



Progress of MNREGA in Hisar district of Haryana

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ABSTRACT

The progress of MNREGA in the Hisar district of Haryana state is reported in this article. The number of person-days generated for women, SCs, and STs, as well as the number of households awarded work cards and employment, are used to report the MNREGA's performance. Based on secondary data, it can be concluded that MNREGA performed well during the study period and had a significant influence in rural communities' social empowerment. Throughout the study period, women, SCs, and STs have become more involved, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic phase (2020–21). Therefore, by enhancing the rural infrastructure, MNREGA created numerous opportunities for the district's rural economy to continue growing.

Key words: Rural development, MNREGA, job cards, employment, asset, Hisar.

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is India's most important initiative. The Act promotes the income stability of rural disadvantaged people by providing 100 days of employment with guaranteed earnings every fiscal year to any family whose adult members volunteer to perform manual labor without training. The government's MNREGA effort was sparked by historical demand to reform rural families. Beyond attempts to alleviate poverty, it recognizes that employment is a legal right and establishes the right to work. If the plan is implemented well, it will lead to sustained economic growth, reduce poverty by building social infrastructure, and give agriculture a solid long-term foundation.

The principles of self-selection and consistency form the basis of MNREGA. It offers the opportunity to work lawfully for a predetermined minimum wage. Those who apply are given work within 15 days of doing so. Because the application is universal, targeting issues are also eliminated. The demand-driven, people-centred architecture of MNREGA is expected to boost employment intensity in rural India, where widespread underemployment is an issue, in contrast to earlier rural employment schemes. Implementation entails community-led planning and social audits, as well as village panchayat-led efforts to improve rural resources without the aid of outside contractors or machinery. Special emphasis is placed on providing employment opportunities for women, in addition to establishing provisions for the development of water and land resources on private holdings of families belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), land reform (assigned lands) beneficiaries, and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) housing. In June 2008, this clause was broadened to cover small-marginal farmers who use job cards and are part of the MNREGA program.

Review of literature

Sugapriyan and Prakasham (2015) evaluated MNREGA performance in Kanchipuram district using data mining technique. It was concluded that MNREGA significantly influence the rural economy in getting out of poverty. MNREGA provide financial support to rural masses and helped in enhancing standard of living, economic status and livelihood opportunities. Major demerit of MNREGA was in effective performance at base level due to lack of attention of administrative authority. Corruption, poor quality assets, less days of work, and delayed payment of wages were some of hurdles for its effective working.

Chakraborty (2014) using secondary data, noted the advantages of MNREGA for rural regions. The goal of the study was to determine how MNREGA contributed to the creation of jobs for rural residents in a variety of

socio-geographical contexts. The research was carried out in West Bengal. The analysis's findings demonstrated how structural flaws and procedural hold-ups affect a program's ability to produce the anticipated job creation outcomes. The inadequate consequences of MNERGA included inadequate childcare facilities, contaminated drinking water, and the absence of SHG members to oversee work at the site. Although women's participation in System Integration works was noteworthy, much more work need to be done to meet MNREGA's objectives. **Salin and Leelavathi (2014)** assessed Karnataka's MNREGA performance and various challenges and issues related with its implementation. Study included what were different prerequisites for removing poverty and unemployment and for inclusive growth of Karnataka. Results indicated that implementation of MNREGA was not much successful in study area. Challenges faced in successful implementation of the act were low pay rates, seasonal employment, non-availability of sufficient opportunities of employment and discriminating wages payment between men and women. Social audit, timely wage payment, timely work completion, linking of MNREGA with other schemes and incorporation of women and SC, ST on priority basis can be helpful in successful execution of the plan in the work area.

Rahmatullah (2013) looked into how MNREGA contributes to inclusive growth. The MNREGA's MIS report, the planning commission sources, and other secondary data sources were employed in the study. The study's findings showed that MNREGA gives women, SCs, STs, and other marginalized groups jobs. A few other advantages of MNREGA were the development of infrastructure, the creation of income, and the improvement of rural residents' quality of life. MNREGA was viewed by rural residents as "half a slice is better than none." The government should prioritize guaranteeing 100 days of work, and urban residents should not be disregarded.

