

MGNREGA and Rural Development: A Case Study of Taleigao Village

A Dissertation for

Course code and Course Title: POL-651 & MA in Political Science.

Credits: 16

Submitted in partial fulfilment of Master's Degree in Political Science

by

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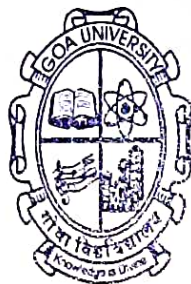
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April 2024

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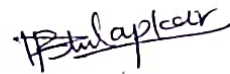
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DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I hereby declare that the data presented in this Dissertation report entitled, "**MGNREGA and Rural Development: A Case Study of Taleigao Village**" is based on the results of investigations carried out by me in the Master of Arts in Political Science at the D. D Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies (SSBS), Goa University under the Supervision of **Dr. Alaknanda Shringare** and the same has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of a degree or diploma by me. Further, I understand that Goa University or its authorities will not be responsible for the correctness of observations/ experimental or other findings given the dissertation.

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COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation report "MGNREGA and Rural Development: A Case Study of Taleigao Village" is a bonafide work carried out by Ms. Bhavana Kashinath Dhulapkar, under my supervision in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Political Science in the Discipline: Political Science Programme at the D. D Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies (SSBS), Goa University.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Alaknanda Shringare, my esteemed guide, for her unwavering support, expert advice, and intellectual guidance throughout the journey of my dissertation titled, "MGNREGA and Rural Development: A Case Study of Taleigao Village." Her patience and encouragement have been invaluable, providing me with the necessary impetus to undertake this research.

I am indebted to the Sarpanch, members, and staff of Taleigao Village Panchayat for their gracious cooperation and for generously sharing their insights and valuable information, which significantly enriched my dissertation.

I express my sincere appreciation to the faculty and staff of the Political Science department at Goa University for their continuous support and assistance. Additionally, I am grateful to the library staff at Goa University Library and Central Library for their invaluable assistance in accessing resources essential for my research.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the respondents from Taleigao Village Panchayat for their cooperation and responsiveness, without which this study would not have been possible.

I am deeply grateful to my friends for their unwavering support and assistance throughout this journey.

Lastly, I extend my sincere gratitude to my family for their unwavering cooperation, understanding, and constant support, which have been the cornerstone of my academic endeavors.

With sincere appreciation.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

Entity	Abbreviation
Rural Works Programme	RWP
Rural Manpower Programme	RMP
Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme	PIREP
Food for Work Programme	FWP
National Rural Employment Programme	NREP
Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme	RLEGP
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	JRY
Employment Assurance Scheme	EAS
Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana	JGSY
National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	NREGA
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	MGNREGA
United Progressive Alliance	UPA
National Rural Livelihood Mission	NRLM
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya- Grameen Kaushalya Yojana	DDU-GKY
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	PMGSY
Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana	SGRY
Integrated Rural Development Programme	IRDP

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The MGNREGA or Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the scheme been brought-up for providing employment or to increase the employment rate.

Before we proceed about this employment scheme, first we need to understand, why this scheme was required? Where we lacking? Why there was so much of unemployment in the country?

The unemployment in any nation has the following effects on the economy:

- The problem of unemployment gives a rise to the problem of poverty.
- The government suffers extra borrowing burden, because unemployment causes decrease in the production and less consumptions of goods and services.
- People unemployed for a longer time may indulge them into illegal and wrong activities for earning money.
- Unemployment also affects the Economy of the Country.
- And it is also seen that, unemployed people end up getting addicted into drugs, alcohol, attempts suicides etc.

Hence it was very important issue to be looked into.

In 1991, the unemployment rate was 6.74 percent with 0.8 percent annual change. And with the time, the unemployment rate started increasing from 6.74 percent to 6.82 percent, to 6.80 percent, 6.83 percent and so on.

Table 1.1: Unemployment data of India

India Unemployment Rate - Historical Data		
Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	Annual Change
2022	7.33%	-0.38%
2021	7.71%	-2.48%
2020	10.20%	3.69%
2019	6.51%	-1.14%
2018	7.65%	-0.08%
2017	7.73%	-0.11%
2016	7.84%	-0.07%
2015	7.92%	-0.07%
2014	7.98%	-0.06%
2013	8.04%	-0.06%
2012	8.10%	-0.07%
2011	8.17%	-0.15%
2010	8.32%	-0.06%
2009	8.38%	0.03%
2008	8.35%	-0.18%
2007	8.54%	-0.09%
2006	8.63%	-0.07%
2005	8.70%	0.17%
2004	8.53%	0.17%
2003	8.36%	0.26%
2002	8.10%	0.15%
2001	7.96%	0.19%
2000	7.77%	0.06%
1999	7.71%	0.22%
1998	7.49%	0.21%
1997	7.28%	0.10%
1996	7.18%	0.17%
1995	7.01%	0.18%
1994	6.83%	0.03%
1993	6.80%	-0.02%
1992	6.82%	0.08%
1991	6.74%	0.08%

Source: GoI- India Unemployment Rate 1991-2024- <https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/IND/india/unemployment-rate>

The year 2005 have the highest unemployment rate, that was 8.70 percent. This was the critical time where people were struggling with unemployment, to get jobs.

- Since the government took these initiatives and started introducing lots of opportunities, new policies, schemes etc. to provide employment to the people.

Evolution of the MGNREGA scheme.

Since 1960, the 30 years were spent in finding suitable employment schemes in vast India. The experiences of these decades provide important lessons included: the rural manpower programme which exposed tribulation of financial management. This crashed the scheme for Rural Employment.

Next was Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Program of Labour Intensive work, then the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Scheme of Rural Economic Development and Food for Work Programme (FWP). But all this scheme felt weak.

Hence the government decided to coordinate with the state. And they merged the NREP- National Rural Employment Programme and RLEGP-the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, focusing on rural employment and landless households.

So the Planning Commission later approved the scheme and was adopted on National Scale.

In April 1989, To converge the employment generation, infrastructural development, food security in rural area, the government integrated or merged NREP+ RLEGP+ JRY- Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Here the changes were done like: decentralization of government, the role to panchayat- 'Panchayati-Raj Institutions'.

Than in 1993, the EAS- Zamploy Assurance Scheme brought-up which was providing employment to agricultural hands. This was lean on agriculture seasons. And this role was

given to the Zilla Parishad. But later, EAS was merged with SGRY- Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana.

On 1 April 1999, JRY was renamed as JGSY- Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana with similar objectives as before.

In 2001, the JGSY was merged with SGRY, focusing on employment guarantee, infrastructural development, food security in rural areas.

But due to implementation issues, it was again merged NREGA in 2005.

In response to the all the cries for help, the Indian Government put together a nation-wide welfare scheme aimed at targeting these issues. And this scheme was MGNREGA. It was passed in 2005 and then got implemented in 2006.

The MGNREGA was first proposed by the Prime Minister, the P.V Narasimha Rao in 1991 but due to various reasons got post-poned and finally, this act was again introduced by Raghuvansh Prasad singh, the Minister of Rural Development. Hence the slogan was made to highlight this MGNREGA scheme was 'Har haath ko kaam do, kaam ka poora daam do'.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 or MGNREGA was known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or NREGA. Its major aim was to provide employment in rural areas through 'Right to Work'. This act was passed on 23 August 2005 and then was implemented in February 2006 under the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) Government. This act was introduced by Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Minister of Rural Development.

This act aimed to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing them at least 100 days of wage employment in a year, to at least one member of the family or every household. The women are guaranteed 1/3rd of the jobs made available under MGNREGA.

The another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets, such as roads, canals, ponds and wells etc.

1.2 Significances

- To study and understand the work of DPSP- The Article 14- Right to work.
- To understand the provisions under Article 21- Right to live with Dignity.
- To understand and analyse the significances, the role and the progress of the MGNREGA scheme.

1.3 Literature Review

Pellissery and Jalan (2011, pp. 283-294) in their article, “Towards transformative social protection: a gendered analysis of the Employment Guarantee Act of India (MGNREGA)”, they emphasised on the Employment Guarantee Act of India, which was initiated in 2005, has attracted a significant number of women participants, primarily as wage-seeker. However, this article argues that while the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) claim to promote social transformation, it currently lacks a substantial impact on empowering women, involved in the program. Nevertheless, it highlights the program’s potential to empower women beyond day to day welfare by providing opportunities for them to experience collective strength and potential reshape their relationships with men, through active participation.

Jha and Gaiha (2012, pp. 18-22) in their article titled, “NREGS: Interpreting the Official Statistics” critically assessed the performance of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) using official government data. The evaluation focuses on several key indicators, including the average number of days of employment per household, the percentage of household completing 100 days of employment, the percentage of expenditure

compared to the available funds and the percentage of work completed. The finding reveals a disappointing performance in terms of the average number of days of employment per household, which has declined over time. Additionally, a significant portion of the allocated funds remains unspent, particularly since 2010-11, while the work completed falls short of the planned targets. In short, the NREGS's performance, as indicated by these metric, and has not met expectations and has some aspect, worsened over time.

Dutta, Murgai, Ravallion and Walle (2012, pp. 55-64) in their article, "Does India's Employment Guarantee Scheme guarantee employment?" had analysed the National Sample Survey data from 2009-10, which reveals that the poorer states in India exhibit a higher demand for employment opportunities provided by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). However, the study also highlights a significant unmet demand for work across all the states, particularly in the poorest regions, where the scheme is most needed. Despite this challenges, MGNREGS is effectively reaching rural impoverished communities and marginalized groups, including their participation in the workforce.

Esteves, Rao. K, Sinha, Roy, Rao.B, Jha. Singh, Patil, Sharma, Murthy, Rajeev Sharma, Porsche, Basu K and N.H Ravindranath (2013, pp. 94-103) in their article, "Agricultural and Livelihood Vulnerability, Reduction through the MGNREGA". This study quantifies the environmental and Socio-economic benefits generated by the works implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and assesses the potential of these benefits to reduce vulnerability of agricultural production and livelihood of the beneficiaries, postimplementation (2011-12) as compared to pre- MGNREGA (2006-07), to currents climate variability. Agricultural and livelihood vulnerability indices developed showed reduction in vulnerability, due to implementation of works under the Act and resulting environmental benefits.

Sebastain and Azeez (2014, pp. 16-19) in their article, “MGNREGA and Biodiversity Conservation” they discussed about how the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) promotes activities like water harvesting and soil conservation, which could significantly benefit environmental security and biodiversity conservation. This article applauds the incorporation of biodiversity conservation into MGNREGS, but emphasis the need for panchayat- level biodiversity registers, support for individual and institutional initiatives in biodiversity conservation, and the development of relevant policies to further enhance the positive impact on the environment and biodiversity.

The Ranaware, Das, Kulkarni and Narayanan (2015, pp. 53-61) the article, “MGNREGA Works and Their Impacts: A study of Maharashtra” is based on a survey of 4,881 users of more than 4,100 works created under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Maharashtra. This provides the evidence that MGNREGA projects are supportive agriculture and beneficial to a significant number of small and marginal farmers. The survey reveals that 90 percent of the respondents found these work- very useful or somewhat useful, while only 8 percent felt it useless. Moreover, many of the projects are still well- maintained and are in good condition. In conclusion, the study challenges the common perception that MGNREGA does not create productive outcome, suggesting that there is room for improvement in the selection, design and execution of such projects.

The Ghosh (2017, pp. 106-114) in his article, “Did MGNREGS Improved Financial Inclusion?” investigates the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on financial inclusion using household- level data. By analysing the staggered rollout of the program and controlling for non-random implementation, the study finds that MGNREGS enhances financial access. This conclusion is supported by both simple tests and multivariate regressions, which consider various districts and household factors. However, when examining the use of financial services, the

evidence is less convincing, although there is a notable impact in districts with higher proportion of women. The result suggest that public works programs can have a significant positive effects on financial inclusion.

Porras and Kaur (2018, pp. 1-7) in their article “India’s Mahatma Gandhi Guarantee Employment programme: case study” they focused on India’s Mahatma Gandhi Guarantee Employment programme, also known as MGNREGA which is the world’s largest work based social protection scheme. The paper discusses the importance of careful management of nature for well-being of poor people, as they heavily depend on the quality of eco-systems. It highlights the role of positive incentives, such as PES- Payment for Ecosystem Services and other conditional transfers, in promoting behavioural changes towards the Sustainable Ecosystem Management. Overall, the MGNREGA program has been successful in addressing unemployment, increasing livelihood security, promoting sustainable development and strengthening grassroots democratic processes. The paper calls for more efforts in out-put based monitoring and ensuring the long-term quality of environmental investments.

Sharma and Dash (2022, pp. 1-8) in their article “Household energy use pattern in rural India: A path towards sustainable” they discussed the changes related to inadequate access to clean and affordable energy sources, particularly in developing countries like India. It highlights the negative impact of these practices on the quality of life, including health issues and premature death caused by indoor air pollution. The study uses data collected by the Access to Clean Cooking Energy and Electricity- Survey of State (ACCESS) in 2014-15 and the employs statistical analysis method to examine household energy use pattern. The Article emphasizes the need for government policies, such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawal Yojana (PMUY), but also suggests that promoting alternatives, income- generating opportunities, increasing employment opportunities under schemes like MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and enhancing education and awareness

programs that could contribute to better health and environment outcome in the context of energy use and access in India.

The Sarma (2022, pp. 1-13) in her article “Domestic violence and workfare: An evaluation of India’s MGNREGA” she looked at how India’s workfare program mediates the effects of income on domestic violence. This article examines the relationship between economic shocks and domestic violence in India, specifically focusing on how this scheme affects this connection. The MGNREGS provides 100 days of employment to rural household and functions as a form of economic insurance. The study employs a difference-in-differences approach, taking advantage of the phased introduction of MGNREGS across districts in India from 2006 to 2008. The results indicated that the implementation of MGNREGS reduces the impact of adverse rainfall shocks on officially reported by domestic violence crimes at the district level by 8 to 22 percent. The research also examines household data from the India – Human Development Survey to understand how MGNREGS mediate the relationship between rainfall shocks and potential improvements in women’s empowerment. It shows positive effects on women’s freedom of mobility but doesn’t provide clear evidences regarding their influence on household decisions.

Natesan and Marathe (2023, pp. 4056) in their article “A Structural equations approach to Policy Evaluation: Case study of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme” this paper aimed to present the use of structural equation modelling methodology to evaluate a conceptual model – empirically, identifying factors critical to policy implementation. It was based on 311 responses from the mid-level implementers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the flagship welfare programme of the Government of India. This research document includes administrative and governance factor, strategic communication, planning resources, well defined networks and demographics of the implementers as critical to policy implementation.

They expect, it will promote the cause of implementation evaluation and encourage interdisciplinary methodologies for public policy evaluation purposes.

1.4 Research Gap

These referred Journal articles are totally based on MGNREGA scheme, which don't have any works on Goa. The first referred article discusses about the importance of careful management of nature for well-being of poor people, as they are heavily depended on the quality of ecosystem. Next: the domestic violence and work: an evaluation of the India's MGNREGA by Nayantara Sarma. This paper looks at how India's workfare programme mediate the effects of domestic violence. These article examines the relationship between economic shocks and domestic violence in India and especially about increasing employment and nourishing the human life.

Overall, all these articles are totally on MGNREGA scheme in India and none have looked into or worked on Goa. As it is a broad topic, I'm narrowing it down and studying a particular village in goa, that is: a case study of Taleigao village from Tiswadi Taluka, North-Goa. Like how this MGNREGA scheme is relevant, how it got implemented, how much beneficial it was and is in Rural Development in Goa.

1.5 Objectives

- Examining the effectiveness of the MGNREGA scheme in reducing poverty and inequality.
 - Investigating the role of the MGNREGA scheme in promoting sustainable development and the rural infrastructure.
 - Assessing the impact of the scheme on rural employment and livelihood in Goa.
-

- Analysing the challenges and constraints faced in the implementation of the MGNREGA scheme in Goa.
- Identifying potential areas for improvement and policy recommendations to enhance the MGNREGA scheme's outcomes.

1.6 Research Questions

- What is the extent of employment generation in rural areas through the MGNREGA scheme?
- How has the MGNREGA scheme contributed to poverty reduction in participating regions?
- What are the key factor influencing the effectiveness of the MGNREGA scheme in promoting sustainable development?
- How can the MGNREGA scheme be improved to enhance its impact on rural employment, poverty reduction and sustainable development?
- How does MGNREGA scheme address gender inequalities and empower women in rural areas?
- What are the perceptions and experiences of the beneficiaries regarding the MGNREGA scheme's effectiveness and impact?

1.7 Hypothesis

- The implementation of the MGNREGA scheme has positively contributed to the rural employment and livelihoods in Goa.
 - The MGNREGA scheme led the improvement in Socio-economic conditions of the people in rural villages of Goa.
-

1.8 Research Methodology

The data is collected from both: primary as well as secondary sources. The Primary source include interviews and surveys. This survey is limited to the response from the Taleigao Villages of Tiswadi Taluka, North -Goa.

