

A Document of Best Practices  
On MGNREGA WORK, By-

**AJSA**



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND M.G.N.R.E.GA

A Journey BY AJSA Its Stake Holders

# Sustainable Livelihood and MGNREGA

( A Documentation Of Best Practices, On Implementation Of MGNREGA Work in 5 Remote Indian G.P)

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Documentation Of Best Practices  
with Picture Gallery  
AJSA Bolangir, (Odisha) India



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## Introduction to operational areas

The district of Balangir lies between 20°09'N 21°05' N latitude and 82°41' E to 83°42'E longitude. It is bounded on the north by district of Bargarh, on the south by Kalahandi, on the east by the districts of Kandhamal, Boudh, Debagarh and Sonapur on the west by the district Nuapada. Area of the districts is 6575 sq.km. According to the census of India, 2001, the population of the district is 1,337,194 comprising 673985 males and 663209 females.



The percentage of male population is 50.4 and that of females is 49.6 percent. The sex ratio of the population works out to be 984 females per 1000 males and of 0-6 years population is 967. The population density is 203 per sq.km of area. The population growth rate during the decade 1991- 2001 is 0.85 averaged annually.

The entire district has been divided into three sub divisions, 14 Community Development blocks and 285 Gram Panchayats (GP) and has 1792 villages out of which 31 villages are uninhabited. The district population is constituted by 20.63 percent of Scheduled Tribes and 16.92 percent of Scheduled Castes. The major tribes enumerated in the districts are Gond etc. (30.35%) Khond etc. (29.25 %) and Saora etc. (14.05%) among the total tribal population of the district. Similarly, the castes having highest population are Ganda (66.02 percent), Dewar (10.06 percent) and Dhoba etc. (5.48) considering the total Scheduled Caste population. The age composition of a population indicates mainly the past trends of fertility and mortality, although migration plays some roles in it is significant. The population in the age group 0-4 years constitutes 9.81 percent and 5-14 years comprise 22.55 percent. The working age population of 15-59 age group constitute to 58.09 percent and the old age population (including age not stated) comprise 9.55

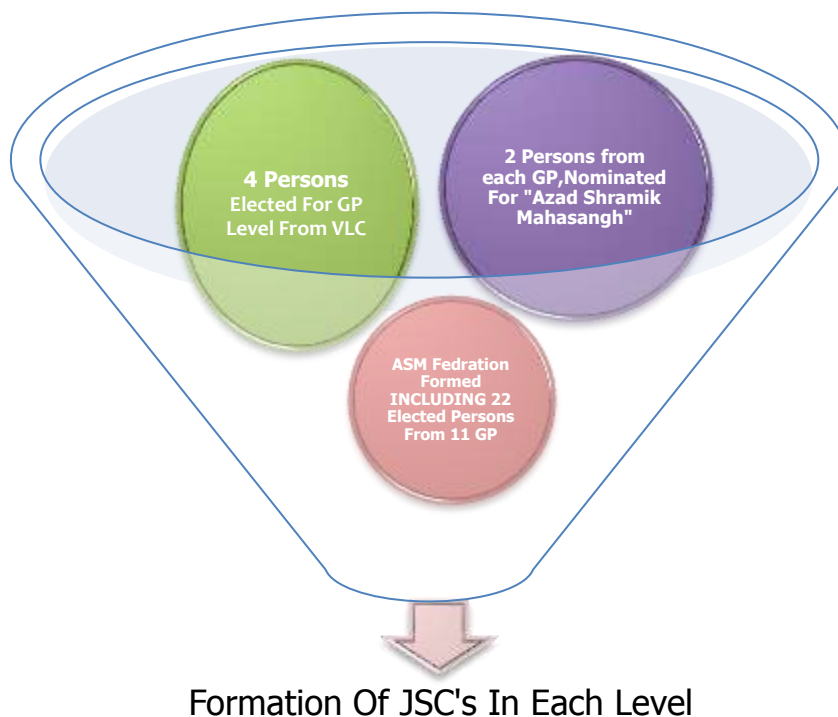
percent. The old age group needs some attentions for further investigation and supportive action for different schemes.

Work participation rate of the district is 41.86 percent. Of the total workers 62.83 percent are main workers while 37.17 percent are marginal workers. Schemes like NREGS have wider scope on implementation in such districts, where 58.14 percent population is non-workers. Looking at the housing statistics, it is revealed that only 29.5 percent of households live in permanent, 47.7 percent in semi-permanent and 22.7 percent in temporary houses. The district has 5 towns, and 1325 villages of which 1764 villages are inhabited.

