

Study MGNREGA and Other Initiatives with Critical Interpretation of Achievements of MGNREGA in the FY 2022-23

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Abstract: In 2005, India passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which 200 districts implemented in February 2006. State programs were built using national guidelines. The 2008–09 fiscal year saw MGNREGA cover all of rural India. Every rural Indian household knows they can count on MGNREGA for 100 days of minimum-wage work. MGNREGA's three main goals are to empower Gramme Panchayats and Gramme Sabha by involving them in its planning and execution, to create productive assets in the economy and improve people's livelihoods, and to reinforce decentralised democracy by ensuring that every rural household demanding work receives 100 days of legally mandated minimum wage employment. The MGNREGA took effect on February 2, 2006. This innovative law guaranteed economic stability by giving a large percentage of the world the freedom to work. This research asserts MGNREGA's efficacy and progress towards its aims. The goal is to assess policy reliability and efficacy in 2022. The Ministry has not released a 2022 program assessment. The probe was based on data from the Ministry of Rural Development. The software offers various benefits, but none are favourable.

Keywords: Households Availled of Employment; Mahatma Gandhi NREGS; Achievements of MGNREGA; Cluster Facilitation Project; PMAY-G and DAY-NRLM; Gender Campaign; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

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1. Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) is a law that aims to improve the economic stability of households in rural areas by offering a minimum of 100 days of paid employment each year to adult members who are willing to perform manual labour that does not require specialised skills.

- Ensuring that each family in rural regions receives at least one hundred days of unskilled manual labour every financial year, based on demand. This will produce productive assets that meet the specified quality and durability standards.
- Enhancing the impoverished population's means of subsistence
- Proactively promoting social integration
- Enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

From January 1, 2022, to December 15, 2022, the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS has yielded the following notable accomplishments: 289.24 crore person-days of employment created (Table 1).

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Table 1: Households available for employment

FY 2021-22			FY 2022-23
January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	1st April 2022 – 15th Dec 2022
1.99 Crore	2.01 Crore	1.99 Crore	5.38 Crore

As of December 15, 2022, the current fiscal year 2022–2023 has yielded the following achievements:

- Schedule Caste (SC) participated in 19.75% of the total person-days generated.
- The participation proportion of the Schedule Tribe (ST) in terms of total person-days generated is 17.47%.
- The proportion of women's involvement out of the total person-days created is 56.19%.

1.1. Achievements

Mahatma Gandhi's accomplishments in the NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) program include: The Ministry has started a comprehensive and unified planning process for Gram Panchayats (GPs) that is based on the concepts of watershed development (ridge-to-valley approach) and utilises the Geographic Information System (GIS) [1]. As of December 15, 2022, the Ministry has formulated plans for 262,654 General Practitioners (GPs) operating in saturation mode, intending to implement these plans over three years.

1.2. The Yuktdhara Portal

The National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS)/DBT is a digital platform for electronically managing and disbursing funds. Through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), almost all wage seekers, or 99%, get their paychecks straight into their bank or post office accounts [2]. This is a notable advancement in openness and the prompt disclosure of wages. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) initiated the Geo-MGNREGA Phase-I on September 1, 2016, to geographically tag all completed projects that commenced before November 1, 2017. Geo-MGNREGA Phase-II was implemented on November 1, 2017. This phase involves asset geo-tagging in three stages: before work commencement, during work progress, and after work completion [3]. As of December 15, 2022, we have geographically categorised and made over 5.17 crore assets accessible to the public.

1.3. Social Audit System

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) office has completed the development of auditing standards and has begun implementing them. Twenty-seven states and 1 Union Territory have created Social Audit Units. Eighteen social audit units in the state have directors who work independently [4]. Among the 2,70,325 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in FY 2022–23, we have designated 2,06,114 GPs for social audit [5].

2. New Initiatives

The program is implementing new initiatives. Mahatma Gandhi's accomplishments in the NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) program include The Ministry has started a comprehensive and unified planning process for Gram Panchayats (GPs) that is based on the concepts of watershed development (ridge-to-valley approach) and utilises the Geographic Information System (GIS) [6]. As of December 15, 2022, the Ministry has formulated plans for 262,654 General Practitioners (GPs) operating in saturation mode, intending to implement these plans over three years. The program is executing novel projects (Table 2).