The study will be focusing mainly on the implementation of MGNREGA scheme during last Five years, that is from 2018 to 2022. The data gathered during 2020-21 will helpful to understand whether the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic had reduced or increased the demand for employment under MGNREGA scheme. A structured questionnaire will be used to collect the data. The study will include a sample of 50 respondents from Taleigao Village.

Out of these 50 respondents, 25 will be males and 25 females. From among the male and female respondents 10 respondents are selected who worked under MGNREGA scheme before 2022 and 15 from 2022 onwards. The respondents will be selected on the basis of stratified random sampling method. Apart for the survey the primary data will also be collected form the interviews of Panchayat members and Secretary of Taleigao Village Panchayat.

1.9 Chapterization

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: Historical evolution and the implementation of MGNREGA Scheme

Chapter III: MGNREGA's impact on rural development: a case study of Taleigao Village

Chapter IV: Examining the effectiveness of MGNREGA's Scheme

Chapter V: Conclusion

CHAPTER II

Historical evolution and the implementation of MGNREGA scheme

2.1 Introduction:

Since after independence 1947, Our country faced several socio-economic issues. India suffered lots of problems like- over-population, poverty, unemployment etc. we ranked 33rd in term of population. In 1947 at the time of independence, the India's population density was 340 millions and it doubled up between 1947 to 1981 census and by 2001, it had reached up to billions. Due to over-population, India faced lots of other issues- socially as well as economically like poverty, lack of infrastructural facilities leading poor living, which increased pollution and waste, unemployment etc. Even with lots of problems and issues, the employment can be the largest and possible solution to cop-up with these issues. The employment will provide the people with financial stability, helping them to live a better life. But providing employment is also the toughest task as seems (Vaidhya, 2009, pp 1-14).

In 1991, the unemployment rate of India was 6.74 percent and with time, it increased from 6.74 percent to 6.82 percent, to 6.80 percent, to 6.83 percent and on. In 2005, the unemployment rate got to 8.70 percent, which was the highest among all these years. (Dutta, Murgai, Ravallion, and Walle, 2012, pp 55-64). It was not that, the India or the Indian government was not trying to fight or find the solution but struggled for almost 30 years, to find a suitable employment scheme in India (Kelly, Ksoll and Magruder, 2024), and (Chand, Tiwari and Phuyal, 2017, pp. 130-137).

2.2 Emergence of Rural Employment Schemes:

The first Rural Employment scheme was launched by the Government of India in 1961, that was Rural Works Programme (RWP).

2.2. 1 Rural Works Programme (RWP)

This programme was aimed at providing additional employment opportunities for agricultural laborers during the off season. This scheme been implemented in the areas with high population pressure, high unemployment and underemployment. Then started lacking with proper coordination among technical department. Hence got discontinued at the 3rd Five-Year Plan, due to limitations on the labor forces, lack of coordination, delay in funds, shortage of technical and expert supporting staff etc. Hence this project got failed up (Gupta, 1971, pp. 995-1004).

2.2. 2 Rural Manpower Programme (RMP)

This Rural Manpower Programme was launched in 1964 and was transferred to the state in 1970 to be the State Plan Allocation. This was an experimental scheme, which also aimed to provide additional employment opportunities to the agricultural labourers during the off-season through this labour- intensive community works. And the other objectives were to provide employment for 100 days to at least 2.5 million persons by the end of 3rd Five Year Plan, increasing the productivity of this labour force; and meeting the skill requirement for rural development. (Guha, 1969, p. 186). Due to constraint or limited resources, only small provisions were made available for this programme. Hence this resulted in uncertainties of continuation and extension of this programme. These Communities assets were covering more additional areas like minor irrigation, soil conservation, afforestation, flood protection and anti-water logging works, roads construction works and projects. Hence the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (Bartsch and Richter, 1971, p. 179).

2.2. 3 Crash Scheme for Rural Employment.

This scheme got implemented in 1971-72 for three years with the allocation of fifty (50) crores for each year. This was non-planned scheme. Since, later was adopted for the generation of employment in all the districts through labour-intensive scheme and for the production of durable natural assets with local development plans, so that development of the districts can be brought-out. In this scheme, the major preferences were given to those whose families had no adult member employed. So, at least one person from each family would find employment. The target was to cover at least 1,000 persons in every districts. But due to this process, with limited resources and larger areas to be covered within this, this compression led other challenges with budget allocation and expenditure. The outlay was at Rupees. 12.50 lakh for each district and the planned was envisaged generation of 2.5 lakh person-days of employment, on an average, in each district. Hence due these issues, the spending or expenditure was lower up. Here the works undertaken were like minor irrigation, construction of kutchha field channels etc. As because of lower wages, it affected the quality of work or the outcome from the people. This overall impacts of the scheme as negligible (Gangwar and George, 1977, p. 119).

2.2. 4 The Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme (PIREP).

This scheme got launched in 1972 and got ended in 1973, as like others, even this scheme or programme was launched to provide employment opportunities, and the works taken under this was directly or indirectly related to agriculture production. This project was more like action research project for researching the appropriate employment- oriented programme. Where Centre had selected fifteen districts, and on block from each of these districts was selected by the State Government concerned for PIREP. The objectives of this scheme was to

provide gainful employment on works and projects, not requiring any high skills and genuinely ready to work for a wages and use this funds for the creation of durable assets.

2.2. 5 Food for Work Programme (FWP).

The Indian government launched this scheme in April 1977. This was a nationwide scheme to enlarge the employment opportunities to the poor sections of the community. The Union Ministry of Rural Reconstruction had executed this programme. From 1977 till 1980s, total 96- lakh metric tonnes of food grains were released. This FWP scheme aimed at directly benefiting the people in rural areas, who live in below poverty line. This scheme provides them with gainful employment opportunities and raising their income and nutritional levels.

- Objectivities of the scheme:
- Aimed to generated additional and gainful employment to larger number of the unemployed and underemployed persons both men and women in the rural households, which will improve their income as well as living standard and nutrition level.
- Creating durable community assets and generating the rural infrastructure, resulting in higher production and better living standards in rural areas.
- Increasing the production of food grains for the development of human resources.

The work taken under this was irrigation works, flood protection, drainage, anti-water logging, soil and water conservation, afforestation, roadside plantations, school buildings, panchayat ghar, community Centre, wells, ponds, canals etc. But wage delay, erratic disbarment of food grains as the wages, delay in the measurement of earth works, non-durable nature asset, lack of supervision leading laziness of work or delay of work, started declining and failing this project (Deshingkar; Johnson and Farrington, 2005, pp. 575-591).

2.2. 6 National Rural Employment Programme (NREP).

This new NREP programme was launched in October 1980 in place of the Food for Work Programme. Till march 1981, the FFP/ NREP was entirely financed by the Government of India and after this, it was like 50:50, sharing basis between the Centre and the States, this NREP became a centrally- sponsored programme. The objectivities of this scheme was similar to the last one:

- to generate gainful employment in rural areas.
- Creation of productive community assets and continuing to benefits the poverty affected groups, leading faster growth of the rural economy and rise in the income level of the rural poor
- To make improvement in overall quality of life of the people in rural villages.

Here the preference was given to the landless labour, women, SCs, STs etc. Under this scheme, attempts were made to provide reasonable employment and priority been given to the works of productive nature, mainly benefiting the weaker sections of the rural communities. The works assigned under this NREP scheme were social forestry, road side plantation, plantations along cannal banks on waste lands and sideways of the railway lines, water and soil conservation, minor irrigation like construction of wells, ponds etc. water logging and water harvesting, flood protection, drainage works and so on. The wages under this project was paid as food grains and partly in cash. Hence this scheme became very popular. But its slow progress was attributed to organizational negligence, absence of proper planning hence the failure of this project (Jha; Bhattacharyya; Gaiha and Shankar, 2009, pp. 456-464).

2.2. 7 Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP).

This scheme got launched in 1983, focusing on rural employment and landless households. This aimed at improving and expanding the employment opportunities in rural landless areas to employ at least one member of every landless laborers household, up to 100 days on a year. And as earlier, to create durable assets for strengthening rural infrastructure, which will lead at rapid growth. RLEGP (Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme) was providing short- term employment.

Due to the weaknesses detected in NREP (National Rural Employment Programme) and RLEGP, the Government merged it as: JRY (Jawahar Rozgar Yojana) on 1989 with previous aims, but now more focus was on:

1. To strengthen economic infrastructures
2. To create social and economic assets
3. To provide continuous support to SC/ST
4. To check the flights of rural masses to urban areas.

Here the major changes were done like – decentralizing the government, the role to panchayat- “The Panchayati Raj Institution”.

Before the 20 percent weightage was given to agricultural laborers.

60 percent to rural SC & ST.

20 percent to inverse of agricultural productivity

- Hence these criteria got changed to-

- Higher agricultural productivity.
 - The 60 percent weightage to SC & ST decreased to 50 percent
-

- And no weightage was given to agricultural laborers in the districts.
- All are equally free to apply.

This was good training scheme for the panchayats in improving their planning and execution, of local works and financial management. Due to growing awareness about such kinds of schemes among the people, the pressure on elected representatives, panchayats started growing hence likely to implement them more efficiently than bureaucrats. Fear of being voted out was an important factor to make panchayat leaders more responsive to work or the people and people's needs (Harring and Edwards, 1983, pp. 575-592).

2.2. 8 Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

This was launched in 1993. The aim identified backward blocks, situated in drought area, desert, tribal and hilly areas, where the renovate public distribution system was in operation till 1995. this scheme covered 2252 blocks and later got implemented in the country with 5448 rural blocks by 1997-98. The prime and most important objective of the scheme was to provide gainful employment in manual works during lean or off agricultural season to all the able-bodies in rural areas to the rural adults, who need work but could not able to find one. The creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustainable employment development. The goal was to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment with minimum wages to each wage employment seekers in rural areas. The EAS carried the budget of Rupees: one thousand crores in additive elements of JRY provisions (Williams; Veron; Corbridge and Srivastava, 2003, pp. 163-192).

This programme was expected to attract only unskilled labourers below poverty line because it only offers minimum wages. But got to face the issues like lack of maintenance by panchayats, delay in issuing family cards, lacking in registering job seekers etc. The central allocation been made minimum requirement but most of the blocks did not received the

allocations. Leading problems like corruptions etc. Hence on 1st April 1999, the JRY has been restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY).

2.2. 9 Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY).

This scheme was a wage employment programme, launched to develop rural infrastructure at the village level in a planned mannered. It was aimed at creating village infrastructure to enable poor to increase sustained employment opportunities in rural areas and to overcome seasonal unemployment. This was designed to overcome the seasonality of wage employment and rate in the rural sector. The village panchayats implemented JGSY with active participation of the people contributing to social, community and economic infrastructure at the village level. The village panchayat implemented this scheme to empower the rural people as well as village panchayats. This also significantly contributes in creating social, community and economic infrastructure in the village.

➤ In 2001, the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY).

This scheme was launched by merging the ongoing schemes of JGSY- Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and EAS- the Employment Assurance scheme, to provide wage employment and food security in rural areas, along with the creation of durable assets: social, community and economic assets. 75:25 is the cost sharing ratio of the Center and the State. This was meant to provide wage employment to all the rural poor, who wish or desire to perform manual and unskilled works in and around their villages or areas. Under this SGRY scheme, both agricultural plus non-agricultural unskilled wages earners, marginal farmers, the person affected due to any calamities, women, marginalized SCs, STs, minorities are given preferences. The Panchayata or Panchayati Raj Institutions be implementing this project or programme. The funds and the food grains under this SGRY will be made available

in three tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institution that is: District, Intermediate and Village Panchayat. (Singh, 2020, pp. 392-410).

These Rural Employment programs faced limitations as they were often lacking employment continuity for the unemployed and underemployed. Instead of addressing unemployment and poverty, these initiative acted as relief measure. While intended for weaker sections, they sometimes benefited the rural rich. Ineffectiveness in labor market interaction led to insufficient employment and failed to impact market wage. The traditional activities of the rural poor were not easily replaced, hindering the success of these schemes to address these issues. Henceforth, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) or MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was introduced in 2005, emphasizing the targeted groups and labor intensive technology for economic and social up-liftment.

2.2 . 10 The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

This NREGA scheme was enacted in 2005, which guarantees 100 days of employment in financial year, to the adult member of any rural family, who are willing to do unskilled labor work. This act was introduced by the UPA: United Progressive Alliance coalition government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the promise of this project was one of the major factor, which lead the victory of the UPA government in the Indian general election, 2004. Dr. Jean Dreze has been a major influence on this project. This scheme was initially implemented in nearly 200 districts in India by 2006 and later got extended to all the districts of India by 2008. On 2nd October 2009, on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an amendment was made to honor the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi for rural development and empowerment. This amendment was also added with some new provisions such as social audit, grievance redressal mechanism and convergence with the scheme. Hence it is renamed

as MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Chakraborty, 2007, pp. 505-526).

2.3 Similarities between these Schemes.

The various rural employment schemes in India, including MGNREGA, share several similarities despite their differences in implementation, objectives, and focus areas. Some commonalities among these schemes include:

2.3 (i). Poverty Alleviation: All these schemes aim to address rural poverty by providing employment opportunities to rural households, thereby enhancing their income levels and improving their standard of living.

2.3 (ii). Rural Development: Each scheme contributes to rural development by investing in infrastructure development, asset creations, and productive works in rural areas, leading to improved access to basic services and better living conditions.

2.3 (iii). Targeting Vulnerable Populations: These schemes often target vulnerable populations such as landless laborers, small and marginal farmers, women, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, aiming to uplift them socio-economically and reduce disparities.

2.3 (iv). Government Support: They all receive support from the government in terms of funding, policy direction, and administrative oversight. to ensure effective implementation and achievement of program objectives.

2.3 (v). Decentralized Implementation: Many of these schemes involve decentralized implementation mechanisms, with significant roles assigned to local government bodies such

as gram panchayats or community organizations to ensure community participation and ownership.

2.3 (vi). Capacity Building and Skill Development: Some schemes, such as NRLM and DDU-GKY, focus on capacity building, skill development, and entrepreneurship promotion among rural youth and women, aiming to enhance their employability and income earning potential.

2.3 (vii). Monitoring and Evaluation: There is a common emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the performance and impact of these schemes through various mechanisms such as social audits, independent evaluations, and performance assessments to ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

While these rural employment schemes may have different names, structures, and approaches, their underlying goal of promoting rural development and poverty reduction unites them, reflecting the government's commitment to addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by rural communities in India.

2.4 Differences between these Schemes.

Nothing can be exactly similar or carbon copy, hence it will have something different. Like same, all these scheme may have same goals of promoting rural employment but it also has differentiatives like different objectives, implementation mechanisms, targets, focus areas etc.

2.4 (i). Objectives:

- MGNREGA primarily aims to provide 100 days of wage employment to rural households for unskilled manual work, with a focus on enhancing livelihood security and promoting inclusive growth.
- Schemes like NRLM and DDU-GKY focus on poverty reduction through skill development, self-employment promotion, and livelihood diversification among rural youth and women.
- PMGSY aims to Improve rural connectivity by providing all-weather road access to unconnected habitations, thereby enhancing access to markets, education, and healthcare.

2.4 (ii). Implementation Mechanisms:

- MGNREGA has a decentralized implementation structure with significant roles assigned to gram panchayats and local government bodies for planning, execution, and monitoring of works.
 - Other schemes like PMGSY and NRLM may involve multiple stakeholders at different levels of government and may rely on partnerships with external agencies or private sector organizations for implementation.
-

2.4 (iii). Target Populations:

- MGNREGA targets rural households willing to-do unskilled manual work, with a focus on providing employment to marginalized and vulnerable groups such as landless laborers and women.
- NRLM and DDU-GKY specifically target rural youth and women from poor households for skill development and entrepreneurship promotion to enhance their income-earning potential.
- PMGSY benefits all rural residents by improving road connectivity, although it indirectly contributes to employment generation through road construction and maintenance activities.

2.4 (iv). Focus Areas:

- MGNREGA primarily focuses on employment generation through public works projects, with an emphasis on asset creation in rural areas.
- Schemes like PMGSY focus on rural infrastructure development by providing all-weather road connectivity, while NRLM and DDU-GKY emphasize skill development and livelihood diversification.

2.4 (v). Funding Mechanisms:

- Each scheme may have different funding sources and budget allocations depending on government priorities, with some schemes relying more on external funding or contributions from development partners.
-

2.4 (vi). Outcomes and Impact:

- The outcomes and impact of each scheme may vary depending on factors such as implementation effectiveness, resource allocation, and contextual factors, making it essential to evaluate and monitor their performance regularly

Overall, while these rural employment schemes in India share the overarching goal of promoting rural development and poverty reduction, their distinct objectives, implementation mechanisms, and target populations result in significant differences in their design and focus areas

2.5 Comparing all the Rural Employment scheme with MGNREGA.

Let's compare the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with various rural employment schemes in India

2.5 (i). MGNREGA with Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):

JRY was one of the earliest rural employment schemes in India, launched in 1988, aiming to create employment opportunities in rural areas through infrastructure development and asset creation MGNREGA, implemented in 2006, guarantees 100 days of wage employment to rural households, focusing on unskilled manual work and aiming to enhance livelihood security.

