

A STUDY ON MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL: AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT:

The MGNREGA was started with the goal of "improving job security in country zones by giving no less than 100 days of ensured wage work in a monetary year, to each family whose grown-up individuals volunteer to do incompetent manual work". Another point of MGNREGA is to make tough resources, (for example, streets, channels, lakes, wells). Work is to be given inside 5 km of a candidate's living arrangement, and least wages are to be paid. On the off chance that work isn't given inside 15 days of applying, candidates are qualified for a joblessness remittance. In this way, work under MGNREGA is a lawful qualification. Though this scheme had several promises upon its implementation in 2005, the Act did have some problems with the implementation. The benefits so far only consists of substantial benefits and there is slow progress in the transformative growth and environmental enhancement in the rural areas. The objectives of the study are to focus the unemployment and economic insecurity in rural areas and to analyse the impact of MGNREGA before and after implementation.

Keywords: Social protection, MGNREGA, transformative policies, rural labour, women empowerment, substantial development, unemployment.

INTRODUCTION:

MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of one hundred days of employment in every financial years . It attempt to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country but MGNREGA is one of the greatest experiments undertaken in India to eradicate rural poverty (Muzafar and Jahangir). The MGNREGS has shown a significant improvement in different

aspects. The number of households associated with MGNREGA works has been increasing consistently, the number of (Dr.Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S)days for which employment has been provided have also increased. Another important aspect of MGNREGS is the increasing participation of women in it. It not only provides employment to them but by giving wage rate equal to that of a man, it has empowered the women economically as well as socially.The development of rural India is an imperative for inclusive and equitable growth and it must be stated that the MGNREGA has immense potential to provide social security.(I MacAuslan [*No Title*]) These programmes typically provide unskilled workers with short term employment on public works((Rengasamy¹* and Sasi Kumar). It is also intend to create durable community assists which would enhance productivity and it examines the impact of MGNREGA on employment, wage rates of rural labourers (Shankerrao).Compared to urban sustainability , rural sustainability has traditionally received inadequate attention because of their symbiotic relation with the(Trishala A , Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S) local climate and landform vernacular structures of rural India ,this venture has brought many positive changes to the rural environment((MGNREGA and Water Management: Sustainability Issues of Built Forms in Rural India - ProQuest))

It is observed that the economically weaker states of the country have been benefited maximum and have implemented the MGNREGA more vigorously. The study has shown that the raise in income could lead to increase in food consumption — both of cereals and non-cereals by all the categories of households. A diversification in the dietary pattern of households has also been observed, which is again a strong indicator of better food consumption. These developments have resulted into a substantial increase in calorie-intake as well as protein-intake by different categories of households, leading to a decrease in the undernourished and nutrition-deficit households by 8-9 per cent. MGNREGA is considered as a silver bullet for eradicating poverty and unemployment which provides alternative sources of livelihood and it is considered as the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people living relatively isolated.(Farooquee). It plays a significant role to meet the practical as well as strategic needs of women's participation and the government transformed different programmes/ scheme to uplift the women from poverty and vulnerability of life.(Kar)It strives hard to increase livelihood opportunities and improved quality of rural areas of the country but authority must take immediate steps to stop corruption in its implementation by which MGNREGA wage reaches to the workers directly . (Datta and Sharma)Most scholars agree that the NREGA has constituted a safety net for the

rural poor, contributing towards their food security, reducing distress migration, and increasing access to health and education. The NREGA has also contributed to the increase of rural and urban wages, thus helping to reduce poverty also among non-beneficiaries. (SDasgupta, RMSudarshan Website).

Evolving the design of wage employment programmes more effectively to fight poverty, the Government of India formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005, a paradigm shift from earlier programmes. With its legal framework and rights-based approach, NREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It was later renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) but is still popularly known by the name of NREGA. NREGA is also designed in such a way that beneficiaries, rather than being considered passive recipients of the state's benevolence, are actively involved in all phases of the scheme implementation. This refers to the fact that the support of the state is only obtained through hard labour and not benevolence. ((Maiorano et al.). MGNREGA has been considered as the largest anti poverty programmes and it documented the improvement brought by MGNREGA in the lives of rural poor (Dutta). The right to work is a directive principle in the Indian constitution which was formulated through the enactment of MGNREGA which eradicates poverty is a significant endeavour of the ministry. (N Vij [No Title]). Act stress upon identification, planning, execution and monitoring of projects and assets created under the scheme fall short in getting the status of sustainable assets ((Raj .D Website)). Hence more rural people of such states are expected to exercise their right to work as enshrined in the act and this act also facing its share of challenges on economic, managerial and political fronts (Farooque) and there is need to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on socio economic empowerment of women in nation and to analyse various risks associations with the women during the work time of MGNREGA ("The NREGA, the Maoists and the Developmental Woes of the Indian State on JSTOR"). The objectives of the study are to focus the unemployment and economic insecurity in rural areas and to analyse the impact of MGNREGA before and after implementation.

