



IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (NREGS) IN TELANGANA STATE: A STUDY

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Abstract

The study of public policy constitutes an important area in the politico-governance system of every country. Policymaking is the essence of the political science discipline. As public policy is what the government intends to do or not to do, every activity of the government is considered a public policy. The MGNREGS program has been successfully implemented by the Telangana State government since 2006 (as part of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh). It was implemented in 10 districts, which were later divided into 33 districts. This paper reviews the implementation of NREGS Telangana between 2015-16, and 2018-19. This paper discusses the number and distribution of NREGS Job Cards to households. It also includes the year and gender-wise distribution of beneficiaries. The distribution of NREGS job card beneficiaries is done according to the MGNREGS.

MGNREGS' employment program is a well-known programme for public service. Employment generation programs follow a right-based approach. They provide unemployment allowance to those who are not able to find work within 15 days. The program can provide direct income and economic benefits to beneficiaries. Indirect benefits are more important than direct economic gains. Participation in the political and social spheres are some of these indirect benefits.

Key Words: National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Poverty, Public Policy, Mission Kakatiya, Kaleshwaram Project, Community Based Organizations(CBOs), Electronic Muster & Measurement System (e-MMS), QUALITY Control Wing (QCW), Public Works Department (PWD)

Introduction

Policy implementation spins around the legislature, executive and civil servants. Indeed, the legislative members are not involved in policy implementation directly; it is the executive branch of the government which executes policies with the Help of civil servants. A public policy becomes meaningless if it is not implemented as intended by the policy formulators. It can achieve its objectives and goals if the executing authorities implement it effectively and efficiently¹. According to the top-down model, implementation is the ability to establish links in a causal chain to put the policy into effect. If the implementation of the public policy had to be done effectively, a top-down system of control and communication and resources to do the job. The top-down model was developed by Christopher Hood. A policy implementation involved a high degree of discretion, it is found in the bottom-up approach those who implement the policy at the street level have more discretion. Some scholars record the process of policy implementation as a political game, or the game model, which was popularized by Bardach in the year 1977, according to him, policy implementation is a game of bargaining, persuasion and maneuvering under conditions of uncertainty².

We will give you a brief overview of Telangana in the next section.



Profile of Telangana State

With 10 districts, the 29th state of the Indian Union is formed. The new state lies between the Northern latitudes of 15deg 55' and 19deg 56', and the Eastern Longitudes of 77deg 15' and 80deg 47'. Telangana State covers 1,14,863 km². It ranks 12th in terms of area. With 3,51,93,000.978 residents, it is 12th in area. It ranks 28th in literacy rates at 66.29%. Telangana State, which is located on the Deccan Plateau, is approximately 480-600 m high with a mean sea level of 600 m. The height of the area located at Hyderabad-Warangal-Khammam is up to 730 meters. The state is bordered on the South and North by the Godavari and Pranahitha rivers. The South is also home to the Tungabhadra, Tungabhadra, and Maharashtra rivers. The Coastal Andhra districts in the East, Karnataka and Maharashtra States are located in the West³.

It has raised the number of districts to 33, 43 revenue divisions to 43 and 71, 464 and 589 mandals, and 8 368 and 12 751 gram panchayats. It also saw an increase in the number and number of Municipal Corporations. They went from 6 to 13 and 68 to 128 respectively. This was done to improve the quality of life for citizens. Since its inception, Telangana has experienced an economic growth rate that is consistently higher than the national average. Over the past six years, Telangana saw an average annual growth rate of 9.25% in GSDP. This is more than the 6.97% growth in national GDP. The nominal, real and average growth rates for the state are 12.6% 8.2% and 5.0%, respectively. This compares with 7.5% and 5.0% at the All-India level in 2018-19.

