

June, 2006



A Report of Gram Sabha Mobilization and Observation

In NREGA GPs of district Mahendergarh

Report of Gram sabha Meetings on NREGA intervened GPs. (DRC Mahendergarh)

“Bird’s Eye view”

S. No.	Block	GP	Sarpanch		Panch		GS Member		Total	Duty officer
			F	M	F	M	F	M		
1.	Narnaul	Raghunathpura	1	---		1	15	13	30	Yes
2.		Amarpur Jorasi	---	1	2	6	70	50	129	JE
3.	Mahendergarh	Nichi Bhandor	---	1	2	5	17	47	72	SEPO
4.		Kothalkhurd	1	---	3	3	27	78	112	BDO
5.		Jhook	1	---	3	3	11	72	60	JE
6.		Beri	---	1	3	6	14	33	57	NO
7.		Syana	---	1	3	4	14	43	65	NO
8.	Kanina	Aghiyaar	1	---	3	3	9	31	47	JE
9.		Dhanonda	1	---	2	8	8	63	82	SEPO
10.	N. Chaudhary	Nolayaza	1	---	4	3	5	18	31	SDO
11.		Datal	---	1	3	6	18	38	66	SDO
12.		Banihari	1	---	3	5	9	14	32	SDO
13.		Budhwal	1	---	5	6	7	55	74	SEPO
14.		Amarpura	1	---	4	3	8	15	31	NO
15.	Ateli	Tobda	---	1	3	4	23	42	73	Yes
Total –5 Block		15 GP	9	6	43	66	255	612	961	

Introduction

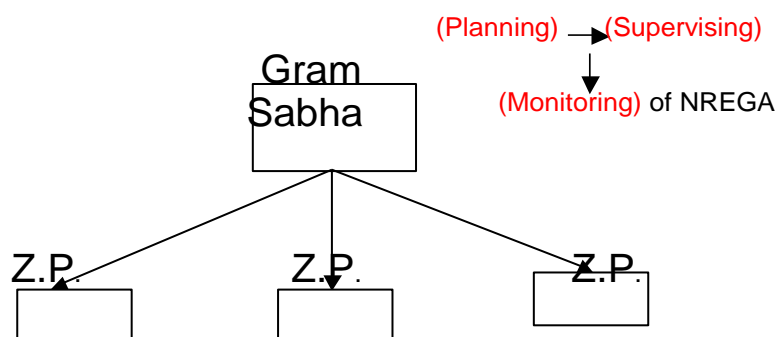
The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act has come into force initially in 200 districts, and will be extended gradually to other areas notified by the Central Government. It will cover the whole country within five years. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a “People’s Act” in several senses. In the state of Haryana, it has been started in only two of the districts i.e. Sirsa & Mahendergarh.

The Act empowers ordinary people to play an active role in the implementation of employment guarantee schemes through Gram Sabhas, social audits, participatory planning and other means. More than any other law, NREGA is an Act of the people, by the people and for the people. This report highlights the current status of the implementation of the scheme in the district Mahendergarh and the recent gram sabha experience on the same issue.

Role of Gram Sabha in the implementation of the implementation of the scheme: -

Gram Sabha has the authority to recommend works to be taken up under NREGS, to monitor and supervise these works, and to conduct social audits of the implementation of the Scheme. On 2nd February 06, Gram Sabha meetings were conducted in every GP of the district, as a forum for sharing information about the Scheme, for instance, to help people to apply for registration and also has a crucial role to play in ensuring transparency and accountability.

We can analyze the role of Gram sabha with the help of this diagram: -



Objective of the Intervention: -

- Gram Sabha meeting observation and Sharing of the scheme (NREGA) with the community and panchayats.
- Identify consistency/dissonance of grass root realities from stated policy commitments in the scheme.
- To facilitate put the perspective plan prepared for the village under NREGA in gram sabha meetings for the final approval.
- To analyse the local access to the scheme and also the awareness level among the community as well as panchayats.
- To strengthen and develop effective linkages between the panchayats, community and community based organisation on the issue of NREGA

Participants Details in the whole process: -

ER's of the Gram Panchayat, NRC -Tulika & Nandita, Duty officers, Members of Gram Sabha, Nari Network, Gram Sachivs, Media Persons, Shripal ji, Jagdev, Saroj and Manish (PRIA-DRC)

Methodology and tools: -

The entire process primarily included participatory methods and techniques. The methods and exercise included open discussions, small group discussions, posters and Pamphlets and participatory learning and sharing methodologies.