Table 2: Number of houses sanctioned

Total Houses completed	2,11,17,169
Number of 1st instalment released	2,42,17,256
Total number of houses sanctioned	2,49,82,729

The scheme's physical achievement for the year 2022, i.e., starting January 1, 2022, is as follows:

Table 3: Scheme's physical achievement for the year 2022

The total number of first installments released	31,40,691
In 2022, the total number of houses sanctioned	52,78,721

By August 15, 2022, a total of 2.02 crore dwellings will be finished. The Ministry has chosen thirteen states and Union Territories (UTs) to receive 90% of the scheme's objectives (Table 3). We regularly convene meetings with these states to accelerate the development under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). Due to unwavering and persistent efforts, the Ministry has accomplished the significant feat of constructing 2.02 crore dwellings under PMAY-G on August 15, 2022 [7].

The nation is now observing the "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" to honour and commemorate 75 years of independence. From November 1 to November 28, 2021, the implementing states and UTs conducted events to commemorate the occasion of PMAYG. The states and Union Territories were provided with a catalogue of recommended initiatives to execute on the occasion [8].

2.1. AwaasSoft and AwaasApp,

AwaasSoft and AwaasApp, an end-to-end e-governance solution, are implementing and monitoring the scheme [9]. Since its inception in 2016, we have implemented additional measures to ensure that the plan focuses more on benefiting the intended recipients. The Ministry's major initiatives for the current FY are as follows: The cabinet approved the extension of the FFI scheme until 2024. The cabinet revised the guidelines and shared them with the states and Uts [10].

2.2. The PMAYG dashboard

The PMAYG dashboard provides in-depth analysis and strategic business information to satisfy the needs of the PMAY-G plan. It allows for a fast overview of progress's physical and financial aspects [11]. The dashboard provides practical insights, including a comprehensive display of both physical and financial progress on a single screen, detailed reports at the state and block levels that can be further explored, analysis of any discrepancies or delays in instalment releases, assessment of the speed of house construction, and examination of data by age and category to detect any irregularities or exceptional cases.

The sanction order for PMAYG recipients may be obtained via the PMAYG website, the RURBAN website, and the Citizen Centric app. This can be done alone or with assistance by using the registered cell phone number of the beneficiaries. There is a direct correlation between the number of sources providing the sanction order to beneficiaries and the likelihood of all beneficiaries receiving the information promptly [12]. Additionally, it would help prevent improper procedures often seen while delivering the sanction order to the recipients, if there are any.

A key characteristic of PMAY-G is the widespread implementation of geotag-ging for dwellings, which is made possible via Awaassoft/AwaasApp. Nevertheless, in light of the negative effects caused by delays in geo-tagging on the building of recipients' houses, the GeoRurban app has now included this functionality. Without the Awaas program or Soft in your vicinity, you may use the GeoRURBAN program to tag your residence geographically.

2.3. Area Officer's App

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) introduced the Area Officer Monitoring Visit App on May 21, 2021. This app aims to facilitate immediate inspections and data-driven reporting of all the programs implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. In 2022, the Ministry of Rural Development sent a message to the states and Union Territories, directing the field officials to use the app during monitoring visits under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

3. Women Empowerment

To promote women's empowerment, all residences provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) contain the names of female family members in the documentation for either ownership or joint ownership. Hence, after the male member has obtained the first approval, we may include the female member(s) as additional owners in the sanction letters. We created a module called the Women Ownership Module expressly for this objective.

The program prioritises the advancement of self-employment and the facilitation of the organisation of impoverished rural communities. The objective is to alleviate poverty by facilitating impoverished families' access to profitable self-employment and well-paid job possibilities, leading to the establishment of sustainable and varied means of making a living for the impoverished. This effort is among the biggest in the world and aims to enhance the quality of life for impoverished individuals.