Sharma and Didwania (2013) evaluated performance of MNREGA in district Jind of Haryana. The purpose of research was to detect awareness about socio-economic schemes and MNREGA'S physical and financial growth in study area. The data from 2008-09 to 2010-11 have been taken from both direct as well as indirect sources of data. The study disclosed that awareness level of people about socio-economic schemes was very high. In terms of physical progress growth in water conservation, draught proofing, revival of water bodies, improved rural connectivity and inclusive growth can be seen. Physical and financial progress was increased by 135% and 36% respectively in Jind. Standard of living of rural peoples was positively influenced by MNREGA. Mobilized funds and created social assets also showed progress in Jind.

Prasad (2012) using secondary data explained concept, features, objectives funding pattern and performance of MNREGA. Results concluded that MNREGA was only programme which played vital role in providing employment and reducing poverty of rural workers. It enhanced purchase power of workers which enabled them to fulfil their basic needs. This act also stopped relocation of rural folk to cities seeking of work. It also helped in rural infrastructure development. MNREGA lead rural areas towards sustainable development.

Singh (2011) analyzed the function of panchayats in executing the NREGA in Sirsa. According to the findings, panchayats serve as a key hub for NREGA implementation. However, the Sirsa Panchayat has certain difficulties in carrying out the project as intended. In order to ensure maximum transparency and a base-level of efficiency in the NREGA implementation process, these obstacles had to be addressed right away.

Aiyar and Samji (2006) investigated the efficacy of MNREGA through the application of several key principles. According to the study's findings, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) ought to operate in an accountable and transparent manner. The scheme's minimum pay rate, availability of appropriate resources for PRIs, resource transfer to Gram Panchayats, technical assistance for administration and plan design, financial management, and dispute resolution system were all essential to its efficacy and efficiency. Social audit reports may be applied to lessen corruption, leaks, and late payments. You can use the IT and RTI Act of 2005 for fund monitoring. Gram Panchayat should oversee operational activities and state governments oversee and regulate the scheme's implementation procedure. Strong infrastructure and worker participation through program awareness contributed to MNREGA's development.

Objectives

- 1 To analyse progress of MNREGA in terms of HH issued job cards in Hisar.
- 2 To analyse progress of MNREGA in Hisar based on employment generation.
- 3 To analyse progress of MNREGA in terms of number of person-days generated in Hisar.

Data source and discussion

The present study is based on secondary data which was collected from official website of MNREGA, online sources and other published sources of information available in public domain. Published secondary data from 2013-14 to 2020-21 has been analysed to reach to conclusion. Data has been analysed by using the Microsoft excel.

Table 1: Progress of MNREGA in Terms of HH Issued Job Cards in Hisar

Year	HH issued job cards			
	SCs	STs	Others	Total
2013-14	49728 (56.12%)	16 (0.02%)	38873 (43.87%)	88617 (100.00%)
2014-15	45387 (53.79%)	10 (0.01%)	38982 (46.20%)	84379 (100.00%)
2015-16	43160 (54.56%)	6 (0.01%)	35944 (45.44%)	79110 (100.00%)
2016-17	45722 (49.61%)	10 (0.01%)	46433 (50.38%)	92165 (100.00%)
2017-18	43754 (48.69%)	9 (0.01%)	46099 (51.30%)	89862 (100.00%)
2018-19	44474 (47.93%)	36 (0.04%)	48283 (52.03%)	92793 (100.00%)
2019-20	45430 (47.56%)	0 (0.00%)	50087 (52.44%)	95517 (100.00%)
2020-21	48888 (47.78%)	0 (0.00%)	53424 (52.22%)	102312 (100.00%)