## AJSA's Area Of work on MGNREGA an Overview

This initiative, supported by Ford Foundation since 2007, with a working domain comprised of **11** GP's including **57** Villages. Ensuring the entitlements, building participatory and transparent planning process and implementation systems at village, Panchayat and block level and taking up pilots and innovations are key activities carried out in this project.

The key strategy adopted by AJSA is to ensure mass participation in MGNREGA in different level's. The Job seeker's committee (JSC) at village level and job seeker federation's in panchayat and block level are organised in order to speed up the MGNREGA implimentaion and aslo to address issues releted to implimentation of work as demanded by the job seekers timely mesurement and payment,ensureing quality of work and social audit processes at panchayat level. The JSC's and panchayat and block fedration's are actively involved in awareness and campaigning programme organise in village,panchayat and block level's.



## Major Objectives Behind The Project

- **Livelihood enhancement through the Land and water management.**
- **Cater to and strengthen the demand side in a supply dominant context.**
- **Check the corrupt practice in payment disturbance.**
- **Enhance livelihood security in the project area by ensuring effective implementation of MGNREGA.**
- **Improve land and water resource by leveraging MGNREGA funds .**
- **Ensuring job opportunity for vulnerable families and stem distress migration.**
- **Promotion of low input organic agriculture.**
- **To check distress in migration to create job opportunity at village level.**

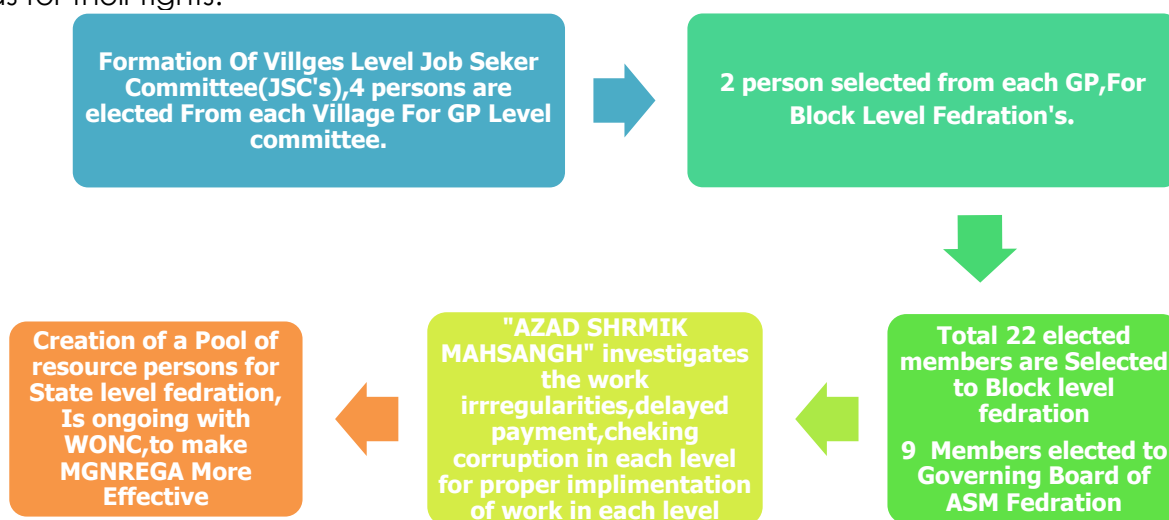
## The Role Of Job Seeker Committees (JSC's)

After the involvement of AJSA in its operational panchayat's since 2007-08, the process and procedures have got streamlined, the campaign mode has been chosen to ensure that MGNREGA is implemented as a demand driven programme. Now AJSA is playing a vital role in mobilising households for registration, getting job cards, providing motivation to submit work demand applications in groups, providing assistance in getting receipts for work application, and ensuring minimum wages to all.

