

# Inequality among Districts of West Bengal in Implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005

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## Abstract

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005, later renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), was enacted in the parliament to provide employment opportunities to the rural people of India. The State Government shall, in rural areas in the state, provide to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work not less than one hundred days of such work in every financial year. The West Bengal Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (WBREGS) came into force from February, 2006. In the present study, an attempt has been taken to review the performance of the scheme implemented in different districts of West Bengal and also to measure the inequality among the districts in implementing the scheme. Five parameters have been used to measure the performance of the districts, namely, percentage of households provided employment to the households demanded employment, percentage of households completed 100 days of employment, average person days of employment provided per household, percentage of women person days to total person days and average wage disbursed per person day. To calculate the inequality among the districts in performing the same, coefficient of variation and Ginni's coefficient have been used. Kendall's coefficient of concordance has also been used to test the propriety of the ranks obtained by different districts on the basis of different parameters.

**Keywords:** Employment, Person Days, Performance, Development

## Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 was enacted in the parliament with a view to eradicating the unemployment problem from rural India. Later, it was renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). As per the Act, the State Government shall, in rural areas in the state, provide to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work not less than one hundred days of such work in every financial year. If an applicant for employment under the scheme is not provided such employment within fifteen days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance. Priority should be given to the women in such a way that at least one third of the beneficiaries will be women willing to work under the act. Moreover, as far as possible, employment shall be provided within a radius of five kilometers of the village where the applicant resides at the time of applying.

The West Bengal Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (WBREGS) which came into force from February, 2006 was framed to provide employment as per Section 4(1) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, September, 2005. It was enforced in different parts of the state in three phases. In the first phase, it was enforced in ten districts of the state, viz. Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Purulia, Birbhum, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur, and South 24 Parganas. In the second phase eight districts namely, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling GHC, Siliguri MP, Nadia, North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Purba Medinipur, and Burdwan came under the purview of the NREGA from 1st April 2007. Howrah was the only district where the Act was enforced in the third phase from 1st April, 2008. It is the background of the study.

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Now, let us come to the nature of the problem that I have chosen in the present study. Already we know that the scheme has been enforced in all the districts of West Bengal since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008. So, it is now the time to look back. In the present study, an attempt has been taken to measure with what amount of efficiency the scheme has been implemented in the rural areas of different districts of West Bengal. The parameters used to evaluate the performance of the districts are ratio of households provided employment to the households demanded employment, percentage of households completed 100 days of employment, average person days of employment provided per household, percentage of women person days to total person days, and average wage disbursed per person day. To measure the inequality, statistically, among the districts in performing the same, coefficient of variation and Ginni's coefficient have been used. Kendall's coefficient of concordance has also been used to test the propriety of the ranks obtained by different districts on the basis of different parameters.

## Review of Literature

Farooque (2013) conducted a study to develop a methodology to measure the performance of different states of India in implementing the MGNREGA. He also highlighted the factors which influenced the comparative success of the states. The researcher used five parameters to develop the methodology to measure the performance and they were ratio of number of households provided employment to the number of households demanded employment, average person days of work provided per household, percentage of women participation, expenditure on wages per household employed, and the quality of assets created. On the basis of the cumulative score obtained by the top 25 states, ranking of the states was shown and Tripura topped the list whereas Uttar Pradesh was at the bottom. The study found significant positive correlation between MGNREGA performance of a state and its poverty ranks and literacy levels.

Sharma and Goyal (2015) attempted to find out the SWOT analysis of MGNREGA in Hadoti region in Rajasthan. For the study, data were collected from 345 beneficiaries with 15 households selected at random from a Gram Panchayat of every 23 blocks in the region. The study opined that lack of awareness about the scheme among the needy villagers was a major weakness whereas no differentiation between educated and skilled people, pilferage of materials from

sites, corruption and irregularities, etc. were some major threats to the scheme.

IIM-Calcutta (2009) carried out a study to review and appraise the implementation of MGNREGA in four districts of West Bengal: Burdwan, Birbhum, Malda, and Purulia. The study found that women empowerment had happened in the study area through equal wages and greater work participation. An increase in income and wages was also observed in the four districts. Inclusive growth particularly for the disadvantaged groups was achieved. Besides, durable and productive assets were created in the area.

Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School (2012), in their study, tried to account for variations in the success of the MGNREGA in different states across India. The study took three indicators to measure the performance of the states and they were: average person days worked per household, wages paid and inclusion of women. On the basis of the indicators, ranks were allotted to the major 27 states of India. The study found that success of a state in implementing MGNREGA is not statistically significantly correlated with poverty. The study also showed a fairly strong and statistically significant correlation between literacy levels and success of the states.

Reddy et. al. (2014), in their research, tried to assess the impact of MGNREGA on rural labor market of India. The study provided an inter-state comparative perspective of the implementation of MGNREGA in terms of provision of employment, gender and social inclusion, wages earned and poverty reduction. The study found that agricultural wages have increased across the country, in which the impact of MGNREGA is considerable. The act had a great impact in reducing the distress migration of the poor rural households. Bargaining power of the agricultural laborers was also improved.

## Objectives of the Study

Based on the discussion made so far, the objectives of the present study may be outlined as follows:

- (i) To assess the performance of the districts of West Bengal in implementing the scheme and to assign them ranks on the basis of their merit in performing the same.
- (ii) To measure the inequality among the districts in implementing the scheme by using suitable statistical measures.

## Research Methodology

Our present study is completely secondary data based. The relevant data have been collected from the online portal of NREGA maintained under the supervision of the department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and the reports published by the department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal. Data of a wide range of time from 2008-09 to 2014-15 have been consulted. For analysis of the data, some easy financial tools like percentage analysis, ratio analysis, average, ranking etc. have been used. The results have been presented through some tables.

Now, let me clear how the ranks have been given to different districts of the state on the basis of their performance. Five parameters have been chosen at first to evaluate the merit of the districts. They are percentage of households worked to the households demanded employment, percentage of households completed 100 days of employment to households worked, average person days of employment provided to the households, percentage of women person days to total person days, and average wage disbursed per person day. For each of the five parameters, a separate table has been prepared showing district wise calculations for six years (Tables 1 through 5). The relevant years are 2008-09, 2009-10, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15. Prior to the year 2008-09, all the districts of the state were not covered under the MGNREGA scheme. That is why those years have not been taken into consideration. The year 2010-11 has been dropped because of non availability of some specific information needed to construct ranks. The district wise average of those six years for each parameter has also been calculated in the respective tables. On the

basis of the average so calculated, the districts have been ranked in each of the five tables. Besides, in each table, coefficient of variation and Ginnis' coefficient have been computed to measure the inequality among the districts in implementing the scheme based on the average so calculated.

In the sixth table (Table 6), inequality among the overall performance scores of the districts has been computed. Each district got an average score in each of the previous five tables. Now, in Table 6, average of each district has been expressed as a percentage of the state average to bring uniformity among the units of measurement of different parameters. Overall performance score of a district is nothing but the simple average of those percentages.

The final merit score of the districts has been computed in Table 7, taking into consideration their ranks as calculated in the first five tables. The sum of the five ranks obtained by a district as per five parameters has been considered as the final merit score of that district. Obviously, the lower the merit score of a district, the higher will be the efficiency of that district in implementing the act. Lastly, the districts have been ranked based on their final merit score and have been rearranged in ascending order of their final ranks. Kendall's coefficient of concordance has also been used to test the propriety of the ranks obtained by different districts on the basis of different parameters.

## Analysis and Findings

Already it has been stated that the individual merit of the districts will be computed with the help of five parameters. Inequality will also be calculated for each parameter. Now, we will discuss them one by one.

**Table 1: Households Worked as a % of HH Demanded Employment**

| Districts       | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average | Rank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|                 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |         |      |
| 24 PARGANAS (N) | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.95   | 98.27   | 89.86   | 89.00   | 96.18   | 18   |
| 24 PARGANAS (S) | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.69   | 99.60   | 94.51   | 91.38   | 97.53   | 10   |
| BANKURA         | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.81   | 99.80   | 93.95   | 86.00   | 96.59   | 16   |
| BIRBHUM         | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.88   | 99.89   | 97.03   | 91.60   | 98.07   | 7    |
| BURDWAN         | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.82   | 99.76   | 96.03   | 93.45   | 98.18   | 4    |
| COOCHBEHAR      | 100.00  | 99.30   | 98.58   | 98.21   | 98.62   | 96.37   | 98.51   | 1    |
| DGHC            | 97.50   | 94.13   | 99.96   | 99.96   | 98.35   | 96.46   | 97.73   | 9    |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH  | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.57   | 99.11   | 92.58   | 90.39   | 96.94   | 15   |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR  | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.72   | 97.46   | 91.70   | 89.45   | 96.39   | 17   |

