

Special Issue

Social Work and Rural Community Development

- **Editorial** – *Prof. Subhabrata Dutta and Dr Joyashri Dey*
- **MGNREGA and Rural Development in India** – *Dr. Amitabh Singh and Shashank Chandel*
- **MGNREGS Convergence: An Initiative in Dakshin Dinajpur District of West Bengal** – *Mr. Satyajit Saha and Prof. Subhabrata Dutta*
- **Re-Igniting the Grassroot Debate: The Symbolic and Substantive Significance of Women's Reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions of Bihar** – *Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar*
- **Politics of Rural Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana** – *Priyambda Tripathi and Prof. Bipin Jojo*
- **Maternal Health in Rural Char Areas of South Salmara-Mankachar District of Assam** – *Priyanka Gogoi*
- **Rural Development Through Rural Entrepreneurship: A Study of Rural Entrepreneurs of Kamrup Rural District of Assam** – *Alina Dutta Roy*
- **Vulnerability Caused by Flood in Rural Assam in the Perspective of 1950's Earthquake** – *Dr. Aditi Nath*
- **Strategic Media Policy a Need of the Hour in North East India for Rural Development: A Critical Study** – *Dr. Arjun Das*
- **Livelihood Challenges of Conflict Widows in Manipur** – *Pukhrambam Priyabala & Dr. H Shukhdeba Sharma*
- **Tribal Women in Manipur: Their Reproductive & Sexual health concerns** – *Dr. Rose Nembiakkim*
- **Empowerment of Youth in Rural Areas Through Agriculture and Allied Sectors in Manipur: Implication for Rural Development** – *Onkholun Haokip & Prof. M. Tineshowri Devi*
- **Rural- Urban Connectivity through Inland Water Transport in Dhubri: A Way Towards Rural Development** – *Amrita Das and Dr. Amrit Pal Singh*
- **Perception of Career among Elderly Married Women in Villages– A Study Conducted in Borjalenga Block of Cachar District** – *Anurupa Bhattacharjee and Dr. Joyashri Dey*
- **Witch Hunting in Tea Plantations and Role of Social Worker: A Case of Durrung Tea Estate, Assam** – *Barsha Kalita*

SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL (Bi-annual)

**Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar – 788011, Assam, India**

EDITORS

Prof. Subhabrata Dutta
Professor
Department of Social work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Joyashri Dey
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Gopalji Mishra
Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. M. Tineshowri Devi
Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. M. Gangabhusan
Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Tarun Bikash Sukal
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Mrityunjay Kr. Singh
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Ratna Huiem
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Kathiresan L.
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. G. Albin Joseph
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Ms. Ritwika Rajendra
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Lalzo S. Thangjom
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Aditi Nath
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Mr. Ajit Jena
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

Dr. Kaivalya T. Desai
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
Assam University, Silchar

ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. K.V. Ramana
Former Vice Chancellor
Andhra University
Vishakhapatnam, AP

Prof. C.S. Ramanathan
Human Service Enterprise
MI, USA

Prof. K.V. Nagaraj
Department of Mass Communications
Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram

Dr. B.T. Lawani
Director, Social Sciences Centre
Bharati Vidhyapeeth University, Pune, MH

Dr. B.S. Gunjal
Department of Social Work
Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka

Prof. R. Parthasarathy
Department of Psychiatric Social Work
NIMHANS, Bangalore, Karnataka

SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL (BI-ANNUAL)**Volume 8, Issue 2, July- December, 2017****Social Work and Rural Community Development****CONTENTS**

Sl. No.	Title	Author(s)	Page No.
1	Editorial	Prof. Subhabrata Dutta Dr. Joyashri Dey	iii
2	MGNREGA and Rural Development in India	Dr. Amitabh Singh and Shashank Chandel	1
3	MGNREGS Convergence: An Initiative in Dakshin Dinajpur District of West Bengal	Mr. Satyajit Saha and Prof. Subhabrata Dutta	17
4	Re-Igniting the Grassroot Debate: The Symbolic and Substantive Significance of Women's Reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions of Bihar	Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar	30
5	Politics of Rural Development: Cases of Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana	Priyambda Tripathi and Prof. Bipin Jojo	50
6	Maternal Health in Rural Char Areas of South Salmara-Mankachar District of Assam	Priyanka Gogoi	71
7	Rural Development Through Rural Entrepreneurship: A Study of Rural Entrepreneurs of Kamrup Rural District of Assam	Alina Dutta Roy	87
8	Vulnerability Caused by Flood in Rural Assam in the Perspective of 1950's Earthquake	Dr. Aditi Nath	99
9	Strategic Media Policy a Need of the Hour in North East India for Rural Development: A Critical Study	Dr. Arjun Das	108
10	Livelihood Challenges of Conflict Widows in Manipur	Pukhrambam Priyabala and Dr. H Shukhdeba Sharma	119
11	Tribal Women in Manipur: Their Reproductive & Sexual health concerns	Dr. Rose Nembiakkim	132
12	Empowerment of Youth in Rural Areas Through Agriculture and Allied Sectors in Manipur: Implication for Rural Development	Onkholun Haokip and Prof. M. Tineshowri Devi	144
13	Rural- Urban Connectivity through Inland Water Transport in Dhubri: A way towards rural development	Amrita Das and Dr. Amrit Pal Singh	156
14	Perception of Career among Elderly Married Women in Villages- A Study Conducted in Borjalenga Block of Cachar District-	Anurupa Bhattacharjee and Dr. Joyashri Dey	168
15	Witch Hunting in tea plantations and role of social worker: A case of Durrung Tea Estate, Assam	Barsha Kalita	182

We are happy to bring this volume of Social Work Journal on the theme of Social Work and Rural Community Development. This volume incorporates 14 papers contributed by 21 authors from the fields of Social Work and Rural Development.