In 2018-19, 41.58% (46.6 million hectares) were the net sown areas¹. 41.58% of the net sown areas¹ in Telangana were 46.6 million ha in 2018-19. The average landholding is decreasing. It dropped from 1.12 hectares in 2010-11 to 1 hectare by 2015-16. It is about 906mm in the state, which compares to the national average of 1083mm. Most of the rainfall from June to September is caused by the South-West Monsoon (79%)⁴.

In 2018-19, the total area under non-food crops and food crops was 35.33 million hectares. This is 61.2%. This has resulted in a steady decline in the area under food crops, which went from 70.8% to 61.2% in 2001/02 to 61.2% in 2018-19. This is due to the decline in land under coarse cereals. The government is trying to increase farm incomes by expanding the state's irrigation potential. This was done to correct past injustices. Kaleswaram was also acquired by the Government to provide irrigation for 18,000,000 acres in 13 districts. At Rs. 80,500 crores. Since the creation of the state, the Government has created irrigation potential of 70.10 million acres and stabilized an ayacut of 10.00 lakh acres through 36 projects⁵. It also restored 27584 tanks at Mission Kakatiya. The gap ayacut, which covers 6.09 lakh hectares, has been stabilized. This has restored storage capacity to 8.94 MMC. This has increased farm incomes. The State Government of Telangana has made great strides in providing educational opportunities to students of all ages. Special care was taken to support women, SC, ST, and BC, as well as minorities. The government manages around 70% of Telangana's schools today. This serves approximately 27 lakh students⁶.

Implementation of NREGS in Telangana: 2015-16 to 2018-2019

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS) was passed in September 2005. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was enacted in September 2005. Its primary purpose is to guarantee 100 days wage employment for

rural households who are willing to do manual unskilled labour. NREGS also seeks to rehabilitate and create productive assets and, in doing so, proactive ensure social inclusion as well as strengthen Panchayat Raj Institutions. The rural population of Telangana is large. Their livelihood and development are essential to the state's overall growth. Gram Panchayats were invited to participate in the planning and execution of MGNREGS. This will help improve the lives and livelihoods of rural poor people. The Government has announced a flagship program to support agriculture in post-harvesting problems in collaboration with the Panchayati Raj Department, and the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty⁷.

MGNREGS Designed on Non-negotiable

NREGS is based on certain non-negotiables like a. Contractors should not be involved. It is against the law to use machinery to replace labour. d. Wages must be paid within 15 days. Equal wages should be paid to both men and women. g. Gram Sabhas Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishads should only be completed⁸.

Developments in MGNREGS since 2006

The Telangana State MGNREGS implementation status. This table lists the interventions that were made to improve the implementation of the scheme. These include Srama Sakthi Sangam Formation, Weekly Demand Capture and Printing of e-Muster. Printing new Job cards. Installation of worksite boards to support Transparency & Accountability for all types of works.

Developments in MGNREGS since 2006

Year	Developments
2006	MGNREGS implemented in Telangana (combined AP)
	A robust MIS implemented in partnership with TCS (online MIS).
2006-09	Seasonal / Works Calendar
2009	Fixed Labor Groups piloted; Mate system introduced
2010	20 to 25 member Shrama Sakthi Sangam (SSS) formed; SSS also formed with Persons with Disabilities Wage Seekers (VSSS)
2012-13	Weekly Demand Capture and e-muster attendance
	Organizing SSS groups into Village level federations
2014	Printing of e-Muster at MCC
2015	of Integrated Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) Planning of works with convergence of SHGs
2016	Printing of New Job cards –Distribution-Update
2017	Installation of work site boards for all works- Transparency & Accountability
2018	Good Governance Initiatives– work files, 7- Registers

Source: Compiled by the Research Scholar

Structure of the MGNREGS implementation

The above Fig shows the structure of Telangana's implementation. The state's principal secretary

(Ministry of Rural Development) oversees state-level implementation. At the district level, the additional project director at the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) executes the program and reports to Commissioner Rural Development. Mandal-level records regarding Weekly Demand Capture and e-muster attendance, types and quantities of work performed as part of NREGS are kept by Mandal Computer Centre (MCC).

