

A STUDY ON MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME IN VADAPALANJI PANCHAYAT

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Abstract

India has great relation with rural community. More than 70 percent of India's population still lives in rural areas. And three- fourths of the Indian poor live in villages. Among the poor people in rural areas, majority of them work in non-agricultural and available daily wage activities. The weaker and the poorer sections of the rural society are confronted with caste and class divides and male, female disparities, in many aspects of employment and work environment, especially in job changes from less productive non-agricultural activities, almost on a day-to-day basis.

Key words: MGNREGS, Rural development, poverty allegation

Introduction

The Government of India formulated an act called 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the year 2005 to bring sustainable and holistic development through a multi-pronged strategy, aiming in the process, to reach out to most disadvantaged sections of the society. Later NREGA has been renamed as the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)'. This Act was the first ever law internationally, that guarantee wage employment and minimum level of livelihood security in the rural areas on an unprecedented scale. It aims at enhancing livelihoods security of households in rural areas by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled work.

The scheme is an attempt to help the rural poor at the level at which the poverty is most virulent. The NREGS began to focus, consciously, on districts with in a state rather than the state as a whole. The implementation of the scheme has thrown up issues of leakage and corruption and this need to be plugged by making the implementation truly decentralized and based on self-selection by wage earners. Most of NREGA money has gone to road construction projects, instead of works related to water conservation and harvesting. Only five states out of 27 have made substantial allocation to water conservation. The works under NREGA have to be expanded or better still completely decentralized so that the panchayats are free to decide on local priorities.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the present study

1. To find out the sources of awareness about MGNREGS and problems faced by them in Vadapalanji Panchayat.
2. To analyse the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in on local inhabitants

Methodology

The study based on both primary and secondary of data; the primary data are gathered with the help of interview schedule, which is exclusively prepared to gather information from sample respondents. Convenient random sample technique is followed for selection of sample respondents.

The secondary data were collected from text books, journals, and newspaper and published articles and a few of these Government reports, records, and relevant web sites.

Sampling Design

The present study is mainly focused on the impact of mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Vadapalanji panchayat. The researcher has selected 200 sample respondents each based on convenient sampling method. In order to collect the necessary information from the sample respondents, the researcher has conducted interview schedule method in each and every category. The study conducted at Vadapalanji Panchayat in Tiruparankundram block.

Framework of Analysis

The data were analysed with the help of various statistical tools such as percentage analysis and the chi-square test, Garrett ranking.

MGNREGA of India -World's Largest Employment Guarantee Programme

India is one of the fastest developing economies in the world, ranking 7th largest country in the world, sharing 2.4 percent of the world's geographical area and 2nd largest country after china in population, which stands at 1.15 billion, growing at the rate of 2.2 per cent pr annum, that accounts for 16.7 per cent of the world's population, among which 74 per cent of households belong to rural india and account for 76 per cent of total population living in 5.5 lakh villages (62nd NSSO survey report 2005- 06). The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 was passed by parliament, GOI on 23rd august 2005 and it was promulgated on 7th September 2005. Based on the Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was ceremoniously launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and is the Act was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October 2009 as a befitting tribute to the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Importance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 is landmark legislation in Indian history of social security legislation after independence. Enacted after a successful struggle for employment guarantee legislation, it is a partial victory toward a full-fledged right to employment in any developing country context. The essential feature of this legislation which separates it from any other public service provisioning scheme is its enactment through the parliament of India. This legislation has been bringing about a silent revolution in rural areas of the country. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for the first time brings the role of the state as provider of livelihood within the reach of the participants/beneficiaries themselves. By design it is different from any employment generation scheme that has been previously implemented. It requires different approach towards employment generation scheme and towards overall involvement of the state in providing the right to employment to its mass.

Analysis and findings

Sources of awareness about MGNREGS

The following table 4.9 explains MGNREGS Workers how they are known about this scheme.

Table 1
Sources of awareness about MGNREGS

S.NO	Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Panchayat official	97	49
2	Media -radio, TV, Newspaper	34	17
3	Neighbors, Friends and Relatives	69	34
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

The above table 1 shows that the main source of awareness were :49per cent Panchayats, 34per cent of respondents get information from Neighbors, Friends and Relatives and 17per cent respondents Media radio, TV, News Paper were also providing information regarding .

Activities/Works under MGNREGS

This section deals about the nature of activities and works under MGNREGS.The details given below.

