

LIVELIHOOD ANALYSIS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (DIFFERENTLY ABLED) UNDER MGNREGS



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National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
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Executive Summary

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the most progressive and social safety net instrument ever implemented in the country to recognise employment as “rights” and not as welfare intervention of the government. There were expectations that the Scheme, developed for implementation of the Act, will have a major impact on the inclusion of the marginalised in the development process. The Scheme has specified focus on “inclusive development” and different processes enshrined in the Scheme favour the inclusion of the marginalised. However, unfortunately, one specific focus of inclusive development- including the differently abled people in the workforce - has been largely ignored during the implementation of the programme.

Differently abled people are one of the largest vulnerable groups in the world and are starved of services and facilities provided to their non-disabled peers. Being differently abled, they face many challenges like lack of access to education, employment, better quality of living, etc., and their situation is even worse by the negative attitude of society. Despite various initiatives of the government, still, the fruit of benefits failed to reach the target group. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act becomes an important source of economic and employment support for persons with disabilities (PwD) in rural areas. The study reveals that though the participation of differently abled persons in the scheme is very low, yet their participation is gradually increasing day by day which depicts a positive picture. The awareness level of the differently abled has increased due to their participation in employment. The employment provided by the scheme makes them more financially secured, aware of rights and entitlements, and enable them to interact with various officials, negotiate the wage rate, participate in a various local level institution and share ideas, which in turn, enrich their self-dignity and brought down the negative attitude of the family and society. They felt that after the introduction of the scheme, there is a noticeable improvement in land development, increase in wage rate in agriculture, reduction in distress migration, improved access of rural people to wider information and a better understanding of natural resources. The study also revealed that there are some lacunas such as personal care of children, better care of infants, negative attitude of non-disabled workers which seeks kind attention of the MGNREGS officials and related service provider to ensure better participation and continue the success of the state in providing highest person-days to the rural and vulnerable poor.

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

The definition of the population with disabilities is a key element in the design of a data collection activity, for it sets the scope and coverage of the whole data collection process. From the conceptual point of view, there is no universal definition of what constitutes a disability or who should be considered as having a disability. Moreover, there is no static condition of disability. A disability is a result of the interaction between a person with a health condition and a particular environmental context. Individuals with similar health conditions may not be similarly differently abled or share the same perception of their disability, depending on their environmental adaptations. For example, having access to technical aids, services or medication, or physical adaptation to the environment may allow individuals to overcome their disabling conditions. Disability is not an all-or-nothing phenomenon but involves degrees of difficulty, limitation or dependence ranging from slight to severe. Questions should be designed to capture those with severe as well as those with less severe forms of disabling conditions and should take into account any assistive devices or accommodations that the person may have.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the most progressive and social safety net instrument ever implemented in the country to recognise employment as “rights” and not as welfare intervention of the Government. There were expectations that the Scheme developed for implementation of the Act will have a major impact on the inclusion of the marginalised in the development process. The Scheme has specified focus on “inclusive development” and different processes enshrined in the Scheme favouring the inclusion of the marginalised. However, unfortunately, one specific focus of inclusive development, including the differently abled people in the workforce, has been largely ignored in the implementation of the programme.

In India, the rights of the differently abled people are protected by **‘The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.’** The said Act defines the role of the State actors as well as the private actors concerning the differently abled people. Section 40 of the Act indicates that **“the appropriate Governments and local authorities shall reserve not less than three per cent in all poverty alleviation schemes for the benefit of persons with disabilities (PwD).”**

Operational guidelines for MGNREGS incorporate the following provision concerning this

marginalised section of the society: **“if a rural differently abled person applies for work, work suitable to his/her ability and qualifications will have to be given. This may also be in the form of services that are identified as integral to the programme. Provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, will be kept in view and implemented.”** However, unlike the case of women, there is no specific direction to the State Governments or the project implementing agencies as to the minimum percentage of employment to be reserved for the differently abled. In the absence of such a stipulation, we may presume that the minimum should positively confirm with the PWD Act, 1995.

The disabled or differently abled persons defined under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996) as persons with disabilities, the severity of which is 40 per cent and above would be considered as a special category of vulnerable persons for MGNREGA. The differently abled persons, as defined in the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999), are also to be considered as differently abled for inclusion in MGNREGA.

In 2010, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India formed several working groups to suggest improvement in the implementation of MGNREGA in the country. One such working group was on **‘Specific Needs of Special Categories under MGNREGA.’** The report, submitted in July 2010, identified the following problems concerning the differently abled people in MGNREGA:

- Non-inclusion in the MGNREGS (low coverage)
- Unfavourable work norms in MGNREGS
- Distance to worksites
- Lack of sensitivity of the delivery system towards differently abled
- Low social capital- lack of access to formal and informal organisations

The working group made the following set of recommendations for integration of the differently abled and the aged people in MGNREGS:

1. All those workers above 65 years are treated as ‘aged’.
2. The claim of the differently abled should be supported by the doctor’s certificate or by fellow workers. In case of the wrong certification, the fellow worker should be made liable to lose the job card.
3. The district administration should strive to graduate all the differently abled towards skilled status in a specific time frame.

4. In the selection of Mates, Gram Rozgar Sahayak (GRS) and Technical Assistants, the literate and/or semi-skilled persons with disabilities (PWDs) belonging to labour households be given preference.
5. A system of flexible hours should be adopted for PWDs and aged so that they can execute the work at convenient times during the day.
6. The length of actual **work time is relaxed for PWDs and aged and they may be allowed to work for 5.30 hrs a day (This is recommended based on Work Time Motion Studies undertaken by an NGO (SWADHIKAR, AP).**
7. The work norms (as per SoRs) for PWDs and age **should be reduced by 30 per cent.**
8. The PWDs and aged be given separate and independent job cards within a household. It has been observed that the households having a PWD and aged at home generally avail the benefit for a non-disabled member in the family and PWDs are not allowed to work in the site and earn. Having a separate job card will make the PWDs and aged independent for pursuing employment under the scheme if she/he chooses to do so.
9. Exclusive staff may be posted at the block and district levels for mobilisation of PWDs and to look after the special needs of the workers with disabilities. He will act as a channel between the officials/PIA and workers with disabilities and strive for creating a conducive environment for PWDs to work. He will also look after the information, communication and education (IEC) needs of PWDs. The salary and allowances of such staff may be borne out of the administrative expenses of the scheme.
10. In the matters of deciding the work and also the location of work, the PWDs and aged be allowed to exercise their choice (in a situation where different types of work are being carried out and at different locations) and priority should be given to their preferences.
11. The PWDs and aged be given travel allowances at a higher rate on a preferential basis. For the travel from the place of residence to a worksite, the travel allowance may be paid @ 10 per cent of the minimum daily wages for the initial distance up to 5 km and @ 20 per cent for above 5 km.
12. At Gram Panchayat, block, and district levels, monitoring and reporting mechanism of the works meant for PWDs and aged be put in place, and monitoring and reporting should be done on a regular and continuous basis. The present institutional arrangements in MGNREGA be strengthened/modified to accommodate this. A dedicated cell at the State and district levels and an additional PO would help in effective monitoring and coordinating with other departments.
13. In Andhra Pradesh, there is a system of providing Rs. 3 per person per man-day for mobilising PWDs in MGNREGS. The CSOs/NGOs are engaged in mobilising PWDs and the system seems to be working very well. This system may be replicated in other States. The NGOs and CSOs may also act as an implementing agency and can mobilise PWDs under this system. This suggestion is not duplicating the suggestion given at Point No.14 above. The staff to be posted at the block and district levels will be performing a job of moderator and facilitator and provide necessary intervention to facilitate a smooth work environment for PWDs and the aged.
14. A suitable shelf of works and opportunities may be created for the semi-skilled PWDs having soft and traditional skills and crafts like a computer, carpentry, masonry, etc.
15. The land owned by the PWDs be given preference in the execution of MGNREGA individual works.

16. Works that facilitate accessibility and barrier-free entry to all public places like schools, PHCs, water sources, parks, etc., should be undertaken on priority and may be included in the shelf of projects as mentioned at Point No. 11.
17. The worksite facilities must be such that it takes care of the specific needs of PWDs and the aged.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Operational Guidelines 2013 made a provision to provide wage employment to vulnerable groups and particularly it had indicated types of works to be assigned to disabled/differently abled persons of different categories of disabilities. It had mentioned certain special categories of vulnerable people who will otherwise remain excluded.

Some of the special categories are:

- Persons with disabilities
- Vulnerable Tribal Groups
- Nomadic Tribal Groups
- De-notified Tribes
- Women in special circumstances
- Senior citizens above 65 years
- HIV positive persons
- Internally displaced persons

Some of the critics State that the vulnerable groups are reluctant to work under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as there is a delay in wage payments for a period ranging from 30 to 90 days. Hence, the vulnerable groups are unable to achieve 100 days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, as they are not receiving any delay in wage compensation. Ministry of Rural Development is encouraging the implementing officials to capture the demand of the vulnerable and disadvantaged section through organising Rozgar Diwas and involving different stakeholders in the planning process through Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise – II (IPPE-II) to address the issues which promote the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections.

It is estimated that around five per cent of the population in rural areas will fall into the category of differently abled and this group is one of the most deprived and vulnerable. Depending upon the demand for the work by a differently abled/special category persons, works could be opened specifically for the differently abled and in case of large GPs with a substantial population of differently abled and vulnerable, separate works could be opened at the habitation level. (Operational Guidelines 2013, MGNREGS). Therefore, this has led to the collection of data on the percentage of differently abled persons who participated in the MGNREGS works. The website of MGNREGS shows that the percentage of differently abled who participated over the past four years in India is

only 0.64 and the States in which highest percentage of differently abled persons who participated in MGNREGS over the past four years are Andhra Pradesh (1.3 per cent) and Tripura having (1.16 per cent). As against the 5 per cent differently abled rural population in India, only 0.64 per cent has participated in MGNREGS. Therefore, it is felt necessary to study the profile of wage employment among differently abled persons in terms of minimum wage rate, 100 days of employment, types of works assigned, delay in wage payment and other relevant parameters.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Operational Guidelines 2013 specifically indicated specific types of works such as drinking water arrangements, help in looking after children, plantation, irrigation-canal digging, earth backfilling, dumping mud outside, filling sand, sprinkling water, farm bundling, etc., that can be allocated to different categories of differently abled such as persons with one weak hand, persons with weakness in both hands, persons with one weak leg, persons with weakness in both legs, persons with one weak leg and one weak hand, etc.

In this context, it is interesting to focus on the level of access to specific provisions made under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS among the vulnerable groups given the problems associated with them. Since the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has the mandate to improve the livelihoods of these vulnerable groups through special provisions, it is important to study the level of access and also its impact on strengthening their livelihoods. It is also important to study the process of involvement and measures adopted thereof. Further, it is also important to analyse the role of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in reducing the vulnerability among these groups.

The following are the **exclusive measures** for the promotion of the participation of the differently abled persons under MGNREGS:

- Identification of suitable works
- Mobilisation of differently abled persons by focusing on awareness and special provisions
- Specifically identified works for differently abled persons in the case of large GPs
- Preference to appoint as mates and as workers for providing drinking water, to manage crèches, etc., at the worksite
- Adoption of tools and equipment/facilities at workplaces
- Treating persons with disabilities with respect
- Special drive to ensure 100 days of employment to such households
- Provide special job card of a distinct colour

As much of the existing literature is not focused on this aspect, it is proposed to analyse the livelihoods among the vulnerable groups in the context of provisions and pattern and process of

access to special provisions and its impact. This in context, the present study is proposed.

Among the vulnerable groups, the differently abled persons assume more importance because of the difficulties they face in terms of their livelihoods. They also constitute an important segment in terms of promoting livelihood security, especially under the realm of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Hence, the present study, in specific, is focused on differently abled persons who registered under the

Objectives

Keeping the specifically focused vulnerable group, the objectives are

1. To study the participation profile of differently abled persons in the MGNREGS.
2. To study the livelihoods of differently abled persons with and without MGNREGS.
3. To analyse types of works assigned among various categories of differently abled persons.
4. To suggest measures for assignment of relevant works among different categories of differently abled persons to ensure their higher participation.

Hypothesis

- Implementation of all 24 specified works would enable many differently abled to participate and thereby result in higher wages for them.

Limitations

In places where disability is a stigma, people are reluctant to report it. Also, this being a very sensitive question, the investigators were being adequately trained to collect data on disabilities. To identify persons in the population with disabilities was a complex problem. Language, climate and bad roads were also some of the limitations.

Available Review of Literature

The disabled or differently abled persons defined under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996) as persons with disabilities, the severity of which is 40 per cent and above would be considered as a special category of vulnerable persons of MGNREGA. The disabled persons as defined in the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999) are also to be considered as disabled for inclusion in MGNREGA. Since these categories of

people are differently abled, special conditions are to be created to facilitate their inclusion in MGNREGA. It is estimated that around five per cent of the population in rural areas will fall into the category of differently abled and this group is one of the most deprived and vulnerable (Operational Guidelines 2013, MGNREGS).

Depending upon the demand for the work by the differently abled persons/special category persons, works could be opened specifically for the differently abled and in case of large GPs with a substantial population of differently abled and vulnerable, separate works could be opened at the habitation level. The efforts should be to ensure that the special category persons are given work close to their place of residence so that they need not travel long distances for MGNREGA works (Operational Guidelines 2013, MGNREGS).

According to Chapter - 9 (Strategy for Vulnerable Groups) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Operational Guidelines – 2013, to provide a strong social safety net for vulnerable groups under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, extra efforts need to be made for certain special categories of vulnerable people who will otherwise remain excluded. Some of the special categories are: i) Persons with disabilities ii) Primitive Tribal Groups iii) Nomadic Tribal Groups iv) De-notified Tribes v) Women in special circumstances vi) Senior citizens above 65 years of age vii) HIV positive person viii) Internally displaced person ix) Rehabilitated bonded labour. Women in special circumstances include widowed women, deserted women and destitute women who are highly vulnerable and require special attention. The GP should identify such women and ensure that they are provided 100 days of work. Pregnant women and lactating mothers (at least up to 8 months before delivery and 10 months after 80 Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Operational Guidelines 2013 delivery) should also be treated as a special category. Special works that require less effort and are close to their house should be identified and implemented for them. At least one labour-intensive public work with at least one work which is suitable for Particularly Vulnerable Groups especially the aged and the differently abled which shall be kept open at all times to provide work as per demand.

K. P. Kumaran (2013) in his report concluded that the current level of work participation of the differently abled population either in the skilled or unskilled employment sector is very low despite the protective measures extended through the Disability Act, 1995. One of the reasons for low participation is due to the social and environmental barriers erected around them. But the introduction of MGNREGS heralded a new chapter in the history of wage employment for the differently abled. The sample-based study showed that many of those differently abled who were hitherto denied or deprived of employment in the unskilled sector got an opportunity to take up wage employment for the first time in their life and earn a modest income. The study revealed that those

who suffered not only from locomotors disability but non-locomotors disability also undertook wage employment. However, the national-level data, considering the total population of the differently abled, showed that the number of them engaged in MGNREGS is too small. Considering their vulnerability, physical and mental condition there is a need to provide a conducive working environment by discounting of work norms to attract them into MGNREGS work. Such an action will help the differently abled to realise their potential and contribute their mite in the nation-building. Nidhi Vij (2012) in the paper “Empowering the marginalised: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India” analyses the policy provisions, implementation and monitoring mechanism of MGNREGA to argue that policy designs with legally enforceable mechanisms and collaborative governance systems can lead to the empowerment of the marginalised sections.

Rebecca Holmes’ (2010) study on gendered risk, poverty and vulnerability analysis of MGNREGA through a gender lens highlights specific progressive gender-sensitive design features which support women’s participation in employment – through the one-third quota, the provision of equal wages for women and men through the Equal Remuneration Act and the promotion of women’s active engagement in the planning and evaluation of community assets through, for example, the social audit forums. However, our findings also suggest that both the conceptual design of NREGA and its implementation need to be strengthened to further support gender-equitable outcomes of the Act.

Work Participation by Persons with Disabilities

In India, it is a fair presumption that PwDs are not seen as human resources who could contribute and participate in nation-building. Their talent, skills and potential mostly remain untapped, under-utilised or underdeveloped. Further, the education and employment rates for persons with disabilities are far lower than the non-disabled persons. The opportunities for PwDs to earn are less while their expenses are more, which results in them remaining one of the more impoverished communities in India. Even though the country is clocking an average annual GDP growth rate of 8.45 per cent (2004-2011) and employment opportunities have increased in the last two decades, the percentage of persons with disabilities fell from 43 per cent in 1991 to 38 per cent in 2002 despite the galloping economic growth. According to the employment projections given in the Eleventh Plan, an estimated 116 million employment opportunities would be created in the 11th and 12th Plan periods. The unemployment rate at the end of the 12th plan period is projected to fall a little over 1 per cent. Further, a Skill Development Mission was launched during the 11th Five-Year plan, which envisions creating 500 million skilled workers by 2022. However, slow progress can be seen in the 11th plan period to achieve these targets vis-a-vis person with disabilities and as a result, the inequality gap is steadily increasing.

A recent draft of the Social Assessment Report 14 on National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) mentions, ‘some groups are more disadvantaged than others. The analysis shows clearly that Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, some religious minorities such as Muslims, women, and people with disabilities are amongst the poorest groups.’ It further accepts the fact that the differently abled or physically/mentally challenged often have limited access to education, employment and public services. Some barriers to their inclusion are physical, such as the inaccessibility buildings or transport while others may be institutional (e.g. discriminatory practices) and attitudinal (e.g. the stigma attached to persons who are HIV+ and suffering from AIDS).

PwDs face serious barriers in getting jobs. Unequal access to education and training programmes is a major challenge that needs to be resolved on a priority basis. Then, they must be able to learn about jobs and obtain it, which they can physically access and perform despite their disability. They also face social and psychological barriers - ignorance, myths, prejudice, stereotyping and misconceptions about their capacities, acceptance by fellow workers, low self-esteem, fear and over-protective families. Bringing about changes to the existing infrastructure is a key for improving access to the physically disabled as employers are also often reluctant to provide accessibility and supportive facilities. In general, there is little legislative support for the differently abled, and where protective laws exist, they may be poorly enforced. Technology may provide support in certain areas – for example, computers and the Internet could help those with mobility or communication difficulties, but these have to be made available consciously to poor people (De Marco, 2009). For incorporating the differently abled people in the NRLP, these technologies would be required whereas other issues should be squarely addressed.

While mentioning the strategies, the report emphasises that PwDs face immense challenges and both poverty reduction and human rights programmes have a lot of ground to cover. Community Driven Development Programmes (CDDP) have typically addressed disability through sub-project level interventions that are geared towards vulnerable groups such as the differently abled, elderly or children/youth at risk. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (APRPRP) applied the principles of participation and voice in organising differently abled people into self-help groups (SHGs) and federations. The project links these SHGs to the wider community and other stakeholders. It aims to empower and build the social capital of differently abled people so that they can effectively articulate their interests and needs, and participate actively in the development of options to address these. In the context of livelihood projects, training programmes are a significant step that could help improve their situations. A useful package for PwDs would be vocational guidance and skills training, and entrepreneurship development or employment placement.

The picture is not very encouraging in the non-government arena as very few NGOs are

working in the field of livelihood for PwDs. Further, whatever little is happening in the area of livelihood options for PwDs is hardly being shared; thus minimising the chances of replication of good practices from the field. The documentation of such initiatives to further nationwide emulation thus becomes the need of the hour. Learning regarding what works and what does not work could be most valuable to avoid reinventing the wheel. There is also a need to develop a basic understanding of the diversity and heterogeneity of PwDs concerning designing livelihood options. Diversity in categories of PwDs poses immense challenges in planning livelihood strategies in a compartmentalised manner. The methodology of doing the same work could be different for different categories. This may call for either remodelling the workplace or redesigning machine tools or both.

Legislative Frameworks in India

The legislative provisions around disability in India are managed by four different laws, which govern different and varied aspects of disability.

a. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, 1992

The Rehabilitation Council of India was set up under the 1992 Act of the Parliament. The Council regulates and monitors the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel, and promotes research in rehabilitation and special education.

b. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995

This is the main Act concerning disability in the country. It provides for education, rehabilitation, employment, non-discrimination and social security for persons with disabilities. It ensures a three per cent reservation for PwDs in poverty alleviation programmes as well as in certain job categories. It casts obligations on the central government, State governments and local authorities to ensure full citizenship benefits to PwDs.

c. National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999

This Act is concerned with enabling and empowering PwDs to live independently and as fully and close to their community as possible, to evolve procedures for appointments of guardians and trustees for PwDs, to extend support to registered organisations to provide need-based services, to facilitate the realisation of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of PwDs.

d. Mental Health Act, 1987

Mental illness is one of the disabilities mentioned in the PwD Act of 1995. However, treatment and care of mentally ill persons are governed by this Act, which is administered by the Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare. It is largely concerned with the regulation of admission to mental hospitals, the appointment of guardianship or custody of mentally ill persons who are incapable of managing their affairs, providing legal aid to mentally ill persons on state expense and also regulating and management of psychiatric hospitals across the country.

Policy Framework and Government Schemes

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006

The National Policy recognises that PwDs are a valuable human resource for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society. It is in spirit with the basic fundamental rights of equality and freedom that are enshrined in the Constitution of India. It mandates an inclusive society for all and recognises the fact that a majority of persons with disabilities can lead to a better quality of life if they have equal opportunities and effective access to rehabilitation measures.

Poverty Reduction Schemes

There are several livelihood schemes or poverty reduction schemes as they are popularly called. Some of these schemes provide three per cent reservation for PwDs as a means to livelihood and hence are incorporated in the study to assess the status. Brief details of these schemes are given below.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

The objective of SGSY is to bring the assisted families above the poverty line within three years by providing them income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The rural poor such as those with land, landless labour, educated-unemployed, rural artisans and differently abled are covered under the scheme. The assisted families known as Swarozgaris can be either individuals or groups and would be selected from BPL families by a three-member team consisting of the Block Development Officer, a banker and the Sarpanch.

The SGSY will focus on vulnerable sections of the rural poor. Accordingly, SCs/STs will account for at least 50 per cent, women 40 per cent and the differently abled three per cent of those assisted. SHGs under SGSY may consist of 10 to 20 persons belonging to BPL families. In the case of minor irrigation and the case of differently abled persons, this number may be a minimum of five persons. The group shall not comprise more than one member of the same family. A person should not be a member of more than one group.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels. The secondary objective is the creation of a durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in rural areas. The programme is to be implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 of the cash component of the programme. In the case of Union Territories (UTs), the Centre provides the entire (100 per cent) funding required under the scheme. Foodgrains are provided to the States/UTs free of cost. The SGRY is open to all the rural poor who require wage employment and wish to do manual and unskilled work in and around their village/habitat. The programme is self-targeting in nature. While providing wage employment, preference is given to agricultural wage earners, non-agricultural unskilled wage earners, marginal farmers, women, SCs/STs and parents of child labourers withdrawn from hazardous occupations, and parents of handicapped children or adult children of handicapped parents who are desirous of working for wage employment.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. In the guidelines, the “Allocation of Employment Opportunities” section states that, “If a rural disabled person applies for work, work suitable to his/her ability and qualifications will have to be given. This may also be in the form of services that are identified as integral to the programme.” Provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 will be kept in view and implemented.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

The SJSRY seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor by encouraging self-employment ventures, or by providing wage employment. This programme relies upon the creation of suitable community structures and the delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of such community structures. The scheme rests on a foundation of community empowerment. Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), Neighbourhood Committees (NHCs) and Community Development Societies (CDSs) shall be set up in the target areas. The CDSs shall be the focal point for the identification of beneficiaries, preparation of applications, monitoring

of recovery and for the provision of whatever other support is generally necessary for the effectiveness of the programme. The CDSs will also identify viable projects suitable for that particular area. The target group is the urban public living below the poverty line. The percentage of women beneficiaries under this programme shall not be less than 30 per cent; SCs and STs must be benefited at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the local population. A special provision of three per cent shall be reserved for the differently abled under this programme.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

The Government of India has approved the introduction of a new credit linked subsidy programme called the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by merging two schemes, namely the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), for the generation of employment opportunities through the establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas. PMEGP will be a central sector scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will implement the scheme. Its objectives are:

- To generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through the setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro-enterprises.
- To bring together widely dispersed traditional artisans/rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities to the maximum extent possible, at their place.
- To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans and rural and urban unemployed youth in the country, to help arrest the migration of rural youth to urban areas.
- To increase the wage-earning capacity of artisans and contribute to the growth rate of rural and urban employment.

The guidelines mention inclusion of PwDs as follows:

Categories of beneficiaries under PMEGP - General Category and Special including SC/ST/OBC/ Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas, etc.

The Institutions/Production Cooperative Societies/Trusts specifically registered as such and SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Institutions with necessary provisions in the bye-laws to that effect are eligible for Margin Money (subsidy) for the special categories.

What is the impact of MGNREGA work on the incomes and livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable households?

Studies reveal that MGNREGA has helped rural households (HHs) in a sustained manner to smooth consumption between the agricultural peak season and lean season. Klonner and Oldiges (2013, 2014) report in their research that the poverty gap between Phase I and Phase II districts has decreased. Among SC/ST households, both Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts experienced a decline in inequality with the effect being more for Phase 1 districts. The authors used a fuzzy regression discontinuity design to estimate programme effects using NSSO data and also presented a detailed descriptive analysis from 2003 to 2011. They constructed a district-wise panel and found that while there were no statistically significant differences for all rural households, the vulnerable households as a sub-set showed statistically significant large effects on consumption and consumption-based poverty measures for the agriculture lean season while no such effect was revealed in the agriculture peak season. This demonstrates two significant results: Firstly, the poor and the vulnerable are indeed ‘targeting’ themselves and secondly, the programme is smoothening consumption for these households. Therefore, the main conclusion of their study is that the programme has been successful not only in increasing consumption levels of particularly vulnerable HHs but also in reducing these HHs’ exposure to the risk of seasonal drops in consumption. The pattern of these effects is consistent with the pattern of MGNREGS expenditure.

