

**Project Title:**

**Status of NREGA in Orgram Village in  
Purba Bardhaman**



**VIVEKANANDA MAHAVIDYALAYA**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SEMESTER**

**PAPER: FIELD SURVEY & PROJECT REPORT (CC-14)**

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**REG. NO:  
202001015261 OF  
2020-21**

**REG. NO: 202001010052  
OF 2020-21**

**REG. NO:  
201901001274 OF  
2019-20**

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# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our respected teachers for their invaluable support in the successful completion of our project, "Status of NREGA in Orgram village in Purba Bardhaman district."

First and foremost, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our **Principal, Dr. Sib Prasad Rudra**, for providing us with the golden opportunity to undertake this remarkable project. His unwavering support and guidance have been instrumental in our journey.

Our utmost gratitude extends to our Head of Department (HOD), **Assistant prof. Subhendu Bag**, and the esteemed faculty members who have nurtured us with their wisdom and knowledge continuous encouragement, insightful inputs, and valuable feedback throughout the project. Their expertise and wisdom have greatly contributed to our understanding and achievement.

We are especially indebted to our professors, **Assistant prof. Dr. Animesh Debnath**, **Assistant prof. Dr. Tanushree de** and **Associate prof. Goutam Sarkar** who have been like caring parents to us throughout this project. Their unfailing support, tireless efforts, and genuine care have helped us overcome challenges, broaden our horizons, and achieve our goals. We are truly fortunate to have had their nurturing guidance and wisdom throughout this incredible journey. Furthermore, we extend our deepest thanks to our friends who have been an incredible source of assistance and encouragement during the finalization of this project. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to explore new insights and knowledge through this project, and we owe our heartfelt thanks to all those mentioned above for their immeasurable contributions to our success.

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# INTRODUCTION

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** is considered as a “**Silver Bullet**” for 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 during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, malnourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.

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. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a flagship welfare program under the **Ministry of Rural Development**, Government of India which provides **100 days of employment** for all households in rural areas in manual work, if demanded. This Act for the first time brings the role of the state as provider of livelihood within the reach of participants/beneficiaries themselves. MGNREGA being a demand driven rural employment scheme, higher wages may prompt higher utilization of the scheme. By design it is different from any employment generation scheme that was implemented in the past.

In the rural areas such program has great significance because employment opportunity is very limited with meagre wages. The arid area is no exception to it where a large segment of rural population is underemployed and vulnerable to drought and other weather aberrations. In **West Bengal**, the state government has implemented the **MGNREGA**

program with the goal of improving the livelihood and standard of living of the rural population. The West Bengal Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, introduced in 2006, covers a wide range of works divided into categories such as watershed management, agricultural activities, rural infrastructure development, and environmental conservation. The focus areas in West Bengal include creating durable assets, increasing soil fertility, ensuring groundwater availability, promoting afforestation, and generating livelihood opportunities through convergence with other programs. **The implementation of MGNREGA in West Bengal** aims to empower rural communities, make them self-sustainable, and improve their overall well-being.

The **World Bank (2009)** believes the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)** now renamed as **MGNREGA** is an important safety net program that provides livelihood security to the poorest of the poor in rural areas of India. Realizing the importance of this program and its potentiality in mitigation of drought, vulnerability and drudgery of life in the western region of west Bengal, especially through employment and various development activities, a case study has been undertaken to assess the impact of MGNREGA in socioeconomic conditions in a small but beautiful village of Orgram. **Orgram** is a village in Bhatar CD block in Bardhaman Sadar North subdivision of Purba Barddhaman district in **West Bengal, India**. Barddhaman is the district headquarter of Orgram village. As per 2009 stats, Sahebganj II is the gram panchayat of Orgram village. The total geographical area of village is 2938.76 hectares. Orgram has a total population of 13,554 peoples, out of which male population is 6,854 while female population is 6,700. Literacy rate of Orgram village is 60.23% out of which 67.25% males and 53.06% females are literate. There are about 3,229 houses in Orgram village.

# LITERATURE SURVEY

**Prianka Sengupta (2022)** in her New Opportunity and Performance Analysis of MGNREGA During Covid-19 Case Study of Purulia District tried to find that there is no financial and physical progress made by MGNREGA in the Purulia District. To evaluate the progress only three years data i.e., from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and from 230 total respondents was assessed. The programme was successful in terms of **mobilising the funds** and **creating social assets**. Apparently, physical performance of MGNREGA increased by 135 percent and financial performance by 36 percent in the year 2018-2021. Compound annual growth rate shows a **positive trend** in terms of physical and financial performance.

**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.

**Arya Narayanan (2017)**'s objective of the study MGNREGA and Rural Development was to analyse how MGNREGA scheme was implemented in the **Choondal Grama Panchayat**, it was also intended to observe whether it enabled the creation of productive assets, protection of the environment and the empowerment of women in the rural area. Discussion method is used to collect the information from the local representatives and Panchayat authorities. It showed that the total number of households that got employment and families that got 100

days of employment increased but the same time the participation of **man showed decline, women participation increased.**

**Rajesh Sharma and Dr. Manish Didwania (2013)** in their studies “Performance Analysis of MGNREGA: A Case Study of District Jind” Intended to measure the financial and physical progress of MGNREGA under Panchayati Raj System in the District Jind, Haryana. The data was collected from responses of the respondents, namely, elected representatives and non-elected Gram Sabha members in the selected Blocks. The study showed that the income and expenditure increased by 36 and 26 percent respectively. 70 percent of India’s population resides in villages and the majority of them are poor, MGNREGA has become a life line for them.

**D.K. Saha, Soma Srivastava and Khem Chand (2012)** have also showed in their study Impact of MGNREGA: A Case Study in the Arid Village of **Bhacharna, Rajasthan** that MGNREGA has provided employment not only to disadvantageous group of populations, but also to others who have limited **employment opportunity** in the village and its adjoining areas. Primary data were collected during the year 2010-11 through a specially designed interview schedule, observations, case studies, focused group discussions. Analysis of primary data indicated that overall, 12.14% of the total income was derived from MGNREGA. **Migration** tendencies among the households had **dropped by 18%**, irrespective of the size of their land holding.

