

MAHATMA GANDHI RURAL NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION" – THE TASK AHEAD

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ABSTRACT

Garibi Hatao- a Movement for eradication poverty as a whole was launched in 1971 by the than Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the period of Fourth Five year Plan. The Prime Minister had rightly noted, "Poverty is the biggest polluter". Thus for the first time in the history of Indian economic planning rural poverty had been provided a space for special treatment. The Sixth Five Year Plan, very clearly set the priority on the following words, "So far, it has been possible to make a major dent on poverty on account of the inadequate rate of growth of the economy, uneven distribution of income and consumption as well as high rate of growth of population. The reduction of poverty should therefore receive the highest priority in our development strategy". A plethora of wage-employment as well as income-generating schemes were launched in successive plan periods to address poverty vigorously both in rural and urban pockets of the economy.

KEY WORDS: Biggest Polluter, Food Insecurity, Employment, Poverty, Job Card