The mission aims to accomplish its goal by allocating resources to four fundamental elements: (a) mobilising and empowering community institutions for the rural poor that are autonomous and financially stable; (b) ensuring that the rural poor have access to financial services; (c) promoting sustainable means of earning a livelihood; and (d) fostering social inclusion, social development, and coordination. As part of its implementation plan, the mission has successfully covered 6861 blocks in 723 districts throughout all states and Union Territories, except Delhi and Chandigarh.

3.1. Support for Capitalisation

The mission has collectively allocated a Community Investment Support Fund (CISF) of about Rs. 19707.24 crore to the Rural Poor Women's Institutions. In 2022, the mission allocated Rs. 3876.70 crore to the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the shape of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

3.2. Linking credit between SHGs and banks

Over time, there has been a significant increase in the amount of bank loans obtained by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) via the SHG-Bank connection trend. In the current year, 35.87 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs) could get an annual credit linkage of Rs. 88955.57 crore. Since the fiscal year 2013-14, the women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have collectively obtained a total of Rs. 5.90 lakh crore from banks.

3.3. The Non-Performing Assets (NPA)

The Non-Performing Assets (NPA) have significantly improved, declining from 23% before the mission to 2.22% in the current year, indicating a positive change in the portfolio's quality. The states' continued efforts to encourage prompt repayment of loans by the SHGs have led to this outcome.

3.4. Business Correspondent Agents (BCAs)

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) has introduced a new approach, using women's self-help group (SHG) members as business correspondents (BC) to provide essential financial services in rural regions of the nation. This plan aims to assign one BC Sakhi to about 125,000 Gram Panchayats. 102,558 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) members have been educated and certified as BC Sakhi around the nation. About 88,000 of these members are actively providing digital banking services in rural regions. This year, 19,305 individuals who have received training and certification have been trained. Additionally, out of the 88,000 individuals who have been deployed, about 10,000 have been deployed in the current year. Employment opportunities provided by DAY-NRLM: DAY-NRLM supports the development of sustainable agriculture, livestock farming, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in concentrated areas via farm interventions.

The interventions primarily concentrate on providing training, enhancing skills, and advocating for agroecological techniques and livestock practices to improve crop and animal output. These interventions have positively impacted around 1.96 crore women farmers this year, benefiting over 35.35 lakh families. DAY-NRLM implements the Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) as part of its non-farm strategy. SVEP aims to assist entrepreneurs in rural regions to establish local businesses. Since its commencement in the 2016-17 fiscal year, the SVEP program has assisted more than 221,000 firms, leading to the development of approximately 29,000 enterprises in the current year.

4. Major Initiatives During the Year 2022

After extensive monitoring and communication, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consented to increase the minimal requirements for bank connection of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) starting from the financial year 2022-23, as shown below:

- The Interest Subvention Scheme under DAY-NRLM has been updated.
- We have granted a credit line of Rs. 5,000 to Self-Help Group (SHG) members who hold accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). This will assist the members in fulfilling their urgent emergency requirements effortlessly.
- The NRLM sanctions the OD Limit to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) members.

4.1. Gender Campaign

The DAY-NRLM has implemented targeted measures to tackle gender equality concerns via its gender-focused initiatives. The DAY-NRLM is actively incorporating gender considerations into institutional processes and enhancing the community's ability to recognise and tackle gender inequity via its community institutions. DAY NRLM acknowledges gender-based violence as a significant obstacle to both personal and societal progress and is committed to taking appropriate measures to eradicate it. DAY NRLM is implementing a month-long gender campaign from November 25 to December 23 this year, with other interventions, to enhance efforts and increase awareness about this problem. This initiative will begin a yearly endeavour centred on gender, whereby each year will be dedicated to exploring distinct subjects about gender equality.

Since the beginning of the plan, connections have been established in 162,373 habitations, representing over 99% of the eligible habitations. The implementation of the project has included building 722,780 kilometres of roads and 7,763 bridges throughout several regions and sectors. The total spending for this endeavour, including the contribution from the state, amounts to Rs. 2,90,706 crores.

5. Execution of the Program During the Year 2022

In addition, 1,002 habitations now have all-weather road access, resulting in a saturation percentage of 99.29%, compared to 98.67% at the end of December 2022.

