Role of MGNREGA in Democratic Decentralisation with special reference to the Role of Media and Communication

1Dr. Sanjay Kumar Saini and 2Ms. Ketki Mathur

1Assistant Professor, Department of Management and Commerce, Government P G College, BHEL, Bhopal
2Student, PG school of Commerce, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Abstract

Parliamentary system was adopted and democracy was established in India, which is called the largest democratic nation in the world, due to which the principle of decentralized governance has been adopted in India. After attaining independence in India, according to the experiences of the Constituent Assembly, it was not possible to rule the villages of the entire country from the capital Delhi, due to which the emphasis was laid on decentralization by the Constitution to make the country a public welfare state, due to which the transfer of power is above and the role of accountability to higher officials and public representatives began to increase. Decentralization enables all-round development of the local people, while the right of social and economic development along with administrative work is also available to the people’s representatives. A truly welfare state can be established only by decentralization of power. It is through this that the qualities of cooperation, accountability, self-reliance etc. develop in the public. India is the largest country in the world, as well as the majority of the country’s population still lives in rural areas, due to which Gandhiji called it the "country of villages". But due to the deteriorating economic condition of most of the people in rural areas and lack of employment in rural areas, most of the people are migrating from villages to cities, due to which many villages are in a state of desertion today.

Keywords: Media, Communication, MGNREGA, Democratic.

Introduction

Media has an important role in running the democratic system smoothly. In modern times, media is a powerful medium to maintain the dignity of human values and protect the political and social rights of man. That is why the great philosopher and speaker of England Edmund Burke called it the fourth pillar of the nation.

Democratic decentralization can be defined as a meaningful authority dedicated to administrative local units that are considered good and responsible for local citizenship, who perform duties while enjoying full political rights and freedoms. It is a political concept; through this process the decentralization of power is done from top to bottom. Its sole objective is to expand the scope of authority and expertise and to enable people to participate more and more in politics and administrative matters. To achieve these objectives new institutions are created and old and existing institutions are reorganized or reconstructed and reformed.

Thus, democratic decentralization means decentralization of power, the source from which this power is decentralized is based on democratic structure and hence such decentralization is called democratic decentralisation.
The purpose behind the writing of this research paper is to study the state of democratic system in India, to study the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and to study the publications published by the media.

In this research paper, secondary material has been used by me, which are books written by various scholars, news published on Journals, Internet sites, newspapers and TV channels etc.

**Democratic System in India**

In a democratic system, “the people are ruled by the people for the people.” Still, the rights are very intoxicating and immaterial, so the person in power can be a little distracted in the matter of power. In a democratic system, the media maintains control over it by analyzing, criticising and criticizing the policies of the government. The media informs the public about the activities of all the organs of the government, by bringing awareness in it, it creates interest in democratic institutions. It makes the Parliament and the executive aware of the interests and needs of the people, the democratic system of governance cannot survive by ignoring the sentiments of the people. The media conveys the wishes and aspirations of the people to the Parliament. On the basis of which all policy issues are decided in Parliament. Sometimes the government is not able to know from its sources that where-where injustice and atrocities are taking place under its rule, but the media keeps making the government aware of such flaws.

**Rights in a Democracy**

The Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 stated that the basic rights of human beings are irrespective of any race, religion, gender, community, language, society etc. Talking about fundamental rights, it is a right mentioned in the constitution of the country. These rights are available to the citizens of the country, except in emergency situations, to all the people residing in the country.

Human freedom is the cornerstone of human development, at birth human is only a body. On coming in contact with family and society, he learns human qualities and becomes development oriented by getting acquainted with human rights and takes part in democracy on the basis of being a citizen of democratic countries. The country's sheer size and diversity, its reputation as a developing and sovereign secular, democratic republic, and its history as a pre-colonial nation have made the human rights situation in India somewhat complicated. The Constitution of India provides fundamental rights, which include social, economic, political, cultural as well as religious freedom. Apart from this, along with the freedom of speech in the constitution, the division of executive and judiciary and freedom of movement in and out of the country has also been given. As a result of which the National Human Rights Commission was established in India in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act.

