

‘The Contribution Of MGNREGA In The Empowerment Of The Scheduled Tribes Through Poverty Alleviation And Rural Development In The Sheopur District Of Madhya Pradesh: An Analytical Study’

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ABSTRACT: India has been listed as one among 88 countries where people live with hunger. In the Global Hunger Index 2008, India occupied 66th position out of 88 countries listed by International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, USA. India is a democratic country where 80 percent people reside in rural areas. Socio-Economic status of any country is depends on its economy. Rural economy depends on agriculture. In India rural development enhances Indian economy which ultimately reduces to the poverty. So economy, rural development and poverty are interrelated and interdependent to each other In India the contribution of agriculture in GDP is about 1/5th. In developing nations rural development is supposed a global attention. In India present strategy of rural development is to provide basic amenities infrastructure, better livelihood opportunity and to terminate poverty through various wage and self-employment innovative programmes. The government of India has taken various steps to reduce rural poverty in India such as Small Farmer Development Programmes, Drought Area Development Programmes and Food for Work Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme and Assurance on Employment etc. Undoubtedly, government of India has been implemented many government planning to eradicate poverty such as Swaran Jayanti Swarojagar Yojana (SGSY), Drought Prove Area Programme (DPAP), Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP), High Yield Variety Programme (HYVP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). In this concern NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house. Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, Feb, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 645 districts of the country. Scheduled Tribes are in the last ladder of development as we have a provision of poverty eradication since 1951 to 2014 (near about 66 years plus), but the position of Scheduled Tribes in our Indian society is same as before. Majority of the Scheduled Tribes is in Madhya Pradesh 14, 7 crore. Through this research paper we will try to focus the impact of MGNREGA on poverty alleviation and rural development in Madhya Pradesh’ Sheopur district.

KEY WORDS: Socio-economic, GDP, MGNREGA, Global Hunger Index etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asia or Southeastern Asia is a sub region of Asia and the name of countries of Southeast Asia zone is as Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South China Sea Islands, Thailand and Vietnam respectively. The region of Southeast Asia zone is lies near the intersection of geological plates with heavy seismic and volcanic activity. Basically the countries lies geographically with Southeast Asia are South of China, East of India, West of New Guinea and North of Australia. In concerning to the measurement of development of Australia, China, India and New Guinea, the GNI and HDI should be known. As we know that the HDI reported on in the United Nations Development Program’s Annual Human Development Report attempts to draw on a wider vision of development, including measures of education, health and standard of living .So, the HDI rank of Australia was 0.933 in the year of 2013 which was 0.931 in 2102, China’s HDI was 0.719 in 2013 which was 0.715 in 2012, India’s HDI was calculated as 0.586 in 2013 which was 0.583 in 2012 and the HDI of New Guinea was 0.556 in 2013 which was same in 2012 year. On the other hand the GNI in Australia was 65,520 in 2013 which was 59,790 in 2012,

in China it was 6,560 in 2013 which was 5,720 in 2012, in India it was 1,570 in 2013 which was 1,550 in 2012 and in New Guinea GNI were 460 in 2013 which was 440 in 2012 respectively. Hence if we see the value of HDI and GNI in India (excluding New Guinea because it is a very small country) it is calculated low in the comparison of Australia and China. As per the 11th National Development Plan of India more than 300 million people are poor in India and according to recent estimates 2011-12, 216.5 million people are poor in rural areas. Hence, the growth of Indian economy is depends on rural development. 1/3rd of the world population lives in India. India is a democratic country where 80 percent people reside in rural areas. India has been listed as one among 88 countries where people live with hungry. In the Global Hunger Index 2008, India occupied 66th position out of 88 countries listed by International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, USA. Socio-Economic status of any country is depends on its economy. In the era of globalization, the poverty is still continues a main problem of India. Poverty is the major problem in the development of India because poverty affected health, education, living standard, household, dignity of life, shelter etc. According to Human Development Report, 2013 throughout the world, the Human Development Index (HDI) rank of India is 135th in the list of country's poverty. India is an agricultural based country; therefore its rural economy depends on agriculture. Although rural development is basic necessity for the development of every nation. If we assess the natural resources India with United state America, we will find same natural resources for both the countries on the basis of economic progress. On the contrary there are so many reasons of the backwardness of India than America. Poverty is one major factor. Rural development enhances Indian economy which ultimately reduces to the poverty. So economy, rural development and poverty are interrelated and interdependent to each other. In India present strategy of rural development is to provide basic amenities infrastructure, better livelihood opportunity and to terminate poverty through various wage and self-employment innovative programmes. Government has planned many Schemes for development of rural areas in India.

