

Utilization of MNREGA in facilitating rural employment in Project Area

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment was introduced by GoI in 2005-06 through the MNREGA Act, 2005. In this scheme villagers work in developing their own village – like building roads, leveling playgrounds of schools, digging ponds, wells and tube-wells etc, and in return they are guaranteed a minimum of 100 days of employment. For CG state, rural workers are guaranteed 150 days of employment under this scheme.

In our Project Area, we have enabled in facilitating this scheme in generating employment and doing necessary small scale rural instruction development work like building roads, bridges etc. The villages in Antagarh block where we have engaged with MNREGA employment generation in 2017 are – Bhainsgaon, Kumhari & Talabeda – all falling within our Project Area. According to the MNREGA Act, the villagers have to collectively demand work by passing Resolution through Gram Sabha to get this scheme active. In these three villages, we disbursed awareness about this Scheme among the villagers, and then enabled them to pass Gram Sabha and Panchayat Resolutions demanding work under this Scheme. Thus area and united through our collective efforts, the villagers demanded the MNREGA to be operative in their respective villages. Let us look at the natures of work done and employment generated in these three villages, one by one.

- A) Bhaisgaon: 40 families got work for 22 days between January and September. A total of INR 51,000 was given to these 40 families by the Government under this scheme as wages for the work done. The work involved repairing of a few acres of land belonging to an adivasi farmer of the village named Ayatu Ram.
- B) Kumhari: 80 families got work for 35 days between January and September. A total of INR 1,60,000 was given to these 80 families by the Government under this scheme as wages for the work done. The work involved repairing a small pond belonging to Itwaru Ram, a private adivasi farmer of the village.
- C) Talabeda: 122 families got work for one week between January and September. A total of INR 1,22,000 was given to these 122 families by the Government under this scheme as wages for the work done. The work involved ground leveling of private lands belonging to Sukdeo, an adivasi villager. In another instance during the same period, 58 families got work for 42 days. A total of INR 1,41,000 was disbursed among these 58 families. by the Government under this scheme as wages for the work done. The work involved ground leveling of private lands belonging to Pitambar, an adivasi villager.

This, in brief has been DISHA's involvement in facilitating employment generation among adivasi communities in the Project Area, utilizing the MNREGA Scheme.