Structure of the MGNREGS implementation

State-Level –Rural Development Dept- Principal Secretary- RD	
Commissioner RD	CEO- SERP
- District Level DRDO	
Addl. PD for MGNREGS Addl.	PD, DRDA Women SHGs/CBOs
Block Level	
Mandal Computer Centre	Mandal Samakhya

SSS Samakhyas / Federations

SSS Federation is a forum for wage seekers to claim their rights under the MGNREG Law. Here, wage seekers can voice their concerns and have them addressed. SSS Samakhyas organise Village Level Meetings and participate in Mandal Level Meetings. SSS Samakhya's main activities include: Presenting issues to PO/Mandal Office; providing timely and relevant information to their members; Ensuring wage seekers can access the Rights and Entitlements of Act; Motivating wage seekers to do quality work and creating sustainable assets. Participation in the preparation of the Labour Budget and works planning. Monitoring the disbursement and payment of wages. Monitoring the performance of EGS staff at the village level.

Special Provisions to PWDs

Separate groups (Vikalangula SSSS) were created for persons with disabilities. These include provisions like a 30% increase on the wage rate, preference to PwDs in selecting mates, separate rates schedules for PWDs and exclusive work for identified PwDs.

Telangana State NGOs Alliance (TSNA) for MGNREGA

Telangana State –NGO Alliance (TSNA), a group of 120 NGOs was created to assist rural poor in organizing themselves and claiming their rights under MGNREGA. These NGOs are responsible for organizing the poor into SSSs and training them. They oversee the program's implementation and monitor the social audit process. They are also involved in fact-finding missions to places where executions are not as satisfactory. The system also includes 200 mandals. Debriefing sessions are held for TSNA members. They meet at the Mandal level on Wednesday, at the District level on Friday and at the State level on Saturdays.



Convergence with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

1983 saw the creation of SHGs (united AP) in Telangana. In 1994, SAPAP-UNDP formed the SHGs with the Poorest of the Poor Families. 1997- The Village Organizations' habitation/village level were founded - at least with three (3) SHGs. Also formed the Block/ Mandal-Level Federations (Mandal Mahila Samakhya). In 2000, the Velugu-World Bank Project intervention was initiated. The idea of creating District Federations with Block/Mandal Federations in 2002 was first proposed. Since 2002, Federations are involved in the implementation of Rural Development activities.

To ensure effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the government encouraged the convergence of community-based organizations (CBOs), such as Self-Help groups. CRPs stand for Community Resource Persons. They have been identified by the Mandal Federations/CBOs/SHGs and organized pieces of training on the MGNREGS. Village Organizations (VOs) select CRPs. They participate in awareness-raising and sensitization activities in all villages through CRPs. The CBOs are crucial in identifying beneficiaries from the village's most at-risk families.

Utilization of IT Solutions

The United State of Andhra Pradesh was the first to offer MGNREGA-specific IT software. Transaction-based software creates job cards, manages project estimates, and issues work start letters. It updates muster rolls and generates pay orders. The software is continually being updated to meet changing requirements. Two computer operators are available at each Mandal level (around 25 villages). Every convergence department has a Departmental Computer Center, (DCC), located at Mandal or a cluster of Mandals.

Electronic Muster & Measurement System (e-MMS)

Muster rolls are distributed weekly according to the Muster Roll management program. Each muster roll is issued with a unique ID number and hologram from MGNREGS. Each muster roll is issued for specific work and a specified period. One week. A Muster Watch Book, which is kept at the PO level, can be used to monitor receipts and muster problems. Every muster roll must be received at the PO. eMMS, a mobile-phone-based technology, was created for MGNREGS field staff. It also includes applications like Demand Capture or Work Allocation¹⁰.

Quality Control Wing:

A separate Quality Control Cell is established to inspect works regularly to ensure the quality of all works. They are responsible for ensuring the quality of work and supporting the development of technical staff.

