

# New Opportunity And Performance Analysis Of Mgnrega During Covid-19: A Case Study Of Purulia District

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## ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was implemented and came into force on February 2, 2006. It was the first act of its kind in the world wherein an economic safety net is provided to around 2/3rd of the population through a right to work. The rural poor by providing guaranteed employment for 100 days. Some of the programmes are very much target oriented and playing vital role in this area. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is one of the programme who has attained considerable recognition among rural masses and significantly uplifting the livelihood by creation of new jobs and involving rural people in some of the States. This study revealed that there is a noteworthy improvement in the awareness level among the beneficiaries in rural areas and positive effects of these programmes especially in villages can be identified during Covid-19. Now rural local bodies such as Gram Panchayats are also actively participating in the rural development process during Covid-19. In this paper an attempt has made to evaluate the financial and physical progress under MGNREGA in the Purulia District of West Bengal State. The positive impact of MGNREGA in Purulia District cannot be ignored; which is an encouraging indicator for State and Central governments. It has also been suggested in the paper that; in future, more such target oriented programmes should be implemented so that, the gap between poor and rich and rural and urban areas could be bridged.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Impact of MGNREGA, Rural Development, Socio economic development.

## 1. Introduction

As per the census of 2011 about 90 percent of total populations of India reside in villages. The sustainable development of these villages is the prime factor towards the economic growth of the

nation. Since independence the Government has launched many programmes for the development of rural areas and the people residing in villages. MNREGA is landmark legislation in this direction since it is the first program that entitles the government to provide employment of 100 days in a financial year when required by the villagers.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Magic Bullet” in eradicating rural poverty and unemployment by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner since independence. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, hungry people, malnourished children, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, resulting from inadequate employment and poverty and the failure of subsistence production during droughts (Datta & Singh, 2012).

India lives in villages. The living condition of these rural people is very poor. The process of economic development carried out in a country like India has benefitted mostly the relatively developed areas and also the relatively better off people. In spite of various attempts, the benefits have not been pouring towards the backward areas and its backward people. In India, even now in spite of all the development during the period of planning, 41.6 percent of the population was getting less than \$ 1.25 (PPP) a day. However, the major causes of poverty in India are to be found in the socio-economic structure prevailing in the countryside. It is this reason why major policy measure to remove poverty have been undertaken with the view to tackle rural poverty. Since Independence, the government of India has launched a number of Central schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Community/Area Development Programmes in the areas of health & family welfare, education, employment & poverty eradication, agriculture, women & child development, sanitation, housing, safe drinking water, irrigation, transport, tribal development, border area development, social welfare, etc. both in rural and urban areas of the country. The main objectives of all these schemes are to generate employment, improve quality of life, remove poverty and economic disparity and human deprivation. Besides, these schemes are also aimed at creation of basic infrastructure and assets essential for economic development in rural areas.

Through these schemes government of India seems to accomplish its dream of rural India's development. However, some loopholes have also been observed. Without overcoming these drawbacks Government of India won't be able to foster the growth of rural India. To carry out the implementation of programmes and to reach the intended group, the need for delivery system arises. Therefore, it is required to turn the Gram Panchayats as a basic platform for the development of local self-governance.

There is a general feeling that despite of huge allocations of funds disseminated by government of India through Central Schemes/Centrally Sponsored Schemes in West Bengal, the development in basic infrastructure and amenities/facilities are not perceptible, especially in rural areas of the State. Further, the standard of living of the people needs to be improved and the employment opportunities to the young people are still considered to be very limited and inadequate.

## **2. Review of literature**

**Singh S.P. and Nauriyal (2009)** observed that only 4.23 percent villagers could get 100 days of job under MGNREGA in the selected Districts of Uttarakhand. Many of the workers reported that they did not know that MGNREGA promises 100 days of work to a rural household, as a matter of right. The study revealed that there are demand-side and supply-side limitations in confirming 100 days occupation guarantee. Lack of interest of Sarpanch and Government officials, insufficient and less-trained staff and lack of effective participation in Gram Sabha meetings were the supply-side constraint. The demand-side limitations come from the lack of awareness among workers about the scheme.

**All-India Report on Evaluation of MGNREGA (2008)** tried to assess the impact of MGNREGA on the overall quality of life of people by measuring different factors related with the development of quality of life of people such as influence on income earning levels of each household, expenditure on food and non-food items, new assets creation by the beneficiaries. Through this study it has also been emphasized that the Gram Panchayats can play a very important role in the successful implementation of this scheme.

