

# **NREGA and its impact on the rural economy: A case study in the Burdwan district of West Bengal**

**Rajat Jyoti Sarkar and Moumita Karmakar**

## **Abstract**

It is generally seen that due to financial incapacity the poor people cannot purchase their minimum requirement to maintain their life. They suffer from malnutrition. Though Public Distribution System is the most popular and important food security measure, it is not performing well in recent years due to various reasons. In the presence of massive poverty and unemployment public distribution system is not the only answer to achieve food security of the poor people. In this case National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) can play a vital role to achieve food security and livelihood security of the rural poor. It is a wage employment programme and most importantly it is self targeting. If this scheme can be implemented properly then it can increase the income level of the rural poor. So it can create the purchasing power of the rural poor. Their consumption level as well as standard of living will increase. This paper tries to explain the impact of NREGA on the food security and livelihood security of the rural poor in the Burdwan district of West Bengal.

Key words: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, food security, livelihood security, anti-poverty programmes.