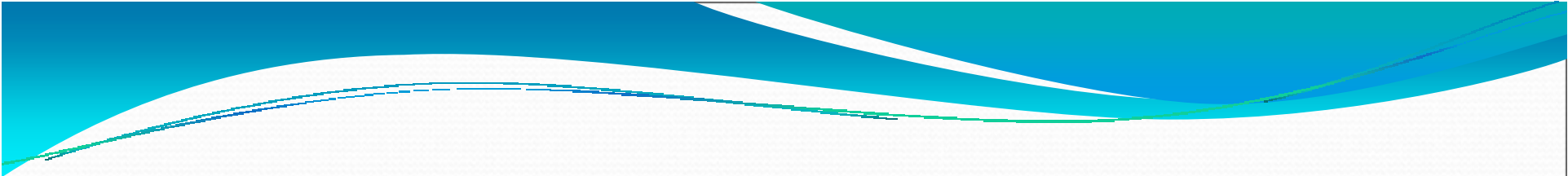


Jammu and Kashmir's Tryst with NREGA: Some Critical Issues

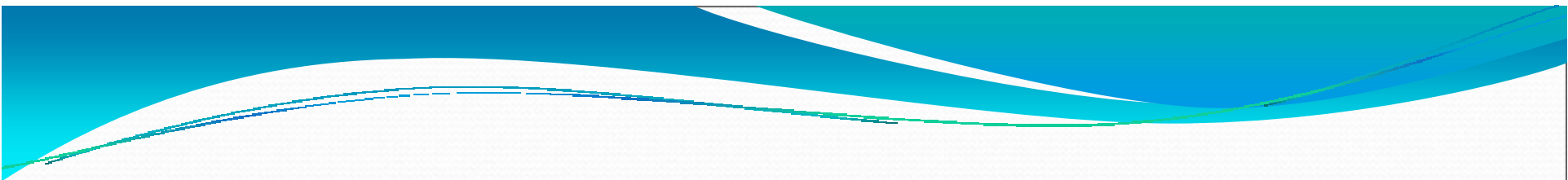
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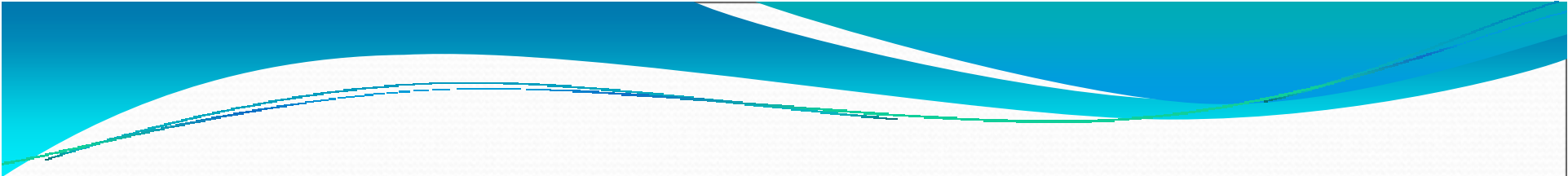
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Special Status of J&K

- ❑ The state of J & K was created by the British Government in 1864.
- ❑ Only state in India to have a separate constitution.
- ❑ The Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly was established in 1951 and the Jammu and Kashmir State's Constitution was adopted on November 17, 1956.

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- ❑ The NREGA, 2005 was not applicable to the state of J&K.
 - ❑ However request for extending the jurisdiction of the Act to J&K state was made to the Government of India.
 - ❑ Thus implementation of the scheme was carried out through the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme of the State.
 - ❑ NREG (Extension to J&K) Bill, was passed in 2007 and necessary amendment was made to section 1 of the Act, thus making the Act applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir also.



IMPLEMENTATION of NREGA IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS of J&K

DODA

Emp. Demanded by households:	0.63468 Lakh
Emp. provided to households:	0.63354 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]:	
Total:	22.15
SCs:	2.07 [9.35%]
STs:	3.51 [15.85%]
Women:	0.17 [0.78%]
Others:	16.57 [74.81%]
Total fund: Rs.	45.99 Crore.
Expenditure:	25.29 Crore.
Total works:	3109
Works completed:	2216
Works in progress:	893

•In the financial year 2007-2008 a total of 102631 Job Cards were issued which amounts to 101.11% of % Job Card Issued to Rural Household.