*Source : <https://mnregaweb4.nic.in/>

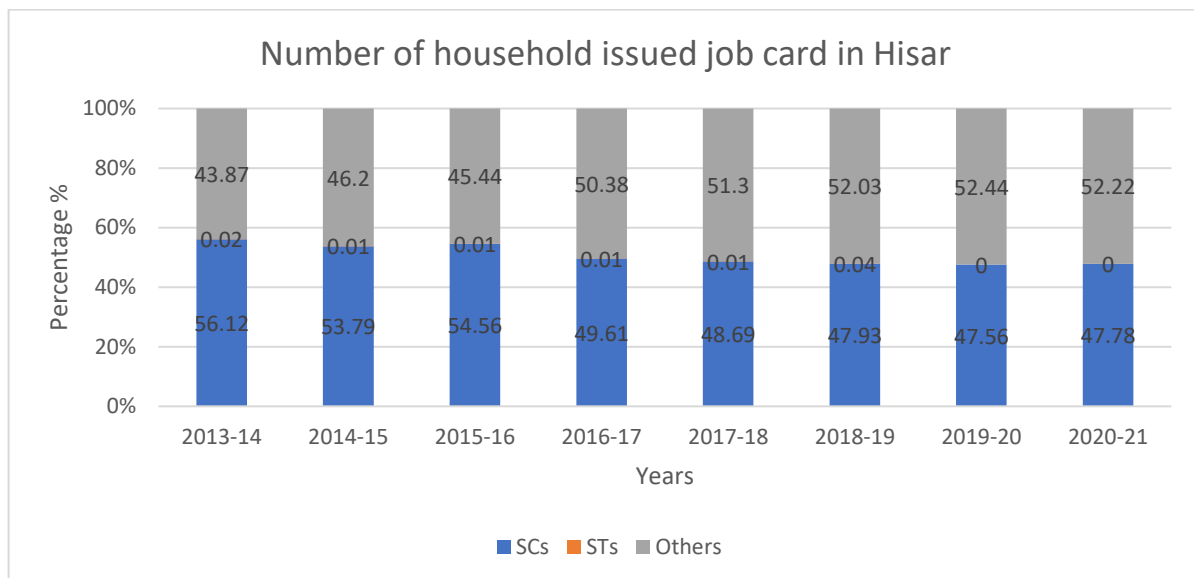
**Figure 1: Number of Households Issued Job Card in Hisar**

Table 1 lists the total number of Households (HH) in the Hisar district of Haryana that have issued work cards to SCs, STs, and others in a comprehensive and categorized manner. There were 49728 work cards given to SCs in 2013–14, but that number dropped to 48888 in 2020–21, according to the data. During the study period, STs received either very few or no job cards. In 2013–14, 38873 job cards were provided to others; in 2020–21, that figure rose to 53424. In the years 2013–14, 88617 job cards were issued overall; in 2020–21, that number rose to 102312. The total number of job cards issued to HH has steadily climbed throughout the course of the study period, notwithstanding some volatility. The government took a positive step during the epidemic by greatly increasing the overall number of HH-issued work cards in 2020–21. The government has thought about making this program a top priority in order to boost employment and improve a number of economic indicators, including production, aggregate demand, and the general well-being of rural Haryana residents, especially during the pandemic.

The percentage of employment cards given to SCs, STs, and others during the research period is shown diagrammatically in **Figure 1**. During the study period, the percentage of job cards issued to SCs as a percentage of all job cards issued fluctuates from 47 to 57 percent. The percentage of job cards issued to STs during the study period was less than 0.04 percent, which is essentially insignificant. During the study period, the percentage of job cards issued to others fell between 43 and 53 percent of all employment cards issued. The program has changed people's lives and helped the socially disadvantaged segments of society rise in status. Given their small share of the district's total population, it is also evident that STs employees receive very few job cards.

Table 2: Progress of MNREGA in Hisar Based on Employment Generation

	No. of HH provided employment				EMP. Provided
Year	SCs	STs	Others	Total	No. of women
2013-14	32586 (61.26%)	6 (0.01%)	20602 (38.73%)	53194 (100%)	46794
2014-15	22040 (56.79%)	2 (0.01%)	16765 (43.20%)	38807 (100%)	32710
2015-16	17408 (57.29%)	2 (0.01%)	12975 (42.70%)	30385 (100%)	23926
2016-17	27326 (56.96%)	4 (0.01%)	20645 (43.03%)	47975 (100%)	37536
2017-18	22101 (55.12%)	3 (0.01%)	17993 (44.87%)	40097 (100%)	32393
2018-19	15082 (57.15%)	6 (0.02%)	11304 (42.83%)	26392 (100%)	21968
2019-20	16751 (56.34%)	0 (0.00%)	12979 (43.66%)	29730 (100%)	25072
2020-21	25465 (55.23%)	0 (0.00%)	20644 (44.77%)	46109 (100%)	39312