Agriculture & Allied activities through MGNREGS:

MGNREGS Telangana embraced Agriculture and Allied Activities under the SERP-Women's SHGs convergence. These activities include Vegetable Pandals and Rural Storage warehouses (Godowns) Constructions. In areas with IKP centers, the construction of 181 rural warehouses(Godowns) will be done.

Identification of Customer Service Providers (CSPs)

Gram Panchayat, where the Bank Branch (or Post Office Branch), is not available, is known as Gram



Panchayat. MGNREGS workers have designated Customer Service Providers (CSPs) to their benefit. SHGs Village Organization plays a crucial role in the identification of Customer Service Providers. Banks and post offices appoint CSPs to pay MGNREGS wages and pensions. The Paying Agencies, such as Post Offices or Banks, pay CSPs Honorarium.

Biometric Authenticated Payments:

CSPs are designated by the bank to pay wages at pre-designated government buildings (typically the Gram Panchayat Building). CSPs have biometric readers that allow them to connect to MGNREGS and the bank. This allows transactions to instantly be updated in the database. The current payment method will be changed from the biometric authentication system to Aadhaar based payments via postal depot.

Social Audit and Vigilance Cell

The Society for Social Audit, Accountability & Transparency was founded by selected government officials and social activists. It was the first to implement the social audit system. To allow anyone to do the audit and ask questions, the e-social auditor was created. Each Mandal conducts social audits once every six months. The social auditors inspect all muster rolls. Grama Sabha, the village platform that allows social auditors access to the reports, is Grama Sabha. Decisions are taken on the spot, such as the booking of criminal cases or the return of misappropriated funds.

Special staff at both the State and District levels has been assigned to follow up on social audit reports. MGNREGS (the Chief Vigilance Officer) would take care of follow-up actions for complaints using a vigilance angle.

Rural Development (RD) Grievance Redressal / Call Centre

To register complaints about various issues related to the implementation of the scheme, a call centers established at 1800-200-1001. An SMS is sent to the responsible officer to correct and report any complaint that is received by the call centre as soon as the complaint has been registered. If the complaint is not resolved within the time limit, the system will automatically escalate it to the next level.

Web Portal (MIS Reports)

The user can access all the reports of www.nrega.telangana.gov.in that offer information related to employment generation, physical performance, expenditure incurred and reports related to works¹¹.

Gender wise distribution of Individuals under Job Cards in Telangana

Table displays the gender- and year-wise distribution of NREGS Job Cards in Telangana. These data cover five years, from 2015 to 2020. Between 2015-16, 4517019 beneficiaries had been males. 57% of total beneficiaries were women. There are 2542266, or 5604253, households that have job cards. On average, there are 1.8 job cards per household. There are 2.2 job cards issued per household. The percentages of men and women are identical this year, but there was a slight decrease in the number, which saw households 2017-18 and 4240755 2018-19, respectively, and 4072853 households in 2019-20. In the next four years, the men's percentage was 43%, 42.4%, and 41.6%, respectively. However, the women's percentage was higher at 57%, 57% and 58.4% respectively. The average number of job cards per person over the next four years is also the same: 1.7. Over the next four years, the average number of job cards per household member was almost equal (2.1, 2.0 and 2.21 respectively).

Year and Gender wise distribution of Individuals covered under NREGS Job Cards in Telangana

Year	Total Number of Job Cards Issued	No of Household (Nos) covered under Job cards	Average Number of Job Cards per HHs	Total Individual (Nos)	Average Number of individuals per Job Cards	Men (Nos)	Women (Nos)
2015-16	5604253	2542266	2.2	4517019	1.8	1942048 (43%)	2574971 (57%)
2016-17	5274273	2530618	2.1	4359460	1.7	1874329 (43%)	2485131 (57%)
2017-18	5069885	2532548	2.0	4343525	1.7	1840669 (42.4%)	2502856 (57.6%)
2018-19	5246806	2520686	2.1	4240755	1.7	1762326 (41.6%)	2478429 (58.4%)