**Democratic Decentralization and Panchayati Raj System**

In the direction of rural development after independence in the country, on October 2, 1952, for the first time, the Indian government started the community development program. After this, Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was formed in 1957 to study the problems of the poor living in rural India and to consider Panchayati Raj. Accepting the recommendations of this committee in November 1957, Panchayati Raj was kept. After independence, important steps were taken to realize the concept of democratic decentralization by the establishment of Panchayati Raj. First of all, Rajasthan got the distinction of being the first state to establish Panchayati Raj, but due to lack of complete and smooth implementation of Panchayati Raj, problems started to emerge.
The lack of economic resources in the panchayats, apathy of the rural people, non-cooperation of government officials, inaction of the state governments etc. made the Panchayati system ineffective. In many states, elections to panchayats were not conducted for many years and panchayats were encroached upon due to party issues. For almost two decades from 1965, the Panchayati Institutions were a victim of disorder. The result of all this was that the Panchayati Raj institutions as such became non-existent.

In a democracy, a bill was introduced in the Constitution in 1989 for the establishment of local institutions, rights and functions for rural development, but due to some reasons this act could not be passed. The Panchayati Raj Act was passed in Lok Sabha on 22 December 1992 and Rajya Sabha on 23 December 1992 and was ratified and sent to the states. After the President's signature on 20 April 1993, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment was implemented in the whole of India from 23 April 1993.

Public participation in governance and power is the first condition of good governance. The system of decentralization is an effective way to ensure the participation of the people in power. Globally, the fact is being recognized that no development can be imagined without the active participation of the people. Decentralized system is such a system which opens the way for proper operation of works and ensuring transparency, quality and accountability at every level in doing the works. The need for decentralization has been felt so that people at every level can exercise their rights and powers properly and within the purview of the constitution, in this system, people at different levels understand their roles and responsibilities and fulfill them. At each level, each other's cooperation and mutual co-ordination gives freedom to use the resources available at each level, on the basis of need and priority, as well as each unit at every level has the right and responsibility to mobilize its own resources. But decentralization does not mean that everyone is free to act in his own way. Freedom to act is within the ambit of rules and regulations made for the conduct of good governance. In India, now complete system of decentralization has been made in the new Panchayati Raj. According to which the plan will be prepared at the village level and will reach the center via block, district, state. The implementation of the schemes will also be done by the local government at the village level. Thus, through decentralization, power and power have not been concentrated in one center but are divided into different levels. Through which the local and rural people have got the right to take full participation in the administration.

**Democratic Decentralization and MGNREGA**

In the present democratic era, freedom and equality are the first demands of human beings. In democratic nations, citizens are provided with some important facilities and freedoms for their all-round development. Where food, clothing, shelter and security are indispensable for human beings, there are also some other needs which are very important for human beings at present, which also includes employment. India is a democratic nation, Mahatma Gandhi had said that 'the soul of India resides in the villages'. The then Narasimha Rao government of the Center introduced the Panchayati Raj system in India through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Indian Constitution. MP Became the first state in India which implemented the practical implementation of this system quickly.

The employment crisis in rural India is different from urban employment where full-time unemployment is found in the cities and half-time unemployment is found in rural areas. In rural areas, people do not have any work for 6 months after agriculture. In the newspapers and in various media, there has been reflection and publication on this semi-unemployment in the agricultural sector. The then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, while making a revolutionary effort in this direction, launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, to rid rural India of half-yearly unemployment. Which was made by
the Central Government in 2005 by combining the Food for Work Scheme and the Sampoorna Rural Employment Scheme, which we know as the "National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme", which started on 2 February 2006 from Anantapur village of Andhra Pradesh. In 2006-07, this scheme was started in 200 districts of India and in 2007-08 it started in 150 more districts and from 1st April 2008 it is operating in all the states of India. On 2 October 2009, the name of this multipurpose scheme was changed to "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme" adding Gandhiji's name.

Main objectives of the plan

In MNREGA, laborers have to get wages while giving convenience, so after the closure of farming work, the work of MNREGA is conducted. This scheme was implemented keeping in mind the small development of the village, this scheme not only brings economic and political development of the villagers but also gives the village the appearance of a civilized and clean village.