The effort now is to strengthen the institution framework at the habitation level so as to fortify the panchayat ensuring effective governance at panchayat and village level for effective and efficient implementation of MGNREGA work. Around **14,000** registered NREGS workers were organized into around **57** groups at village level, 11 groups at GP level, 1 Block level federation's in operational areas respectively which acted as platforms for collective action. To cater to the need of the job seekers, "Azad Shramik Mahasangh (AZM)" a Block level Federation further integrated with the 11 Groups of GP Level. and they developed their strategy according to the Guidelines of MGNREGA, for proper implementation for proper advocacy and lobby in every level. At the block level, members of JSC's organised a rally to demand work, and proper payment of wages, in Bongomunda Block. The leadership was provided by the federation 'Azad Shramik Mahasangh'. Subsequently, the access to basic entitlements of NREGA has improved a lot, in comparison to other villages due to proper advocacy and lobby by the JSC's in all levels. The Organisation also has plans to develop a pool of resource persons (Federation) in District and state level for effective implementation of MGNREGA. The better access to NREGS entitlements has resulted into better livelihood options with increased cash income, increased investments in lands and decrease in distress migration in the project villages. In

the non-project villages, this percentage of application based provision of work is negligible. The improvement is also visible with regard to the work site facilities and the relevant awareness levels among the workers.

From the very beginning, the JSC' have taken up some pilot initiatives under the guidance of AJSA to move beyond wage income and build on the gains secured by NREGS entitlements. The interventions include initiating discussions among the wage labor groups for adapting sustainable agriculture practices, non-pesticide management, mixed cropping, composting, kitchen gardens, vegetable cultivation etc. Such interventions are towards securing maximum wages and investments for development of land and water resources from NREGS and supporting the job card holding families to capitalize on those benefits. At the village level, effort has led to increasing people's confidence in checking cheating and misappropriation in the NREGA, Corruption ratio and payment disturbance is minimised. In every operational village, people were able to demand for payment jobs as well as for their rights.



#### Works Covered By Job Seeker Committees

SL NO	Works covered Through JSC'S	Before Intervention	After Intervention	Total No. of Male Job Card Holders'	Total No Of Female Job Card Holders	BUDGET (INR)
1	MGNREGA Check Dam	0	04	82	115	41,000,00
2	Road Work	08	10	150	220	30,00,000
3	Tank Renovation	05	15	285	416	75,00,000
4	New WHS's(Water Harvesting Structures)	0	05	210	275	50,00,000
5	Farm Pond	12	22	86	124	11,00,000

SL. No	Achievement's(Till March 2012)	Before Initiation Of Project	After Initiation Of the Project
1	Total no. Of Job card holders	4554	6642
2	Total No. Of Job Card Issued	6354	6642
3	Total A/C opened For Job card holders in bank	2169	4491
4	Total A/C opened for Job card holders in post office	0	959
5	Total Migration Household Covered	1367	2054
6	Total Migration Population Covered	2776	3075
7	Total job demanded through JSC's	800	1980

## Major Interventions In The Field Areas

- Village meeting
- Baseline survey & micro level plan
- Selection of cadre of job seekers
- Job seeker committee formation
- Capacity building of community leaders for micro planning
- Coverage of issuing job card & advocacy for create job opportunity.
- Two days training program for JSC leaders.
- Block level interface meeting
- Awareness camps at GPs
- Program visibility through Street plays, wall writings and leaflet distribution.

Through giving constant effort in work and by persistant follow-up's with PRI's ,Government official's,job seeker committee and Fedration's.we are abe to make MGNREGA more effective by assuring that the implimentation will be true to the spirit and will be done as per the objectives of the action in our operational area's. As well as, As a facilitator- AJSA empowered the community leaders, PRI members and other stakeholders so that they could stand for their rights and entitlements enshrined in the Act.

- Degraded land and water resources
- Recurring Drought
- Large scale distress Migration
- Food insecurity
- Distress sale of Land ,labor and produces
- Negation of labor Entitlement under MGNREGA
- Lack of job opportunity