Activities Undertaken: -

1. Gram Sabha mobilisation on NREGA: -

Under NREGA a perspective plan had been prepared at the district / Block level on the basis of the planning made at the village level for next five years activities to be done under this scheme. The district administration had decided to take the final approval of these plan in the gram sabha meetings between 15 may –15 June and a copy of the respective gram panchayat's plan were provided to Gram sachivs and to some of the ERs. After getting a copy of these village level perspective plan it was shared with the community and the panchayats through small group discussions and village level meetings and they were mobilised to add their prioritised problems in those perspective plans. In the entire process of sharing of the perspective plan Nari Network members and CLs played an effective role.

2. Sharing of the perspective plan with administration: -

These perspective plans were also shared with the DRDA officials, BDOs and District programme officers about the needs and concerns of the community and panchayats. In some cases even the gram sachivs were also found unaware of the procedure and they were confused because the perspective plan states some works that has been already done by the respective gram Panchayat.

3. Observation of gram sabha meetings: -

On the scheduled date of gram sabha the entire process was observed and facilitated the meeting.

Most frequently observed Procedure of the Gram Sabha meeting: -

First of all, the gram sabha meeting was started with the report presentation of the income and expenditure of the gram panchayat by respective Gram sachivs. After that the action taken report on resolutions passed in last gram sabha meeting were read out. Then the gram sachivs read the activities listed in the draft perspective plan and also the budget estimate for the next five years. In some of the places it was found that there were some points written in the plan but actually the gram sabha members claimed that there are lots of other works important than that, and finally about 10 resolutions were passed in every gram panchayat with the final consent of gram sabha members by changing the perspective plans and new points were added. After that some of the beneficiaries were selected for few Indira Awas Yozna (IAY). In some panchayats some social issues like drop outs of girls from primary schools, alcohol consumption and female feticide were also raised. Evaluation of the works was also done in some panchayats where works for NREGA had been started. Apart from all these Proposals were passed according to villagers demand.

Resolutions passed: -

In almost every Gram Panchayat following resolutions were passed: -

- 10 resolutions for NREGA related activities in every panchayat
- Infrastructure development
- Drinking water
- Female feticide
- Drop out students from primary schools
- Beneficiaries of I.A.Y Encroachment of land Activities of Aanganwadi Animal Hospital etc.

Achievements: -

Due to regular gram sabha mobilization in the intensive gram panchayats of the district this year there were following achievements realized at the end: -

1. The dates of the gram sabha meetings were published at the right time from the BDO office.
2. Above all, in our intensive panchayats the information reached to the sarpanch before time and before our intervention and the sarpanch had called Munadi for wide information dissemination.
3. In most of the intensive panchayat other than gram sachivs the duty officers were also present at the scheduled time.
4. In PRIA's intensive panchayats only one panchayat had postponed the gram sabha meetings unlike last year the trend of postponements of gram sabha meeting was rare.
5. Active participation of women, dalits and some youths were clearly evident in the entire process. In fact some of the places youths were observed taking keen interest in the discussions on NREGA.
6. Transparency and accountability of gram sachivs and Sarpanch was observed in almost every panchayat regarding the income and expenditure and also on the issue of NREGA.
7. It was also evident that the administration (BDO, SEPO & Secretaries) were motivating the community especially youths to take active part in the Nation Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and also told that there is sufficient fund for this scheme and the utmost need is to increase the participation of the community and panchayat.
8. In almost every intensive panchayat the perspective plan (NREGA) was an issue of discussion and several ambiguity was also found and with the consent of panchayat and gram sabha members it was finally approved by adding 10 final resolutions passed by the gram sabha members.
9. Even due to less mobilisation the participation and of the community was visible.
10. The district schedule rates for NREGA are not yet prepared by the district administration and the works are getting done on the basis of Haryana schedule rate. The works execution is done on piece rate. Hence the condition is, the worker (both male & female) has to dig a pond of 10 ft long and 10 ft wide and also have to throw the mud out. This is not an idle situation and the amount of work will take at least two or three day for a person amounting 95 rupees. Brainstorming done on this issue among the community.
11. Members of Nari Network raised the issue incapacity of women to complete the prescribed measurement in one-day span besides other felt the same. Even the Panchayat is dissatisfied with the wage norm; due to this Panchayats are hesitant to start sanctioned works.

12. It was for the first time that the gram sabha dates of whole district were published in the local newspaper without any pressure from PRIA.

13. Issues of Girl child education and drop out students were also raised in few panchayats and resolutions were passed for the same

Lessons Learnt: -

1. Continuous effort for gram sabha mobilisation seems to be successful approach.
2. Utmost need is effective and regular follow up of the resolutions passed in gram sabha meeting.
3. There should be effective pressure kind of group created at state level for district administration to support and cooperate the district level interventions.
4. The members of Nari Networks play a very crucial role in the whole mobilisation campaign process. Hence, they need some kind of regular exposure visit kind of thing.
5. Before starting any kind of campaign or any activity we should first of all inform the concerned district or block level officials in written.
6. Linkage with media could help in highlighting the social as well as other issues related to gram sabha and NREGA.

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