**Shamsher Alam (2015)** conducted a survey on the topic of ‘Ground Realities and Inhibitions in Execution of MGNREGA’ and that current survey had been carried out in the **Bajpur panchayat** in the **Ratu block, Jharkhand**. The study examined the impact of MGNREGA on villagers' livelihoods, income and expenditure, scheme awareness, migration patterns, work quality, asset creation, credit access, and savings. However, it revealed numerous issues

impeding MGNREGA's effectiveness: household identification, registration problems, substandard work, wage and unemployment allowance issues, limited capacity building and awareness, low participation in decision-making, and communication gaps due to illiteracy.

**Ms. Rekha & Dr. Rekha Mehta (2019)** conducted the case study in the **Jodhpur district of Rajasthan**, has examined the socio-economic “impact of MGNREGA on the rural poor” who are mainly comprised of landless, small, and marginal farmers. The study is based on a random sample of 240 respondents. Data were collected through structure interview schedule and data were analysed by using simple mean, percentages etc. Only 1.25per cent of the beneficiaries completed high school education and majority of 73.75 per cent of the beneficiaries were illiterate. It exposed that most of the respondents did not have sufficient education knowledge therefore they preferred this manual work. Out of 240 samples respondent’s 72 percent of the respondents belonged to the age group 31 to 50 years shows that the need of employment in rural area. It also shows that the farmers having large landholdings were not much interested in participating in MGNREGA. The study has revealed that the socio-economic condition of the households regularly working under the MGNREGA scheme is considerably poor in the rural area.

“The rural women have made civil society inward Looking caste religious and kingship networks are activated within the community. All networks are executing development projects which would benefit their stake groups.”  
**[Kavitha A. and Nagaraj G.H. (2012)18, Effect of Employment Guarantee Programme for Rural Women”]**

“The Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas would decide type of work to be undertaken in the villages and use the funds earmarked under the scheme for women development. Since the scheme call for Significant involvement of local people particularly women folk and PRIs it is absolutely essential to



impart comprehensive training for transferring various skills.” [Patel Amrit (2006)26, “Role of Panchayati Raj institutions in Implementing Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme”]

“The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), is a landmark legislation. It is clear that the NREGA, with its Rights Based framework, is a paradigm shift from all other development programmes that were traditionally supply led. Centrally funded entirely through domestic resources, the implementation of this law is supported by a budget based on Demand for Employment.” [Jawed Akhtar M., Abdul Azeez N.P. and Mansoor Md., (2011)15, “Towards Millennium Development Goals and the Role of MGNREGA”]

**Dey.S and Bedi S.A (2010)**, examined NREGS (February 2006 – July 2009) in **Birbhum district**, West Bengal. This study shows about the good awareness of this scheme and well maintaining of information related NREGS. According to this study, less jobs days and payment delay are the problem. But their problems improve day by day.

**Alha. A and Yonzon. B (2011)**, shows that this scheme is very helpful for females in rural sector. But, in recent past, **male migration** has become common. Specially agriculture sector has undergone a vast change in recent past partly for MGNREGS. A well **shortage of farm labour** and as an effect of an upward push of wages in agricultural sectors observed. This study has suggested that this is the **high time to implement MGNREGA** and other public workers with a high push to improve agricultural sector all over the country.

**Rout. G (2013)**, reveals about the significant potential of MGNREGA. This scheme is truly demand driver. **MoRD** is increasing its monitoring at the gram panchayat level for strengthening on gender equality and empowering women. This scheme provide security to the rural women workers and give them financial independence. Increasing number of

women in participating in participating in various meeting and speaking out there is a good sign.

## Objectives

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- To obtain the demographic status like Population, sex, caste, religion and standard of living in Orgram.
- To obtain the distribution of ownership of resources among household members.
- To obtain the diversity of occupation among the population (sex wise).
- To obtain the status of NREGA implementation and benefits derived from it.
- To obtain women's awareness of the NREGA programs.

## Data and Methodology:

This study is based solely on primary data collected from the village of Orgram, located in Purba Bardhaman district of West Bengal. The survey included 30 number of families, with a total sample population of 154 individuals. Among the surveyed families, 19 belonged to Above Poverty Line (APL) category, while 11 belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. Out of the 154 family members, 79 were male and 75 were female. The population composition consisted of 55% general category members, 11% Scheduled Caste (SC) members, 14% Scheduled Tribe (ST) members, and 20% Other Backward Classes (OBC) members.

**Methodology:** Tabulation calculations have been used to describe the objectives related to demographic and NREGA status. Diversification in job patterns has also been pointed out with the help of tabulation. The whole calculation has been done with the assistance of the MS Excel application.

## Orgram village, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal:



Source: [Google maps](#)

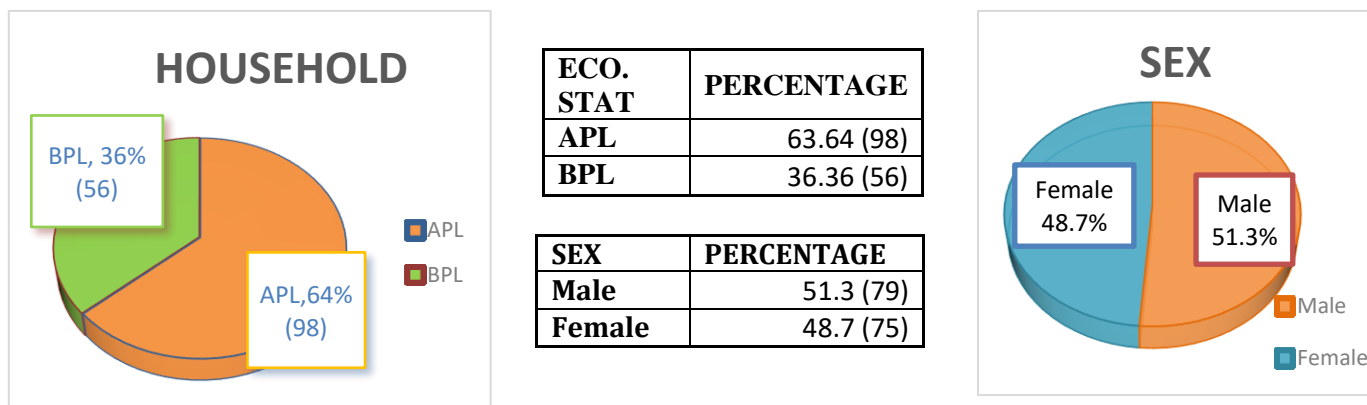
# Findings and Analysis

## Demographic Status:

Demographics are the characteristics of a population that have been categorized by distinct criteria- such as age, gender and income- as means to study the attributes of a particular group. Demographic change can influence the underlying growth rate of economy, structural productivity growth, living standards, savings rates, consumption and savings. The direct method of collecting demographic data involve tracking and researching official records of births, marriages, divorces, deaths and migrations. Business may conduct consumer polls to gather data about what people buy, why they have specific shopping preference and how much they spend on average. Now-a-days, online demographic data collection is becoming common. From demographic information marketing

strategies, economic analysis, government 12 policies are determined. So, the study of demography is essential for scientific uses of human resources.

