wages for equal work especially for women workers of rural areas. According to this act, about one-third of the stipulated work is reserved for women which helps in providing livelihood and gives financial support to rural women so that their quality of life must be improved which ultimately becomes an important tool for inclusive growth and sustainable development in rural India. The Act focused on various works which helps in creating durable assets such as roads, canals, ponds and wells for improving the purchasing power of semi-skilled and un-skilled rural people of India.

IndexTerms - MGNREGA, Work Participation of Women, Jammu and Kashmir

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a developing, mixed economy which is characterized by too much dependence on agriculture. A very high proportion of working population of Indian economy engaged in agriculture activities which contributed a large share in the national income of the country. Indian economy has been facing a chronic problem of unemployment and poverty which is badly infested in rural India despite of growing economy. Since independence, Government of India in collaboration with State Government has launched various programmes and schemes for reduction of unemployment and poverty particularly in rural areas of the country. These programmes and schemes have not created a positive impact for reduction of unemployment and poverty and also not generated any appropriate and favorable results for strengthening livelihoods and improving the standard of living of rural women. For bringing desired results, Government of India introduced a flagship programme known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in August 2005. Later on, it was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in October 2009. It is a social security scheme that initially started in two hundred backward districts of India on 2nd February 2006. It has covered all the districts of India before 1st April 2008. Moreover, the scheme launched in Jammu and Kashmir especially in the three districts, namely, Doda, Kupwara and Poonch on 11th May 2007. The scheme provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work for enhancing livelihood security of the poor rural households. MGNREGA is an Indian labor law that aims to guarantee the right to work and to create durable assets such as roads, canals, ponds and wells. The Act has focused on strengthening the natural resources through the work which helps in improving the purchasing power of semi-skilled and un-skilled rural people of India. It has a widespread impact on social protection and livelihoods.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are many studies conducted for reviewing the literature related to women participation in MGNREGA. **Madhuri Verma (2010)** in her study investigated that the condition of women is improved and now they are able to earn their livelihood, after participating in MGNREGA. **Dutta et al (2012)** reviewed the data from National Sample Survey for 2009–10 found that the scheme is attracting poor women into the workforce although the local-level rationing processes favour men. **Sudarshan M. Ratna (2011)** conducted a survey of three states, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan and explored the important features of the act and changing levels of women's participation. **Ashok Pankaj and Rukmini Tankha (2010)** argued that women workers have gained benefits from the scheme primarily because of the paid employment opportunity and benefits have been realised through income-consumption effects, intra-household effects, and the enhancement of choice and capability. **IIT Roorkee (2010)** in its study conducted in two districts of Uttarakhand and examined that the participation of the women in decision making has improved due to independent wage earning from MGNREGA. **Kaushal SL and Singh B (2016)** in their study conducted in Himachal Pradesh found that MGNREGA has become a powerful instrument for women empowerment in rural India through its effect on livelihood security, democratic governance and social protection. **Venu babu Ch and Sudhakar G (2014)** conducted a case study in Andhra Pradesh investigated that women participating in MGNREGA have become less dependent on their husband for money. Research studies indicate that MGNREGA is an important work opportunity for unskilled women who are unemployed.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data which is collected from the official website of MGNREGA. It is also gathered from Ministry of Rural Development, Internet, magazines, journals and books, dissertation and thesis etc. The collected data covers eight financial years from 2011-12 to 2018-19 of MGNREGA pertaining to work participation of women. The study has been conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. The study is analyzed by using the simple percentage method of calculation.

IV. OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to study the work participation of women under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Jammu and Kashmir and to find out the inter-district variations in women's participation in this act.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

MGNREGA has provided various provisions which helps in attracting women workers towards the scheme, ensures work participation of one third of the women workers and equal wage for equal work which have played significant role in the society. The women participation has been changed from 2011-12 to 2018-19 in the consecutive years. The participation of women in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise under the scheme of MGNREGA for 2011-12 and 2018-19 is analyzed in the following table 1 and 2.