According to the authors, the Act appears to have successfully delivered on its two goals, improving livelihood security and reaching out to most vulnerable rural inhabitants. They substantiate their findings with similar analysis by Ravi and Engler (2009), which used a smaller dataset but a robust analysis; Liu and Deninger (2013) who used a panel data for 4,000 households and Bose (2013) who also used NSS data, but the DiD method for analysis. Further, some research focused on the effect of rainfall deficit on participation in MGNREGA and found a negative relationship between the amount of deficit in the rainfall and MGNREGA participation, concluding that MGNREGA has been used by farmers for income smoothing.

Similarly, in a search study conducted in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Johnson (2009) used secondary data provided by the Andhra Pradesh government to estimate the responsiveness of programme participation to changes in rainfall. In order to control other potential direct impacts of rainfall on participation, the author analysed the impact of rainfall in each agricultural season on NREGA participation in the following non-agricultural (lean) season, the assumption being that NREGA participation in the lean season would increase after a particularly bad agricultural season. Regression estimates of the impact of rainfall (as measured by different weather indicators) on wages

per working-age adult were done. The findings support the conclusion from other studies that non-normative rainfall during the agricultural season leads to higher overall participation in NREGA programmes during the following lean season and vice versa; good weather leads to lower participation levels. This study too confirmed the impact of MGNREGS as a risk-mitigating mechanism for households.

In a robust econometric analysis, Zimmerman (2014) showed the labour-market impacts of MGNREGS. Firstly, in a household time allocation model, the author shows that the flexibility in demand allows households to use the programme 'both as an alternative form of employment and as a safety net after economic shocks.' The author used a regression-discontinuity design to estimate the programme's effects to suggest that MGNREGS is used more as a safety net rather than as an alternative form of employment. The author estimated a base model which did not include MGNREGA and later introduced MGNREGA in the second model specification. However, it must be noted that the presence of a safety net influenced a household's decision on several parameters. The author concludes, "Overall, these results suggest that MGNREGA is ineffective at raising private-sector casual wages through increased competitiveness in rural labour markets or better enforcement of minimum wage laws. The programme seems to work better at providing a safety net for rural populations." That MGNREGS works as a safety net has been addressed with different implications. Evidence shows that MGNREGS, as a safety net, has affected cropping decisions, alternative employments and an increase in the productivity of the land.

A study by the independent research consulting organisation, Sambodhi Research Organisation, was primarily undertaken to evaluate the effects of the creation of assets on lands of small and marginal farmers, SCs/STs and IAY beneficiaries in the six States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The study not only confirmed that MGNREGA work on individual beneficiaries' lands has had a significant impact on improving the quality of their land and generating extra incomes but that this has also aided small and marginal farmers in moving to dual and multi-cropping and in creating alternative sources of livelihood for these households. Similar evidence is provided by Gehreke (2013), who demonstrates that households with access to MGNREGA found an increase in the share of inputs allocated to more profitable crops. According to the author, MGNREGA, by enabling a shift to high risk-profitable crops, raised incomes of small marginal farmers.

There have been frequent references in popular media and in perceptions that MGNREGS has led to the casualisation of labour and non-farm work. Based on multivariate analyses, Jatav and Sen (2013) report two major findings. One, that though non-farm employment in rural areas is primarily

distress-driven, there are some significant entry barriers for rural workers in the non-farm sector in terms of education, age and gender. The authors emphasise the importance of the scheme and indicate that the crisis of joblessness in rural labour markets would have been more acute without it. Liu and Deninger (2013; presented in 2014) looked at the short and medium-term impacts of MGNREGS employment on various development indicators in Andhra Pradesh, which is widely credited with a good performance record. As the authors acknowledge, this clearly shows the potential of MGNREGA if implemented with administrative commitment. The authors find that in the short-term, participants' caloric and protein intakes increased, indicating that one of the most important immediate effects of MGNREGS employment was an improvement in participants' food security and nutrition. Medium-term effects, on the other hand, seemed to centre on more generalised investments, particularly the accumulation of land. Overall, participants from SC and ST households as well as those who relied on casual labour benefited the most from MGNREGS employment. Interestingly, the authors report that, "We also do not find evidence that the MGNREGS program discourages other forms of employment, as has been suggested by the program's critics. We find that in Andhra Pradesh, increased expenditures on the MGNREGS program translate almost directly into an increase in additional employment opportunities."

As such, not many studies are focused on the issue of vulnerable groups (differently abled persons) in terms of accessing the livelihood opportunities in the context of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Hence, the study has been taken up to address the issues and concerns of the differently abled persons.

CHAPTER – II

PROFILE OF STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the procedure adopted in the identification of State, districts and Gram Panchayat and methodology followed are presented in detail.

According to the Census 2001, there were approximately 22 million persons with disabilities in India who constituted 2.13 per cent of the total population. They include persons with visual, hearing, speech, locomotor and mental disabilities. However, according to the World Bank Report 2009, approximately 6 per cent of the Indian population has some form of disability. To top it up, the World Health Organisation (WHO) figure is started at 10 per cent of the total population.

In India, out of the 121 crore population (As per the Census 2011), 2.68 crore are differently abled (2.21 per cent of the total population) (Table 2.1). Among the differently abled population, 56 per cent (1.5 crore) are males and 44 per cent (1.18 crore) are females. In the total population, the male and female populations are 51 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively. A majority (69 per cent) of the differently abled population resided in rural areas (1.86 crore persons in rural areas and .81 per cent in urban areas). In the case of the total population also, 69 per cent are from the rural area while the remaining 31 per cent resided in urban areas.

Table 2.1: Differently abled population in India - Census 2011

Social Group	Population, India 2011 (in crores)			Differently abled persons, India 2011 (in crores)		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	121.08	62.32	58.76	2.68	1.5	1.18
SC	20.14	10.35	9.79	0.49	0.28	0.215
ST	10.45	5.25	5.20	0.21	0.114	0.10
Other	90.49	46.72	43.77	1.97	1.11	0.87

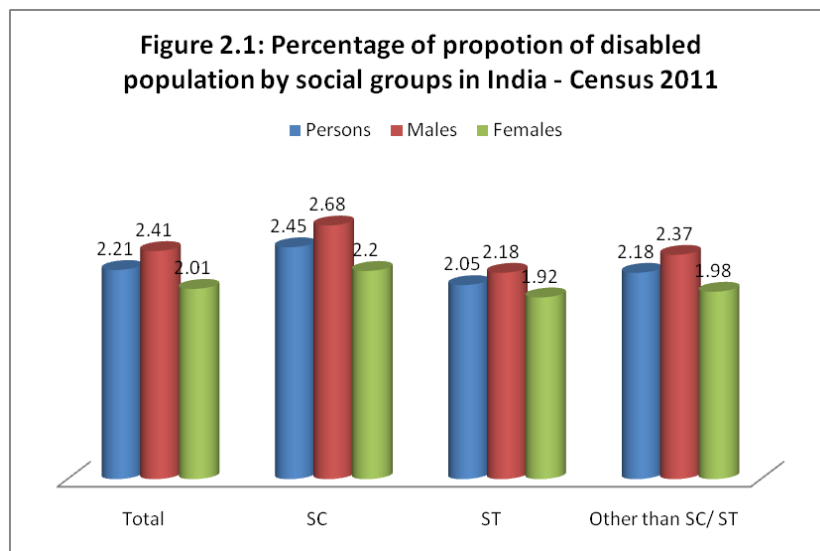
Source: Disabled persons in India – A statistical profile 2016 (www.mospi.gov.in)

Table 2.2: Percentage of proportion of differently abled population by social total population of India - Census 2011

Social Group	Share of Differently abled persons in total population	Share of Males	Share of Females
Total	2.21	2.41	2.01
SC	2.45	2.68	2.2
ST	2.05	2.18	1.92
Other than SC/ ST	2.18	2.37	1.98

Source: Disabled persons in India – A statistical profile 2016 (www.mospi.gov.in)

The percentage of the differently abled population among males and females is 2.41 per cent and 2.01 per cent, respectively. At all-India level as well as disaggregated by various social groups, the proportion of differently abled in the corresponding population is higher for males than females. Pursuant of Table 2.2, it is observed that the share of differently abled in male (2.68 per cent) and female (2.2 per cent) population is higher among the Scheduled Castes (SC) than the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other than SC/ST (Refer Figure 2.1).



India has a total of 2.6 crore differently abled population of which, the highest differently abled is in the category of speech (20.3 per cent) followed by hearing (18.9 per cent), seeing (18.8 per cent) and mental illness (18.4 per cent). However, the share of mental illness (2.7 per cent) and mental retardation (5.6 per cent) is comparatively low. (Table: 2.3)

In the case of Tripura district, disability recorded under category of any other (18.4 per cent), hearing (18.2 per cent), movement (18.2 per cent) and seeing (16.8 per cent) is highest. The lowest disability is noticed in mental illness (4.5 per cent) followed by mental retardation (6.7 per cent) and speech (7.1 per cent). The order of preference of differently abled under the categories of hearing, speech and movement can achieve the desired task under MGNREGS rather than the other categories of differently abled.

Dhalai is the study district identified for examining the provisions provided to the differently abled population in Tripura State. It is estimated that around five per cent of the population in rural areas will fall into the category of differently abled and this group is one of the most deprived and vulnerable. Depending upon the demand for the work by a differently abled person/special category persons, works could be opened specifically for the differently abled, and in the case of large GPs with a substantial population of differently abled and vulnerable, separate works could be opened at the habitation level (Operational Guidelines 2013, MGNREGS). Therefore, this has led to the

compilation of data on the percentage of differently abled persons who participated in the MGNREGS works and the website of MGNREGS provides that the percentage of differently abled who participated over the past four years in India is only 0.64 and the States in which highest percentage of differently abled persons who participated in MGNREGS over the past four years are Andhra Pradesh (1.3 per cent) and Tripura (1.16), respectively. As against 5 per cent differently abled rural population in India, only 0.64 per cent differently abled have participated in MGNREGS. Therefore, it is felt necessary to study the profile of wage employment among differently abled persons in terms of minimum wage rate, 100 days' employment, types of works assigned, delay in

Table 2.3: Number of differently abled persons (disability-wise) as per Census 2011

S. No.	State	No. of disabled population as per Census 2011	No. of Differently abled Persons (Disability-wise)							
			Seeing	Hear- ing	Speech	Move- ment	Mental Retarda- tion	Mental Illness	Any Other	Multiple Disabil- ity
1	Andhra Pradesh	2266607	398144	334292	219543	538934	132380	43169	409775	190370
2	Arunachal Pradesh	26734	5652	8127	1538	3235	1264	631	3878	2409
3	Assam	480065	80553	101577	39750	76007	26374	18819	87461	49524
4	Bihar	2331009	549080	572163	170845	369577	89251	37521	431728	110844
5	Chhattis- garh	624937	111169	92315	28262	190328	33171	20832	76903	71957
6	Delhi	234882	30124	34499	15094	67383	16338	10046	37013	24385
7	Goa	33012	4964	5347	5272	5578	1817	1675	5784	2575
8	Gujarat	1092302	214150	190675	60332	245879	66393	42037	197725	75111
9	Haryana	546374	82702	115527	21787	116026	30070	16191	116821	47250
10	Himachal Pradesh	155316	26076	26700	8278	32550	8986	5166	29024	18536
11	J&K	361153	66448	74096	18681	58137	16724	15669	66957	44441
12	Jharkhand	769980	180721	165861	46684	147892	37458	20157	112372	58835
13	Karnataka	1324205	264170	235691	90741	271982	93974	20913	246721	100013
14	Kerala	761843	115513	105366	41346	171630	65709	66915	96131	99233
15	Madhya Pradesh	1551931	270751	267361	69324	404738	77803	39513	295035	127406
16	Maharash- tra	2963392	574052	473271	473610	548418	160209	58753	510736	164343

17	Manipur	54110	18226	10984	2504	5093	4506	1405	8050	3342
18	Mizoram	15160	2035	3354	1163	1976	1585	1050	1914	2083
19	Meghalaya	44317	6980	12353	2707	5312	2332	2340	8717	3576
20	Nagaland	29631	4150	8940	2294	3828	1250	995	4838	3336
21	Odisha	1244402	263799	237858	68517	259899	72399	42837	172881	126212
22	Punjab	654063	82199	146696	24549	130044	45070	21925	165607	37973
23	Rajasthan	1563694	314618	218873	69484	427364	81389	41047	199696	211223
24	Sikkim	18187	2772	5343	1577	2067	516	513	2459	2940
25	Tamil Nadu	1179963	127405	220241	80077	287241	100847	32964	238392	92796
26	Tripura	64346	10828	11695	4567	11707	4307	2909	11825	6508
27	Uttar Pradesh	4157514	763988	1027835	266586	677713	181342	76603	946436	217011
28	Uttarakhand	185272	29107	37681	12348	36996	11450	6443	30723	20524
29	West Bengal	2017406	424473	315192	147336	322945	136523	71515	402921	196501
30	A&N Islands	6660	1084	1219	531	1593	294	364	838	737
31	Chandigarh	14796	1774	2475	961	3815	1090	756	2583	1342
32	Daman & Diu	2196	382	309	149	620	176	89	264	207
33	D&N Haveli	3294	429	715	201	682	180	115	483	489
34	Lakshadweep	1615	337	224	73	361	112	96	183	229
35	Puducherry	30189	3608	6152	1824	9054	2335	853	4137	2226
	Total	26810557	5032463	5071007	1998535	5436604	1505624	722826	4927011	2116487

Source: <http://disabilityaffairs.gov.in>

In total, there are 8202 differently abled in the study district. The highest number of differently abled persons was noticed under the ortho category (3540) followed by locomotor (860). A similar phenomenon was noticed in two blocks, i.e. Chawmanu and Manu blocks. (Table-2.5)

Table 2.4: No. of differently abled persons (block-wise)

State	Total disabled population as per the Social Welfare Department	No. of Differently Abled Persons (Disability-wise)									
		Visual	Hearing	Mental	Ortho	Multiple	Mental Illness	Locomotor	Hearing Impairment	Blindness	Low Vision
Chawmanu	632	43	31	28	374	19	3	50	57	25	2
Manu	1697	189	183	140	656	71	10	191	147	89	21
Dhalai	8202	851	753	634	3540	368	63	860	644	385	104

Based on the secondary data available on the website (www.nrega.nic.in) for four years (i.e. 2012-13 to 2015-16), the employment provided for differently abled under MGNREGS was analysed and presented in Table 2.5. Table 2.5 reveals that out of 30 States and a few Union Territories, five States have provided them highest per cent of employment. Of these, States like Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal have also provided them considerable per cent of employment. However, consistency in employing the differently abled is noticed in States like Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. Besides the higher percentage of work provided to them, other factors such as consistency, difficult terrain conditions and several studies conducted were also considered in identifying Tripura as the study area. Hence, the study was carried out in Tripura, having the highest percentage of differently abled persons participated in MGNREGS over the past four years, i.e. 1.16 (next to Andhra Pradesh 1.30).

Table 2.5: Percentage of differently abled persons employed in different States and Union Territories under MGNREGS

S. No.	State/UT	Percentage of differently abled persons worked			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.24	1.35	1.35	1.27
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
3	Assam	0.15	0.16	0.12	0.18
4	Bihar	0.19	0.18	0.2	0.16
5	Chhattisgarh	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.53
6	Goa	0	0.02	0.03	0.03
7	Gujarat	1.22	1.09	0.85	0.76
8	Haryana	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.08
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.27	0.24	0.21	0.23
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0.68	0.73	0.43	0.61
11	Jharkhand	0.28	0.29	0.35	0.35
12	Karnataka	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.17
13	Kerala	0.1	0.11	0.12	0.12
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.14	0.56	0.66	0.85
15	Maharashtra	0.74	0.89	0.9	0.84
16	Manipur	0.12	0.19	0.18	0.18
17	Meghalaya	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
18	Mizoram	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
19	Nagaland	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
20	Odisha	0.15	0.14	0.16	0.17
21	Punjab	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.13
22	Rajasthan	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.11
23	Sikkim	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.17
24	Tamil Nadu	0.71	0.93	0.95	0.88
25	Telangana	0	0	1.42	1.4
26	Tripura	1.21	1.17	1.16	1.11
27	Uttar Pradesh	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.2
28	Uttarakhand	0.09	0.1	0.11	0.13
29	West Bengal	1.21	1.21	1.07	1.01
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.31	0.28	0.27	0.37
31	Lakshadweep	0.72	0.64	2.03	2.7
32	Puducherry	0.17	0.07	0.19	0.08
33	India	0.57	0.66	0.67	0.65

Similar criteria were followed in the selection of a district and two blocks. From the Dhalai district, two blocks such as Chawmanu and Manu were selected and from each block, adequate number of differently abled persons was selected as the participation of this category of the vulnerable group was less. In pursuance of Table 2.6, the number of differently abled persons registered in MGNREGS is highest in Manu block (784 out of 1500 differently abled population) followed by Chawmanu (589 out of 1500 differently abled population) block. In Chawmanu block, only 50 per cent of the differently abled job cardholders have got employment opportunities under MGNREGS work while in Manu block, only 52 per cent of the job cardholders could work in MGNREGS project. The study covered 100 PwD beneficiaries of MGNREGS covering an average of 50 persons per block. Besides, 20 non-beneficiary respondents were also interviewed from the two blocks.

Table 2.6: Status of MGNREGS in Dhalai district: Person-days generated in FY 2012-13 to 2016-17 for differently abled persons

Block	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Cumulative HHs (2012-13 to 2016-17)
Ambassa	74	67	13	12	13	179
Chawmanu	334	368	361	294	258	1615
Dumburnagar	50	115	73	115	137	490
Durgachowmuhani	36	33	37	46	52	204
Ganganagar			4	0	0	4
Manu	521	485	528	413	448	2395
Raishyabari	0	0	34	41	40	115
Salema	202	188	178	185	181	934
Total	1217	1256	1228	1106	1129	5936

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Instruments used to achieve the objectives:

A pre-structured schedule was developed to collect the primary data from the vulnerable groups and focus group discussions. Secondary data were collected from the official records available with District Programme Coordinator, Programme Officer, and Gram Panchayat, etc. Copy of schedule is placed as **Annex – I**.

Profile of the State:

Tripura is the third smallest State in the country next to Goa and Sikkim, having a geographical area of 10,491 km². The State has eight districts and 58 blocks. As per the Census 2011, the State has 0.3 per cent (36.71 lakh) of the country's population. Around 75 per cent of the population resides in rural areas. The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes represent, respectively, 32 per cent and



around 18 per cent of the total population. The sex ratio is 960 (females per 1000 males) while the national ratio is only 943. The literacy rate of the State was around 88 per cent and as per the latest report is around 97 per cent (2016). The temperature of the State ranges from 7°C during winter and 20-36°C in summer. Forests cover more than half of the geographical area, in which bamboo and cane tracts are common. Due to its geographical isolation, economic progress in the State is hindered. Poverty and unemployment continue to plague Tripura, which has limited infrastructure and slow industrialisation.

Tripura government's independent assessment based on consumption distribution data reported that in 2001, 55 per cent of the rural population was below the poverty line.

Tripura is an agrarian State with more than half of the population dependent on agriculture and allied activities, although the service sector is the largest contributor to the State's GDP. As per SECC data, the State records 2.11 lakh landless casual labourers. Due to hilly terrain and forest cover, only 27 per cent of the land is available for cultivation. Rice occupies 91 per cent of the cropped area followed by potato, sugarcane, mesta, pulses and jute crop. Traditionally, most of the indigenous population practised Jhum method (a type of slash and burn) of cultivation. However, dependency on Jhum is declining over the years (<https://wikipedia.org>).

District profile:

Located in the north-eastern part of Tripura, the district covers an area of about 2426 sq km. It is mainly located between two hills, namely Atharamura Range and Sakhan Range. More than 70 per cent of the area is hilly and forest-covered.

The terrain is mostly undulating and hilly with small water streams (*chharas*), rivers and fertile valleys intervening. Major rivers originating from Dhalai are Dhalai, Khowai, Gomati and Manu. Major hills are Atharamura, Longtharai, Kalajhari and part of Sakhan. The district headquarters at Ambassa is located at a distance of about 85 km from the State capital Agartala.

It is connected through National Highway (NH-44) and takes around two-three hours to reach the district headquarters from Agartala. In January 2015, broad gauge rail link has been established at Ambassa. The district is bordered by Bangladesh on the northern and southern sides.

The district has tropical climate with hot and humid summers, a prolonged rainy season and warm winters. Maximum temperature in summers and winters is 36 degrees Celsius and 28 degrees Celsius, respectively. The minimum temperature in summers and winters is 17 degrees Celsius and 5.3 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Demography:

Table 2.7: Important demographic indicators of the district as per Census 2011

S.No.	PARTICULARS	UNIT	DHALAI	TRIPURA	INDIA
1.	Area	Sq Km	2426	10,491	3,28,72,40
2.	Total Population	Lakhs	3.78	36.71	12,101
3.	Male	Lakhs	1.95	18.71	62,372
4.	Female	Lakhs	1.84	17.99	49,656
5.	Sex Ratio	Per 1000	944	960	943
6.	Population Density	Per Sq Km	157	350	382
7.	*Literacy Rate	%	96.79	96.82	74.04
	Male	%	96.91	97.93	82.14
	Female	%	95.69	95.71	65.46
8.	SC Population(2011)	%	16.31	16	16.2
9.	ST Population (2011)	%	55.68	31	8.2
10.	Urban Population	%	6	18.24	27.8
11.	Rural Population	%	94	81.76	72.2

*Literacy rates of Tripura are based upon the evaluation undertaken by the Indian Statistical Institute in September 2014, whereas the figures for India are based upon Census 2011.

Major Tribes:

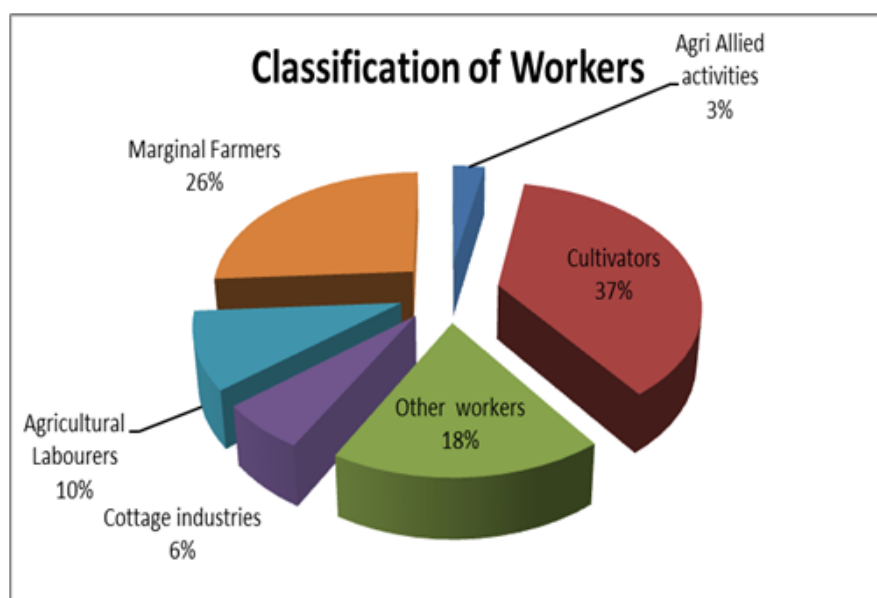
As it is evident that the district is largely a tribal district with 56 per cent tribal population, the major tribes are Tripuri, Reang, Kuki (Halam/Darlong/Hrangkhawl), Koloian and Chakma. Reangs are one of the primitive tribal groups (PTG) as classified by the Government of India. Tribals mostly reside in the remote hilly forested areas with the fertile valleys being occupied by the non-tribals (mostly Bengalis).

Economy:

Socio-economically, it is the most backward district of the State. In 2006, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj included Dhalai in the list of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). The strengths of the district are its huge natural resources, fertile land, conducive climate, adequate and well-spread rainfall, high literacy rate and strategic location as the district being well connected by the National Highway (NH 44). If all these resources are utilised properly, rapid development can be achieved. But for the lack of required infrastructure and inaccessibility of many tribal areas, the district is still very backward. The main factors for the backwardness of the district can be summarised as follows:

- Poor infrastructure
- Poor connectivity and communication facilities
- Lack of stable economic activities
- Poor irrigation facilities
- Poor marketing facilities
- Poor health and sanitation facilities

Livelihood profile of the district:



As it is evident from the above diagram, an overwhelming 76 per cent of the workers are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The practice of Jhum cultivation (shifting cultivation) continues in many parts of the district by the tribals residing in the deeply forested hills. However, in recent times, due to the effects

of the efforts of State Government and district administration like granting pattas to hardcore Jhumias under RoFR Act, 2006, undertaking plantation works like horticulture, sericulture, etc., the Jhum cultivation has decreased to a large extent in the district. The fertile valleys are mostly occupied by the non-tribals, mostly Bengalis and are the primary centres of economic activity in the district. In Dhalai, 25 per cent of the households are in below poverty line (BPL) category.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Tripura:

The programme is being implemented in the State as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Tripura (NREGS Tripura). The State Government has framed the Tripura Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 2006 (TREGS, 2006) and the Tripura Rural Employment Guarantee Rules, 2006 (TREGR, 2006) under that of the NREG Act.

