Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Review Of Research Journal

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ISSN No: 2249-894X

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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Review Of Research



ISSN: 2249-894X

Impact Factor: 3.8014(UIF)

Volume - 6 | Issue - 3 | December - 2016

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION THROUGH MGNREGA: A CASE STUDY OF GULBARGA DISTICT

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ABSTRACT:

his article discusses the impact of MGNREGA on income and employment generation through which socio economic conditions of rural people improved and rural poverty is alleviated. In this context, there are necessary more micro level studies to find out what extend the programme has impact on income and employment generation in study area.

KEY WORDS: Rural Poverty, Employment Greneration, MGNREGA, Income, Labourers.

1.INTRODUCTION:

The Scheme scores high on inclusiveness. The share of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe families in the work has been 51 percent and that of women 47 percent. The average wage per person-day has gone up by 81 percent



since the Scheme's inception. Wages are indexed to protect workers from the ravages of inflation. Nearly 10 crore bank/post office accounts have been opened and around 80 per cent of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA payments are made through this innovative route, an unprecedented step in the direction of finance inclusion.

The safety net provided by this Scheme has helped rural India cope with the frequent distress and natural disasters that are their lot. The combined effect of expanded agricultural production, demand for labour from the construction sector and

Gandhi NREGA has led to a tightening of the market for agricultural labour and a steady rise in real wages. Farmers sometimes complain about this. But rising demand for labour is the only way to help the landless improve their standard of living. The income support provided under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has increased the bargaining power of agricultural labour to some extent and it has helped to put a floor under rural poverty as well.

The term poverty is a relative one. The reality of poverty varies with location and social and political conditions. Many countries the effect of Mahatma including India have

prevalence of mass poverty where a large section of society lives on bare subsistence level or even below that level. When some people do not have enough food to eat, this does not mean that there is not sufficient food to eat but because they do not have enough money to buy the required quantity of food.

According to Dandekar and Rath, for measurement of incidence of poverty, rural minimum private consumption expenditure is Rs. 180/per annum and Rs. 15/per month and the urban minimum Rs. 270/- P.A. and Rs. 22.50

According to Bardhan (1973) and Ahluwalia (1978) have also opined that incidence of poverty can be measured in terms of private consumption expenditure at 1960-61 prices. This expenditure was deemed to ensure a person access to a

specified minimum bundle of goods and services.

NREGA came in to force on September 7, 2005 and its implementation was notified in a phased manner. During 1st phase, it introduced in 200 most backward Districts of the country on February 2, 2006. 130 Districts were further included under NREGA during phase II with effect from April 1, 2007. The scheme was extended to the remaining 274 districts of India from April 1, 2008.

This Act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people diving in rural India, whether or not they are below the poverty line. Around on third of the stipulated work force are women. It was initially called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) but it was renamed on 2 October 2009 as a Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The objective of the act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Providing wage employment opportunities, Creating sustainable rural livelihoods through re-generation of the natural resource base supporting creation of durable assets. The concept of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is major initiative of Government of India (GOI) towards poverty reduction and income generation among rural poor families.

This step assumes special significance when viewed in the context of World Bank Statement that more than 30 percent of India earns an income of less than 81 (Rs.46.30) a day. However, those familiar with the socio-economic structure of Indian economy believe that this percentage is likely to be higher among the rural poor.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The specific objectives of present study are as follows:

- 1.To evaluate the performance of MGNREGA in study area.
- 2. To asses impact of the MGNREGA on employment and income level of rural people.
- 3. To offer suitable suggestions for effective functioning of the MGNREGA in study area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A High Power Committee was constituted by the Govt of Karnataka to look into the problem of regional imbalances in State. The Nanjundappa Committee (2002) on the basis of various socio-economic indicators assessed the development of 175 Talukas in the State. The committee has identified six talukas among the seven talukas in Gulbarga district as the most backward talukas.

For the present, Gulbarga Taluk of Gulbarga District is covered. Study based on agriculturally as well as infrastructural developed and less developed Gram Panchayats Gulbarga taluk of Gulbarga District. The two gram panchayatas are selected from Gulbarga taluk. A sample of 50 beneficiaries was selected randomly from each village. Thus a sample of 100 beneficiaries of anti-poverty programmes covered for the study.

For the purpose of present study, data were collected both from primary and secondary sources.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Age wise Distribution of Beneficiaries

Age is one of the importance compositions of population. The United Nations has defined age "the estimated interval of time between the data of birth and data of census expressed death". Age structure of any population is very basic for planning for health, employment and other developmental programmes.

