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SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND INITIATIVES

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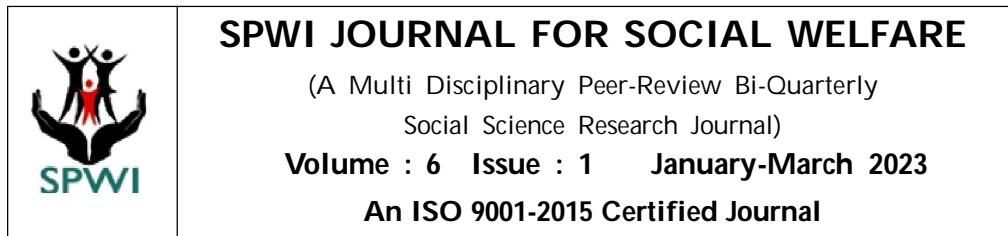
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Contents

1. Musical Instruments of Lambadi (Bhat & Dhadi) Tribes in Telangana- 1
A Study
----- *Dr. Devath Suresh*
2. Musical Instruments of Andh Tribes in Telangana State - *A Study* 13
----- *Dr. Gaddam Venkanna*
3. Social Media is There to Stay- *An Empirical Study* 20
----- *Dr. Bollam Tirupathi*
4. Telugu Linguistic Minorities in Tamil Speaking - *A Study* 31
----- *Dr. Narsingh Naik Lavudya*
5. Juvenile Justice System in India - *A Study With Referece To Functioning of Child Institutions in Telangana State* 38
----- *Kancha Prasad*
6. Role of Students in Telangana Movement - *A Study* 58
----- *Y. Suneetha*
7. AASARA Scheme - A Detailed Study About Implementation of AASARA Scheme Under Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation 70
----- *Ch. Swapna*
8. Implementation of MGNREGS in Telangana State - *A Study* 84
----- *D. Demudu Naidu*
9. Brand Building of Organization With Corporate Social Responsibility 88
----- *Ravindhar Kumbam*

10. Digitalization of Agriculture in India: *Challenges and Prospects* 100
----- *N. Vijay*
11. India and United States of America Relations in Modi Era: *An Overview* 111
----- *Kethavath Ravindar*

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS IN
TELANGANA STATE – A STUDY**

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Abstract: NREGA, enacted in 2005, forms the basis of a massive employment guarantee scheme, implemented throughout India, with two main objectives – to enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas, and to boost the rural economy. Ever since its implementation across the country (2008-09 to 2015-16), an average of Rs.40,000 crore per financial year has been invested under MGNREGA. In conformity with the National Act, the Government of Telangana (including the former Andhra Pradesh state) is implementing this Act since January 2006 and made considerable progress in fulfilling the program objectives. The present study attempts to capture to what extent employment was generated and durable assets are created from the formation of Telangana State. The study is based on secondary data such as official records of the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, the Government of Telangana, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Government of India, Journals, magazines etc. It reveals that the performance of Telangana in terms of providing employment and generating person days to rural households, particularly Women, SC and ST is significant and it could be able to provide 100 days of employment to only 5.5% of the participatory households. Further, the state Govt. has created a substantial number of assets during this one decade of implementation in different categories. However, it was observed that the rate of completion of work is very poor and it is gradually decreased over the years of implementation.

Keywords: MGNREGS, Telangana, Implementation

Introduction

Telangana state was formed on the 2nd of June, 2014. It is a land-locked state located in the southern Indian peninsula on the Deccan Plateau, with Hyderabad as its

capital. The region lies between 15°50'10" N and 19°55'4" N latitudes and 77°14'8" E and 81°19'16" E longitudes. It is bordered by Maharashtra on the North and North-West, Chhattisgarh on the East, and North-East, Karnataka on the West, and Andhra Pradesh on the South and South-East. Telangana is ranked 12th in the country in terms of population (350.04 Lakh as per the 2011 Census) and ranked 11th in terms of area (1,12,077 sq. Km). The region is majorly drained by the Godavari and Krishna rivers with 79% and 69% catchment areas respectively. The official languages of the state are Telugu and Urdu. The state re-organised 10 districts into 33 districts, 459 mandals into 612 mandals, and 8,368 Gram Panchayats into 12,769 Gram Panchayats.