| Districts                           | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average   | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------|
|                                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |           |      |
| HOOGHLY                             | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.94   | 99.94   | 96.87   | 90.71   | 97.91     | 8    |
| HOWRAH                              | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.95   | 99.93   | 92.51   | 92.02   | 97.40     | 12   |
| JALPAIGURI                          | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.77   | 99.18   | 96.39   | 94.97   | 98.38     | 2    |
| MALDAH                              | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.70   | 99.74   | 95.40   | 87.55   | 97.06     | 13   |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 100.00  | 98.73   | 99.86   | 99.76   | 91.46   | 65.49   | 92.55     | 19   |
| NADIA                               | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.14   | 99.67   | 93.95   | 91.68   | 97.41     | 11   |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.78   | 99.24   | 96.29   | 93.59   | 98.15     | 5    |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.76   | 99.19   | 96.43   | 94.78   | 98.36     | 3    |
| PURULIA                             | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.84   | 102.42  | 94.36   | 85.31   | 96.99     | 14   |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 100.00  | 100.00  | 99.36   | 97.46   | 96.93   | 94.87   | 98.10     | 6    |
| WEST BENGAL                         | 100.00  | 99.73   | 99.72   | 99.53   | 95.20   | 89.54   | 97.29     | -    |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |         |         |         |         |         |         | 1.38214   | -    |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0062318 |      |

Source: The raw data needed for the calculations shown in the table above have been collected from the online portal of NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and MGNREGA report of 2008-09 and 2009-10 of Govt. of West Bengal.

**Table 2: Households Completed 100 Days as a % of HH Worked**

| Districts                           | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average  | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------|
|                                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |          |      |
| 24 PARGANAS (N)                     | 0.52    | 3.27    | 2.90    | 7.06    | 4.31    | 3.29    | 3.56     | 6    |
| 24 PARGANAS (S)                     | 0.11    | 0.50    | 3.75    | 7.68    | 4.80    | 4.84    | 3.61     | 5    |
| BANKURA                             | 0.93    | 2.60    | 3.91    | 7.01    | 4.34    | 0.64    | 3.24     | 7    |
| BIRBHUM                             | 0.37    | 2.36    | 5.77    | 8.88    | 9.49    | 3.16    | 5.00     | 3    |
| BURDWAN                             | 2.22    | 2.18    | 1.15    | 2.41    | 2.72    | 1.56    | 2.04     | 11   |
| COOCHBEHAR                          | 0.01    | 0.12    | 0.18    | 0.28    | 1.04    | 1.79    | 0.57     | 19   |
| DGHC                                | 1.03    | 1.80    | 7.76    | 14.17   | 8.06    | 8.66    | 6.91     | 1    |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH                      | 0.28    | 1.98    | 1.34    | 2.64    | 0.80    | 0.49    | 1.26     | 15   |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR                      | 1.37    | 1.34    | 0.88    | 0.71    | 0.62    | 1.41    | 1.05     | 17   |
| HOOGHLY                             | 0.40    | 1.73    | 2.09    | 3.60    | 7.49    | 0.81    | 2.68     | 9    |
| HOWRAH                              | 0.00    | 0.22    | 0.83    | 3.87    | 1.30    | 4.31    | 1.76     | 13   |
| JALPAIGURI                          | 0.30    | 3.41    | 1.14    | 1.30    | 0.75    | 1.01    | 1.32     | 14   |
| MALDAH                              | 0.11    | 1.20    | 2.59    | 3.20    | 2.44    | 1.62    | 1.86     | 12   |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 0.03    | 0.76    | 1.05    | 1.95    | 1.31    | 1.41    | 1.09     | 16   |
| NADIA                               | 0.11    | 1.63    | 0.65    | 5.47    | 13.63   | 10.37   | 5.31     | 2    |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 0.63    | 3.01    | 1.24    | 2.26    | 3.41    | 4.65    | 2.53     | 10   |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 0.87    | 1.08    | 1.61    | 5.01    | 5.51    | 4.74    | 3.14     | 8    |
| PURULIA                             | 2.43    | 6.12    | 3.48    | 7.20    | 8.01    | 1.30    | 4.76     | 4    |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 0.69    | 0.05    | 0.32    | 0.96    | 1.79    | 0.21    | 0.67     | 18   |
| WEST BENGAL                         | 0.76    | 2.07    | 2.17    | 4.35    | 4.58    | 3.09    | 2.84     | -    |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |         |         |         |         |         |         | 64.04356 | -    |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.346186 |      |

Source: The raw data needed for the calculations shown in the table above have been collected from the online portal of NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and MGNREGA report of 2008-09 and 2009-10 of Govt. of West Bengal.