5.1. Full Depth Reclamation (FDR)

The Ministry has used Full Depth Reclamation (FDR), one of the most recent techniques in road building. The old bituminous pavement and its underlying layers in FDR are used to create a new foundation layer. This is achieved by adhering to a certain procedure that involves dismantling the previous layers of pavement (worn course, base, and sub-base), combining them with a cement-like substance, water, and correcting aggregates (if necessary) based on the predetermined mixture design, resulting in the creation of a cementitious stabilised base.

The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) program provides skill training to rural youth. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) restructured the placement-linked skill development program under the National Rural Livelihood Mission as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) on September 25, 2014, to align it with global standards and improve wage placement outcomes. DDU-GKY is a skilling program focusing on achieving specific outcomes and maintaining high standards.

The state operates the DDU-GKY system in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) manner, following a demand-driven target sanction procedure. The program stands out from other skill training programs because it specifically targets poor rural kids and strongly emphasises ensuring sustainable employment. This is achieved via the program's commitment to closely monitoring post-placement outcomes, encouraging job retention, and supporting career advancement. DDU-GKY requires independent third-party certification of each trainee by the Sector Ability Councils (SSC) of the NSDC to evaluate their ability, knowledge, and attitude to maintain quality standards. Currently, two specific initiatives are being implemented under DDU-GKY. The ROSHNI program requires women candidates and Himayat participants in 27 locations impacted by left-wing extremism across nine states to complete an obligatory residential course. This program offers full support from the federal government to all young people in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The target group for this program is rural youth aged 15 to 35 from economically disadvantaged families. This includes households where a member has completed at least 15 days of work under the MGNREGA scheme, households with an RSBY card, households with an Antyodaya Anna Yojana card, households with a BPL PDS card, households associated with NRLM-SHG, households identified through a participatory process as poor, and households covered under the auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011. It is obligatory to provide coverage for socially disadvantaged groups, including SC/ST (50%), minorities (15%), and women (33%), with particular attention to manual scavengers, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and families led by women. The selected applicants are provided with wages that meet or exceed the minimum wage, as well as post-placement support and career advancement assistance from their training partners (Table 4).

Table 4: Year-wise performance of DDUGKY

Year	The total number of candidates trained under DDU-GKY has been determined	The total number of candidates placed under DDU-GKY is unknown
2022-23 (through November)	1,09,293	52,456
2021-22	97006	45612
2020-21	38,289	49,563

2019-20	2,47,177	1,50,214
2018-19	2,41,509	1,37,251
2017-18	1,31,527	75,787
2016-17	1,62,586	1,47,883
2015-16	2,36,471	1,09,512
2014-15	43,038	21,446

The National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR), a top-level organisation created in 2008, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2011. This MOU aimed to undertake training and capacity development programs for the Directors and Faculty members. These programs aimed to provide them with the necessary skills to instruct applicants and help them become self-employed.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has selected 75 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) to organise the Pashu Mitra Course during the Azadika, Amrut Mahotsav AKAM festival. All RSETIs, except for Goa, have successfully reached their aim of 100%.

- MoRD has implemented many major measures to enhance the functioning of RSETI.
- The Ministry has undertaken an effort to enable the timely completion of the construction of RSETI facilities, which will provide in-house training for applicants nationwide.
- The Ministry has created a new Management Information System (MIS) to facilitate the efficient exchange of information among all parties involved and enhance the operation of RSETI.
- The Ministry intends to introduce improvements to RSETIs via the implementation of RSETI 2.0.
- The Ministry has initiated the development of area-specific courses based on demand and the digitalisation of training modules via the creation of online training courses.
- The Ministry has initiated the development of an application (APP) to mobilise applicants and follow trained candidates once they have completed the course to ensure their correct settling.
- The government has initiated a process of examining the efficacy of the training program by involving external entities.