2.5 (ii). MGNREGA with Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):

SGRY, introduced in 2001, aimed to provide wage employment in rural areas through the creation of infrastructure assets and productive works MGNREGA expanded on the principles of SGRY, ensuring the right to work and guaranteeing employment to rural households, with a focus on asset creation and poverty reduction.

2.5 (iii). MGNREGA with Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

PMGSY, launched in 2000, focuses on providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations to improve access to markets, education, and healthcare. MGNREGA complements PMGSY by providing employment opportunities for rural households in road construction and maintenance activities, thereby contributing to rural infrastructure development.

2.5 (iv). MGNREGA with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):

NRLM, launched in 2011, aims to reduce poverty by enabling rural poor households to access sustainable livelihood opportunities and social security benefits. While MGNREGA provides immediate wage employment, NRLM focuses on promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among rural poor households through skill development, access to credit, and market linkages.

2.5 (v). MGNREGA with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

DDU-GKY, launched in 2014, focuses on skilling rural youth from poor families and providing them with wage employment opportunities in various sectors. MGNREGA, on the other hand, primarily provides employment to rural households through unskilled manual work, although it may contribute to skill development indirectly through on-the-job training.

2.5 (vi). MGNREGA with Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP):

IRDP, initiated in 1980, aimed to alleviate rural poverty by providing self-employment opportunities through the provision of income-generating assets and credit support. MGNREGA differs by providing wage employment rather than self-employment, with a

focus on guaranteeing employment to rural households for a specified number of days in a year.

- While MGNREGA shares some objectives and overlaps with previous rural employment schemes in India, it stands out for its focus on guaranteeing wage employment, enhancing livelihood security, and promoting Inclusive growth in rural areas. (Raut; Chinchmalatpure and Thote, 2019, pp. 2833-2835).

2.6. NREP with MGNREGA

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with another prominent rural employment scheme, the National Rural Employment Program (NREP):

2.6 (i). Scope and Coverage:

- MGNREGA: Guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- NREP: Provides wage employment opportunities to rural poor families below the poverty line for unskilled manual work during lean agricultural seasons.

2.6 (ii). Objectives:

- MGNREGA: Aims to enhance livelihood security by providing employment, thus reducing distress migration and promoting sustainable development through asset creation.
 - NREP: Focuses on providing wage employment to alleviate rural poverty and reduce income disparities by engaging the rural poor in productive activities.
-

2.6 (iii). Implementation:

- MGNREGA: Decentralized implementation through gram panchayats with roles for various stakeholders, including central and state governments, and local authorities.
- NREP: Implemented through rural development agencies and local government bodies with oversight from state and central governments.

2.6 (iv). Funding and Budget Allocation:

- MGNREGA: Dedicated budget allocation with contributions from central and state governments, supplemented by funds from the Employment Guarantee Fund.
- NREP: Relies on budgetary allocations from the central government, which may vary based on overall fiscal priorities.

2.6 (v). Monitoring and Evaluation:

- MGNREGA: Has established systems for monitoring work implementation, wage payments, and grievance redressal, including social audits and independent evaluations.
- NREP: Monitoring mechanisms may vary depending on state-level implementation, with periodic evaluations to assess program effectiveness.

2.6 (vi). Outcomes and Impact:

- MGNREGA: Has demonstrated significant outcomes in terms of employment generation, asset creation, poverty reduction, and social inclusion, contributing to rural development.
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- NREP: Focuses on poverty alleviation through temporary employment opportunities, with outcomes varying depending on the effectiveness of implementation and local context.

2.6 (vii). Flexibility and Adaptability:

- MGNREGA: Allows for flexibility in program design and implementation to address evolving socio-economic needs and challenges, with provisions for adapting to local conditions.
- NREP: May need to adapt to changing rural dynamics and economic conditions, with opportunities for innovation and program refinement to enhance impact.

Overall, both MGNREGA and NREP aim to address rural poverty through employment generation but differ in their scope, objectives, implementation mechanisms, and outcomes. While MGNREGA emphasizes sustainable livelihoods and asset creation, NREP focuses on providing temporary employment during lean agricultural seasons.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has emerged as a transformative policy initiative in India, with substantial success in addressing rural unemployment, enhancing livelihood security and promoting inclusive growth. By guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment to rural households, these schemes plus MGNREGA has provided a crucial safety net during the lean agricultural seasons, reducing distress migration and stabilizing rural livelihoods. Furthermore, these programmes emphasis on assets creation which leads to significant investments in rural infrastructures, contributing to agricultural productivity, market access and overall rural development.

2.7 Significance of MGNREGA Scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has had a significant impact since its inception, with both successes and challenges along the way. Here's an overview of its successes and how far it has progressed:

2.7 (i). Employment Generation:

MGNREGA has been successful in providing wage employment opportunities to millions of rural households across India, particularly during lean agricultural seasons. By guaranteeing 100 days of employment per household, it has helped reduce seasonal unemployment and provided a safety net for vulnerable rural populations.

2.7 (ii). Livelihood Security:

MGNREGA has enhanced livelihood security for rural households by providing income support through wage employment. It has helped reduce distress migration, improve household incomes, and stabilize rural livelihoods, especially during times of agricultural distress or natural calamities.

2.7 (iii). Asset Creation:

MGNREGA has contributed to rural infrastructure development and asset creation through the construction of water conservation structures, rural roads, irrigation facilities, and other public works projects. These assets have enhanced agricultural productivity, improved access to markets and services, and promoted overall rural development.

2.7 (iv). Social Inclusion:

MGNREGA has played a crucial role in promoting social inclusion by targeting marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other disadvantaged communities. It has empowered these groups by providing them with equal

access to employment opportunities and promoting their participation in decision-making processes at the grassroots level.

2.7 (v). Transparency and Accountability:

MGNREGA has introduced measures to enhance transparency and accountability in program implementation, such as social audits, grievance redressal mechanisms, and the use of information and communication technology (ICT) tools. These measures have helped reduce corruption, ensure timely wage payments, and improve the overall efficiency of the program.

2.7 (vi). Challenges:

Despite its successes, MGNREGA has faced several challenges, including delays in wage payments, leakages, corruption, low levels of awareness among beneficiaries, administrative bottlenecks, and insufficient funding and resources. Addressing these challenges requires continuous efforts in strengthening institutional mechanisms, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and ensuring effective monitoring and evaluation.

Overall, MGNREGA has made significant strides in addressing rural unemployment, enhancing livelihood security, and promoting inclusive growth in India. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of addressing implementation challenges, enhancing program effectiveness, and maximizing the impact of the scheme on rural development outcomes. Continued commitment from the government, civil society, and other stakeholders is essential to sustain and build upon the achievements of MGNREGA in the years to come.

2.8 The objectives of the MGNREGA scheme:

- ❖ To enhance the livelihood security of the rural poor people by providing them, at least 100 days of guarantee employment and wages in a financial year.
- ❖ To create durable assets and infrastructure in rural areas that will improve the quality of life and productivity of the rural population.
- ❖ To protect the environment and to promote ecological balance by under-taking works related to water conservation, afforestation, soil improvement etc.
- ❖ To empower the rural people by strengthening participatory democracy and decentralized planning through gram sabhas and gram panchayats.
- ❖ To reduce Rural- Urban Migration and distress migrations by creating employment opportunities within rural areas or villages.
- ❖ To promote gender equality and social inclusion by ensuring equal wages and participations of women, SCs, STs and other marginalized groups.

2.9 Benefits of MGNREGA:

- The Scheme provides income security and livelihood support to millions of rural poor, who are totally dependent on casual labour works for their survival.
 - The scheme creates productive assets and infrastructure in rural areas which enhance the agricultural productivity, irrigation facilities, connectivity etc.
 - This scheme also improves the human capacity and skill development of the rural workers by providing them training, capacity building and exposure visits etc.
 - This scheme also boosts the rural economy by increasing the purchasing power and expenditure of the rural households.
-

- This MGNREGA scheme also reduces poverty, inequality, hunger- malnutrition, indebtedness etc. by improving the living standards and well- being of the rural poor.

The Adult member of the rural households need to submit their name, age, address and photo to the gram panchayat. The Gram Panchayat will register households after making enquiry and then will issue them a job card. The Job card will be containing the details of the adult member enrolled and his/her name, age with photo. The registered person need to submit an application for work in writing form either to panchayat or programme officer. Then the panchayat or the programme officer will accept the valid application and will issue dated receipt of application and a letter providing work, will be sent to the applicant and also will be displayed at the panchayat office.

The employment will be provided with the radius of 5 km. if not, then the extra wage will be paid for that. And if the employment is not provided under this scheme within fifteen days of receipt of the application, a daily unemployment allowance will be paid to the applicant. Hence the work site facilities include: safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest, first-aid box for emergency treatment of minor injuries and other health hazards related with work. If more than five children below six years are present, than a person should be engaged to look after them.

The work type includes: creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resources.

The work like:

- Agricultural and allied activities
 - Water conservation, water harvesting and water sheds
 - Rural sanitation projects
 - Drought or flood proofing and irrigation facilities
-

- Renovation of traditional water bodies like well, ponds etc.
- Land development, soil improvement and bio- conservation etc.

The MGNREGA scheme (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) focuses on providing 100 days of employment opportunities and improving the livelihoods of the rural households.

Here are some most important benefits of the MGNREGA scheme:

2.9 (i). Employment Generation: this is the one of the most important key benefit of the MGNREGA scheme, to provide employment opportunities. Here is aimed at providing at least 100 days of guaranteed work to the rural household within a year. It focuses on reducing the poverty and unemployment in the rural areas or villages.

2.9 (ii). Poverty Reduction: By providing employment opportunities, this MGNREGA scheme will assist in reducing poverty in the rural areas. It ensures that every household in rural areas must get a regular income, directly improving their living standards and reducing the dependency or poverty factor.

2.9 (iii). Skill Enhancement: MGNREGA or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act focuses on providing work opportunities for unskilled workers, which will allow them to develop and enhance their skills. With their participation in various projects like water conservation, afforestation, road construction, etc. the worker will gain some practical experience. They will learn new skills that will be utilized them for their future employment opportunities.

2.9 (iv). Women Empowerment: The MGNREGA scheme also focuses on empowering women by ensuring their participation in rural development works. The MGNREGA promotes gender equality by mandating or reserving them with at least one-third of the

beneficiaries. These MGNREGA's aids increases the economic status of the women and their power to make decisions within their households. Here they received equal treatment, equal wages as men as this is a gender- neutral scheme. They provide them with restroom, toilet, safe drinking water etc. specially, they also provide them a care-taker, if they have children, should be below five years and have six children at the spot. According to the 'Ministry of Rural Development Report' from April 2022 to January 2023, the women participation in India is nearly about 50-55 percent, from which the Goa holds 70-80 percent. And the highest women participation is from Kerala with 88 percent, Puducherry 87 percent and Tamil Nadu with 86-85 percent.

2.9 (v). Environmental Conservation: This MGNREGA scheme also promotes sustainable development by organizing activities related to environmental conservation. This focuses on the projects like water conservation and irrigation, soil erosion control, construction of roads, well, ponds etc., afforestation. These initiatives helped in saving natural resources, restoring ecological balance and reducing the effect of climate change. UP- Uttar Pradesh is the highest assets creator till date with 10,211,597 that is: ten million, two hundred and eleven thousand, five hundred and ninety-seven.

2.9 (vi). Social Inclusion: This scheme focuses on providing equal access to all, the women, the marginalized like SCs (Schedule Castes), STs (Schedule Tribes), and the other minorities. This ensures that these vulnerable groups will have equal access to employment and are not discriminated against any form or ways (Ganeriwala, 2010, pp. 9-44).

2.10 Budget Allocation for MGNREGA scheme in India:

This MGNREGA scheme started in February 2006, in 200 districts out of the total 593 districts in the country. And it was decided that, these will cover all the districts in next five years. The Government of India announced the addition of another 130 districts in the financial year of 2007-08. For the financial year of 2007-08, the budgetary support for NREGA was set Rupees. 11,300 crores. The Congress led UPA government decided to further extend this scheme cross the county at the beginning of the financial year 2008-09, this year the government faced new general elections. Hence, as planned it was extent (Vaidhya, 2009, pp. 1-14).

Table 2.1: Fund Allocation of MGNREGA by Central Government:

Years	Budget Estimated (Rupees in Crores)	Revised Estimated (Rupees in Crores)	Fund Released (Rupees in Crores)
2014- 15	34,000	33,000	32,977
2015- 16	34,699	37,345	37,340
2016- 17	38,500	48,220	48,219
2017- 18	48,000	55,167	55,166
2018- 19	55,000	61,830	61,829
2019- 20	60,000	71,001	71,689
2020- 21	61,500	1,11,500	1,11,170
2021- 22	73,000	98,000	98.467
2022- 23	73,000	89,000	60,000

Source: Authors Compilation; GoI- <https://nrega.nic.in/>.

In 2014-15, the budget of MGNREGA was estimated to 34,000 crores and been revised to 33,000 crores. But the fund allocated that financial year was around 32,000 crores. As shown in the table, the fund released got higher and higher with time and years. (GoI- <https://nrega.nic.in/-2014-15>). Like-wise in year 2020-21, it was noticed to be the highest fund released among all. It was because, 2019-20 was the time of COVID-19 or COVID Pandemic period, where almost all population was on break or lost their jobs, some lost their lives or earning hand of the family or many more. This was the time of both social as well as economic disruption. Here millions of people fallen into extreme poverty. The next year was most like the highest unemployment rate of the history. Here almost all population was unemployed or underemployed. All the businesses, markets or sales drastically fell down, affecting all the living necessities, education etc. rather than only hospitalities and medicals excluded. The pandemic has affected entire system. The border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures etc. have been preventing farmers from accessing market, including for buying or selling, thus disrupting domestic and international food supply, reducing access to health, safe and diverse diet. The Pandemic has shaken-up all the jobs and placed millions of livelihood at risk. Millions of agricultural workers- waged and self-employed, both got affected. The COVID-19 was the hardest bomb fell, which weakened all the wall of the county. Hence in next financial year 2020- 21 was harder with highest employment demand leading higher and highest funds, which was around 1,11,170 crores. After that, the next year was kind of stable or little more fair with revised budget 98,000 crores and fund released to 98,467 crores. (GoI- <https://nrega.nic.in/-2020-21>).

The budget of year 2022-23 revised to 89,000 crores but it was released to 60,000 crores only leading the debates. It was said that the ‘MGNREGA fund cut by 33% to 60,000crore’. It was noticed that the allocation amount does not even meets the minimum threshold and should

have been doubled from 60,000 crores, it merely to provide eligible households with 40 days of work instead of the legally guaranteed 100 days. (GoI- <https://nrega.nic.in/-2022-23>). This was the big issue leading much more criticisms, debates etc. Even in 2023-24, the budget allocated was 60,000 crores only. In December 2023, as a part of its first batch of supplementary demands for grants 2023-24, the Government approved an extra 14,524 crores on top of that 60,000 crores. (GoI- <https://nrega.nic.in/-2023-24>).

2.11 Conclusion:

The Rural Employment Schemes like MGNREGA plays a crucial role in generating livelihood opportunities for rural households, thereby reducing poverty and income inequality. These schemes contribute to the development for rural infrastructures such as roads, water conservation structures, sanitation facilities, enhancing connectivity and quality of the life in rural areas etc. Many Schemes prioritize the participation of women, promoting gender equalities and empowering women and other minorities and backward classes through skill development, leadership roles and financial inclusion. By involving local self-governance institutions and grassroots organizations, these schemes foster community participation, ownership and accountability in projects planning and implementation. These Rural Development schemes targets marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society, including landless laborers, small farmers and tribal communities, promoting inclusive growth and social equality.

The budget allocation for Rural Employment schemes varies annually, depending on government priorities, fiscal constraints and programmes or project requirements. The adequate and timely allocation of funds is crucial to ensure the smooth functioning and sustainability of these schemes, enabling them to fulfill their objectives of poverty alleviation, infrastructural development and inclusive growth of rural villages. However, it is imperative

to enhance budgetary provisions, streamline funds management processes and strengthen monitoring mechanisms to maximize the impact and reach of rural employment schemes, thereby contributing to the holistic development of the rural India.

While Rural Employment schemes have several merits in terms of employment generation, infrastructural development and social inclusion, addressing their demerits such as funding constraints, administrative challenges and skill mismatches is essential to realize their full potential in driving sustainable rural development and improving the livelihoods of millions of rural households across the country.

