

**Participation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women under MGNERGA Program in  
Mahasamund District- An Evaluation**

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**Abstract**

With the aim of generating employment in the rural areas of the country as well as preventing the intensity and spread of poverty, the Central Government started MGNERGA on 2 February 2006 under the Common Minimum Program. The objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNERGA) program is to provide 100 days of employment to every household residing in the rural areas of the country. The main objective of this research study is to evaluate the participation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women in the total employment generated under the MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh state

**Keywords :-** MGNERGA program, employment, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, participation.

**Introduction**

In any democratic country, it is the primary responsibility of every elected government to uphold the dignity and well-being of its people. In India, various governments have made different efforts to fulfill this crucial responsibility, but no significant success has been achieved in eradicating poverty and unemployment. Therefore, with the objective of generating employment in the rural areas of the country and curbing the intensity and spread of poverty, the central government launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNERGA) on February 2, 2006, under the Common Minimum Program. In the first phase, this program was implemented in 200 of the country's most backward districts. In 2007-08, the program was extended to another 130 rural districts, and given its success, the central government implemented it across all 614 rural districts of the country from April 1, 2008. The objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNERGA) program is to provide 100 days of employment (150 days in Chhattisgarh state) to every household residing in the rural areas of the country in a financial year. This program ensures the income, employment, and livelihood of

families living in rural areas of the country by providing a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment.

**Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the present research study is to evaluate the participation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women in the total employment generated under MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh state.

**Research Methodology**

The present research study is based on secondary data. The study was conducted in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh state, where the MGNERGA Program was notified on April 1, 2007. Due to the unavailability of data for the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09, the study period covers the financial years 2009-10 to 2024-25. The data was primarily collected from the official website of the Ministry of Rural Development's MGNREGA program, [www.mgnrega.nic.in](http://www.mgnrega.nic.in), and the study

covered all five development blocks of the district (Bagbahara, Basna, Mahasamund, Pithora, and Saraipali). The coefficient of variation (CV) and percentage method were used for data analysis.

**1.Total human days generated under the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district.**

**Table No.1.**

**Total Human Days generated under the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district.**

Financial Year	Blocks						Percentage Increase/Decrease
	Bagbahara	Basna	Mahasamund	Pithora	Saraipali	Total	
2009-10	1591812	911464	1424028	1475808	1412014	6815123	-
2010-11	1612555	903732	1470080	1207202	1298064	6491633	-4.74
2011-12	1630984	1057853	1441470	1503540	1940354	7574201	16.67
2012-13	1348927	740643	840679	1041712	897964	4869925	-35.7
2013-14	1487541	969238	1299599	1375883	991447	6123708	25.74
2014-15	431784	412149	566809	612016	583633	2606355	-55.43
2015-16	964111	711035	792378	828104	666275	3961903	52.00
2016-17	692011	433408	770308	732721	715607	3344055	-15.59
2017-18	1020079	832951	1144133	986305	976476	4959944	48.32
2018-19	1493791	1044351	1321883	1381364	1421214	6662603	34.32
2019-20	1335980	799229	1110944	1308900	1134118	5709171	-14.31
2020-21	2068348	1562758	1702519	1821098	1622071	8776794	53.73
2021-22	1835497	1371647	1467561	1673490	1407307	7755502	-11.63
2022-23	1225738	1111962	1138231	1191510	1057142	5724583	-26.18
2023-24	1209364	1098880	1048994	1118188	978518	5453944	-4.72
2024-25	1105216	998373	992334	1107163	1012304	5215390	-4.37
CV	31.69	31.71	26.93	27.33	32.19	28.32	-

Source – Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, official website of MGNREGA program [www.mgnrega.nic.in](http://www.mgnrega.nic.in)

The total number of Human-Days generated under the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district is shown block-wise in Table No. 1. Table No. 1 clearly shows that during the 16-year period from the financial year 2009-10 to 2024-25, the total number of Human-Days generated under the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district increased in the financial years 2011-12, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2020-21, but a decreasing trend was observed in other financial years.