**Table 3: Average Person Days Per Households**

| Districts                           | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average   | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------|
|                                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |           |      |
| 24 PARGANAS (N)                     | 42      | 54      | 35      | 45      | 38      | 35      | 41.37     | 3    |
| 24 PARGANAS (S)                     | 19      | 29      | 32      | 43      | 38      | 36      | 32.95     | 10   |
| BANKURA                             | 28      | 44      | 31      | 39      | 36      | 20      | 32.98     | 9    |
| BIRBHUM                             | 38      | 56      | 36      | 43      | 46      | 30      | 41.50     | 2    |
| BURDWAN                             | 34      | 55      | 25      | 31      | 36      | 38      | 36.73     | 6    |
| COOCHBEHAR                          | 15      | 32      | 14      | 17      | 34      | 40      | 25.41     | 15   |
| DGHC                                | 26      | 24      | 50      | 61      | 54      | 53      | 44.77     | 1    |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH                      | 25      | 53      | 21      | 30      | 19      | 18      | 27.77     | 14   |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR                      | 24      | 36      | 18      | 19      | 17      | 25      | 23.29     | 17   |
| HOOGLY                              | 20      | 30      | 31      | 38      | 48      | 26      | 32.14     | 12   |
| HOWRAH                              | 9       | 15      | 20      | 32      | 26      | 33      | 22.56     | 18   |
| JALPAIGURI                          | 25      | 64      | 26      | 26      | 28      | 24      | 32.20     | 11   |
| MALDAH                              | 17      | 40      | 29      | 32      | 30      | 26      | 29.04     | 13   |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 21      | 29      | 22      | 27      | 25      | 24      | 24.72     | 16   |
| NADIA                               | 30      | 47      | 19      | 39      | 56      | 47      | 39.69     | 4    |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 27      | 52      | 25      | 30      | 36      | 37      | 34.58     | 7    |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 16      | 39      | 27      | 39      | 41      | 39      | 33.41     | 8    |
| PURULIA                             | 31      | 64      | 29      | 40      | 42      | 26      | 38.60     | 5    |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 20      | 19      | 18      | 20      | 30      | 25      | 22.06     | 19   |
| WEST BENGAL                         | 26      | 45      | 27      | 35      | 37      | 33      | 34        | -    |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |         |         |         |         |         |         | 21.33336  |      |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.1186396 |      |

Source: The raw data needed for the calculations shown in the table above have been collected from the online portal of NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and MGNREGA report of 2008-09 and 2009-10 of Govt. of West Bengal.

**Table 4: Women Person Days as a % of Total Person Days**

| Districts       | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average | Rank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
|                 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |         |      |
| 24 PARGANAS (N) | 5.83    | 14.90   | 33.22   | 31.84   | 30.73   | 34.78   | 25.22   | 16   |
| 24 PARGANAS (S) | 8.20    | 9.96    | 24.08   | 26.65   | 30.81   | 34.11   | 22.30   | 17   |
| BANKURA         | 36.73   | 43.11   | 40.26   | 40.24   | 38.92   | 35.99   | 39.21   | 6    |
| BIRBHUM         | 24.09   | 37.33   | 24.88   | 27.06   | 27.15   | 30.55   | 28.51   | 15   |
| BURDWAN         | 34.26   | 45.82   | 29.31   | 28.99   | 31.67   | 39.52   | 34.93   | 7    |
| COOCHBEHAR      | 20.38   | 24.54   | 23.94   | 24.50   | 36.72   | 58.35   | 31.41   | 11   |
| DGHC            | 37.86   | 39.20   | 45.01   | 44.08   | 45.18   | 49.86   | 43.53   | 3    |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH  | 28.51   | 36.81   | 29.40   | 31.23   | 29.44   | 27.54   | 30.49   | 12   |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR  | 36.48   | 40.24   | 31.77   | 35.94   | 32.95   | 29.67   | 34.51   | 9    |
| HOOGLY          | 26.87   | 32.19   | 34.22   | 36.29   | 37.03   | 40.77   | 34.56   | 8    |
| HOWRAH          | 0.00    | 23.84   | 21.76   | 23.38   | 28.44   | 33.36   | 21.80   | 18   |
| JALPAIGURI      | 41.52   | 46.79   | 39.80   | 41.05   | 41.90   | 43.97   | 42.50   | 4    |
| MALDAH          | 18.33   | 32.39   | 28.71   | 29.94   | 31.96   | 31.51   | 28.81   | 14   |