CHAPTER III

MGNREGA's impact on rural development:

a case study of Taleigao Village

3.1 Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a Landmark social welfare scheme enacted by the Government of India in 2005. It was named after Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian Nation, the program aims to provide livelihood security to rural households by guaranteeing them at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

3.1.i Key features of MGNREGA

1. Employment Guarantee:

This scheme ensures that any rural household can demand employment, and the government is obligated to provide it within 15 days of the request.

2. Focus on Rural Development:

MGNREGA aims to enhance rural livelihoods and promote sustainable development by creating productive assets such as roads, water conservational structures, irrigation facilities and so on.

3. Employment of Women:

The Act emphasizes the participation of women in all aspects of planning and implementation, with at least one-third of the beneficiaries being women. Encouraging women to participate more, increasing women participation in every fields.

4. Transparency and Accountability:

MGNREGA mandates the use of transparent and accountable mechanism such as social audits, to ensure proper implementation and utilization of the funds.

5. Decentralized Planning:

This Act also promotes decentralized planning through Gram Sabhas (Village Assemblies) to identify projects based on local needs and priorities.

MGNREGA has a profound impact on rural India by providing employment opportunities, reducing distress migration, improving infrastructure and empowering marginalized communities as well as women. However, challenges such as delay in wage payment, corruption and uneven implementation persist, requiring continuous efforts to address them and enhance the effectiveness of the program. (Chakraborty, 2014, pp 263-300)

The MGNREGA scheme got implemented overall India till by 2008 and got to see many positive impact of the states. Even Goa was the part, where this scheme got launched. Hence here, this study is majorly focusing on the case study of the Taleigao Village of Goa, from Tiswadi Taluka.

Taleigao/ Talgao (ताळगाव) or Plato de Taleigao located in southern part of the city of Panaji. It is located on the island of Tiswadi, which is one of the taluka of the Sate of Goa. The neighbourhood is known for its important campus, 'The Goa University'.

Taleigao Village is nestled in the picturesque of the state of Goa, captivates visitors with its serene, landscapes, rich cultural heritages and vibrant community spirit. It is situated amidst lush greenery and gently rolling hills. Taleigao offers a tranquil retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life, inviting travellers to immerse themselves in the charm of rural Goa. With its roots deeply embedded in Goan traditions and custom, Taleigao village reflects a harmonious blend of history, culture and natural beauty. Steeped in folklore and legends passed down through the generations, the village is home to warm and hospitable residents who proudly preserve their heritages while embracing modernity. The village's proximity to Goa's pristine beaches and the vibrant markets offers an ideal balance of relaxation and exploration for travellers, seeking an authentic Goan experience.

Beyond its natural beauty and cultural heritages, Taleigao village exudes a sense of community and belonging that is palpable to all who visits. Whether participating in local festivals, attending religious ceremonies, or simply engaging in conversation with residents, visitors are welcomed with open arms and invited to become part of the vibrant tapestry of the village life. In essence, Taleigao Village epitomizes the timeless charm and allure of rural Goa, offering a tranquil haven, where travellers can experience the authentic essence of the region while forging connections with its people, culture and natural splendour. As one of the hidden gem of Goa Taleigao invites travellers to embark on a journey of discovery and exploration, where every corner reveals a new story waiting to be told. (Pai, 2019, pp. 14010-14021)

3.2 Over view of Taleigao Village Panchayat.

The Politics of Taleigao Village is similar like many other rural areas in India, and is influenced by various factors such as local governance structures, community dynamics and socio- economic considerations. Here is the major key aspect of the politics of Taleigao Village.

Local Governance:

Taleigao Villages falls under the jurisdiction of the Taleigao Panchayat, which is responsible for local governance and administration. The village panchayat consists of elected representatives, known as Panchayat Members, who plays a significant role in decision making, resource allocation and public service delivery at the grassroots level. The implementation of government programs and schemes, including welfare initiatives and development projects, often intersects with Taleigao political landscape. The Panchayat members seek credit for successful implementation or advocate for changes and improvements to better serve the needs of the community.

Overall, the politics of Taleigao village reflects the complex interplay of local dynamics, electoral competition, governance structures, and socio-economic factors. While political engagement is essential for addressing community concerns and driving development, effective governance, transparency, and accountability are critical for ensuring inclusive and sustainable progress in the village. Taleigao is a part of Goa Assembly Constituency and North Goa (Lok Sabha Constituency).

The Taleigao Village has a total Population of 25,811 with 13,500 households and it is divided into 11 wards as per the Electoral division. However, due to mass immigration from other states of India, it has high- rise the population as well as housing constructions, over

vast area of agricultural land in Taleigao, which transform the village into an Urban settlement. (GoG- Village Panchayat Taleigao: <https://vptaleigao.com/>)

3.2.i Different Schemes in Taleigao Village Panchayat:

- Atal Asra Yojana
 - House Wife Scheme
 - Laadli Laxmi Scheme
 - Senior Citizen Card and Senior Citizen Pension Scheme (60 years and above)
 - Disability Card or Schemes for Disabled Person
 - Transfer of Pension
 - Widow Pension (Below 60 years)
 - Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana
 - MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act/ Scheme
-

3.3 MGNREGA in Taleigao Village

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is a government scheme aimed at providing livelihood security in rural areas by guaranteeing them with 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was implemented in all the rural areas of Goa from 2008. At the time, the commencement of MGNREGA or NREGA, the wage rate was Rupees 110 per day and the first sum total wage paid was 379.29 lakh (North Goa 259.50 Lakh & South Goa 119.79 Lakh). 10.21 lakh for Tiswadi Taluka.

Table 3.1: Budget allocation under MGNREGA of Goa

Names	Rs. in Lakhs
Bardez	29.26
Bicholim	48.59
Pernem	77.10
Ponda	26.17
Sattari	68.17
Tiswadi	10.21
Canacona	36.66
Mormagao	10.61
Quepem	20.00
Salcete	18.69
Sanguem	33.83
Total:	379.29

Source: Authors Compilation; GoI- Ministry of Rural Development:
<https://g.co/kgs/x3kC5G9>

Traditionally, agriculture and horticulture were the main occupation of the Taleigao villagers, given the vast tracts of land where rice has cultivated during monsoon and vegetables were grown in summer. The flat portion on the hill tops were utilized to grow lady fingers, raggi (finger millet), snake gourd, ridge gourd, etc., in monsoon season. Taleigao's tambdi bhaji (red amaranth), sweet potatoes, brinjals, chillies, bottle gourd, etc., are famous for their taste all over Tiswadi taluka.

Since the last decade, farming has been on decline because of high labour costs, flooding of the fields in monsoon due to non-maintenance of water channels, youth taking up different occupations, migration of families to other countries, etc. Due to mass immigration from other states of India, high-rise housing constructions have taken over vast areas of agricultural land in Taleigao which has transformed the village into an urban settlement.

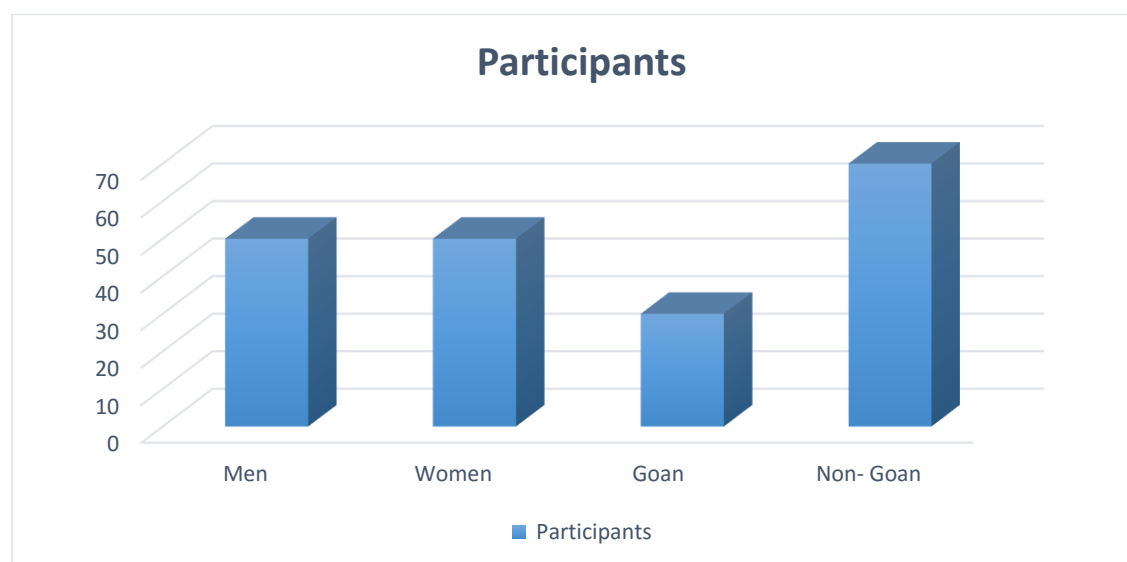
The Progressive Farmer's Club of Taleigao has taken initiatives to revive agriculture by availing government schemes. Hence MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) or NREGA. This scheme been implemented in Taleigao from year 2008 and was working fine. Many people got employed or employment due to this scheme. People started earning their livelihood and got secured employment for at-least 100 days of the financial year. Where people was unemployed, not having any source of income, nor earning platform, now they got opportunity to get employed, to earn, to secure the source of income and the opportunity for look after their family with this income. Goan as well as the migrants were enjoying this opportunity and was living a happy life with their family.

But as the economy of the people as well as state grew up, people started moving to other employment opportunities as when they got. Now manual labor work became low in-front of those or other high profile works. People started moving from manual work to professional and high profiled work. People started doing businesses and professional works. In

MGNREGA, people were paid rupees 110 (Government Sector) and rupees 300-500 in private sector for the same manual work they perform. Same work, same strength but different wages. Hence people who were left with the scheme moved out because of this reason. In 2008, the employment rate under this MGNREGA scheme in Taleigao was going good and all fine but after this within 2-3 years, this scheme started getting declined. People started moving out and it drastically failing on (Borges; Pereira; Stubbe, 2000, 1-65)

Later in 2018, this MGNREGA scheme again got active. Again many people got employed, started earning and generated their income and livelihood. The people who wanted job/employment got the opportunity. Still the wages were less (rupees 337) but still people got engaged, some to generate their source of income and other for extra earning. Sometimes, they even get food grains like rice, raagi, wheat so on. These employment was not only were generated by men but also women, especially housewives.

Figure 3.1: Number of respondent from year 2018



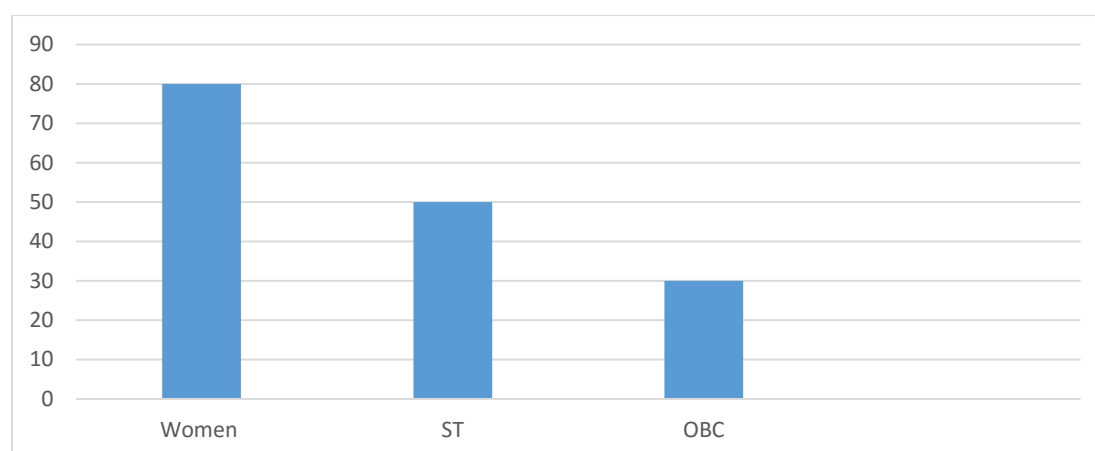
Here in 2018, the total number of participants were 30 and out of this, the major participants were Non-Goan people. Like the men were 50 percent and 50 percent women, from which

the largest numbers were of Non- Goan that is 70 percent and Goan are 30 percent. The manual works performed under this MGNREGA scheme was very simple and was easy like:

- Cleaning ponds, wells in fields/ in village
- Cleaning garbage and collecting garbage
- Helping in construction works and maintains
- Construction of irrigations
- Creating Water conservators

In 2019, the role, goal and the impact was all same but this year, the major change was the participants. The vast or major participants were women and that to housewives, who participated for the extra source of earning for the family. Last year, 2018 had both participant men as well as women (50-50) and more people were from Karnataka and Maharashtra but this year, 2019 had all Goan people and vast number was of women and that too from ST caste. There were 80 percent women participants from which 50 percent were from ST and 30 percent from other caste like OBC.

Figure 3.2: Women participation



This year, the Goan participants ruled this MGNREGA scheme in Taleigao village of Goa. But the male participants were very less and females were very more in number who were from ST or OBC Caste as shown in the above table.

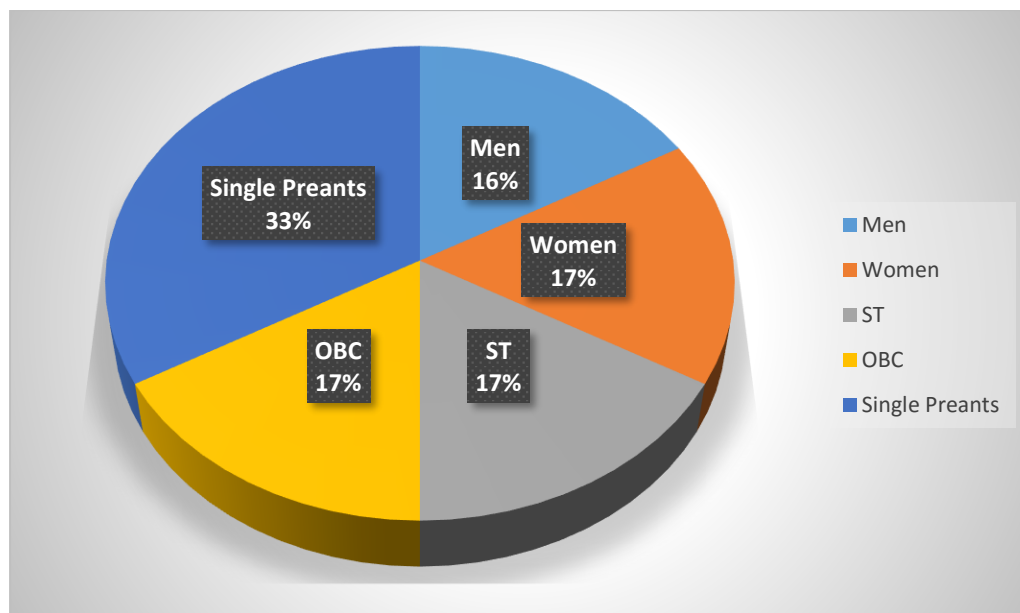
2020 was the time of Covid-19 Pandemic. The lockdown led to a rise in unemployment rate as the businesses closed or scaled back operations, resulting in layoffs and furloughs. Industries heavily reliant on in-person activities, such as hospitality, tourism, retails experienced the most significant decline in employment. But still, in the starting months: January and February had good employment rate. Here the 15 projects were undertaken and nine were totally completed. The most of these projects or works were undertaken in February month but still got completed within a month.

The works undertaken were:

- Construction of Soak-pits for 14 houses.
- Desilting and cleaning of ponds in the field.

Nearly, the all works was completed rather only six was ongoing when the lockdown happened in March. Hence in March month, everything got paused. But again next year:

In 2021, as the lockdown started getting open, the remaining or ongoing projects were opened and started again. With those six old project added with more five got completed this year. Both men and women participants were engaged. But this year the women participants were mostly single parents. Before or earlier, the women participated for extra income, for extra source of income to the family but this year, it was all opposite. This year women participated to look after their family. Not the extra source but the only source for earning. Before we saw that women got into this scheme for extra source for earning or for savings but this year, this was their only source. They got engaged for earning their livelihood. Both ST and OBC were equal in number.

Figure 3.3: 2021 Respondents

Here the male participants and female participants were in equal numbers. From among the ST and OBC caste also equally represented 50 percent. Most of them were single parents.

As per the recent update, the population density of Taleigao village in 2022, the total Population is 25,811 with 13,500 households and it is divided into 11 wards as per the Electoral division recommended by the latest census data or local government records. (Taleigao Panchayat Record). With this huge population density, the highest employment rate under this MGNREGA scheme were women: they will be housewives or a single parent. Even this year had the highest number of women from both ST and OBC caste.