After getting independence, the Central Government has implemented various Government Planning for Socio-Economic upliftment of India such as SGSY, IAS IRDP and so on. MGNREGA is also one among them planning for the poverty alleviation of India. Here, in India which follows a typical caste system there are Scheduled Castes (SCs) comprises about 16.6 percent and Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprises about 8.6 percent of India's total population. On the other hand, violence against women is quite common in whole world and very intense in India due to patriarchal nature of our society and so other many reasons such as dowry, domestic violence, rape etc. Although 1/3rd place is reserved for women under MGNREGA. NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage employment in a year to every rural household. Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, Feb, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 644 districts of the country. Through this research paper, we will endeavor to highlight the role of MGNREGA to alleviate the poverty of India. Majority of the Scheduled Tribes is in Madhya Pradesh 14, 7 crore. Through this research paper we will try to focus the impact of MGNREGA on poverty alleviation and rural development in Madhya Pradesh' Sheopur district.

II. SCENARIO OF POVERTY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA

Concept of Poverty : Poverty is simply a feeling of 'powerlessness' and 'resourcelessness' which is possessed by all the people who are poor. In general, Poverty is a situation of feeling unsatisfied towards the fundamental needs of daily life as food, clothes, shelter etc.

Definitions of Poverty

Some definitions of poverty are as follows:

- [1]. According to Bernstein Henry (1992) "the following dimensions of the poverty had been identified:
 - [2]. Lack of Livelihood strategies
 - [3]. Inaccessibility to resources (money, land, credit)
 - [4]. Feeling of insecurity and frustrations
 - [5]. Inability to maintain and develop social relations with others as a consequence of lack of resources."
- (1) According to Arguably, "It leaves too many loop holes. To cover up for these loop holes, poverty has come to be define in terms of material, physical, social, psychological, insecurity, vulnerability, worry and fear, low self – esteem, powerlessness and helplessness."
 - (2) According to Planning Commission of India, "Poverty line is drawn with an intake of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas. If a person is unable to get that much minimum level of calories, then he/she is considered as being below poverty line."

Hence, the poverty in India is reached to its peak and it is not just confined to rural poverty, although urban poverty is also arrested in the race of development and urbanization. The number of poor peoples from 2004-09 were raised from 270 million to 325 million.

Factors Responsible for the Poverty

The main causes for the poverty in India are as follows:

Geographic Factors: - Natural weather, lack of natural resources, natural disasters etc.

Social Factors:- Laws of inheritance, caste system, dowry system, traditions and customs, sickness, mental diseases, accidents, idleness, extravagancy, illiteracy, unemployment, rapidly rising population, untouchability due to caste, class and gender etc.

Political factors - Corruption, poor decentralization system, war, improper implementation of the planning to the people etc.

Economic factors: - Low productivity in agriculture, low rate of economic development, high price rise, shortage of capital and able entrepreneurship, underutilized resources etc.

Poverty Alleviation Strategy in India : Poverty eradication is the major objective of planned development. For this economic growth is important which create more resources and more space for the involvement of the poor. After independence Government of India began to fight against poverty based on Russian model where a series of five year development plans were initiated, successive governments started some schemes such as "*Garibi Hatao*" etc. Currently 12th plan is being followed. India is the rural based country which is highly dependent on agricultural sector where majority of population live in rural areas. For the growth of Indian economy rural development in India is essential. Rural development in India focuses on providing better livelihood opportunities, poverty alleviation, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment. Rural development enhances Indian economy which ultimately reduces poverty. The aim of rural development is improving rural people livelihood through better access to assets. For fulfilling its aim it follows some basic objectives such as rural development programmes for alleviation of poverty, unemployment, rural people training etc.

Scenario of Rural Development in India: Before understand the term of rural development let us first explain the term rural poverty.

Concept and Definitions of Rural Poverty: The majority of India's population resides in villages. Basically, the Rural Poverty refers to the poverty found in rural areas, having responsible factors for rural poverty such as rural society, rural economy and rural political systems. Rural poverty is refers in the context to the inequality between urban and rural areas. Many rural development programmes and policies have been made by policy-makers since 1952.

Some definitions of Rural Poverty are as follows:

- (1) According to United States Department of Agriculture (2002 farm bill), the rural areas are as any area other than (i) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants, and (ii) the urbanized areas contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town."
- (2) According to the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) definition, approved by the Ministry of Rural Development, as advised in May 1991, "a rural household with an annual income of less than Rs. 11,000 is described as poor household. These poor households have further classified into four groups: the *destitute* (with an income of less than Rs. 4,000 per annum at 1991-92 price level), *extremely poor* (with an income between Rs. 4,001 and Rs. 6,000 per annum), *very poor* (with an income between Rs. 6,001 and Rs. 8,500 per annum), and *poor* (with an income between Rs.8,501 and Rs. 11,000 per annum)."