| Districts                           | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average  | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------|
|                                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |          |      |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 10.34   | 9.42    | 15.91   | 16.68   | 21.43   | 29.28   | 17.18    | 19   |
| NADIA                               | 14.32   | 22.32   | 26.78   | 29.84   | 37.54   | 50.32   | 30.19    | 13   |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 25.48   | 30.32   | 33.80   | 36.16   | 37.08   | 38.77   | 33.60    | 10   |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 33.47   | 43.7    | 49.86   | 49.45   | 51.77   | 53.88   | 47.02    | 2    |
| PURULIA                             | 36.55   | 40.75   | 43.38   | 42.46   | 41.19   | 41.45   | 40.96    | 5    |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 51.37   | 44.42   | 54.60   | 60.03   | 57.65   | 60.80   | 54.81    | 1    |
| WEST BENGAL                         | 26.57   | 33.14   | 32.50   | 33.71   | 35.70   | 41.34   | 33.83    | -    |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |         |         |         |         |         |         | 27.73102 |      |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.151286 |      |

Source: The raw data needed for the calculations shown in the table above have been collected from the online portal of NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and MGNREGA report of 2008-09 and 2009-10 of Govt. of West Bengal.

**Table 5: Average Wage Disbursed Per Person Day (Rs.)**

| Districts                           | Year    |         |         |         |         |         | Average   | Rank |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------|
|                                     | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |           |      |
| 24 PARGANAS (N)                     | 67.79   | 101.07  | 138.12  | 128.29  | 139.22  | 148.60  | 120.51    | 5    |
| 24 PARGANAS (S)                     | 82.79   | 90.35   | 139.24  | 140.63  | 143.15  | 122.44  | 119.77    | 7    |
| BANKURA                             | 85.08   | 87.42   | 137.81  | 110.59  | 115.28  | 263.56  | 133.29    | 2    |
| BIRBHUM                             | 76.70   | 89.96   | 111.23  | 126.29  | 110.30  | 152.36  | 111.14    | 14   |
| BURDWAN                             | 75.10   | 89.83   | 120.47  | 128.19  | 113.38  | 155.27  | 113.71    | 11   |
| COOCHBEHAR                          | 82.08   | 94.55   | 133.22  | 127.95  | 92.73   | 110.60  | 106.86    | 16   |
| DGHC                                | 82.34   | 87.25   | 117.84  | 128.95  | 82.07   | 121.88  | 103.39    | 18   |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH                      | 79.54   | 84.46   | 113.10  | 136.23  | 120.97  | 167.37  | 116.94    | 9    |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR                      | 77.98   | 79.09   | 155.19  | 159.65  | 118.54  | 89.21   | 113.28    | 12   |
| HOOGHLY                             | 75.58   | 93.30   | 118.67  | 127.04  | 87.43   | 272.15  | 129.03    | 3    |
| HOWRAH                              | 80.61   | 93.82   | 132.03  | 136.52  | 118.24  | 114.62  | 112.64    | 13   |
| JALPAIGURI                          | 82.77   | 91.28   | 118.51  | 122.50  | 110.82  | 197.42  | 120.55    | 4    |
| MALDAH                              | 97.07   | 83.60   | 120.07  | 135.72  | 92.11   | 186.25  | 119.14    | 8    |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 75.62   | 87.93   | 106.50  | 136.77  | 78.74   | 155.13  | 106.78    | 17   |
| NADIA                               | 70.75   | 86.92   | 120.56  | 107.02  | 133.03  | 97.58   | 102.64    | 19   |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 80.64   | 85.99   | 100.51  | 115.57  | 105.65  | 169.95  | 109.72    | 15   |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 81.00   | 90.27   | 122.03  | 131.20  | 92.74   | 165.26  | 113.75    | 10   |
| PURULIA                             | 81.92   | 93.87   | 146.59  | 120.19  | 125.81  | 246.03  | 135.73    | 1    |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 88.06   | 92.18   | 131.59  | 134.91  | 116.73  | 156.72  | 120.03    | 6    |
| WEST BENGAL                         | 78.20   | 89.53   | 121.70  | 126.03  | 108.60  | 160.06  | 114.02    | -    |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |         |         |         |         |         |         | 7.94857   |      |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |         |         |         |         |         |         | 0.0429244 | -    |