*Source : <https://mnregaweb4.nic.in/>

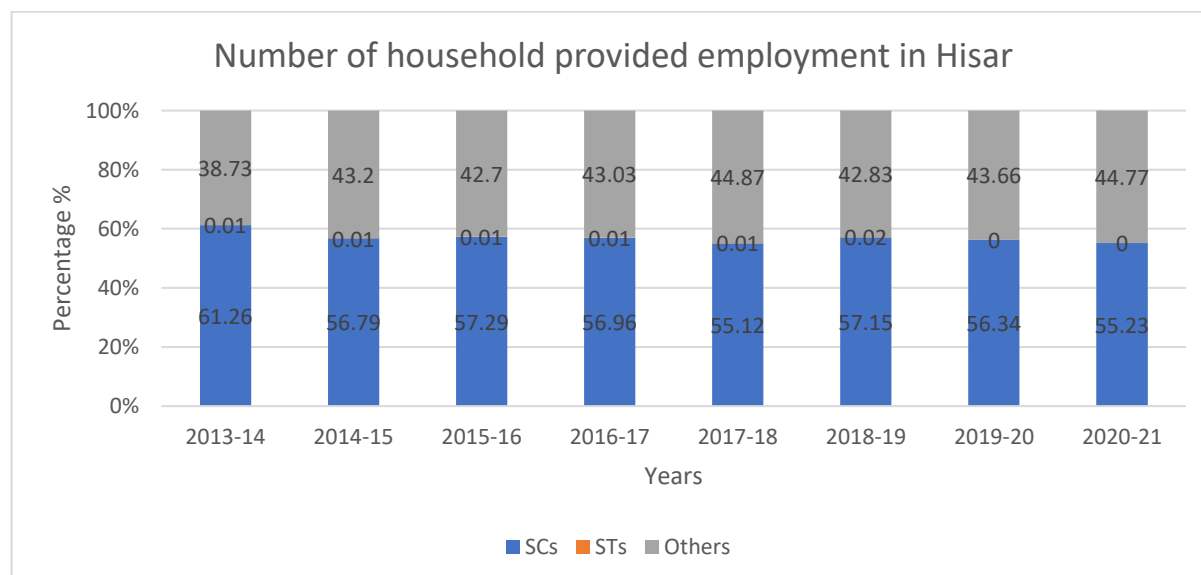
**Figure 2: Number of Households Provided Employment in Hisar**

Table 2 above provides data on the number of households (HH) in the Hisar district of Haryana that employed SCs, STs, others, and women in total and by category. Compared to 32586 in 2013–14, the number of SC HHs that offered employment steadily declined to 25465 in 2020–21. During the study period, there were either very few or no ST HHs offering jobs. In 2013–14, there were 20602 additional HHs that offered work; in 2020–21, that number rose to 20644. Information about employment opportunities for women during the study period is also included in this table. Between 2013 - 2014, there were 46794 women who worked, and between 2020 -21 there were only 39312 women. In the years 2013–14, there were 53194 HH employees overall; in 2020–21, that number dropped to 46109. An encouraging move by the government during the epidemic was the notable increase in the overall number of HH-provided jobs in 2020–21. The statistics showed that the number of HH-provided jobs fluctuated continuously during the course of the research years. The table makes it abundantly evident that the district's performance cannot be deemed adequate because the number of households with jobs has decreased during the course of the research period. Although this trend cannot be deemed excellent, the district has done well during the epidemic; the number has nearly doubled to 46109 from the previous year.

The percentage of employment given to SCs, STs, and others during the study period is diagrammatically presented in **Figure 2**. Throughout the study period, employment given to SCs as a percentage of all jobs granted ranges from 55 to 62 percent. Employment given to STs as a percentage of all employment throughout the study period was less than 0.02%, which is essentially insignificant. During the study period, employment given to others as a percentage of overall employment provided ranges from 38 to 45 percent. According to the figure below, almost 55% of all households that receive employment fall into the SC group. This demonstrates the government's goal to improve the lot of the underprivileged and socially vulnerable members of society.