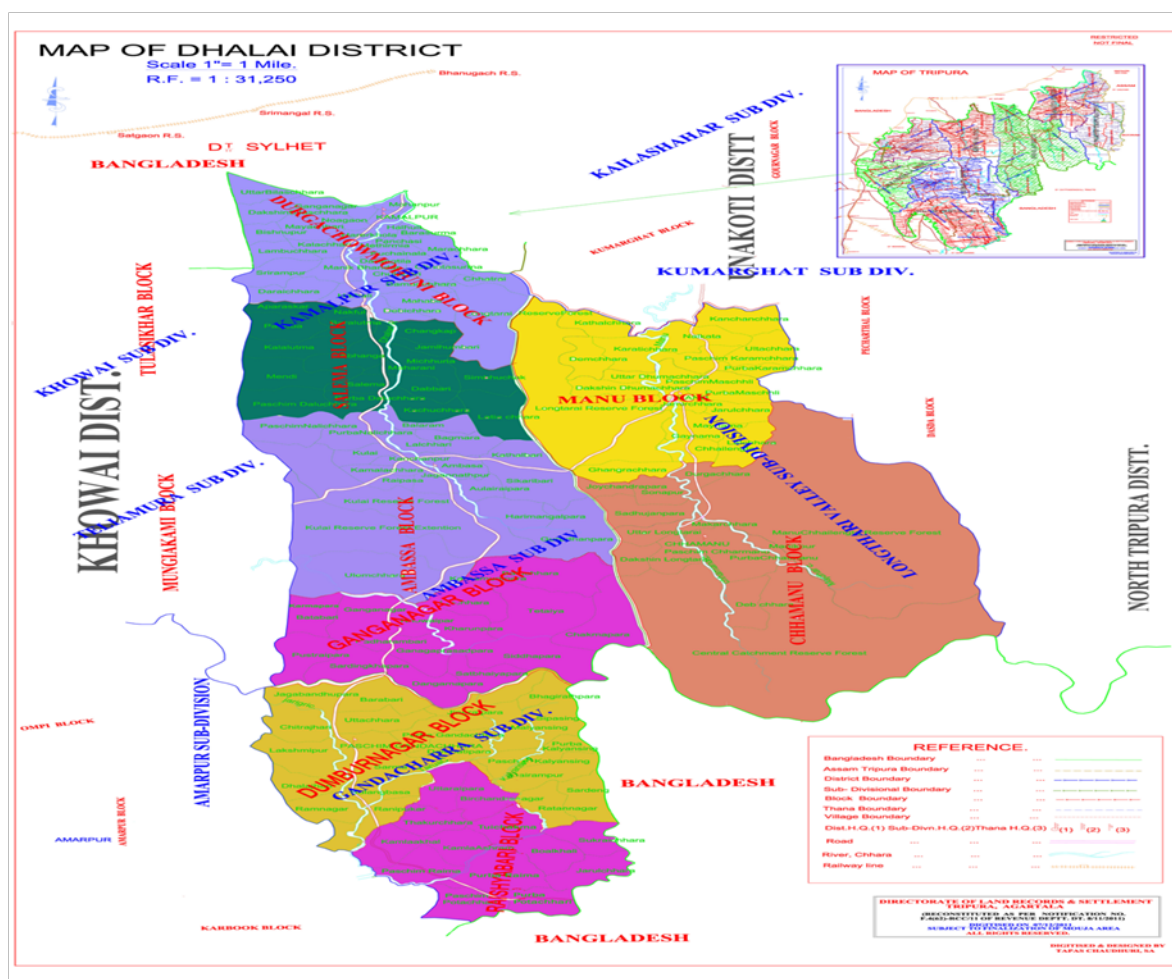
Table 2.8: Performance of MGNREGS in Tripura State

Financial Year	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Total HHs provided employment (in lakh)	5.77	5.70	5.82	5.97
Total Person-days (in lakh)	461.18	538.75	511.76	523.26
SC%	16.59	17.32	17.47	17.68
ST%	45.98	43.32	42.42	42.25
Women %	49.04	50.11	47.42	46.57
HHs completed 100 days	1,16,620	3,04,864	251,444	285,699
Average person-days per HH	79.88	94.46	87.96	87.67

Table 2.9: District-wise eEmployment Days provided under MGNREGS at the State level

Districts	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	(in Lakhs)				(in Percentage)			
Dhalai	68.61	67.07	74.65	72.85	13.23	12.82	14.59	13.52
Gomati	74.57	74.45	76.81	78.78	14.38	14.23	15.01	14.62
Khowai	55.81	55.80	56.49	57.78	10.76	10.66	11.04	10.72
North Tripura	48.70	50.89	50.30	52.31	9.39	9.73	9.83	9.71
Sepahijala	72.12	75.04	58.03	71.31	13.91	14.34	11.34	13.24
South Tripura	69.14	80.13	77.25	80.77	13.34	15.31	15.09	14.99
Unakoti	46.61	40.32	39.23	42.95	8.99	7.71	7.67	7.97
West Tripura	82.93	79.55	78.98	81.98	15.99	15.20	15.43	15.22
Total	518.51	523.26	511.75	538.75	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: www.nrega.nic.in.



Chawmanu Block

Chawmanu Rural Development block established in the year 1969 is one of the oldest administrative blocks in Tripura. It is dedicated to the overall development of the local area. In Chawmanu, 94 per cent of the population belongs to Mongoloid Scheduled Tribes comprising Reang, Chakma and Tripuri communities. It is 17km away from the sub-divisional headquarters (SDM, Longtarai Valley). Chawmanu is bounded by Manu towards the north, Ambassa towards the west, Dasda and Jampui Hills towards the east. Khowai, Kailashahar, Dharmanagar and Udaipur are the cities near to Chawmanu. It has an elevation of 80m (altitude). Ambassa, Mamit, Unakoti, Kailashahar and Aizawl are nearby popular tourist destinations.

Agroclimatic condition of Chawmanu:

Summer is not warm in Chawmanu where the maximum day temperature ranges from 24° C to 37° C. The average temperature in the months of January, February, March, April and May is 15° C, 20° C, 25° C, 27° C and 26° C, respectively.

Table 2.10: Chawmanu block: Category-wise population of Gram Panchayats

S. N o.	Name of GP/Village	No. of Families					Total	No. of persons					Total
		ST	SC	OBC	Mi-nority	UR		ST	SC	OBC	Mi-nority	UR	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14
1	Chaltacherra	600	0	24	0	0	624	3451	0	114	0	0	3565
2	Debacherra	385	0	0	0	0	385	2159	0	0	0	0	2159
3	Durgacherra	341	9	131	0	0	481	2017	47	478	0	0	2542
4	East Gobindabari	428	0	0	0	0	428	2367	0	0	0	0	2367
5	East Malidhar	401	0	0	0	0	401	2077	0	0	0	0	2077
6	Makarcherra	429	29	22	5	49	534	2047	115	97	19	237	2515
7	Manikpur	633	0	0	0	0	633	2653	0	0	0	0	2653
8	Natin Manu	574	0	0	0	0	574	2736	0	0	0	0	2736
9	Paschim Chawmanu	244	24	42	0	261	571	1288	116	195	0	1319	2918
10	Purba Chawmanu	296	0	0	0	0	296	1548	0	0	0	0	1548
11	Rajdhar	578	0	0	0	0	578	2850	0	0	0	0	2850
12	Uttar Longtharai	449	6	2	28	0	485	2712	24	8	124	0	2868
13	West Gobindabari	720	0	0	0	0	720	3691	0	0	0	0	3691
14	West Malidhar	406	0	0	0	0	406	2560	0	0	0	0	2560
TOTAL ADC VILLAGE :		6484	68	221	33	310	7116	34156	302	892	143	1556	37049

Source: <http://documents.gov.in/TR/2149.pdf>.

Manu block

Manu block was established as Rural Development Block in the year 1994, bifurcating 26 Gram Panchayats from Chawmanu RD block under Longtharai Valley subdivision of Dhalai district in Tripura. The geographical area of this block is bordered by Kumarghat block in the north, Chawmanu in the south, Kanchanpur sub-division in the east and the famous Longathrai Range to its west. The area of this block is 278.27 sq. km.

The famous Manu River flows from south to north direction of this block making the land on its banks fertile. The block experiences the following seasons:

- Summer (March to May)
- Monsoon (June to September)
- Post-Monsoon (October and November)
- Winter (December to February)

Table 2.11: Manu block: Category-wise population of Gram Panchayats

S. No	Name of GP/ Village	No. of Families						No. of persons					
		ST	SC	O BC	Mi-nority	U R	Total	ST	SC	OB C	Mi-norit	UR	Total
1	Battala	465	0	0	0	0	465	2296	0	0	0	0	2296
2	Chailengtha	227	242	359	17	141	986	1207	976	1537	79	584	4383
3	ChichingCherra	473	25	0	0	0	498	2223	126	0	0	0	2349
4	Dakshin Dhumacherra	549	61	56	22	1	689	2697	266	270	177	4	3414
5	Dalucherra	489	0	0	0	0	489	2347	0	0	0	0	2347
6	Demcherra	363	0	0	0	0	363	2243	0	0	0	0	2243
7	Deo R.F.	527	0	0	0	0	527	2655	0	0	0	0	2655
8	Gainama	357	0	338	25	0	720	1561	0	1066	130	0	2757
9	Jamircherra	976	65	17	0	71	1129	5124	347	81	0	319	5871
10	Kanchancherra	617	33	49	1	17	717	2935	131	206	7	62	3341
11	Karaticherra	542	24	2	3	69	640	2084	108	10	21	235	2458
12	Labancherra	617	0	0	0	0	617	3068	0	0	0	0	3068
13	Lalcherra	1004	0	2	0	1	1007	4561	0	14	0	5	4580
14	Longtharai R.F.	447	0	0	0	0	447	2015	0	0	0	0	2015
15	Mainama	751	14	344	24	46	1179	3627	88	2057	150	230	6152
16	Manu	368	586	205	5	387	1551	1765	2807	962	24	1650	7208
17	Naitang Cherra	449	46	94	0	30	619	2117	205	376	0	275	2973
18	Nalkata	334	179	67	0	102	682	1570	789	312	0	409	3080
19	Paschim Karam-cherra	155	115	95	0	92	457	716	411	380	0	379	1886
20	Paschi Kathalcherra	561	5	100	0	0	666	2780	28	566	0	0	3374
21	Paschim Masli	259	144	54	0	94	551	1277	739	247	0	433	2696
22	Purba Karamcherra	594	0	0	0	0	594	2907	0	0	0	0	2907
23	Purba Kathalcherra	401	77	198	1	4	681	2033	396	1026	5	25	3485
24	Purba Masli	61	429	178	0	222	890	306	1839	775	0	1020	3940
25	Sindhukumar Para	715	15	2	1	0	733	3216	74	12	11	0	3313
26	Uttar Dhumacherra	683	34	0	15	127	859	3436	88	0	99	632	4255
Total ADC Village :		12984	2094	2160	114	1404	18756	62766	9418	9897	703	6262	89046

Source: <http://documents.gov.in/TR/2149.pdf>.

The block also receives a good amount of rainfall every year. The average annual rainfall of this area is about 260 cm. Manu RD block has the distinction in terms of experimenting a wide range of rural development programmes and massive allocation of resources ever since the establishment of this block. While some of the programmes have made a significant impact on the improvement of the quality of life of rural people, others have met with little success. In light of this experimentation, the priority sector of development has critically been examined while preparing the planning. Rural connectivity, agriculture and irrigation, education, supply of safe drinking water, pisciculture, ARD and electrification are the priorities for taking up the development activities of this block.

CHAPTER – III

SUITABLE WORK FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS UNDER MGNREGS

The disabled or differently abled persons defined in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1996) as persons with disabilities, the severity of which is 40 per cent and above would be considered as a special category of vulnerable persons for the purposes of MGNREGA. The disabled persons as defined in the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (44 of 1999) are also to be considered as disabled for their inclusion in MGNREGA.

Since this category of people is differently abled, special conditions have to be created to facilitate their inclusion in MGNREGA. It is estimated that around five per cent of the population in rural areas will fall into the category of differently abled and this group is one of the most deprived and vulnerable.

Identification of works: Each State government will identify specific works, which can be done by the differently abled and vulnerable persons. In a village, different categories of persons with disabilities will be organised to come together as a fixed group to accomplish the works proposed for them under the Scheme, in a way that makes it possible for them to exercise their choice. **On no grounds should the differently abled and vulnerable persons be paid lower wages as compared to other persons employed in MGNREGA works.**

Mobilisation: The Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups) can utilise the services of a facilitator/mate from among the differently abled to mobilise the differently abled and vulnerable persons for MGNREGA work. This facilitator will function as a mate and will be responsible among other things, for bringing all the differently abled persons to the worksite. Efforts should be made to mobilise the differently abled and vulnerable to groups. Arrangements should also be made to orient the persons with disabilities to a suitable job as and when necessary. **However, no individual with a disability would be denied work where efforts to form a ‘group’ does not succeed.**

Works: Depending upon the demand for the work by a differently abled person/special category person, works could be opened specifically for them and in the case of large **GPs with a substantial population of differently abled and vulnerable, separate works could be opened at the habitation level.** Efforts should be taken to ensure that the special category persons are given work close to their place of residence so that they need not travel long distances for MGNREGA works.

Engaging differently abled and vulnerable persons in other works: The differently abled persons should be **given preference for appointment as mates for MGNREGA works and as workers for providing drinking water, to manage crèches, etc., at the worksites.**

Adaptation of tools and equipment/facilities at workplaces: The Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups), in consultation with the workers with disabilities, will facilitate necessary modifications to the existing tools/equipment. The Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups) will then mobilise and or identify suitable institutions for making modified tools/assistive devices or making adaptation to the general tools/equipment being used in the worksite. The workers with **disabilities may be provided with modified tools/assistive devices or modified general tools/equipment required for the work.**

Treating Persons with Disabilities with respect: The persons with disabilities, at work-sites, shall be called by their names alone. Similarly, their name, as well as their surnames, shall be properly registered in the job cards. The authorities shall take proper measures to ensure a stigma-free environment at the workplace so that the workers with disabilities shall not be ill-treated/looked down upon or face any form of discrimination (using abusive language, calling them with their disability name, use of denigrating language, insulting them or hurting their feelings in any form) and the Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups) shall organise awareness programmes to ensure the same.

Monitoring and Timeframe: There should be a special drive to identify all persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons, enumerated in these guidelines, and provide 100 days of work to each of the households that they belong to in all the villages within a specified timeframe. **The Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups) shall hold a monthly meeting to review the progress of such implementation with Block and Gram Panchayat level officials.** The Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups) will submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to the DPC.

Identifying suitable work for differently abled persons

An indicative list is summarised below:

Possible classification of work according to the capacity of differently abled people under MGNREGS

1. Drinking water arrangements
2. Helping in looking after children
3. Plantation
4. Irrigation - canal digging
5. Earth backfilling
6. Dumping mud outside or in trolleys
7. Building construction - making concrete material
8. Shifting concrete and other building material from one place to the other
9. Carrying cement and bricks
10. Filling sand or pebbles in pans

11. Sprinkling water on a newly built wall
12. Well deepening – filling baskets with excavated mud inside the well
13. Helping in pulling out the sludge from the well
14. Transferring the sludge to a trolley
15. Digging out the sludge from the ponds
16. Putting the waste in iron containers
17. Transferring contents of filled-up pans into the trolley
18. Carrying stones
19. Setting stones in the right place
20. Land levelling
21. Farm bunding
22. Digging pits in water conservation land
23. Setting the mud from the pits in a different place
24. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles
25. Building roads

Work which could be done by orthopedically handicapped people - possible work for a person with one weak hand

1. Drinking water arrangements
2. Plantation
3. Filling pans with sand/pebbles
4. Farm bunding
5. Assisting in looking after children
6. Carrying cement and bricks
7. Sprinkling water on the newly built wall
8. Pouring water/putting pebbles

Work which could be done by a person with both hands weak

Work done with help	Work done independently
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking water arrangements 2. Assisting in looking after children 3. Plantation 4. Sprinkling water on newly built walls 5. Filling pans with sand or pebble 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking water arrangements 2. Assisting in looking after children 3. Plantation 4. Irrigation - digging canals 5. Filling earth 6. Digging out mud / putting in the trolley 7. Construction – repairing concrete material 8. Transferring concrete material from one place to other 9. Carrying cement and bricks 10. Filling metal containers with sand or pebble 11. Sprinkling water on newly built walls 12. Deepening wells putting the sludge inside the well into baskets 13. Helping in pulling out the sludge from wells

Work done with help	Work done independently
	14. Transferring the sludge to trolleys 15. Digging out the sludge from ponds 16. Filling up pans with waste 17. Transferring filled up pans to trolleys 18. Carrying stones 19. Setting stones in the right place 20. Land levelling 21. Farm bunding 22. Digging pits in land meant for water conservation work 23. Transferring the mud from pits to another site 24. Building roads 25. Sweeping kuchha roads with brooms

Work which could be done by a person with two weak legs

- Assisting in looking after children
- Plantation
- Filling pans with sand or pebble
- Pulling out the sludge from wells (the sludge from the wells is filled in huge containers and to pull it out at least 10-15 people are required. But if this sludge is filled in smaller containers, 3-4 differently abled people can do the same, even while they are sitting. The benefit is that the work will be faster, the labour required will be less as well as the differently abled people will be employed).

Work which could be done by a person with one weak hand and one weak leg and work done with help work done independently

Work done with help	Work done independently
1. Organising drinking water 2. Assisting in looking after children 3. Planting trees 4. Sprinkling water on the newly built wall 5. Filling pans with sand or pebble	1. Organising drinking water 2. Assisting in looking after children 3. Planting trees 4. Sprinkling water on the newly built wall 5. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

Work which could be done by hunch-backed persons

- Drinking water arrangements
- Assisting in looking after children
- Plantation
- Sprinkling water on newly built walls on construction sites
- Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

Possible work for visually impaired people

a. Possible work for a person blind in one eye whose other eye is also weak

- Drinking water arrangements
- Helping in looking after children

3. Plantation
4. Irrigation-digging canals
5. Filling earth
6. Dumping mud outside or in trolleys
7. Building construction- making concrete material
8. Shifting concrete and other materials from one place to the other
9. Carrying cement and bricks
10. Filling sand or pebbles in pans
11. Sprinkling water on the newly built walls
12. Helping in pulling out the sludge from the well
13. Transferring the sludge to trolley
14. Digging out the sludge from the ponds
15. Putting the waste in pans
16. Transferring the filled up pans into the trolley
17. Carrying stones
18. Setting stones in the right place
19. Land Levelling
20. Farm bunding
21. Digging pits in land for water conservation
22. Setting the excavated mud in a different place
23. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

b. Work which could be done by people with total visual impairment

- i) Plantation
- ii) Filling pans with sand or pebble
- iii) Drinking water arrangements

Other family members should also be employed on the site so that they realise that the handicapped person is not a burden but is instead a source of income for the family. The handicapped person should be patiently trained. Proper training should be given on the way to do work as well as to measure the distance covered in terms of their footsteps.

c. Work which could be done by a person with a weak vision

1. Organising drinking water
2. Helping in looking after children
3. Planting trees
4. Irrigation-digging canals
5. Filling soil
6. Dumping mud outside or in trolleys
7. Building construction- making concrete material
8. Shifting concrete and other materials from one place to the other
9. Carry cement and bricks
10. Filling sand or pebbles in metal pans
11. Sprinkling water on the newly built wall

12. Helping in pulling out the sludge from the well
13. Transferring the sludge to trolley
14. Digging out the sludge from the ponds
15. Putting the waste in iron containers
16. Transferring the filled up metal container into the trolley
17. Carrying stones
18. Setting the stones in the right place
19. Land levelling
20. Farm bunding
21. Digging pits in water conservation land
22. Setting the excavated mud in a different place
23. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

d. Work which could be done by mentally handicapped people

Work which could be done by people who are severely mentally challenged

1. Drinking water arrangements
2. Helping in looking after children
3. Plantation
4. Irrigation-digging canals
5. Filling earth
6. Dumping mud outside or in trolleys
7. Shifting concrete and other material from one place to the other
8. Carry cement and bricks
9. Filling sand or pebbles in metal pans
10. Transferring the sludge to trolley
11. Digging out the sludge from the ponds
12. Putting the waste in pans
13. Transferring the filled up pans into the trolley
14. Carrying stones
15. Setting the stones in the right place
16. Land levelling
17. Farm bunding
18. Digging pits in land for water conservation
19. Setting the excavated mud in a different place
20. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

Note: Such people should be instructed sequentially and slowly. They can produce good work once they have understood it well.

e. Work which could be done by a person who is mildly mentally challenged

1. Drinking water arrangements
2. Helping in looking after children
3. Plantation
4. Filling earth
5. Dumping mud outside or in trolleys

6. Filling sand or pebbles in metal pans
7. Transferring the sludge to trolley
8. Sprinkling water, putting pebbles

Such people may be good at assisting and supporting others. They can carry pans of sludge and dump it if they are assisted in lifting them.

Work which could be done by people under treatment for mental illness – such people can do all kinds of work. Only the amount of work done may be quantitatively less.

Work which could be done by hearing and speech impaired people – such people can do all kinds of work but it is required that they are instructed properly in sign language.

Under MGNREGS, specified works are allotted to the differently abled people to help them perform their work in an easy and better manner.

CHAPTER – IV

RESULT DISCUSSIONS

The primary data collected from the respondent of the study area have been analysed by using SPSS package. The analysed data are presented in tabular form and discussed under different sub-headings:

1. Demographic of the selected blocks/study area
2. Socio-economic conditions
3. Participation in development programmes
4. Awareness on MGNREGS
5. Empowerment
6. Benefits accrued from MGNREGS
7. Factors responsible for participation
8. Motivating factors
9. Perception of personal gains
10. Professional issues

The age of the wage seekers is an important aspect while perceiving the issues concerned and their participation in the MGNREGS. The age profile of the wage seekers was collected, analysed and presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Age-group distribution of wage seekers

Block	Age-Group			
	<=39	40-62	>=63	Total
Chawmanu	35	10	5	50
	70.0%	20.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	30	16	4	50
	60.0%	32.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	65	26	9	100
	65.0%	26.0%	9.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The above table shows the age-wise distribution of the MGNREGS beneficiaries among the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. It reveals that majority of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu (70 per cent) and Manu RD blocks (60 per cent) were in the aged 39 years or below followed by beneficiaries in the age groups of 40-62 years (26 per cent) and above 63 years (9 per cent), respectively.

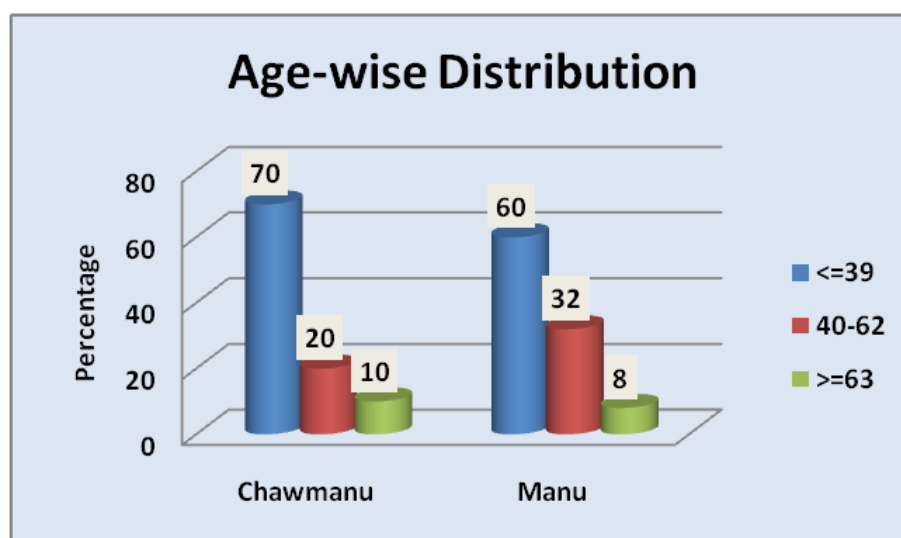
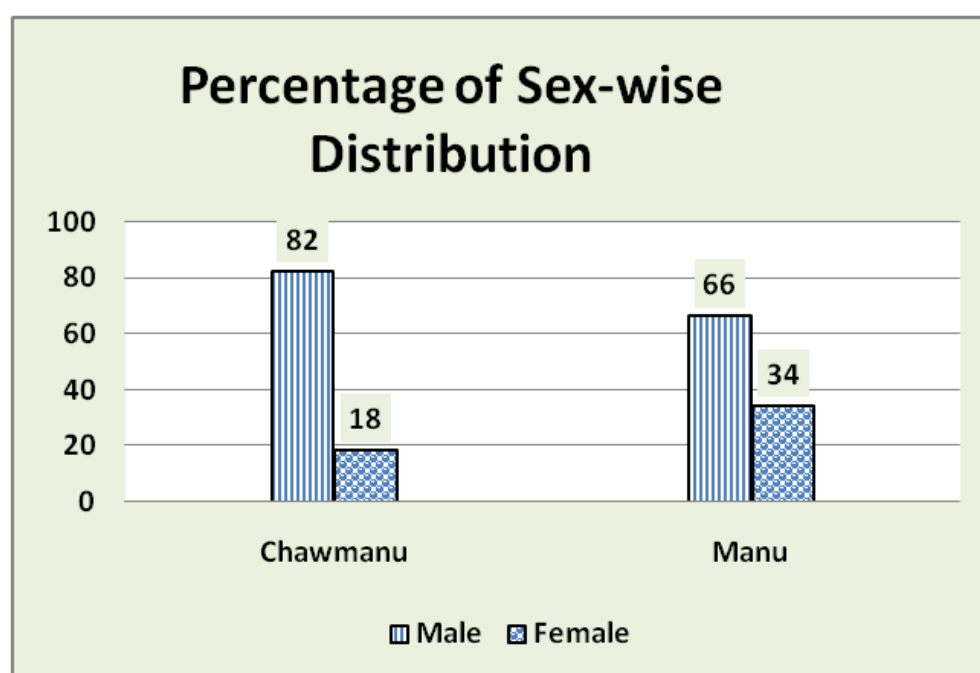


Table 4.2: Gender-wise distribution of wage seekers

Block	Gender		
	Male	Female	Total
Chawmanu	41	9	50
	82.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Manu	33	17	50
	66.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Total	74	26	100
	74.0%	26.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.