The NFBS and Annapurna initiatives are driven by demand. The three pension plans mandate that the States and UTs contribute at least equally. States and Union Territories are currently providing payments ranging from ₹50 to ₹3,300 per month. Currently, NSAP assists 3.09 crore Be-low Poverty Line (BPL) recipients, with a specific limit on the number of beneficiaries for each state or Union Territory (UT) based on the policy. The NSAP approves aid scheme-by-scheme basis, limited to the number of beneficiaries digitised or the maximum limit set by the State/UT, whichever is less. The states and union territories got a disbursement of Rs. 81552.54 crore in the fiscal year 2021–22 to execute NSAP initiatives. The NSAP plan for the fiscal year 2022–23 has designated a total of Rs. 9652.31 crore. As of December 12, 2022, the states and Union Territories have received Rs. 4988.84 crores.

The program's key efforts and successes are emphasised. We have implemented many measures, such as policy changes, increased financial allocation, and efficient use of information technology to enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and outcome-driven nature of NSAP. Here is a concise overview of the program's accomplishments from January 2022 to December 2022 (as of December 21, 2022). The following information outlines the tangible and monetary accomplishments of the NSAP programs, including the count of individuals who have benefited and the amount of monies disbursed from January to December 2022 (as of December 21, 2022) (Table 5).

Table 5: Benefited and the amount of monies disbursed from January to December 2022

Year	2022 (as of December 21, 2022)
Funds Released (Rs. crore)	6724.29
Beneficiaries Covered (In lakh)	301

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Department of Rural Development (DoRD) have collaborated to create a centralised MIS (Management Information Systems) called the National Social Assistance Programme-Pension Payment System (NSAP-PPS). This system enables seamless transactions from the starting point to the payout point. Additionally, it provides information on recipients who are aged, widowed, or handicapped. States and Union Territories are converting beneficiary data into a digital format. The NSAP portal disburses funding to states in proportion to the number of beneficiaries who have been digitised. Through consistent and persistent efforts, digitalisation has achieved coverage of 96-97% of the state's capacity. We have successfully converted about 100% of the data on all possible beneficiaries into a digital format. To attain

complete saturation inside the program's pension systems, the present administration has implemented two specific decisions: In November 2021, States and Union Territories were granted the authority to redistribute participants among the three pension plans as long as they remained within the predetermined limit of their respective jurisdictions. Consequently, an additional 2.82 lakh beneficiaries were enrolled in the pension system.

Currently, over 73% of enrolled pensioners of NSAP have successfully linked their Aadhaar numbers, while around 32% have linked their SECC TIN. In December 2014, the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) plans included NSAP pension schemes to promote transparency and efficiency in financial operations. Except for Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland, almost all states and Union Territories comply with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) requirements. Previously, we recommended that all states and Union Territories use a monthly pension payment scheme. As of November 30, 2022, we have documented 17.77 crore digital transactions. A mobile application called 'Sambal' has been created to promote the use of technology. This citizen-centric app provides beneficiaries information on NSAP schemes, state top-ups, new applicant enrollment, application tracking, and the status of penalties and payouts.

In 2019, the NSAP issued recommendations for doing social audits, recommending that states and UTs use 1/6th of the administrative money assigned to NSAP programs for this purpose. NIRD&PR was given the responsibility by the NSAP to carry out a pilot project for conducting social audits in 15 states. We have successfully concluded the first phase of our work in 14 states and are now progressing in Telangana State. Documents are posted on the website. The ATR (Action Taken Report) on NSAP-PPS (National Social Assistance Programme Pension Payment System) was published to the SA (State Account) report by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, while the other 12 states waited. MGNREGA implements a well-established Social Audit Units (SAUs) framework throughout several states. In July 2022, MGNREGA formally requested the States/Union Territories to use its Social Audit Units (SAUs) to conduct Social Audits under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP SA) (Table 6).