## 2.Participation of Scheduled Caste in the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district.

Table No.2. Scheduled Cast Participation Under MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district.

Financial Year	Blocks					
	Bagbahara	Basna	Mahasamund	Pithora	Saraipali	Total
2009-10	166135 (10.4)	94940 (10.4)	193685 (13.6)	107150 (7.3)	224437 (15.9)	786147 (11.5)
2010-11	152283 (9.4)	94981 (10.5)	198045 (13.5)	85269 (7.1)	205873 (15.9)	736451 (11.3)
2011-12	146420 (9.0)	109396 (10.3)	203916 (14.1)	111220 (7.4)	299691 (15.4)	870643 (11.5)
2012-13	131757 (9.8)	76090 (10.3)	95138 (11.3)	85445 (8.2)	129586 (14.4)	518016 (10.6)
2013-14	143620 (9.7)	90416 (9.3)	161150 (12.4)	102340 (7.4)	147473 (14.9)	644999 (10.5)
2014-15	49124 (11.4)	41388 (10.0)	64389 (11.4)	47492 (7.8)	84706 (14.5)	287099 (11.0)
2015-16	76396 (7.9)	74417 (10.5)	85768 (10.8)	55851 (6.7)	96396 (14.5)	388828 (9.8)
2016-17	57677 (8.3)	37496 (8.7)	91019 (11.8)	55792 (7.6)	99610 (13.9)	341594 (10.2)
2017-18	92280 (9.0)	92027 (11.0)	148521 (13.0)	82614 (8.4)	151140 (15.5)	566582 (11.4)
2018-19	123222 (8.2)	99694 (9.5)	155020 (11.7)	110823 (8.0)	197658 (13.9)	686417 (10.3)
2019-20	111319 (8.3)	70892 (8.9)	133938 (11.8)	95434 (7.3)	142835 (12.6)	554418 (9.7)
2020-21	177267 (8.6)	130028 (8.3)	206472 (12.1)	137909 (7.6)	220580 (13.6)	872256 (9.9)
2021-22	148853 (8.1)	116147 (8.5)	172748 (11.8)	132241 (7.9)	176050 (12.5)	746039 (9.6)
2022-23	89626 (7.3)	96860 (8.7)	139178 (12.2)	93518 (7.8)	140205 (13.3)	559387 (9.8)
2023-24	97668 (8.1)	100109 (9.1)	131306 (12.5)	81462 (7.3)	127913 (13.1)	538458 (9.9)
2024-25	99226 (9.0)	93160 (9.3)	121696 (12.3)	84605 (7.6)	142272 (14.0)	540959 (10.4)
CV	32.88	27.42	31.01	27.75	34.86	29.05

Note - The numbers given in brackets are in percentage

Source - Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, official website of MGNREGA program

[www.mgnrega.nic.in](http://www.mgnrega.nic.in)

The participation of the Scheduled Caste under the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district is shown in Table No. 2. Analysis of the table reveals that the participation of the Scheduled Caste in the total Human Days generated was 11.5% during the financial year 2009-10, which decreased to 10.4% in the financial year 2024-25. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the participation of the Scheduled Caste under the MGNREGA program in the district during the period from 2009-10 to 2024-25 was found to be 29.05%. A block-wise study shows that the participation of the Scheduled Caste in the MGNREGA program was highest in the Saraipali block and lowest in the Pithora block during the period from 2009-10 to 2024-25. However, the coefficient of variation (CV) of employment provided to the Scheduled Caste under the MGNREGA program during this period was highest in the Saraipali block at 34.86%, which is higher than Bagbahara (32.88%), Mahasamund (31.01%), Pithora (27.75%), and Basna (27.42%) blocks.