This MGNREGA scheme is majorly among women. The housewives or single parents, both are the equal part of the same scheme. More than men, women participate in this scheme for various reasons like for extra source of income for the family or for saving or any other. People says, this scheme has low wage but still many participated. It is like 'having nothing is better and having something, even a little'. So till having low wage, people do participated and earned their livelihood. It is much better to have something, even little or anything than

nothing. The People participated in the MGNREGA scheme were majorly from 41-55 age group with secondary or higher secondary qualification and were mostly from Hindu Religion, either ST and OBC caste.

3. 4 Taleigao Panchayat Members responses on MGNREGA:

According to the study, the panchayat members are very cooperative and does their work very smoothly. Even when I have visited the place (Panchayat), the members, staffs, even the secretary was very cooperative. The Panchayat members, staffs and secretary are well known with such schemes. They are actively participating and doing best into the same. At the time of survey/ interview, all most everyone was aware about the scheme, the functions, objectives, progress everything. They are very cooperative and punctual about the work. There was no delay in receiving the job cards or the payment or anything. People are very happy with the smooth function of the panchayat. And because of them, these scheme gets more participants. Always, it is not about money, but sometime the kindness, care, cooperation, patience and so on does matter the most. Here, I interviewed Ten staffs, the Secretary and the Five members heading this project. Almost all of them were aware about the MGNREGA scheme and everything about the same: the functions, objectives, somewhat about the progress and the projects undertaken and done/ completed. They seemed, they do awareness program every financial year before the starting this scheme, and then the people are free to register their names for the MGNREGA scheme to the Panchayat or BLO. Then the cross identification is done and starts with registration progress. Than the Job Cards are issues within 14-15 days from registration and the letter with job cards are send into their houses. The letter is consisting of the work details. And before starting the work, the person has to visit panchayat and do the online registration for attendance purpose. Even with this, the staff or a person will be send to monitor and assist the people for completing their task. This MGNREGA scheme follows weekly payment method. Here people receive their salary

or payment weekly: every week with cash payment. And sometimes, they even get food grains like rice, wheat, millets etc. There will be no delay in anything: nor in receiving materials or payment. Hence due to this, the punctuality, cooperation, kindness people gets engaged into and happy work. They even think, this MGNREGA scheme is very good and very effective and wants to expand the growth, areas and the activities to be cover.

3.4 Conclusion

Concluding my analysis of the MGNREGA: a case study of Taleigao village, it is evident that this scheme or program has profound and overwhelmingly positive effects on the rural development of the village. Through the field work and observation, it become clear that the scheme's core objective of providing employment and enhancing livelihoods has been resoundingly achieved. The MGNREGA scheme not only offer employment opportunities but has also catalysed a tangible improvement in local infrastructures. From the construction of roads, creating water bodies conservators, cleaning and preserving ponds wells so on.

Moreover, beyond the economic benefits, MGNREGA has played the most important role in Empowering Marginalized Communities, particularly, women and disadvantaged groups. By ensuring them with equal participation and representation in decision-making processes. The scheme has fostered social inclusion and equity, boosting the fabric of the rural societies.

CHAPTER IV:

Examining the effectiveness of MGNREGA's Scheme

4.1 Introduction

The MGNREGA Scheme, launched in 2005, and is a big deal for rural areas in India. It promises 100 days of work each year to rural families, who are willing to do manual labour work. It's supposed to help fighting with poverty, create jobs and improve rural infrastructures. Here, we will look at how well the MGNREGA scheme works, focusing on how many jobs it created, how it helps people and what changes it brings to rural life. Let's explore how effective MGNREGA really is in making life better for people in rural areas.

Assessing the effectiveness of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Goa reveals a mixed picture. While the Scheme has made notable contributions to rural employment generation and infrastructural development in the state, the challenges such as limited demand for work, administrative bottlenecked and geographical constraints have impacted its overall effectiveness.

In terms of employment generation, MGNREGA has provided a safety net for the rural households during lean agricultural seasons and economic downfalls. This scheme has enabled local residents to access temporary employment opportunities in the projects ranging from road constructions to water conservation. Furthermore, MGNREGA has contributed to the creation and maintenance of vital rural infrastructure in Goa. Including roads, water harvesting structures and irrigation facilities. These developments have not only enhanced connectivity and access to basic services but have also boosted agricultural productivity and resilience to natural disasters.

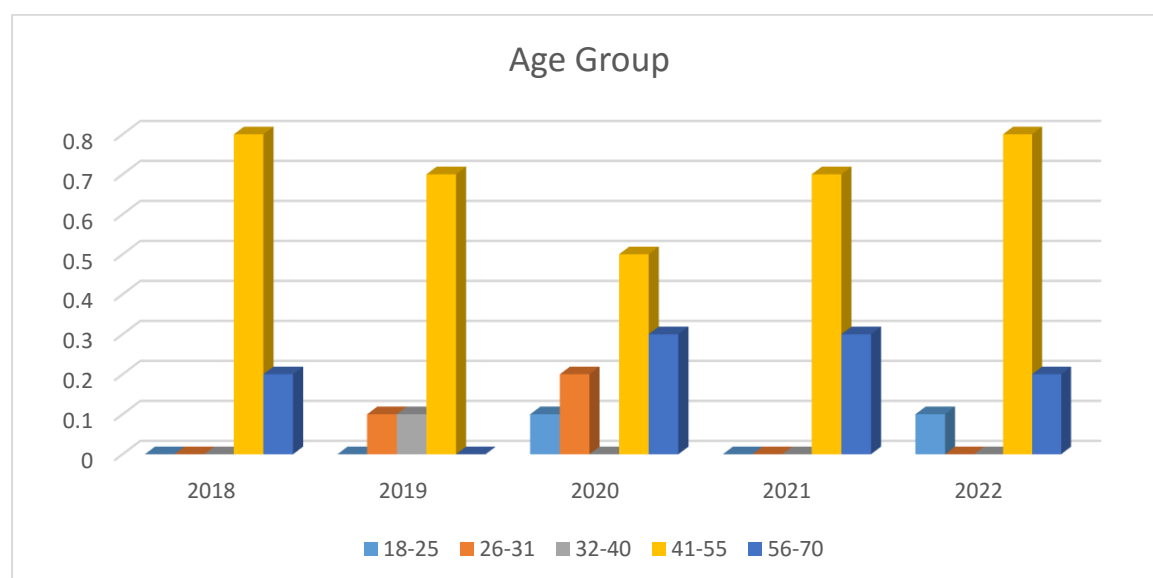
Despite of all the challenges, efforts are underway to improve the effectiveness of MGNREGA in Goa. Initiatives such as capacity building for local authorities, community mobilization and the use of technology for better projects management are being implemented to address exiting constraints and to enhance the scheme’s impacts on rural livelihoods (Lakha, 2017, pp 1337-152).

4.2 Profile of the respondent:

4.2. 1 Age

As this MGNREGA scheme is a rural employment guarantee scheme, which guarantees 100 days of paid or wage employment opportunity to the adult member of the house in financial year. As first time, I have thought this scheme will have more people from the age but of 18 to 25 or 26 to 31-35 but this survey proved me wrong. Almost all people availed this scheme were from 41= like from 41 to 55 or 56 to 60.

Figure 4.1: Age distribution



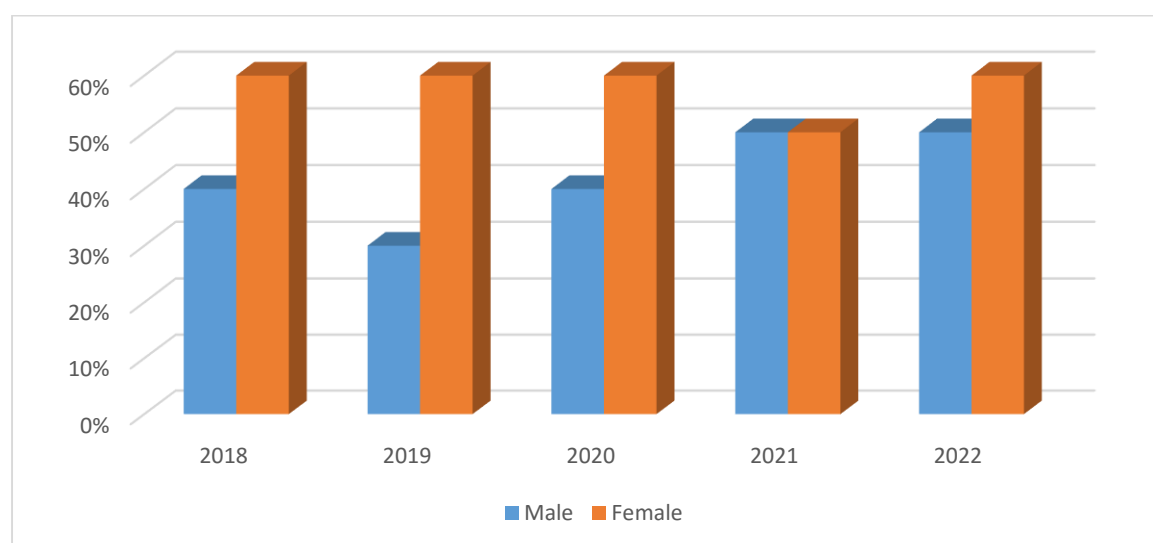
In 2019 and 2020, there is a noticeable trend in participation in MGNREGA, with the highest number of participants falling within the 41-55 age group each year. Surprisingly, there were

only few participants from the younger age group (18-25, 26-31 and 32-40), who seems more inclined towards professional or higher-profiled jobs rather than rural employment opportunities, it appears that they only turn to schemes like MGNREGA when faced with limited options. On the other hand, individuals in the 41-55 and 56-70 age groups, often overlooked for employment due to age-related biases, found themselves engaging in these schemes to sustain their livelihoods or supplement their family income.

4.2. 2 Gender

In terms of gender distribution, the survey indicated a highest participation rate among females as compared to males. The breakdown of responses by gender is as followed:

Figure 4.2: Gender distribution



From 2018 to 2022, the participation rate of the females in the MGNREGA scheme consistently remained the highest. This trend suggests that the scheme is more widely recognized and favored among women, who actively enrolled in it. The female participants are motivated to join MGNREGA for various reasons like:

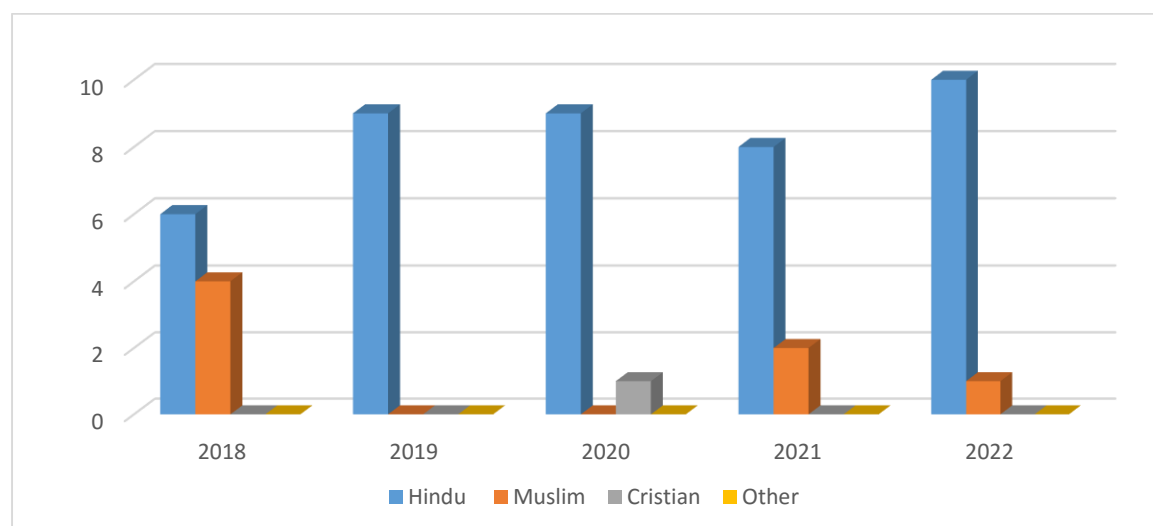
- For generating additional income for their family
- For providing a supplementary source of earning

In contrast, many males tend to avoid the scheme due to the perceived low income it offers. They believe that by engaging in similar manual labor in the private sector or independently, they could earn significantly more, ranging from 500 to 800 or even up to 1000 rupees. However, when faced with unemployment or a lack of alternative opportunities, some males reluctantly participate in MGNREGA. Conversely, females prioritize earning any amount over no income at all, making participation in the scheme a viable option for them. Thus, despite wage disparities, females actively engage in MGNREGA to secure their earning.

4.2. 3 Religion

The Survey finding indicated that the majority of respondents were Hindus, with highest participation rate as compared to respondents from Muslim and very little from Christian community.

Figure 4.3: Distribution on the basis of Religion

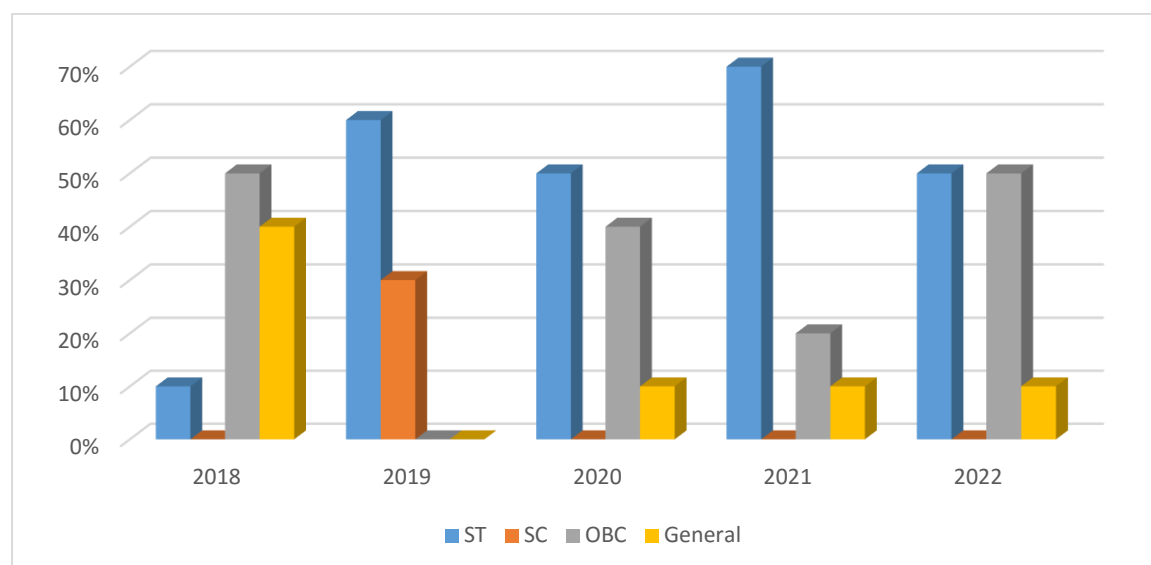


In 2018, both Hindu and Muslim communities participated in the MGNREGA program. However, in subsequent year, there was a noticeable decline in the participation of the Muslim respondents. In 2019, there were no participation from them Muslim community, but there was a slight increase in representation in 2021 onwards. Conversely, the Christian

community did not have any participants throughout these years, except for a small number in 2020, after which participation dwindled once again. This trend highlights a shift in community engagement with the MGNREGA program over time, indicating varying levels of interest and participation among different religious groups.

4.2. 4 Caste

Figure 4.4: Caste Distribution



In 2018, the distribution of caste among MGNREGA participants was as follows: 10 percent out of 100 respondents belonged to the Scheduled Tribes (ST), while there were no respondents from Scheduled Caste (SC). 50 percent respondents were from the Other Backwards Classes (OBC), and 40 percent were from the General category.

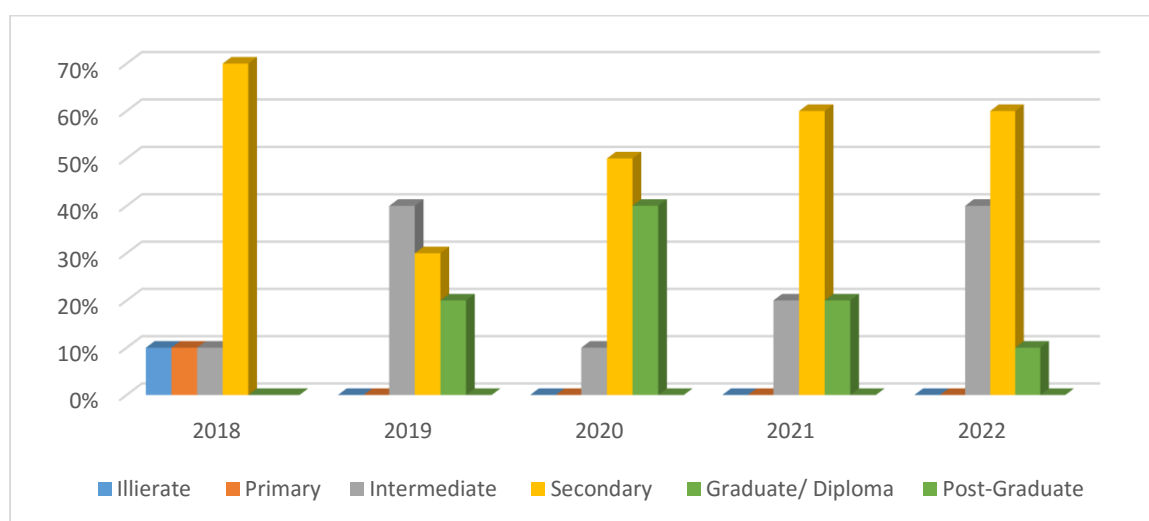
However, in 2019, there was a significant increase in the participation of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, which continued in subsequent years. Conversely, the participation of the Scheduled Caste (SC) community saw a notable increase in 2019, with three (30 percent) out of 10 respondents belonging to this category, but there was no participation from SC community in the following years.