The above table shows the gender-wise distribution among the beneficiaries in the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In both RD blocks, the participation of male beneficiaries excels their female counterpart. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, the male-female ratio was 82:18. Similarly, in Manu RD block, the ratio was 66:34. It is to be mentioned here that although in Tripura the female participant ratio is much higher than the male, the ratio is lower than their male counterpart in the case of differently abled persons.

The marital status of wage seekers had influenced their perception of various issues. Hence, an attempt was made to understand the marital status of wage seekers. The analysed data have been presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Marital status-wise distribution of wage seekers

Block	Marital Status		
	Unmarried	Married	Total
Chawmanu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Manu	10	40	50
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	26	74	100
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The above table shows the marital status of the beneficiaries in the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. The table depicts that majority of the beneficiaries were married. Only 32 per cent of beneficiaries in the Chawmanu RD block and 20 per cent of beneficiaries in Manu RD block were unmarried. The particulars on the status of family norm practised were collected and presented in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Types of family systems followed by beneficiaries

Block	Types of Family		
	Nuclear	Joint	Total
Chawmanu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Manu	22	28	50
	44.0%	56.0%	100.0%
Total	38	62	100
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

During the study, it was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries followed the joint family system. Only 32 per cent of the beneficiaries in the Chawmanu RD block and 44 per cent in the Manu RD block resided in a nuclear family. It indicates that their disability was not a constraint with any of their family members.

Table 4.5 shows the distribution of the family members among the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. The table depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (32 per cent) of beneficiaries had 4 numbers of members in the family. Of them, 14 per cent had six members, four per cent had seven members and two per cent had nine members in the family. On the other hand, in the Manu RD block majority (28 per cent) of the beneficiaries had three members in the family followed by 20 per cent had five members, 18 per cent had four members and only four per cent had seven members in the family.

Table 4.5: Number of members in a family

Block	No. of Family Members (size)								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	
Chawmanu	1	6	10	16	7	7	2	1	50
	2.0%	12.0%	20.0%	32.0%	14.0%	14.0%	4.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu		9	14	9	10	6	2		50
		18.0%	28.0%	18.0%	20.0%	12.0%	4.0%		100.0%
Total	1	15	24	25	17	13	4	1	100
	1.0%	15.0%	24.0%	25.0%	17.0%	13.0%	4.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The level of education plays a vital role in perceiving various issues related to MGNREGS. Hence, an attempt was made to provide information pertaining to the status of education among wage seekers. The analysed data have been presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Educational status of the household

Block	Educational Status						Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	High school	Higher secondary	Graduate	
Chawmanu	14	16	8	11	1	0	50
	28.0%	32.0%	16.0%	22.0%	2.0%	0	100.0%
Manu	7	30	6	5	1	1	50
	14.0%	60.0%	12.0%	10.0%	2.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	21	46	14	16	2	1	100
	21.0%	46.0%	14.0%	16.0%	2.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

From the above table, it was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (32 per cent) of the beneficiaries have completed the primary level of education (i.e. from Class I-V) followed by 22 per cent who have completed high school education. It was also observed that a significant portion of beneficiaries (i.e. around 28 per cent) was still illiterate and only two per cent of them have completed higher secondary (i.e. Class XI-XII) education. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, around 60 per cent of the beneficiaries have completed the primary level of education followed by 12 per cent who have completed the middle school level of education (Class VI-VIII). Around 14 per cent of them were illiterate.

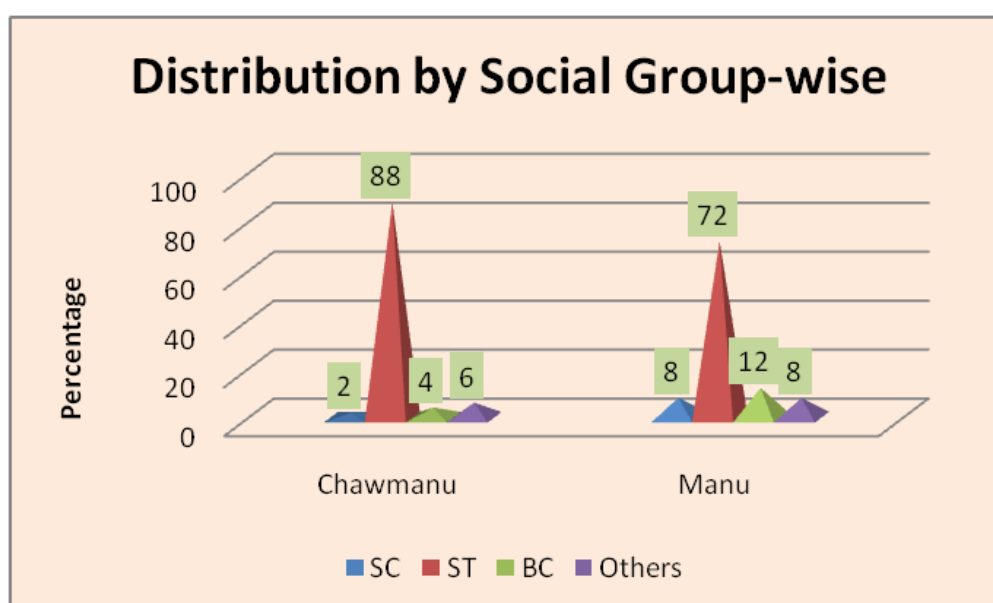
When both the RD blocks were compared, the educational status of beneficiaries of the Manu RD block was better than that of Chawmanu RD block. Except one respondent, none from Manu block has secured degree certificates despite the support provided by the government for physically challenged under the provisions of Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 that came into force from April 1, 2010. The RTE Act provides for free and compulsory education to children including children with disabilities as mentioned in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, namely i) Blindness, ii) Low vision, iii) Leprosy cured, iv) Hearing impairment, v) Locomotor disabilities, vi) Mental retardation, vii) Mental Illness, viii) Autism and ix) Cerebral Palsy, and eventually cover speech impairment, learning disabilities, etc., in the age group of 6-14 years at the elementary level in a neighbourhood school. The government is implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as the main programme for universalising education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

The profile of social groups dominates the perception of wage seekers. An attempt was made to understand the distribution of social groups among the wage seekers selected for the study. The trends observed in this regard were presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Social Group-wise distribution of beneficiaries

Block	Social Groups				
	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
Chawmanu	1	44	2	3	50
	2.0%	88.0%	4.0%	6.0%	100.0%
Manu	4	36	6	4	50
	8.0%	72.0%	12.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	5	80	8	7	100
	5.0%	80.0%	8.0%	7.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.



Social group-wise distribution of beneficiaries shows that in both RD blocks, almost all the beneficiaries belonged to Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories. In Chawmanu RD block, 88 per cent of beneficiaries belonged to Scheduled Tribes whereas in Manu RD block ST beneficiaries comprised 72 per cent. In both the RD blocks, only a few of them belonged to other social groups, as the proportion of ST population in Dhalai district is 55.7 per cent.

Table 4.8: Religion-wise distribution of beneficiaries

Block	Religion					
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Buddhists	Other	Total
Chawmanu	29	1	1	17	2	50
	58.0%	2.0%	2.0%	34.0%	4.0%	100.0%
Manu	47	0	3	0	0	50
	94.0%	0	6.0%	0	0	100.0%
Total	76	1	4	17	2	100
	76.0%	1.0%	4.0%	17.0%	2.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The above table depicts the religious distribution of MGNREGS beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. It was observed that in Manu RD block, almost all the beneficiaries belonged to the Hindu community followed by only six per cent of beneficiaries who profess Christianity. On the contrary, in Chawmanu RD block, 58 per cent of MGNREGS beneficiaries belonged to the Hindu community. Around 34 per cent of them follow Buddhism and only 2 per cent of them adheres to Islam. It is to be mentioned that beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block belonged to almost all religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism while the majority of the beneficiaries in Manu RD block followed Hinduism and a few Christianity.

Table 4.9: Average family size of the households

Categories	Block		
	Chawmanu	Manu	Total
Adult Male	93	75	168
Adult Female	76	75	151
Adult Total	169	150	319
Children male	19	20	39
Children female	17	23	40
Children Total	36	43	79
Total Members	205	193	398
Average family size	4.1	3.9	3.9

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The above table depicts that the average size of the household in Chawmanu was 4.1 whereas it was 3.9 in the Manu RD block. The table also depicts that there was a big gap in the male-female ratio in Chawmanu RD block as compared to the Manu RD block. As the wage employment accessed by the wage seekers was only additive employment, data pertaining to the principal occupation of the wage seekers were obtained and presented in **Table 4.10**.

Table 4.10: Primary Occupation-wise distribution of beneficiaries

Block	Occupational Status (Primary)						Total
	Agriculture	Agri Labour	Non-Agri Labour	Skilled Labour	Business	Other	
Chawmanu	24	8	11	-	3	4	50
	48.0%	16.0%	22.0%	-	6.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Manu	14	9	22	1	4	-	50
	28.0%	18.0%	44.0%	2.0%	8.0%	-	100.0%
Total	38	17	33	1	7	4	100
	38.0%	17.0%	33.0%	1.0%	7.0%	4.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The primary occupational status of MGNREGS beneficiaries shows a deviant picture. The above table depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (48 per cent) of the beneficiaries were engaged in agriculture whereas 22 per cent of them were non-agricultural labourers and 6 per cent of them were agricultural labourers. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, the majority (44 per cent) of the beneficiaries were non-agricultural labourers and 28 per cent of them were engaged in agriculture. Only 2 per cent of beneficiaries in the Manu RD block were skilled labourers. In Chawmanu and Manu RD

blocks, only 6 per cent and 8 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, were engaged in business. During the survey, it was observed that MGNREGS beneficiaries depend on agriculture and its related occupation as their primary occupation. As most of them have a lower education level, they could not get into the service sector.

Table 4.11: Secondary occupation-wise distribution of beneficiaries

Block	Occupational Status (Secondary)						
	Agriculture	Agri Labour	Non-Agri Labour	Skilled Labour	Business	Other	Total
Chawmanu	1	27	11	0	0	11	50
	2.0%	54.0%	22.0%	0	0	22.0%	100.0%
Manu	4	12	27	2	1	4	50
	8.0%	24.0%	54.0%	4.0%	2.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	5	39	38	2	1	15	100
	5.0%	39.0%	38.0%	2.0%	1.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

This table shows that in Chawmanu RD block, 24 per cent of the MGNREGS beneficiaries did not have any secondary occupation. Around 54 per cent of them had agriculture as their secondary occupation and 22 per cent were non-agricultural labourers. In Manu RD block, the majority (54 per cent) of the beneficiaries were non-agricultural labourers and 24 per cent worked as agricultural labourers.

Table 4.12: No. of persons with disabilities employed under NREGS

Block	Number of members
Chawmanu	80
Manu	73
Total	153

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

This table shows the number of Persons with Disabilities who were employed under the MGNREGS. Around 80 members in the Chawmanu RD block and 73 members in the Manu RD block were employed under the MGNREGS.

Table 4.13: Average person-days and wages in Chawmanu and Manu blocks

Years	Days (No.)			Wages (Rs.)		
	Chawmanu	Manu	Total	Chawmanu	Manu	Total
2014	84	82	83	10764	11421	11113
2015	95	90	93	13516	13002	13242
2016	92	96	94	13322	13834	13601
2017	82	84	83	18163	13573	17214

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

The above table depicts the average person-days and wages in Chawmanu and Manu blocks. It was observed that in Chawmanu block, the average person-days were 84 which increased to 95 in the year 2015. The average person-days again decreased to 92 and 82 in the years 2016 and 2017, respectively. The provision of works in the vicinity of the villages has increased person-days. In 2016, the works in Chawmanu were implemented away from the villages (at a distance of >10 km). As a result, there was a decline in the number of differently abled persons participated in the works. On the contrary, the average wages to the beneficiaries gradually increased from Rs. 10,764 in the year 2014 to Rs. 13,322 in the year 2016. In Manu RD block, the average person-days increased from 82 in the year 2014 to 90 in 2015 and 96 in 2016. Similar to Chawmanu RD block, the wage amount increased from Rs. 11,113 in the year 2014 to Rs. 13,601 in the year 2016 due to raise in notified wages from Rs. 155 in 2013 to Rs.172 in 2016 accordingly.

It is to be mentioned here that the average wage amount gradually increased in both the RD blocks and the average man-days has also increased. The better performance of Tripura in implementing MGNREGS reflects the success story of the State. This has helped Tripura to consistently secure top ranks among the States in the country in the implementation of the MGNREGS. The nature of disability of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks was depicted in Table 4.14.

From Table 4.14, it was observed that the majority of beneficiaries, i.e. 82 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 54 per cent in Manu RD block were having locomotors disability. In Chawmanu RD block, 6 per cent of the beneficiaries have a hearing impairment and visual impairment and around 4 per cent of them were mentally retarded. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 24 per cent were visually impaired and 22 per cent were hearing impaired. Among the beneficiaries in the Manu RD block, there were no mentally retarded persons.

Table 4.14: Nature of disability of beneficiaries

Block	Type of Disability					
	Locomotor Disability	Hearing impaired	Visually impaired	Mentally impaired	Others	Total
Chawmanu	41	3	3	2	1	50
	82.0%	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	27	11	12	0	0	50
	54.0%	22.0%	24.0%	0	0	100.0%
Total	68	14	15	2	1	100
	68.0%	14.0%	15.0%	2.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

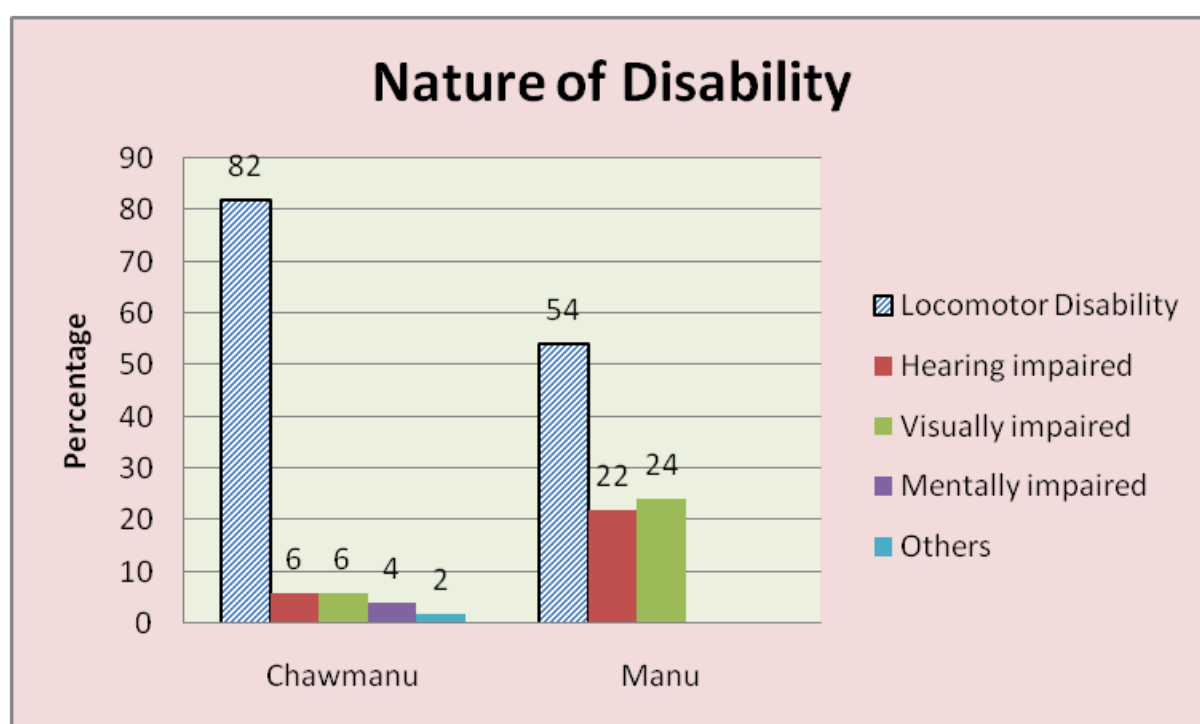


Table 4.14.1: Average number of working days (Disability-wise)

Nature of Disability	Average Number of Days			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Locomotor Disability	71	87	92	79
Hearing impaired	78	91	91	76
Visually impaired	86	88	95	80
Total	75	88	92	79

Table 4.14.2: Average number of working days during 2013-14

Type of work	Nature of Disability			
	Locomotor disability	Hearing impaired	Visually impaired	Total
Drinking water arrangements	72	88	81	75
Child care (Aaya)	78	67	92	80
Plantation	66	82	86	73
Curing the cement structures	71	74	-	72
Total	71	78	86	75

During 2013-14, differently abled were employed under four categories of works, viz. drinking water arrangements, childcare (Aaya), plantation and curing new cement structures. Among three types of disability, visually impaired people were able to earn the number of days compared to those with locomotor disability and hearing impairment as they were found to be efficient than the latter.

Table 4.14.3: Average number of working days during 2014-15

Work	Nature of Disability			
	Locomotor disability	Hearing impaired	Visually impaired	Total
Drinking water arrangements	73	87	-	76
Child care (Aaya)	86	91	85	87
Plantation	86	91	89	88
Curing the cement structures	92	95	88	92
Filling pans with sand or pebble	98	-	90	96
Total	87	91	88	88

In 2014-15, the MoRD geared up to enhance the skills and build the capacities of implementing officers at various capacity through a series of training programmes such as operational guidelines-2013; SAMARTHYA, barefoot technicians, etc., which have generated awareness on the expansion of works for the differently abled persons. Therefore, we could find additional work provided to the differently abled during 2014-15, i.e. filling pans with sand or pebbles, digging out loose soil and construction-repairing concrete material during 2015-16, etc. However, differently abled persons have

shown less interest to get employment under a new category of works during 2015-16 and 2016-17. It is also interesting to note that there is a gradual increase in the number of working days under MGNREGS for the persons with locomotor disability when compared to those with hearing and visually impairment during the period from 2013-14 to 2016-17. To sustain the interest of the hearing and visually impaired people to get employment under MGNREGS, it is necessary to provide the nature of the job that they are comfortable with. From cross-tabulations, it is also noticed that the total number of employment days accrue by the differently abled has declined in 2016-17 as compared to

Table 4.15: Average number of working days during 2015-16

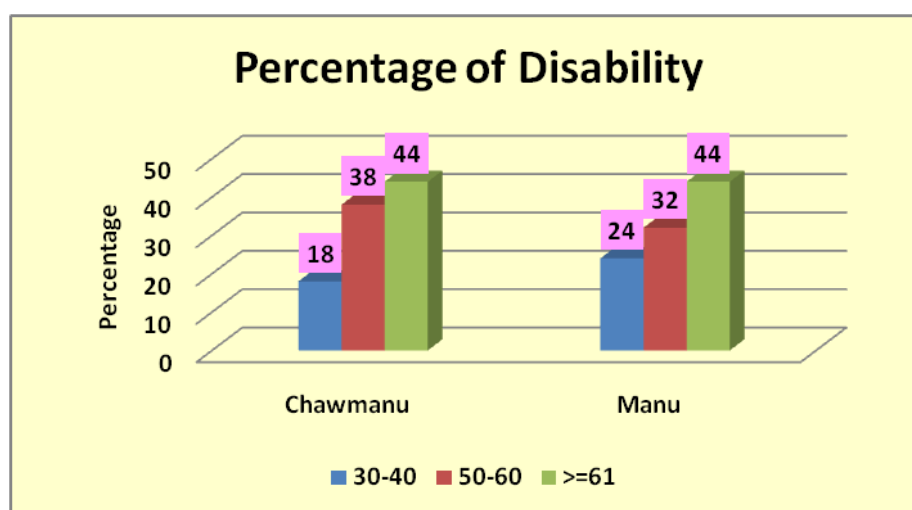
Work	Nature of Disability			
	Locomotor disability	Hearing impaired	Visually impaired	Total
Drinking water arrangements	93	84	92	90
Child care (Aaya)	94	-	83	91
Plantation	98	91	126	100
Curing the cement structures	84	99	93	90
Filling pans with sand or pebble	99	-	94	97
Digging out loose soil	96	-	-	96
Construction – repairing concrete material	55	-	-	55
Total	92	91	95	92

This table shows the percentage of disability among the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks.

Table 4.16: Percentage of Disability

Block	Percentages of Disability						
	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	100%	Total
Chawmanu	9	5	14	8	9	5	50
	18.0%	10.0%	28.0%	16.0%	18.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	12	4	12	5	7	10	50
	24.0%	8.0%	24.0%	10.0%	14.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	21	9	26	13	16	15	100
	21.0%	9.0%	26.0%	13.0%	16.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.



It is evident from the above table and the figure that in Chawmanu RD block, 28 per cent of the beneficiaries were having 60 per cent of disability followed by 18 per cent having 80 per cent, 14 per cent having 40 per cent and around 10 per cent having 100 per cent of disability. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 24 per cent of the beneficiaries were having 60 per cent of disability, around 20 per cent having 100 per cent of disability and 22 per cent having 40 per cent of disability. It is to be mentioned that in both RD blocks, the majority of the beneficiaries were having 60 per cent of disability or more.

Table 4.17: Average number of days for beneficiaries worked (with help)

Block	Work code	2013-14	Work code	2014-15
Chawmanu	Drinking water arrangements	61	Drinking water arrangements	69
	Plantation	47	Plantation	76
	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	51	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	99
	Total	54	Filling pans with sand or pebble	116
			Assisting in looking after children	65
			Total	81
Manu	Drinking water arrangements	84	Drinking water arrangements	87
	Assisting in looking after children	80	Assisting in looking after children	91
	Plantation	83	Plantation	88
	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	77	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	91
	Total	82	Filling pans with sand or pebble	89
			Total	90
Total	Drinking water arrangements	75	Drinking water arrangements	76
	Assisting in looking after children	80	Assisting in looking after children	87
	Plantation	73	Plantation	88
	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	72	Sprinkling water on newly built walls	92
	Total	75	Filling pans with sand or pebble	96
			Total	88

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.16 highlighted the average number of days the beneficiaries worked with someone's help at the worksite of MGNREGS. It was observed that in Chawmanau RD block, in the FY 2013-14, the beneficiaries generally arranged drinking water at the worksite and the average number of days was 61 followed by sprinkling water in the newly built walls (51) and plantation (47). In the FY 2014-15, the beneficiaries were engaged in sprinkling water in the newly built walls (99) followed by plantation (76) and drinking water arrangements (69).

In Manu RD block, in the FY 2013-14, beneficiaries primarily arranged drinking water at the worksite and the average person-days was 84 followed by engaged in plantation (83), assisting in looking after children (80) and sprinkling water on newly built walls. In addition to the work in the previous year, in the FY 2014-15, the beneficiaries were also engaged in filling pans with sand or pebble. The following table gives the average person-days for different categories of work that were done independently by the differently abled beneficiaries. It was observed that the beneficiaries were engaged in irrigation, digging wells, construction-repairing concrete material, moving concrete material from one place to another, land levelling, farm bunding, etc., and these works were done by them independently.

Table 4.18: Average man-days beneficiaries spent for different categories of works (work done independently)

Activities/ work code	Chawmanu				Manu			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Drinking water arrangements	82	105	93	107	82	85	102	53
Assisting in looking after children	-	-	110	-	70	97	-	-
Plantation	85	95	78	71	83	97	100	-
Irrigation digging canals	47	103	98	102	88	92	114	-
Filling earth	-	-	-	-	83	91	-	-
Digging out mud / putting in the trolley	83	-	-	-	91	-	-	-
Construction - repairing concrete material	89	118	82	40	-	-	-	-
Transferring concrete material from one place to other	-	-	107	65	-	81	95	-
Carrying cement and bricks	-	81	102	102	-	-	-	-
Filling mental containers with sand or pebble	-	-	-	-	86	91	96	-
Sprinkling water on newly built walls	-	-	125	95	-	106	92	-
Deepening wells putting sludge from wells	-	74	138	92	84	-	-	-
Helping in pulling out the sludge from wells	-	-	96	75	-	97	88	-

Activities/ work code	Chawmanu				Manu			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Transferring the sludge to trolleys	-	-	-	-	95	84	92	-
Digging out the sludge from ponds	-	-	-	-	-	79	-	-
Filling up pans with waste	-	-	-	-	88	-	90	-
Transferring filled up pans to trolleys	-	-	-	-	77	95	81	-
Carrying stones	100	96	114	109	-	-	83	-
Setting stones in the right place	-	93	110	-	-	80	99	83
Land levelling	84	-	-	-	88	92	104	81
Farm bunding	-	-	-	-	-	90	90	-
Digging pits in land meant for water conservation work	-	-	-	-	26	88	100.00	
Transferring the mud from pits to another site	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	-
Building roads	-	90	50	96	-	-	86	-
Sweeping kuchha roads with brooms	-	-	91	68	-	-	85	-
Sprinkling water, putting pebbles	-	109	99	64	87	95	105	-
Total	82	99	94	79	81	90	96	77

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.19 below deals with the status of the Shrama Shakti Sanghas (groups) in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks.