Hypothesis:

Null hypothesis:

There is no significant changes made by MGNREGA in addressing unemployment and economic insecurity in rural areas.

Alternative hypothesis:

There is significant changes made by MGNREGA in addressing unemployment and economic insecurity in rural areas

Materials and methods:

This study used both primary and secondary data. The secondary data used from government documents, unpublished thesis, websites, journals etc. The primary data was collected from the respondents using simple random sampling method with structured questionnaire. Information such as Age, gender, participation of panchayat to providing jobs, job card details, number of days worked, remuneration for their work, monthly family income, monthly expenditure etc were collected. the current paper is based on stratified random method of sampling and the population size of mgnrega workers is 800 approximately(source: www.mgnrega.gov.in) and the sample size is limited to 300 and the survey is taken on Chembrambakkam block only. And there are various researches were done regarding this issue but most of the researches were mostly concentrated on mgnrga workers only and most importantly the survey was made in an authenticated way for appropriate results and also tries to reveal the actual truths regarding this issues. This paper also includes various secondary sources to get through the current issue, but the results will be focused mainly on the primary data.

Results:

In our result 47.5% of the responses belong to 45 – 60 age group and 48.3% of the responses are female .51.5% of the responses answered that there is no considerable awareness given by the officials about MGNREGA and 54.5% of the responses answered that their job card been prepared by gram panchayat.52.3% of the responses answered that the haven't got receipt from the panchayat for application submitted for providing employment and 51.2% of the responses answered that they haven't got 100 days works in a year under MGNREGA Programme.53.9% of the responses answered that they haven't got wages for the work done under MGNREGA within 7 to 15 days and 57% of the responses answered that they haven't opened account in bank / post office for wages being received under MGNREGA programme. 54.2% of the responses answered that they haven't received unemployment allowance in case the panchayat failed to provide you unemployment within 15 days from the receipt of application and 53.9% of the responses answered that their attendance is not being marked in the must rolls daily. 51.1% of the responses answered that the works executed in their block under MGNREGA

Programme by the Panchayat are improper and in pathetic condition and 53.5% of the responses answered that their socio economic status of your family has not improved after implementation of MGNREGA programme. 50.8% of the responses answered that the panchayat has implemented the MGNREGA programme in improper way and 39.2% of the responses answered that the MGNREGA scheme is bad for providing employment. 56.2% of the responses answered that there are not satisfied with the MGNREGA programme /schemes being implemented by the panchayat and 56.5% of the responses answered that the grama Sabha monitor does not monitor the execution of work under mgnrega within the grama panchayat 62.1% of the responses answered that the hospitalisation of injured worker is not available under MGNREGA scheme and 61.5% of the responses answered that their not aware of 100 days of work is increased to 150 days of work under this scheme 45% of the responses answered that they were involved in digging.

Discussion

In our results most of the responses are belong to the age group of 45-60, because after reached this age group their opportunities in employment were reduced and they don't have physical strength and lack in efficiency to do tough works, MGNREGA specifically targeted this age group for to improve their economic status and MGNREGA indirectly empowers the women community in giving employment opportunities to them because they started to earn and their dependency level with the men gradually reduced and this is reflected in our results that's the 48.5% of the responses are belongs to the women community and there is no proper awareness created by the officials through MGNREGA scheme and it is resulted into lack of knowledge about these scheme/ act among the rural people and their job cards were not prepared under gram panchayat because in most of the villages MGNREGA schemes are not directly undertaken by gram panchayat, some middleman influences this scheme through contract taken by bribing the officials in gram panchayat and they forged the job cards and it is reflected in our results such as 52.2% and 51.1% respectively and 52.2% of the workers haven't got receipt from the panchayat for application submitted for providing employment and most of the workers haven't got full 100 days during their employment, either middle man or corrupted officers in gram Sabha forged the attendance and they taken away the fund allocated to the workers, this reflects in our results like 51.2% and 53.9% respectively

When coming to wages and allowances, most of our results reflect the reality of our society. In MGNREGA act wages rates and allowances were mentioned but in most of the cases this was not followed and it was taken by the officials who involved in the scheme before it reaches the workers and wages should reached the worker within 7-15 days but it wasn't in reality and in our results we got the same responses (53.9%) and though they get the wages in correct time, they spend for small span of time and they were not educated to save the money through banks and postal accounts for their longer benefit ((57.3%) and awareness campaigns should conducted by gram panchayat to educate the rural people regarding the scheme but they failed to do their role in the scheme affects the implementation of the scheme.

