



National Webinar on the Occasion of Amrut Mahotsav (India @ 75) on the topic A Decade of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS: Assessment and Way Forward & “Can public works increase equilibrium wages? Evidence from India’s Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme”



Concept Note

More than a decade has passed since the enactment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The scheme is expected to reduce the magnitude of rural poverty by providing an exit pathway. Since its inception, many problems and gaps have been observed at the implementation front by development practitioners and academicians in relation to employment, livelihoods, inclusiveness, and governance aspects. In this context, this webinar focuses on the influence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS on agriculture wages. The study provides estimates of the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS on agricultural wages. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS was rolled out across India in three distinct phases, and this phased introduction is used to identify difference-in-difference estimates of the programme effect. Using monthly data on wage rates from the period 2000–2011 in 209 districts across 18 Indian states, we found that, on average, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS boosted the growth rate of real daily agricultural wages by 4.3% per year. The effect, which was concentrated in some states and the agricultural peak season, appeared to have been gender-neutral and was biased towards unskilled labour. This lecture argues that rural public employment programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS constitute a potentially important anti-poverty policy tool in the context of low income countries where many of the world’s poorest depend on casual agricultural labour for their livelihood, and ineffectiveness of minimum-wage legislation in many developing countries.

In addition to this lecture, there will be a presentation to disseminate important findings of a study conducted at NIRDPR titled, “A Decade of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS: Assessment and Way forward”, The basic argument of this assessment is that the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS implementation has impacted differentially on wage employment opportunities, livelihood security, inclusiveness, and decentralized governance at local level. Accordingly, state-specific suggestions are also made for the improvement of the scheme.

Programme Schedule

July 23, 2021

(TIME: 10.30 AM to 01.00 PM)

Sl No	Topic	Time	Resource Person
1.	Opening Remarks	10.30 AM to 10.45 AM	Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS Director General, NIRDPR
2.	Can public works increase equilibrium wages? Evidence from India’s Mahatma Gandhi NREGS	10.45 AM to 12.30 PM	Dr. D. Rajasekhar, Director i/c, ISEC, Bengaluru
3.	A Decade of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS: Assessment and Way Forward	12.30PM to 1.00 PM	Dr.Jyothis Sathyapalan Professor & Head, CWEL, School Dean
4.	Chair Remarks/and Questions Answers	1.00 PM to 1.30 PM	Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS Director General
5.	Vote of Thanks	01.30 PM	Dr. G.V.K Lohidas Faculty, CWEL

Targeted Participants: The programme will target State and District level officials of Rural Development engaged with Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, SIRDs and ETCs faculty.

Webinar Coordinators:

Dr.Hemantha Kumar Ummiti

Dr.G.V.K.Lohidas



Dr. D. Rajasekhar
Director i/c, ISEC, Bengaluru



Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS
Director General, NIRDPR



Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan
Professor & Head, CWEL, NIRDPR

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/QnpC4eNoXS2UDVxDA>



Organized by
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