



Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on Rural Employment (A Case Study of Deegh Block, Bhadohi , Uttar Pradesh)

Vivek Kumar Mishra¹, Prof. Raghvendra Kumar Pandey²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Kutir P.G. College, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal, Univeristy, Uttar Pradesh, India

²Department Of Geography, Kutir P.G. College, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal, Univeristy, Uttar Pradesh, India

Article Info

Volume 5, Issue 5

Page Number : 52-57

Publication Issue :

September-October-2022

Article History

Accepted : 01 Oct 2022

Published : 15 Oct 2022

ABSTRACT - The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) is a RIGHT BASED wage employment scheme that attempts to provide employment and livelihood to all eligible , desired and semiskilled rural laborers in the country. Considering the number of poor in India (1/3rd) of world, in situ employment generation was the need of hour, fulfilled by this program. MGNREGA since its inception becoming the vital key to the distribution of economic resources and paving the way for sustained social mobility through regular employment opportunities in rural regions (where more than 70 percent of India resides. The study was conducted purposively in DEEGH block of BHADOHI DISTRICT in Uttar Pradesh some random villages have been selected purposively within Deegh block and from each villages respondents were selected randomly thus the sample size of this study finally constitutes about 774 members who have responded to the study . In this study Ex post facto research design was followed and the data was collected mainly through primary sources Highlighting the socio economic impact of MGNREGA on rural India. The collected data was tabulated analyzed and interpreted with the appropriate statistical tools.

Keywords : Rural Population, Job Cards, Rural Employment and Unemployment Allowance.

INTRODUCTION- Since it is said that real India resides in the Indian villages The development of rural areas and rural people has always been the main concern in the economic planning and development process of our country as unless we are able to uplift the rural marginalized and backward section of the society, India faces a dark future. Therefore, rural development and poverty reduction should be of the utmost importance for the nation like India. To fulfill these goals, the Government of India since independence has framed number of policies, schemes and rural development initiatives to meet the aforesaid outcomes . These schemes can be broadly classified under five types or categories viz, (1) the Government sponsored schemes (2) schemes supported by banks (3) Labs to land schemes (4) Social welfare schemes ; and (5) Insurance schemes. It is worth noting that there are various anti-poverty and employment generation schemes sponsored by Government of India like.

Copyright: © the author(s), publisher and licensee Technoscience Academy. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited](#)

- Crash Scheme of Rural Development (1971)
- Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (1972)
- National Food for Work Program (1976-77)
- National Rural Employment Program (1980-81)
- Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (1979)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA 2005)

Among them The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the world largest and most ambitious anti-poverty, demand driven job guarantee scheme from Government of India enacted by parliamentary legislation on August 25, 2005. MGNREGA provides employment opportunities to rural labors as a matter of right. This program is a law whereby any adult, registered and is willing to work at the prescribed minimum wages is entitled to being employed on public works within 15 days from the date of application is received. If work is not provided within the stipulated time, he/she is entitled to an unemployment allowance. The act came in to force with effect from February 2006 initially in 200 most backward rural districts and later extended to all rural districts of India from the financial year 2008-09. Jean Dreze was a pioneer analyst and torchbearer of this scheme. The act provides a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment in every financial year. The work is provided within the radius of 5kms from the applicant's residence. If work is not provided within the said distance, then also the applicant is entitled to travel allowance of 10%. Moreover, Some facilities are also provided to labors such as clean drinking water, first aid and childcare. MGNREGA is a complex program with many actors; the main actors are the central government (concerned ministry) state counsel, the district coordinator, the program officer, the gram Panchayat. The gram Panchayat has the responsibility for the creation of work for those who demand it or for those who are willing to do the manual semiskilled works either male or female, issuing job cards and to supervise worksites. The process of achieving work under this act is very simple. The first step is to register within the gram Panchayat and the second step is to apply for work. The registration is required only once for five years but applications have to be submitted each time work is required. The act has entitled to both men and women the same wages in fact any gender discrimination is prohibited in fact this is one of some rarest schemes of the world having gender equality at its core. Wages are to be paid every week or if not weekly then in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which work has been done.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE -A plethora of research work has been carried out on the rural development programs like MGNREGA in India Therefore, enough literature is available to find a research gap and understand the impact of MGNREGA on rural employment. In order to find the appropriate result, the researcher has sighted the following material. Anindita Adhikari and Kartika Bhatia (2012) have analyzed the switch from cash to bank payment of wages under the act. They had put in efforts to whether the switch really served as an effective check against the embezzlement of MGNREGA wages. Ian Mac Auslan (2007) studied that MGNREGA is closely bound with nations of entitlement and citizenship. Besides, John Dreze (2009) argued that the chief beneficiaries of MGNREGA are rural and marginal communities. He has also suggested and pressed over the right implication of the scheme so that it can provide a social security to the vulnerable sections of society. All above, Rohtagi V.D (2009) has studied almost the entire aspects of

