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Impact of MGNREGA on Socio-economic Status and Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract

A main section in world is facing problem of poverty and unemployment. Rural people are the sufferers of this poverty and unemployment, in order to eliminate these, government also commence some employment and poverty alleviation programmes like MGNREGs. This paper discuss benefits of mgnrega and its implementation, through this study, we focus to identify the influence and role of mgnrega in rural development and growth, and also suggested for the better implementation of this scheme.

Keywords: Implementation, MGNREGA, Poverty, Unemployment, Rural Growth, Socio Economic Benefits

1. Introduction

The Government of India has passed “The National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (NREGs) in September 2005 to provide minimum guaranteed wage employment of 100 days in every financial year to rural household’s .Later in 2009, it was renamed by pre-fixing the name of Mahatma Gandhi national Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGs). It addresses mainly to rural poor and their fundamental right to work and dignity. It also empowers local citizens to play an active role in the implementation of employment guarantee schemes through Grama Sabha, social audit, participatory planning and other means. It is consider to be a land mark in the history of poverty reduction strategies in India. This scheme intend to provide employment to the rural poor during lean agricultural season

and aims to create village asset and bring sustainable development, further, the attempt is to provide adequate employment to women at equal wage. The program therefore requires 2/3 Of all workers are women so many studies reveal that MGNREGs was implemented for the growth and development of rural area by ensuring 100 days of employment. When I conduct a detailed study regarding this topic by selecting 100 samples from a panchayat, it is clear that, most of the panchayat has taken initiative to implement this scheme. The main objective of this study is to evaluate and understand the impact of MGNREGs in socio-economic development and women empowerment.

Problem Assessments

“A problem well defined is half solved” This study focus on the impact of mgnregs on socio-economic development and women empowerment, it also analyses the implementation process and role of panchayath in its implementation

1. A. Research Objectives

- (a) To evaluate the impact of mgnregs on socio economic development & women empowerment
- (b) To analyze the implementation process
- (c) To understand how panchayath implement this programme under the act 2005

1. B. Research methodology

The present study is intended to identify the impact of mgnrega on socio- economic development and women empowerment. For the purpose of identifying the same, the primary and secondary data are used. The participants were selected through convenience sampling from the area of mangalam grama panchayath.

2. Literature Review

A number of literature based on empirical studies are available on the role of MGNREGs in achieving livelihood security and promoting sustainable development. These studies depicts that MGNREGs programmes has shown mixed result so far in whole India. In 2007 Mathur argue in favour of MGNREGs that it has marked the beginning of momentous changes in the lives of rural poor. He shows that migration has reduced in several villages in Andrapredesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. In 2008 Ambasta made an attempt to focus on the quality of asset under MGNREGs works. They point out that the quality of the asset was poor. Farm bunding has been initiated without any technical planning which the quality of the work was substandard. The national rural employment guarantee scheme is an employment scheme for providing 100 days of unskilled work to all employment seekers above 18 years age and willing to do work. This scheme comes into force on 5th September 2005 in 199 districts in India and extended to all other 130 districts later. In Kerala the scheme was implemented in Palakkad and Waynad initially on 5th February. 2006 and it is extended to all other districts in April 2008.

2. A. Concept of MGNREGS

MGNREGs is the most significant act in the history of Indian polity in many ways like grass-root level participation of every citizen and beneficiary through democratic process, multi-layered social audit and transparency mechanism by involvement of civil society, comprehensive planning at village level towards sustainable and equitable development etc. Important salient feature of the Act is to improve the quality of life of rural people who are vulnerable to out-migration in search of daily wage employment by channelizing the wage workforce towards developmental activities at the village level itself. The scheme was initially in progress in the first phase of 200 districts during its cognitive stage has generated lot of enthusiasm among social scientists, and NGOs and led them to initiate several surveys on their own. The surveys as in the cases of any other scheme are centered on the end results such as targeting all the needy beneficiaries, and implementation of the Act in letter and spirit. The scheme is gigantic in nature and in the process of implementation and achieving the desired output.

