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## An empirical study of MNREGA in central districts of Gujarat state

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**Abstract**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the biggest poverty alleviation programme, with an objective of generating employment and productive assets in rural areas. In order to know employment generation and developmental works completed under the MNREGA programme in central districts of Gujarat in 2015-16, this study has been attempted. It also came to know, against the provision for women in MNREGA, it succeeded to provide employment to the women (43.21 per cent) more than the guideline of MNREGA.

The study also revealed that during 2015-16 in Ahmedabad, Anand, Botad, Chota Udaipur, Dahod, Kheda, Mahisagar, Panchmahal and Vadodara districts, total 108, 447, 221, 537, 13082, 4433, 685, 915 and 318 number of works had been completed respectively.

Out of all these completed works the major focus was given to works on Individuals Land (Category IV) in Ahmedabad (63.89 per cent), in Kheda (39.86 per cent), in Panchmahal (49.84 per cent) and in Vadodara (45.60 per cent) followed by Rural Sanitation in Botad (73.76 per cent) and in Dahod (32.73 per cent).

The major works related to Rural Drinking Water (39.71 per cent) in Mahisagar, Renovation of traditional water body (29.98 per cent) in Anand and Rural connectivity (28.31 per cent) in Chota Udaipur had been completed.

**Key words:** MNREGA, Employment, Developmental works

**Introduction**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is a flagship programme of Government of India. The Act was introduced first time in 200 most backward districts of the country in Feb 2006, it was proposed to extend to the remaining districts after 5 years but seeing the popularity of this Act, it was extended further to 130 more districts and within a year (Mohanty, 2012). The main aim of MNREGA programme is to enhance livelihood security of the rural poor people by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Another aim of this act is to create assets in rural areas like road connectivity; water conservation; land development; irrigation facilities *etc.* The choice of works suggested in this Act address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion so that the process of employment generation becomes on a sustainable basis. Considering these two major objectives of the MNREGA programme the present study is conducted with the following objectives,

1. To know the employment generation under MNREGA programme
2. To examine the works undertaken under MNREGA programme

**Analytical Methods**

The data for the study were taken from secondary sources only for the year 2015-16. The data on developmental work completed under MNREGA programme and employment generation under MNREGA was collected from MNREGA web site [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in).

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### Analytical Framework

Tabular analysis was employed to know the employment Generation and to examine the developmental works done under MNREGA programme. In tabular analysis simple comparisons were made on the basis of percentage.

### Results and Discussion

#### Employment generated under MNREGA programme

The main purpose of the MNREGA programme is to boost the livelihood security of the rural households by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year. One of the judging criteria for the success of MNREGA is number of person days of employment generated per job demanding household (Shah and Makwana, 2011). It is seen from the Table 3 that in central districts of Gujarat, total 168629 households demanded employment under MNREGA programme and MNREGA created employment of 39,82,000 person days in the year 2015-16. It means that against the guarantee of 100 person days, MNREGA programme generated on an average 23.61 person days per job demanding

household. The low level of generation of employment days per job demanding households reflects low level of performance of MNREGA in central districts of Gujarat. It might be due to low level of operation of the programme and frequent suspension/stoppages of works under MNREGA. It was also found that in central districts, total person days of employment generated through Women had very high contribution (43.40 per cent) followed by ST population (33.78per cent), others (24.95per cent) and SC population (3.57per cent). Thus, it can be said that the MNREGA programme succeeded up to some extent in providing enhanced employment and livelihood security under privileged households. For empowering the women, there is a provision in the MNREGA programme to provide at least 33 per cent employment to women. It is seen that in central districts of Gujarat, the employment share of women was higher (43.40 per cent) than provision made in guidelines. The good level of women participation in MNREGA programme is helping to empower the women in some extent.

