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Title of the study- MGNREGA and Participatory Governance in Rajasthan

Summary of the study

MGNREGA has been conceptualized as a rights based programme and provisions have been made to make participatory governance an integral part of the programme. This study was done in two districts of Rajasthan namely Dungarpur and Karauli district. The objectives of the study were to describe the participatory governance practised in the implementation of MGNREGA; to assess the level of participation of women, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other vulnerable groups in MGNREGA; to analyse the relationship between participatory governance and the performance of MGNREGA; and to suggest strategies and actions that can help to improve participatory governance.

The key findings of the study are that women constitute majority of workers that is 71% of total workers. In Dungarpur, respondents from Scheduled Tribe constitute 73.3% of total respondents. In Karauli district, 44% respondents are from Scheduled Caste. Majority of the respondents in both districts are not aware about official wage rate and Panchayats are not pro-active in disseminating information about MGNREGA among people. In both districts, OBC and SC are facing more discrimination in getting work than others. Majority of workers in both districts are getting wages after one month. Very few respondents in both districts replied that Gram Sabha are organized regularly. Compared to 5.3% respondents in Karauli, 48% respondents in Dungarpur replied that participation of people in *gram sabha* has increased after MGNREGA.

Transparency and Accountability are key indicators of participatory governance for this study. Awareness about Right to Information Act is very low across gender and caste lines in both districts. Respondents in both districts have reported

forgery in filling up of muster rolls by mates. Vigilance and monitoring committees are ineffective . Respondents in both districts are not aware about grievance redressal mechanism . In order to ensure accountability in the execution of MGNREGA work, social audit has been provided for in MGNREGA. Participation of the respondents from Schedule caste, Scheduled tribe and OBC is very low in social audit which weakens social audit process and enforcement of participatory governance in the implementation of MGNREGA. This study also brings out that the participation of general category as workers is very less but their participation in public forums like *gram sabha* and social audits is highest. None of the respondents in both districts replied that action was taken against officials responsible for irregularities. NGOs are not involved in conducting social audit and social audit is done by a team selected by district administration. MGNREGA has improved the sources of livelihood of people and agricultural wages have doubled. This study finds that now the entire family is not migrating and only men migrate for work . This study recommends that Association of workers should be formed and NGOs should be involved in conducting social audit which will strengthen Participatory governance in the implementation of MGNREGA.