Table-1
Age -Wise Distribution of Beneficiaries in the Study Area

Sl. No	Age Group(in years)	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	21-30	17	17.0
2	31 – 40	21	21.0
3	41 – 50	35	35.0
4	51 – 60	16	16.0
5	6 1&above	11	11.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The following Table-1 gives the data on age group reveals that an overwhelming majority of beneficiaries are from the age group of 41-50 years age i.e., about 35 percent of them are from the age group 41-50, 17 percent of beneficiaries are from the age group of 21-30 years of age, 21 percent of workers are from the age group of 31-40 years of age and about 17 percent of them are from 51-60 years age. The data is indicates the need for employment even for those over 60 and above years and the poor frame work of MGNREGA which has not set any age limit for considering to eligible for the scheme.

4.2. THE CASTE OF BENEFICIARIES OF SAMPLE RESPONDENTS IN THE STUDY AREA

Attempt was made to seek information pertaining to the caste and categories of beneficiaries working in MGNREGA scheme.

Table-2
The Caste of Beneficiaries of sample respondents in the study area

Sl. No	Caste	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	G.M	17	17.0
2	OBC	36	36.0
3	S.C.	47	47.0
4	S.T.	-	-
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the above table we can reveals that, the social composition of the beneficiaries 17 percent of beneficiaries belong to GM category, 36 percent of beneficiaries belonged to OBC and 47 percent of them belong to SC, relatively high proportion of beneficiaries from SC category is simply. Because of poverty is much higher among. This table shows that, the more number of the beneficiaries who taken up the benefit from the MGNREGA scheme are from the Scheduled Caste (SC).

4.3. EDUCATION OF BENEFICIARIES

Education plays an important role in socio-economic life of the people. United Nations has defined (1982). The literacy an ability of person to read and write with understanding. Every individual's status depends on his educational level. So, this is an important factor in the rural poverty alleviation programmes.

Table-3
The Education Level of the Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Education	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	Illiterate	72	72.0
2	Up to Primary	17	17.0
3	High School	07	07.0
4	PUC	04	04.0
5	Graduate	00	0.00
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the above table indicates that, 72% of beneficiaries are having illiterates, 17% attained education up to primary education and only about 7% attained education up to Higher School, 4% attained up to PUC. This table observed that 89% of beneficiaries have either illiterate or low level of education. Hence it is clear that, NREGA projects offers work which mainly manual in nature and this type of work is accepted mainly by illiterate and less educated people.

4.4. ANNUAL INCOME OF THE SAMPLE BENEFICIARIES

Income is very essential indicator for measuring the status of individuals. The income will depends on the nature of occupations undertaken by the individuals. Here, we discuss the annual income of the beneficiaries.

Table-4
Annual Income of the Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Annual Income	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	10,000 - 15,000	51	51.0
2	16,000 - 25,000	33	33.0
3	26,000 & above	16	16.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the above table we understand that among the 100 beneficiaries, 51% of beneficiaries are having income between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000, 33% of beneficiaries have income between Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 25,000. However, only 16% of beneficiaries family income more than Rs.26, 000. The data shows that beneficiaries are poor, because their family income is very low.

4.6. The Size of Family Members of Sample Beneficiaries

Table - 6
The Size of Family Members of Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Size of family (in No's)	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	2 – 4	53	53.0
2	4 – 6	33	33.0
3	6 & above	14	14.0
Total		100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the above table highlights that, the 53 households out of 100 have 2-4 members living in houses i.e., 53%, 33 households have 4-6 members living in the allotted houses i.e., 33% and 14% of households have more than 6 members living in the allotted houses. It is clear that, nearly 50 % of households have not followed family planning norms programmes.

4.7. WORKERS CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION

As we know that there are several workers categories working in MGNREGA scheme. These are normally classified into unskilled, semiskilled and skilled. This is summarized as under:

Table-7
Workers Category of Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No Workers Category		No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage	
1	Unskilled	92	92.0	
2	Semi Skilled	8	08.0	
3	Skilled	-	-	
Total		100	100.0	

Source: Field Survey

The analysis of worker category classification of beneficiaries clarifies that, 92 percent of beneficiaries are working in the MGNREGA scheme belong to unskilled category. There are only few beneficiaries worked in the scheme belongs to semi-skilled category. This table shows that as MGNREGA scheme covers rural wage labourers only.

4.8. Wage Disbursement of Sample Beneficiaries

Table-8
Wage Disbursement of Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Days	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	Less then week	18	18.0
2	8 -14 days	50	50.0
3	15 - 30 days	32	32.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the table clears that, 18 % of beneficiaries have got their wage within the week and 50% of beneficiaries have got their wage within a fortnight, i.e., 14 days. If wages for work continue to be delayed, people will lose trust in the scheme. This shows that, majority of beneficiaries (50 %) getting their wages without much delay.

4.9. Impact on Income of Workers of the Sample Beneficiaries

Table -09
Impact on Income of Workers of the Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Impact on income of the workers	No. of Beneficiaries	Percentage
1	Considerably increased	50	50.0
2	Increased some what	35	35.0
3	Not increased and remain same	09	09.0
4	Decreased	06	06.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey

From the above table reveals that in the sample survey among 100 beneficiaries, 50 % of beneficiaries have considerable increase in their income due to MGNREGA. Further, 35% of beneficiaries told that, increased

income same what due to MGNREGA, only 9% of workers replied didn't increase in their level of income.