Works executed in their block under MGNREGA scheme are improper and pathetic conditions and they did the work for namesake not for development sake, it is hazardous sign to the development of our nation (51.1%) and these works are not properly implemented by monitored by the gram Sabha and In most of the cases panchayat didn't take a role to implement and monitored the programme, they given to local contractors and it lead into corruption and it is against the Act because according to legal maxims sub delegations is not valid under law but most of our responses answered that MGNREGA is good for providing employment to the socially and economically retarded rural community but it suffers severe flaws like corruption. Though it suffers from corruption, it tries to improve the socio economic status of rural people and recently government increased the working days from 100 to 150 days but most of them are not aware of this changes and workers continued to receive the wages for 100 days only and officials made use of that opportunities to even corrupt the scheme.

CONCLUSION:

MGNREGA is the flagship welfare programme of the UPA government, thus public work offering relatively predictable employment opportunities are particularly effective in showing rural development. (Pallav Das, 2011). A number of centrally sponsored schemes have been implemented under rural development Mission and welfare of the poor. But NREGA is one of the greatest experiments undertaken in India to eradicate rural poverty. The scheme has been launched to supplement the error and gaps of all previous schemes with the involvement of Panchayats, civil society and local administration. Poor families were targeted to get benefits of employment and livelihood to supplement their family income. And improve the quality life of rural area and purchase power in rural people. (K. Sathiskumar, Dr. N. Nagarajan, 2017). Major criticism of MGNREGA is that it making

agriculture less profitable and insisted that there is need to rise aggregate demand, which is possible through rising income level of people and it helps to get potential to meet inclusive growth (K. Padma, 2015) and Impact of this scheme is based on the trends in employment, labour participation rate and it serves rural India adequately enough to accomplish its objective of the living conditions (C.S. Murty, 2015) and efficiency of this scheme can be increased by exploring the potential of MGNREGA convergence with agricultural schemes, increasing the wage employment and ensure the time bound employment Guarantee and wage employment (Sankar dalta, Vipin sharma, 2010) and some innovative way is required to improve the outcomes of the scheme because Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act haven't been able to make much of a development in rural poverty (Govind Bhattacharyya, 2017). In India, a lack of accountability is considered the key reason for the failure of development programmes and performance of the MGNREGA in terms of accountability is much better in progressive states and this is to ensure citizens do not lose faith in these schemes (Dutta Sujoy, 2015).

MGNREGA is providing livelihood security to the resource-poor rural people. The study has also revealed that in an agriculturally-backward area participation in economic activities is more for non beneficiaries as compared to beneficiaries but in agriculturally-developed area, situation is just reverse. On an average, MGNREGA is providing employment to the tune of 18.1 per cent of the total employment of the households. The study has thrown light on the employment differential in the developed and underdeveloped areas. In the agriculturally-backward area, the share of MGNREGA jobs in total employment is 24.6 per cent, while it is 13.7 per cent in the developed area. Social protection has emerged as a key driver of development policy at the beginning of the twenty-first century. It is widely considered a 'good thing' that has the potential not only to alleviate poverty and vulnerability, but also to generate more transformative outcomes in terms of empowerment and social justice. Based on an ethnographic study of the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), India's flagship social protection policy, this paper takes a critical look at what this policy's 'success' consists of. The study was carried out in Tamil Nadu, a state widely presented as a 'success' in terms of MGNREGA's implementation, and describes who participates in the scheme and how success is understood and expressed at different social and bureaucratic levels. In terms of MGNREGA's outcomes, we conclude that the scheme is benefitting the poorest households – and Dalits and women in particular – especially in terms of providing a safety net and as a tool for poverty alleviation. But the scheme does more than that. It has also produced

significant transformative outcomes for rural labourers, such as pushing up rural wage levels, enhancing low- caste workers' bargaining power in the labour market and reducing their dependency on high- caste employers. These benefits are not only substantial but also transformative in that they affect rural relations of production and contribute to the empowerment of the rural labouring poor. However, in terms of creating durable assets and promoting grassroots democracy, the scheme's outcomes are much less encouraging.

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