



NREGA: A STUDY ON WEST BENGAL

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Importance of Public Actions



- Provision of Wage Employment reduces deprivation [Dreze & Sen, 1989; Mehrotra, 2004; Dev 1996]
- More effective than other Poverty Elimination Programmes [Basu, 1993; Parikh, 1994; Bardhan & Mukherjee, 2004]
- Mahastra Experience shows positive impacts on rural lives specially women [Dev, 2002; Patnaik, 2006]

Criticisms of earlier Wage Employment Programmes in India

- ❑ Improper maintenance of Records
- ❑ Leakage and Rent Seeking

[Kumar et al, 2004]

- ❑ Lack of suitable planning
- ❑ Inability to build productive assets

[Papola, 2004]

Performances of West Bengal in earlier Wage Employment Programmes

- ❖ Overall low utilisation of fund
- ❖ Increasing cost of per day employment
- ❖ Weakness of the implementing agencies

[Ghosh, 2005]

NREGP: West Bengal at a glance:



- **Percentage of Households provided with 100 days of employment**
 - 2006-07 : 0.58
 - 2007-08 : 0.22
- **Percentage of women Participation**
 - 2006-07 : 18.28
 - 2007-08 : 17.44
- **Percentage of work completed**
 - 2006-07 : 54.21
 - 2007-08 : 45.33
- **Percentage of fund Utilised**
 - 2006-07 : 62.62
 - 2007-08 : 66.19

Criticisms of the state govt. role



- ❑ Ambivalent Attitude (Dreze and Oldiges, 2006)
- ❑ Frightening absence of Competence (AM, 2008)

Purulia



NREG: Purulia at a glance



	2006-07	2007-08
Average days of employment per family	15.5	21.9
Percentage of families got 100 days of employment	2.1	2.9
Percentage of works completed	27.38	39.39
Share of women in Person days	37.1	31.1
Percentage of fund utilised	43.08	73.36

Balarampur



Balarampur: At a glance



- **Area: 300.88sq. Km.**
- **Population: 1.3 lakh**
- **Percentage of ST Population:
38%**
- **Percentage of SC Population: 15%**

Balarampur Block NREGA Performance Report Part - I

No. Of House Holds	% of House holds issued job card		Issue job card(HH)						% of households got days of employment	
			SC		ST		Others			
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08			
23427	73.77	75.78	18.17	18.17	46.52	46.52	35.3	35.3	10.93	2.9

Balarampur Block NREGA Performance Report Part - II

Distribution of Person days

Distribution of Person days										
SC		ST		Others		Women		Beneficiaries of LR/IYA		
2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	
20	33.09	41.54	31.52	38.38	35.38	39.6	NA	5.73	13.00	

Balarampur Block NREGA Performance Report Part - III

	Unskilled Wage		Semiskilled Wage		Material		Contingency		Utilisation	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
	69.00	68.52	5.00	2.02	22.00	27.71	1.00	1.74	80.87	76.13

Balarampur Block NREGA Performance Report Part - IV



	% of work Completed		Distribution of expenditure (in %)	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Rural Connectivity	59.63	43.13	39.92	84
Flood Control	85.7	NA	0.4	-
Water Conservation	49.15	75.56	35.51	2.4
Drought Proofing	86.00	100	1.8	-

Continue

Balarampur Block NREGA Performance Report Part - IV

	% of work Completed		Distribution of expenditure (in %)	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Micro Irrigation	66.67	NA	0.3	-
Provision of Irrigation Facilities	-	NA	-	-
Renovation	62.1	70.8	17.86	9.3
Land Development	78.18	85.5	3.9	4.5
Any Other Activities	-	NA	-	-
Total	63.18	75.58	100	100

NREGP in Balarampur

Some Features:

- ❖ Coverage high in ST dominated GP
- ❖ Women Participation high in ST dominated block
- ❖ Household provided 18.5 days employment in backward villages
- ❖ Absence of Crèche facilities

Beyond official records



- **Low participation rate in Gram Sabha**
- **No demand for work has been placed**
- **Absence of Social Audit**

Recommendations:



- Information, education and Communication
- Capacity building of the PRI staff and elected members
- Recruitment of Technical Persons at GP level (Also recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reform Committee)
- Diversification in NREG works
- Supervision

Thank you



THANK YOU