Issues Addressed



## Programme Highlights and Key Achievements

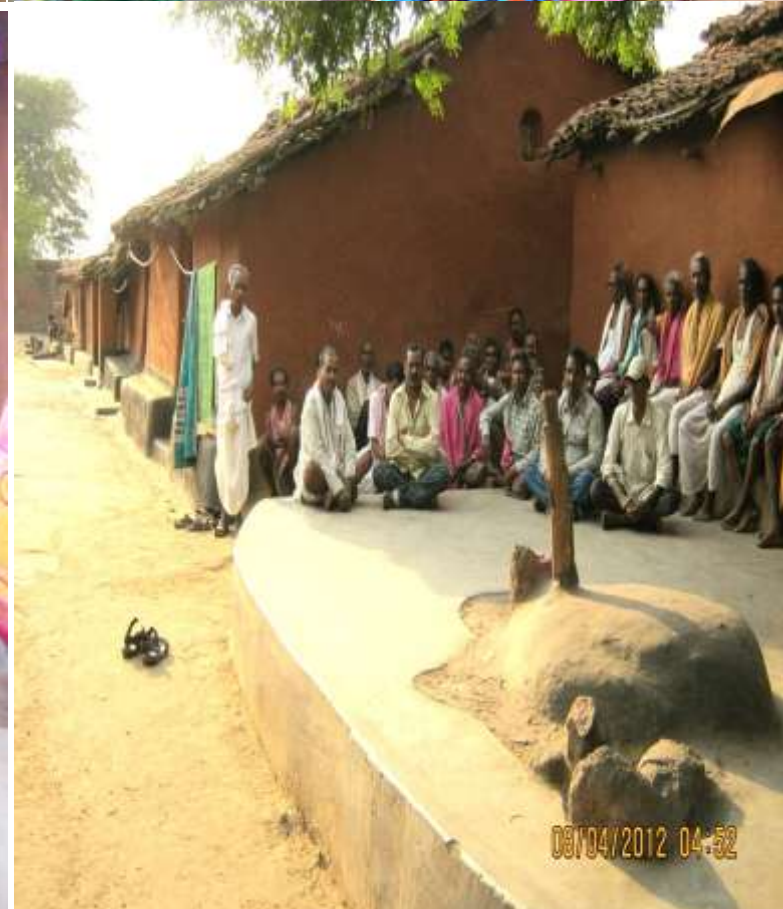
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- ❑ Baseline survey and MLP's were conducted in 33 operational villages.
- ❑ Total Household Covered- 6469
- ❑ Total population covered under project-27103
- ❑ Across 41 villages in Bolangir, MGNREGA laborers demanded
- ❑ jobs, and received job demand slips with the advocacy of AJSA
- ❑ 33 Village Level, 18 GP Level, 07 Block level meetings were organized.  
Where 1854 participants have participated.
- ❑ A JOB SEEKER Federation (Azad Shramik Mahasangh (AZM) ) has  
been formed For the job seekers, for proper lobby and advocacy for  
GP, Block and District Level.
- ❑ During the year, 60 capacity-building training programs were arranged  
for village communities, run either by project staff or by external  
resource specialists.
- ❑ In our operational areas, every villager is now having their own job card  
and 100 Days work, Migration ratio has minimized to 30% because job  
opportunities are created at village level.
- ❑ 6 GP Level Awareness camps were organized In Dengaon, Gandhrla,  
Chandotara GP, where 208 persons participated including 150 Male  
and 58 Female Participants.
- ❑ Field bundling and plantations and compost pits are done 12 villages  
through the continuous efforts of Azad Shramik Mahasangh (AZM).
- ❑ For proper awareness and for Program visibility Wall writing, Street  
plays, leaflet distribution and rallies were organized in 33 Villages.
- ❑ 07 Block level interface meeting and 05 Trainings were arranged.

# Some Glimpses Of Our Work

A Picture Gallery Of AJSA's Interventions In The Field Area

## Village Level Meetings and Base Line Survey





JSC Formation and Cadre Development Training





## G.P Level Job Seeker Committee Meetings









## Works Covereded By JSC's





## Beneficiaries





## Street Plays & Wall writings On MGNREGA Work









## AJSA's Presence on Local and Regional Platforms



## Acknowledgments

AJSA is grateful to the many individuals, organisations and institutions who have been associated with us. We express our appreciation and thank each of them especially the Government of Orissa, the State and District level Administration of the Government of Orissa, Department of Rural Development, Department of Panchayati Raj, Department of SC and ST Development, Department of economic affairs, Department of Home Affairs, Delhi, We are also thank ful all the Sarpanch"s of our operational area and the representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institution.

Acknowledgement is also given to the thousands of people of Bongomunda block of Bolangir district, who have contributed to the progression of sustainable development in their own areas, including our elected members of Job seeker committees in GP and Block level. You are a constant source of inspiration and invigoration.

The perceptive guidance and timely assistance provided by Mr. Sarat Ku. Rath, Senior Programme Officer (Samaj Pragati Sahayog). special thanks must go to Lokadrusti Khariar and Western Orissa NREGA Consortium officials .Our work has been enriched by their support and guidance. It would be too much to name all of them but we would like to thank all stake holders, advisors, mentors and experts who have helped us, particularly Mr. Abani Mohan Panigrahi Chif Executive Officer Lokadrusti Khariar, who has given his valuable time and advice in our work.

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## Development Partners



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