Table 4.19: Status of the Shrama Shakti Sanghas (SSS)

Block	Members of the group – At the time of formation			Members of the group – At present		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Chawmanu	231	128	359	235	123	358
Manu	275	217	492	274	215	489
Total	506	345	851	509	338	847

Field Survey, 2017.

This table shows the status of the Shrama Shakti Sanghas in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu RD block, 359 group members were enlisted at the time of formation comprising 231 males and 128 females. During the study, there were 358 members in the group comprising 235 males and 123 females. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 492 group members were enlisted at the time

of formation comprising 275 males and 217 females. During the study, the group had 489 members comprising 274 males and 215 females.

Table 4.20: Composition of the groups

Block	Not Answered	Homogeneous	Heterogeneous	Total
Chawmanu	18	3	29	50
	36.0%	6.0%	58.0%	100.0%
Manu	0	0	50	50
	0	0	100.0%	100.0%
Total	18	3	79	100
	18.0%	3.0%	79.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The above table shows the composition of the SSS group in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu RD block, 36 per cent of the beneficiaries could not identify whether the group was homogeneous or heterogeneous. Around 58 per cent of them depict that the group was heterogeneous and only 6 per cent identified the group to be homogeneous. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, all the beneficiaries identified that the group was heterogeneous.

Table 4.21: Registration status of the groups

Block	Response		
	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	25	25	50
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Manu	37	13	50
	74.0%	26.0%	100.0%
Total	62	38	100
	62.0%	38.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The table shows that the registration of the groups in the Manu RD block was higher than Chawmanu RD block. In Chawmanu RD block, 50 per cent of the groups were registered and in Manu RD block, 74 per cent of the groups were registered. A few newly formed groups are yet to be registered.

Table 4.22: Earning Members in Chawmanu and Manu blocks

Block	Earning members - Male	Earning members – Female	Total
Chawmanu	81	45	126
Manu	57	24	81
Total	138	69	207

Field Survey, 2017.

This table shows the status of the earning members among the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority of the male members (81) were the earning member of the family and only 45 female beneficiaries were the earning members. Similar to Chawmanu RD block, 57 male members of the family in Manu RD block were the earning member in comparison to 24 female earning members. The above table clearly depicts that even today, a majority of the females are not engaged in the earning sector.

This table shows the landholding pattern in the study areas. In Chawmanu RD block, 67 acres of land were used for dryland cultivation, 43 acres were used as dryland fallow, 18.5 acres were used for wetland cultivating. In Manu RD block, 74.25 acres of land were used for dryland cultivation, 26 acres were used as dry land fallow and 5.5 acres were used for wetland cultivation.

Table 4.23: Land holding pattern in Chawmanu and Manu blocks

Block	Land holding Patterns (in acres)				
	Dryland			Wetland	
	Cultivating	Fallow	Total	Cultivating	Total
Chawmanu	67.00	43.75	103.75	18.5	21.5
Manu	74.25	26.00	95.25	5.5	5.5
Total	141.25	69.75	199.00	24.0	27.0

Field Survey, 2017.

The data highlight that a major portion of land, i.e. 103.75 acres in Chawmanu RD block and 95.25 acres in Manu RD block, was dryland and a large portion (67 acres in Chawmanu and 74.25 acres in Manu) was used for dryland cultivation.

Table 4.24: No. of beneficiaries holding white ration card

Block	Response	
	Yes	Total
Chawmanu	50	50
	100.0%	100.0%
Manu	50	50
	100.0%	100.0%
Total	100	100
	100.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The above table shows that all the MGNREGS beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks hold a white ration card.

UNESCO data reveal that a majority of PwDs are unable to earn any livelihood due to lack of adequate education, training or skills (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, 1998). The family members or sometimes the PwDs themselves have preconceived ideas regarding their capabilities and accessibility issues. Compared to their able-bodied peers, unemployment among PwDs is usually high. The situation of women with disabilities is even worse, with more discrimination and fewer opportunities. As a result, “Poor people are disproportionately disabled and people with disabilities are disproportionately poor” (Mr. Holzmann, World Bank).

Table 4.25: Involvement of MGNREGS beneficiaries in SHG

S. No.	Particulars	Chawmanu		Manu		Total	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	SHG	2	48	-	50	2	98
2.	Village Organisation	3 (6.0)	47 (94.0)	2 (4.0)	48 (96.0)	5 (5.0)	95 (95.0)
3.	Watershed Committee	3 (6.0)	47 (94.0)	2 (4.0)	48 (96.0)	5 (5.0)	95 (95.0)
4.	Mahila Mandali	1	49	-	50	1	99
5.	Religious Organisation	1 (2.0)	49 (98.0)	1 (2.0)	49 (98.0)	2 (2.0)	98 (98.0)
6.	PRIs	3 (6.0)	47 (94.0)	2 (4.0)	48 (96.0)	5 (5.0)	95 (95.0)
7.	Any other	1 (2.0)	49 (98.0)	-	50 (100.0)	1 (1.0)	99 (99.0)

SHGs: Principles of participation and voice to organising differently abled people into self-help groups (SHGs) and federations. The project links these SHGs to the wider community and other stakeholders. It aims to empower and build the social capital of differently abled people so that they can effectively articulate their interests and needs and participate actively in the development of options to address these. In the context of livelihood projects, training programmes are a significant step that could help improve their situations.

The above table highlighted the involvement of MGNREGS beneficiaries in the SHG in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Manu RD block, none of the beneficiaries was involved in any SHG. Similarly, in Chawmanu RD block, 96 per cent of beneficiaries were not involved in any SHG and only 4 per cent of them were SHG members. This reveals the gloomy picture where the local level institution of both the State and Central governments failed to form self-help group (SHG) of the differently abled members despite the formation of more than a hundred SHGs every year. As per the SRLM, provision has been made for the inclusion of differently abled for improving skills and entrepreneurial abilities. However, the benefits of SRLM have not percolated to the beneficiary level.

The above table shows the status of the beneficiaries who were engaged in the village-level organisation. In Chawmanu RD block and Manu RD block, only 6 per cent and 4 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, were the members of village-level organisation.

Table 4.26: Do the beneficiaries consider the MGNRES beneficial?

Block	Agreed	Agree to a large extent	Agree to some extent	Disagree	Total
Chawmanu	33	5	12	0	50
	66.0%	10.0%	24.0%	0	100.0%
Manu	29	18	2	1	50
	58.0%	36.0%	4.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	62	23	14	1	100
	62.0%	23.0%	14.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The beneficiaries were asked whether they consider the MGNREGS beneficial or not. The above table depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, 66 per cent of the beneficiaries agreed that MGNREGS was beneficial to them, 10 per cent agreed to a large extent about the benefit of the scheme and 24 per cent agreed to some extent that the scheme is beneficial. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 58 per cent of the beneficiaries agreed that the scheme was beneficial to them, 36 per cent agreed to a large extent, 24 per cent agreed to some extent that and only one per cent of them did

not consider the scheme to be beneficial because the person was not allowed to work in MGNREGS by the fellow workers.

Table 4.27: No. of development programmes accessed by beneficiaries

Block	Agreed	Agree to a large extent	Agree to some extent	Disagree	Total
Chawmanu	12	13	25	-	50
	24.0%	26.0%	50.0%	-	100.0%
Manu	8	11	30	1	50
	16.0%	22.0%	60.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	20	24	55	1	100
	20.0%	24.0%	55.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.27 shows the perception level of the beneficiaries regarding access to development programmes. In Chawmanu RD block, 24 per cent of the beneficiaries agreed that the developmental programmes accessed by them were beneficial to them, 26 per cent agreed to a large extent and 50 per cent agreed to some extent. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 60 per cent of agreed to some extent that the development programmes accessed by them were beneficial. While 16 per cent agreed, 22 per cent agreed to a large extent that the development programmes accessed by them were beneficial to them.

Table 4.28: Attendance in Gram Sabha meetings

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	46	4	50
	92.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Manu	46	4	50
	92.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	92	8	100
	92.0%	8.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

This table depicts that almost all the beneficiaries of both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks have attended Gram Sabha meetings.

Table 4.29: Beneficiaries' participation in village development activities

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	28	22	50
	56.0%	44.0%	100.0%
Manu	42	8	50
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
Total	70	30	100
	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.29 shows the participation of beneficiaries in village development activities. It was observed that 56 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 84 per cent of them in Manu RD block participated in the village development activities. This highlights the better performance of the PRI system in village-level activities that ensures participatory rural development.

Table 4.30: Beneficiaries' participation in CBO activities

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Manu	2	48	50
	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%
Total	8	92	100
	8.0%	92.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.30 shows that the majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks have not participated in CBO activities. Only 12 per cent of beneficiaries in the Chawmanu RD block and 4 per cent of them in the Manu RD block participated in CBO activities.

Table 4.31: Beneficiaries' participation in the Rozgar Diwas

Block	Income generating schemes (IGS)	Rozgar Diwas	Social Audit	Total
Chawmanu	1	40	9	50
	2.0%	80.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	49	0	50
	2.0%	98.0%	0	100.0%
Total	2	89	9	100
	2.0%	89.0%	9.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.32 highlighted that the majority of the beneficiaries in the study area participated in Rozgar Diwas. In Chawmanu RD block, 80 per cent of beneficiaries participated in Rozgar Diwas, 18 per cent in social audit and 2 per cent in income generating schemes (IGS). On the other hand, 98 per cent of the beneficiaries in Manu block participated in Rozgar Diwas and 2 per cent participated in IGS whereas none of them participated in the social audit.

Table 4.32 shows that the sharing of ideas was not prevalent among the beneficiaries of Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. Only 10 per cent and 2 per cent of beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, respectively, have shared their ideas. Table 4.32 shows that only 20 per cent of the beneficiaries, who have shared their ideas, think that occasionally their ideas were considered. The ideas put forth by differently abled people were not taken into consideration and this discouraged them from sharing their ideas in the community.

Table 4.32: Have you ever shared your ideas in Gram Sabha?

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	49	50
	2.0%	98.0%	100.0%
Total	6	94	100
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.33: If yes, do you think your ideas have been considered?

Block	Agree	Some are extended	Sometimes Considered	Total
Chawmanu	2	2	1	5
	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	-	-	1
	100.0%	-	-	100.0%
Total	3	2	1	6
	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.34: Mode of conveying information about MGNREGS

Block	Govt. Officials	PRI members	Fellow workers	Total
Chawmanu	5	41	4	50
	10.0%	82.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	39	10	50
	2.0%	78.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	6	80	14	100
	6.0%	80.0%	14.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, majority of the beneficiaries were informed through PRI members. Only a few of them were informed by government officials and fellow workers. This highlights that in both the surveyed village PRIs were playing an active role in the dissemination of information to the beneficiaries.

Table 4.35: Whether the information on MGNREGS was instantly available?

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	42	8	50
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
Manu	42	8	50
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
Total	84	16	100
	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

This table shows the availability of information about the MGNREGS. Majority of the beneficiaries in both RD blocks admitted that the information about the scheme was instantly available to them.

Table 4.36: Beneficiaries' perception on essentiality of basic literacy skills to access information

Block	Totally Agree	Agree to a large extent	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	9	21	20	50
	18.0%	42.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	17	24	50
	18.0%	34.0%	48.0%	100.0%
Total	18	38	44	100
	18.0%	38.0%	44.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In Table 4.36, it is observed that in Chawmanu RD block, 18 per cent of the beneficiaries agree that basic literacy skills were essential to access information about MGNREGS whereas 42 per cent agreed to a large extent and 40 per cent agreed to some extent. In Manu RD block, 18 per cent of the beneficiaries agree that basic literacy skills were essential to access information about MGNREGS while 34 per cent agree to a large extent and 48 per cent agree to some extent regarding its essentiality. The table highlights that majority of the beneficiaries agree to some extent regarding the essentiality of literacy skill to avail information about MGNREGS. It is observed in table 4.37 basic literacy skills to access information on MGNREGS is essential 44 per cent of the total sample agreed to some extent and agreed and 18 per cent totally agreed that basic literacy skills are essential to access information on MGNREGS.

Table 4.37: Beneficiaries' perception on essentiality of basic literacy skills to access information on MGNREGS (Education-wise)

Educational Status	Totally Agree	Agree to a large extent	Agree to some extent	Total
Illiterate	5	7	9	21
	23.8%	33.3%	42.9%	100.0%
Primary	5	21	20	46
	10.9%	45.7%	43.5%	100.0%
Middle	2	4	8	14
	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	100.0%
High school and above	6	6	7	19
	31.6%	31.6%	36.8%	100.0%
Total	18	38	44	100
	18.0%	38.0%	44.0%	100.0%

Table 4.38 depicts that all the beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block were aware of 100 days of employment in a financial year. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 94 per cent of them were aware of the fact and the rest of 6 per cent had no idea.

Table 4.38: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS- 100 days of employment

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	50	0	50
	100.0%	0	100.0%
Manu	47	3	50
	94.0%	6.0%	100.0%
Total	97	3	100
	97.0%	3.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.39: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS- right to employment

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	45	5	50
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	49	1	50
	98.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	94	6	100
	94.0%	6.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.39 demonstrates the level of awareness among the beneficiaries regarding the right to employment in MGNREGS. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, almost all the beneficiaries were aware of their right to employment. Around 90 per cent of beneficiaries in Chawmanu and 98 per cent in Manu RD block were aware of the right to employment in MGNREGS.

Table 4.40: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS- wage employment in the local area

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	27	23	50
	54.0%	46.0%	100.0%
Manu	44	6	50
	88.0%	12.0%	100.0%
Total	71	29	100
	71.0%	29.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Awareness level among the beneficiaries regarding wage employment in local areas was better in Manu RD block than Chawmanu RD block. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, 54 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware and 46 per cent of beneficiaries were not aware of the wage employment in local areas in MGNREGS. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, the majority (88%) of the beneficiaries were aware of the fact.

Table 4.41: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - worksite facilities

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	23	27	50
	46.0%	54.0%	100.0%
Manu	41	9	50
	82.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Total	64	36	100
	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Awareness level among the beneficiaries regarding wage employment in local areas was better in Manu RD block than Chawmanu RD block. It was observed that in Manu RD block, the majority (82 per cent) of the beneficiaries were aware of the worksite facilities in local areas in MGNREGS. On the contrary, in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (54 per cent) of them were still unaware of the worksite facilities available for differently abled persons.

Table 4.42: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - period of wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	19	31	50
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
Manu	30	20	50
	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	49	51	100
	49.0%	51.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.42 highlights the level of awareness among the beneficiaries regarding the period of wage in MGNREGS. Beneficiaries of Manu RD block were more aware of the period of wages than the beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block. In Manu RD block, around 60 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware of the period of wage in MGNREGS whereas in Chawmanu RD block only 38 per cent were aware of it.

Table 4.43 shows the level of awareness of beneficiaries regarding the prescribed wages in MGNREGS. The awareness level of beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD block is not satisfactory regarding the prescribed wages under MGNREGS. Only 10 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 38 per cent in Manu RD block were aware of it.

Table 4.43: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - prescribed wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Manu	19	31	50
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
Total	24	76	100
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.44: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - equal wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	19	31	50
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
Manu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Total	35	65	100
	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%

Majority of the beneficiaries (62 per cent) in the Chawmanu RD block and Manu RD block (68 per cent) were aware that a differently abled person was also entitled to equal wages in MGNREGS as their non-disabled peers.

Table 4.45: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - exclusive manual works

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	7	43	50
	14.0%	86.0%	100.0%
Manu	8	42	50
	16.0%	84.0%	100.0%
Total	15	85	100
	15.0%	85.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.45 depicts that the majority of the beneficiaries of both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were unaware of exclusive manual work for the differently abled beneficiaries. Only 14 per cent and 16 per cent of beneficiaries, respectively, in the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, were aware of the exclusive manual works.

It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, only 8 per cent of the beneficiaries and in Manu RD block, 26 per cent were aware of the type of works in MGNREGS.

Table 4.46: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - type of works

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	4	46	50
	8.0%	92.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Total	17	83	100
	17.0%	83.0%	100.0%

Table 4.47: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - mate system

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	4	46	50
	8.0%	92.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Total	10	90	100
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The majority of the beneficiaries, i.e. 92 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 88 per cent in Manu RD block were unaware of the mate system in MGNREGS.

Table 4.48: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS- Shelf of Works

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu		50	50
		100.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Total	13	87	100
	13.0%	87.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.48 depicts that all the beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block and 26 per cent in Manu RD block were unaware of the shelf of works in MGNREGS.

This table highlights the level of awareness issues among the beneficiaries in reference to works on-demand in MGNREGS. It was seen that 24 per cent and 26 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were aware of the works on-demand in MGNREGS.

Table 4.49: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - works on demand

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	12	38	50
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Total	25	75	100
	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.50: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - medical aid/treatment

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Manu	22	28	50
	44.0%	56.0%	100.0%
Total	35	65	100
	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Majority of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were unaware of the medical aid/treatment provided in MGNREGS worksite. In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, 26 per cent and 44 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, were aware of medical aid in MGNREGS.

Table 4.51: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - social audit

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Manu	19	31	50
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
Total	32	68	100
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Although the social audit is an important process in MGNREGS to review the functioning of the scheme, yet it was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were unaware of it. In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, only 26 per cent and 38 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, were aware of the social audit in MGNREGS.

Table 4.52: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - travel allowance

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	2	48	50
	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%
Manu	7	43	50
	14.0%	86.0%	100.0%
Total	9	91	100
	9.0%	91.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, only 4 per cent of the beneficiaries and in Manu RD block, only 14 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware that differently abled beneficiaries were provided travel allowance in MGNREGS.

Table 4.53: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - timely wage payment within 15 days

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	3	47	50
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Total	9	91	100
	9.0%	91.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

As per Table 4.53, the majority of the beneficiaries were unaware that in MGNREGS work wages should be paid within 15 days from the day of work. In Chawmanu RD block, only 6 per cent and in Manu RD block, 12 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware of timely wage payment within 15 days.

Table 4.54: Awareness issues in reference to MGNREGS - any other

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	2	48	50
	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Total	7	93	100
	7.0%	93.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In Chawmanu RD block, only 4 per cent of the beneficiaries and in Manu RD block, 10 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware of other information about MGNREGS.

Table 4.55: Activities of the coordinator

Block	Awareness generation	Organise monthly meeting	Monthly review progress	Total
Chawmanu	26	0	7	33
	78.8%	0	21.2%	100.0%
Manu	42	1	6	49
	85.7%	2.0%	12.2%	100.0%
Total	68	1	13	82
	82.9%	1.2%	15.9%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.55 highlights the major activities of the coordinator in MGNREGS. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (78.8 per cent) of the beneficiaries State that the major activities done by the coordinator were awareness generation followed by monthly review progress. Similarly, in Manu RD block, the majority (85.7per cent) of the beneficiaries note that the major activities done by the coordinator were awareness generation followed by monthly review progress and organisation of the monthly meeting.

Table 4.56: No. of beneficiaries getting disability pension from the GP

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	36	14	50
	72.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Manu	45	5	50
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	81	19	100
	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

From Table 4.56, it was observed that the majority of beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block (72 per cent) and Manu RD block (90 per cent) were getting disability pension. Although a majority of the beneficiaries avail the disability pension, yet around 28 per cent of in Chawmanu RD block and 10 per cent in Manu RD block were still out of reach of the pension which needs significant attention.

A variation was observed in the disability pension available to the differently abled beneficiaries that seek keen attention. In Chawmanu RD block, disability pension was identified to be Rs. 600 by 58.3 per cent of beneficiaries, Rs.400 by 5.6 per cent, Rs. 500 by 25 per cent, Rs. 700 by 5.6 per cent,

Rs. 900 by 2.8 per cent and Rs. 100 by 2.8 per cent of beneficiaries. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 57.8 per cent of beneficiaries identified that the disability pension was Rs. 500 whereas the rest of the beneficiaries identified the pension to be Rs. 600. This alarming issue seeks keen attention of the service provider.

Table 4.57: Details of amount received by beneficiaries per month

Block	400	500	600	700	900	1000	Total
Chawmanu	2	9	21	2	1	1	36
	5.6%	25.0%	58.3%	5.6%	2.8%	2.8%	100.0%
Manu	0	26	19	0	0	0	45
	0	57.8%	42.2%	0	0	0	100.0%
Total	2	35	40	2	1	1	81
	2.5%	43.2%	49.4%	2.5%	1.2%	1.2%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.58: Details of beneficiaries receiving pension

Block	Bank	Total
Chawmanu	36	36
	100.0%	100.0%
Manu	45	45
	100.0%	100.0%
Total	81	81
	100.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, all the beneficiaries get their disability pension through a bank account.

Table 4.59: Awareness of disability-friendly tools

Block	Not aware	Modified	Assistive device	Total
Chawmanu	21	22	7	50
	42.0%	44.0%	14.0%	100.0%
Manu		44	6	50
		88.0%	12.0s%	100.0%
Total	21	66	13	100
	21.0%	66.0%	13.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.59 highlights the awareness of MGNREGS beneficiaries regarding disability-friendly tools. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, 44 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware of the modified tools and only 14 per cent of them were aware of the assistive device. On the other hand, in Manu block, around 88 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware of the modified tools and only 12 per cent of them were aware of the assistive device.

Table 4.60: No. of beneficiaries still using general tools/equipment at worksite

Block	Not aware	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	21	24	5	50
	42.0%	48.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	-	39	11	50
	-	78.0%	22.0%	100.0%
Total	21	63	16	100
	21.0%	63.0%	16.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In Chawmanu RD block, 42 per cent of the beneficiaries could not respond about the tool equipment at a worksite. Around 48 per cent of them were using general tool equipment at the worksite. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, the majority (78 per cent) of the beneficiaries were still using general equipment at a worksite.

Table 4.61: Awareness of Labour Groups

Block	Not Answered	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	12	35	3	50
	24.0%	70.0%	6.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	40	9	50
	2.0%	80.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Total	13	75	12	100
	13.0%	75.0%	12.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Most of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were aware of the labour groups. In Chawmanu RD block, 44 per cent of the beneficiaries identified the labour groups to be heterogeneous whereas only 12 per cent of the beneficiaries identified the group to be homogeneous. In Manu RD block, the majority of the beneficiaries (80 per cent) identified the labour groups to be heterogeneous.

Table 4.62: Is the Labour Group homogeneous/heterogeneous?

Block	No Response	Homogeneous	Heterogeneous	Total
Chawmanu	22	6	22	50
	44.0%	12.0%	44.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	1	40	50
	18.0%	2.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	31	7	62	100
	31.0%	7.0%	62.0%	100.0%

Table 4.63: Awareness of mandatory facilities to be provided at the worksite - first aid

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	28	10	12	50
	56.0%	20.0%	24.0%	100.0%
Manu	40	1	9	50
	80.0%	2.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Total	68	11	21	100
	68.0%	11.0%	21.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, 56 per cent and 80 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, agreed that mandatory facilities such as first aid should be provided at the worksite. Only 24 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and 18 per cent in Manu RD block were unaware of the fact.

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	31	9	10	50
	62.0%	18.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	44	1	5	50
	88.0%	2.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	75	10	15	100
	75.0%	10.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Majority 62 per cent of the beneficiaries in the Chawmanu RD block and 88 per cent of the beneficiaries in Manu RD block agreed that mandatory facilities such drinking water should be provided at the worksite of MGNREGS work. Only 20 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and 10 per cent of beneficiaries in Manu RD block were unaware that drinking water should be provided at the workplace.

Table 4.65: Awareness of mandatory facilities to be provided at the worksite - creche

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	1	32	17	50
	2.0%	64.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Manu	4	30	16	50
	8.0%	60.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Total	5	62	33	100
	5.0%	62.0%	33.0%	100.0%

It was observed that only 2 per cent and 8 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks agreed that crèche facility should be provided at the workplace. The majority of the beneficiaries (64 per cent) in Chawmanu RD block and Manu RD block (60 per cent) agreed to some extent that mandatory facilities such a crèche facility should be provided at the worksite. Around 34 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and 32 per cent of beneficiaries in Manu RD block were unaware of it.

Table 4.66: Awareness of mandatory facilities to be provided at the worksite - shade

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	1	33	16	50
	2.0%	66.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Manu	8	31	11	50
	16.0%	62.0%	22.0%	100.0%
Total	9	64	27	100
	9.0%	64.0%	27.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

It was observed that only 2 per cent and 16 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks agreed that provision of shade should be arranged at the workplace. Whereas

majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block (66 per cent) Manu RD block (62 per cent) agreed to some extent that mandatory facilities such a shade facility should be provided at the worksite. Around 32 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and 22 per cent of beneficiaries in Manu RD block were unaware of it.

Table 4.67: Awareness of approaching officials/others – non-issuance of job cards

Block	Aware	Aware to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	30	6	14	50
	60.0%	12.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Manu	34	13	3	50
	68.0%	26.0%	6.0%	100.0%
Total	64	19	17	100
	64.0%	19.0%	17.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In case of non-receipt of job cards, some of the beneficiaries were not aware of approaching the officials or others for the job card. In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, 60 per cent and 68 per cent of the beneficiaries knew that they have to contact officials for job cards.