**Table:1- Population W.r.t Economic Status And Sex (in Percentage)**



SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

As we can see in Table:1, 63.64 percent people are in APL category and 36.36 percent people are in BPL category, among them male population is 51.3 percent, and female population is 48.7 percent. The male to female ratio in the village of Orgram indicates a relatively balanced distribution between the genders.

**Table:2- Religion wise population Status (in percentage)**

| RELIGION  | POPULATION  |
|-----------|-------------|
| HINDU     | 68.18 (105) |
| MUSLIM    | 24.68 (38)  |
| CHRISTIAN | 0           |
| OTHERS    | 7.14 (11)   |
| TOTAL     | 100 (154)   |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

The above table describes the religious status in Orgram village. From that table, it is observed that there are 68.18 percent Hindu, 24.68 percent Muslim and 7.14 percent families belonging to other religions. Which makes it a fairly diverse village for our survey.

**Table:3- Caste wise population (in percentage)**

| CASTE   | POPULATION |
|---------|------------|
| GENERAL | 54.55 (84) |
| SC      | 11.04 (17) |
| ST      | 14.29 (22) |
| OBC     | 20.13 (31) |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

The table indicates the caste distribution in the surveyed population of Orgram village. According to the data, 54.55 percent of the population belongs to the general caste, 11.04 percent to the Scheduled Caste (SC), 14.29 percent to the Scheduled Tribe (ST), and 20.13 percent to the Other Backward Classes (OBC). These figures reflect the representation of different castes within the surveyed population.

**Table:4- House/Toilet/Source of drinking water/Source of Fuel/Source of light with respect to economic status (in percentage)**

| Econ stat. | House Type |           |            | Toilet Type |           |            |             | Source Of Light |             |              |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
|            | Kaccha     | Pacca     | Semi Pacca | Kaccha      | Pacca     | Semi Pacca | No Facility | Kerosene        | Electricity | Others (K+E) |
| APL        | 10.53(2)   | 68.42(13) | 21.05(4)   | 0           | 94.74(18) | 5.26(1)    | 0           | 0               | 100(19)     | 0            |
| BPL        | 81.82(9)   | 9.09(1)   | 9.09(1)    | 45.45(5)    | 36.36(4)  | 9.09(1)    | 9.09(1)     | 0               | 90.91(10)   | 9.09(1)      |

| Econ stat. | Source of Fuel |           | Source Of Drinking Water |           |          |                |
|------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|
|            | One Type       | Two Type  | Municipal Tap            | Tube Well | Pond     | Tube Well, Tap |
| APL        | 57.89(11)      | 42.11 (8) | 42.11(8)                 | 31.58(6)  | 5.26(1)  | 21.05(4)       |
| BPL        | 63.64 (7)      | 36.36 (4) | 27.27(3)                 | 36.36(4)  | 18.18(2) | 18.18(2)       |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

Above table shows the distribution of housing conditions, sanitation facilities, lighting sources, fuel sources, and drinking water sources among surveyed individuals.

Regarding the APL category, 10.53 percent live in kaccha houses, 68.42 percent live in pacca houses, and 21.05 percent live in semi-pacca houses. In the BPL category, 51.82 percent live in kaccha houses, 9.09 percent live in pacca houses, and 9.09 percent live in semi-pacca houses. Notably, the majority of individuals in the APL category reside

in pacca houses, while in the BPL category, the majority reside in kaccha houses.

When it comes to toilet facilities, 94.74 percent of people in the APL category have pacca toilets, whereas in the BPL category, 81.82 percent have kaccha or semi-kaccha toilets.

In terms of lighting sources, electricity is the primary source for 100 percent of individuals in the APL category, with no other sources being used. In the BPL category, 90.91 percent of people use electricity as their main lighting source, while 9.09 percent use a combination of kerosene and electricity.

Regarding fuel sources, there is a variety of practices. Around 57.89 percent of individuals in the APL category use a single type of fuel source, such as fuel wood, purchased fuel, kerosene, coal, or LPG. Meanwhile, 42.11 percent use a combination of two types of fuel sources. In the BPL category, 63.64 percent rely on a single type of fuel source, while 36.36 percent use two types of fuel sources.

Moving on to drinking water sources, among those in the APL category, the majority (42.11 percent) use municipal tap water. Tube wells are used by 31.58 percent, ponds by 18.18 percent, and tap water by 18.18 percent. In the BPL category, the primary source of water is tube wells (36.36 percent), followed by municipal tap water (27.27 percent), ponds (18.18 percent), and a combination of tube wells and taps (18.18 percent).

**Table:5- Benefits Provided By P.D.S. With Respect To Econ. Status (In Percentage)**

| PDS BENEFIT NO.             | APL       | BPL   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| FOOD GRAIN                  | 57.89(11) | 0     |
| KEROSENE, SUGAR, FOOD GRAIN | 0         | 90(9) |
| KEROSENE, FOOD GRAIN        | 42.11(8)  | 10(1) |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

In the above table, we can see that most of the people under APL get only food grains (57.89 percent), and some of them get the combination of kerosene and food grains (42.11 percent) which mainly consisted of wheat/flour and rice. Among the BPL most of the people get the combination of kerosene, food grain and sugar (90 percent) and some get the combination of kerosene and food grain (10 percent). The P.D.S. here is working as desired by the Govt. which is to provide sustenance food and ration supply to the poor and marginalised people of our state.