The Other Backwards Classes (OBC) demonstrated consistent and significant participation in the scheme from 2018 to 2022, making them the second most represented group after the ST community.

The participation of the General caste was noteworthy in 2018, but there was a decline in 2019, with zero representation. However, there was some participation from the General caste in 2010 onwards, albeit at lower levels compared to previous years. These trends highlight the changing dynamics of the Caste representation in MGNREGA participation over the years.

4.2. 5 Educational Qualification

Figure 4.5: Educational Attainment



The chart outlined the educational attainment of the respondents engaged in the MGNREGA program over the years 2018 to 2022.

In 2018, the participation was diverse across educational levels. 10 percent respondents were illiterate, 10 percent has completed primary education, 10 percent had an intermediate education, 70 percent had achieved Secondary education, and none were graduated or diploma holders. In 2019, there was a notable absence of illiterate and primary- educated

respondents. Instead, the majority has completed Intermediate education (40 percent) or held a Secondary education (30 percent respondents) and 20 percent were graduates or diploma holders.

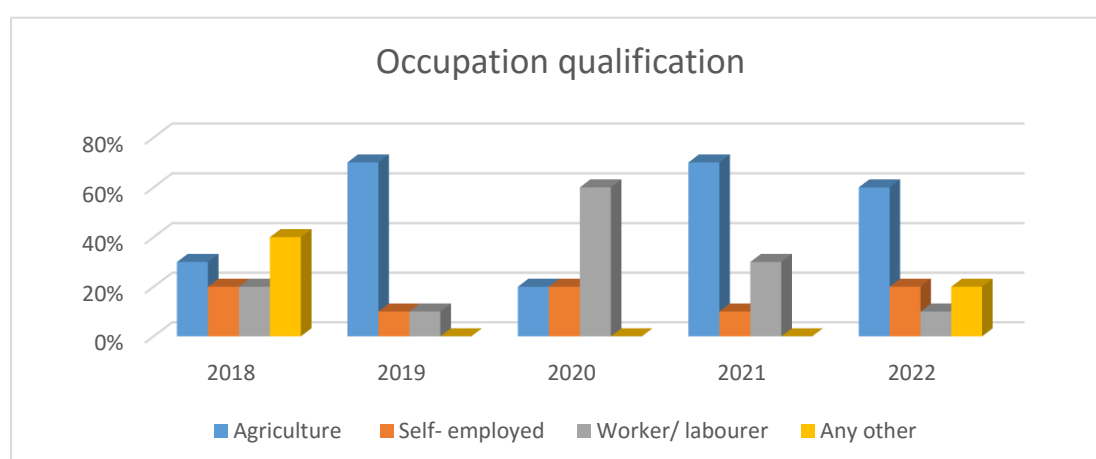
In 2020, 2021 and 2022, there are no illiterate or primary educated respondents. The distribution shifted to Higher education levels, with majority holding Secondary education and declining rate of participations from Graduate/ Diploma holder. In year, 2020, the Graduate or Diploma holder were in 40 percent but next year that is 2021 they got declined to 20 percent and next year to 10 percent.

2020 had majority, (40 percent) participants from graduated or diploma holder has it was the time of COVID-19 pandemic, where people were left with no choice rather to join any employment opportunity they got first.

4.2. 6 Occupation

Figure 4.6: Occupational Status

The chart provides a breakdown of the occupational status of respondents involved in the MGNREGA program across the years 2018 to 2022:



In 2018, the respondents occupation varies:

- 30 percent respondents were engaged in agriculture

- 20 percent from Self-employed
- 20 percent: Workers or Laborers
- 40 percent from 'Any other' category

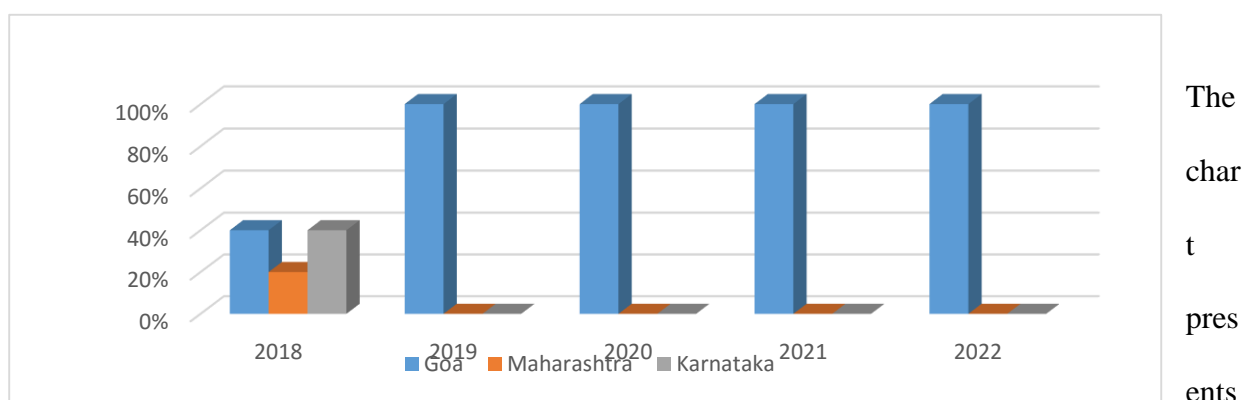
But the later years from 2019 to 2022, there was highest rate of participation from the agriculture occupation, except 2020, this year the participation rate from agriculture occupation were 20 percent and 20 from self-employed occupation. This year, 2020 has the highest respondents from workers and laborer classes. May be because of COVID-19 factor, where agriculture laborer may be moved to their agriculture field for their livelihood, and self-employed may have moved to other sector or try to fit into other activities. Where the daily wage laborers or workers left with no choice, rather to join and participate into this scheme.

But later year, like 2021 has the highest participation rate from agriculture occupation and here and with small- small number of respondents from other occupation as showed.

This breakdown highlights the varying occupational statuses of MGNREGA participation over the specified five-year period.

4.2. 7 Native State

Figure 4.7: Respondents from other states



the respondents participating in the MGNREGA program in Taleigao Village for the year 2018 to 2022.

In 2018, the respondents were spread from different state to stays in Taleigao Village, Goa.

As followed:

- 40 percent were from Goa
- 20 percent from Maharashtra
- 40 percent from Karnataka.

In 2019, all the respondents were from Goa, with no representation from Maharashtra or Karnataka. Similarly, in 2020, 2021 and 2022, all the respondents were intended to be from Goa, as indicated by the absence of participation from Maharashtra and Karnataka.

4.3 Conclusion:

The analysis of the MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act program reveals several key trends like:

4.3. 1 Demographic Factors:

- Gender: Females consistently show higher participation rates, indicating the program's popularity among women seeking to contribute to family income.
- Age: Middle-aged individuals (41-55) and older adults (56-70) are more inclined to participate, often due to limited employment opportunities in their age brackets.
- Caste: While the Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) exhibit consistent participation, the Scheduled Caste (SC) and General categories show fluctuating engagement over the years.

4.3. 2 Educational Attainment:

- There's a noticeable trend towards higher educational qualifications among participants over the years, suggesting a shift towards more educated individuals engaging in the program.

4.3. 3 Occupational Status:

- The majority of participants are engaged in agriculture, with fluctuations in self-employment and laborer/work categories across the years.

4.3. 4 Geographic Distribution:

- Rural areas consistently dominate participation, with minimal to no representation from urban areas.

- Goa emerges as the primary source of participants, with Maharashtra and Karnataka showing limited to no involvement in later years.

Overall, the MGNREGA program serves as a crucial source of livelihood security for rural communities, particularly women and middle-aged individuals, while also reflecting changing educational and occupational dynamics among participants. However, further examination of factors influencing fluctuating participation, such as caste dynamics and state-level variations, could provide valuable insights for program optimization and equitable distribution of benefits.

4.4 Comparing MGNREGA scheme in: Carambolim with Taleigao

All the place, that is Carambolim, Marcel and Taleigao are from Tiswadi Taluka and the North Goa District.

4.4. (i) Carambolim

Carambolim is a beautiful village that lies 14 kilometers from Panaji and 2 kilometers from Old Goa. It is also known as 'Karmali' and is famous for Carambolim Lake 'Karmallem Tallem'. The people in Carambolim are very hardworking. There is a lake situated there in the village. It was a man made fresh-water lake, which was built to facilitated irrigation for paddy fields. It was named as 'Karmallem Tallen' an is also known as the Carambolim Lake.

In the Village, the Carambolim Lake is situated within the walking distance from the Karmali Railway Station and is among the famous bird watching sport in Goa. Due to its rich ecology, here one can see a lots of species of migratory birds as well as a lots of water birds. Some of these are: waterfowls, egrets, jacanas, storks, moorhens, herons, pintails, open-billed storks, lesser whistling teals, shovelers, garganeys and coots. Some of these are residents and others are migratory. It is Goa's Important Birds and Biodiversity Area (IBA).

There is also an old Churches in Carambolim that is dedicated to St. John, which was built some time during 1714. It was originally a chapel which is known to have been built in 1541. In 1553, during the tenure of Bishop D Joan Albuquerque. Later it was raised to church status. There is also a railway station in village, which is third important station (after Pernem and Tivim) of Konkan Railway Station to the State Capital Panaji, known as Karmali Railway Station.

The Population of the village is around 5,179 people, out of which male population is 2,518 while female population is 2,661. The Literacy rate of the Carambolim village is 78.76 percent.

Table 4.1: Literacy rate

Male	Female
84.31%	73.51%

There are about 1,195 houses in Carambolim Village and the Pin-code is 403110. Crarambolim village comes under Cumabarhua Assembly Constituency and North-Goa Parliamentary Constituency. Tiswadi is the nearest town to carambolim village for all major economic activities.

Table 4.2: Land use of Carambolim Village

Land Used	Area in Hectares
Land under non-agricultural use	130.09
Fragmented undergrowth land	6.8
Cultivable waste land	40
Land under crops	1157
Total dry land	1078
Total horticultural land	79

Source: Authors Compilation; GoG- Directorate of Panchayat: <https://g.co.kgs/3XwhzR5>

4.4.(i). a MGNREGA in Carambolim

In 2010, was the first time this MGNREGA- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, scheme got launched and was availed by only five people. The total number of people registered were 21, from which seven was from ST caste and 14 from other. Out of this 21, only 5 people had worked and has completed their works/projects. The work

completed was cutting of the bushes in the village and the period of attendance was from 28 September 2010 to 04 October 2010.

Table 4.3: Job-Cards Issued

Sr. No	Job Cards holders Name	Job Cards No.	No. of Working days	Absent days	Weekly off days	Wage rate per days	Total wages paid
1	Atmaram Gaunekar	GO-01-001-024-001/1	5	Nil	2	110	550
2	Mogrem H. Madkaikar	GO-01-001-024-001/3	5	Nil	2	110	550
3	Nisha P. Dsa	GO-01-001-024-001/6	5	Nil	2	110	550
4	Fudu R. Fatarpekar	GO-01-001-024-001/7	5	Nil	2	110	550
5	Yadu Nuno Gaude	GO-01-001-024-001/4	4	One	2	110	440
	Total:		24 days				2640

(Source: Carambolim Panchayat Reports)

Here are the two females and three males, from which three are from ST caste and two from the others. At this time, the wage paid was very- very less (rupees 110 only). And after this, the scheme got inactive till today.

According to my study, when I interviewed Carambolim Panchayat Officials, only 5 staff were present there and excluding Panchayat Secretary, BLO and one more staff, none knew about this MGNREGA or kind of scheme. But I got very positive interaction with the Secretary and BLO. The Secretary is very good person and even the interaction was very good. He updated me with Carambolim Village population rate, it is 5,179 with 9 wards. He even told me that this MGNREGA scheme was active and was more popular among women. But is inactive now. He seems that, there are many works and projects to carry on with this scheme but there aren't people participation into. He says that, people/ villagers are aware about the scheme but due to low wages they are not participating. Villagers says that, the

wages paid here are very less rupees 337 only and if the same work is done into private sector or individual, they seem they will earn more 500-600. Hence the people as well as the panchayat officials want this change, to higher up the wages. Even some time, they can pay with food grains or like incentives.

The Secretary was well aware about the scheme, the objective and the progress, impacts and everything. Even he (Secretary), the BLO supports this scheme and want such schemes to increase, encourage, improve and empower people. As to increase employment rate, to encourage more participations especially from women and other marginalized communities, and to improve the rural infrastructural facilities, to empower everyone: Equally and equality among all. This will hugely contribute in poverty reduction, rural infrastructure improvement and hugely in empowering people, especially women and marginalized sectors.

4.4. (ii) MGNREGA: in Taleigao with Carambolim

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) stands as a pivotal social safety net, providing employment opportunities and fostering rural development across diverse landscapes in India. To compare the demand for MGNREGA in Taleigao Village and Carambolim Village, we need to consider various factors like population size, socio-economic condition and employment opportunities in each area.

4.4.(ii) a Taleigao Village:

1. Population Density:

Taleigao village have a higher population density compared to Carambolim, potentially resulting in higher demand for MGNREGA employment opportunities. The Population density of Taleigao is 25,811 with 13,500 households and it is divided into 11 wards.

2. Socio-Economic Conditions:

The socio-economic conditions in Taleigao vary, with a mix of agricultural, semi-skilled, and unskilled laborers, contributing to demand for MGNREGA work.

3. Employment Opportunities:

Taleigao have limited employment opportunities outside of agriculture or traditional occupations, leading to higher reliance on MGNREGA for livelihood support.

4. Infrastructure Needs:

Demand for MGNREGA projects in Taleigao focusea on infrastructure development such as road construction, water conservation, or sanitation facilities to address the needs of the growing population.

Taleigao village, characterized by its higher population density and limited alternative employment opportunities, emerges as a hotspot for MGNREGA demand. The burgeoning

population, coupled with the absence of substantial non-agricultural livelihood options, accentuates the reliance on MGNREGA for sustenance. With a backdrop of pressing infrastructure needs, such as road construction, water conservation, and sanitation facilities, the demand for MGNREGA employment is palpable. The scheme serves as a lifeline for the local populace, providing not only a source of income but also fostering community development through the execution of vital infrastructure projects.

4.4.(ii) b Carambolim Village:

1. Population Density:

Carambolim village have a lower population density compared to Taleigao, potentially resulting in comparatively lower demand for MGNREGA employment. The Population density of Carambolim Village is around 5,179 people, out of which male population is 2,518 while female population is 2,661.

2. Socio-Economic Conditions:

Socio-economic conditions in Carambolim differs, potentially with a higher proportion of skilled or semi-skilled laborers, reducing the demand for MGNREGA work.

3. Employment Opportunities:

Carambolim offers more diverse employment opportunities, including agriculture, small-scale industries, or nearby urban centers, reducing the reliance on MGNREGA for livelihoods.

4. Infrastructure Needs:

Demand for MGNREGA projects in Carambolim may still exist but the more focused is on specific needs such as watershed management, environmental conservation, or community infrastructure improvement rather than basic infrastructure development.

In contrast, Carambolim village presents a different employment landscape, characterized by lower population density and potentially more diverse employment opportunities. The socio-economic conditions in Carambolim may differ, potentially with a higher proportion of skilled or semi-skilled laborers, thereby reducing the demand for MGNREGA work. While the demand for MGNREGA persists in Carambolim, it may manifest in different forms. Rather than being driven primarily by basic infrastructure needs, the demand could be more targeted, focusing on specific areas such as environmental conservation, watershed management, or community infrastructure improvements. This characterized approach reflects the unique socio-economic fabric of Carambolim and the tailored nature of MGNREGA interventions in response to local needs.

4.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of MGNREGA demand in Taleigao and Carambolim villages illuminates the divergent socio-economic landscapes and employment dynamics prevalent in rural India. Taleigao's heightened demand for MGNREGA, fueled by its higher population density and infrastructure imperatives, underscores the scheme's vital role in providing livelihood support and fostering community development through essential infrastructure projects. Conversely, Carambolim's nuanced demand, shaped by diversified employment opportunities and localized needs, highlights the adaptability of MGNREGA interventions to address specific challenges effectively. Understanding these divergent dynamics is crucial for policymakers to tailor MGNREGA interventions adeptly, ensuring equitable development and livelihood support across varied rural terrains. Ultimately, leveraging this comparative insight can guide efforts towards fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development, thereby advancing the socio-economic landscape of rural India.