**John Icy K. (2006)** observed that the funds are very much essential for the effective functioning of Gram Panchayats. But the nature and trend in the spending of plan fund by the village Panchayats revealed that except in the beginning year, the utilization of grant-in aid was low in the subsequent plans. The study noticed that the underutilization of plan fund has affected the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions adversely.

**Gupta (2001)** in his book recommended that the implementation of policies requires strong institutions in order to carry out various development activities that include planning, programme design and implementation of programmes.

**Joshi (2000)** discusses the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the alleviation of rural poverty. The study concludes that the functionaries at the grass-root level have inadequate knowledge of the rules and procedures of various transactions and that physical capacity to undertake development plan are very poor. The author, therefore, suggests to make the working of Panchayati Raj Institutions more methodical, more pragmatic and scientific.

**Chathukulam and Johan (1999)** conducted a study of the decentralized planning and Panchayats in Kerala. They observed that the centrally sponsored schemes must be integrated into local plans to avoid duplication and gaps and to improve their effectiveness.

### **3. Objective of the study**

Since, most of these schemes are in operation for a pretty long time except MGNREGA. Therefore, the main objective of the study was

- To find out the awareness level among the villagers about various socio-economic schemes during Covid-19.
- To find out the financial and physical progress of MGNREGA under Panchayati Raj System in the Purulia District.

### **4. Hypotheses of the Study**

**H0:** There is no financial and physical progress made by MGNREGA in the Purulia District.

## **5. Research Methodology**

The study area is confined to the State of West Bengal. The West Bengal has twenty-three Districts in all. To know the awareness level about the various schemes, one District i.e. Purulia District and its five Blocks have been selected. Further two Gram Panchayats from each Block have been selected that belongs to the same socio-economic and demographic characteristics as that of District and Blocks. Further from each Gram Panchayat, elected members i.e. Panches along with non-elected members i.e. sixteen Gram Sabha members were selected for interview. The total numbers of respondents were 230. The study was carried out among the elected members, In each household, the main earning member was interviewed to know the awareness level about the socio-economic programmes implemented by the Central and State Governments.

To evaluate the progress of MGNREGA in the Purulia District, only three years data i.e. from 2018-19 to 2020-21 was assessed. Development was evaluated on the basis of physical and financial progress made by MGNREGA in the Purulia District.

## **6. Sources of data**

Both primary and secondary sources of data have been used for this study. The responses of the respondents, namely, elected representatives and non-elected Gram Sabha members in the selected Blocks provided the primary data. As far as secondary data is concerned, the reports of various Committees and Commissions, articles appeared in various newspapers, journals and magazines were consulted with a view to enhance the credibility of the work and to supplement the information on the subject.

## **7. Need and importance of MGNREGA**

Approximately, 70 percent of India's population resides in villages and the majority of them are poor, MGNREGA has become a life line for them. Apart from providing employment opportunity, it also aims at rejuvenating the rural economy by executing projects that may significantly boost up the natural capital of the villages. These projects are expected to yield substantive results in the arena of water conservation and harvesting, drought proofing, minor irrigation works, revival and renovation of traditional water bodies, improve rural connectivity etc. The scheme has been working as a powerful tool of the inclusive growth. This is for the first time a job guarantee scheme has been introduced in the country. Scheme guarantees to provide 100 days of work in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. February 2, 2006, it was launched in 200 Districts and then extended to additional 130 Districts in the financial year 2007-2008. Thus, NREGA covers the entire country with the exemption of Districts that have a hundred percent urban population. The main objectives of the scheme were to provide guaranteed employment to the poor villagers and to work as a growth engine for rural economy by creating durable assets in rural areas. The Gram Panchayat has been assigned a crucial role in the execution of the MGNREGS. Gram Panchayat is responsible for planning all kinds of works. All the activities are to be done in consultation with the Gram Sabha.