There are many issues which are straddling the implementing agencies right from District to Gram Panchayat. The MGNREGs involves participatory planning and implementation of the scheme through :

- (a) *Proactive role of Gram Sabha,*
- (b) *Rigorous & continuous monitoring by way of social audit, and*
- (c) *Involvement of ordinary people at the grass-roots level.*

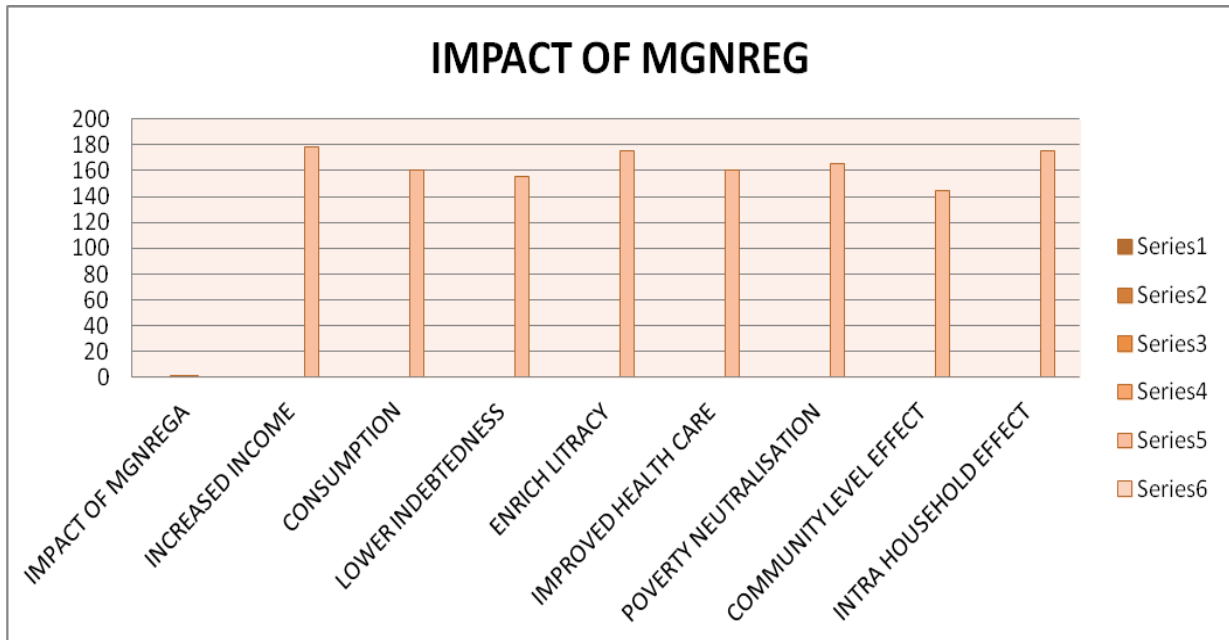


FIG: Represent IMPACT OF MGNREGs

2. B. Systems and procedures of MGNREG scheme 2.2.1. Prepare a “shelf of project “on the basis of decision taken at the meeting of Grama Sabha 2.2.2. Prepare an action plan and send it to the BPO (Block Public Office) 2.2.3. Determine the expenditure for each activity 2.2.4. Determine the scope of each work and compare the demand of work and opportunity 2.2.5. Receive application from public for registration. It include type of work and number of days required by each 2.2.6. Issue of job card within 15 days after receiving application and also provide work within 15 days after job card issue 2.2.7. Inform the applicant about the date, place and time of work 2.2.8. The funds for work are paid through a bank a/c

Monitoring & Evaluation under the MGNREGAs The Ministry has set up a comprehensive monitoring system. For effective monitoring of the projects verification of the works at the Block level, District level and at the State level inspections need to be ensured. In order to optimize the multiplier effects of MGNREGs, the Ministry has set up a Task Force to look at the possibility of convergence of programmes like National Horticulture Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Bharat Nirman, and Watershed Development with MGNREGs. These convergence efforts will add value to MGNREGs, works and aid in creating durable efforts and also enable planned and coordinated public investments in rural area

