

## **BENEFICIARIES' PERCEPTION ON MGNREGA – A STUDY OF KULLU DISTRICT (HIMACHAL PRADESH)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme – A job guaranteed scheme aimed at ensuring livelihood security in the rural areas and has a great potential to change the social-economic condition of the rural people. The study conducted on 70 respondents selected from Nirmand Block of Kullu District (HP) revealed that a majority of them (62.86%) had medium level of perception about MGNREGA. Lack of facilities like crèche, drinking water etc. (Rank I) followed by ignorance about unemployment allowance (in case employment not given within stipulated period of 15 days of application), non-maintaining of wage and material ratio (Rank III) and happening of accidents due to lack of facilities at the worksite were the main difficulties faced by the respondents. Similarly, delaying in fund allocation and payment (Rank V) etc. were found some of the other main problems faced by them under MGNREGA. A simple majority (54%) were satisfied with the execution of MGNREGA by their Gram Panchayat. Hence, the study implies that awareness among the workers about some of the provisions of the MGNREGA particularly in case of compensation for delayed payment, ex-gratia payment, grievance redressal mechanism, unemployment allowance and employment with stipulated distance of 5km was very low. Hence, the study implies that efforts should be made to make the workers/village people aware through the use of mass media like Radio, TV and Newspaper etc. and by organizing some type of orientation programs for them. Facilities of Crèche, drinking water, Shed etc. could be ensured at worksite through proper monitoring and supervision by the implementing authority and the study has recommended that the days of employment should be increased from 100 days to 150 to 200 days.*

**KEYWORDS:** MGNREGA, Livelihood Security, Crèche, Monitoring and Supervision, Awareness

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