**Table 1:** Employment generated under MNREGA in central Gujarat (2015-16)

Districts	Cumulative No. of HH demanded employment	Cumulative No. of HH provided employment	Average person days per job demanding household	Cumulative Person days generated					No. of HH availed 100 days of employment	Average person-days per job provided household
				SC	ST	Others	Total	Women		
Ahmedabad	3028	2391	34.68	0.11 (10.48)	0.01 (0.95)	0.93	1.05 (100.00)	0.47 (44.76)	102	43.91
Anand	10710	8704	36.23	0.25 (6.44)	0.1 (2.58)	3.53	3.88 (100.00)	1.87 (48.2)	486	44.58
Botad	4585	3921	33.15	0.11 (7.24)	0.01 (0.66)	1.4	1.52 (100.00)	0.73 (48.03)	38	38.77
Chota Udaipur	28328	17876	21.64	0.15 (2.45)	5.23 (85.32)	0.75	6.13 (100.00)	2.4 (39.15)	266	34.29
Dahod	51403	29241	20.93	0.1 (0.93)	4.89 (45.45)	5.77	10.76 (100.00)	5.03 (46.75)	1027	36.80
Kheda	16780	13359	41.48	0.18 (2.59)	0.04 (0.57)	6.74	6.96 (100.00)	2.74 (39.74)	417	52.10
Mahisagar	31799	21379	17.23	0.31 (5.66)	2.38 (43.43)	2.79	5.48 (100.00)	2.21 (40.43)	127	25.63
Panchmahal	19744	13128	17.52	0.17 (4.91)	0.67 (19.36)	2.62	3.46 (100.00)	1.57 (45.38)	28	26.36
Vadodara	2252	1478	25.75	0.04 (6.9)	0.12 (20.69)	0.42	0.58 (100.00)	0.26 (44.83)	38	39.24
Grand Total	168629	111477	23.61	1.42 (3.57)	13.45 (33.78)	24.95	39.82 (100.00)	17.28 (43.40)	2529	35.61

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

(Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

**Table 2:** Number of works completed and ongoing/suspended under MNREGA in Ahmedabad and Anand district of central Gujarat (2015-16)

Sr. No.	Type of works	Ahmedabad		Anand	
		Completed	Ongoing/Suspended	Completed	Ongoing/Suspended
1	Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra	0 (0.00)	40 (8.95)	40 (8.95)	18 (2.83)
2	Drought proofing	6 (5.56)	1 (0.22)	1 (0.22)	55 (8.63)
3	Flood control and protection	8 (7.41)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
4	Land development	0 (0.00)	65 (14.54)	65 (14.54)	18 (2.83)
5	Micro irrigation	0 (0.00)	6 (1.34)	6 (1.34)	2 (0.31)
6	Other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development	3 (2.78)	50 (11.19)	50 (11.19)	3 (0.47)
7	Renovation of traditional water body	0 (0.00)	134 (29.98)	134 (29.98)	77 (12.09)
8	Rural connectivity	2 (1.85)	18 (4.03)	18 (4.03)	44 (6.91)
9	Rural Drinking Water	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
10	Rural Sanitation	19 (17.59)	47 (10.51)	47 (10.51)	328 (51.49)
11	Water conservation and Water harvesting	1 (0.93)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (1.10)
12	Works on Individuals Land (Category IV)	69 (63.89)	86 (19.24)	86 (19.24)	85 (13.34)
Total works		108(100.00)	1598(100.00)	447(100.00)	637(100.00)

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in (Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

#### Works undertaken under MNREGA programme

The Table 2 shows that in Ahmedabad district, total 108 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 63.89 per cent works had been completed for the works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 17.59 per cent for rural sanitation, 7.41 per cent for flood control and protection, 5.56 per cent for drought proofing etc. It was also seen that 1598 numbers of works was still going on in Ahmedabad district. From that 32.42 per cent works was going on for other works approved by MoRD followed by 23.09 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 14.39 per cent for rural sanitation, 13.14 per cent for drought proofing and 5.44 per cent works for the Bharat nirman rajiv ghandhi sewa kendra.

In Anand district, total 447 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 29.98 per cent works had been completed for the renovation of traditional water body followed by 19.24 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 14.54 per cent for land development, 11.19 per

cent for other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development, 10.51 per cent for Rural Sanitation, 8.95 per cent for Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra etc. It was also seen that 637 numbers of works was still going on in Anand district. From that 51.49 per cent works was going on for Rural Sanitation followed by 13.34 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 12.09 per cent for Renovation of traditional water body, 8.63 per cent for Drought proofing and 6.91 per cent works for rural connectivity.