**Table:6- Ownership status with respect to population (in percentage)**

| OWNERSHIP        | MEN       | WOMEN     | ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS | OTHERS JOINT OWNERSHIP |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| RESIDENCE        | 79.31(23) | 13.79(4)  | 0                     | 6.9(2)                 |
| AGRICULTURE LAND | 83.33(15) | 5.56(1)   | 5.56(1)               | 5.56(1)                |
| LIVESTOCK        | 52.63(10) | 21.05(4)  | 21.05(4)              | 5.26(1)                |
| JEWELLERY        | 0         | 80.95(17) | 19.05(4)              | 0                      |
| VEHICLE          | 74.07(20) | 0         | 11.11(3)              | 14.81(4)               |
| CELL PHONE       | 42.31(11) | 0         | 57.69(15)             | 0                      |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

According to the above table the ownership of residence, Agriculture Land, Livestock, Vehicle, Cell Phone are mainly distributed to the men at a percentage of percent 79.31 percent, 83.33 percent, 52.63 percent, 74.07 percent, 42.31 percent respectively. 80.95 percent women handle the ownership of the jewellery. Here, all household memberships hold at livestock, vehicles, cell phones respectively at 21.05 percent, 11.11 percent, 57.69 percent respectively. Joint ownership is an important factor w.r.t vehicles, residence and agriculture at 14.81 percent , 6.9 percent, 5.56 percent respectively. For women empowerment and to maintain equality in society, ownership of the factors by women needs a dramatic increase and to overcome the traditional sense of ownership which women are mostly limited to that is Jewellery.

**Table:7- Mobility of women W.r.t. Economic status (in percentage)**

| Mobility of Women                       | APL: Allowed | APL: Not Allowed | BPL: Allowed | BPL: Not Allowed |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Allowed to go out alone                 | 73.68 (14)   | 26.32 (5)        | 81.82 (9)    | 18.18 (2)        |
| Allowed to go to market                 | 73.68 (14)   | 26.32 (5)        | 54.55 (6)    | 45.45 (5)        |
| Allowed to visit health care facilities | 89.47 (17)   | 10.53 (2)        | 81.82 (9)    | 18.18 (2)        |
| Allowed to go outside village           | 63.16 (12)   | 36.84 (7)        | 0            | 100 (11)         |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

In the above table, it can be observed that in APL (Above Poverty Line) families, women are allowed to go out alone, to markets, to healthcare facilities, and outside of the village in the following percentages: 73.68%, 73.68%, 89.47%, and 63.16%, respectively. However, shockingly, in the BPL (Below Poverty Line) families, although women are allowed to go out alone, to markets, and to healthcare facilities in percentages of 81.82%, 54.55%, and 81.82% respectively, no women in the BPL category seem to be permitted to leave the village.

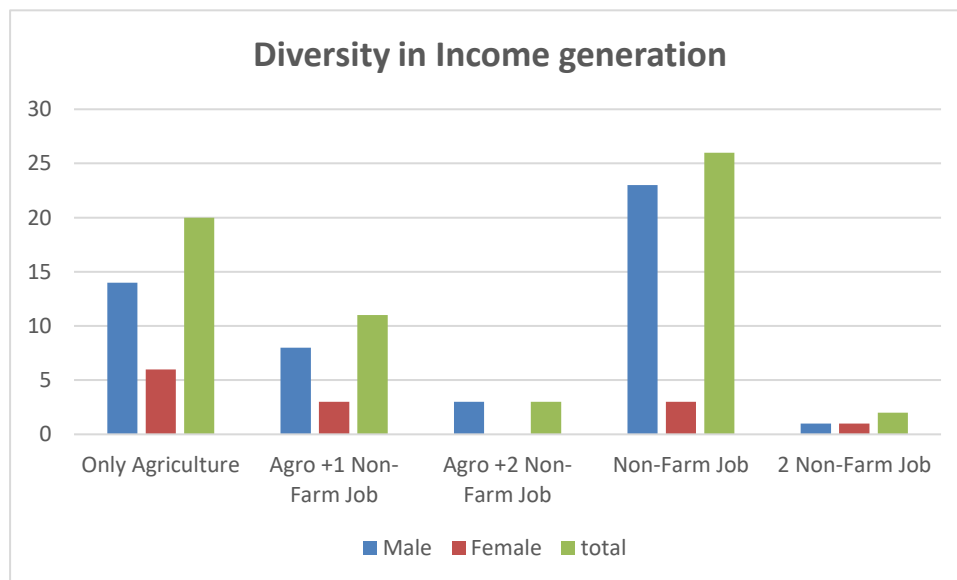
### **Occupation Status:**

Occupation status refers to an individual's current employment situation or the nature of their job. It provides insight into their professional activities and the role they play in the workforce. Occupation status can be categorized into various classifications, including employed, unemployed, self-employed, or retired. Being employed indicates that an individual has a job and is actively working for an organization or company. On the other hand, unemployment refers to a situation where an individual is without a job but is actively seeking employment opportunities. Unemployment status is often associated with efforts to secure suitable employment and can have various reasons such as economic conditions, industry changes, or personal circumstances. Occupation status serves as a key indicator of an individual's current engagement in the workforce, providing insights into their professional life, income source, and stage of career or life journey.



**Table:8- Diversity of Occupation W.r.t. Sex**

| Diversity in Income generation | Male      | Female   |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Only Agriculture</b>        | 28.57(14) | 46.15(6) |
| <b>Agro +1 Non-Farm Job</b>    | 16.33(8)  | 23.08(3) |
| <b>Agro +2 Non-Farm Job</b>    | 6.12(3)   | 0        |
| <b>Non-Farm Job</b>            | 46.94(23) | 23.08(3) |
| <b>2 Non-Farm Job</b>          | 2.04(1)   | 7.69(1)  |



SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023

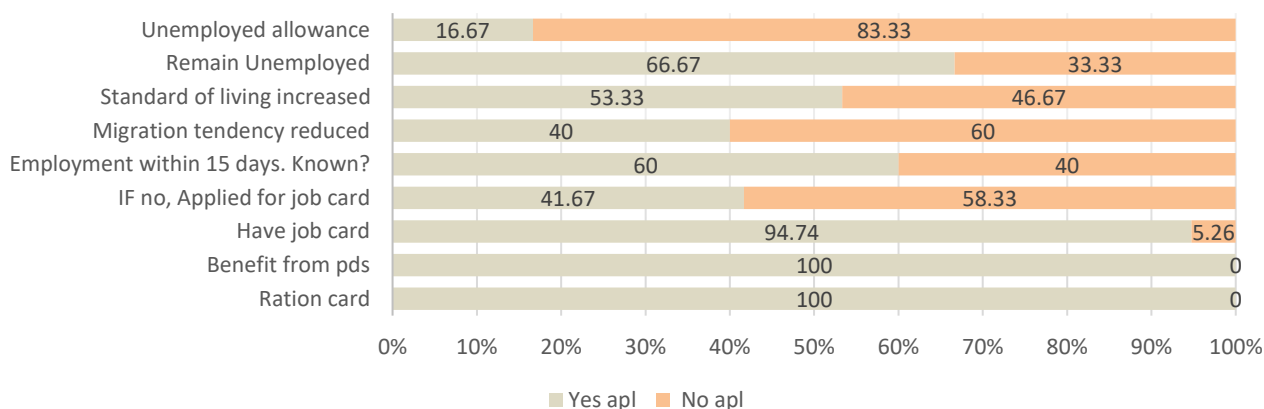
In the above table, most of the male population relates to their work with non-farm-based jobs i.e., 46.94% male and 23% female participate in this kind job. 28.57% male and 46.15 % female working population is employed in agriculture which is majority of women. Agriculture and Non-farm related jobs are both crucial for these villagers. 16.33% of male and 23.08% of the people are employed in agriculture as well as one other non-farm job. Only a few percent of male, 6.12% work under agriculture along with two types of non-farm jobs. Only around 2% of male and 7.69% of female have two types of non-farm jobs. Agriculture is the second highest place of jobs for male and first highest for women at 28% and 46% approx. There is huge lack of women who are involved in economic activities more than half of women population is dependent on their families and govt for allowances. 23 of women correspondents reported to be benefitting from govt. allowances.

## NREGA Status:

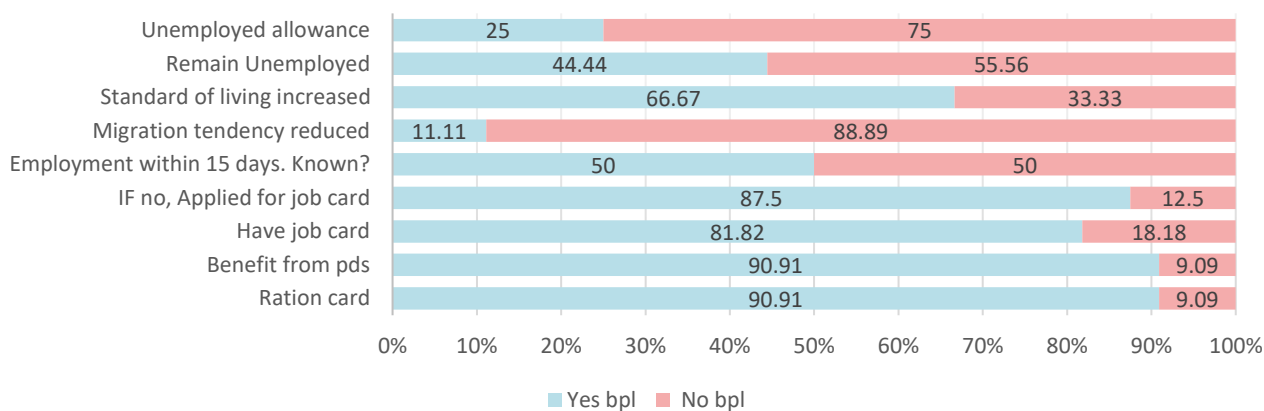
**Table:9- Overview Of NREGA Status In Orgram Village (In Percentage)**

| QUESTIONS                                       | YES       |           | NO        |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|   | APL       | BPL       | APL       | BPL      |
| <b>RATION CARD</b>                              | 100(19)   | 90.91(10) | 0         | 9.09(1)  |
| <b>BENEFIT FROM P.D.S</b>                       | 100(19)   | 90.91(10) | 0         | 9.09(1)  |
| <b>HAVE JOB CARD</b>                            | 94.74(18) | 81.82(9)  | 5.26(1)   | 18.18(2) |
| <b>IF NO JOB CARD, HAS APPLIED FOR JOB CARD</b> | 41.67(5)  | 87.5(7)   | 58.33(7)  | 12.5(1)  |
| <b>AWARENESS OF EMPLOYMENT WITHIN 15 DAYS</b>   | 60(9)     | 50(4)     | 40(6)     | 50(4)    |
| <b>MIGRATION TENDENCY REDUCED</b>               | 40(6)     | 11.11(1)  | 60(9)     | 88.89(8) |
| <b>STANDARD OF LIVING INCREASED</b>             | 53.33(8)  | 66.67(6)  | 46.67(7)  | 33.33(3) |
| <b>REMAIN UNEMPLOYED</b>                        | 66.67(10) | 44.44(4)  | 33.33(5)  | 55.56(5) |
| <b>UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE</b>                   | 16.67(2)  | 25(2)     | 83.33(10) | 75(6)    |

### OVERALL NREGA STATUS: APL



### OVERALL NREGA STATUS: BPL



**SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023**

In the above table, almost all the people from APL and BPL have ration card and they derive various benefits that are associated to it. Only a handful of BPL people (9.09 percent) don't have ration card and don't enjoy the benefits. Under APL category 94.74 percent people have job card and 81.82 percent BPL people have job card. Among them 60 percent APL people got job within 15 days, and 50 percent BPL people got job within 15 days. Because of job card migration tendency of APL people reduced approximately 40 percent and of BPL people reduced by just 11.11 percent. Which shows that for BPL category it did not help much in reducing migration. Standard of living of APL (53.33 percent) increased less than that of BPL (66.67 percent). While doing the survey we got to know that almost from 2 yrs. the work process of NREGA has been stopped due to the pandemic, which led most of them to find them new jobs, among the APL still 66.67 percent people remain unemployed and among them only 16.67 percent people get unemployed allowance and under BPL category 44.44 percent people remain unemployed and among them 25 percent people are getting unemployment allowance.