Table 6: Phase-wise status of identification of GPs under SAGY

Sl.	Year	No. of SAGY GPs
1	Phase VIII (2023-24)	152
2	Phase VII (2022-23)	239
3	Phase VI (2021-22)	303
4	Phase V (2020-21)	340
5	Phase IV (2019-20)	512
6	Phase III (2017-19)	303
7	Phase II (2016-19)	502
8	Phase I (2014-16)	703

The Gram Panchayats implemented under SAGY formulate community Development Plans (VDP) that include priority tasks with specific timelines to accomplish comprehensive development for the community by combining resources. The SAGY initiative has developed Village Development Plans (VDPs) for 2,538 Gram Panchayats, and the work is now in progress. We have created a tracking template to oversee the progress of the projects mentioned in the VDP web platform. As of December 15, 2022, a total of 1,17,671 projects have been completed by these Gram Panchayats, with 8,100 projects still ongoing (Table 7).

Table 7: Village Development Plan

No.	Phase	The number of projects yet to start	Number. of projects in progress	No. of projects completed	No. of projects planned	The number of GPs who uploaded VDP	No. of SAGY GPs
1	Phase-VIII (2023-24)	9576	189	4191	13956	77	152
2	Phase-VII (2022-23)	10924	377	5262	16563	129	239
3	Phase-VI (2021-22)	22172	993	9307	32472	234	302
4	Phase V (2020-21)	14448	1028	15348	30824	283	340
5	Phase IV (2019-20)	19100	1056	20382	40538	434	512

6	Phase III (2017–19)	7086	524	13572	21182	253	303
7	Phase II (2016–19)	13122	963	18990	33075	439	502
8	Phase-I (2014-16)	11363	2970	30619	44952	689	703
	Total	107791	8100	117671	233562	2538	3053

The SAGY Division conducted capacity-building sessions on SAGY in collaboration with NIRDPR on May 30-31, 2022. This program has engaged over 100 charge officers and stakeholders from different states and Union Territories (UTs) associated with the SAGY initiative.

- The SAGY Division has implemented novel initiatives.
- The site now provides a novel feature for updating the financial status of VDP projects.
- We have produced a SAGY Assets Geo Tagging Application specifically designed for geolocation assets generated using SAGY.
- The Ministry organised a two-day orientation session on August 4–5, 2022, for Members of Parliament representatives, intending to maximise the engagement of the Members of Parliament.
- The SAGY website has created an MP Dashboard that improves MP centrality visibility. Members of Parliament may access their accounts, monitor the progress of the chosen government project, and evaluate it. The Honorable Members of Parliament might use the MA score to evaluate the level of advancement.
- Moreover, the worries and opinions shared in the comment area by the users from the General Public are accessible to the District Collector, the Honorable Member of Parliament, and the Charge Officer for suitable action.
- Additional relevant information regarding the program is now accessible to the public on the redesigned SAGY website. The website provides comprehensive information, thorough reports, graphs, and maps illustrating the plan's development. The portal also connects to the Mission Antyodaya website, which offers information on the infrastructural facilities and public service delivery status of each chosen SAGY Gram Panchayat. This includes rankings and gap analysis.
- The successful execution of SAGY relies heavily on the alignment and integration of current government initiatives and programs. The Indian government has modified 26 programs from different ministries to guarantee convergence and has issued relevant recommendations to prioritise the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) in their respective schemes. Further information may be seen on the scheme portal.

5.2. DISHA

The department actively collaborates with state governments and district administrations to organise meetings strictly adhering to the rules. Consequently, the frequency of DISHA meetings has increased. Under the leadership of esteemed Members of Parliament, we conducted 982 DISHA sessions in 2022 (up to December 20, 2022), an increase over the 748 meetings held in the previous year. The DISHA Dashboard has seen significant growth in the number of projects that have been added. The Honorable Prime Minister inaugurated the current level of technological advancement. The DISHA Dashboard, on October 11, 2017. It serves as a centralised platform for accessing information on the schemes implemented by different ministries that are part of the DISHA monitoring system.

The objective is to provide elected officials with a data-centric governance solution for the planning, monitoring, and evaluating many factors related to several programs under DISHA. From January 2022 to December 20, 2022, 76 schemes from 27 ministries and departments were integrated into APIs. These schemes included geographical boundaries such as districts, Gram Panchayats, blocks, and villages. These schemes were integrated to display real-time data on the DISHA Dashboard. This marked a significant increase from the previous year when only 47 schemes were integrated.