Hereby, the largest segment of the world's poor is the women, children and men who live in rural environments. These are the subsistence farmers and herders, the fishers and migrant workers, the artisans and indigenous peoples where daily struggle seldom capture world attention.

Concept and Definitions of Rural Development : Rural development is a sociological concept in which the rural poor represents a reservoir of untapped talent a target group that should be given the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of development through improved education, health and nutrition. This is one of the most important definitions of rural development as the provision of social infrastructures could provide the catalyst that would transform the rural areas. Some definitions of Rural Development are as follows:

- (i) According kartar Singh, “the development of agriculture and allied activities as village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, human resources in rural areas.”
- (ii) According to Uma Lele, “it can be defined as improving standard of the mass of the low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining.”

Obstacles in Rural Development

The factors which influences to rural development are categories into four categories which are as follows:-

- [1]. Geographical Factors: unpredictable monsoons and weather, natural calamities as flood, drought, cyclones etc.
- [2]. Economic Factors: less annual production, faulty supply chain and miss management etc.
- [3]. Biological Factors: rapid growth of population, reduction in death rate through much developed medical and healthcare facilities, uncontrolled birth rate, big families and limited resources etc.
- [4]. Personal Factors: sickness, diseases due to lack in immunity, laziness, addiction to drinking, drugs and other social evils as poverty, caste system, social inequality and untouchability etc.

Strategy of Rural Development for poverty Alleviation in India

- (1) For rural development the developmental works are undertaken in the areas of irrigation, road, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity under the Bharat Nirman. Specific targets are to be achieved under each of these goals so that there is accountability in the progress of this initiative.
- (2) Bharat Nirman will lead to considerable rural assets creation along with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- (3) The Ministry of Rural Development is also committed to fulfill the three goals of Bharat Nirman by achieving the targets of rural connectivity, rural housing and rural water supply within the prescribed time-frame.

The aim of rural development is to improving livelihood of rural people on a sustained and equitable basic through better assess to assets, services and control over productive capital. To achieve the aim some basic objective of rural development programmes are to provide employment to marginal farmers/labourers, training to rural unemployed youth. To achieve these broad objectives some Government Policies and programmes have laid emphasis on poverty alleviation, generation of employment and income opportunities and provision of infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of rural poor. In this concern the ministry of rural development is apex body for formulating and implementation of policies and acts for the social and economic improvement and development of rural sector. The primary contributors to the rural business and economy are agriculture, poultry, fisheries, handicrafts and diary. The ministry of rural development consists of three departments viz.

- [1]. Department of Rural Development,
- [2]. Department of Land Resources and
- [3]. Department of Drinking Water Supply.

However, various ministries in Central Government as Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Family Welfare, New and Renewable Energy, Science and Technology, Women and Child Development and Tribal Affairs etc. are also engaged in the implementation of various planning for rural development areas. The various strategies and programmes for rural development are as follows:

- [1]. IRDP- Integrated Rural Development Programme (such as TRYSEM-Training of Rural Youth For Self Employment, DWCRA-Development of Women and Children in rural areas, SITRA-Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans and GKY-Ganga KalyanYojana),
- [2]. Wage Employment Programs (such as SGSY- Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, SGRY-Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana and NREGA-National Rural Employment Guarantee Act),
- [3]. Employment Assurance Scheme-EAS (launched in October, 1993 covering 1, 778 drought prone, desert, tribal and hill area blocks),

- [4]. Food for Work Programme (started in 2000-01 and implemented in Eight drought affected states such as Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal),
- [5]. Rural Housing (such as SAY- Samagra Awas Yojana, HUDCO-Housing and Urban Development Corporation etc.),
- [6]. Social Security Programs (such as NSAP- the National Social Assistance Programs, NOAPS- National Old Ages Pension Scheme, NFBS- National Family Benefit Scheme, NMBS- National Maternity Benefit Scheme etc.),
- [7]. Land Reforms (Land Record Management such as SRA and ULR was introduced in Orissa and Bihar in 1987-88) implemented through Government.