**Table:10- Type of work in Nrega With Respect to Economic Status (In Percentage)**

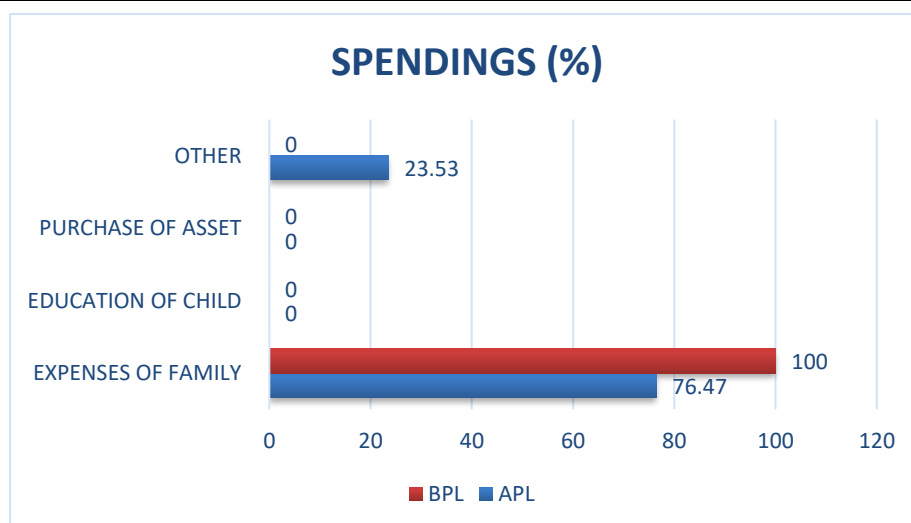
| Types of work done under NREGA                     | APL      | BPL      |
|--|----------|----------|
| DIG POND   | 6.67(1)  | 0        |
| DRAINAGE   | 0        | 11.11(1) |
| DRAINAGE, MAKING ROAD                              | 0        | 11.11(1) |
| DIG POND, MAKING ROAD, PLANTATION, DRAINAGE        | 13.33(2) | 11.11(1) |
| DIG POND, PLANTATION, DRAINAGE, MAKING ROAD, OTHER | 0        | 11.11(1) |
| DIG POND, MAKING ROAD, DRAINAGE                    | 13.33(2) | 11.11(1) |
| DIG POND, PLANTATION, DRAINAGE                     | 20(3)    | 0        |
| DIG POND, PLANTATION, DRAINAGE, OTHER              | 6.67(1)  | 0        |
| DIG POND, DRAINAGE                                 | 26.67(4) | 33.33(3) |
| DRAINAGE, OTHER                                    | 0        | 11.11(1) |
| MAKING ROAD, PLANTATION, DRAINAGE                  | 6.67(1)  | 0        |
| NO WORK  | 6.67(1)  | 0        |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

This scheme provides various types of non-technical manual jobs in the village. According to the sample data, under APL category, 6.67 percent people of sample relates only with digging pond, 13.33 percent people relates with digging pond, making road and plantation, 13.33 percent people with digging, making road and drainage and 20 percent people with digging, plantation and drainage, 6.67 percent people with digging, plantation, drainage and others, 26.67 percent people with digging pond and drainage, some (6.67 percent) with making road, plantation and drainage. Rest of the APL category (6.67 percent) do not participate in any work. Under the BPL category people do drainage (11.11 percent), drainage and making road (11.11 percent), digging pond, making road, plantation and drainage (11.11 percent), digging pond, making road and drainage (11.11 percent), digging pond and drainage (33.33 percent), drainage and other works (11.11) and some people (11.11 percent) do all the works provided under this scheme.

**Table:11- Spending Aspects of women from NREGA earnings With Respect To Economic Status (In %)**

| SPENDINGS          | APL       | BPL    |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|
| EXPENSES OF FAMILY | 76.47(13) | 100(8) |
| EDUCATION OF CHILD | 0         | 0      |
| PURCHASE OF ASSET  | 0         | 0      |
| OTHER              | 23.53(4)  | 0      |



SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

The data shows that earning from NREGA work is spent mostly on running family expenses by both APL women and BPL women in this village. Under APL category people around 76.47 percent people uses the earnings for the expenses of the family and some (23.53 percent) people uses the earnings in other purposes. Under the BPL category 100 percent people uses these earnings for the expenses of family. So, we see that, the earning of NREGA works acts as an important medium for women to continue their livelihood.

**Table:12- Type Of Benefit From NREGA With Respect To Economic Status (In Percentage)**

| TYPE OF BENEFIT                                    | APL      | BPL   |
|--|----------|-------|
| TIME SAVING  | 22.22(2) | 25(1) |
| POLLUTION CLEARING                                 | 11.11(1) | 25(1) |
| FISH, IRRIGATION                                   | 0        | 25(1) |
| FISH, IRRIGATION, TIME SAVING                      | 11.11(1) | 0     |
| IRRIGATION, TIME SAVING                            | 11.11(1) | 0     |
| TIME SAVING, POLLUTION CLEARING                    | 44.44(4) | 0     |
| TIME SAVING, POLLUTION CLEARING, GREENING AMBIENCE | 0        | 25(1) |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

As per Table 10, fish, irrigation, pollution clearing, greening ambience and time saving are the benefits that the respondents get by the scheme of NREGA works. 22.22 percent from APL and 25 percent people from BPL sample gets the benefit of time savings. Most benefits for the APL category people in the sample is a combination of time saving, and pollution clearing (44.44 percent). For BPL category people combination of time saving, pollution clearing, greening ambience (25 percent) and combination of fish and irrigation (25 percent) are equal. And rest 25 percent points out pollution clearing as the benefiting part of it. Thus, we see that, this scheme-oriented work culture ensures better usage of land and water resources of the rural regions of the country.

**Table:13- Days Of Getting NREGA Job And Payment With respect to Economic Status (In Percentage)**

| ECON. STAT | GETTING JOB    |               | GETTING PAYMENT |               |          |
|------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
|            | WITHIN 15 DAYS | AFTER 15 DAYS | WITHIN 15 DAYS  | AFTER 15 DAYS | VARIES   |
| APL        | 57.14(8)       | 42.86(6)      | 13.33(2)        | 46.67 (7)     | 40(6)    |
| BPL        | 75(6)          | 25(2)         | 33.33(3)        | 44.44(4)      | 22.22(2) |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

In table 11, it is observed that, under APL category, around 57.14 percent people get job within 15 days after applying, and around 42.86 percent people get job 15 days after applying. under BPL category, 75 percent people get job after applying within 15 days and 25 percent people get job after applying beyond 15 days. In terms of payment, under APL category, around 13.33 percent people get payment after job within 15 days and around 46.67 percent people get their payment after 15 days, and according to 40 percent people of APL category, getting payment varies from 15 days to 1 month. Under BPL category, around 33.33 percent people get their payment within 15 days, 44.44 percent people get their payment beyond 15 days and in case of 22.22 percent people, getting payment varies. So, the payment with specific time does not occur harmonically.

