

## **Impact of MGNREGA on Socio-economic Status of Tribal People in Himachal Pradesh**

**File No. 02/44/2019-2020/MJ/RP**

The greatest challenge that the scheduled tribe people has been facing since independence is the proper provision of social justice. They constitute the matrix of India's poverty. Though the tribal are the sons of the same soil and the citizens of the same country, they are practically deprived of many civic facilities. The present research's innovativeness lies in its prime objectives itself, i.e. the in-depth analysis of the impact of MGNREGA in terms of poverty eradication as well as the socio-economic upliftment of the tribal class of people living in Himachal. The fact that the present study's focus is directed towards ascertaining the impact of MGNREGA on the existing ground level issues (poverty & socio-economic exclusion on the development scale) reflects the innovativeness. Furthermore, the study aims at abridging the existing research gaps where the existing literature has paid little or no heed to the actual impact of MGNREGA in improving the standard of living in tribal areas which is a function of expansive factors. This study aims to do the same. The study would help in documentation of best practices which can be replicated in other developmental programs planned for tribal population elsewhere. The study would provide valuable information to planners and administrators in their future pursuit for sustainable development and welfare of the tribal people. Ultimately based on the outcomes, an effective strategy will be suggested so as to be replicated elsewhere and have cascading effect for other areas having the similar resource system. The success of the present study will provide a solid ground for up grading the people of the area and such success cases would be used to motivate others and will help to examine that how MGNREGA is functioning across study villages. The participation of village households and status of employment in the study area will be examined. As of current, the legislation passed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in one financial year for the work of unskilled labour. Regarded as one of the most effective legislative work in alleviating the deplorable condition of rural India, MGNREGA has certainly made a considerable difference in terms of upliftment of rural population. Providing employment is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to determining whether actual development has taken place in the backward areas, especially tribal areas. What this study will focus upon are the impacts of MGNREGA at the different facts of a tribal society and its population. Given that government comes up with numerous initiatives for the upliftment of rural sector in India (MGNREGA being a part of it),

the need to ensure that the initiatives so being introduced are being effectively and efficiently implemented is now more than ever which not only ensures that the needful is being done for the socio-economically backward sects but will also end up making better utilization of the resources. It is through this study of impact assessment of MGNREGA in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh in terms of poverty alleviation, net income, disposable income, quality of living conditions, creation of durable assets, development of the tribal area where the tribal population resides, so on and so forth, that a report on the accomplishments and the shortcomings of MGNREGA can be formulated. This detailed analysis of the impact of MGNREGA on different dimensions of tribal areas will possibly provide a substrate for the policy makers to work upon and adjust the policies to put them at par with the ground reality, thereby cumulatively acting in the favour of tribal population.

### **Project Details:**

Grant in aid: Rs.7,30,000

Funding Agency: Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

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