## 8. Implementation mechanism of MGNREGA

**Gram Sabha:** The Gram Sabha has been given the following rights and responsibilities under the Act

- Gram Sabha will propose works to be taken up under MGNREGA
- Gram Sabha will perform the work of Social Audit
- Gram Sabha will be used as a platform for sharing information about the Scheme

**Gram Panchayat:** The Gram Panchayat is the pivotal body for the implementation of scheme at the village level. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for the following activities:

- Essential planning of works
- Receives applications for job
- Verification of job applications
- Gram Panchayat helps the Gram Sabha in issuing Job Card application receipt
- After verification it issues Job Cards
- Panchayat ensures to prove job within fifteen days of application
- Implementation of works and maintenance of proper record
- Permits the Gram Sabha for social audit
- Monitoring and execution of the scheme at the village level

## 9. Findings of the study

Awareness Level of Gram Sabha Members about the Government Schemes Implemented by the Panchayat. This Study has tried to find out the level of awareness among the respondents about the bottom level planning and other Government schemes for the poor being implemented by the Panchayat. Overall, seven specific schemes were identified such as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme), IAY (Indira Awas Yojna), SGSY (Swarnjayanti Gram Sawrojgar Yojna), TSC (Total Sanitation Campaign), NRHM (National Rural HealthMission) and SSA (Sarva Siksha Abhyan).

**Table 1.1:** Awareness About the Selected Government Schemes for the Poor Being Implemented at Panchayat level during Covid-19

Schemes	Electe d Memb ers Aware (%)	Elected Members Not Aware (%)	GS Mem bersAware (%)	GS Members Not Aware (%)	Tota l Awa re (%)	Total Not Aware (%)
MGNREG A	100	0	96.88	3.12	98.44	1.56

<b>NSAP</b>	82.85	17.16	81.25	18.75	82.05	17.955
<b>IAY</b>	70	30	64.37	35.63	67.185	32.815
<b>SGSY</b>	58.57	41.43	56.25	38.12	57.41	39.775
<b>TSC</b>	84.28	15.72	81.25	18.75	82.765	17.235
<b>NRHM</b>	75.72	24.28	73.13	26.87	74.425	25.575
<b>SSA</b>	90.00	10.00	86.88	13.12	88.44	11.56

**Source:** Field Data

The Table 1.1 shows a very high level of awareness among the Gram Sabha members about MGNREGA (96.88%), NSAP (81.25%), TSC (81.25 percent) and SSA (86.88%). In the progressive State like West Bengal a high level of awareness was noticed so far as the existing of various schemes are concerned. However, the overall awareness level needs to be enhanced, and people need to be capacitated to be covered by available benefits and to ensure that Government programmes smoothly implement and provide desired benefits in rural India. Therefore, it is suggested that all concern departments should appoint motivators to enable the programmes' benefits reach to beneficiaries.

Similarly, a very high level of awareness is being observed among the elected members of Gram Panchayats. All the elected members were aware about the MGNREGA (100.00 percent) as a poverty removal scheme. Elected members were also aware about NSAP (82.85 percent), IAY (70.00 percent) and TSC (84.28 percent). In West Bengal, lack of awareness about SGSY is probably due to poor implementation of the scheme and improper participation by NGOs. Overall, members were well aware about the MGNREGA (98.44 percent), NSAP (82.05 percent), TSC (82.76 percent) and SSA (88.44 percent).

#### □ Physical Progress of MGNREGA in Purulia District

Approximately, 70 percent of India's population resides in villages and the majority of them are poor, MGNREGA has become a life line for them. Apart from providing employment opportunity, it also aims at rejuvenating the rural economy by executing projects that may significantly boost up the natural capital of the villages. These projects are expected to yield substantive results in the arena of water conservation and harvesting, drought proofing, minor irrigation works, revival and renovation of traditional water

bodies, improve rural connectivity etc. The scheme has been working as a powerful tool of the inclusive growth.

**Table 1.2:** status of Job Cards issued to households since the inception of MGNREGA during Covid-19. Since Inception No. of Households (HH) Issued Job Cards (till the reporting month January)

<b>Caste</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>CAGR</b>
<b>SCs</b>	9599	14553	15569	39721	27%
<b>STs</b>	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Others</b>	5796	7751	17159	30706	72%

<b>Total</b>	15395	22304	32728	70427	46%
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**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Overall, 70427 Job Cards have been issued and 46 percent increase in compound annual growth rate was observed in Purulia District. However, the growth rate in the Job Cards issued to SC was increased by 27 percent and to others 72 percent. Table 1.3 shows that the households working under MGNREGA before the January month of 2018-19 were 3130 and 915 households were assigned work in January month. Similarly, households given work before the January month of 2019-20 and 2020-21 were 3922 and 3328 respectively.