Concept and Definitions of the Scheduled Tribes

Here, in India which follows a typical caste system there are Scheduled Castes (SCs) comprises about 16.6 percent and Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprises about 8.6 percent of India's total population and are two groups of historically disadvantaged people recognized in the constitution of India. Since 1850 the Scheduled Tribes communities are referred to as depressed classes or Adivasis (original inhabitants). Poverty is the major problem in the development of India because poverty affects health, education, living standard, household dignity of life, shelter etc. of the peoples under below poverty line. Earlier so many planning were implemented by the Government of India to overcome from poverty such as IRDP, EAS, etc. Keeping special focus on forest villages and PTGs, special strategies have adopted during tenth plan with preventive-cum-curative-cum-remedial measures with improve extension of health, knowledge, infrastructure, immunization services. In India the Scheduled Tribes are still today illiterate, poor, resource-less, malnutritive, deprived, and exploited. Their condition in society still remains pitiable. Some definitions of the Scheduled tribes are as follows:

- [1]. The term Scheduled Tribes first appeared in the Constitution of India. Article 366 (25) defined the Scheduled Tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution".
- [2]. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, "the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. As per the 1991 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 67.76 million representing 8.08 percent of the country's population. Scheduled Tribes are spread across the country mainly in forest and hilly regions."

Factors Responsible for the Backwardness of Scheduled Tribes

Some factors which are responsible for the backwardness of Scheduled Tribes are as follows:

Personal Factors

- [1]. **Migration:** Scheduled Tribes livelihood basically depends on the agriculture and collection of minor forest produce (as gum from Cheed named tree etc.). For the purpose of several tribal development integrated projects they have been deprived from forests and lands. So for their survival they usually migrate to city and other states for working as wage laborers, bonded labour at brick kilns.
- [2]. **Poor availability of Education:** Children are hardly sent to the schools. As per their needs there is poor availability of education facilities for the children due to which child faces extremely difficulty to cope with the school curriculum because of non-availability of teachers and study materials, long distance, ill timing of schools, negative attitude of both parents and teachers and low or negligible female literacy rates and so on.
- [3]. **Poor health facilities:** At the time of serious illness or emergency of the Scheduled Tribes they have to depend on bi-cycle or walk to nearby Government hospitals where there is no provision to look after them seriously.
- [4]. **Lack of awareness and consciousness:** Through state and central governments several schemes and programmes have been implemented for poverty alleviation of STs, but could not change the conditions of the poor because of their unawareness and consciousness about the various development schemes and programmes.

Factors/hindrances under MGNREGA Implementation

- [1]. **Dated receipt not given to applicants,**
- [2]. **work not provided within 15 days,**
- [3]. **Unemployment allowance not paid.**
- [4]. **Poor participation of Gram Sabhas (GSs):** At the time of planning of works the main issues found were not enough participation of Gram Sabhas (GSs) as poor planning, shortage of technical staff with Gram Panchayats for planning etc.
- [5]. **Non-availability of worksite facilities:** During the work site management the main issues were not availability of worksite facilities as job cards were not updated, measurement not done on time, presence of machinery or contactors etc.
- [6]. **Delays in payment:** At the time of wage and wage payment the issues were related to delays in payment which cross 2-3 months, banks and post offices do not have its branches or staff.
- [7]. **Lacking of transparency and social audit:** social audit not conducted, non-availability of active vigilance committees, no records made available of the events in the case of social audit done etc.

Objectives

The broad classified objects of our study are as follows:

- [1]. Recognize the implied factors responsible for the violence against the Scheduled Tribe
- [2]. Assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic wellbeing of Sheopur District Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh
- [3]. Evaluate the Empowerment of the Shariya Scheduled tribe in the Sheopur District of the Madhya Pradesh.

III. METHODOLOGY

We have adopted the qualitative and quantitative research where primary data sources are used as planning commission, reports of Ministry of Rural Development, internet websites and census etc., and the secondary data sources as books, articles, research papers are used to complete this research paper. The research design adopted is descriptive type.

IV. AREA SELECTION FOR STUDY

The total population of Scheduled Tribes in India is approximately 104,281,034; whereas the rural ratio of rural is 93,819,162 and urban are 10,461,872 respectively. There is majority of Scheduled Tribes is estimated in Madhya Pradesh i.e. 14, 7 crore. If we see the distribution of Scheduled Tribes by States, then the scenario will appear to us as follows: Meghalaya:2,5, Assam:3,7, Karnataka:4,1, West Bengal:5,1, Andhra Pradesh:5,7, Chhattisgarh:7,5, Jharkhand: 8,3, Gujarat: 8,6, Rajasthan: 8,9, Odisha: 9,2, Maharashtra: 10,1 and Madhya Pradesh: 14,7 respectively. As of 2013, the Madhya Pradesh has 51 districts or Jila Panchayat, 313 Janpad Panchayats or blocks and 23043 village or gram Panchayats. The municipalities in the state include 14 Nagar Nigams, 96 Nagar Palikas and 238 Nagar Panchayats. According to 2011 census, the most populous Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh is Bhil which possesses 4,618,068 (37.7 percent) habituated in Dhar, Jhabua and Neemuch (all in Western zone). After Bhil the Gond Tribe has second highest Scheduled Tribe population i.e. 4,357,918 (35.6 Percent) present in Balaghat (Central zone). On the contrary the least populous Scheduled Tribe is Sahariya which constitutes about 261,816 and habituated in Shivpuri, Sheopur (all in the Northern zone) etc. Hence, on the basis of dispersal of the Scheduled tribes on the basis of density, the least density the Sahariya Scheduled Tribes in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh has been selected for to complete our study.