Source: The raw data needed for the calculations shown in the table above have been collected from the online portal of NREGA, Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India and MGNREGA report of 2008-09 and 2009-10 of Govt. of West Bengal.

**Table 6: Inequality among the Overall Performance Scores of the Districts**

| Districts                           | Score as per<br>1st parameter<br>(%) | Score as per<br>2nd parameter<br>(%) | Score as per<br>3rd parameter<br>(%) | Score as per<br>4th parameter<br>(%) | Score as per<br>5th parameter<br>(%) | Overall perfor-<br>mance score (%) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 24 PARGANAS (N)                     | 98.86                                | 125.35                               | 121.68                               | 74.55                                | 105.69                               | 105.23                             |
| 24 PARGANAS (S)                     | 100.25                               | 127.11                               | 96.91                                | 65.92                                | 105.04                               | 99.05                              |
| BANKURA                             | 99.28                                | 114.08                               | 97.00                                | 115.90                               | 116.90                               | 108.63                             |
| BIRBHUM                             | 100.80                               | 176.06                               | 122.06                               | 84.27                                | 97.47                                | 116.13                             |
| BURDWAN                             | 100.91                               | 71.83                                | 108.03                               | 103.25                               | 99.73                                | 96.75                              |
| COOCHBEHAR                          | 101.25                               | 20.07                                | 74.74                                | 92.85                                | 93.72                                | 76.53                              |
| DGHC                                | 100.45                               | 243.31                               | 131.68                               | 128.67                               | 90.68                                | 138.96                             |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH                      | 99.64                                | 44.37                                | 81.68                                | 90.13                                | 102.56                               | 83.67                              |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR                      | 99.07                                | 36.97                                | 68.50                                | 102.01                               | 99.35                                | 81.18                              |
| HOOGLY                              | 100.64                               | 94.37                                | 94.53                                | 102.16                               | 113.16                               | 100.97                             |
| HOWRAH                              | 100.11                               | 61.97                                | 66.35                                | 64.44                                | 98.79                                | 78.33                              |
| JALPAIGURI                          | 101.12                               | 46.48                                | 94.71                                | 125.63                               | 105.73                               | 94.73                              |
| MALDAH                              | 99.76                                | 65.49                                | 85.41                                | 85.16                                | 104.49                               | 88.06                              |
| MURSHIDABAD                         | 95.13                                | 38.38                                | 72.71                                | 50.78                                | 93.65                                | 70.13                              |
| NADIA                               | 100.12                               | 186.97                               | 116.74                               | 89.24                                | 90.02                                | 116.62                             |
| MEDINIPUR (W)                       | 100.88                               | 89.08                                | 101.71                               | 99.32                                | 96.23                                | 97.44                              |
| MEDINIPUR (E)                       | 101.10                               | 110.56                               | 98.26                                | 138.99                               | 99.76                                | 109.74                             |
| PURULIA                             | 99.69                                | 167.61                               | 113.53                               | 121.08                               | 119.04                               | 124.19                             |
| SILIGURI MP                         | 100.83                               | 23.59                                | 64.88                                | 162.02                               | 105.27                               | 91.32                              |
| Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) (%) |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      | 17.86097                           |
| Ginni's Coefficient (G)             |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      |                                      | 0.097973                           |