Implementation of MGNREGS

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides a minimum of 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work at the notified wage rate. Telangana has channelized the MGNREGS in 12,769 GPs for implementing several works under the State's flagship PallePragathi programme to provide not only employment to citizens but also create indispensable permanent quality assets contributing to the overall improvement of rural infrastructure

Achievements under MGNREGS

The year-wise achievement under MGNREGS in Telangana State has given in the following table:

Year	No. of New Job Cards Issued	No. of Individuals in the New Job Cards	Person-days Generated (Rs. in Crore)	Wage Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	Material Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	Admin Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
2014-15	1,13,217	2,21,795	10.56	1,212	643.0	183.2	2,038.2
2015-16	1,75,013	3,10,983	13.71	1,779	449.0	164.2	2,392.2
2016-17	1,21,775	1,90,295	10.70	1,423	982.0	221.0	2,626.0
2017-18	1,53,140	2,99,836	11.50	1,593	1,055.0	282.0	2,930.0
2018-19	1,21,589	2,58,183	11.70	1,706	1,043.0	278.0	3,027.0
2019-20	1,11,657	2,08,219	10.70	1,638	837.0	259.0	2,734.0
2020-21	3,41,292	7,28,446	15.79	2,606	1,732.9	205.4	4,544.3
2021-22	1,40,123	2,91,783	14.75	2,572	1,911.0	188.0	4,671.0
2022-23	55,293	1,38,871	10.58	1,801	878.5	182.5	2,862.0
Total	13,33,099	26,48,411	110.0	16,330	9,531	1,963	27,825

Source: Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department, Government of Telangana

Expenditure under MGNREGS: An amount of Rs.2,862 crore has been incurred as expenditure during the year as of 18-01-2023, of which 62.93% (Rs. 1,801 crores) is the wage component, 30.70% (Rs. 878 crore) is the material cost and 6.38% (Rs. 182.5 crores) is the cost of administration.

Job Cards: MGNREGS Job Cards are valid for at least 5 years, after which they are reissued with due verification. As of date, 13,33,099 job cards were issued covering 26,48,411 individuals.

Mobile Monitoring System: NMMS is a mobile phone-based technology that has been customised for the MGNREGS field staff for capturing daily attendance and photographs of wage seekers. The data which is captured from the mobile application is accessible through the web reports in the portal resulting in enhanced transparency and accountability.

Transaction-based online application RAGAS (Rashtra Grameena Abhivruddi Samacharam): It is a highly comprehensive and end-to-end transaction-based application wherein the user can access all the MIS reports that offers information related to employment generation, physical performance, expenditure incurred and reports related to work

Quality Control Wing: An exclusive Quality Control Wing has been established under the Chief Quality Control Officer for verifying the quality of the works and for inspecting them regularly. Every month each Q.C team is allotted at least 60 works by the system on a random basis based on the expenditure.

Grievance Redressal / Call Centre: Grievance redressal rules were notified and a full-fledged complaint cell has been established. Applicants can file complaints by calling a toll-free number (1800-200-1001) or by lodging their complaints on the website (www.rdcallcentre.telangana.gov.in).

Social Audit and Follow-up of Social Audit Findings by the Vigilance Wing: Independent directorate of the Society for Social Audit Accountability & Transparency (SSAAT) established in collaboration with the Government and social activists has been functioning in the state since 2009. SSAAT's mission is to promote the empowerment of rural communities directly benefiting from welfare schemes, minimization of leakages and wastage of public funds. Findings of the Social Audit are presented before the Gram Sabha and Block Public Hearing. A Special Vigilance Wing is formed at the State level and in each district for the follow-up of social audit findings.

Telangana Government Performance (2022-23 FY)

1. **Wage seekers:** The Number of New Job cards issued is 13,33,099 up to 18th January 2023.
2. **Person Days:** Rs.10.58 crore person days have been generated with an average wage rate of Rs. 162.82 per day.

3. **Average Person Days:** The Expenditure on MGNREGS incurred is Rs. 27,825 crores up to 18th January 2023.
4. **Works:** Major works taken up under this scheme are the laying of internal roads, renovation and conservation of water bodies, the establishment of nurseries and development of plantations, sanitation works etc.

Conclusion

Telangana State has made considerable progress in fulfilling the twin objective of the MGNREG Act i.e., to enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas, and to boost the rural economy. The performance of the state in terms of providing employment and generating person days to rural households particularly SC (21.66%), ST (19.43%) and women (61.52%) is significant and it has employed during the 2022-23 financial year. However, the rate of completion of work is very poor and it is gradually decreased over the years of implementation. Therefore, the implementing agencies need to be more committed to provocatively implementing the Act to ensure 100 days of employment as stipulated in the Act as well as to concentrate on the completion of works rather than the creation of works which leads to wastage of public money and corruption.

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