**Table 1.3:** No. of HH Working Under MGNREGA during Covid-19

Time Period	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
Up to Previous Month	3130	3922	3328	10380	3%
During the Month (January)	915	551	567	2033	-21%
<b>Total</b>	4045	4473	3895	12413	-2%

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Despite this the growth rate for households working under MGNREGA decreased by 2 percent due to the lack of jobs in the January month.

Table 1.4 indicates the total number of persons who completed 100 days' work, beneficiary of land-reform or IAY and disabled beneficiaries during the study period of three years.

**Table 1.4:** Cumulative No of HH Which Completed 100 Days / HH Beneficiary of Land Reform or IAY also / Disabled Beneficiary (till the reporting month January)

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
Cumulative Number of HH Which Have Completed 100 Days of Employment	64	71	58	193	-5%
No. of HH Which are Beneficiary of Land-Reform/IAY	3	10	47	60	296%
No. of Disabled Beneficiary Individuals	18	7	11	36	-22%

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.4 shows that the total number of households who completed their 100 days work up to January month of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 were 64, 71 and 58 respectively. The number of households who received the benefit of Land-reform / IAY was 3, 10 and 47 up to January month of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. Similarly, the number of disabled beneficiaries was 18,

7 and 11 up to the January month of 2018-19, 2009-2010 and 2020-21 respectively.

Table 1.5 shows the total number of BPL house hold registered and work assigned under MGNREGA in Purulia District up to January month. The Table also demonstrates the number of averagedays of employment provided to a household during the year.

**Table 1.5:** Demand for Employment as A %age of the BPL Rural HH During the Year / No. of AverageDays of Employment Provided to a HH During the Year

Year	Cumulative No. of BPL HH Provided Employment (Till thereporting month)	No. of BPL Rural HH	Demand for Employment as a %age of the BPL Rural HHDuring the Year	No. of Average Days of Employment Provided to a Household During the Year
2008-09	4045	33728	11.993003	29.171817
2009-10	4473	33728	13.261978	23.317684
2010-11	4118	Not Available	-	23.312288

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.5 shows the number of BPL rural households registered were 33728 till the reporting month January of 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The figures for the January month of 201011 were not available. Total 4045 households (11.993003 percent of total BPL) were given employment in 2018-19. Similarly, 4473 BPL rural households (13.261978 percent of total BPL) in 2019-20 and 4118 in 2020-21 were provided jobs under MGNREGA in Purulia District. In 200809 per household on an average 29.17days of work was provided. Similarly, in 2019-20 and 2020-21, approximately, 23.31 days work was provided.

Table 1.6 shows the status of completed works and ongoing works under MGNREGA in the reporting month (January) of study period.

**Table 1.6:** Status of Works Under MGNREGA

Nature of Works	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
Completed Works	15	56	83	154	135%
Ongoing Works	115	124	122	361	3%

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.6 reveals that the works completed in three successive years were 15, 56 and 83 respectively. Similarly, 115, 124 and 122 works were on progress during this period. The completed



works has been increased by 135 percent per annum and ongoing works increased by 3 percent per annum.

□ Financial Improvement

Chapter IV, Para 14, Sub-section (6) of the MANREG Act says that the District Programme Coordinator shall prepare a labour budget in the month of December every year for the next financial year. In this budget District Programme Coordinator shall provide the details of expected demand for unskilled manual work in the District and the plan for engagement of labours in the works covered under MGNREGA. The Ministry of Rural Development will estimate the requirement of funds on the basis of projections made in the Labour Budget. Central funds will be sanctioned after examining these Labour Budgets and taking into account utilisation of funds previously released.

Table 1.7 shows the total income received for MGNREGA from Centre and State Government during the study period of three years.

**Table 1.7:** Total Income Received from All Sources (till the reporting month January)(in lacks)

Sources	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
Opening Balance As on 1st April	34.666	87.894	158.22	280.78	114%
Release by Centre	132.29	163.55	87.12	382.96	-19%
By State	13.229	16.355	8.712	38.296	-19%
Misc. Receipts	1.517	1.285	83.81	86.612	643%
Total Income	181.702	269.084	337.862	788.648	36%

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.7 reveals that the income received from Central Government in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 was ` 132.69 lacks, 163.55 lacks and 87.12 lacks respectively. Similarly, total income received from State Government was ` 38.296 lacks in these three years which shows the 19 percent decrease in compound annual growth rate. However, the miscellaneous receipts and total income have been increased by 643 percent and 36 percent respectively.