Picture of a Village showing poverty of Scheduled Tribe in Sheopur District of the Madhya Pradesh Safeguards Provided for the Scheduled Tribes in India

- (1) Keeping in view to the promotion of educational and economic interest of Scheduled Tribes and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation various special provisions are provided by the Indian constitution such as Tribal Sub-Plan strategy, which was adopted at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The strategy seeks to ensure adequate flow of funds for tribal development from the State Plan allocations, schemes/programmes of Central Ministries/Departments, financial and Developmental Institutions. The cornerstone of this strategy has been to ensure earmarking of funds for TSP by States/UTs in proportion to the ST population in those State/UTs.
- (2) Besides the efforts of the States/UTs and the Central Ministries/Departments to formulate and implement Tribal Sub-Plan for achieving socio-economic development of STs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing several schemes and programmes for the benefits of STs. There are now 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) in the country, where the ST population is more than 50% of the total population of the blocks or groups of block.
- (3) During the Sixth Plan, pockets outside ITDP areas, having a total population of 10,000 with at least 5,000 scheduled tribes were covered under the Tribal Sub-Plan under Modified Area Development Approach (MADA). So far 252 MADA pockets have been identified in the country. In addition, 79 clusters with a total population of 5,000 of which 50 per cent are schedule tribes have been identified.
- (4) In order to give more focused attention to the development of Scheduled Tribes, a separate Ministry, known as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in October 1999.

The major schemes/programme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are briefly Indicated as follows:

- (1) Special Central Assistance & Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
- (2) Scheme of Development of Primitive tribal groups (PTGs)
- (3) Tribal research institutes
- (4) Girls/Boys Hostels for STs
- (5) Ashram Schools in TSP Area

- (6) Vocational Training Centre in Tribal Areas
- (7) Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts
- (8) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited
- (9) Coaching for Scheduled Tribes
- (10) Grant-In-Aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes 1.a.) Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes Students
- 1.b.) Up gradation of Merit of ST Students
2. a.) Girls' Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
2. b.)Boys' Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
- (10) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF)
- (11) National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes.

Contribution of MGNREGA in the Development of Scheduled Tribes in the Madhya Pradesh

Brief History of MGNREGA

In India for rural development various strategies and programs through Government are still forwarded, in which MGNREGA has precious contribution. NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house. Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, Feb, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 645 districts of the country. Under MGNREGA work is provided for about 90 days for every households reside in villages. In this case, rural people have to gone through a process for getting employment. First of all, every rural household supposed to get registered them to local Gram Panchayat for seeking employment, then within 15 days job cards containing photographs are issued to all entitled applicants. After getting job cards, work is allotted to job card holders within 15 days. In case, failed to provided work wage is given as per day schedule.

The nature of MGNREGA work is unskilled manual work and this is targeted to enhance livelihood security of every rural people by providing Guaranteed Wage Employment for 90 days and in that process of employment generation durable assets are build up as it focus the work of water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development, irrigation, rural connectivity, flood protection, drought proofing etc. the projects for villages are recommended by gram sabha approved by jila panchayat, where as 50 percent works should be implemented by gram panchayat. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIS) plays principal role over planning and implementation. Some of the definitions of the MGNREGA are as follows:

- [1]. According to C.P. Chandrasekhar and Jayati Ghosh, "The NREGA is necessarily 'inclusive' at the most basic level in the economic terms, because is self-targets those who are willing to engage in arduous physical work for a daily wage, in other words the poorest sections of society. But it is also socially inclusive as well, that, it disproportionately involves women, SCs and STs as workers in the scheme."
- [2]. According to many analysts, "the programme is boosting the purchasing power of the rural poor and has led to a stable income for the rural population. The most eligible rural families that the NREGA hope to benefit are those of the landless-labours as well as the small and marginal farmers."