MGNREGA in a very comprehensive way including its legal and other aspects with case studies. Edwin, Tina (2020) argued for inclusivity of the schemes. Kanungo M (2012) stated about the comparative condition of women in the scheme and demands for comprehensive action to improve the same. There is no denying the fact that through the literature available on MGNREGA we have gathered lot of suggestions and recommendations related to the implementation and impact of MGNREGA. But so far as the promise of the act is concern, there is still a gap between MGNREGA on documents and MGNREGA in reality.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED IN THE STUDY -In order to study the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on rural employment, DEEGH block of BHADOHI district has been chosen. 5160 total registered applicants or employees were under MGNREGA as on date 9/2/2022. Among which 525 are Male workers and 249 are Female workers thus total of 774 workers were taken into consideration for research study. Descriptive research design and primary data has been adopted for this study in keeping view the following objectives.

- To access the socio-economic impact of the Act.
- To analyze the availability of work under MGNREGA.
- To find out the possible ways out to make the impact positive and plug the case of deviation if any from the prescribed norms of the producer.
- To suggest the possible policy to improve the MGNREGA implementation and its performance in terms of achieving the ultimate objectives.
- The researcher has questioned 1200 workers out of which 774 had responded, so sample size of 774 (64.5) percent has been taken of respondent out of the total registered workers with the help of convenience sampling method. The responses of respondent are collected with the help of interview schedule and observation techniques and one to one questioner

AREA OF RESEARCH -DEEGH BLOCK AT A GLANCE

According to Census 2011 information,

Block/Tehsil	Deegh
TOTAL VILLAGES	234
POPULATION	2 lakhs 79 thousand
STATE	Uttar Pradesh
District	Bhadohi
Households	33900
Registered applicants under MGNREGA	5160
Job card issued	4209
Job Cards not issued	655

Source (Indian Village Directory)

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA COLLECTED -The collected data has been classified, analyzed and tabulated. Then simple percentage method has been used to measure the association between respondents and the employment provide by MGNREGA.

Table 1: Socio Economic Background of the Respondents

Gender	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
Male	525	67.82%
Female	249	32.17%
Total	774	100%
Monthly income	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
3000-4000	390	50.38%
4000-5000	268	34.62%
5000-6000	116	15.00%

Source (Field survey)

From the field survey and the data presented in the table, it is clear that the total number and percentage of male workers is more than the of female workers. The reason behind the low participation of females in the job opportunities provided by MGNREGA has been found that in the study area male members are usually working for their family while as females are mostly doing house hold works despite the fact there is major of the respondents whose monthly income is below four thousand rupees. It was also observed from the field survey that there is less number of respondents whose monthly income is around six thousand rupees. Moreover, it

has also been analyzed that there are needy people who want to get the job opportunities provided by MGNREGA, but as per the sources available on the website of Ministry of Rural Development there is a high mismatch between the issuance of job card and number of actual employees

Table 2: Gender Wise Respondents View on economic Satisfaction of Employment Provided by MGNREGA

Gender	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Total
Male	276 (52.38%)	249(47.61%)	525(67.82%)
Female	103(41.36%)	146(58.63%)	249(32.17)
Total	379(48.96%)	395(51.03%)	774(100%)

Source (Field survey)

This table depicts the gender wise satisfaction of respondents by the employment provided under MGNREGA scheme. It is obvious from the presented data that majority (52.38) of male respondents are satisfied and only 47.61% are unsatisfied. On the other hand only 41.36% female respondents are satisfied and 58.63% are unsatisfied. So far as the total ratio is concern, (48.96%) of the respondents have shared satisfied view on the employment provided under the scheme. While interacting with the respondents, the researcher came to know that 100 days employment in a year is not sufficient to meet the basic needs of their family also the type of work provided is also an area of concern.