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Social Category wise Individuals Covered under Job Cards in Telangana

Table shows the year and social categories of NREGS Job Cards in Telangana. Notice how the BCs have the highest percentage of job card beneficiaries (52.4%, 52.8% and 52.8% respectively between 2015-2019), compared to other categories. The next are the SC persons (23.3%) and 22.7%22.4%; 21.9.21.5% and 21.9%21.5%); ST persons (18.1%-18.4%), 18.5%-18.9%), as well as other castes (6, 5% and 5%). Similar consistency was observed in data regarding the employment generated from job cards overall five years, across all social classes.

Year and Social Category wise individuals covered under NREGS Job Cards in Telangana

Year	Total Number of Job Cards Issued	Total Individual (Nos) under Job cards	SC Individual (no) under Job cards	ST Individual (Nos) under Job cards	BC Individual (Nos) under Job cards	Minority Individual (Nos) under Job cards	Other caste Individual (Nos) under Job cards
2015-16	5604253	4517019	1052779 (23.3%)	817563 (18.1%)	2365618 (52.4%)	54906 (1.2%)	226153 (5%)
2016-17	5274273	4359460	988543 (22.7%)	789788 (18.1%)	2283946 (52.4%)	54357 (1.2%)	242826 (6%)
2017-18	5069885	4343525	971784 (22.4%)	801102 (18.4%)	2291484 (52.8%)	52539 (1.2%)	226616 (5%)
2018-19	5246806	4240755	929375 (21.9%)	783413 (18.5%)	2253073 (53.1%)	51063 (1.2%)	223831 (5%)

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Social Category wise Average Number of Person days Generated in Telangana

Table displays the No. In 2015-16, the average person day was 24.577 and in 2019-20 it was 17.92 under the SC category. For 2016-2019, the average number of person-days is almost equal for all three years. In 2018-19, the average person-day was 17.37 and in 2019 it was 53.4. The 2015-2018 average person-days is almost the same as for all three years. In 2019-20, the average number of person-days was 1.25 and in 2018-19 it was 53.68 under the BC category. The 2015-18 average person-days is almost the same in all three years. In 2017-19, the average number of person-days was 1.25 and in 2019-20 it was 5.31. In 2015-2017, the average number of person-days was nearly equal for both years. Over the five years, the average number of days that Other Castes were employed is the same with some slight variations.

MGNREGS- Social Category wise average Number of Person days Generated in Telangana

Year	Total No of person days generated	No of person days generated SC	No of person days generated ST	No of person days generated BC	No of person days generated for Minorities	No of person days generated for OCs
2015-16	137126529	33687571 (24.57)	23833572 (17.38)	72362987 (52.77)	1865889 (1.36)	7077723 (5.16)
2016-17	106766296	24166466 (22.63)	19374771 (18.15)	55638985 (52.11)	1402145 (1.31)	6183929 (5.9)
2017-18	114547846	26020684 (22.72)	20336755 (17.75)	60756263 (53.04)	1431732 (1.25)	6002412 (5.24)
2018-19	117289622	26242876 (22.37)	20371636 (17.37)	62960151 (53.68)	1466298 (1.25)	6248661 (5.33)

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Average number of day’s employment provided per Household

Table No.3.6 shows the year-wise distribution for the average number of households and the average wage rates. The 2015-16 average of 53.94 workdays per household (53.94) was higher than in the previous four years. The lowest average of five years is 2016-17, which saw 42.19 days of work per household. The average daily wage rate per person has steadily increased from 2015-16 to 2019,-20 (from Rs.129.78 for 2015-16 to Rs.153.79 in 2019-20).

In 2015-16, 415638 was the highest 100-day employment rate in 100-day households. It has declined over the years. 2019-20 was the year with the lowest 100-day completion rate for 100-day households. This could be due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Table Average days of employment per Household, wage rate per day per person and households completed 100 days of employment.