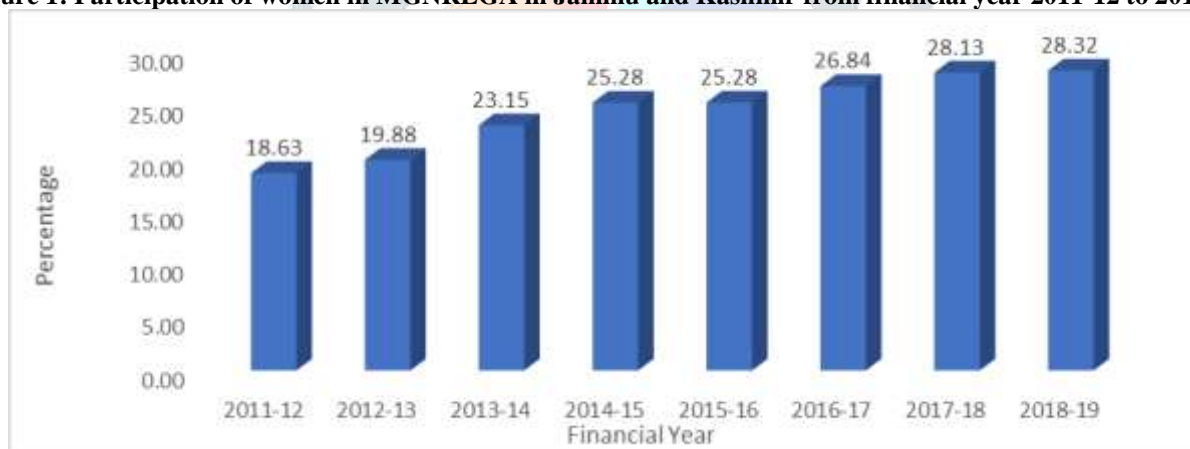
Table 1: Work Participation of women in MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir from financial year 2011-12 to 2018-19.

Financial year (2011-12 to 2018-19)	Work Participation of Women in MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir		
	Women	Total	Percentage
2011-12	38,95,806	2,09,10,314	18.63
2012-13	72,68,951	3,65,55,590	19.88
2013-14	78,26,941	3,38,11,891	23.15
2014-15	30,60,861	1,21,09,013	25.28
2015-16	79,97,620	3,16,31,926	25.28
2016-17	84,70,528	3,15,59,306	26.84
2017-18	1,06,81,656	3,79,77,269	28.13
2018-19*	14,21,085	50,18,571	28.32

Note: * Provisional data is still in progress for the year 2018-19.

Source: MGNREGA (official website www.mgnrega.nic.in)

Figure 1: Participation of women in MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir from financial year 2011-12 to 2018-19.



Source: Table 1.

It is clear from the table that the work participation of women in Jammu and Kashmir has been showing increasing trends in the consecutive years. Therefore, the percentage of participation of women has been increased from 18.63 percent in 2011-12, 19.88 percent in 2012-13, and 23.15 percent in 2013-14. The participation of women is same in two financial years of 2014-15 and 2015-16 i.e. 25.28 percent. In the financial year 2016-17, the women participation in Jammu and Kashmir has also increased to 26.84 percent and ascended by 28.13 percent in 2017-18 and increased to 28.32 percent in 2018-19 in eight consecutive years. Thus, the women's participation especially in Jammu and Kashmir is significantly increasing day by day and it also playing a vital role in generating income of rural women workers.