In 2022, we included the functionality to submit Action Taken Reports to the Meeting Reporting Module. The state-level DISHA meeting module includes a notice board, meeting procedures, and summaries for state and district-level meetings. These summaries include schedule information, meeting dates, times, venues, agendas, meeting notices, and action items. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has appointed numerous non-official members to DISHA committees this year, increasing their overall count. The DISHA Dashboard will be publicly launched. As a further measure, the Division is establishing the essential infrastructure to initiate the DISHA Dashboard for public access.

6. Achievements of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in FY 2022

The department actively collaborates with state governments and district administrations to organise meetings strictly adhering to the rules. Consequently, the frequency of DISHA meetings has increased. Under the leadership of esteemed Members of Parliament, we conducted 982 DISHA sessions in 2022 (till December 20, 2022), a significant increase over the 748 meetings held in the previous year. The DISHA Dashboard has seen significant growth in the number of projects that have been added. The Honourable Prime Minister inaugurated the current level of technological advancement, The DISHA Dashboard, on October 11, 2017. It serves as a centralised platform for accessing information on the programs implemented by different ministries that are part of the DISHA monitoring system. From January 1, 2022, to December 20, 2022, 76 schemes from 27 ministries and departments were integrated into APIs. These schemes included geographical boundaries such as district administrative boundaries, Gram Panchayats, blocks, and villages. Integrating these schemes was to display real-time data on the DISHA Dashboard. This marked a significant increase from the previous year when only 47 schemes were integrated.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has appointed numerous non-official members to DISHA committees this year, increasing their overall count. Members of Parliament have proposed that 106 out of 295 notable individuals serve as non-official members of DISHA committees at the district level and 17 out of 47 notable individuals serve as non-official members of DISHA committees at the state level in 2022.

6.1. Performance and Achievements

The MGNREGS has achieved many key milestones. A total of 289.24 crore person-days of employment has been created. The employment obtained by households is shown in Table 8:

Table 8: Number of households that have used employment opportunities

Year	Households Aailed Employment
Finance Year 2022-23 (April to December)	5.38 Crore
Finance Year 2021-22 (January to March)	5.99 Crore

During the fiscal year 2022-23, from January 1 to December 15, 2022, the following achievements have been accomplished as of December 15, 2022:

- The proportion of women's involvement in the total number of person-days worked is 56.19 per cent.
- The proportion of person-days worked by Schedule Tribe (ST) members is 17.47%.
- The proportion of person-days generated by Schedule Caste (SC) individuals is 19.75 per cent.

6.2. Budget estimates for 2022-23

Budget estimates for 2022-23 put the program's cost at 73,000 crores, while Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has only budgeted 60,000 crores. The decrease is more pronounced than the reduced forecast of Rs 89,400 crore for the current fiscal year. Campaigners have lamented reduced funding for the MGNREGA. The budgeted allotment for the MGNREGA has been lowered by 25% for the second year after a similar 2022-23 budget reduction (Figure 1).