Table 4.68: Awareness of approaching officials/others if work is not given within 15 days

Block	Aware	Aware to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	21	12	17	50
	42.0%	24.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Manu	23	22	5	50
	46.0%	44.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	44	34	22	100
	44.0%	34.0%	22.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In case the work was not provided within 15 days of demand, a significant portion, i.e. 34 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block were unaware of approaching the officials or others. While 42 per cent of them were totally aware, 24 per cent of them were aware to some extent about

contacting the officials demanding work. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 46 per cent were totally aware and 44 per cent were aware to some extent about seeking official assistance. Only 10 per cent of beneficiaries were unaware of it.

Table 4.69: Awareness of approaching officials/others if wages are not paid within 15 days

Block	Aware	Aware to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	2	31	17	50
	4.0%	62.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	32	5	50
	26.0%	64.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	15	63	22	100
	15.0%	63.0%	22.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In case wages were not paid within 15 days of work done, a significant portion, i.e. 34 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block were not aware of approaching officials or others for wage payment. Whereas 62 per cent were aware to some extent, only 4 per cent were totally aware of meeting officials demanding wage payment. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, 64 per cent of the beneficiaries were aware to some extent while only 13 per cent of them were totally aware of it.

Table 4.70: Sources for availing information on MGNREGS

Block	not answered	GP	SHG	Officials	Rozgar Sevak	Total
Chawmanu	4	29	2	1	14	50
	8.0%	58.0%	4.0%	2.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	27	5	1	4	50
	26.0%	54.0%	10.0%	2.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total	17	56	7	2	18	100
	17.0%	56.0%	7.0%	2.0%	18.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block (58 per cent) and Manu RD block (54 per cent) got the information about MGNREGS work from their respective Gram Panchayats (GPs). Only a few of them in both the blocks got information from SHGs, government officials and rozgar sevak.

Table 4.71: Factors responsible for low participation

Factors	Chawmanu				Manu			
	Fully Agree	To some extent	Not at all	Total	Fully Agree	To some extent	Not at all	Total
No sufficient agricultural activity	35 (70.0)	14 (28.0)	1 (2.0)	50 (100.0)	36 (72.0)	14 (28.0)	-	50 (100.0)
Low market wages	30 (60.0)	19 (38.0)	1 (2.0)	50 (100.0)	27 (54.0)	23 (46.0)	-	50 (100.0)
Migration	10 (20.0)	26 (52.0)	14 (28.0)	50 (100.0)	9 (18.0)	18 (36.0)	23 (46.0)	50 (100.0)
Illiteracy	18 (36.0)	30 (60.0)	2 (4.0)	50 (100.0)	13 (26.0)	32 (64.0)	5 (10.0)	50 (100.0)
Lack of skills	8 (16.0)	41 (82.0)	1 (2.0)	50 (100.0)	5 (10.0)	37 (74.0)	3 (6.0)	50 (100.0)
Flood	3 (6.0)	32 (64.0)	15 (30.0)	50 (100.0)	5 (10.0)	10 (20.0)	35 (70.0)	50 (100.0)
Drought	2 (4.0)	33 (66.0)	15 (30.0)	50 (100.0)	3 (6.0)	11 (22.0)	36 (72.0)	50 (100.0)
Lack of continuous work	8 (16.0)	38 (76.0)	4 (8.0)	50 (100.0)	3 (6.0)	25 (50.0)	22 (44.0)	50 (100.0)

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.71 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that around 70 per cent and 72 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks fully agreed that no sufficient agricultural activity was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

The table also shows the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 60 per cent and 54 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks fully agreed that low market wages was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

The table further explains the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that around 52 per cent and 36 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks agreed to some extent that migration was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

It was observed that majority, i.e. 60 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 64 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that illiteracy was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

It was observed that majority, i.e. 82 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 74 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that lack of skills was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

It was observed that majority, i.e. 64 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and only 20 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that flood was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

It was observed that majority, i.e. 66 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and only 22 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that drought was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

It was observed that majority, i.e. 76 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 50 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that lack of continuous work was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.72: Motivating factors for the beneficiaries

S. No.	Motivating Factors	No. of beneficiaries having Positive Responses			
		Chawmanu	%	Manu	%
A	Minimum wages	46	92.0%	50	100.0%
B	Timely wages	29	58.0%	36	72.0%
C	Work taken up on their own land	11	22.0%	34	68.0%
D	Assets created which are beneficial	9	18.0%	34	68.0%
E	*Support from the family	29	58.0%	33	66.0%
F	Higher MGNREGS wages than market wages	7	14.0%	11	22.0%
G	Equal wages	19	38.0%	10	20.0%
H	Group arrangement	6	12.0%	11	22.0%
I	Mode of payment	3	6.0%	12	24.0%
J	Worksite facilities	5	10.0%	13	26.0%
K	Attitude/sensitivity of officials	4	8.0%	12	24.0%
L	Timely employment	16	32.0%	9	18.0%
M	SHG membership	1	2.0%	6	12.0%
N	Local NGOs encouragement	1	2.0%	5	10.0%
O	Self-esteem/Self-dignity	16	32.0%	12	24.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017. *Note: Multiple Responses

Table 4.72 highlighted the motivating factors for the MGNREGS beneficiaries to participate in the work. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (92 per cent) of the beneficiaries identified minimum wages as the motivating factor. Around 58 per cent of them identified support of the family and 58 per cent identified timely wages, 38 per cent identified equal wages and 32 per cent identified self-dignity as the motivating factor to participate in the work under MGNREGS. Very few beneficiaries identified group arrangement, mode of payment, NGO encouragement, SHG membership, and attitude of the officials as the motivating factors.

Similarly, in Manu RD block, all the beneficiaries identified minimum wages as the motivating factor. Around 72 per cent of them identified timely wages, 68 per cent identified work taken upon their own land, 68 per cent identified the creation of beneficial assets, 26 per cent identified worksite facilities, 28 per cent of them identified the mode of payment and attitude of officials as the motivating factors to participate in the work under MGNREGS. Very few beneficiaries identified equal wages, group arrangement, NGOs encouragement and SHG membership as the motivating factors.

Table 4.73: Factors responsible for low participation - lack of sufficient agricultural activity

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	35	14	1	50
	70.0%	28.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	36	14	-	50
	72.0%	28.0%	-	100.0%
Total	71	28	1	100
	71.0%	28.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.73 highlighted the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that around 70 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 72 per cent in Manu RD block fully agreed that no sufficient agricultural activity was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.74: Factors responsible for low participation - low market wages

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	30	19	1	50
	60.0%	38.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	27	23		50
	54.0%	46.0%		100.0%
Total	57	42	1	100
	57.0%	42.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.74 highlighted the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 60 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 54 per cent in Manu RD block fully agreed that low market wages were responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.75: Factors responsible for low participation – migration

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	10	26	14	50
	20.0%	52.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	18	23	50
	18.0%	36.0%	46.0%	100.0%
Total	19	44	37	100
	19.0%	44.0%	37.0%	100.0%

Table 4.75 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 52 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 36 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that migration was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.76: Factors responsible for low participation – illiteracy

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	18	30	2	50
	36.0%	60.0%	4.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	32	5	50
	26.0%	64.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	31	62	7	100
	31.0%	62.0%	7.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.76 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 60 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 64 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that illiteracy was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.77: Factors responsible for low participation - lack of skills

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	8	41	1	50
	16.0%	82.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	37	8	50
	10.0%	74.0%	16.0%	100.0%
Total	13	78	9	100
	13.0%	78.0%	9.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.77 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 82 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 74 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that lack of skills was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.78: Factors responsible for low participation – flood

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	3	32	15	50
	6.0%	64.0%	30.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	10	35	50
	10.0%	20.0%	70.0%	100.0%
Total	8	42	50	100
	8.0%	42.0%	50.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.78 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that 64 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 20 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that flood was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.79: Factors responsible for low participation – drought

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	2	33	15	50
	4.0%	66.0%	30.0%	100.0%
Manu	3	11	36	50
	6.0%	22.0%	72.0%	100.0%
Total	5	44	51	100
	5.0%	44.0%	51.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.79 highlights the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that 66 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 22 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that drought was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

Table 4.80: Factors responsible for low participation - lack of continuous work

Block	Fully Agree	To Some Extent	Not at all	Total
Chawmanu	8	38	4	50
	16.0%	76.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Manu	3	25	22	50
	6.0%	50.0%	44.0%	100.0%
Total	11	63	26	100
	11.0%	63.0%	26.0%	100.0%

Table 4.80 highlighted the factors responsible for low participation in MGNREGS work. It was observed that majority, i.e. 76 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 50 per cent in Manu RD block agreed to some extent that lack of continuous work was responsible for the participation of beneficiaries in MGNREGS.

The following Tables 81-87 depict the variable-wise data of motivating factors of the MGNREGS beneficiaries to participate in the work under the scheme.

Table 4.81: Perception of personal gains - financial security

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	48	2	50
	96.0%	4.0%	100.0%
Manu	41	9	50
	82.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Total	89	11	100
	89.0%	11.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.81 depicts the perception of the beneficiaries about the personal gains after involvement in MGNREGS. It was observed that almost all the beneficiaries of Chawmanu (96%) and Manu (82%) RD block agreed that they became financially secured after getting employment under MGNREGS. This gives an understanding that the majority of the differently abled persons in the study area are accessing MGNREGs and getting financially benefited.

Table 4.82: Perception of personal gains - decline in incidence of migration

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	17	33	50
	34.0%	66.0%	100.0%
Manu	23	27	50
	46.0%	54.0%	100.0%
Total	40	60	100
	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.82 depicts the perception of the beneficiaries about the reduction of the incidence of migration after involvement in MGNREGS. It was observed that 66 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 54 per cent in Manu RD block did not consider that the incidence of migration reduced after the employment under MGNREGS. Only a few beneficiaries in both the blocks felt that the incidence of migration decreased after the introduction of the scheme.

Table 4.83: Perception of personal gains - IAY household

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	32	18	50
	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%
Manu	34	16	50
	68.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Total	66	34	100
	66.0%	34.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.83 depicts the perception of the beneficiaries regarding houses under IAY after involvement in MGNREGS. It was observed that 64 per cent of the beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block and 68 per cent of them in Manu RD block agreed that they availed IAY household after getting employment under MGNREGS. Nearly 34 per cent were unmarried and are following the joint family system.

Table 4.84: Perception of personal gains - land development

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	9	41	50
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%
Manu	30	20	50
	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	39	61	100
	39.0%	61.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.84 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries of the land development after the introduction of MGNREGS and it depicts a variant picture. It was observed that in Chawmanu RD block, 82 per cent of the beneficiaries felt that there was no land development after the introduction of the scheme. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 60 per cent of the beneficiaries admitted that land was developed by the MGNREGS.

Table 4.85: Perception of personal gains - personal care of children

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	15	35	50
	30.0%	70.0%	100.0%
Manu	11	39	50
	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
Total	26	74	100
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.85 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries about the personal care of children after their involvement in MGNREGS. Around 70 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 78 per cent in Manu RD block considered that the level of personal care of children saw a dip due to their involvement in work. Few beneficiaries in both the RD blocks consider that the level of personal care of the children bettered on account of financial security provided by the work.

Table 4.86: Perception of personal gains - more attention to children's education

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Manu	10	40	50
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	26	74	100
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.86 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries about more attention to the education of their children after involvement in MGNREGS. Around 68 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 80 per cent in Manu RD block considered that they were unable to give more attention to the education of their children due to their involvement in work. Few beneficiaries of both the RD blocks consider that after getting the job they were financially secured and were able to give more attention to the education of their children.

Table 4.87: Perception of personal gains - better care for infants at worksite

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	14	36	50
	28.0%	72.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	41	50
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%
Total	23	77	100
	23.0%	77.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.87 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries about better care for infants at MGNREGS worksite. The majority, i.e. 72 per cent of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 82 per cent in Manu RD block did not feel that better care was provided to the infants at the worksite. This seeks the kind attention of the MGNREGS officials and related service providers to ensure better care for infants at the worksite, which will increase the participation rate.

Table 4.88: Perception of personal gains - improved household savings

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	29	21	50
	58.0%	42.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Total	42	58	100
	42.0%	58.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.88 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries about improvement in household savings after involvement in MGNREGS and this shows a deviant picture. In Chawmanu RD block, majority (58 per cent) of the beneficiaries believe that their household savings have improved after the employment under MGNREGS. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, the majority (74 per cent) of the beneficiaries found no improvement in their household savings.

Table 4.89: Perception of personal gains –Increase in alcohol consumption by the head of household

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Total	10	90	100
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.89 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries about the increase in alcoholism by the head of the household after involvement in MGNREGS and the data reflect a positive picture. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the majority (90 per cent) of the beneficiaries think that consumption of alcohol by the head of the household has not increased even after an increase in their income following the employment under MGNRES.

Table 4.90: Perception of personal gains - could able to meet expenditure on health-related issues

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	10	40	50
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Manu	12	38	50
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%
Total	22	78	100
	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.90 highlights the perception of the beneficiaries regarding expenditure on health-related issues after involvement in MGNREGS. Only beneficiaries of Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks felt that after the employment of the MGNREGS, the household expenditure on health-related issues has increased.

Table 4.91: Perception of personal gains - able to spend more on clothes for self, children, etc.

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Manu	8	42	50
	16.0%	84.0%	100.0%
Total	21	79	100
	21.0%	79.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Despite the employment provided through MGNREGS, only 26 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 16 per cent in Manu RD block considered that they were able to spend more on clothes for self, children, etc., as they have to spend the amount for food.

Table 4.92: Perception of personal gains - could able to get better or more wages in agricultural sector

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	10	40	50
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Total	16	84	100
	16.0%	84.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

After the introduction of MGNREGS, beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks detected an increase in the wage rate in the agricultural sector. This is because, after the introduction of the scheme, agricultural labourers opt for the work under MGNREGS as they were getting the wages on time.

Table 4.93: Perception of personal gains - increase in wage negotiation capability

Block	0	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	1	5	44	50
	2.0%	10.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Manu		5	45	50
		10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Total	1	10	89	100
	1.0%	10.0%	89.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.93 shows the perception of personal gains after engaging in MGNREGS such as improved wage negotiation capability. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, a few of the beneficiaries agreed that after engaging in MGNREGS, wage negotiation capability of the beneficiaries was improved.

Table 4.94: Professional Issues - unity with other workers

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	34	16	50
	68.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Manu	43	7	50
	86.0%	14.0%	100.0%
Total	77	23	100
	77.0%	23.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.94 highlights the professional gains such as unity with other workers of the beneficiaries after engaging in MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block (68 per cent) and in Manu RD block (86 per cent) agreed that after engaging in MGNREGS their unity with other workers has improved.

The table highlighted the realisation of the personal abilities of the beneficiaries after engaging in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block (66 per cent) and in Manu RD block (80 per cent) agreed that after engaging in MGNREGS, their realisation about their personal ability has improved.

Table 4.95: Professional issues - realising more personal abilities

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	33	17	50
	66.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Manu	40	10	50
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	73	27	100
	73.0%	27.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.96: Professional issues - rights and responsibilities of self

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	36	14	50
	72.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Manu	41	9	50
	82.0%	18.0%	100.0%
Total	77	23	100
	77.0%	23.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.96 highlighted the self-right and responsibilities of the beneficiaries after engaging in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 72 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 82 per cent in Manu RD block - totally agreed that their awareness about self-right and responsibilities have improved after participating in MGNREGS work.

Table 4.97: Professional issues - access to wider information

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	26	24	50
	52.0%	48.0%	100.0%
Manu	27	23	50
	54.0%	46.0%	100.0%
Total	53	47	100
	53.0%	47.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.97 highlights the beneficiaries' access to wider information after engaging in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of them - 52 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 54 per cent in Manu RD block - totally agreed that their access to information has improved after participating in MGNREGS work. They are now more aware of their rights and benefits.

Table 4.98: Professional issues - technical information on works

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	2	47	1	50
	4.0%	94.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	16	33	1	50
	32.0%	66.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	18	80	2	100
	18.0%	80.0%	2.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.98 highlights the awareness of the beneficiaries regarding technical information after engaging in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 94 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 66 per cent in Manu RD block - were agreed to some extent that their technical information on work has improved after participating in MGNREGS work.

Table 4.99: Professional issues - measurement of works

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	1	48	1	50
	2.0%	96.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	44	1	50
	10.0%	88.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	6	92	2	100
	6.0%	92.0%	2.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.99 highlights the measurement of work in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 96 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 88 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that the measurement of MGNREGS works has improved.

It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 90 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 92 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that self-help among the differently abled beneficiaries has improved after participating in MGNREGS work.

Table 4.100: Professional issues - self-help among workers

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	5	45		50
	10.0%	90.0%		100.0%
Manu	3	46	1	50
	6.0%	92.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	8	91	1	100
	8.0%	91.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.101: Professional issues - interaction with officials

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	6	44		50
	12.0%	88.0%		100.0%
Manu	4	45	1	50
	8.0%	90.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	10	89	1	100
	10.0%	89.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.101 highlights the interaction of the beneficiaries with the officials after engaging in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries -88 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 90 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that their interaction with various officials has improved after participating in MGNREGS work. Only a few beneficiaries in both the RD blocks totally agreed that their interaction has improved.

Table 4.102: Professional issues - utility of works undertaken

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	3	47		50
	6.0%	94.0%		100.0%
Manu	3	46	1	50
	6.0%	92.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	6	93	1	100
	6.0%	93.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.102 highlights the utility of works undertaken in MGNREGS. It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 94 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 92 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that the utility of MGNREGS work undertaken has improved.

Table 4.103: Professional issues - understanding on natural resources

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	3	47		50
	6.0%	94.0%		100.0%
Manu	6	43	1	50
	12.0%	86.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	9	90	1	100
	9.0%	90.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

It was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries - 94 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 86 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that their understating about natural resources has improved after participating in MGNREGS work. Only a few beneficiaries in Manu RD block were totally unaware of natural resources.

Table 4.104: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS - equal wages

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	34	15	1	50
	68.0%	30.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	42	8		50
	84.0%	16.0%		100.0%
Total	76	23	1	100
	76.0%	23.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.104 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries - 68 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 84 per cent in Manu RD block - totally agreed that equal wages were the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.105 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries - 70 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 72 per cent in Manu RD block - totally agreed that wage opportunities in the vicinity was the best gain for the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.105: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS – wage opportunities in the vicinity

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	35	14	1	50
	70.0%	28.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Manu	36	14		50
	72.0%	28.0%		100.0%
Total	71	28	1	100
	71.0%	28.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.106: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS - timely wages

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	31	19		50
	62.0%	38.0%		100.0%
Manu	29	20	1	50
	58.0%	40.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	60	39	1	100
	60.0%	39.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The tables highlight the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries - 62 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 58 per cent in Manu RD block - totally agreed that timely wages were the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.107: Personally consider the best gain from MGNREGS - regulated working hours

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	33	17		50
	66.0%	34.0%		100.0%
Manu	15	34	1	50
	30.0%	68.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	48	51	1	100
	48.0%	51.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.107 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS and the data show a deviant picture. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (66 per cent) of the beneficiaries totally agreed that regulated working hours was the best gain of the beneficiaries

from the MGNREGS. Whereas, in Manu RD block, only 30 per cent of the beneficiaries totally agreed and the majority (68 per cent) of them agreed to some extent that regulated working hours was the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.108: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS - works with rights

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Total
Chawmanu	32	18	50
	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%
Manu	3	47	50
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%
Total	35	65	100
	35.0%	65.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.108 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS and the data shows a deviant picture. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (64 per cent) of the beneficiaries totally agreed that works with right were the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS. Whereas, in Manu RD block, only 6 per cent of the beneficiaries totally agreed and the majority (94 per cent) of them agreed to some extent that works with right was the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.109: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS - worksite facilities

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	7	43		50
	14.0%	86.0%		100.0%
Manu	3	46	1	50
	6.0%	92.0%	2.0%	100.0%
Total	10	89	1	100
	10.0%	89.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.109 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries -86 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 92 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that worksite facilities were the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Table 4.110: Personally consider best gain from MGNREGS - reduced burden of distress migration

Block	Agree	Agree to some extent	Not aware	Total
Chawmanu	3	47		50
	6.0%	94.0%		100.0%
Manu	1	47	2	50
	2.0%	94.0%	4.0%	100.0%
Total	4	94	2	100
	4.0%	94.0%	2.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4.110 highlights the personal view of the beneficiaries regarding the best gain of MGNREGS. The majority of the beneficiaries - 94 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 94 per cent in Manu RD block - agreed to some extent that reduced burden of distress was the best gain of the beneficiaries from the MGNREGS.

Statistical tools and techniques

One of the objectives set for the study relates to studying the livelihoods of the sample respondents' households. This is accomplished by computing the average number of days of employment each sample household got from MGNREGS and also the corresponding wages earned by the households. To understand whether any pattern exists in employment levels and also the wages across the recent years, (2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16), data were collected both on employment and wages for these three years separately.

As can be gleaned from the Tables 4.111 to 4.113, some differences (both positive and negative) are noticed both in employment and wage figures from 2013-14 to 2015-16. But to examine whether these differences are real in the populations from which the samples are drawn or they occurred because of sampling fluctuations, paired t-test of significance has been carried out for two sets of data separately for employment and wages, the sets being those that relate to 2013-14 and 2014-15, and 2014-15 and 2015-16. The results so obtained are presented in Table 4.113 and discussed in the following paras:

Average number of days of employment: (t-ratio)

Table 4.113 gives the social group-wise average employment days from MGNREGS and it is clear from the table that the ST households are found to be having an edge over other groups in all

the three time periods. To test if the differences in the employment days of a given social group between two successive years are significant, the following hypotheses are postulated:

Null Hypothesis (H₀): No significant difference exists in the average number of days of employment of a given social group between – i) 2013-14 and 2014-15 and ii) 2014-15 and 2015-16 in the populations).

The alternative hypothesis would be (H₁): Significant difference exists in the employment days between 2013-14 and 2014-15, and 2014-15 and 2015-16 in the populations).

As the analysis shows, t-ratios have turned out significant in respect of SCs and BCs - the average employment days have registered an increase from 2013-14 to 2014-15. However, in the case of 2014-15 and 2015-16, only SCs could register a significant increase in the average employment days, as the test shows. This implies that we reject the null hypothesis (and accept the alternative hypothesis in respect of SCs and BCs for the period 2013-14 and 2014-15. As regards the next period (2014-15 and 2015-16), the null hypothesis is rejected in respect of SCs only.

When a similar exercise is carried out for wages, it is seen that t-ratios are significant only in respect of STs and BCs for data relating to 2013-14 and 2014-15. This implies that these two groups of respondents (namely STs and BCs) could realise relatively higher wages (resulting in higher differences) from 2013-14 to 2014-15 while the other two groups (SCs and 'others') could not show any difference in the wages. And the interpretation would be that SCs and others were, by and large, having the same wage levels in the populations.

As discussed in the report, there is a graduation in the number of days of employment the sample respondents (not the households) got from the scheme - starting from 80 days on an average in 2013-14 to 2015-16 to 96 days. When a similar analysis is done gender-wise, it is seen that woman respondents derived larger benefit from the scheme in two years (2013-14 and 2015-16) than the male counterparts and the difference is to the extent of 4 to almost 6 days on an average (Table 4.111)

An attempt was also made to identify the respondents, who were able to take more advantage of the scheme in terms of larger employment days. The analysis in this regard reveals that out of three types of disabilities, namely locomotor, hearing impaired and visually impaired, the visually impaired stood to gain more from the scheme than the others. (It may be noted that this analysis is carried out only to identify the nature of disability of the respondents deriving larger benefit but not to develop a causal relationship between the disability – cause- and employment - days). And, this trend is by and

large also in evidence in the gender-wise analysis of employment data across the major disabilities. Female respondents have an edge over their male counterparts in accessing the scheme for employment regardless of the nature of the disability.

No doubt, disability can be taken as a factor that may be associated with employment days (but not a causal factor). More relevant than this is to understand how gender-wise employment days vary based on the percentage of disability. The following table presents the results through which the two issues can be further analysed.

Table 4.111: Nature of disability-wise & year-wise average employment days

Nature of Disability	Gender		Res_days_2013_14	Res_days_2014_15	Res_days_2015_16
Locomotor Disability	Male	N	49	45	45
		Mean	75.43	92.62	94.00
	Female	N	14	14	13
		Mean	82.50	88.00	101.92
	Total	N	63	59	58
		Mean	77.00	91.53	95.78
Hearing impaired	Male	N	9	9	9
		Mean	84.33	91.89	90.00
	Female	N	4	4	4
		Mean	79.25	91.25	98.50
	Total	N	13	13	13
		Mean	82.77	91.69	92.62
Visually impaired	Male	N	8	8	8
		Mean	85.25	92.63	92.75
	Female	N	7	7	7
		Mean	85.43	93.00	95.43
	Total	N	15	15	15
		Mean	85.33	92.80	94.00
Mentally impaired	Male	N	1	1	1
		Mean	104.00	111.00	101.00
	Total	N	1	1	1
		Mean	104.00	111.00	101.00
Others	Male	N	1	1	1
		Mean	83.00	97.00	50.00
	Total	N	1	1	1
		Mean	83.00	97.00	50.00
Total	Male	N	68	64	64
		Mean	78.29	92.87	92.70
	Female	N	25	25	24
		Mean	82.80	89.92	99.46
	Total	N	93	89	88
		Mean	79.51	92.04	94.55

The following conclusions can be drawn from Table 4.112:

- Regardless of gender and year, the average employment figures keep an increasing pace with the percentage of disability (in other words, the higher the percentage of disability, the larger is the employment. It is not clear how such a trend is occurring from the analysis). Is it because respondents with a higher percentage of disability are preferred to others in showing employment under the scheme?
- Female respondents have an edge over the male counterparts in the receipt of employment under the scheme across the three time points. It is also evident from the analysis that the higher the percentage of disability, the larger is the extent of employment obtained, especially by female respondents covered in the sample.