### 3. Participation of Scheduled Tribe in the MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district.

**Table No.3.**

**Participation of Scheduled Tribe Under MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district.**

Financial Year	Blocks					
	Bagbahara	Basna	Mahasamund	Pithora	Saraipali	Total
2009-10	487570 (30.6)	268440 (29.5)	375506 (26.4)	499483 (33.8)	444744 (31.5)	2075743 (30.5)
2010-11	509930 (31.6)	257322 (28.5)	371048 (25.2)	399020 (33.0)	388152 (29.9)	1925472 (29.7)
2011-12	536862 (32.9)	300462 (28.4)	365148 (25.3)	485649 (32.2)	550910 (28.4)	2239031 (29.6)
2012-13	420911 (31.2)	218295 (29.5)	216096 (25.7)	342262 (32.9)	261165 (29.1)	1458729 (30.0)
2013-14	475746 (32.0)	289016 (29.8)	343539 (26.4)	454895 (33.0)	291066 (29.4)	1854262 (30.3)
2014-15	117838 (27.3)	126324 (30.7)	144187 (25.4)	191288 (31.3)	158534 (27.2)	738171 (28.3)
2015-16	349154 (36.2)	218176 (30.7)	228760 (28.9)	277296 (33.5)	185846 (27.9)	1259232 (31.8)
2016-17	201309 (29.0)	124781 (28.8)	184397 (23.9)	227736 (31.1)	187015 (26.1)	925238 (27.7)
2017-18	327486 (32.1)	212736 (25.5)	284402 (24.9)	300977 (30.5)	251354 (25.7)	1376948 (27.8)
2018-19	474202 (31.7)	253805 (24.3)	329833 (25.0)	389076 (28.1)	368470 (25.9)	1815386 (27.2)
2019-20	383370 (28.7)	184376 (31.1)	252710 (22.3)	361319 (27.6)	286883 (25.3)	1468658 (25.7)
2020-21	624530 (30.2)	375481 (24.0)	383002 (22.5)	545212 (29.9)	480731 (25.2)	2336956 (26.6)
2021-22	580676	326190	336670	495263	622819	2101618

	(31.6)	(23.8)	(22.9)	(29.6)	(25.8)	(27.0)
2022-23	381118 (31.0)	254360 (22.9)	250776 (22.0)	361284 (30.3)	288624 (27.3)	1536162 (26.8)
2023-24	386303 (31.9)	256472 (23.3)	252793 (24.1)	334042 (29.9)	264974 (27.1)	1494584 (27.4)
2024-25	339344 (30.07)	209739 (21.0)	228426 (23.0)	318326 (28.7)	240502 (23.8)	1336337 (25.6)
CV	32.07	27.26	26.34	27.19	34.05	28.15

Note - The numbers given in brackets are in percentage

Source - Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, official website of MGNREGA program

[www.mgnrega.nic.in](http://www.mgnrega.nic.in)

The participation of Scheduled Tribe category under MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district has been shown in Table Number-3. From the perusal of the table, it is known that during the financial year 2009-10, the participation of Scheduled Tribe category in the total Human Days generated in the district was 30.5%, which reduced to 25.6% in the financial year 2024-25. The coefficient of variation (CV) of participation of Scheduled Tribe category under MGNERGA program in the district during the financial year 2009-10 to 2024-25 was found to be 28.15%. Block wise study shows that during the financial year 2009-10 to 2024-25, the participation of Scheduled Tribe category in MGNERGA program was highest in Bagbahra development block and lowest in Mahasamund development block, but during this period, the coefficient of variation (CV) of employment provided to Scheduled Tribe category in MGNERGA program was 26.34% in Mahasamund development block, which was 34.05% in Saraipali, It is lowest in comparison to Bagbahra 32.07%, Basna 27.26% and Pithora 27.19% development blocks.

#### 4. Participation of women under MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district

Table No.4.