Source: Table 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Table 7: Final Merit Score of the Districts in Implementing the MGNREGAScheme During the Period from 2008-09 to 2014-15**

| Districts       | Rank based on<br>1st parameter | Rank based on<br>2nd parameter | Rank based on<br>3rd parameter | Rank based<br>on 4th<br>parameter | Rank based<br>on 5th pa-<br>rameter | Final Merit Score<br>(sum of the ranks<br>obtained) | Final<br>Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| PURULIA         | 14                             | 4                              | 5                              | 5                                 | 1                                   | 29                                                  | 1             |
| MEDINIPUR (E)   | 3                              | 8                              | 8                              | 2                                 | 10                                  | 31                                                  | 2             |
| DGHC            | 9                              | 1                              | 1                              | 3                                 | 18                                  | 32                                                  | 3             |
| JALPAIGURI      | 2                              | 14                             | 11                             | 4                                 | 4                                   | 35                                                  | 4             |
| BURDWAN         | 4                              | 11                             | 6                              | 7                                 | 11                                  | 39                                                  | 5             |
| BANKURA         | 16                             | 7                              | 9                              | 6                                 | 2                                   | 40                                                  | 6.5           |
| HOOGLY          | 8                              | 9                              | 12                             | 8                                 | 3                                   | 40                                                  | 6.5           |
| BIRBHUM         | 7                              | 3                              | 2                              | 15                                | 14                                  | 41                                                  | 8             |
| MEDINIPUR (W)   | 5                              | 10                             | 7                              | 10                                | 15                                  | 47                                                  | 9             |
| 24 PARGANAS (N) | 18                             | 6                              | 3                              | 16                                | 5                                   | 48                                                  | 10            |
| 24 PARGANAS (S) | 10                             | 5                              | 10                             | 17                                | 7                                   | 49                                                  | 11.5          |

| Districts      | Rank based on 1st parameter | Rank based on 2nd parameter | Rank based on 3rd parameter | Rank based on 4th parameter | Rank based on 5th parameter | Final Merit Score (sum of the ranks obtained) | Final Rank |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| NADIA          | 11                          | 2                           | 4                           | 13                          | 19                          | 49                                            | 11.5       |
| SILIGURI MP    | 6                           | 18                          | 19                          | 1                           | 6                           | 50                                            | 13         |
| MALDAH         | 13                          | 12                          | 13                          | 14                          | 8                           | 60                                            | 14         |
| COOCHBEHAR     | 1                           | 19                          | 15                          | 11                          | 16                          | 62                                            | 15         |
| DINAJPUR SOUTH | 15                          | 15                          | 14                          | 12                          | 9                           | 65                                            | 16         |
| DINAJPUR UTTAR | 17                          | 17                          | 17                          | 9                           | 12                          | 72                                            | 17         |
| HOWRAH         | 12                          | 13                          | 18                          | 18                          | 13                          | 74                                            | 18         |
| MURSHIDABAD    | 19                          | 16                          | 16                          | 19                          | 17                          | 87                                            | 19         |

Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W) among the five sets of ranks based on the selected five parameters is 0.327439 and the Chi-square value of W is 29.46947 which is found to be significant at 5% level (The table value being 28.869 at 18 degrees of freedom).

So, as per our calculations, Purulia is the most successful district in WB in implementing the MGNREGA scheme. The situation is worst in Murshidabad district. The difference in final merit score (Table 7) between the top ranker and the bottom ranker is huge. The same is also evidenced from the values of overall performance score (Table 6) of the two districts. From both the measures of inequality, it can be observed that there is a significant amount of inequality (Table 6) in overall performance of the districts in implementing the scheme though the span of inequality in performance varies parameter to parameter. In respect of percentage of households completed 100 days of employment (Table 2), average person days of employment provided per household (Table 3), and percentage of women person days to total person days (Table 4), inequality in performance among the districts is higher than that of the other two parameters. There are two ties in the final merit score (Table 7). The first one is between Bankura and Hooghly for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> positions. Therefore, both have been given the same 6.5<sup>th</sup> rank. The second one was between 24 Parganas (s) and Nadia for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> positions and consequently, both have been given the same 11.5<sup>th</sup> rank.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that there is a significant amount of inequality among the districts of West Bengal in implementing the act as this has been approved by both the measures of inequality (Table 6). Purulia bags the top most position with a final merit score of 29 whereas Murshidabad shows the saddest picture with a final merit score of 87 (Table 7). It is quite clear that the difference between the two is large. The propriety of the ranks obtained by the

districts on the basis of five different parameters has been tested through the Kendall's coefficient of concordance which was found to be statistically significant at 5% level (Table 7). It proves that there is a close proximity among the five ranks obtained by a district on the basis of five different parameters. Therefore, the final ranks which have been computed on the basis of these initial five ranks also hold on.

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