1) Removal of unemployment at the village level
2) To provide employment to rural people in their own village
3) To create self-reliance among villagers
4) Stop migration for employment
5) Encouraging to work around Panchayat

Through this scheme, to make possible the economic development of the person by providing 100 days of employment to the person so that his dignified life can be made possible and migration of villagers can be stopped in search of employment i.e. rural people stay in their village with guarantee. By getting employment, they can do their economic development so that rural unemployment can be reduced. Under this scheme, a provision has been made to provide 100 days of employment in a year to one member of each family in rural areas, in which the President of the United Progressive Alliance, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, has made a commitment to remove poverty and give legal guarantee to employment. Strongly calling for the participation of the people with new historical efforts and initiatives, he said that this is the first golden opportunity when there is self-government in the villages and giving shape to the dream of Swaraj, to give shape to this program and direct and empowered partners to the Gram Panchayats. has been created.

Planning Tasks

MGNREGA achieves the twin goal of rural development and employment. MGNREGA stipulates that work should be oriented towards a specific set of rural development activities such as: water conservation and harvesting, afforestation, rural connectivity, flood control and protection which includes construction and repair of embankments, etc. Work like new tanks, excavation of ponds, seepage tanks, construction of small dams and other types of rural development is also given importance. Work like land leveling, plantation are provided to the working people.

Role of Media in Democratic System

In countries that believe in a democratic system, the media has been given full freedom of expression. This is not only theoretical, but also practical. Whereas in countries which have been kept in the category of defective democratic system, the media has freedom of expression but the political system has been cracking down on it in some way or the other. Despite this, their specialty is that except in some special circumstances, the media has been given complete freedom of speech and writing.
Decentralization of power does not suit the politicians in power in the slightest. Most of the politicians find it difficult to even breathe by staying away from power, so why would they want to empower citizens by initiating a simple process of recalling public representatives. Due to this mentality of the people, the royal family has emerged in Indian politics and other areas of public life. Through public discourses and other mediums, the fact is spread that only such family and its sycophantic allies are suitable to take over the reins of India. If a novice gets power, it will be very difficult to run the country. Suppose in a state or country, such people get majority in Parliament or Legislative Assemblies by election, who have been elected public representatives for the first time and they have no experience to run power, then will the family rulers be found by contempt of mandate?? No such arrangement has been given in the Indian Constitution, yes, a tradition has definitely evolved to find family rulers. This is the misfortune and weakness of Indian democracy.

Contribution of media in the implementation of MGNREGA, a scheme of democratic decentralized government
From time to time, information about the actions and activities done by the government related to MNREGA was made available to the public through the media so that the public could be made aware like:

- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday presented the review report of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA), in which it has been told that so far five crore families have benefited from this scheme. Till now the villagers of the country have earned 37 thousand crore rupees from this scheme. The Prime Minister also did not take long to describe this scheme as the most successful scheme of the UPA. Under this scheme, 12 crore job cards have been issued every year and 80 percent wages are directly reaching the workers' accounts. This report prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development is about 122 pages.
- Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme is the largest public works program in the world. The World Bank has clarified in its latest report that 182 crore people in India have been benefited so far under the World Bank and 15 percent of the needy people get social security from this scheme.
- In an important statement given in the Lok Sabha on February 27, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, “MNREGA is a living monument of mutual failures. After 60 years of independence, you had to send people to dig pits. Yeh I will keep on beating the drums of this memorial with gaiety. The Ministry of Rural Development claims that in 2015-16, MNREGA is back on track. The average employment generated in the last two quarters was not as much in the last five years. These figures have been released at a time when the opposition parties have been raising concerns from time to time regarding the intention of the government regarding MNREGA. These figures also show that the dependence of the landless poor people in rural India on MGNREGA is increasing.

Conclusion
Decentralization of powers is necessary in a democracy, if local powers remain concentrated in the hands of the state government, then linking public participation with governance will become difficult. In this way, on the basis of the division of powers, through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme 2009 at the village level, Indian citizens were provided employment with guarantee, in which the media has also contributed significantly, which is its budget, work, rights in time. Publishes reforms, corruption etc. so that the public can be made aware.

This scheme received a lot of appreciation at the world level, journalists working in rural areas of the country raised the news related to this scheme on various forums of the country and abroad because it is the only scheme after India's independence which provides employment to half yearly unemployed rural youth. Guarantee of 100 days of
the year with respectable honorarium. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of the media to play an important role in the field of employment by keeping a constant vigil on this employment-oriented program going on in India.

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