4.10. IMPACT OF MGNREGA WORKS ON BENEFICIARIES

The success or failure of a project is generally evaluated on the basis of its impact on its participants. The MGNREGA works also can be evaluated by analysing its effects on the workforce. The details of opinions expressed by sample beneficiaries regarding the impact of MGNREGA works on beneficiaries are given in the following the below table.

Table-10
Impact of MGNREGA Works on the Sample Beneficiaries

N=100

		Opinion			
Sl.No	Impact	Yes		No	
SLINO		No. of Beneficiaries	%	No. of Beneficiaries	%
1	Supporting of family	80	80.0	20	20.0
2	Improvement in health status	88	88.0	12	12.0
3	Improvement in level of education	68	68.0	32	32.0
4	Loan repayment	62	62.0	38	38.0
5	Civil society participation	100	100.0	00	0.00
6	Saving	47	47.0	53	53.0
7	Improvement of Economic conditions	92	92.0	08	08.0
8	Self confidence	82	82.0	18	18.0
10	Satisfied	83	83.0	17	17.0

Source: Field Survey

It may be observed from the Table No.10 that, majority of beneficiaries i.e., 80 percent opined that they are able to support their family. More than the form MGNREGA helped them to finance the education of their children (68%), improvement in health status (88%) and repay family debt (62%). Hence, 47% of beneficiaries believed that, they are start saving some money only because of the MGNREGA. Likewise, 92 percent of beneficiaries opined that, the income from the MGNREGA works provided improvement of economic conditions. More than 83% of beneficiaries told that, satisfied with MGNREGA works and 82% of beneficiaries are self confidence. The main reason for their satisfaction and self confidence is that, today they are assured of 100 days of jobs.

FINDINGS, SUGGESSINS AND CONCLUSION

The main findings of the studies are as follows bellow:

- 1.Out of a total 100 beneficiaries, 35% of beneficiaries are from the age group 41 to 50 year and 38% of beneficiaries are from 21-40 year age group. The specifies that, nearly 73% of beneficiaries are from 21-50 year in their middle age.
- 2.The caste based analysis shows that, more than 47% of beneficiaries are SC/ST, 17% of beneficiaries belonged to general category and 36% of beneficiaries are belonged to OBC category.
- 3.A large proportion of beneficiaries are illiterate (72%) his understandable because MGNREGA projects offers work which mainly manual in nature this which mainly manual in nature. This type of work is accepted mainly by illiterate and less educated persons.
- 4. Nearly 51% of beneficiaries annual income is between Rs.10, 000 to 15,000, 33 % of beneficiaries annual income is between Rs.15,000 to 25,000 and 16% of beneficiaries family annual income more than Rs.26,000.
- 5. Majority of beneficiaries (53%) are having 4-6 family members, whereas 33 percent of beneficiaries are having 2 to 4 family members.

6. More than 92 percent of beneficiaries are working in MGNREGA scheme belongs to unskilled category. This is clear that as MGNREGA scheme covers rural wage labourers only.

7.It is found that, 50 percent of beneficiaries in their income increased considerably due to MGNREGA and 35 percent of beneficiaries have increase same what in their income due to MGNREGA. Only 09 percent of beneficiaries have no increase in their income.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the above findings, the following suggestions can be made.

- 1. There are more landless poor in Gulbarga Taluka who totally depend on form work and other seasonal, manual labourers. The number of working days is to be increased from 100 to at least 200 days, so that the labour can make out their livelihood.
- 2. Participation of women should be increased with the men to raise the income of the family.
- 3.Genuine labour deserves work should be enrolled under MGNREGA by providing work to all the needy families without any political interference.
- 4. An evaluation of MGNREGA annually could help in releasing grants to the programme effectively.
- 5. Awareness camp should be organized at village level.
- 6.It is suggested that continuous work should be provided to beneficiaries to overcome the rural poverty.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, MGNREGA the most ambitious wage employment programme introduced in India since independence could be succeed in realizing its primary goals. The present study reveals that, MGNREGA implemented in Gulbarga district is a successfully. The MGNREGA is working well and it's generating more number of employment opportunities to people. The MGNREGA programme really tried to provide employment and reduces the rural poverty of people. The present study found that, MGNREGA helped to enhance the self confidence, improvement in health status, improvement in level of education, repayment of loan and improvement of economic conditions. The main reason for their satisfaction is that, today they are assured of 100 days of jobs. But unskilled work of earth digging does not generate enough work for 100 days. However, most of beneficiaries in the rural areas do have skills by which they earn their livelihoods. In my opinion that, the act should be include skilled work. The MGNREGA programme gives employment to only 100 days; which is the temporary solution of poverty and unemployment.

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