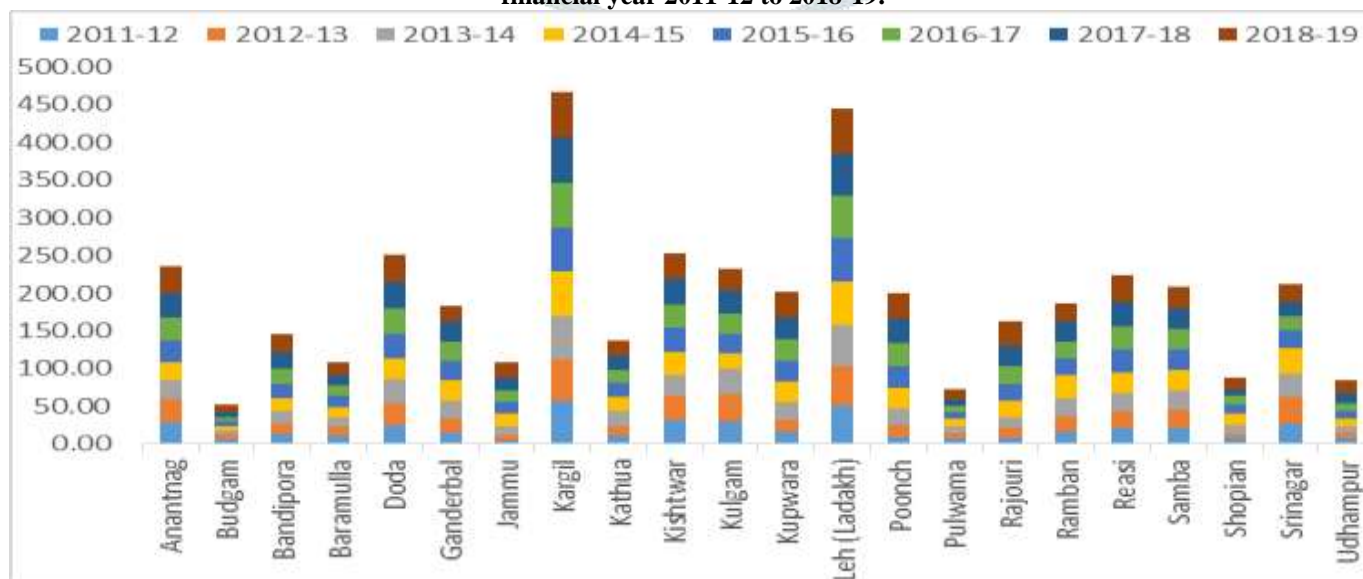
Table 2: District wise Participation of women in MGNREGA in terms of percentage in Jammu and Kashmir from financial year 2011-12 to 2018-19.

Districts	District wise Participation of Women in MGNREGA (in %) in J&K from financial year 2011-12 to 2018-19							
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19*
Anantnag	28.98	30.10	24.86	25.11	28.72	29.46	33.07	34.90
Budgam	6.22	7.06	4.87	6.12	5.51	5.89	6.99	8.90
Bandipora	13.38	12.81	17.09	17.78	18.71	20.23	21.39	24.50
Baramulla	11.61	11.76	12.07	13.70	14.41	14.01	14.49	16.08
Doda	25.19	28.80	31.55	27.24	32.74	33.78	36.66	34.77
Ganderbal	15.12	19.27	23.57	26.16	25.40	25.76	27.09	20.17
Jammu	4.47	6.36	13.12	16.18	14.73	15.68	17.59	20.13
Kargil	56.67	55.17	57.69	59.14	58.17	59.48	61.04	58.93
Kathua	11.01	12.22	20.86	17.96	18.58	17.16	18.72	20.88
Kishtwar	31.98	31.46	28.31	30.42	31.18	31.13	34.60	34.06
Kulgam	30.20	36.51	32.74	21.47	25.49	26.23	29.92	29.72
Kupwara	16.67	15.23	24.27	26.42	27.03	29.01	29.68	32.80
Leh (Ladakh)	50.91	52.30	54.96	57.28	57.48	56.22	56.32	58.25
Poonch	10.62	15.13	22.07	27.27	27.70	30.41	32.29	34.31
Pulwama	7.55	6.71	9.05	9.54	8.99	8.28	9.72	13.08
Rajouri	8.77	12.93	13.69	21.82	21.88	23.78	27.31	31.74
Ramban	16.14	20.23	24.40	30.14	22.88	22.19	26.54	23.37
Reasi	21.22	21.92	25.13	27.18	29.79	31.00	32.07	35.30
Samba	21.08	23.84	26.27	27.05	26.35	27.04	28.37	28.17
Shopian	9.04	4.15	12.12	15.74	11.57	12.30	8.36	14.56
Srinagar	27.62	35.52	29.41	34.68	23.28	19.28	17.66	24.22
Udhampur	7.41	7.86	8.75	9.50	9.69	11.18	13.73	17.21
Total	18.63	19.88	23.15	25.28	25.28	26.84	28.13	28.32

Note: * Provisional data is still in progress for the year 2018-19.