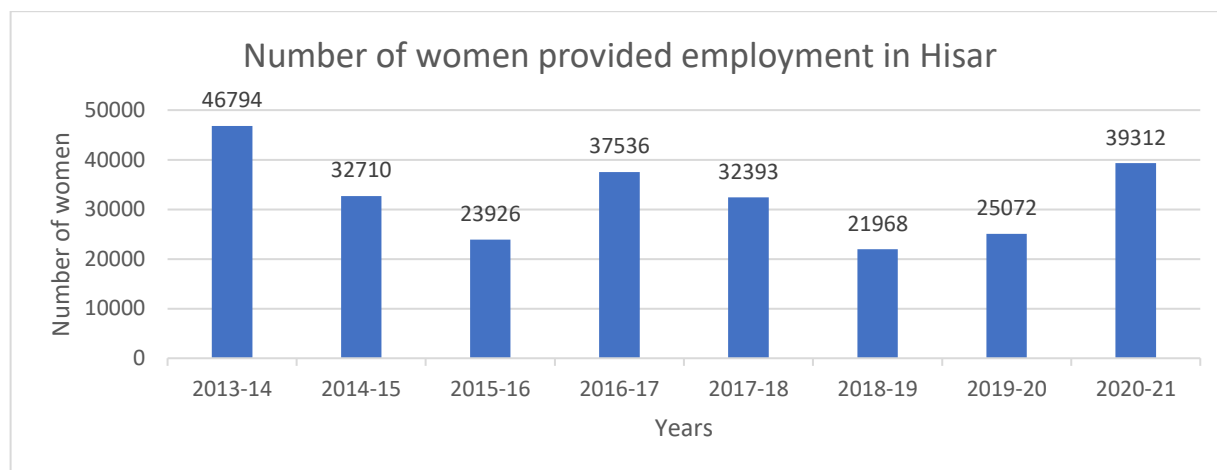


Figure 3: Number of Women Provided Employment in Hisar

A diagrammatic representation of the number of women employed throughout the study period is shown in **Figure 3**. The preceding figure makes it clear that women are given preference when it comes to employment under the MNREGA program. This is a positive start in the direction of a more gender-neutral income distribution.

Table 3: Progress of MNREGA in Terms of Number of Person-days Generated in Hisar

Year	No. of person days generated				
	SCs	STs	Others	Total	Women
2013-14	1557770 (62.43%)	241 (0.01%)	937243 (37.56%)	2495254 (100.00%)	1144944
2014-15	716728 (53.33%)	32 (0.00%)	627163 (46.67%)	1343923 (100.00%)	616465
2015-16	491657 (55.99%)	66 (0.01%)	386410 (44.00%)	878133 (100.00%)	420708
2016-17	901313 (59.34%)	98 (0.01%)	617400 (40.65%)	1518811 (100.00%)	742269
2017-18	593950 (54.52%)	59 (0.01%)	495432 (45.48%)	1089441 (100.00%)	580807
2018-19	313276 (57.13%)	65 (0.01%)	234969 (42.85%)	548310 (100.00%)	317721
2019-20	477108 (56.87%)	0 (0.00%)	361856 (43.13%)	838964 (100.00%)	493316
2020-21	868057 (55.04%)	0 (0.00%)	709114 (44.96%)	1577171 (100.00%)	895150