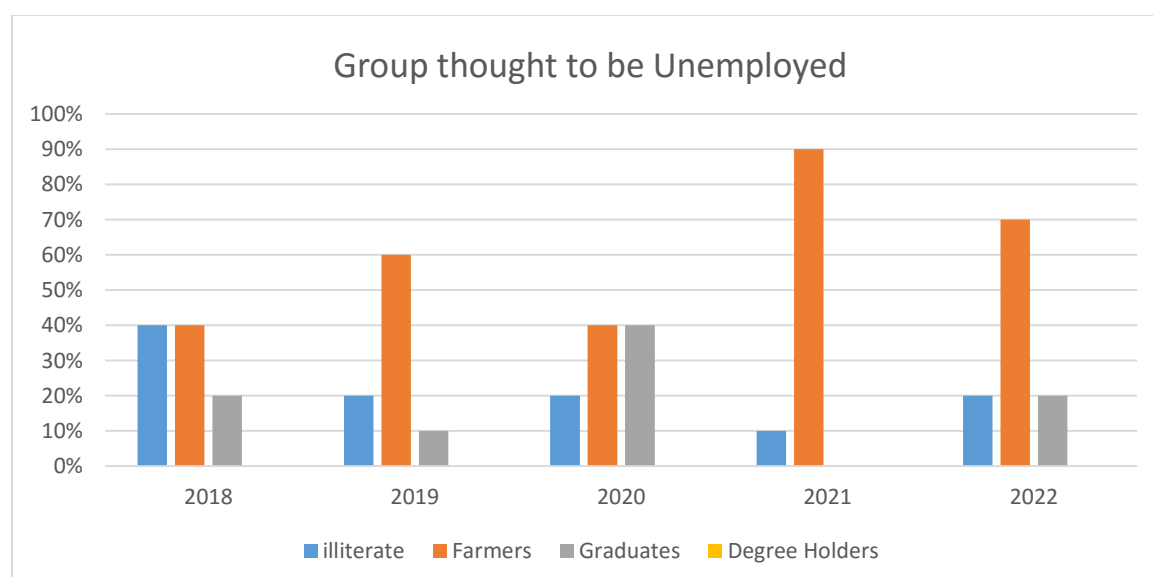
In simple terms, the comparison between Taleigao and Carambolim villages shows that Taleigao has more people needing work and basic infrastructure, so they rely heavily on MGNREGA for jobs like building roads and water systems. On the other hand, Carambolim has fewer people needing work, and they have other types of jobs available. They still use MGNREGA, but for different things like protecting the environment or improving specific parts of their community. Understanding these differences helps leaders make MGNREGA work better for everyone, no matter where they live.

4.6 Effectiveness of MGNREGA's in Taleigao

This MGNREGA scheme seen to be very effective in Taleigao village, especially among women. It is the hope, weaving threads of empowerment and prosperity for its village. The MGNREGA scheme has become the lifeline, empowering rural communities through guaranteed employment opportunities and transformative infrastructural projects. This is shedding the lights on its positive impact on employment generation, poverty alleviation, rural infrastructural development and the empowerment of marginalised communities, especially women.

According to this study, the people know that unemployment is the major and very critical topic and even India, Goa or our places faces these problems or the challenges. And they do support the various methods, scheme encountering this issue. As per Taleigao villagers, they seemed that the unemployment rate is the highest, seen in these groups: mostly illiterate, farmers and little in graduates.

Figure 4.8: Group thought to be Unemployed



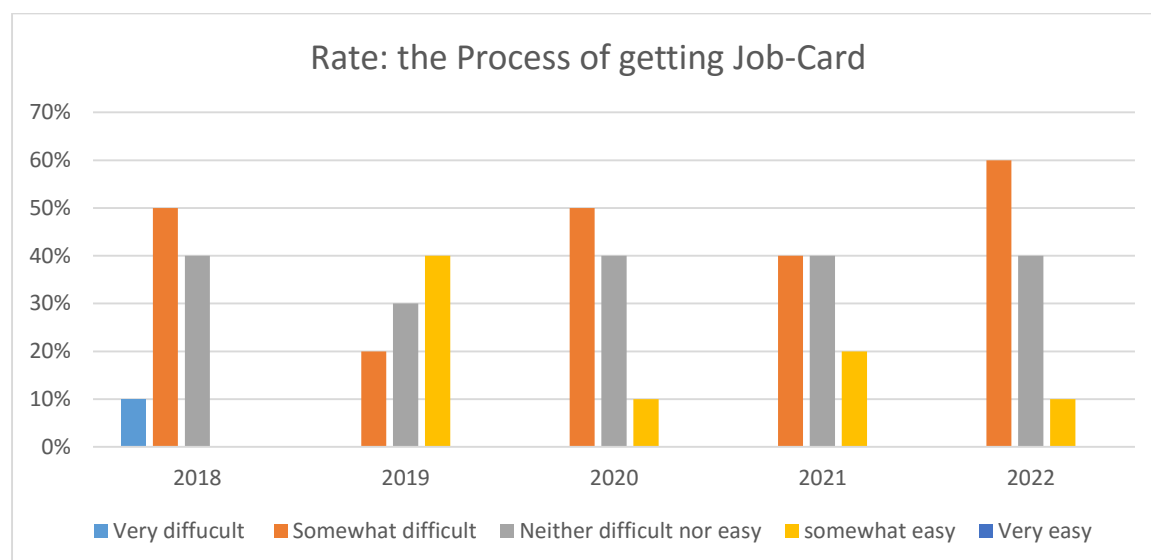
Most of the people says that, illiterate and farmers are the one who suffers more than anyone in getting employment or employment opportunities, especially farmers. And these

unemployment or underemployment are mostly been seen in rural area. This is because of lack of development, lack of employment opportunities or awareness, lack of infrastructural development or structures available and many more. Hence people do support and suggests these kinds of various schemes, projects, programs which supports, promotes and encourages employment.

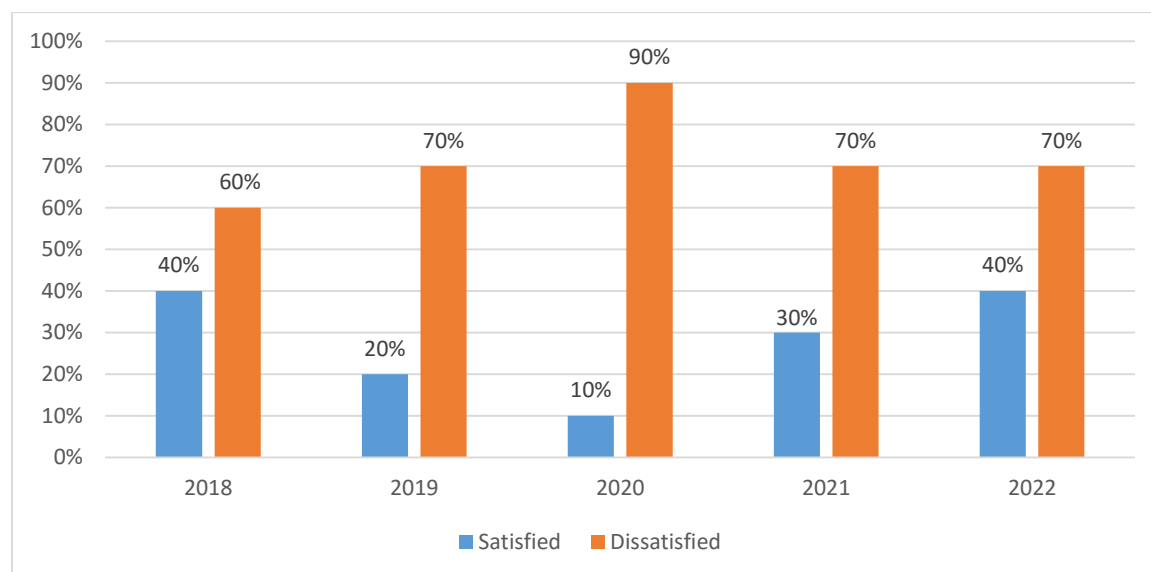
That's how this MGNREGA scheme got launched and been popular every place, like in Taleigao Village. This Scheme is working very fine and fabulous in the village and people, especially women are enjoying and accessing it very well.

In Taleigao Village, people are very well aware about this MGNREGA scheme (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and do participate into the same. According to them, getting this opportunity or the MGNREGA employment card was somewhat difficult but was and is fine.

Figure 4.9: Rate the Process of getting Job-Card

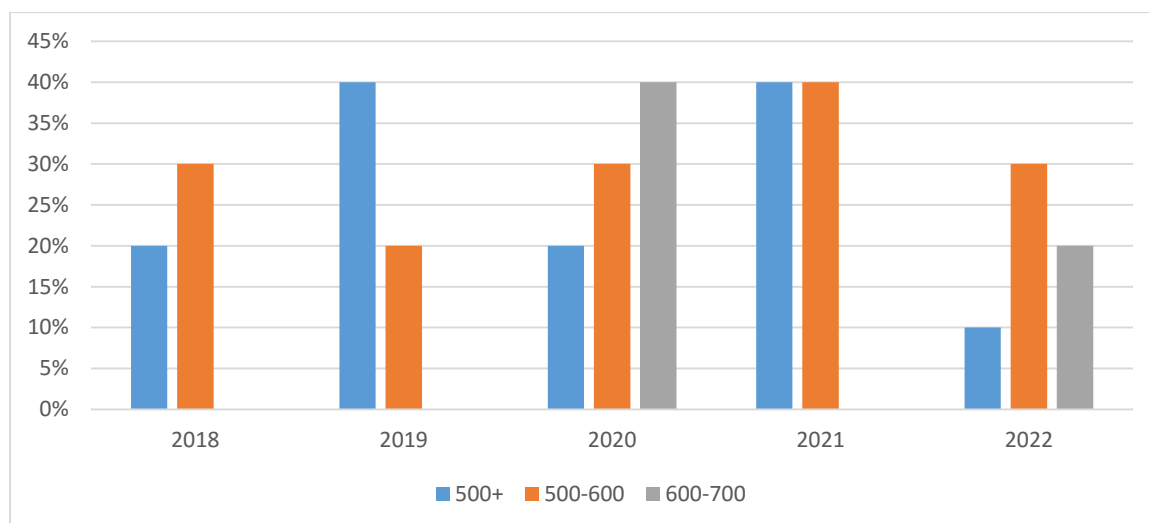


Most of the respondents are aware of the process of getting job card in MGNREGA scheme. Here, almost all villagers felt insufficiency of wages which is only rupees 337 and want it to higher up at-least by 500+ (at-least 500-600 or 700 rupees) per day.

Figure 4.10: People's satisfied or dissatisfied rate

Every year out of 100 percent, more than 50 percent people or the majority participants are not satisfied or are dissatisfied with the efficiency of the wages. The majority always thought, the wages are not sufficient for them, their family and households.

In year 2020, it is noticed that the dissatisfying rate is very high, that is 90 percent out of 100 percent and only 10 percent people are satisfied with the given wages. The dissatisfying rate in 2020 is the highest among all, may be because of the COVID-19 factor. 2020-21 was the time of COVID-19 pandemic. This was a period (2019-2020), where people lost their jobs, the livelihood, the source of income and everything. Hence the later year, 2020 got the highest demand of the employment and also increased the demand and desire for higher income or more wages. Hence 2020 may have the highest wage demand.

Figure 4.11: Dissatisfied People expecting more wage

While looking into the dissatisfying rate, people wanted good and higher wages like 500+, 500 to 600 and 600 to 700.

In the first year that is 2018, the dissatisfied people, who were not satisfied with MGNREGA's earlier wages paid, now wanted higher wages like: 20 percent people wanted 500+ wages and other 30 percent wanted 500 to 600 wages to be paid. In 2019, 40 percent people wanted 500+ wages to be paid and 20 percent wanted 500-600. But in year, 2020 people or the participants higher up the desire of the wages they wanted. Like 20 percent people wanted 500+, 30 percent wanted 500-600 wages to be paid and 40 percent people wanted 600-700 wages to be paid. 2020 has the highest desire of high wages or income to be paid.

While looking in impacts and benefits of the scheme, the one who participated into the MGNREGA scheme thinks that this have improved their household income or seen the positive change in their living condition. They think, this scheme is highly beneficial. By generating their livelihood or source of income, or it can be, by generating them with extra source of income in the family. Mostly, women participated for extra source or for supporting their family or their partners. It has hugely created sustainable development and job

opportunities in this as well as other states and places. Even the Panchayat members are very cooperative and making it easy for getting this employment opportunity as well as to get job card and even there is no delay in payment or getting their wages.

There aren't any challenges or issues faced by the villagers or people while availing this MGNREGA scheme or was no delay in wage payment. They were paid weekly or on the basis of weekly payment system. Mostly they were paid in Cash form and rarely, they may sometimes receive food grains like rice, wheat, millets etc.

The MGNREGA scheme not only improves infrastructural development or increases employment opportunities, but also empowers women and other marginalised communities like ST, SC, OBC and others. And this huge change is even seen and are felt by the people. This also promotes equality among all. It distributes equal treatment among all, male or females or others. The one-third of the seats are reserved for women participants and would be women workers. This was only made to increase women participation and for encouraging and empowering women. Even the work place is created very safe and hygiene, with clean and good drinking water and clean toilets for both men and women. Even there is a condition saying, if the women or the work place has four to five children below five years, then the panchayat will provide them with a care-taker to look upon their children on the field or work area and hence almost every woman are aware about this rule or condition.

The work assigned under this MGNREGA schemes are:

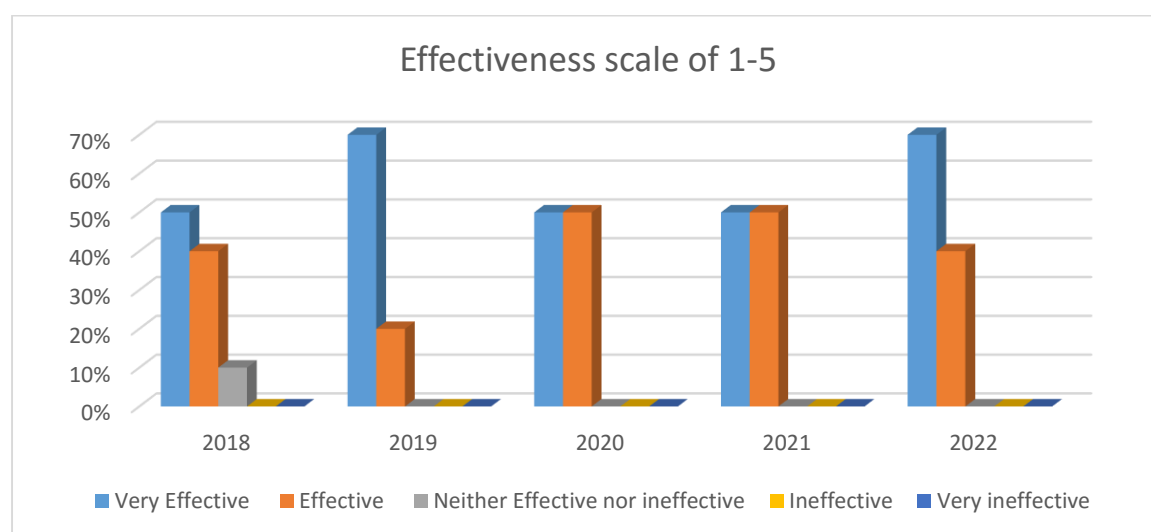
- Cleaning ponds, wells in fields/ in village
 - Cleaning garbage and collecting garbage
 - Helping in construction works and maintains
 - Construction of irrigations and Soak-pits
-

- Creating Water conservators

The MGNREGA also succeed in addressing the problem of seasonal employment in Taleigao village. People are at urged and wants, MGNREGA to expand and to cover more additional areas and activities under this scheme like anything is fine. Almost all people want MGNREGA scheme to expand into any field or any activity and they are ready to participate more.

Here I have added the scale where people will mark the effectiveness of this MGNREGA scheme. On the scale of 1-5, almost all felt, MGNREGA scheme is Very effective (five out of five) or even effective (four out of five).

Figure 4.12: Effectiveness of MGNREGA scheme



Almost everyone think, MGNREGA scheme is very effective or effective. It has helped in poverty alleviation by increasing the household income, ensuring livelihood security, reducing distress migration and improving access to basic amenities like water conservation and rural infrastructure. Additionally, MGNREGA has empowered marginalized groups, especially women, by offering them equal opportunities for employment and decision-making in community projects. Moreover, the program has played a crucial role in

stimulating rural economy through increased demand for goods and services, thereby contributing to overall economic growth and social development in rural areas.

