

Women in Workforce During and After Covid-19: MGNREGA Supporting India

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ABSTRACT

This study concerns the ramifications of the pandemic on women's workforce around the globe and the ramifications generated by MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) on the overall Indian work population in general and the women's workforce in particular. COVID-19, with its economic implications, had been especially hard on women as it had made the existing and evident gendered gap in the work participation rate more conspicuous. In the contemporary India, it has been observed that certain social safety measures like MGNREGA have helped the rural women population to engage in labor work. It could be seen that where the family became a reason for many women in urban areas for job losses, it was the same family that worked as a prerequisite for rural women to find guaranteed jobs as during the precarious times of economic distress, MGNREGA became their significant chance of survival. We will look into the aftermath of the policy in the next two years as well.

KEYWORDS- COVID-19, Lockdown, Gendered job losses, India, MGNREGA

WOMEN ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE CATEGORY ACROSS GLOBE

Among the many lives that have been affected by the horrific consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, women's lives and livelihoods are the ones that have been crushed the most. Overall economic growth has been stalled as the working-aged women's population accounts for almost half of the world's workforce which remained unrealized. So, it implies that gender inequality has been harming the overall global economic growth which in turn may hamper the potential of development and prosperity.

The gendered consequences in the workforce specifically seen after the pandemic are not a new phenomenon. In many research conducted recently, it could be seen that

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