Table 4.112: Percentage of disability-wise & gender-wise average employment days

% of Disability	Gender		Res_days_2013_14	Res_days_2014_15	Res_days_2015_16
30	Male	N	2	2	2
		Mean	74.00	109.00	102.00
	Female	N	1	1	1
		Mean	100.00	112.00	82.00
	Total	N	3	3	3
		Mean	82.67	110.00	95.33
40	Male	N	12	12	12
		Mean	78.92	91.42	94.67
	Female	N	6	6	6
		Mean	81.33	95.00	110.17
	Total	N	18	18	18
		Mean	79.72	92.61	99.83
50	Male	N	7	7	7
		Mean	85.14	99.57	102.86
	Total	N	7	7	7
		Mean	85.14	99.57	102.86
60	Male	N	18	16	16
		Mean	75.78	93.81	89.31
	Female	N	7	7	6
		Mean	75.14	74.86	96.00
	Total	N	25	23	22
		Mean	75.60	88.04	91.14
70	Male	N	10	10	10
		Mean	81.60	76.90	81.90
	Female	N	2	2	2
		Mean	82.00	103.00	102.50
	Total	N	12	12	12
		Mean	81.67	81.25	85.33

80	Male	N	11	9	9
		Mean	74.09	93.56	91.67
	Female	N	4	4	4
		Mean	87.50	88.00	92.25
	Total	N	15	13	13
		Mean	77.67	91.85	91.85
100	Male	N	8	8	8
		Mean	79.75	102.50	100.00
	Female	N	5	5	5
		Mean	88.40	96.80	98.80
	Total	N	13	13	13
		Mean	83.08	100.31	99.54
Total	Male	N	68	64	64
		Mean	78.29	92.87	92.70
	Female	N	25	25	24
		Mean	82.80	89.92	99.46
	Total	N	93	89	88
		Mean	79.51	92.04	94.55

Several scheme-related dimensions have been considered in the study and they are aware of the sample respondents on various issues relating to the employment guarantee scheme factors (100 days of employment, right to employment, worksite facilities, etc.) that motivate the households to participate in the programme like low market wages, need for migration, lack of skills, etc. Another aspect is mandatory facilities to be provided at the worksite, including first aid, drinking water, crèche and shade. A brief description of the items/factors that constitute each dimension is given below:

Awareness: Total score on awareness of the respondent households has been worked out on 16 factors constituting this dimension.

Motivation score: This dimension consists of 15 factors, including minimum wages, timely wages, work taken up on their land, etc., and the reaction of the respondent to each factor has been captured in terms of 'yes' or 'no' responses which are assigned scores of one and zero, respectively. The overall score is arrived at by aggregating individual factor-wise score and this overall score represents the motivation score of each respondent.

Mandatory facilities: The items considered under this dimension include first aid, drinking water, crèche and shade and the responses have been sought in terms of 'agree', 'agree to some extent' and 'not aware' responses which are assigned scores of three, two and one, respectively. The overall score is computed by aggregating factor-wise scores for each respondent.

Participation in MGNREGS: This dimension consists of seven factors and responses were sought on a five-point scale for some items while for others, dichotomous replies were obtained. A total score has been computed by aggregating the individual scores on each of the seven items.

Professional issues: About 10 factors constitute this dimension and response to each factor is got in terms of 'agree', 'agree to some extent' and 'disagree.' As in the case of other aspects, here also, a scoring procedure is followed wherein scores of three, two and one are assigned to these responses, respectively. The total score on 10 items represents the overall score on this dimension for each respondent.

Personal Issues: This dimension consists of seven items including equal wages, timely wages, regulated working hours, etc., and each factor is assessed in terms of 'agree', 'agree to some extent' and 'disagree.' In this case too, scores of three, two and one are assigned to these categories of responses, respectively, and an overall score value is computed for each respondent.

Impact score: The participation of respondents in MGNREGS is expected to give rise to improvements in financial security, reduction in migration, increased attention to children's education, etc. Responses to each of 13 such items are obtained in terms of dichotomous replies, namely 'yes' or 'no' which are given scores of one and zero, respectively. The total score by merging individual scores across the 13 items is computed which represents the impact of MGNREGS.

Table 4.113: Average Wages and Employment days with t-ratios

Social Group	Employment Days						Wages					
	Average Emp. 2013-14	Average Emp. 2014-15	Average Emp. 2015-16	t-ratio between 2013-14 to 2014-15	t-ratio between 2014-15 to 2015-16	t-ratio between 2013-14 to 2015-16	Average Wages 2013-14	Average Wages 2014-15	Average Wages 2015-16	t-ratio between 2013-14 to 2014-15	t-ratio between 2014-15 to 2015-16	t-ratio between 2013-14 to 2015-16
SC	69.75	84.75	99.25	1.36	2.70 ***	2.51 ***	9695.00	12292.50	11733.75	1.59	0.16	0.46
ST	84.60	93.15	94.74	2.67 ***	0.36	2.94 **	11277.28	13168.23	13596.78	3.71 **	0.34	3.81 **
BC	77.50	99.50	98.00	2.53 **	0.20	1.63	10788.75	14323.12	14686.25	2.71 *	0.31	1.95 ***
Others	87.29	90.57	87.71	0.62	0.25	0.02	10543.57	13350.71	13473.14	1.66	0.07	1.03

* : Significant at 5 % level. **: Significant at 1 % Level. *** : Significant at 10 % Level.

Table 4.114: Average scores of motivation, awareness and participation

Social Group	Awareness score	Motivation score	Mandatory facilities	Participation MGNREGS	Professional issues	Personally issues	N
SC	8.20	6.00	6.20	4.80	15.40	10.60	5
ST	5.80	4.67	7.37	4.26	16.92	11.20	80
BC	5.25	5.00	7.75	4.12	16.00	10.62	8
Others	7.43	6.57	8.00	4.57	16.00	9.81	7

CHAPTER – V

ANALYSIS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS) – NON-BENEFICIARY

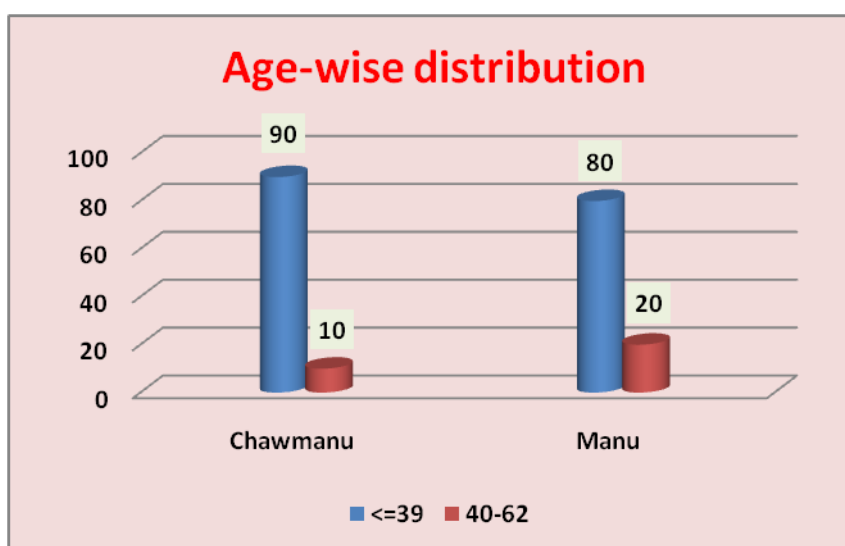
Introduction

In this chapter, an analysis of vulnerable groups (differently abled persons who are non-beneficiaries of MGNREGS) has been recorded. A sample of 10 non-beneficiaries from each block was identified, interviewed and taken as a control group. When compared with the beneficiaries of MGNREGS, the lives of non-beneficiaries are miserable. In Table 5.1, the distribution of age of the non-beneficiaries was recorded.

Table 5.1: Age-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	<=39	40-62	Total
Chawmanu	9	1	10
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	8	2	10
	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	17	3	20
	85.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.



The table shows the distribution of the age of differently abled persons who were non-beneficiaries. In Chawmanu RD block, almost all the non-beneficiaries of the scheme were aged 39 years or below. Only 10 per cent of them belonged to the age-group of 40 to 62 years. In Manu RD block, 80 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were aged 39 years or below, followed by 20 per cent of them who belonged to the age group of 40 to 62 years.

Table 5.2: Gender-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	Male	Female	Total
Chawmanu	6	4	10
	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	1	10
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	15	5	20
	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

The table highlights the gender-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In both the RD blocks, the majority of the non-beneficiaries were males. Only 40 per cent of non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 10 per cent in Manu RD block were females.

Table 5.3: Marital Status-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	Unmarried	Married	Total
Chawmanu	6	4	10
	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Manu	7	3	10
	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
Total	13	7	20
	65.0%	35.0%	100.0%

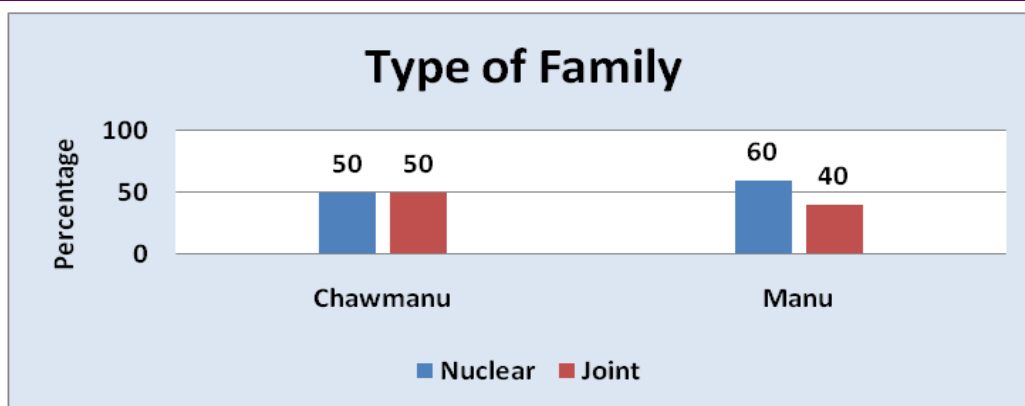
Field Survey, 2017.

In the study area, the majority (60 per cent) of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 70 per cent in Manu RD block were unmarried.

Table 5.4: Types of family of non-beneficiaries

Block	Nuclear	Joint	Total
Chawmanu	5	5	10
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	4	10
	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	11	9	20
	55.0%	45.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.



In Chawmanu RD block, half of the non-beneficiaries resided in nuclear families and rest of them resided in joint families. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, the majority (60 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries were from nuclear families and only 40 per cent were from joint families.

Table 5.5: Number of members in a family

Block	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Chawmanu	2	3	2	1	2	10
	20.0%	30.0%	20.0%	10.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	1	2	3	2	2	10
	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%	20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	3	5	5	3	4	20
	15.0%	25.0%	25.0%	15.0%	20.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.5 shows the distribution of the family members among the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. The table depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (30 per cent) of non-beneficiaries had three members in the family while 20 per cent of them had 4 members. While 20 per cent had six members, another 20 per cent had two members and 10 per cent had five members in the family. On the other hand, in Manu RD block, the majority (30 per cent) of non-beneficiaries had three numbers, 5 numbers and 6 numbers of members in the family. Only 10 per cent of them had 2 members in the family.

Table 5.6: Educational Status-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	High school	Higher Secondary	Total
Chawmanu	6	1	1	1	1	10
	60.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	3	6		1		10
	30.0%	60.0%		10.0%		100.0%
Total	9	7	1	2	1	20
	45.0%	35.0%	5.0%	10.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.6 highlights the educational status of the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu block, the majority (60 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries were illiterate, 10 per cent completed primary level of education, 10 per cent completed middle school (Class VI-VIII) and 10 per cent completed high school and 10 per cent completed higher secondary level. In Manu RD block, the majority (60 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries completed the primary level of education, 30 per cent were illiterate and only 10 per cent completed high school.

Table 5.7: Social group-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	SC	ST	Total
Chawmanu		10	10
		100.0%	100.0%
Manu	4	6	10
	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
Total	4	16	20
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.7 depicts that all the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block belonged to the Scheduled Tribes category. In Manu RD block, the majority (60 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries belonged to the Scheduled Tribes category and 40 per cent were from Scheduled Castes.

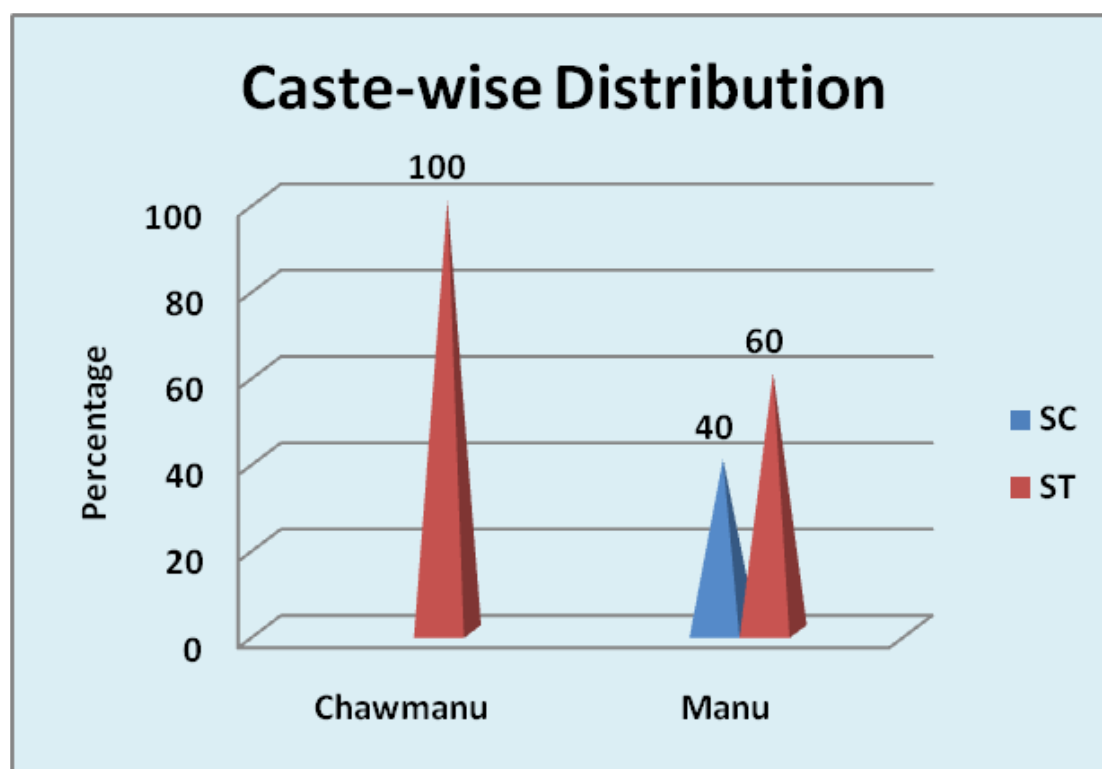


Table 5.8: Religion-wise distribution of non-beneficiaries

Block	Hindu	Christian	Buddhists	Other	Total
Chawmanu	4	1	3	2	10
	40.0%	10.0%	30.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	10				10
	100.0%				100.0%
Total	14	1	3	2	20
	70.0%	5.0%	15.0%	10.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.8 highlights that all the non-beneficiaries of the Manu RD block were from Hindu community. On the other hand, 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block followed Hinduism, 30 per cent followed Buddhism, 10 per cent followed Christianity and 20 per cent followed either Islam or others.

Table 5.9: Distribution of Members

Block	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Total	Children male	Children female	Children Total
Chawmanu	12	14	26	5	1	6
Manu	23	16	39	1	1	2
Total	35	30	65	6	2	8

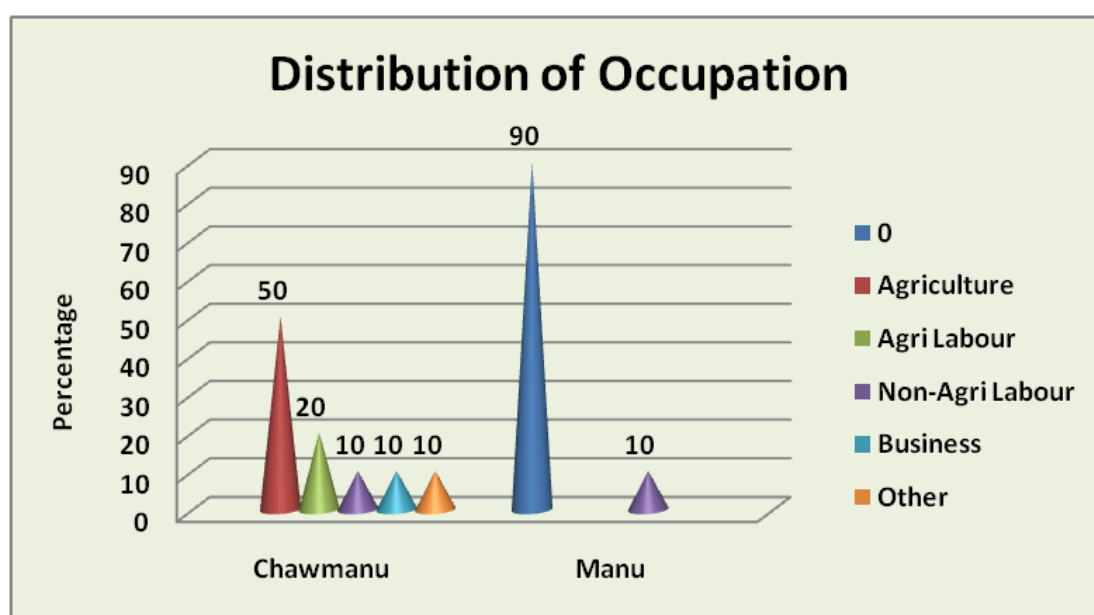
Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.9 depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, there were 26 adult members and 6 children in the family of non-beneficiaries. Majority of the adult members were female whereas the majority of children were males. In the Manu RD block, there were 39 adult members and 2 children in the family of non-beneficiaries. Majority of the adult members were males.

Table 5.10: Distribution by primary occupation

Block	Don't have	Agriculture	Agri Labour	Non-Agri Labour	Business	Other	Total
Chawmanu	-	5	2	1	1	1	10
	-	50.0%	20.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	-	-	1	-	-	10
	90.0%	-	-	10.0%	-	-	100.0%
Total	9	5	2	2	1	1	20
	45.0%	25.0%	10.0%	10.0%	5.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.



The primary occupational status of non-beneficiaries of MGNREGS shows a gloomy picture. Table 5.10 depicts that in Chawmanu RD block, the majority (50 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries were engaged in agriculture whereas 20 per cent were agricultural labourers, 10 per cent were non-agricultural labourers and 10 per cent were engaged in business. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 90 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were not engaged in any occupation whereas only 10 per cent were non-agricultural labourers. During the survey, it was observed that the non-beneficiaries of MGNREGS depend on agriculture and related activities as their primary occupation.

Table 5.11: Distribution by secondary occupation

Block	Don't have	Agriculture	Agri Labour	Non-Agri Labour	Other	Total
Chawmanu	1	2	3	2	2	10
	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%	20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	8	-	-	2	-	10
	80.0%	-	-	20.0%	-	100.0%
Total	9	2	3	4	2	20
	45.0%	10.0%	15.0%	20.0%	10.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Other than the primary occupation, 30 per cent of the non-beneficiaries of MGNREGS of Chawmanu RD block were agricultural labourers, 10 per cent were engaged in agriculture, and 20 per cent were non-agricultural labourers. In Manu RD block, 80 per cent of the non-beneficiaries did not have any secondary occupation and only 20 per cent were non-agricultural labourers.

Table 5.12: Nature of Disability

Block	Locomotor Disability	Hearing impaired	Visually impaired	Others	Total
Chawmanu	4	2	2	2	10
	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	2	2	1	10
	50.0%	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	9	4	4	3	20
	45.0%	20.0%	20.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

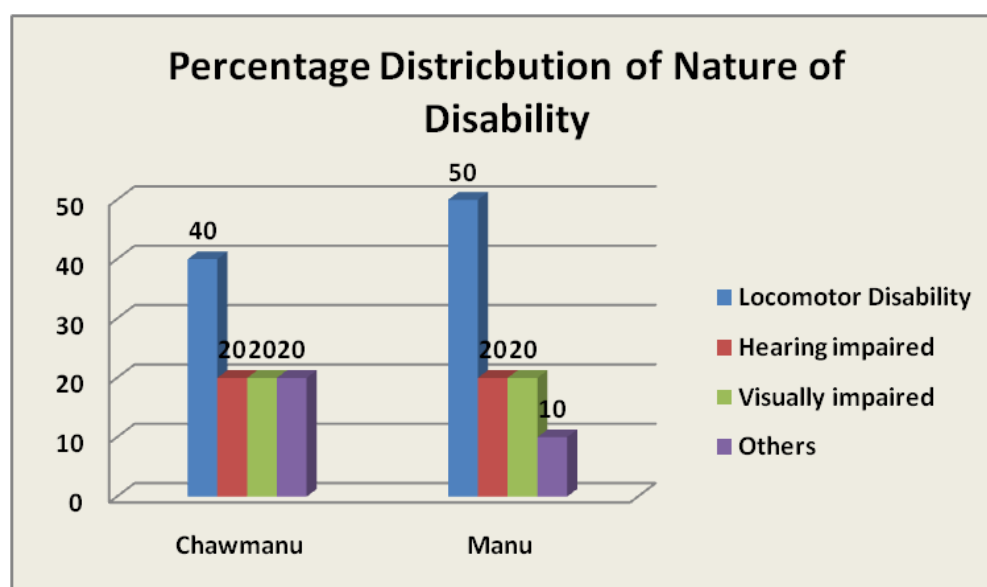


Table 5.12 shows the nature of the disability of the non-beneficiaries among the Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (40 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries had locomotor disability, 20 per cent of them were hearing impaired, 20 per cent of them were visually impaired. On the other hand, the majority (50 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries in Manu RD block have locomotor disability, 20 per cent were hearing impaired and 20 per cent of them were visually impaired.

Table 5.13: Percentage of disability

Block	30	40	60	70	80	90	100	Total
Chawmanu	2	1		2	1		4	10
	20.0%	10.0%		20.0%	10.0%		40.0%	100.0%
Manu			1	2	2	1	4	10
			10.0%	20.0%	20.0%	10.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Total	2	1	1	4	3	1	8	20
	10.0%	5.0%	5.0%	20.0%	15.0%	5.0%	40.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5.13 shows the percentage of the disability among the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. In Chawmanu RD block, 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were having 100 per cent of disability, 20 per cent had 30 per cent of disability, 10 per cent had 40 per cent and 10 per cent had 80 per cent of disability. In Manu RD block, 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were having 100 per cent of disability, around 20 per cent had 70 per cent of disability, 20 per cent had 80 per cent of disability and 10 per cent had 90 per cent of disability. It is to be mentioned that in both RD blocks, the majority of the non-beneficiaries were having 60 per cent of disability or more.

Table 5.14: Details of non-beneficiaries getting disability pension from GP

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	2	8	10
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	1	10
	90.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total	11	9	20
	55.0%	45.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Data in Table 5.14 on the disability pension depict a deviant picture. It was observed that the majority (80 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block were not getting disability pension. On the other hand, the majority (90 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries in Manu RD block were getting disability pension.

Table 5.15: Details of disability pension received by non-beneficiaries per month

Block	500	600	Total
Chawmanu	1	1	2
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	3	9
	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
Total	7	4	11
	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

In Chawmanu RD block, half of the non-beneficiaries of the MGNREGS were getting monthly disability pension of Rs. 500 and the rest were getting Rs.600. In Manu RD block, the majority (66.7 per cent) were getting Rs.500 and 33.3 per cent were getting Rs.600.

Table 5.16: Nature of Disability (Social Group-wise)

Social Group	Nature of Disability					Total
	Locomotor Disability	Hearing impaired	Visually im-paired	Mentally impaired	Others	
SC	4		1			5
	80.0%		20.0%			100.0%
ST	56	11	11	2		80
	70.0%	13.8%	13.8%	2.5%		100.0%
BC	2	2	3		1	8
	25.0%	25.0%	37.5%		12.5%	100.0%
Others	6	1				7
	85.7%	14.3%				100.0%
Total	68	14	15	2	1	100
	68.0%	14.0%	15.0%	2.0%	1.0%	100.0%

Table 5.17: Percentage of Disability (Social Group-wise)

Social Group	Percentage of Disability							Total
	30	40	50	60	70	80	100	
SC		2	1	2				5
		40.0%	20.0%	40.0%				100.0%
ST	3	13	8	18	12	14	12	80
	3.8%	16.2%	10.0%	22.5%	15.0%	17.5%	15.0%	100.0%
BC		1		3		2	2	8
		12.5%		37.5%		25.0%	25.0%	100.0%
Others		2		3	1		1	7
		28.6%		42.9%	14.3%		14.3%	100.0%
Total	3	18	9	26	13	16	15	100
	3.0%	18.0%	9.0%	26.0%	13.0%	16.0%	15.0%	100.0%

CHAPTER – VI

MAJOR FINDINGS

Findings from the surveyed area

1. In both the surveyed areas, MGNREGS beneficiaries were in the aged 39 years or below and were married.
2. Although the female participation rate in MGNREGS work is much higher than their male counterparts in Tripura, it was seen that among the differently abled beneficiaries, the participation of male beneficiaries was more than their female counterparts.
3. In the study area, the majority of the beneficiaries resided in joint families having 4 members or more in the family. The average size of household in Chawmanu was 4.1 whereas it was 3.9 in Manu RD block.
4. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (32 per cent) of beneficiaries have completed primary level of education (i.e. from Class I-V) and a significant portion of beneficiaries (i.e. around 28 per cent) was still illiterate. In Manu RD block, the majority (60 per cent) of the beneficiaries have completed the primary level of education. When compared, the educational status of beneficiaries of Manu RD block was better than that of Chawmanu RD block.
5. In both RD blocks, almost all the beneficiaries belonged to Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.
6. In Manu RD block, almost all the beneficiaries belonged to the Hindu community followed by beneficiaries who profess Christianity. In Chawmanu RD block, beneficiaries generally belonged to almost all the religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism.
7. The beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block either opt for agriculture or related works such as agricultural labourer as their primary occupation. In Manu RD block, beneficiaries opt for non-agricultural labourer, agriculture, skilled labour or business as their primary occupation. During the survey, it was observed that MGNREGS beneficiaries depend on agriculture and related activities as their primary occupation.
8. In Chawmanu RD block, 24 per cent of the MGNREGS beneficiaries did not have any secondary occupation. Around 30 per cent of them had agriculture as their secondary occupation and 22 per cent were non-agricultural labourers. In Manu RD block, the majority (54 per cent) of the beneficiaries were non-agricultural labourers and 24 per cent of them worked as an agricultural labourer for their additional income.
9. Around 80 members in Chawmanu RD block and 73 members in Manu RD block were employed under the MGNREGS. The average wage amounts gradually increased in both the RD blocks and the average man-days have also increased. The better performance of

Tripura in implementing MGNREGS reflects the success story of the State. This has helped Tripura to consistently secure top ranks among the States in the country in the implementation of the MGNREGS.

