

## PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN MGNREGA IN SHIMLA DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

*Vishav Jyoti*

*Research Scholar, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India*

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Participation of people for whom the programmers are undertaken plays a significant role in the discourse of the rural development practitioner and policy makers. Women's participation in labor force is comparatively very low as compared to men. Many constraints and challenges have made women life under men's dominance. Women can be the part of workforce if they get access to employability. Women comprise of half of the country's population, yet, they have limited control over income. The Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is extremely progressive act enacted in India after independence. It is right to work as a legal entitlement. The basic objective of this study is to explain and analyze the participation of rural women in MGNREGA in the study area. The present study is both primary and secondary based. This study has been carried out in the Mashobra Block of Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh because this block has the highest number of women workers registered under MGNREGA. 401 women respondents were selected randomly. The results showed that MGNREGA is providing gainful employment to rural women and their participation has increased significantly during the past years. The paper will also highlight major shortcomings regarding women's awareness about the Act. The results suggest a need for immediate rectifications of some of the flaws observed during the field work to make MGNREGA more effective.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Rural Women, MGNREGA, Participation, Awareness*