Source: MGNREGA (official website www.mgnrega.nic.in)

Figure 2: District-wise Participation of women in MGNREGA in terms of percentage in Jammu and Kashmir from financial year 2011-12 to 2018-19.



Source: Table 2.

The table explained the inter-district variations in women participation in Jammu and Kashmir. The result shows that in the eight consecutive years, all districts of Jammu and Kashmir have shown increasing as well as decreasing trends. As inter-district variations, the increasing trends is greater than decreasing trends in participation of women workers in MGNREGA. As district wise variations, the highest women participation rate is 56.67 percent in Kargil and lowest in Jammu (4.47 percent) in the financial year 2011-12. In the financial year 2012-13, the highest rate of women participation is 55.17 percent in Kargil and lowest in Shopian (4.15 percent). It is very interesting to note here that in Kargil, the participation of working women is highest in MGNREGA i.e., in 2013-14 it was 57.69 percent, 59.14 percent in the year 2014-15, 58.17 percent in 2015-16, 59.48 percent in 2016-17, 61.04 percent in 2017-18 and 58.93 percent in 2018-19 among the twenty-two districts of Jammu and Kashmir whereas Budgam records the lowest in six consecutive years viz., 4.87 percent in 2013-14, 6.12 percent in 2014-15, 5.51 percent in 2015-16, 5.89 percent in 2016-17, 6.99 percent in 2017-18 and 8.90 percent in 2018-19 among rest of the districts. Thus, Kargil shows a higher rate of participation of women in MGNREGA whereas Budgam shows a lowers rate of women's participation in MGNREGA among the twenty-two districts.