The key features of the MGNREGA programme include:-

- [1]. It is the biggest PRP in India so far, intended to cover 5.4 crore rural poor in India.
- [2]. Like EGS it is demand driven and self-targeted.
- [3]. It is based on the logic of using the productive capacity of ordinary rural folk to build and nurture productive and infrastructural assets.
- [4]. It aims at alleviating the problem of chronic unemployment and poverty.
- [5]. The Act provides an opportunity to build rural infrastructure through watershed development, restoration of water bodies such as tanks and canals, activities aimed at forestry, land development, soil erosion and flood control, construction of roads and institutional facilities.
- [6]. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is right based programme, gives guaranteed employment opportunity up to 100 days for each rural household every year. The rural poor can demand the work when they want. The demands must be met within 15 days, failing which an unemployment allowance must be provided by the state.
- [7]. The programme is framed on the lines of democratic decentralization and participation of the rural poor is encouraged. 'This is perhaps the first time that the Panchayats have been provided with the freedom to plan and execute works and is backed by substantial resources, which are at their own disposal' (Status of NREGA Implementation 2006-07).
- [8]. In the beginning, the programme was implemented in 200 poorest districts of India. Twelve districts

- from Maharashtra, comprising Ahemadnagar, Amravati, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadchiroli, Gond, Hingoli, Nanded and Yeotmal, were included in those 200 districts.
- [9]. The Provisions such as Social Audit through Gram Sabha, Social Audit in presence of the villagers, Yearly report to be tabled in the respective state assemblies, consolidated report to be submitted to Parliament every year are likely to ensure the transparency of the Programme.
- [10]. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is mainly, funded by the Central Government contributing 90% of the expenses, while, the State government has to contribute only 10%.

Convergence of MGNREGA Implementation in the State of Madhya Pradesh

- [1]. MGNREGA was foremost implemented in the state of Madhya Pradesh with the Government schemes. The convergence programmes of the state are for the Integrated natural Resource Management which aims at adaption for climate changes, rural infrastructure, livelihood generating activities, drinking water, rural sanitation.
- [2]. The funds of MGNREGA (have involvement of 90 percent central government and 10 per cent state government) have been combined with the Backward Region Grants Funds (BRGF), Finance Commission, Mandi Funds (Agriculture Retail Market), Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), Panchayat Funds and also various other department funds such as Agriculture Department, Women and Child Development Department, Water resource Department, Fisheries Department and rural Engineering Services etc.
- [3]. The strategy involved identification of each sub-scheme according to specific livelihood of the region such as Kapil Dhara programme which has contributed to an increase in area irrigated and ensured perennial water supply for beneficiary farms and also generated sources of livelihood.
- [4]. As per the field reports, due to the Kapil Dhara which lowering the water table in the implementation areas the focus was increased on the water conservation works including ponds and percolation tanks etc. under MGNREGA.

Inclusive Growth : According to the evidences the MGNREGA is succeeding as a self-targeting programme with high participation from marginalized groups such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Their share under the work provided under MGNREGA has been high at national level which ranged between 60 to 70 per cent across each of the years of the scheme's implementation. Along with this the participation rare in the scheme exceed with the percentage share of the marginalized groups in the total population of most states. On the other hand, works on the private lands under the scheme has also greatly benefitted the marginalized as during 2006-07 10 Lakh households were benefitted.

Impact of the MGNREGA in poverty Eradication, Hunger and Health Issues in Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh : Before entered into the district of Sheopur, let us first evaluate the performance of MGNREGA in the state of Madhya Pradesh in physical and financial progress terms.

(1a) Physical Progress through Employment Status:

According to the national Overview the under the MGNREGA the total job cards issued, employment provided and total person days generated (in Crore) to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women and others during the Financial Year 2006-07 to the Financial year 2013-14 have been discussed through the below table.

Table 1:
National Overview over the Performance of MGNREGA during the Year 2nd February 2014

FY/Entities	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13, Provisional	FY 13-14 Till December 2013
Total Job Cards Issued (in Crore)	3.78	6.48	10.01	11.25	11.98	12.39	12.54	12.72
Employment Provided to Households (in Crore)	2.10	3.39	4.51	5.26	5.49	5.04	4.16	3.81

Total Persondays (in Crore)	90.5	14.59	216.32	283.59	257.15	216.34	140.66	134.80
Scheduled Castes	22.95 (25 %)	39.36 (27 %)	63.36 (29 %)	86.45 (30 %)	78.76 (31 %)	47.70 (22 %)	31.42 (22 %)	31.53 (23 %)
Scheduled Tribes	32.98 (36 %)	42.07 (29 %)	55.02 (25 %)	58.74 (21 %)	53.62 (21 %)	39.59 (18 %)	22.14 (16 %)	21.09 (26 %)
Women	36.40 (40 %)	61.15 (43 %)	103.57 (48 %)	136.40 (48 %)	122.74 (48 %)	103.81 (48 %)	74.74 (53 %)	73.33 (54 %)
Others	34.56 (38 %)	62.16 (43 %)	97.95 (45 %)	138.40 (49 %)	129.78 (48 %)	129.06 (60 %)	87.10 (62 %)	82.18 (61 %)

Source: MGNREGA 2005, Report to the People, 2nd February 2014, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi

On the basis of above table we can say that the person days for the Scheduled Tribes had been declined from the Financial Year 2006-07 to Financial Year 2013-14 as it was 32.98 (36 Per cent) during the Financial Year 2006-07 and reached to 21.09 (26 per cent) during the Financial year 2013-14. This situation is same for the Scheduled Castes. On the contrary for others it shows an up and down graph and for women as it goes linearly in upward direction.