The Table 3 shows that in Botad district, total 221 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 73.76 per cent works had been completed for the Rural Sanitation followed by 15.84 per cent for other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development etc. From that 53.11 per cent works was going on for other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development followed by 14.96 per cent for Rural Sanitation, 9.58 per cent for Renovation of traditional water body, 6.22 per cent for Drought proofing etc

**Table 3:** Number of works completed and ongoing/suspended under MNREGA in Botad and Chota Udaipur district of central Gujarat (2015-16)

Sr. No.	Type of works	Botad		Chota Udaipur	
		Completed	Ongoing/Suspended	Completed	Ongoing/Suspended
1	Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra	3 (1.36)	23 (3.87)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
2	Drought proofing	1 (0.45)	37 (6.22)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
3	Flood control and protection	1 (0.45)	14 (2.35)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
4	Land development	5 (2.26)	16 (2.69)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
5	Micro irrigation	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	75 (13.97)	1661 (22.05)

6	Other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development	35 (15.84)	316 (53.11)	2 (0.37)	13 (0.17)
7	Renovation of traditional water body	1 (0.45)	57 (9.58)	0 (0.00)	15 (0.20)
8	Rural connectivity	9 (4.07)	11 (1.85)	152 (28.31)	1658 (22.01)
9	Rural Drinking Water	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	54 (10.06)	814 (10.81)
10	Rural Sanitation	163 (73.76)	89 (14.96)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
11	Water conservation and Water harvesting	2 (0.90)	12 (2.02)	136 (25.33)	2226 (29.55)
12	Works on Individuals Land (Category IV)	1 (0.45)	20 (3.36)	118 (21.97)	1146 (15.21)
Total works		221 (100.00)	595 (100.00)	537 (100.00)	7533 (100.00)

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

(Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

In Chota Udaipur district, total 537 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 28.31 per cent works had been completed for the rural connectivity followed by 25.33 per cent for water conservation and water harvesting, 21.97 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 13.97 per cent for Micro irrigation and 10.06 per cent for rural drinking water. It was also seen that 7533 numbers of works was still going on in Chota Udaipur district. From that 29.55 per cent works was going on for water conservation and water harvesting followed by 22.05 per cent for micro irrigation, 22.01 per cent for rural connectivity, 15.21 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV) and 10.81 per cent works for rural drinking water.

The Table 4 shows that in Dahod district, total 13082 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 32.73 per cent works had been completed for the rural sanitation followed by 19.05 per cent for flood control and protection, 14.20 per cent for works on land development, 12.44 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV) etc. It was also seen that 6215 numbers of works was still going on in Dahod district. From that 22.75 per cent works was going on for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 20.31 per cent for Renovation of traditional water body, 16.75 per cent for land development, 15.01 per cent for rural sanitation, 13.66 per cent works for water conservation and water harvesting etc.

In Kheda district, total 4433 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 39.86 per cent works had been completed for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 21.43 per cent for water conservation and water harvesting, 13.31 per cent for rural sanitation, 11.41 per cent for drought proofing, 6.74 per cent for rural connectivity etc. It was also seen that 3937 numbers of works was still going on in Kheda district. From that 33.32 per cent works was going on for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 23.44 per cent for rural sanitation, 12.34 per cent for rural connectivity, 11.73 per cent for drought proofing, 8.33 per cent works for land development etc.

The Table 5 shows that in Mahisagar district, total 685 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 39.71 per cent works had been completed for rural drinking water followed by 17.81 per cent for water conservation and water harvesting, 14.89 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 14.60 per cent for micro irrigation, 11.82 per cent for rural connectivity and 1.02 per cent for other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development. It was also seen that 900 numbers of works was still going on in Mahisagar district. From that 33.11 per cent works was going on for rural connectivity followed by 25.44 per cent for water conservation and water harvesting, 20.44 per cent for rural drinking water, 13.33 per cent for works on individuals land (category IV), 6.00 per cent for micro irrigation and 1.56 per cent for rural sanitation.