Year	Total No of person days generated	Average Wage rate per day per person	Average No of days employment provided per Household	Total No of Households completed 100 days of wage Employment
2015-16	137126529	129.78	53.94	415638
2016-17	106766296	133.525	42.19	203808
2017-18	114547846	140.89	45.23	224507
2018-19	117289622	148.42	46.53	224402

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Formation of Vikalanguial Shrama Shakthi Sanghams (VSSS) and Generation of Wage Employment

The then-Andhra Pradesh Government took a first step towards the formation of fixed labour groups in 2019-10 with a GO No. Dated 9/07/1010. Later, the government changed the name of fixed labour groups from Shrama Shakthi Sanghas to Shrama Shakthi Sanghas. The federation was piloted by the previous government in 33 mandals from SSS groups in 2012. A GO No.348 was issued for federations on 17-11 2013. In 2018, the Shrama Shakthi Sanghas was organized by Telangana's government. Shrama Shakti Sanghas are an integral part of the work done by Village Organizations (SHGs Federations) and civil society organisations. SSS was established to ensure transparency and manage worksites, as well as to provide a steady income for the most vulnerable households for at least 100 consecutive days.

The government established the Labour Groups with PwDs – Vikalanguial Shakthi singhams. This was made possible by the support of TSNA NGOs and SHGs/CBOs as well as PwDs. Single-person family job cards are available for PwD wage seekers. Travel allowances for up to 5kms are available at Rs.10/- from the government. Rs.20/- per person per day above 5 km. 30% less work is provided to ensure that VSSS workers with disabilities receive a wage rate compared to those who are not disabled. (30% more pieces). The groups would determine the work requirements for PwDs.

Table Formation of Shrama Shakthi Sanghas (SSS) groups and Vikalanguiala Shrama Shakthi Sanghams (VSSS) in the Telangana State

Year	Total No of Labour (SSS) Groups Registered	No of VSSS (Nos)
2015-16	411989	0
2016-17	382174	7082 (1.9%)
2017-18	350250	5762 (1.6%)
2018-19	317094	6023 (1.9%)

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Table lists the number of Shrama Shakthi Sanghas (SSS) and Vikalanguang Shrama Shakthi Sanghams (VSSS) in Telangana. The total number of registered labour groups was 411989 in 2015-16. Over the next four years, the total number of registered labour groups declined by 382174, 350250 and 317094 respectively. Vikalanguang Shrama Sanghams was established by the government in 2016-17. 1.9% of the state's Vikalanguang Shrama Shakthi Sanghams are comprised. In the first year, there were 0 VSSS. For the next four years, it has remained nearly constant at 1.9%, 1.6% and 1.9% respectively.

MGNREGS Employment Generated to Differently abled persons in Telangana

Table No.3.8 shows the MGNREGS Employment Generated for Differently abled in State over five years. The total number of people who were able to work was 4517019, and only 1.4% of those with disabilities were able to benefit from it. The percentage remains the same for the next two years. The percentage for the years 2018 and 2020 is 1.3%.

Table MGNREGS Employment Generated to Differently abled persons in Telangana

Year	Total No. of Labour benefited	Persons with disability (Pwds Nos)
2015-16	4517019	63572(1.4%)
2016-17	4359460	60328(1.4%)
2017-18	4343525	59014(1.4%)
2018-19	4240755	56795(1.3%)

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Labour and material costs under MGNREGS works

Table shows year-wise wages and labour cost under MGNREGS over five years. The 2015-16 period had the highest wages, at 177958.28 crores, and 2016-17 saw the lowest, at 142270.08 million. The skilled and material wages were the highest in 2017-18 and 2018-19 (149252.41 and 170626.66 respectively). The ratio of labour to the material shows that material is more important in each year than labour. 2015-16 had the lowest contingency expenditure (14069.69 lakhs), 2016-17 (22133.51), 2019-20 (2255850.13), 2018-19 (27777.2), 2017-18 (328199.83), 2017-18 (2777.2) and 2017-18 (2777.2).