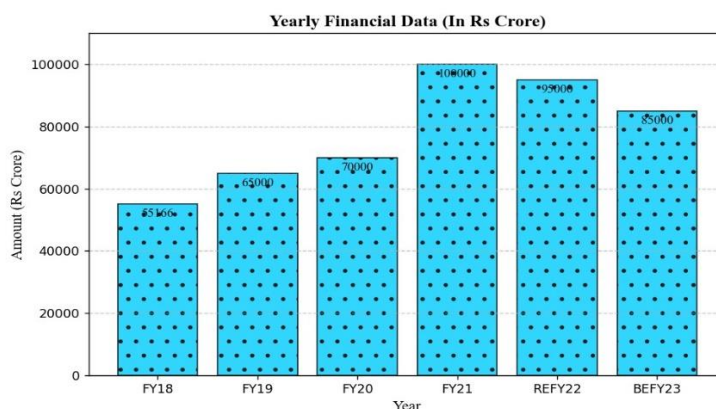


Figure 1: Budget estimates for 2022-23

7. Conclusion

The analysis revealed that MGNREGA has benefitted both the inhabitants and regions in rural areas. The chosen gram panchayats have established many resources, such as water conservation, water harvesting, tree plantings, soil conservation, restoration of traditional water bodies, land development, rural connection, and flood control projects. MGNREGA not only fosters the development of gram panchayats but also guarantees job opportunities for those residing in rural areas. The MGNREGA program might provide significant assistance to families that are small and marginal farmers, heavily reliant on agricultural revenue, and with just one breadwinner. It has the potential to augment their earnings and elevate their level of consumption. MGNREGA is very beneficial for rural families since it offers certain work opportunities for rural individuals throughout their available leisure hours. Therefore, MGNREGA enhances both the recipients' productive involvement and earnings.

Enhancing income boosts the buying power and expenditures of rural individuals, hence raising their quality of living. This research discovered empirical data indicating that women living in rural areas have a sense of empowerment and see themselves as being on par with males regarding social status and opportunities. The pay under MGNREGA was gender-neutral and did not differentiate between men and women. This information provided the most substantial increase in confidence for women. During the study, most women working on the MGNREGA worksite said their living and livelihood conditions had improved. Thanks to MGNREGA, they could independently meet their basic living requirements without relying on assistance from their male counterparts. Before the introduction of MGNREGA, rural women did not have equal access to employment options compared to males and were limited to the traditional position of being homemakers. MGNREGA is the first legislation that offers these crucial elements, enabling rural women to experience a significant improvement in their well-being.

Spending has a well-established economic phenomenon known as the multiplier effect. When these impoverished families allocate their supplementary MGNREGA funds, they demand other things. The production of these goods generates a need for both raw resources and labourers. According to the report, most households used the additional cash from MGNREGA to improve their food consumption, with children's education and health being the next priorities. The research shows that families prioritise using MGNREGA money to improve living standards and tackle human development issues. The Central government has issued a notice for the rural employment guarantee scheme for the next fiscal year 2023-24. The notice includes an increase in the compensation rate, with Haryana having the highest daily wage at 357. States such as Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have the lowest monthly earnings, amounting to \$221. The Union Ministry of Rural Development announced on March 24 that wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Scheme had been changed. Effective April 1, 2023, a revised pay scale will be implemented, ranging from Rs 7 to Rs 26.

Rajasthan had the highest percentage gain in salaries compared to the previous year, with the average salary rising from Rs 231 to Rs 255. Bihar and Jharkhand have increased by almost eight percentage points since last year. The daily wage for MGNREGA workers in these two regions has been raised from Rs 210 to Rs 228. The states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh saw the lowest yearly growth rate, amounting to 17 per cent, with a daily income of Rs 221. The average daily pay in these two locations was Rs 204 from 2022 to 2023. Karnataka, Goa, Meghalaya, and Manipur also saw low wage growth rates. As of March 9, 2023, the government said that there were 5.97 crore families actively engaged in MGNREGA. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, every rural household is entitled to a minimum of 100 days of guaranteed paid employment in unskilled manual labour every fiscal year. From 2022 through 2023, a staggering 99.81 per cent of rural households that desired employment were successfully offered job opportunities that compensated them with wages meeting or exceeding the minimum wage requirement. A Scheme applicant who is currently jobless is entitled to receive daily benefits if they have not been hired within fifteen days from the date of their application. Rural towns that have received official notification of a drought or natural calamity within a fiscal year are entitled to an extra 50 days of paid work.

7.1. Limitations of the Research

This research has certain caveats since it relied only on secondary sources of information. Articles from respected national and international periodicals are used to compile these reviews. Opinions expressed in the papers may not be useful for making crucial administrative decisions, and research is often conducted in isolated regions. In addition, there is a need for extensive research in India to examine the MGNREGA, and the researcher may need to conduct a disaggregate level of investigation to understand the empowerment, awareness, impact, benefits, socioeconomic development, and financial inclusion of rural women.

7.2. Recommendations

Following are some recommendations

- Diversifying MGNREGA into activities that need technical skill and expertise is essential.
- The rural poor need more education and outreach about this program.

- The government needs to reward effective labour.
- Prospective buyers can access various alternative offers, price comparisons, and user reviews.

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