*Source : <https://mnregaweb4.nic.in/>

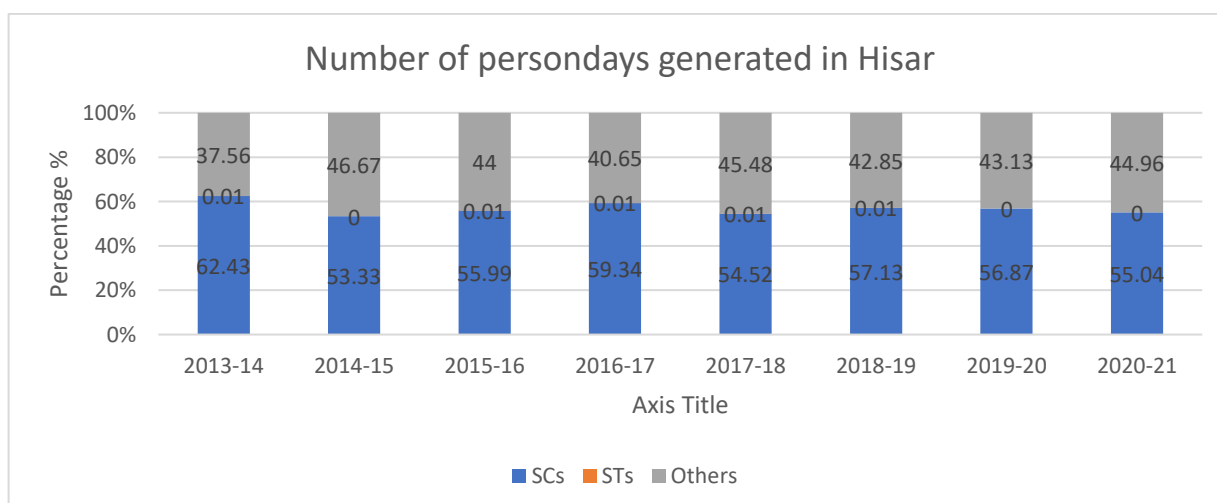


Figure 4: Number of Person-days Generated in Hisar

The number of person days created overall and by category for women, SCs, STs, and others in the Hisar district of Haryana was provided in **Table 3**. In 2013–14, 1557770 person days were generated for SCs; in 2020–21, that number dropped to 868057. During the study period, there were either very few or no person days generated for STs. As opposed to 937243 in 2013–14, the number of person days generated for others dropped to 709114 in 2020–21. The number of person days produced for women during the study period is also shown in this table. In the years 2013–14, 1144944 person days were generated for women; in 2020–21, this figure dropped to 895150. In 2013–14, a total of 2495254 person days were generated; in 2020–21, that figure dropped to 1577171. The government took a positive step during the pandemic by greatly increasing the overall number of person days generated in 2020–21. The government has strongly supported this program as a means of creating jobs for the underprivileged segments of society and raising aggregate demand to accelerate economic growth.

The person days created for SCs, STs, and other participants during the study period are diagrammatically presented in **Figure 4**. During the study period, person days produced for SCs as a percentage of total person days created range from 53 to 63 percent. The percentage of person days generated for STs over the study period was less than 0.01 percent, which is essentially insignificant. During the study period, the percentage of person days generated for others ranges from 37 to 47 percent of the total person days generated. More than half of the total number of person days generated have gone to the SC category of society, indicating that the government has given this initiative a higher importance in order to generate revenue for the underprivileged and socially backward segments of society.

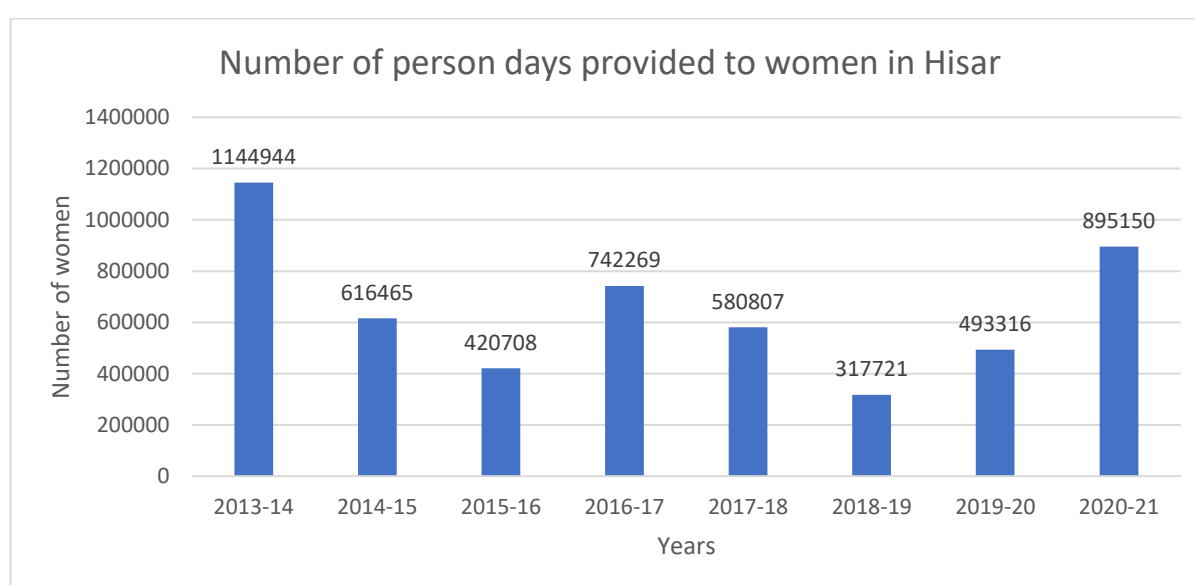


Figure 5: Number of Person-days Provided to Women in Hisar

The number of person days created for women during the study period is diagrammatically presented in **Figure 5**. Analyzing the quantity of person days created for women provides a very positive picture in this respect. The figure shows that women workers were offered additional chances. Eventually, this will result in a more gender-equal society.