Empowering Rural women The extensive participation of women in mgnregs has meant that women are coming out of their homes, not only to work but also to visit banks and Panchayat offices, which they may not have done previously. This enhanced mobility comes with the higher status of being income-earning workers. Although this study did not find any evidence of changing gender roles within the household as a result of women working on MGNREGs sites, it find evidence of increased confidence and decision making skill among women. Women remain embedded in family relations in employment and in the formulation of social protection policy. There is a refusal to accept women’s double day or the issue of care responsibilities as a collective concern of the state. Because women remain care givers even if they take on paid work, their preference is for work near the home, flexible timings, etc all of which are fulfilled by the MGNREGs. In many rural areas there are few work opportunities outside of agriculture. Therefore, poor households dependent on agricultural work for their survival are forced to migrate during lean seasons or somehow survive through borrowing, etc. This is precisely the situation that MGNREGs is intended to address, through the creation of additional work opportunities during agricultural lean seasons. The type of work created, that is paid work on public works, is well suited to the prevalent traditions round women’s work in some states. There is a well established tradition of paid work for women as well as men, and when other work is not available within or near the village, most men and some women commute to work some distance away.

2. c. Women Employment through MGNREGAS: Presently, the MGNREGs is being implemented in the all rural districts of the country. MGNREGs has resulted into major financial inclusion where in bank/post office accounts have been opened for the families

getting employment. Ministry has advised all the states to ensure payment of wages fully through the accounts. The figures from the survey conducted in different state indicate an impressive participation of women in the employment generated through MGNREGs. The highest employment status amongst women in terms of person days can be seen in Kerala (92.75%) this is followed by Puducherry(80.36%) Goa (75.64%) Tamilnadu (73.82%) and Rajasthan (69.29%). The lowest employment share of women is represented by Uttar Pradesh with 26.97 percent. It is commendable that most of the States and UTs have employed more than one third of women as work force resulting in women employment. However some States such as Uttar Pradesh (26.97%) followed by Jammu & Kashmir (28.38%), Mizoram (23.33%), Assam (24.87%) and Nagaland (27.23%) have to initiate more efforts to increase the ratio of women employment through MGNREGs. On the other hand Daman and Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, and Chandigarh have not generated any employment during the financial year 2011-2012. MGNREGs is an Act that aims to strengthen the women employment by enforcing that about 33 percent of total work force should be women and also that there will be equal wages for men and women. It is playing a substantial role in creating employment for women there by, leading to greater independence and self respect among women. The present paper has made an attempt to study the impact of MGNREGs on socio-economic development and women empowerment. Women worker feels highly satisfied with the MGNREGs employment as now they get the wages equal to the male workers and also she can participate in the up liftment of her family by becoming an earning member of the family thus, MGNREGs has brought economic independence among women, which was the main aim of MGNREGs. It is programme that has affected the lives of rural women in real sense. It is the most significant act in the history of Indian polity in many ways like grass-root level participation of every citizen and beneficiary through democratic process, multi-layered social audit and transparency mechanism by involvement of civil society, comprehensive planning at village level towards sustainable and equitable development etc. Important salient feature of the Act is to improve the quality of life of rural households who are vulnerable to out-migration in search of daily wage employment by channelizing the wage workforce towards developmental activities at the village level itself.

3. Findings and suggestions

3. A. Findings

- (a) The study reveals that, 95% of participants are women workers,
- (b) The implementation process undertaken by panchayat are correct and within time bound,
- (c) This scheme enhance, like communication, mobility, participation, decision making among women who participated in this scheme,
- (d) From this study, it is clear that most of the workers have any one of the savings like RD, insurance, saving a/c etc. This will enable for the economic development.
- (e) Most of the panchayat in Kerala ensure 100 days of employment to its registered members

3. B. Suggestions

- (a) Mgnregs should be diversified into the activities which need technical skill and ability,
- (b) More initiation and awareness should be given the rural poor about this scheme,
- (c) Government should give importance to productive work.

4. Conclusion

MGNREGs is an act that guarantees 100 days of employment to all rural poor who attain the age of 18. Through this employment program government expect socio-economic development and women empowerment. My research work is focused on the impact of MGNREGs on socio-economic development and women empowerment, from this study, it is clear that most of the panchayat in Kerala implemented this program successfully. Women workers are the major participants of this scheme. The major aim of this study is to identify role and relevance of MGNREGs in rural growth and development. The main limitation of this study was the time limitation and reluctance from the part of members. On the basis of data collected from different sources for the detailed study regarding this topic, it can be concluded that MGNREGs has a great role and impact on the rural development in coming future and it is better to expand this program in other relevant area like agriculture, industry, construction etc....

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