The participation of women in MGNREGA in Anantnag was 28.98 percent in financial year 2011-12, 30.10 percent in 2012-13, 24.86 percent in 2013-14, 28.72 percent in 2015-16, 29.46 percent in 2016-17, 33.07 percent in 2017-18 and 34.90 percent in 2018-19 whereas in Budgam, it was 6.22 percent in 2011-12, 7.06 percent in 2012-13, 4.87 percent in 2013-14, 6.12 percent in 2014-15, 5.51 percent in 2015-16, 5.89 percent in 2016-17, 6.99 percent in 2017-18, 8.90 percent in 2018-19. Bandipora has 13.38 percent, 12.81 percent, 17.09 percent, 17.78 percent, 18.71 percent, 20.23 percent, 21.39 percent and 24.50 percent in consecutive years from 2011-12 to 2018-19. As year wise analysis of data, Baramulla has 11.61 percent, 11.76 percent, 12.07 percent, 13.70 percent, 14.41 percent, 14.01 percent, 14.49 percent and 16.08 percent in consecutive years. Doda has 25.19 percent of women's participation in 2011-12, 28.80 percent in 2012-13, 31.55 percent in 2013-14, 27.24 percent in 2014-15, 32.74 percent in 2015-16, 33.78 percent in 2016-17, 36.66 percent in 2017-18 and 34.77 percent in 2018-19 while in Ganderbal, it was 15.12 percent, 19.27 percent, 23.57 percent, 26.16 percent, 25.40 percent, 25.76 percent, 27.09 percent and 20.17 percent in these consecutive years. In Jammu, the percentage of participation of women in MGNREGA is 4.47 percent, 6.36 percent, 13.12 percent, 16.18 percent, 14.73 percent, 15.68 percent, 17.59 percent and 20.13 percent in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively whereas in Kargil, which is overall highest among the rest of the districts i.e., 56.67 percent, 55.17 percent, 57.69 percent, 59.14 percent, 58.17 percent, 59.48 percent, 61.04 percent and 58.93 percent in these consecutive years. The participation of women in MGNREGA in Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam and Kupwara was 11.01 percent, 31.98 percent, 30.20 percent and 16.67 percent in financial year 2011-12; 12.22 percent, 31.46 percent, 36.51 percent and 15.23 percent in 2012-13; 20.86 percent, 28.31 percent, 32.74 percent and 24.27 percent in 2013-14, 17.96 percent, 30.42 percent, 21.47 percent and 26.42 percent in 2014-15; 18.58 percent, 31.18 percent, 25.49 percent and 27.03 percent in the year 2015-16; 17.16 percent, 31.13 percent, 26.23 percent and 29.01 percent in 2016-17; 18.72 percent, 34.60 percent, 29.92 percent and 29.68 percent in the year 2017-18 and 20.88 percent, 34.06 percent, 29.72 percent and 32.80 percent in 2018-19 respectively. Leh has 50.91 percent, 52.30 percent, 54.96 percent, 57.28 percent, 57.48 percent, 56.22 percent, 56.32 percent and 58.25 percent of participation of women in MGNREGA in eight consecutive years while in Poonch the percentage of participation is 10.62 percent, 15.13 percent, 22.07 percent, 27.27 percent, 27.70 percent, 30.41 percent, 32.29 percent and 34.31 percent. In the eight consecutive years, the percentage of participation in Pulwama, Rajouri and Ramban is 7.55 percent, 8.77 percent and 16.14 percent in the year 2011-12; 6.71 percent, 12.93 percent and 20.23 percent in 2012-13; 9.05 percent, 13.69 percent and 24.40 percent in the year 2013-14; 9.54 percent, 21.82 percent and 30.14 percent in 2014-15; 8.99 percent, 21.88 percent, 22.88 percent in 2015-16; 8.28 percent, 23.78 percent and 22.19 percent in the year 2016-17; 9.72 percent, 27.31 percent and 26.54 percent in 2017-18 and 13.08 percent, 31.74 percent and 23.37 percent respectively. In the newly formed district, Reasi, the percentage of participation of women is continuously increasing in these consecutive years i.e., from 21.22 percent to 21.92 percent to 25.13 percent to 27.18 percent to 29.79 percent to 31 percent to 32.07 percent to 35.30 percent. The working women in MGNREGA in Samba was 21.08 percent in 2011-12, 23.84 percent in 2012-13, 26.27 percent in 2013-14, 27.05 percent in 2014-15, 26.35 percent in 2015-16, 27.04 percent in 2016-17, 28.37 percent in 2017-18 and 28.17 percent in 2018-19 whereas in Shopian, it was 9.04 percent in 2011-12, 4.15 percent in 2012-13, 12.12 percent in 2013-14, 15.74 percent in 2014-15, 11.57 percent in 2015-16, 12.30 percent in 2016-17, 8.36 percent in 2017-18 and 14.56 percent in 2018-19. In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the participation of women is 27.62 percent, 35.52 percent, 29.41 percent, 34.68 percent, 23.28 percent, 19.28 percent, 17.66 percent and 24.22 percent in the eight consecutive years. In the Northern Command of India, i.e., in Udhampur district, the percentage of participation of women in MGNREGA is 7.41 percent in 2011-12, 7.86 percent in 2012-13, 8.75 percent in 2013-14, 9.50 percent in 2014-15, 9.69 percent in 2015-16, 11.18 percent in 2016-17, 13.73 percent in 2017-18 and 17.21 percent in 2018-19. It can be seen that the percentage of working women has been continuously increasing in many districts of Jammu and Kashmir which indicates a positive impact of women in attaining self-dependence and decision-making power and it also plays a vital role for income generation and quality of life of rural women workers. The districts in which the participation of women is low, the government should have to take desirable steps and measures to increase the participation of women.

VI. CONCLUSION

The result analyze that the work participation of women in Jammu and Kashmir has been showing ascending trends in the eight consecutive years i.e. from 2011-12 to 2018-19. Majority of districts of Jammu and Kashmir have shown increasing trends in the participation of women workers in MGNREGA. Those districts who show less women's participation, desirable steps should be taken by government for enhancing more positive role and participation of women. Financial support should be given to rural women for increasing their income and increasing earning abilities which ultimately strengthen the overall growth and development process. This act ensures women to have easy access to work, decent working conditions, and equal wages for equal work and ability to have strong power in decision-making and becoming self-independent.

VII. REFERENCES

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