(1b) Physical Progress through Vulnerable Group Participation:

Employment generated to Vulnerable group (especially the Scheduled Tribes) during the Financial years 2006-07 to the Financial Years 2012-13 has been discussed through the medium of given below table.

Table 2:
Employment generated to Vulnerable Group (SCs, STs and Women) During Financial Years 2006-07 to 2012-13

S.N.	Financial Years	Total person days (in Crores)	Employment generated to SCs (in Crores)	Employment generated to STs (in Crores)	Employment generated to Women (in Crores)
1	2006-07	62.01	15.58 (25.13 Percent)	23.46 (37.03 Percent)	24.26 (39.13 Percent)
2	2007-08	96.03	25.90 (26.97 Percent)	29.40 (30.62 Percent)	41.52 (43.23 Percent)
3	2008-09	216.01	63.39 (29 Percent)	54.78 (25 Percent)	103.41 (48 Percent)
4	2009-10	191.16	57.41 (30 Percent)	41.48 (22 Percent)	95.56 (50 Percent)
5	2010-11	145	32.65 (23 Percent)	24.83 (17 Percent)	72.93 (50 Percent)
6	2011-12	120.88	27.40 (23 Percent)	20.69 (17 Percent)	59.82 (49 Percent)
7	2012-13	134.76	30.28 (22.47 Percent)	20.80 (15.43 Percent)	71.88 (53 Percent)

Source: Annual Reports 2006-07 to 2012-13, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Above table reveals that the employment generated for the vulnerable group (SCs, STs and women) under MGNREGA is good. Employment generated for STs with compare to SCs was high during financial Years 2006-07 to 2007-08, but low during Financial Years 2008-09 to 2012-13. On the other hand, work generated for women was quite high from the beginning with compare to SCs and STs respectively.

(2a) Financial progress in Madhya Pradesh: As we know that the majority of the Scheduled Tribes is in Madhya Pradesh i.e. 14, 7Crore and least populous Scheduled Tribe (Shariya) resides in Sheopur whose condition is very backward and pitiable. So, before entered into the Sheopur District we should first have a look over the Madhya Pradesh convergence through the MGNREGA. However, in Madhya Pradesh the total districts are 51 in which social Audit started districts are 50 MGNREGA. The Agar-Malwa District of Madhya Pradesh has not been covered here. Social Audit Report during the Financial Year 2012-13 to 2013-14 in the state of Madhya Pradesh have been discussed below.

Table 3:
Social Audit Report in the state of Madhya Pradesh during the FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14

Financial Year	Total Districts	Number of District Started Social Audit	Total Gram Panchayat	Number of Panchayat Covered	Number of Social Audit	Issue Raised and Action Taken
2012-13	51	50	23013	21737	41838	14659
2013-14	51	50	23013	22292	28668	15823

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

On the basis of above table we can reveal that number of Panchayat covered has been increased during the financial year 2013-14, but number of social audit has been declined as compared to the Financial Year 2012-13. On the hand issues raised and action taken has also increased during the Financial Year 2013-14 in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(2b) Financial progress in the Sheopur District: As we know the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh is least populous which mainly constitutes the 'Shariya' named Scheduled Tribe. There are three blocks of Sheopur District i.e. Sheopur, Karhal and Bijeypur respectively. Here we will try to evaluate the financial progress through the Social Audit Report during the Financial Years 2012-13 and 2103-14 with the help of given table.

Table 4:
Social Audit Report in the Blocks of Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh during the FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14

Financial Year	Name of Block	Total Gram Panchayat	Number of Panchayat Covered	Number of Social Audit	Issues Raised and Action Taken
Financial Year 2012-13	<i>Bijeypur</i>	80	79	136	11
	<i>Karhal</i>	50	50	100	14
	<i>Sheopur</i>	95	95	189	76
Financial Year 2013-14	<i>Bijeypur</i>	80	79	79	1
	<i>Karhal</i>	50	50	50	0
	<i>Sheopur</i>	95	95	95	52

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Hence, above table reveals that number of social audit during the Financial year 2012-13 were higher than the Financial Year 2013-14. But issues raised were declined this year. If we so in depth, we will see that during the financial year 2012-13 the number of social audit were highest in the Sheopur block i.e. 189 and least in the Karhal block i.e. 100. This situation seems to besame during the financial Year 2013-14 as this ratio was highest in the Sheopur block and least in the Karhal block of the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh respectively.