•Employment was demanded by 63468 families and was granted to 63354 families amounting to 99.8% employment being provided against employment demanded.

Average days of employment provided in a family = 35.

ANANTNAG

Emp. Demanded by households:	0.05663 Lakh
Emp. provided to households:	0.05663 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]:	
Total:	0
SCs:	0 [%]
STs:	0 [%]
Women:	0 [%]
Others:	0 [%]
Total fund: Rs.	11.26 Crore.
Expenditure:	0.41 Crore.
Total works:	0
Works completed:	0
Works in progress:	0

- In the financial year 2007-2008 a total of 34859 Job Cards were issued which amounts to 25.44% of % Job Card Issued to Rural Household.
- Employment was demanded by 5663 families and was granted to 5663 families amounting to 100% employment being provided against employment demanded.

KUPWARA

Emp. Demanded by households:	0.15717 Lakh
Emp. provided to households:	0.15717 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]:	
Total:	3.45
SCs:	0 [%]
STs:	0.9 [26.09%]
Women:	0.01 [0.43%]
Others:	2.55 [73.91%]
Total fund: Rs.	7.19 Crore.
Expenditure:	4.57 Crore.
Total works:	749
Works completed:	75
Works in progress:	674

- In the financial year 2007-2008 a total of 54690 Job Cards were issued which amounts to 65.21% of % Job Card Issued to Rural Household.
- Employment was demanded by 15717 families and was granted to 15717 families amounting to 100% employment being provided against employment demanded.
- Average days of employment provided in a family = 21.9.

POONCH

Emp. Demanded by households:	0.22447 Lakh
Emp. provided to households:	0.22447 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]:	
Total:	7.91
SCs:	0 [%]
STs:	3.8 [48.04%]
Women:	0.02 [0.31%]
Others:	4.11 [51.96%]
Total fund: Rs.	6.56 Crore
Expenditure:	6.22 Crore.
Total works:	1323
Works completed:	269
Works in progress:	1054

- In the financial year 2007-2008 a total of 38143 Job Cards were issued which amounts to 68.6% of % Job Card Issued to Rural Household.
- Employment was demanded by 22447 families and was granted to 22447 families amounting to 100% employment being provided against employment demanded.
- Average days of employment provided in a family = 35.3

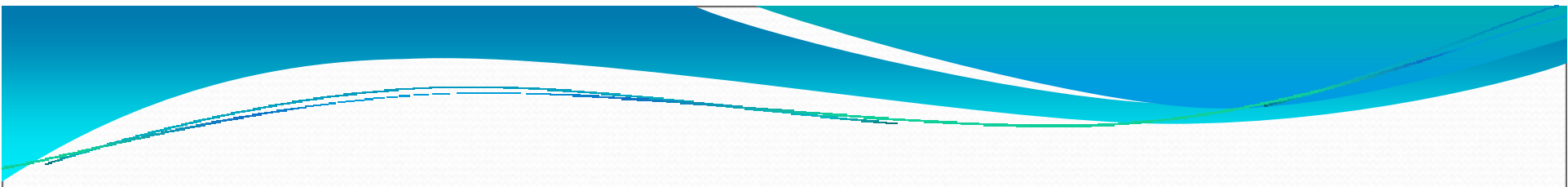
JAMMU

Emp. Demanded by households:	0.0003 Lakh
Emp. provided to households:	0.0003 Lakh
Person days [in Lakh]:	
Total:	0
SCs:	0 [%]
STs:	0 [%]
Women:	0[%]
Others:	0 [%]
Total fund: Rs.	12.37 Crore.
Expenditure:	0.2 Crore.
Total works:	25
Works completed:	0
Works in progress:	25

- In the financial year 2007-2008 a total of 311 Job Cards were issued which amounts to 0.18% of % Job Card Issued to Rural Household.
- Employment was demanded by 30 families and was granted to 30 families amounting to 100% employment being provided against employment demanded.