Table 4: Assets Created under MNREGA in Hisar

Type of assets	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Water conservation	410	146	111	141	94	54	116	286
Watershed management	0	69	43	75	40	28	15	8
Irrigation	527	466	424	751	481	114	82	345
Traditional water bodies	153	125	104	250	160	65	40	68
Afforestation	0	3	1	2	3	3	94	98
Land development	233	38	36	154	80	52	49	39
Construction of house/building	2	20	14	16	78	75	571	412
Promotion of livestock	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	164
Rural sanitation	228	237	74	20	52	19	950	120
Road connectivity	1395	526	349	551	430	211	105	247
Play fields	0	24	9	13	0	10	0	1
Disaster preparedness	20	10	4	12	14	3	2	19
Any other work	1	21	4	6	0	3	0	7
Total	2969	1685	1175	2002	1432	637	2024	1814

*Source : mnrega.nic.in

The quantity of assets developed in Haryana's Hisar district under the MNREGA program during the research period is displayed in **Table 4**. Water conservation, watershed management, irrigation, traditional water bodies, afforestation, land development, house/building construction, livestock promotion, rural sanitation, rural connectivity, play fields, disaster preparedness, and any other assets created during the study period are revealed. The year 2013–14 showed the greatest total number of assets developed during the research period, which is a remarkable fact. There were 2969 assets created in 2013–14, while 2024 assets were created in 2019–20. The majority of the resources were developed throughout the study period in the areas of irrigation, rural sanitation, water conservation, and rural connectivity. This has not only increased the impoverished people's incomes but also built the infrastructure needed for rural Haryana to continue developing.

Major findings

Study regarding households issued job cards in Hisar district, showed that the total numbers of job cards issued were 88617 in the year 2013-14 and were increased to 102312 in the year 2020-21. During study period with some fluctuations, the total number of job cards issued to HH has increased gradually. The total number of HH issued job cards has been increased significantly in the year 2020-21, which was a welcome step by the government during the pandemic. Job cards issued to SCs as percentage of total job cards issued was more than 47 percent during study period. It is quite evident from the above data that socially marginalized group received major share of job cards issued. The program has been life changer as well as instrumental to raise the level of socially backward section of the society.

Study regarding households provided employment in Hisar district showed that the total number of HH provided employment were 53194 in the year 2013-14 and were decreased to 46109 in the year 2020-21. Employment provided to SCs as percentage of total employment was more than 55 percent during study period. This shows the government intention to uplift the poor and socially weak section of the society. The number of women to whom provided employment were 46794 in the year 2013-14 and this number reduced to 39312 in the year 2020-21. The numbers of women beneficiaries under the program have been decreased with some fluctuations during study period.

Study regarding number of person days generated in Hisar revealed that the total number of person days generated were 2495254 in the year 2013-14 and were decreased to 1577171 in the year 2020-21. Person days generated for SCs as percentage of total person days generated was more than 53 percent during study period. The number of person days generated for women were 1144944 in the year 2013-14 and this number reduced to 895150 in the year 2020-21. The number of person days generated for women beneficiaries under the program have been increased with some fluctuations during study period. It gives a very optimistic picture for women workers. This in the long run will lead to a more equal society in terms of gender.

Study regarding assets created in Hisar revealed that in year 2013-14 total numbers of assets created are highest during study period. In year 2013-14, 2969 assets have been created followed by year 2019-20 in which 2024 assets have been created. Mostly assets have been created in the area of water conservation, irrigation, rural sanitation and rural connectivity during period of study. This has not only supplemented the incomes of the poor's but also created an infrastructure for the further development of the rural Haryana.

After analysis of progress of MNREGA based on different parameters, it can be concluded the progress of issuing job cards has been very significant during the period of the study. The share of SC households in the issuance of job cards has been more than 50% in Hisar district of state Haryana during the period of the study. This shows that under the program socially backward class has got a very high priority.

If we analyse the program in terms of number of households provided employment, it has increased significantly in Hisar district of state Haryana. This figure is exceptionally high in 2020-21 due to current pandemic as government has spent huge amount on this program for protecting poor people by giving them employment. Women have been the main beneficiaries having significant share in this regard.

As far as generation of person days of work is concerned, there has been increase in women participation during the period of the study. Overall, the share of women in generation of work days was significant during the period of the study in Hisar district of Haryana.

It is also a noteworthy fact that many assets have been created in Hisar district of Haryana under MNREGA during the period of the study. Assets created during the period of study are water conservation, watershed management, irrigation, traditional water bodies, afforestation, land development, construction of house/building, promotion of livestock, rural sanitation, rural connectivity, play fields, disaster preparedness and any other assets. This will further open many new doors for the further development of the rural economy of the district by improving the rural infrastructure.

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