



## MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA) AND WOMEN – AN OVERVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

The Govt. of India launched various Rural Development Programmes for the development of downtrodden groups. Due to several shortages of these programmes, majority of these programmes did not reach up to the expectations. In these circumstances, Indian Parliament enacted a powerful act called “The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)”. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 is landmark legislation in Indian history of social security legislation after independence. Enacted after a successful struggle for an employment guarantee legislation, this legislation is a partial victory towards a full-fledged right to employment in any developing country. MGNREGA is an act for the upliftment of downtrodden groups like SC, ST, OBC and Minorities. Apart from these groups women are also focusing group in this act / scheme. Today we are observing women are getting equal wages to men through this scheme, actively participating in development activities, continuously attending the Gram Sabha meetings, they are fully aware of their rights, boldly expressing their opinions in family discussion, and sending their children to the schools everyday without fail. Now they are fully aware about their health. Though they are facing several problems at the workplaces, but they are not showing their backbone to these problems. These changes are the results of successful implementation of this scheme. This paper discusses about the position of women before and after the MGNREGS and how this scheme is helping the women to sustain their identity in the society.

**KEYWORDS:** *Employment, Transparency, Rights, Social Security, Empowerment.*