Table 2
Activities/Works under MGNREGS

S. No.	Activities//Workers	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
1	Water conservation	24	12
2	Drought proofing	25	13
3	Flood protection	49	24
4	Land development	42	21
5	Minor irrigation	31	16
6	Horticulture	14	7
7	Rural connectivity	15	7
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary data

The above table 2 shows that 24per cent of the respondents did flood protection work, 21per cent of the respondents did land development work. Next 13per cent, 12per cent of the respondents did drought proofing, water conservation. And 16per cent of the respondents did minor irrigation. Finally 7per cent of the respondents doing some works for the development of horticulture were also undertaken by the MGNREGS Implementing. 7per cent of the workers Rural connectivity as many of the MGNREGS works was done for improving the connectivity of the villages, therefore perception of the common people regard to the usefulness of this works was worth under this scheme.

Problems faced by Workers

The result obtained was compared with Garrett's ranking table and the scores are given (vide Appendix - B). The total scores of each item were added and ranks were given according to its total value. The table 3 exhibits the Garrett's ranking of the purpose Problems in MGNREGS workers.

Table 3
Garrett's ranking of Problems faced by Workers

	Factors	Score	Mean score	Rank
1.	Gender Discrimination	10339	103.39	II
2.	Problems with work allotting authorities	9981	99.81	III
3.	Problems in receipt of wages in time	9744	97.44	V
4.	Problems with the working timings	10510	105.10	I
5.	Caste discrimination	9749	97.49	IV

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows that According to the Garrett's ranking technique first rank is assigned to the Problems with the working timing because they working in an open area, without shelter for 8 hours, next to the second rank is given to Gender Discrimination. The

authorities given a hard work to the male workers compared to the female workers. Followed by the third rank is given to Problems with work allotting authorities, are local parties, they behave as bias. The fourth rank is given to Caste discrimination the respondents does not like the caste discrimination, and last rank is assigned to Problems in receipt of wages in time.

Impact Level of MGNREGS in Vadapalanji Panchayat

In this section an attempt has been made to study the relation between the Impact of MGNREGS and workers' age, education, occupation and income level, for this purpose Chi-Square test has been employed.

The MGNREGS workers have been classified in to three categories such as low level, medium level and high level. For the 200 respondents, the total score value of each respondents has been calculated. The arithmetic mean (\bar{X}) and the standard deviation (σ) were calculated from 200 respondents.

Table 4
Impact Level of MGNREGS in Vadapalanji Panchayat

S. No.	Level of satisfaction	Number of Respondents	Percentage to Total
1.	High	70	35
2.	Medium	110	55
3.	Low	20	10
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 shows that the level of Impact of MGNREGS and the number of respondents. Out of the total respondents, 110 respondents have medium level of Impact and their strength comes to 55 per cent to the total. 70 respondents have high level of Impact and their strength comes to 35 per cent to the total. And the remaining 20 respondents have low level of Impact and their strength comes to 10 per cent to the total.

Table5

Sl. No	Socio - Economic factors	Chi - squire value		Degrees of freedom	Result
		Calculated value	Table value		
1	Age	0.403	3.841	1	A
2	Education	0.257	3.841	1	A
3	Occupation	3.837	5.991	2	A
4	Income	1.86	3.841	1	A

Source: Primary Data

Relation between Impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme And Socio Economic Factors are found and the results are discussed below:

1. In order to examine the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between the age of the respondents and impact of MGNREGS workers, chi-square test has been applied.
2. Since the calculated value (0.403) is less than the table value (3.84) at 5 per cent level with 1 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the age group of the respondents and Impact of MGNREGS.
3. In order to examine the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between the education of the respondents and impact of MGNREGS, chi-square test has been applied. Since the calculated value (0.257) is more than the table value (3.841) at 5 per cent level with 1 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the educational qualification of the respondents and Impact of MGNREGS.
4. In order to examine the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between the occupation of the respondents and impact of MGNREGS, chi-square test has been applied. Since the calculated value (3.837) is less than the table value (5.991) at 5 per cent level with 2 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the occupation of the respondents and Impact of MGNREGS.
5. In order to examine the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between the income of the respondents and impact of MGNREGS, chi-square test has been applied. Since the calculated value (1.86) is less than the table value (3.841) at 5 per cent level with 1 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between the income level of the respondents and Impact of MGNREGS.

The observation is there is a impact due to MGNREGS in the study area but thereis no relation between the impact and the socio economic factors.

Conclusion

Major attractions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India work include local availability through the year it being perceived as relatively “easy” work with fixed, regular, gender equal wages, and free from caste-based relations of subordination and discrimination. The gendered impacts of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India are partly due to the universal, right-based and women -friendly nature of the policy is implemented in Vadapalanji

Panchayat. The laborers' purchasing power has improved now they have access to all those goods and services which earlier considered only for the wealthy people. MGNREGS has brought large change in the life of the laborers; on the other hand its impact on the agriculture is very poor. However, the MGNREGA does not intend to affect the agricultural pattern but because of changes brought about through it is directly affecting the agricultural system of the sample selected and can be generalized in the larger context in this Panchayat.

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