Table 1.8 shows the expenditure made during the study period of three years on various heads under MGNREGA in Purulia District.

**Table 1.8:** Total Expenditure (in lacks)

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
On Wages	163.059	186.167	163.43	512.656	0%

<b>On Semi-Skilled and Wages Skilled</b>	0	2.737	7.62	10.357	178 %
<b>On Material</b>	0	29.155	67.82	96.975	133 %
<b>Administrative (Recurring)</b>	2.455	13.365	22.462	38.282	202 %
<b>Non-Recurring</b>	0	4.8	1.942	6.742	-60%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	165.514	236.224	263.274	665.012	26%

**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.8 shows that total expenditure incurred on wages was ` 512.656 lacks, on semi-skilled and skilled wages ` 10.357 lacks, on material ` 96.975, on administration ` 38.282 and nonrecurring administration ` 6.742 lacks. The expenditure on wages experienced nil growth rate during this period. However, the growth rate in total expenditure was increased by 26% percent. Similarly, expenditure on skilled wages (178 percent), expenditure on material (133 percent) and expenditure on recurring administration (202 percent) increased rapidly in these three years.

Table 1.9 reveals the status of income and expenditure under MGNREGA in Purulia District.

**Table 1.9:** Gap Between Income and Expenditure (in lacks)

Income & Expenditure	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
<b>Total Income</b>	181.702	269.084	337.862	788.648	36%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	165.514	236.224	263.274	665.012	26%
<b>%age of Expenditure with Total Funds available</b>	91.09	87.78	77.92	84.32	-

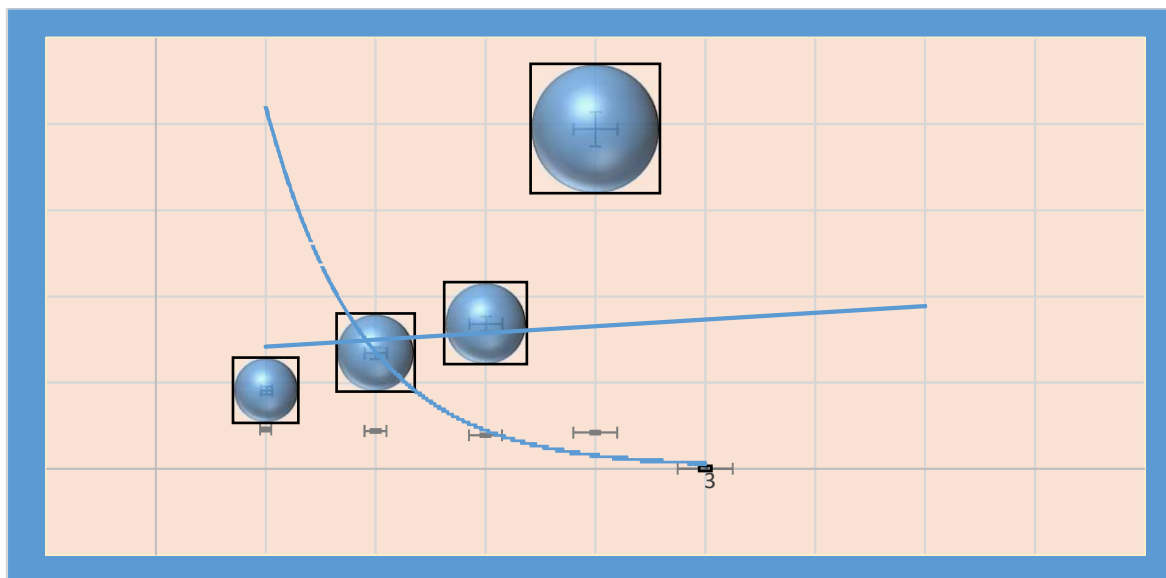
**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development Government of India

Table 1.9 shows that the income and expenditure increased by 36 and 26 percent respectively.

Overall,

84.33 percent of total income was spent on the betterment of households. Figure 1.1 also shows the consistent gap between income and expenditure.