Table Year-wise Wages, labour and material costs under MGNREGS works in Telangana

Year	Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)	Material and Skilled Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)	Contingency Exp (Rs. In Lakhs)	Total (Rs in Lakhs)	labour Vs Material
2015-16	177958.28	44915.99	14069.69	236944	79.85/20.15
2016-17	142270.08	98192.14	22133.51	4359460	59.17/40.83
2017-18	159252.41	105511.62	28199.83	292963.9	60.15/39.85
2018-19	170626.66	104318.22	27777.2	302722.2	62.06/37.94

Source: compiled from www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

Summary

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) was introduced in Telangana in 2006 as part of the now-



defunct Andhra Pradesh state. The literature clearly shows the MGNREGS program was instrumental in decreasing poverty¹². It provides a lifeline for millions of people living in areas suffering from severe droughts or agrarian distress. The scheme is inclusive socially because it includes women, BCs, SCs, STs and other Castes. It has helped to increase the income, purchasing power, creditworthiness, and creditworthiness among rural poor people¹³.

With the support of both the state and federal governments, many measures were taken to increase transparency and accountability to ensure that the scheme was effectively implemented. The present paper gives a detailed overview of Telangana State's implementation of the scheme over the five years 2015-16 to 2018-2019. The MGNREGS data analysis shows that 57% of the 4517019 persons covered by the job card are women, and 43% are men. The total number of job cards issued in 2019-20 is 42%, 58% and 43% respectively. From 2015-16 to 2019,-20, the average number of job cards per HH was 2.0. Over the same time, 1.5 people are on an average Job Card. Between 2015-20, Telangana's Social Category wise people who are covered under NREGS Job Cards in Telangana were 52.4%, 52.8%, and 53.1%, respectively. This represents a significant increase in people who are covered by the job card. The next are 22.7% 22.4% and 21.9.21.5% other SC individuals, ST individuals (18.1%-18.4% and 18.5%-18.9%, respectively) and other castes (5% to 6%, 5% to 5% and 5%).

An average number of person-days in Telangana based on Social Category. In the period 2015-16 to 2019-20, Scheduled Tribes followed by Other Castes as the top-producing social category. The average person-days for backward classes range from 52.77 days to 53.68 days. Schedule's average ranges between 22.07 and 24.57 days. Scheduled Tribes have 17.37 days and 18.15 days respectively, which are the highest and lowest average days for a person¹⁴.

Comparatively to the four previous years, 2015-16 saw an average of 53.94 days per household. This is quite high. The average wage rate per head in the state has steadily increased from 2015-16 to 2019-20, going up from Rs.129.78 for 2019-20 to Rs.153.79. In 2015-16, 415638 households completed 100 days of work. In subsequent years, this number has decreased. In 2019, 100 households completed 100 days of wage work.

Vikalanguala Shrama Shakthi Sanghams (VSSS) account for approximately 2% of all Shrama Shakthi Sanghas that have been formed over the past five years. Over the last five years, this percentage has remained stable. They make up 1.4% of total state wage employment beneficiaries. This percentage was nearly the same throughout the entire study period. According to the MGNREGS Telangana, the labour vs. materials costs of works performed under the MGNREGS Telangana indicates that labour is more costly than material every year¹⁵.

NREGS' overall female beneficiaries are higher than the Telangana men. The BCs had the greatest number of beneficiaries between 2015 and 2020 (52.4%, 52.4%, 52.8% respectively

The payments under MGNREGS are linked with the Aadhaar Number, and the legal backing to the Aadhaar will reduce the chance of any potential corruption/duplication in the payment process. Telangana is seeing a shift in the scope of NREGS activities. Telangana Ku Haritha Haaram



(TKHH) has undertaken horticulture work. Also, works related to the development of land for SC/ST/Small & Marginal farmers, soil and water conservation and construction of crematoriums. Construction of CC roads, School toilets, kitchen sheds constructions. GP Buildings. AWCs. were taken up.

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