**Table:14- Facilities Provided In NREGA Worksite With Respect To Economic Status (In Percentage)**

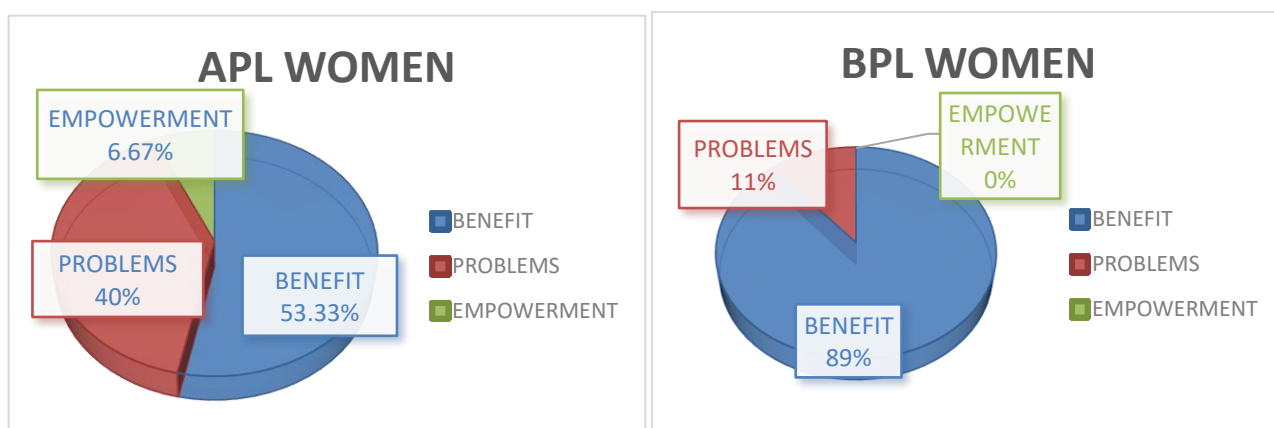
| WORK SITE FACILITIES                  | APL      | BPL      |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| DRINKING WATER                        | 6.67(1)  | 22.22(6) |
| DRINKING WATER, FIRST AID             | 40(6)    | 66.67(6) |
| DRINKING WATER, FIRST AID, CHILD CARE | 40(6)    | 11.11(1) |
| NOT AWARE                             | 13.33(2) | 0        |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

In the NREGA worksite, drinking water, first aid facilities and child care facilities are required to be provided in general. Although as we can see in the above table that Under APL category 6.67 percent people get only the facility of drinking water, 40 percent people get drinking water and first aid, 40 percent people get facilities like drinking water,

first aid and child care and rest of the people (13.33 percent) don't know about the facilities provided there. Under the BPL category 22.22 percent people get facility of drinking water, most of the BPL people (66.67 percent) get the facilities like drinking water and first aid. Almost 11.11 percent of people get the facilities of drinking water, first aid and child care. Almost all of BPL population knows about the facilities provided on the worksite yet in reality are not met with the same. These findings suggest a discrepancy between the reported provision of facilities and the actual implementation.

**Table:15- View of NREGA as a Women W.r.t. Economic Status (In %)**



| Women's View | APL      | BPL      |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| BENEFICIAL   | 53.33(8) | 88.89(8) |
| PROBLEMATIC  | 40(6)    | 11.11(1) |
| EMPOWERMENT  | 6.67(1)  | 0        |

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

Next, we tried to talk to the women of the APL households about their thoughts on the benefits they get. From the observed data we found that 53.33% of them think of that scheme to be beneficial for them, according to some 40% it is problematic for them and some 6.67% think it is necessary for women empowerment. Among the BPL women most of them 88.89% think this scheme to be beneficial, around 11.11% thinks it to be problematic. No women from BPL households seem to find the scheme empowering for them.

**Table:16- Awareness of women about NREGA with respect to population (in percentage)**

| AWARENESS OF WOMEN          | YES       | NO        |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| TAKEN PART                  | 55.56(15) | 44.44(12) |
| PROVISION MAX 100 DAYS WORK | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |
| MIN WAGES                   | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |
| EQUAL WAGES                 | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |
| WAGE PAID WITHIN 15 DAYS    | 14.29(4)  | 85.71(24) |
| WORK WITHIN 5KM             | 35.71(10) | 64.29(18) |
| 1/3RD WOMEN WORK            | 32.14(9)  | 67.86(19) |

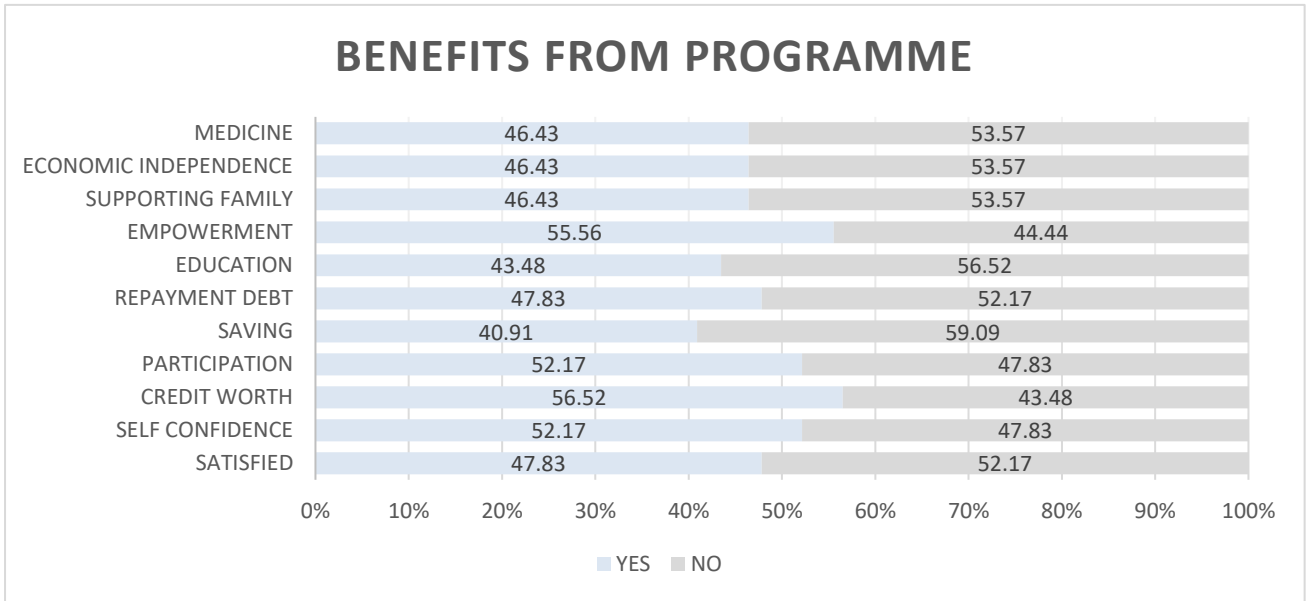
SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.

