



## Assets created by National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Dharwad taluka of Karnataka

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### ABSTRACT

The wage employment programmes have been an important component of the antipoverty strategy of the Government of India. A typical feature of the employment programmes of the Government was that jobs created under the schemes were not permanent in nature. Government of India created a historic story by enacting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005. This scheme plays a dual role in providing wage employment during slack periods and using this opportunity to create durable rural assets at the village level by harnessing the local manpower. In trying to gauge the assets created, the present study was conducted on 270 beneficiaries of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme of five villages of Dharwad Taluka of Karnataka. A list of assets created in the community was prepared namely digging of new tanks, ponds, percolation tanks, land leveling and tree planting, rural connectivity, flood control and protection, water conservation and harvesting, construction of school compounds and panchayat buildings, afforestation and the beneficiaries were asked to rank the assets based on their usefulness to the community. Based on ranks assigned Garet ranking test was applied. The findings revealed that assets created in the study villages greatly contributed to the development of the villages.

## INTRODUCTION

The world's largest number of poor resides in India which is home to almost 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the world's population. It is estimated that 28 per cent of the total population of the country live Below Poverty Line (BPL) of which 75 per cent are said to be in the rural areas. Overcoming poverty is therefore the biggest challenge in India's development efforts. It has been a mammoth task to achieve a positive change in the quality of life of its teeming millions. Poverty being a complex issue besides primarily being a rural phenomenon, it has not been possible to tackle this issue through a single poverty alleviation programme.

The wage employment programmes have been an important component of the anti-poverty strategy of the Government of India. These programmes provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons as well as in

times of floods, drought and other natural calamities. They create rural infrastructure which supports further economic activity. Although schemes like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Programme (RLEP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) launched by the government from time to time provided relief to rural population, they never guaranteed employment to every household in the village. They were just allocation based programmes. A typical feature of these schemes was that none of the jobs were permanent in nature, they were all short term casual jobs, usually for a period of hundred days or more. Job opportunities created by these schemes and programmes acted just as a supplement to the rural house income and in most of the circumstances they failed to ensure the basic amenities of life for a rural family in a sustainable manner.

Taking into consideration the limitation of earlier rural