Reasons responsible for the success of this scheme

- ❑ It involved total departure from the existing Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yogna (SGRY).
- ❑ The scheme excluded mates/contractors and use of machinery.
- ❑ The scheme remained confined to the job seekers interested in doing unskilled work on voluntary basis.
- ❑ The local rates schedule had to be set up in departure from the existing cumbersome procedure of estimation.
- ❑ Job cards made the key factor for providing wage employment.
- ❑ It involved preparation of labour budget and action plans.
- ❑ A very detailed management information system (MIS) was to be put in place for monitoring the program.

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- ❑ In view of the scheme being implemented through an act of the parliament- assuring job on demand to the job cardholders, the capacity building of the entire official machinery was involved.
 - ❑ The scheme restricted the payment of wages to that notified in the Minimum Wages Act unlike higher rates being paid by the contractors on other works.
 - ❑ Muster Roll and Social Auditing Systems were put in place by which monitoring mechanism got up scaled.

Reasons for Low Rate of Employment Demanded

- ❑ Lack of 'stark poverty'
- ❑ Very few people are actually homeless: State Land Reforms by Sheikh Abdullah, by virtue of which all the tillers were given ownership of land. This could not be achieved in the states of Kerala, West Bengal or Tripura despite communist ideologies.
- ❑ Social Factor: It has been observed that even those interested, do not want to be seen working in the vicinity of their kith and kin. They prefer to go to Himachal Pradesh and other neighboring states.

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- ❑ Informally, it is reported that quite a few of those being employed under NREGA are migrant laborers from other parts of the country.
 - ❑ This has also been the case in the implementation of various other schemes such as the Rural Infrastructural Developmental Schemes.
 - ❑ Lack of awareness of NREGA

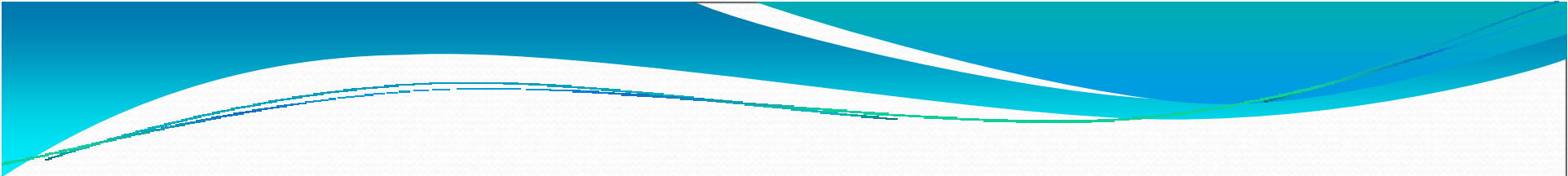
Obstacles in Effective Implementation in J&K

❑ **Definition of a household**

The operational guidelines of the NREGA detail a household as a nuclear family comprising mother, father and their children. In addition, a household refers to a single-member family. Reports show that gram panchayats treat joint families as one household, thus issuing them a single job card.

❑ **Denial of registration**

Reports from the field point to incidents of denial of registration to single-woman-headed households and physically challenged individuals.

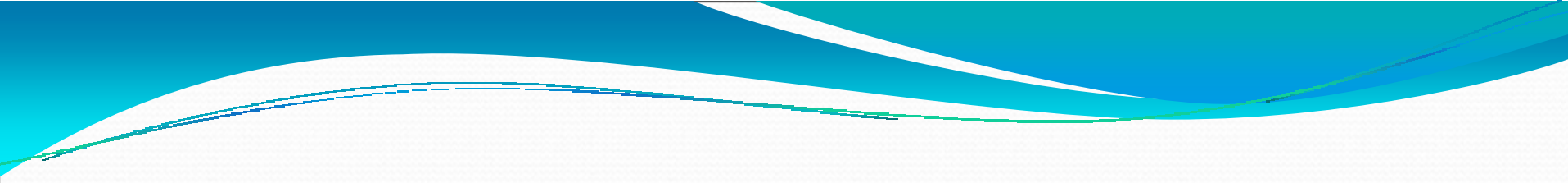


Delay in distribution of job cards

Though job cards have been prepared, they have not reached the people, thereby restricting their right to demand work. A probable cause for this is the workload of the panchayat sevak who undertakes the task of distribution. On average, each sevak has two or three panchayats under him, thus making the task extremely difficult.

Delay in wage payments

Delays in wage payments have always been a matter of concern in previous employment programmes, and this issue continues to plague the NREGA.



Thank You