According to the data in the table, 55.56 percent of women participate in various manual jobs. Among them, 46.43 percent agree with the provision of a maximum of 100 days of work. In terms of wages, 46.43 percent of women are aware of the concept of minimum wages and believe in equal pay. Additionally, only 14.29 percent of women receive their payment within 15 days. When it comes to proximity, 35.71 percent of women have work opportunities within a 5 km radius from their residence. Interestingly, only 32.14 percent of women support the implementation of a one-third women worker policy. It is crucial to improve awareness among women for their development, as less than half of them are familiar with the provisions of the scheme.

**Table:17- Various factors related to the NREGA Scheme with respect to population (in percentage)**

| PROGRAMME                          | YES       | NO        |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| SATISFACTION                       | 47.83(11) | 52.17(12) |
| SELF CONFIDENCE                    | 52.17(12) | 47.83(11) |
| CREDIT WORTHINESS                  | 56.52(13) | 43.48(10) |
| PARTICIPATION                      | 52.17(12) | 47.83(11) |
| SAVING                             | 40.91(9)  | 59.09(13) |
| REPAYMENT DEBT                     | 47.83(11) | 52.17(12) |
| EDUCATION                          | 43.48(10) | 56.52(13) |
| EMPOWERMENT TO MEET BANK OFFICIALS | 55.56(15) | 44.44(12) |
| SUPPORTING FAMILY                  | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |
| ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE              | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |
| MEDICINE                           | 46.43(13) | 53.57(15) |





**SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY 2023.**

According to the Table, the survey results show that 47.83 percent of the respondents are satisfied with the NREGA program. Additionally, 52.17 percent of the people agree that their self-confidence has increased as a result of the scheme. Furthermore, significant percentages of respondents consent to various benefits and positive outcomes from the program: 56.52 percent agree with the increment of creditworthiness, 52.17 percent with increased participation, 40.91 percent with improved savings, 47.83 percent with better repayment of family debt, 43.48 percent with enhanced education, 55.56 percent with increased empowerment to meet bank officials, 46.43 percent with support for their families, 46.43 percent with improved economic independence, and 46.43 percent with better access to medicine.

These findings indicate that approximately half of the population enrolled in the NREGA program is experiencing tangible benefits and satisfaction. However, it is important for the government to implement and closely monitor the functioning of the NREGA schemes to address any challenges or shortcomings identified in the survey

## Conclusion

This project has provided valuable insights into various socio-economic aspects related to NREGA and the overall economic status in Orgram Village. It highlights the need for increased awareness of the NREGA scheme, particularly among women. The study identifies several issues that the government needs to address, including delayed payments, job availability within the specified time frame, Limited awareness among beneficiaries about their entitlements, leakages in the implementation process, inadequate monitoring and accountability mechanisms, inequitable distribution of benefits among marginalized sections of society (Women, SC/ST). and the non-receipt of unemployment allowances. Surprisingly, despite the legal mandate, 53% of the women respondents did not receive or were unaware of the minimum 100 days of employment.

The study also reveals that women in the village are not actively engaged in economic production, indicating the persistence of traditional thinking as a common obstacle. Additionally, the research sheds light on the various struggles faced by villagers in their challenging lives. Despite these hardships, many poor villagers hold aspirations for a better future for themselves and their children. Recognizing these aspirations emphasizes the importance of inclusive development strategies that empower and uplift marginalized communities.

The govt. needs to take a step forward to improve the implementation of NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and address the existing issues, for which the following steps can be taken:

**Awareness and Outreach:** According to the findings [Table 16](#), of the survey, it is evident that a significant percentage of women respondents approximately 61% were not aware of the benefits provided by the NREGA scheme. This highlights the urgent need to

increase awareness about the program, particularly among the rural population and marginalized communities, with a special emphasis on women. To address this issue, it is crucial to conduct regular campaigns, workshops, and awareness programs. By improving awareness, individuals can fully avail themselves of the benefits and opportunities provided by the program, contributing to their socio-economic development and empowerment.

**Timely Payment:** As per the data presented in [Table 13](#), it is observed that approx. 50% of the respondents attributed the delay in receiving wages to the government, while approximately 37% expressed uncertainty about whom to blame. These findings indicate a lack of a proper medium for timely payment. To address this issue, it becomes crucial to ensure that wages are paid promptly and directly to the workers' bank accounts. To achieve timely payments, it is essential to implement robust systems that effectively track and monitor wage disbursements. By adopting such systems, delays can be minimized, and the risk of corruption can be reduced. This requires establishing efficient mechanisms that facilitate direct transfers of wages to workers' bank accounts, bypassing any intermediaries that may contribute to delays or malpractices.

**Transparency and Accountability:** Based on the data presented in [Table 15 and Table 17](#), it is evident that although the NREGA scheme has shown some positive outcomes, it still falls short of achieving its ultimate goal of eradicating poverty and improving the standard of living in rural areas. Half of the population surveyed remains unfamiliar with the benefits of the scheme and lacks confidence in its ability to enhance their livelihoods. To address these challenges, promoting transparency and accountability in the implementation of NREGA is essential. Technology-driven platforms can play a significant role in achieving this objective. Online portals can be utilized for job

registration, attendance tracking, and wage payments, ensuring transparency and making relevant information accessible to the public.

Understanding these insights can guide policymakers, development practitioners, and society as a whole in designing more effective and inclusive strategies to alleviate poverty, promote sustainable development, and improve the well-being of struggling villagers in Orgram Village.

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