10. Majority of beneficiaries - 82 per cent in Chawmanu RD block and 54 per cent in Manu RD block - were having a locomotor disability. In Chawmanu RD block, 6 per cent of the beneficiaries have hearing impairment and visual impairment and around 4 per cent of them were mentally retarded. On the contrary, in Manu RD block 24 per cent of them were visually impaired and 22 per cent were hearing impaired. Among the beneficiaries, there were no mentally retarded persons in Manu RD block. In both RD blocks, the majority of the beneficiaries were having 60 per cent of disability or more.
11. At the time of formation, 359 group members in Chawmanu RD block were enlisted in the SSS group. At present, the number of members has been reduced to 358. Majority of the groups were heterogeneous and a few of them were homogenous. In Manu RD block, 492 group members were enlisted at the time of formation and at present, only 489 numbers of members existed in this group and it was heterogeneous. The homogeneous group comprised of ST members. The registration of the groups was highest in Manu RD block in comparison to Chawmanu RD block.
12. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the male members were the earning member in most of the families. Despite several initiatives of the government and line departments, a large number of women were found not to be a part of the earning sector.
13. In the study areas in both the blocks, a major portion of land, i.e. 103.75 acres in Chawmanu RD block and 95.25 acres in Manu RD block was dryland and a large portion of it (67 acres in Chawmanu and 74.25 acres in Manu) was used for dryland cultivation.
14. All the MGNREGS beneficiaries in both Chawmanu RD block and Manu RD block hold a white ration card.
15. In both the study areas, the participation of beneficiaries in various local institutions such as SHGs, village-level organisations, watershed committee, Mahila Mandali, religious organisations, PRIs and others was very low. Only a few of them were members of SHGs, PRIs and the others which depict a gloomy picture. Despite various policies and programme for persons with disabilities, the service provider failed to include the differently abled in the development programmes and therefore, the fruit of the benefits of development was still beyond their reach.
16. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the majority of the beneficiaries agreed that MGNREGS was beneficial to them.
17. In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, 24 per cent and 16 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, agreed that the developmental programmes accessed by them were beneficial.

18. All the beneficiaries of both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks have attended Gram Sabha meetings.
19. The participation of beneficiaries in the village development activities is better. This highlighted the better performance of the PRI system in village-level activities that ensures participatory rural development.
20. The majority of the beneficiaries in Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks have not participated in CBO activities. Only 12 per cent of beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block and 4 per cent of them in Manu RD block participated in CBO activities.
21. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the majority of beneficiaries participated in Rozgar Diwas. In Chawmanu only 18 per cent and 2 per cent of them participated, respectively, in social audit and income generating schemes. In Manu RD block, none of them participated in social audit whereas only 2 per cent participated in IGS.
22. The sharing of ideas was not prevalent among the beneficiaries of Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks. Among the beneficiaries who have shared their ideas, only 20 per cent of them think that sometimes their ideas were considered.
23. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the majority of the beneficiaries were informed through PRI members. Only a few of them were informed by government officials and fellow workers. This highlights that in both the surveyed villages, PRIs were playing an active role in the dissemination of information to the beneficiaries.
24. The majority of beneficiaries of both RD blocks admit that the information about the scheme was instantly available to them.
25. In both the study areas, the majority of the beneficiaries agree to some extent about the essentiality of literacy skill to avail information about MGNREGS.
26. All the beneficiaries of Chawmanu RD block were aware of 100 days of employment in a financial year. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 94 per cent of them were aware of it whereas 6 per cent had little idea.
27. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, almost all the beneficiaries were aware of their right to employment.
28. Awareness level among the beneficiaries regarding wage employment, worksite facilities and the period of wages in local areas was better in Manu RD block in comparison to Chawmanu RD block.
29. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the awareness level of beneficiaries was not satisfactory regarding prescribed wages, exclusive manual work for the differently abled beneficiaries, type of works for the differently abled, mate system, work on demand medical aid/ treatment, travel allowances and timely wage payment entitled under MGNREGS.

30. Majority of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were aware that a differently abled person was also entitled to equal wages as their non-disabled peers.
31. Although the social audit is an important process in MGNREGS to review the functioning of the scheme, yet it was observed that the majority of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were unaware of the social audit in MGNREGS. In Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, only 26 per cent and 38 per cent of the beneficiaries, respectively, were aware of the social audit in MGNREGS.
32. The major activities done by the coordinator were awareness generation, monthly review progress and organisation of the monthly meeting.
33. Although the majority of beneficiaries in Manu RD block were getting disability pension, yet around 28 per cent and 10 per cent of beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD and Manu RD blocks, respectively, were still out of reach of the pension which needs significant attention. In the study area, it was seen that there was variation in the amount of disability pension. Some of the beneficiaries were getting Rs.400 while others were getting. 500, Rs. 700 and Rs.1000. This highlighted an alarming issue and seeks keen attention of the service provider. All the beneficiaries receive their disability pension through their bank accounts.
34. Beneficiaries of MGNREGS were aware of the modified tools and also about the assistive device. Majority of the beneficiaries were still using general equipment at the worksite.
35. Most of the beneficiaries in both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks were aware of the labour group which was heterogeneous in nature.
36. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the beneficiaries either fully agreed or agreed to some extent that mandatory facilities such a first aid, drinking water, crèche facility, provision of shade should be provided at the MGNREGS worksite.
37. Beneficiaries were not fully aware of approaching the officials or others for job cards, seeking work within 15 days of demand, or timely wage payment and other facilities. Only a few of them were having interaction with the officials.
38. Majority of the beneficiaries in both RD blocks got the information about MGNREGS work from their respective Gram Panchayats (GPs). Only a few of them got information from SHGs, government officials and rozgarsevaks.
39. Beneficiaries of the study areas felt that insufficient agricultural activity, low market wages, migration, illiteracy, lack of skills, flood, drought and lack of continuous work were responsible for low participation in MGNREGS.
40. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (92per cent) of the beneficiaries identified minimum wages as the motivating factor for participation in the MGNREGS followed by support of the family, timely wages and equal wages. Very few beneficiaries identified group arrangement, mode of payment, NGOs encouragement, SHG membership and the attitude

of the officials as the motivating factors. Similarly, in Manu RD block, all the beneficiaries identified minimum wages as the motivating factor followed by timely wages, work taken upon their land, creation of beneficial assets, worksite facilities, mode of payment and attitude of officials as the motivating factors to participate in the work under MGNREGS. Very few beneficiaries identified equal wages, group arrangement, NGOs encouragement and SHG membership as the motivating factors.

41. Almost all the beneficiaries either agreed or agreed to some extent that financial security, reduction of migration and houses under IAY were some of the personal gains that the beneficiaries achieved after participation in MGNREGS.
42. In Chawmanu RD block, the majority (82 per cent) of the beneficiaries felt that there was no land development after the introduction of the scheme. On the contrary, in Manu RD block, 60 per cent of the beneficiaries admitted that land was developed by the MGNREGS.
43. The beneficiaries felt that their involvement in MGNREGS affected their level of intensity of personal care of children/better care of infants and attention on the education of children. This seeks kind attention of the MGNREGS official and related service provider to ensure better care of an infant at the worksite and other facilities which will lead to improvement in the participation rate.
44. The beneficiaries also felt that after the participation of MGNREGS, there was an improvement in household savings, expenditure in health-related issues, expenditure on food and clothing, wage rate in agriculture and negotiation capability of the beneficiaries.
45. The beneficiaries felt that after the employment in MGNREGS, the alcohol consumption of the head of the household has not increased which reflects a positive picture.
46. Beneficiaries either fully agreed or partially agreed that participation in MGNREGS has improved some of the professional issues such as unity with other workers, realisation of personal abilities, self-right and responsibilities, access of beneficiaries to wider information, technical information about MGNREGS work, measurement of work, self-help among the differently abled beneficiaries, interaction of the beneficiaries with various officials, utility of MGNREGS work and understanding about natural resources.
47. Majority of the beneficiaries agreed that equal wages, wage opportunities in the vicinity timely wages regulated working hours, work with right, worksite facilities and reduced burden of distress were the best gain from the MGNREGS.

Findings from Focus Group Discussion

1. MGNREGS was the only source of income/livelihood for the poor and the differently abled persons in the lean period.
2. It was learnt that the differently abled persons were getting employment opportunities only through MGNREGS as there were no other employment opportunities.
3. Those who possess land and agriculture have other sources of livelihood.
4. People with 50 per cent of disability (locomotor) were able to access at least 50-80 person-days in a year under MGNREGS.
5. Differently abled persons face a lot of discrimination at the worksite.
6. As we are aware that MGNREGS works are at piece rate at the time of work distribution, the abled bodies are reluctant to take the differently abled persons in the group. This has caused a psychological disturbance with the challenged.
7. Three members revealed that they were not called by their names but were addressed by their disabilities.
8. It was found that the lives of non-MGNREGS beneficiaries were miserable; some of them do not even get the social benefit (pension, etc.).
9. Some of the non-MGNREGS beneficiaries did not get the job cards and the GP president is reluctant to accept their written application because they do not support his/her political party.
10. None of the MGNREGS beneficiaries is aware of their rights and entitlements and permissible works.
11. Majority of the beneficiaries feel proud that they are able to contribute additional income to their family. Majority of them feel that MGNREGS is the only source of income for their family.
12. Differently abled people accessing MGNREGS were given hard works at the worksite and officials were silent about these kinds of issues in few cases.
13. Some of the differently abled persons reveal that skill development activities like computer training, soft skills, etc., should be given.
14. The major finding of the study is that MGNREGS is creating employment opportunity to the differently abled persons by allowing them to have a life with dignity, providing an opportunity to have good meals thrice a day and supporting their children's education.

Findings from the field from non-beneficiary of the MGNREG scheme

1. Majority of the differently abled persons aged 39 years or below were the beneficiaries of the MGNREGS, yet many of them were still not receiving the benefits of the scheme.
2. In both the RD blocks, the majority of the non-beneficiaries were males.
3. In the study area, the majority of non-beneficiaries were unmarried.
4. In Chawmanu RD block, half of the non-beneficiaries resided in nuclear families and the rest in joint families. On the other hand, the majority (60 per cent) of the non-beneficiaries in Manu RD block were from nuclear families.
5. In both the RD blocks, the majority of the family of non-beneficiaries have four or more members in the family.
6. In Chawmanu block, the majority of the non-beneficiaries (60 per cent) were illiterate and in Manu RD block, majority of the non-beneficiaries (60 per cent) have completed only primary level of education. The educational status of the non-beneficiaries was very poor in comparison to the educational status of the beneficiary of the MGNREG scheme.
7. In Chawmanu RD block, all the non-beneficiaries belonged to Scheduled Tribes category. In Manu RD block, 60 per cent and 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries, respectively, belonged to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
8. All the non-beneficiaries of Manu RD block were Hindus. On the other hand in Chawmanu RD block non-beneficiaries belonged to different religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam or others.
9. Majority of the family members of the non-beneficiaries were adults; only a few were children and the situation was the same in both the RD blocks.
10. The primary occupational status of non-beneficiaries of MGNREGS shows a gloomy picture. In Chawmanu RD block, the non-beneficiaries were engaged in agriculture. Few of them were either agricultural labourers or non-agricultural labourers and few were engaged in business. On the contrary, the majority of the non-beneficiaries in Manu RD block were not engaged in any occupation whereas only 10 per cent of them were non-agricultural labourers. As a secondary occupation, non-beneficiaries chose agriculture or related activities.
11. In both Chawmanu and Manu RD blocks, the majority of the non-beneficiaries had locomotor disability, followed by persons with hearing impairment and visual impairment.
12. In Chawmanu RD block, 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were having 100 per cent disability, followed by non-beneficiaries with 30 per cent of disability, 40 per cent and 80 per cent disability. On the other hand, 40 per cent of the non-beneficiaries in Manu RD block were having 100 per cent disability followed by non-beneficiaries with 70 per cent,

80 per cent disability, 10 per cent and 90 per cent disability. It is to be mentioned that in both RD blocks, the majority of the non-beneficiaries were having 60 per cent disability or more.

13. The condition of the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block was worse than that of their counterparts in Manu RD block. Around 80 per cent of the non-beneficiaries in Chawmanu RD block were not getting disability pension. But in Manu RD block, 90 per cent of them were getting disability pension. In Chawmanu RD block, half of the non-beneficiaries of the MGNREGS were getting disability pension of Rs. 500 and the rest were getting Rs.600 per month. In Manu RD block, 66.7 per cent of the non-beneficiaries were getting Rs.500 and 33.3 per cent of them were getting Rs.600.

Summary & Conclusion

Differently abled people are one of the largest vulnerable groups in the world and are starved of services and facilities provided to their non-disabled peers. Being differently abled, they face many challenges like lack of access to education, employment, better quality of living, etc., and their situation is worsened by the negative attitude of society. Despite various initiatives of the government still, the fruits of benefits have not reached the target group. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act becomes an important source of economic and employment support for PwDs in rural areas.

The study reveals that though the participation of differently abled persons in the scheme is very low, yet their participation is gradually increasing day by day which depicts a positive picture. The awareness level of the differently abled has increased due to their participation in employment. The employment in the scheme makes them more financially secured, aware, enable them to interact with various officials, and negotiate the wage rate, participate in various local-level institutions and share ideas, which in turn, enrich their self-dignity, and reduce the negative attitude of the family and society. They felt that after the introduction of the scheme, there is a noticeable improvement in land development, increase in wage rate in agriculture, reduction in distress migration, improvement in access of rural people to wider information and betterment in their understanding of natural resources.

The study also revealed some lacunas such as personal care of children, better care of infant children, negative attitude of non-disabled workers, etc., which seeks kind attention of the MGNREGS officials and related service providers in ensuring better participation to continue the success of the state of Tripura in providing the highest number of person-days to the rural and vulnerable poor.

Conclusion

There are several GoI programmes facilitated for the benefit of differently abled persons to promote livelihood opportunities. Some of the programmes like NRLM, MGNREGS and PMEGP, and schemes of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), NHFDC (National handicapped Finance and Development Corporation), etc., were implemented. Besides, there are other available alternatives in enhancing livelihood skills (exploring farm and non-farm based employment) and options for the differently abled. The gap in employment between differently abled and non-disabled persons has increased in the past decade, which is a major cause of concern. The economic boom failed to make an impact on the employment of PWDs.

Challenges:

- Underutilisation of the quota for PwDs in schemes such as NRLM and MGNREGS has reduced the livelihood opportunities of the differently abled.
- No action has been initiated for the non-compliance of the provisions of the MGNREGA in promoting employment opportunity under MGNREGS.

CHAPTER – VII

RECOMMENDATIONS

MGNREG Act, 2013 has made provision for inclusion of differently abled by including additional works for different categories of differently abled for their effective participation. In study blocks (Chawmanu and Manu), the total population of the differently abled is 2329, while only 706 person-days have been generated during 2016-17. The study has revealed that differently abled have become self-reliant and self-esteemed due to employment under MGNREGS. Earlier, family members and relatives, who were restricting them in social gathering, are now approaching them as they became self-dependent and earning members of the family. However, gender equity is not being addressed while employing the PwDs. Males aged 39 years and below are getting employment while others are unable to approach the local body to claim their rights. Hence, the following recommendations are made:

1. In the study area, several differently abled are unaware of their rights and entitlements, as there is a dearth of awareness of the differently abled among the implementing agency, elected representatives and the PwDs themselves.
2. Differently abled are not aware that they can demand employment at their convenience. There is a need for mobilising the implementing agency on equity and inclusiveness of differently abled in all MGNREGS activities, especially for stakeholders such as Gram Rozgar Sahayaks (GRS), community mobilisers, elected representatives, social audit coordinator, junior engineer, etc.
3. Several employed under MGNREGS offend to work with differently abled, as they achieve fewer targets and low wages due to the inclusion of differently abled persons in the working group. MGNREG Act may be amended to make mandatory provisions to include differently abled in every working group, as per the availability of the differently abled population.
4. Special Gram Sabha needs to be conducted for the differently abled to enrol them under MGNREGS and provide exclusive job cards.
5. Rozgar Diwas needs to be focused on mobilising the differently abled and list their demands, as the households are scattered in the North Eastern Region.
6. Stakeholders at every level should look for inclusion of differently abled category while processing the labour budget before onward transmission to block, district and State.
7. Skill development programmes need to be implemented to encourage farm and off-farm activities/entrepreneurs among the differently abled under NRLM. This will enable the widow-headed household with a differently abled sibling.

CHAPTER – VIII

CASE STUDIES

Successful Case Studies

Case 1

Eswar Dev Brahma bearing Job Card number TR-04-004-022-005/68 was 42 years old married man having two children. He resides in Katick para village of North Domshira Gram Panchayat of Manu Block. Shri Dev Brahma says that agricultural labour was the only primary source of income for his family. He adds that employment opportunities were very limited in the village Before the year 2010. But after getting the job, employment was available to him within the village and in a year, the average employment days is 50 which helps to generate an additional income for his family. He proudly says that in the financial year (FY) 2013-14, his family got 76 days of employment and earned Rs.10, 640. In the FY 2014-15, he got 100 days of employment and he along with his wife worked together and earned Rs.15,000. In FY 2015-16, his family got 126 days of employment and earned around Rs.19,530. Shri Dev Brahma also notes that he gets a disability pension of Rs.500 per month. He expressed his happiness in getting the employment opportunity within the village as this has made his life comfortable and also improved the living standard and quality of life. He says that earlier, due to bad weather conditions, lack of transportation and bad roads, it was difficult for him to avail good employment opportunities at the block level. Thereafter, because of the earnest initiative of the officials, the MGNREGS programme is now implemented within the village. As a result, Shri Dev Brahma along with other village members are able to earn the bread within the village for which he has shown his earnest gratitude towards the officials.

Shri Dev Brahma also shared a painful situation with the researcher. Once he was asked to supply drinking water to all the fellow workers and some of them used to discriminate and comment that with less effort he is earning more wages. These kinds of comments from fellow workers cause psychological disturbance and cause inconvenience in performing his duties.

Case 2

Harendra Tripura bearing the Job Card number-TR-04-004-222-005/36 resides in Wakhirai para village of Demcherra Gram Panchayat of Manu RD Block. He was 23 years old and was unmarried living in a nuclear BPL family. He studied up to matriculation and belongs to Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. After getting the Job Card under MGNREGS, he was able to earn income for himself and invest the money on his education (currently, he was studying in B.A 2nd year) and self-development. His family consists of only two members. His elder brother, who was 25 years old, took

his responsibility for all the education and household management but after getting employment opportunity, he was getting average employment days of 40-60 days. He also said that he was also aware of the rights and entitlements under MGNREGS but did not possess knowledge on the permissible works for the “Differently Abled Persons” under MGNREGS.

Since childhood, he was suffering from 70 per cent locomotor disabilities (both the legs). He proudly says that only because of MGNREGS programme, he and his brother were able to earn an average increase of Rs.10,000- 15,000 in a year. He also shared that sometimes he travels 15 km to access MGNREGS works but travel allowances were not paid to him. He also shared his opinion that differently abled persons and those who are unable to do the hard works/manual works can be given skill development training like computer training or teaching skills, etc. No doubt, MGNREGS was helping them by providing wage employment but improving the skills of the differently abled person can create a sustainable livelihood.

Case Study with Difficulty (MGNREGS Beneficiary)

Kiran Joy Tripura bearing Job card number Tr-04-002-005/64 resides in West Gobindabari village of Gobindabari Gram Panchayat of Chawmanu RD Block. He was 29 years old having 80 per cent locomotor disability in both the legs. He was also suffering from viral infections on the skin for the last three years. Due to his disability and viral infection, the non-disabled peers in the village refused him to be a part in their groups in the MGNREGS manual works. Kiran also depicts that he was discriminated for his disability. He says that though the government is supporting the helpless people by providing 100 days of employment to lead a dignified life, yet society is not allowing him to have the fruits of it. It was painful for him when someone rejects or neglects him.

Case study with difficulty (Non-MGNREGS)

Dhananjay Tripura, aged 24, years resides in BinayKunar R/P, North Longturai, Chawmanu RD block. He reveals that he was deserted by his family. He is unmarried and has 70 per cent locomotor disability on his right leg. He was getting disability pension of Rs.500 per month. He says that he was denied to get a job card as he does not have a family. Earlier, when he was with his family, he did not get the opportunity to access MGNREGS works because his brother accessed the employment whenever the works were announced. Even though he has qualified Madhyamik, yet no employment opportunity was available to him in the village or at the block level. Whenever he gave the written application to the Pradhan (Village Head), his application was rejected just because Dhananjay did not support Pradhan's political party. He has no other livelihood opportunities to perform and he finds it very different to lead his life with only Rs.500 in a month. He feels that everyone should be equally treated and no one should be discriminated.

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PHOTO GALLERY



Dhananjoy-Tripura



BDO of Chawmanu block and district level officials addressing the differently abled persons



BDO of Manu block explaining the research team's purpose of visit to the differently-abled persons



The research team conducting Focused Group Discussion with the help of block level officials and field functionaries at Manu block



Beneficiaries briefing their problems to the research team



MGNREGS beneficiaries participating in the Focus Group Discussion at Chawmanu RD block



Research team members interacting with the beneficiaries to understand their problems



Kiran Joy –Tripura



ANNEXURES

DETAILED TABLES OF MOTIVATING FACTORS

Table 1: Motivating factors - Minimum wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	46	4	50
	92.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Manu	50		50
	100.0%		100.0%
Total	96	4	100
	96.0%	4.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 2: Motivating factors - Timely wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	29	21	50
	58.0%	42.0%	100.0%
Manu	36	14	50
	72.0%	28.0%	100.0%
Total	65	35	100
	65.0%	35.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 3: Motivating factors - Work taken upon their land

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	11	39	50
	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
Manu	34	16	50
	68.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Total	45	55	100
	45.0%	55.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4: Motivating factors - Assets created which are beneficial

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	9	41	50
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%
Manu	34	16	50
	68.0%	32.0%	100.0%
Total	43	57	100
	43.0%	57.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 5: Motivating factors - Support from the family

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	29	21	50
	58.0%	42.0%	100.0%
Manu	33	17	50
	66.0%	34.0%	100.0%
Total	62	38	100
	62.0%	38.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 6: Motivating factors - Higher MGNREGS wages than market wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	7	43	50
	14.0%	86.0%	100.0%
Manu	11	39	50
	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
Total	18	82	100
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 7: Motivating factors - Equal wages

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	19	31	50
	38.0%	62.0%	100.0%
Manu	10	40	50
	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	29	71	100
	29.0%	71.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 8: Motivating factors - Group arrangement

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Manu	11	39	50
	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
Total	17	83	100
	17.0%	83.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 9: Motivating factors - Mode of payment

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	3	47	50
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%
Manu	12	38	50
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%
Total	15	85	100
	15.0%	85.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 10: Motivating factors - Worksite facilities

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Manu	13	37	50
	26.0%	74.0%	100.0%
Total	18	82	100
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 11: Motivating factors - Attitude/sensitivity of officials

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	4	46	50
	8.0%	92.0%	100.0%
Manu	12	38	50
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%
Total	16	84	100
	16.0%	84.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 12: Motivating factors - Timely employment

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Manu	9	41	50
	18.0%	82.0%	100.0%
Total	25	75	100
	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 13: Motivating factors - SHG membership

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	1	49	50
	2.0%	98.0%	100.0%
Manu	6	44	50
	12.0%	88.0%	100.0%
Total	7	93	100
	7.0%	93.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 14: Motivating factors - Local NGOs' encouragement

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	1	49	50
	2.0%	98.0%	100.0%
Manu	5	45	50
	10.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Total	6	94	100
	6.0%	94.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

Table 15: Motivating factors – Self-esteem/Self-dignity

Block	Yes	No	Total
Chawmanu	16	34	50
	32.0%	68.0%	100.0%
Manu	12	38	50
	24.0%	76.0%	100.0%
Total	28	72	100
	28.0%	72.0%	100.0%

Field Survey, 2017.

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