**Table 4:** Number of works completed and ongoing/suspended under MNREGA in Dahod and Kheda district of central Gujarat (2015-16)

Sr. No.	Type of works	DAHOD		KHEDA	
		Completed	Ongoing/Suspended	Completed	Ongoing/Suspended
1	Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra	0 (0.00)	107 (1.72)	16 (0.36)	130 (3.30)
2	Drought proofing	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	506 (11.41)	462 (11.73)
3	Flood control and protection	2492 (19.05)	262 (4.22)	15 (0.34)	10 (0.25)
4	Land development	1858 (14.20)	1041 (16.75)	204 (4.60)	328 (8.33)
5	Micro irrigation	5 (0.04)	2 (0.03)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.10)
6	Other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development	104 (0.79)	139 (2.24)	29 (0.65)	17 (0.43)
7	Renovation of traditional water body	711 (5.43)	1262 (20.31)	55 (1.24)	15 (0.38)

8	Rural connectivity	464 (3.55)	206 (3.31)	299 (6.74)	486 (12.34)
9	Rural Drinking Water	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.05)	0 (0.00)
10	Rural Sanitation	4282 (32.73)	933 (15.01)	590 (13.31)	923 (23.44)
11	Water conservation and Water harvesting	1538 (11.76)	849 (13.66)	950 (21.43)	250 (6.35)
12	Works on Individuals Land (Category IV)	1628 (12.44)	1414 (22.75)	1767 (39.86)	1312 (33.32)
<b>Total works</b>		<b>13082 (100.00)</b>	<b>6215 (100.00)</b>	<b>4433 (100.00)</b>	<b>3937 (100.00)</b>

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

(Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

**Table 5:** Number of works completed and ongoing/suspended under MNREGA in Mahisagar, Panchmahal and Vadodara district of central Gujarat (2015-16)

Sr. No	Type of works	Mahisagar		Panchmahal		Vadodara	
		Completed	Ongo./Suspe.	Completed	Ongo./Suspe.	Completed	Ongo./Suspe.
1	Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.44)	134 (2.66)	2 (0.63)	116 (6.31)
2	Drought proofing	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	22 (2.40)	138 (2.74)	10 (3.14)	84 (4.57)
3	Flood control and protection	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	33 (3.61)	78 (1.55)	21 (6.60)	27 (1.47)
4	Land development	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	14 (1.53)	40 (0.79)	4 (1.26)	52 (2.83)
5	Micro irrigation	100 (14.60)	54 (6.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.04)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
6	Other works approved by Ministry of Rural Development	7 (1.02)	1 (0.11)	6 (0.660)	5 (0.10)	0 (0.00)	27 (1.47)
7	Renovation of traditional water body	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	150 (16.39)	489 (9.71)	0 (0.00)	22 (1.20)
8	Rural connectivity	81 (11.82)	298 (33.11)	86 (9.40)	182 (3.61)	1 (0.31)	102 (5.55)
9	Rural Drinking Water	272 (39.71)	184 (20.44)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
10	Rural Sanitation	1 (0.15)	14 (1.56)	107 (11.69)	521 (10.35)	123 (38.68)	321 (17.46)
11	Water conservation and Water harvesting	122 (17.81)	229 (25.44)	37 (4.04)	200 (3.97)	12 (3.77)	22 (1.20)
12	Works on Individuals Land (Category IV)	102 (14.89)	120 (13.33)	456 (49.84)	3247 (64.48)	145 (45.60)	1065 (57.94)
<b>Total works</b>		<b>685(100.00)</b>	<b>900(100.00)</b>	<b>915(100.00)</b>	<b>5036(100.00)</b>	<b>318(100.00)</b>	<b>1838(100.00)</b>

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

(Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total)

In Panchmahal district, total 915 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 49.84 per cent works had been completed for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 16.39 per cent for Renovation of traditional water body, 11.69 per cent for rural sanitation *etc.* It was also seen that 5036 numbers of works was still going on in Panchmahal district. From that 64.48 per cent works was going on for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 10.35 per cent for rural sanitation, 9.71 per cent for renovation of traditional water body *etc.*

In Vadodara district, total 318 numbers of works had been completed in 2015-16. Out of them 45.60 per cent works had been completed for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 38.68 per cent for rural sanitation, 6.60 per cent for flood control and protection *etc.* It was also seen that 1838 numbers of works was still going on in Vadodara district.

From that 57.94 per cent works was going on for works on individuals land (category IV) followed by 17.46 per cent for rural sanitation, 6.31 per cent for Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra, 5.55 per cent for rural connectivity, 4.57 per cent for drought proofing and 2.83 per cent for Land development.

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