CHAPTER V:

CONCLUSION

The successful implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has played a pivotal role in reshaping the socio-economic landscape of rural Goa, particularly in villages like Taleigao. Through its innovative framework of providing guaranteed employment and promoting sustainable development, MGNREGA has ushered in a wave of positive change, empowering local communities and revitalizing rural economies. In Taleigao Village, the impact of MGNREGA is palpable in various facets of daily life. The scheme has not only created avenues for employment but has also infused a sense of dignity and purpose among its beneficiaries. By offering opportunities for productive work ranging from infrastructure development to natural resource management, MGNREGA has not only ensured the fulfillment of basic needs but has also fostered skill enhancement and capacity building within the local workforce. Moreover, the ripple effects of MGNREGA extend beyond immediate economic benefits. The infusion of funds into rural areas has stimulated local markets, encouraged entrepreneurship, and bolstered community cohesion. As individuals find meaningful employment and gain access to additional resources, they are better equipped to invest in education, healthcare, and other essential services, thereby improving overall well-being and quality of life. Furthermore, MGNREGA has acted as a catalyst for social inclusion and empowerment, especially for marginalized groups such as women, Dalits, and tribal communities. By guaranteeing equal wages and promoting gender parity in employment, the scheme has challenged traditional hierarchies and contributed to the dismantling of barriers to participation and representation. In Taleigao Village, the success of MGNREGA is not merely measured in terms of statistics

or infrastructure development but is evident in the stories of individuals and families whose lives have been transformed. From increased financial stability to enhanced social status, the impact of MGNREGA reverberates throughout the community, laying the foundation for sustainable development and prosperity. As we celebrate the achievements of MGNREGA in Taleigao and beyond, it is essential to acknowledge the ongoing challenges and areas for improvement. Issues such as timely wage payments, effective monitoring mechanisms, and the need for diversified employment opportunities require continuous attention and refinement. However, the overarching message remains clear: MGNREGA has emerged as a beacon of hope and progress, offering a roadmap for inclusive growth and equitable development in rural India. The effectiveness of the MGNREGA scheme in Taleigao Village stands as a shining example of its transformative impact on rural communities in Goa. Through a comprehensive assessment of its outcomes, it becomes evident that MGNREGA has not only fulfilled its objectives but has exceeded expectations in catalyzing positive change and fostering inclusive development. First and foremost, MGNREGA has been instrumental in alleviating poverty and enhancing livelihood security in Taleigao Village. By providing guaranteed employment opportunities, the scheme has augmented household incomes, thereby lifting many families out of the grips of poverty. This increased economic stability has not only reduced dependency on erratic sources of income but has also mitigated distress migration, allowing individuals to stay rooted in their communities while earning a dignified living. From the construction of roads and water conservation projects to the development of community facilities, the scheme has addressed critical infrastructure gaps, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. Moreover, by empowering marginalized groups, especially women, through equal employment opportunities and participation in decision-making processes, MGNREGA has fostered social inclusion and gender equality in Taleigao Village. The effectiveness of MGNREGA in Taleigao Village is undeniable. It has

not only addressed poverty and inequality but has also promoted sustainable development, empowered marginalized groups, and stimulated rural economy growth. As a beacon of hope and progress, MGNREGA continues to transform lives and communities, exemplifying its vital role in fostering inclusive growth and building a more equitable society in rural Goa and beyond. Conducted surveys or interviews with beneficiaries in Taleigao Village to gather firsthand accounts of how MGNREGA has impacted their economic status. Document stories of families who have experienced an increase in income and a reduction in financial hardships due to their participation in MGNREGA projects. The Utilized government data or reports to analyze the trend of poverty levels in Taleigao Village before and after the implementation of MGNREGA. Highlight any significant improvements in poverty indicators such as income levels, access to basic necessities, and standard of living. Taleigao Village explores their experiences with MGNREGA and captured narratives of how participating in MGNREGA projects has empowered local as well as women economically and socially. The studies highlighting the representation of women in decision-making bodies related to MGNREGA implementation in Taleigao Village. Showcase examples of women taking leadership roles in project planning and execution, thereby challenging traditional gender roles and norms. The economic impact assessments to quantify the contribution of MGNREGA to the local economy of Taleigao Village estimated the multiplier effect of MGNREGA wages on local businesses and service providers, considering factors such as increased consumer spending and job creation. In Taleigao Village, the MGNREGA scheme has emerged as a beacon of hope and progress, garnering widespread recognition for its effectiveness in fostering socio-economic development and empowerment. Nearly unanimous consensus among villagers attests to the scheme's profound impact, with the overwhelming majority acknowledging it as either very effective or effective in addressing various challenges and uplifting the community. Foremost among its achievements is the significant

contribution to poverty alleviation and livelihood security. By providing guaranteed employment opportunities, MGNREGA has boosted household incomes, providing a vital lifeline for families grappling with financial instability. This increase in economic stability has not only reduced reliance on precarious sources of income but has also served as a bulwark against distress migration, allowing families to remain rooted in their ancestral lands while securing their livelihoods. Moreover, MGNREGA has been instrumental in improving access to basic amenities and rural infrastructure in Taleigao Village. From the construction of durable roads to the implementation of water conservation projects, the scheme has addressed critical infrastructure gaps, enhancing the quality of life for villagers and facilitating greater connectivity with the broader region. Additionally, MGNREGA has been a powerful catalyst for the empowerment of marginalized groups, particularly women. By offering equal opportunities for employment and decision-making in community projects, the scheme has shattered barriers and entrenched norms, fostering greater gender equality and social inclusion in Taleigao Village. Women have emerged as active participants and leaders in various MGNREGA initiatives, contributing to the collective upliftment of the community. Furthermore, the economic ripple effects of MGNREGA are palpable throughout Taleigao Village. The injection of funds into the local economy has spurred demand for goods and services, igniting a virtuous cycle of growth and prosperity. Local businesses have flourished, job opportunities have proliferated, and the overall economic landscape has been revitalized, laying the groundwork for sustained progress and development. In conclusion, MGNREGA has been an unequivocal success story in Taleigao Village, embodying the transformative power of inclusive policies and grassroots empowerment. Its multifaceted impact, spanning poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, gender equality, and economic stimulation, underscores its indispensable role in advancing the socio-economic landscape of rural India. As Taleigao Village continues its journey towards prosperity and self-reliance, MGNREGA

remains a steadfast ally and catalyst for change, driving progress and prosperity for generations to come.

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Appendix- 1

Questionnaire for Local People:

Questionnaire No:

I, **Bhavana Dhulapkar**, the student of M.A. II, Political Science Programme. D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Study (DDKSSSBS), Goa University. As part of our dissertation course, I am working on the topic: 'MGNREGA and Rural Development: a case study of Taleigao Village', here I am conducting this survey hence interviews. The identity of the respondents interviewed in this survey, will be kept strictly confidential. The responses are used for only academic purpose. I need your active cooperation for making my study successful.

Q 1. Are you agreed to give your consent for the survey?

- 1) YES 2) NO

Q 2. On Unemployment:

1. Do you think Un-employment is really a problem today in Goa?

- 1) YES 2) NO

2. If yes, than why? Why do you think Unemployment is Problem?

-
-
-
-

3. Among which group do you think unemployed is more today?

- 1) Illiterate
- 2) Farmers
- 3) Graduate
- 4) Degree Holders

4. In which locality do you think there is more unemployment rate?

- 1) Rural
- 2) Urban

5. And why do you think so? What are the reasons?

-
-
-

Q 3. On Awareness:

1. Are you aware about MGNREGA scheme?

- 1) YES 2) NO 3) No Response

2. Have you or your family member anytime had/ have MGNREGA Job Card?

- 1) YES 2) NO 3) No Response

3. If yes, how many members from the family availed the Job Card?

Number of family member:

Male:

Female:

Q 4. Participation and Employment:

1. Have you or your family member ever participated in MGNREGA work?

- 1) YES 2) NO

2. If yes, for how many days did you or your family members worked under MGNREGA in the past year?

Self:- no. of days_____

Year_____

Family members:-1. Days_____/ Year_____

2. Days_____/ Year_____

3. Days_____/ Year_____

4. Days_____/ Year_____

3. Did you or your family members faced any difficulties in getting MGNREGA Job opportunity?

- 1) YES 2) NO

4. If yes, then what difficulties:

- 1)
2)
3)
4)

5. How do you rate the process of getting job card?

- 1). Very difficult
2). Somewhat difficult
3). Neither difficult nor easy
4). Somewhat easy
5). Very easy

6. Are you aware about the specific geographical area within whis the employment should be provided under this scheme?

- 1) 2 km
2) 5 km
3) 10km
4) Don't Know/No response

7. When the job was not available when you required it, whether you were paid any incentive?

- 1) YES 2) NO

8. Did you know, if the employment is not provided within the range then the government should have to pay some extra incentives?

- 1) YES 2) NO

9. Did you entitled any of such incentives any time?

- 1) YES 2) NO

10. If yes, how much?

-

11. Does MGNREGA's wage payment is sufficient or fair?

- 1) YES 2) NO

12. If not, how much wages you expect?

-

13. Does getting your wages or salary was easy?

- 1) YES 2) NO

14. If no. why? What is the problem?

-

Q 5. Impacts and Benefits:

1. How do you rate the support and cooperation from Panchayat officials while getting job card?

- 1) Very cooperative
- 2) Somewhat cooperative
- 3) Neither
- 4) Not at all cooperative

2. Did participating in MGNREGA scheme, improved your household income?

- 1) YES 2) NO

3. Have you seen any positive change in your conditions, due to MGNREGA?

- 1) YES 2) NO

4. If yes, then what it is, what change you noticed?

-

-

-

5. Do you feel MGNREGA creates sustainable job opportunities in your area?

- 1) YES 2) NO

6. If No, Why?

-
-
-
-

Q 6. Challenges and Concerns:

1. What challenges or issues have you encountered while availing the MGNREGA scheme?
 -
 -
 -
2. Is there is delays in wage payment?
1.) YES 2) NO
3. If yes, what type of the delay?
 -
 -
4. Whether anytime you have not been paid at all for you work?
Yes/ No
5. What is the mode of payment:
1) Direct transfer to bank
2) Cash
3) Any other _____

Q 7. Social Inclusion

1. Do you feel MGNREGA improved the participation of marginalized groups (like women, SC, ST communities) in employment opportunities?
1) YES 2) NO 3) DON'T KNOW
2. What do you think about the wages distributed among male and female? Is it equally distrusted?
1) YES 2) NO 3) DON'T KNOW
3. If no, why do you think the wages are unequally distributed?
 -

4. If anytime happened that, you have your MGNREGA job card but did not get job to work?

- 1) YES 2) NO

5. If yes, whether you received any allowances?

- 1) YES 2) NO

6. If yes, what was the amount?_____ & for how many days?_____

Q 8. Women Empowerment:

1. Is there equal treatment among male and female works under MGNREGA Scheme?

- 1) YES 2) NO

2. If no, what is the factor influencing your thought?

-
-
-

3. Are the facilities provided are good?

- 1) YES 2) NO

4. What are the basic facilities provided?

-
-
-

5. Is there any special provision for women?

- 1) YES 2) NO

6. If yes, what are they:

-

-
-

7. Did you know, if there are 4-5 children before 5 years then the panchayat provides them, with a care-taker to look upon their children on the field or work area.

- 1) YES 2) NO 3) DON'T KNOW

8. Whether at you work place these care takers are provided for the children?

- 1) YES 2) NO 3) DON'T KNOW

Q 9. Rural Development:

1. What works are assigned under MGNREGA scheme?

-
-
-
-
-

2. Has MGNREGA helps in addressing the problems of seasonal employment in your area?

- 1) YES 2) NO

Q 10. Feedback or Suggestions:

1. What improvement would you suggest for MGNREGA scheme?

-
-
-
-

2. Do you think, MGNREGA should expanded to cover additional areas or activities?

- 1) YES 2) NO

3. If yes, which area or activities?

-
-
-

Q 11. Overall Perceptions:

1. On scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the effectiveness of MGNREGA scheme in your area?

- 1) Very Effective
- 2) Effective
- 3) Nether effective nor ineffective
- 4) Ineffective
- 5) Very ineffective

2. Is there is anything else you would like to add about MGNREGA and its impact on your community?

-
-
-

Q 12. Personal details

1. Age:

- 1) 18 - 25
- 2) 26 - 31
- 3) 32 – 40
- 4) 41- 55
- 5) 56-70

2. Gender:

- 1) Male
- 2) Female

3) Others

3. Religion:

1) Hindu

2) Muslim

3) Cristian

4) Other: _____

4. Caste:

1) ST

2) SC

3) OBC

4) General

5. Educational Qualification:

1) Illiterate

2) Primary

3) Intermediate

4) Secondary

5) Graduate/ Diploma

6) Post- Graduate

6. Occupation:

1) Agriculture

2) Self-employed

3) Worker/Labourer

4) Any other:_____

7. Current Location:

1) Rural

2) Urban

8. Originally from which state:_____

9. If not from Goa, how long you are been staying in Goa (years)?_____

10. When did you shift:_____

Thank you..

Appendix- 2

Questionnaire for Panchayat Officials:

Questionnaire No: _____

I, **Bhavana Dhulapkar**, the student of M.A. II, Political Science Programme. D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Study (DDKSSSBS), Goa University. As part of our dissertation course, I am working on the topic: 'MGNREGA and Rural Development: a case study of Taleigao Village', here I am conducting this survey hence interviews. The identity of the respondents interviewed in this survey, will be kept strictly confidential. The responses are used for only academic purpose. I need your active cooperation for making my study successful.

Q 1. Are you agreed to give your consent for the survey?

- 1) YES 2) NO

Q 2. General Information:

1. Name of the Panchayat:
2. Taluka:
3. District:
4. Date:

Q 3. Understanding MGNREGA:

1. Are you aware of the MGNREGA scheme?
1) YES 2) NO
2. If yes, then what is the full form of MGNREGA?
-
3. Can you briefly explain the objectives or the importance of MGNREGA?
-
-
-
4. How long has MGNREGA been implemented in your Panchayat?
-

5. How much funds you receive per year for MGNREGA employment?
-
6. Whether the funds are sufficient to meet the demand of Jobs under MGNREGA?
1) YES 2) NO
7. If no, why? What is the per-day wage or payment?
-
-

Q 4. Implementation of MGNREGA:

1. How is the demand for MGNREGA works, generated in your panchayat?
- Very high
- Moderate
- Low
- Very low
2. Elaborate why you said so?
-
-
-
3. Which factor has highest demand from this:
- i **Age:**
- 1) 18- 25
2) 26- 31
3) 32- 40
4) 41-55
5) 56-70
- ii **Gender:**
- 1) Male
2) Female
3) Others
- iii. **Religion:**
- 1) Hindu
2) Muslim
3) Cristian

4) Other:_____

iv. Caste:

- 1) ST
- 2) SC
- 3) OBC
- 4) General

4. What is the mode of payment:

- 1) Direct transfer to bank
- 2) Cash
- 3) Food Grains

Any other _____

5. Is there any delay in payment?

- 1) YES
- 2) NO

6. If yes, then why?

-

-

Q 5. Social Inclusion and Empowerment:

1. How MGNREGA contributes to the Employment rate in your area?

-

-

-

2. How does MGNREGA contributes to the empowerment of women in your panchayat?

-

-

-

3. Are there any specific provisions or initiatives to ensure the participation of women and marginalized communities (e.g.: SC/ST, other minorities) in MGNREGA activities?

For women:

-
-
-

Marginalized:

-
-

Q 6. Infrastructural Development:

1. Can you provide examples of the types of infrastructure created through MGNREGA scheme in your panchayat?

-
-
-

2. How does MGNREGA contributes in rural infrastructural development?

-
-
-

Q 7. Challenges and Solutions:

1. What are the main challenges faced in the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in your panchayat?

-
-
-

2. And what were the strategies used to solved that challenges?

-
-
-
-

3. What suggestions you would like to propose for the better implementation of the MGNREGA scheme?

-
-
-
-

Q 8. Community Participation and Awareness:

1. How do you engage to raise the awareness about MGNREGA scheme?

-
-

2. What role do Gram Sabha plays in the planning and execution of MGNREGA project in your panchayat?

-
-
-

Q 9. Digital Awareness:

1. Are you aware about the digital/ online portal of MGNREGA scheme?

1) YES 2) NO

2. If yes, have you checked your panchayat portal our there?

1) YES 2) NO

3. Is every details correct there?

1) YES 2) NO

4. If no, what initiative you took to update the mistake?

-
-
-

5. How you rate the online portal of MGNREGA?

- 1) Very Effective
- 2) Effective
- 3) Nether effective nor ineffective
- 4) Ineffective
- 5) Very ineffective

Q. 10. Suggestions and Feedback:

1. Do you have any feedback or suggestions for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of MGNREGA scheme at the grassroots level?

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-
-

2. Is there is any additional support or point that you believe would enhance MGNREGA's implementation in your panchayat?

-
-
-
-

Thank you