Participation of women under MGNERGA program in Mahasamund district

Financial Year	Blocks					
	Bagbahara	Basna	Mahasamund	Pithora	Saraipali	Total
2009-10	750256 (47.1)	400622 (44.0)	703639 (49.4)	659883 (44.7)	588617 (41.7)	3103017 (45.5)
2010-11	754823 (46.8)	408539 (45.2)	714578 (48.6)	524434 (43.4)	539155 (41.5)	2941529 (45.3)
2011-12	781580 (47.9)	485256 (45.9)	708551 (49.2)	694572 (46.2)	864477 (44.6)	3534436 (46.7)
2012-13	657384 (48.7)	334896 (45.2)	416023 (49.5)	477886 (45.9)	390460 (43.5)	2276646 (46.7)
2013-14	749088 (50.4)	462003 (47.7)	698416 (53.7)	642171 (46.7)	449222 (45.3)	3000900 (49.0)

2014-15	213533 (49.5)	194864 (47.3)	293994 (51.9)	289217 (47.3)	265874 (45.6)	1257482 (48.2)
2015-16	479828 (49.8)	335704 (47.2)	411443 (51.9)	388275 (46.9)	298103 (44.7)	1913353 (48.3)
2016-17	339216 (49.0)	203089 (46.9)	398080 (51.7)	352772 (48.1)	322591 (45.1)	1615748 (48.3)
2017-18	492959 (48.3)	385215 (46.2)	581317 (50.8)	465787 (47.2)	440027 (45.0)	2365305 (47.7)
2018-19	730963 (48.9)	480259 (46.0)	679625 (51.4)	651921 (47.2)	640189 (45.0)	3182957 (47.8)
2019-20	665526 (49.8)	377738 (47.3)	596587 (52.7)	615063 (47.0)	518614 (45.7)	2773528 (48.6)
2020-21	1024062 (49.5)	753761 (48.2)	878953 (51.6)	868966 (47.7)	757223 (46.7)	4282965 (48.8)
2021-22	921512 (50.2)	674437 (49.2)	761099 (51.9)	807773 (48.3)	666037 (47.3)	3830858 (49.4)
2022-23	639458 (52.2)	559238 (50.3)	628954 (55.3)	578745 (48.6)	505773 (47.8)	2912168 (50.9)
2023-24	643857 (53.2)	553478 (50.4)	573463 (54.7)	544458 (48.7)	471019 (48.1)	2786275 (51.1)
2024-25	586241 (53.0)	500929 (50.2)	554381 (55.9)	547953 (49.5)	493696 (48.8)	2683200 (51.4)
CV	31.02	33.66	25.94	27.40	31.79	28.11

Note - The numbers given in brackets are in percentage

Source - Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, official website of MGNREGA program

[www.mgnrega.nic.in](http://www.mgnrega.nic.in)

According to Section 4(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of 2005, one-third of the jobs under this program are to be reserved for women on a priority basis. The government's objective behind this provision is likely to strengthen women's empowerment and enable them to better fulfill their family responsibilities. The participation of women in the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district (from the financial year 2009-10 to 2024-25) is shown in Table No. 4. An analysis of the table clearly shows that women's participation in the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district is significantly higher than one-third, which is a positive indicator for women's empowerment in the district. The highest participation of women was observed in the Mahasamund block, while the participation in the Saraipali block was comparatively lower than other blocks, but still well above the one-third mark.

### Conclusion

1. In Mahasamund district, the total number of Human-Days generated under the MGNREGA program (from the financial year 2009-10 to 2024-25) showed a greater tendency towards decrease than increase.
2. In Mahasamund district, the participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the MGNREGA program was 11.5% and 30.5% respectively during the financial year 2009-10, which decreased to 10.4% and 25.6% respectively during the financial year 2024-25.
3. The participation of women in the MGNREGA program in Mahasamund district is more than one-third, which is a positive sign for women's empowerment in the district.

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