Table 3: Gender Wise relation to their increase in per capita income.

Gender	Increase	Decrease	Total
---------------	-----------------	-----------------	--------------

Male	384(73.14%)	141(26.86%)	525(67.82%)
Female	139(55.82%)	110(44.18%)	249 (32.17%)
Total	523(67.57%)	251(32.42%)	774(100%)

Source (Field survey)

Table 3 illustrates the gender wise view of the respondents on the increase in their per capita through MGNREGA. The data depicts that 73% of male, 56% female and 67% of total respondents believe that their per capita income has increased and 27% of male, 44% of female and 32% of total respondent (774) registered decline in their per capita income. Although, Government of India has enhanced MGNREGA wages up about 13%; yet at least 36% lower than minimum wages. (The Hindu report dated March 29, 2021).

IMPORTANT FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS -From the above discussion on impact of MGNREGA on rural employment, MGNREGA is proving its worth for being the largest wage employment program of the world besides some challenges it is facing, it has been observed that majority of the workers are males and the number of female is less of the rural. Also 50% of people have monthly income below 4000 rupees and still are not participating in the scheme. Moreover, it has been analyzed that there are many other reasons behind the lackadaisical attitude of females towards the scheme. The first reason as discussed above is that in the study area females are generally performing house hold duties and males are generally doing outdoor work for their family. The second reason is the non availability of work within the area of 5kms which is inconvenient for the rural female counterparts to participate in the scheme. Another reason for the less participation of female respondents in the MGNREGA scheme is the daily wages which are less than the wages provided for work in agricultural sector which is the primary source of income in the area additionally the issue of corruption is also prevalent at Panchayat levels. Above all, it is the season based allotted works and the wages which are not provided on time as mentioned in the scheme are the prime concerns for the people of the area to work under MGNREGA scheme. After discussing pros and cons of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) and its impact on the rural employment of DEEGH BLOCK OF BHADOHI DISTRICT, STATE UTTAR PRADESH. The researcher has following suggestions to improve the MGNREGA implementation and its performance in terms of achieving the ultimate objectives of the scheme in the area.

1. Work should be provided to the registered applicant within the stipulated time frame
2. Job cards should be issued to all the registered applicants on priority basis to avoid corruption, hustle and miscalculation in the practice.
3. To promote female participation work must be provided within radius of 5 km from residence.
4. Working days and the wages provided under the scheme should be increased in order to maximize the participation of the applicants and collective income thereof.

CONCLUSION -In the conclusion we may say that Government of India since independence has tried to provide employment to the rural areas in order to overcome the issue of poverty and unemployment which

are the prime concerns of the nation. Although, many programs and schemes have been framed by the Ministry of Rural Development Government of India, but still seems far from achieving the goal. Undoubtedly, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 commonly known as (MGNREGA) is one of the largest and most ambitious anti-poverty, demand driven job guarantee scheme from Government of India, but still lacks to meet out the requirement, because there is still a gap between the promises of the scheme and MGNREGA in practice which needed to be overcome.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Adhikari, A. and Bhatia, K. (2012), "NREGA Wages Payments: Can We Bank on Banks", Economic and Political Weekly, January 05.
2. MacAuslan, Ian. (2007), "India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: from Poverty to Power", United Kingdom: Oxfam international publication.
3. Dreze, J. (2009). "Entitlement under NREGA Violated", The Hindu, August 11.
4. Rohtagi, V.D. (2009), "Introduction to National
5. Edwin, Tina. (2020), "The Business Line", The Hindu, March 1
6. Kanungo M (2012) , Rural Development Through Microfinance ,MGNREGA and Women Odisha Review.