Shariya Scheduled Tribe in the Karhal Block of Sheopur District in the Madhya Pradesh

(2c) **Financial Structure through Funds in the Sheopur District:** Here the financial structure of the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh has been tried to focus through total availability of funds, cumulative expenditure and total due payment during the Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 in the Blocks of Sheopur, Karhal and Bijeypur of Sheopur district in the Madhya Pradesh.

Table 5:

Financial Performance in the Blocks of the Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh during the Financial year 2013-14 and Financial year 2014-15

Financial Years	Name of Block	Total Available Funds	Total Cumulative Expenditure	Total due Payment (Rs. In Lakhs)
Financial Year 2013-14	<i>Bijeypur</i>	571.59	586.73	16.09
	<i>Karhal</i>	355.9	363.32	0.68
	<i>Sheopur</i>	678.18	703.79	14.05
Financial Year 2014-15	<i>Bijeypur</i>	950.03	815.29	146.5
	<i>Karhal</i>	291.34	283.63	3.89
	<i>Sheopur</i>	613.76	619.66	6.92

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

On the basis of above mentioned table we can conclude that the ratio of total available funds and total cumulative structure during the Financial year 2014-15 is lower than the ratio during the Financial Year 2013-14 (exception case of Bijeypur Block). Here, the Bijeypur block shows highest ratio for both the corresponding terms during both the Financial Years and the karhal block shows the least values respectively.



Picture showing the Poverty in Karhal block of Sheopur District

V. CONCLUSION

As we know that Madhya Pradesh has large numbers of scheduled tribes. Out of total scheduled tribe's population of 67.76 million, about 49% of the scheduled tribe's population in three states viz., Madhya Pradesh (27.73%), Maharashtra (10.80%) and Orissa (10.38%). About 93% of the scheduled tribe population is rural based. The scheduled tribe's population of the state of Madhya Pradesh is 12,233,474 as per 2001 census. Although several anti-poverty programmes and policies have been implemented in the tribal areas for improvement of socio-economic condition of the tribal. In terms of broader development parameters i.e.

literacy, health indicators and below poverty line they are in the last ladder of the development. We have a provision of poverty eradication since 1951 till 2013 (near about 65 years plus). Poverty is one of the factors and affects the life of people in general and tribal in particular. In this concern, the NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house. Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, Feb, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 645 districts of the country. Under MGNREGA work is provided for about 90 days for every households reside in villages. In this case, rural people have to go through a process for getting employment. Other than MGNREGA several schemes and programmes have been implemented through state and central governments for providing better livelihood to STs, but insufficient awareness and lack of organized efforts seems to be the root causes of socio-economic backwardness and major problems of the Scheduled tribes.

As through the above mentioned tables we just tried to focus the MGNREGA implementation strength in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. For this, it has been categorized into two terms one is Physical Progress and other is Financial Progress. Under Physical progress a declination was seen from previous Financial Years in terms of the person days, employment generated for the Scheduled Tribes. Under Financial Progress the number of social audit, total available funds and total cumulative expenditure again declined during current Financial Years than previous Financial Years. Along with this, it is clear that the number of social audit during the Financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 were highest in the Sheopur block and least in Karhal block, whereas, the ratio of total available funds and total cumulative expenditure were highest in the Bijeypur block and least in the Karhal block during the Financial year 2014-15 and the Financial Year 2013-14 respectively.

Poverty is the major problem in the development of India basically the Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh because poverty affected health, education, living standard, household, dignity of life, shelter etc. Since India is a rural based country, so many rural development public policies were implemented through Government to alleviate the poverty from India as SGSY, PMGSY and MGNREGA etc. There is hope to have loopholes to leakage of government money. In MGNREGA the participatory planning and decentralized implementation are its basic specialties and here 50 per cent of the works are implemented through the Gram Panchayat. MGNREGA is a demand based programme where the limit of funds is not fixed for the implementation of work. On the other hand there are certain safeguards under the MGNREGA implementation as opening of bank accounts of labourers, labour intensive projects through permissible works such as water conservation, land development, flood control, drought proofing etc. are preferred, 60 per cent of the funds must be paid to the labourers and the non-presence of contractors to maintain legality in the system and so on.

The Shariya Scheduled Tribes of Karhal block is most backward and poor which needs consciousness and awareness because the Bhil Scheduled Tribe in the Bijeypur block is much empowered than Shariya of Karhal block. Although the distance between them is not so high, then why the gap of empowerment between them has been notified?

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