**Figure 1.1:** Gap between Income and Expenditure of MGNREGA



Similarly, Table 1.9 reveals the status of expenditure incurred on these completed works and ongoing works for the same study period.

Table 1.10: Status of Expenditure (in lacks)

Nature of Expenditure	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	CAGR
<b>Expenditure on Completed Works</b>	12.8	36.447	28.89	78.165	50%
<b>Expenditure on Ongoing Works</b>	N.A.	181.612	209.98	391.592	16%

Source: Ministry of Rural Development of Government of India

Overall, ` 78.165 lacks were spent on completed works and ` 391.592 lacks were spent on ongoing works till the reporting month of every year of the study period. Expenditure on completed works observed a 50 percent increase in compound annual growth rate and expenditure on ongoing works observed 16 percent increase in growth rate.

### Hypothesis Testing

**Table 1.11** shows the financial and physical performance of MGNREGA in Purulia District during the study period i.e. 2018-19 to 2020-21.

**Table 1.11:** Financial and Physical Performance of IAY & MGNREGA

	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	CAGR
<b>Physical Performance (Works Completed)</b>	193	15	56	83	135%

<b>Financial Performance (Income Received in lacks)</b>	152.716	181.702	269.084	337.862	36%
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**Source:** Ministry of Rural Development of Government of India

Table 1.10 shows the positive performance of MGNREGA in Purulia District. Apparently, physical performance of MGNREGA increased by 135 percent and financial performance by 36 percent. Compound annual growth rate shows a positive trend in terms of physical and financial performance. Therefore, we can conclude that this socio-economic programme has affected the living standard of villagers positively which is a good sign for the rural community. It was **null hypothesised** that there is no financial and physical progress made by MGNREGA in the Purulia District during the study period.

**H0:** There is no financial and physical progress made by MGNREGA in the Purulia District.

**H1:** H0 is not true but actually the scheme has made a progress in terms of financial and physical performance in the Purulia District.

Table 1.11 shows that the physical and financial progress made by MGNREGA were 135 and 36 percent respectively. So, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant growth made by MGNREGA in terms of physical and financial performance which is a positive sign for the growth and development. This socio-economic programme has been successful in terms of mobilising the funds and creating social assets. As we know the works performed by these programmes directly affects the social life of the villagers. Therefore, we can conclude that the villagers' standard of living has also been improved due to the effective working of MGNREGA.

## 1. Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a "Magic Bullet" in eradicating rural poverty and unemployment by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Thus, from the above discussion we can conclude that the government is now more serious about the poverty eradication from India. The government of India has also taken significant steps towards enhancing the participation of grass root bodies in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The socio-economic programmes are now more target oriented and putting direct assault on poverty. Programmes like MGNREGA should be given more weightage in the planning process; so that the poverty from villages can be reduced to great extent.

Thus, from the above discussion we can conclude that the government is now more serious about the poverty eradication from India. The government of India has also taken significant steps towards enhancing the participation of grass root bodies in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The socio-economic programmes are now more target oriented and putting direct

assault on poverty. Programmes like MGNREGA should be given more weightage in the planning process; so that the poverty from villages can be reduced to great extent. The success and effectiveness of these programmes will depend upon the sustained, intelligent and enthusiastic involvement and cooperation of the village community during covid-19 pandemic situation. However, the efforts of State as well as central governments cannot be ignored but despite of that there will always be a scope of improvement in every aspect of implementation process.

Therefore, simultaneous focus on two major aspects is required. First, the delivery systems need streamlining so as to make them more responsive to the people and motivate them with a missionary zeal. Second, the PRIs need to be more intimately involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of development programmes during covid-19 pandemic situation.

## **2. Suggestions for Changes in the MGNREGA**

The objective of the MNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural people by providing 100 days of guaranteed employment for during covid-19 pandemic situation but it is evident from the statistics that the 100 days of guaranteed employment is not being provided by the state governments and the average number of employment days is very less, when compared to the statutory provision (100). If the state governments take adequate measures to ensure that the 100 days of guaranteed employment is provided to the rural household, it will lead to additional income to the rural household, which will bear a positive impact on their development. New provision for providing free lunch for the workers at the worksite must be included into the legislation, doing this will enhance the food security of the rural household and it will save the additional cost which was incurred for their lunch, therefore leading to additional income at their disposal, and increased purchasing power.

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