

ABSTRACT

MGNREGA, a landmark in the history of social security legislation in India or indeed anywhere in the world promises to be a major tool in the struggle for securing employment. The 100 days employment scheme, which came as a bolt out of the blue, indeed raised the standard of living of rural India to a great extent like reducing migration of rural people to urban India, giving financial independence to women in rural India, uplifting the lives of the socially disadvantaged sections like SC/ST and creating basic rural assets.

But MGNREGA has its flip side too. A large scale project like this faces a lot of implementation constraints like siphoning off of funds by the authorities in the official hierarchy, embezzlement in the distribution of job cards and sluggish in providing and creating employment opportunities.

In this paper, I bring forward one of the issues plaguing the implementation of MGNREGA – the issue of job cards and the lack of employment provided to the job card holders. We have brought about the situation prevailing in the best and the worst performing states on this issue.