In the paper, 'MGNREGA and Rural Development in India', Amitabh Singh & Shashank Chandel discuss how MGNREGA has become a major factor for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment. The paper also provides an insight into how programmes like MGNREGA has influenced rural development not only by providing employment but also by ensuring 'equal pay for equal work' for both men and women. The authors also tried to highlight the substantial impact of MGNREGA in various sectors such as Education, Health etc. Finding suggested that the success of this Act depends upon its proper implementation and in this scenario, the community participation is very important to make this programme more effective.

The article titled "MGNREGS Convergence: An Initiative in Dakshin Dinajpur District of West Bengal" emphasised the progress of Convergence work done under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Dakshin Dinajpur District during the financial year 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively for generating employment and creating assets. It also shows the recent trends of category wise work done under MGNREGS Convergence during financial year 2018-19 as per on-line MIS data of this District. The findings of the study reflect that the programme has generated more employment opportunities and assets creation after adopting Convergence strategy with the line department in Dakshin Dinajpur District.

In the paper, 'Re-Igniting the Grassroot Debate: The Symbolic and Substantive Significance of Women's Reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions of Bihar'. The author tries to bring the success story of *Hiware-Bazar*, highlighting the challenges and motivations of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) as an attempt to re-ignite the efforts for a qualitative growth related to policy and practice of PRIs in the country. Findings critically reflect that election to a PRI designation does not mean empowerment. It only puts elected representatives on the road to empowerment which they will attain slowly. They can be termed to be empowered only on the day they acquire the courage of conviction to take their decisions (both personal and professional) independently and have the capability of implementing it. Finally, he concluded that it must be added that the process of EWRs empowerment can only be speeded up when the PRIs are themselves empowered and the 'women' both as a community and

as individuals.
In the third article, 'Politics of Rural Development and Farmer Producer Companies in Haryana', authors illustrate the perspective of farmers in terms of interests, power issues and the level of exclusion of farmers with respect to marketing of produce through Farmer Producer Companies (FPC). The article critically examines the biases which are inherent in other social institutions and reflected in the FPC's composition and function. Findings of the present paper reveals that though the model of farmers' producer company which has been conceived as one of the key strategies to enable disadvantaged groups to leapfrog out of poverty has largely failed in achieving such aim on the ground.

In the paper, 'Maternal Health in Rural Char Areas of South Salmara-Mankachar District of Assam', the author tries to critically discusses the geographical factors which affect institutional childbirth at home in rural *char* area of South Salmara-Mankachar district. Further, she has done a detailed analysis on health dimensions i.e. accessibility, availability and affordability in relation to geographical factors. Finding of the study reveals that the scarcity of human resources in sub-centres and Primary Health Centres affects childbirth. The author concluded that all dimensions of health are intertwined. Without the achievement of one dimension, it is impossible to achieve the other dimensions. Because of the lack of connection among these dimensions, people avoid institutional childbirth. Finally, the article enlightens the possible social work intervention in that prospect at micro, mezzo and macro level of social work practices.

In the paper, 'Rural Development Through Rural Entrepreneurship: A Study of Rural Entrepreneurs of Kamrup Rural District of Assam', Alina Dutta Roy attempts to find out the problems faced by rural entrepreneurs of Kamrup district of Assam by presenting various charts and tables depicting the demographic profile. She further stressed on how rural entrepreneurship and awareness towards entrepreneurship must be promoted with special focus on education, skill-building, access to finance and market linkages. She further argued that government and Non-Government Institutes need to reach out to rural areas and sensitize the people on the benefits of rural business. Finally, she concludes that rural entrepreneurship and awareness towards entrepreneurship must be promoted by special programs with special focus on education, skill-building, access to finance and market linkages.

In the article 'Vulnerability caused by Flood in Rural Assam in the Perspective of 1950's Earthquake', Aditi Nath analysed the literature that explores how states like Assam which are surrounded by water are

MGNREGA and Rural Development in India

Dr. Amitabh Singh and Shashank Chandel

In India, out of total population of 121 crores, 83.3 crores live in rural areas (Census of India, 2011). Thus, nearly 70 per cent of the India's population lives in rural areas. These rural populations can be characterised by mass poverty, low levels of literacy and income, high level of unemployment, and poor nutrition and health status. In order to tackle these specific problems, a number of rural development programmes are being implemented to create opportunities for improvement of the quality of life of these rural people. The term "rural development" is the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. And it is a process leading to sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people especially the poor. The Rural development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life of the people who live in less develop and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. To remove rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. By this way it provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self-sustaining through productive assets creation such as road construction, cleaning up of water tanks, soil and water conservation work, etc. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one which has been considered as the largest anti-poverty programme in the world. In this paper, based on the secondary data, an attempt has been made to comprehensively understand the development effort to rebuild the rural life and livelihood on the basis of various secondary data.

Key Words: India; Rural development; Development; MGNREGA.

Introduction

There are no universally accepted approaches to rural development. It is a choice influenced by time, space and culture. The term rural development connotes overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. In this sense, it is a comprehensive and multidimensional concept, and encompasses the development of agriculture and allied activities, village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and, above all, human resources in rural areas. As a phenomenon, rural development is the end-result of interactions between various physical, technological, economic, social, cultural and institutional factors. As a strategy, it is designed to improve the economic and social well-being of a specific group of people – the rural poor. As a discipline, it is multi-disciplinary in nature, representing