



A STUDY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA) SCHEME IN TARUR GRAMA PANCHAYAT, ALATHUR

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Abstract: MGNREGA is the largest social security scheme in the world - guaranteeing 100 days of unskilled manual work to all rural households in India. Last year, about 235 crore person-days of work were generated under the scheme. The MGNREGA Act actually gives rural households the right to work - making it obligatory for the State to give them work on demand. It gave an opportunity to rural households to earn minimum income by getting job cards under this scheme. There are 12 crore job cards as of today. While the poor have used it to climb out of poverty, the not-so-poor used it as a measure to supplement their income by working during lean agriculture periods. MGNREGA creates livelihood opportunities for our fellow citizens and sets a minimum wage threshold for low income earners, even in the cities. But with such high allocation to this scheme, one valid question is if the Government is getting the bang for its buck. The scheme forces the Government to offer work, but so far does not measure productivity or durability of the work done. The study was conducted in Tarur Grama panchayath, to know the performance of MGNREGAS in Tarur Grama Panchayath and to know how the scheme stands for solving the problems of rural people.

Key words: MGNREGA, Rural, Agriculture.

Introduction

The implementation of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has got tremendous potential to bring about for reaching improvements in the socio-economic life of the poor. The implementation of MGNREGA would be observed to be a boon to unemployed rural woman in India, as it can enhance the socio economic and political environment of rural women. It may be noted that in spite of the fact that fact that Kerala has got one of the best profiles of socio economic and educational achievements in the whole India the state having a very high unemployment rate. This turn enhance the prospectus of MGNREGA on Kerala, particularly with respect to rural women. However through there is high development potential, MGNREGA Implementation in Kerala has been facing a number of problems and challenges.

In the region a large number of women population are engaged as daily wage workers. Most

of them are engaged as labour in house hold work, then garden, house construction, road construction and soon. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA) is an Indian law that aims to guarantee the 'right to work' and ensure livelihood security in rural area by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in financial year to every house hold whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Some of the prominent defining features of MGNREGA implementation in the state are high level of women participation amongst the work force a relatively low average of annual person days created relatively higher stencilling on wages and lesser on the material component. Amongst the Indian state, Kerala to ps to participation of women amongst the registered work force of MGNREGA 90% if work force in the state is comprised of women, the primary reason for increased women workers (the agricultural wage rate for men ranges between Rs.

200 to Rs. 450) which makes the MGNREGA wage unattractive to them. The MGNREGA was implemented in Palakkad on 5th February 2006. MGNREGA is implemented mainly by grama panchayath.

Objectives of the study

1. To identify the performance of MGNREGA in Tarur Grama panchayath.
2. To know how MGNREGA stands for solving the problems of rural people.
3. To analyse the role of MGNREGA in woman empowerment

Methodology

Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected from the respondents of Tarur Panchayath by administering questionnaire. Secondary data were collected from the panchayath records, books, and from various websites. 50 respondents were selected from Tarur Grama Panchayath based convenient sampling method.

Scope of the Study

The study gives more importance to find the role in the rural areas. This study is mainly conducted to know about the activities done by Tarur Grama panchayath relating to MGNREGA. This study is beneficial for rural woman officers or representative of MGNREGA in Tarur Gramapanchayath.

Review of Literature

A review of earlier studies relevant to the present investigation carried out in the study area as well as elsewhere is included here.

Ragav Gaiha (2005) in his paper "Does the Employment Guarantee scheme benefit the rural poor in India, some recent evidence from Maharashtra state that studied about this in two selected villages in Ahmed Nagar District in 1999-2000. The researcher has observed in his study that with reallocation of resources in favour of the regions, the programme's poverty alleviating potential is high-

despite a sharp decline in overall participation in the scheme in recent years.

Vidhya Das (2007) made a study on "illusions of change" in Orissa and observed that the National Rural Employment revealed that the implementation of MGNREGA has resulted in grandiose claims of expenditure.

Jean Dreze (2008) viewed that the expensing of the MGNREGA to the whole country is an unprecedented opportunity to build the foundation of a social security system in rural India, revive village economies, promote social enquiry and empower rural labour.

Ratna M. Sundarshan (2009) examined the MGNREGA and women's participation in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan state and found that (1) wide impacts on market wages, supply women's labour, savings intra-household allocation of respondents were observed in varying degrees (2) choices of workers reflected standard choices (roads and connectivity, water bodies and irrigation) (3) clear evidence of strong developmental state in both Kerala and Himachal states.

Rahul Gandhi (2009) pointed out that the "real power" of the MGNREGA 2005 was in how it reshapes the labour market and puts a floor below poor people. Further he maintained that the scheme has changed completely the dynamics in poor states like Uttar Pradesh, in areas where it has been used effectively, which were formerly limited and in states like Andhra Pradesh it has "revolutionized the system".

Pranab Mukarjee (2010), the finance minister of India identified the MGNREGA as an initiative to directly address chronic poverty and unemployment in rural India, pointed out that the success of this programme has helped in mitigating the adverse impact of this crisis, further he mentioned that the momentum in rural economy has helped a relatively quick recovery of growth in the country. We need to replicate the successful models in other areas also to eliminate the stigma of having the highest number of poor people in our country.

Results and discussions

Table 1: Education wise profile

Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
No of schooling	25	50
Below SSLC	15	30
SSLC	10	20
Plus Two	0	0
Total	50	100

The above table shows that 50% of the respondents are from the group of no schooling, 30% of the respondents are from the group of below SSLC and the remaining 20% are from the group of SSLC.

Table 2: Occupational Pattern

Occupation	No of respondents	Percentage
Self employed	0	0
Casual labourer	23	46
House wife	20	40
Others	7	14
Total	50	100

Table 2 reveals that 46% of the respondents are from the group of casual workers, 40% of them are from house wife and remaining 14% are from other category. It indicates that most of the workers in MGNREGA scheme are casual labours and house wives.

Table 3: Category of ration card

Type	No. of respondent	Percentage
APL	12	24
BPL	38	76
Total	50	100

The analysis shows that 24% of the respondents are from the group of APL and remaining 76% of them are from the group BPL. It indicates that most of the workers belongs to BPL category.

Table 4: Kind of work Preferred by the workers

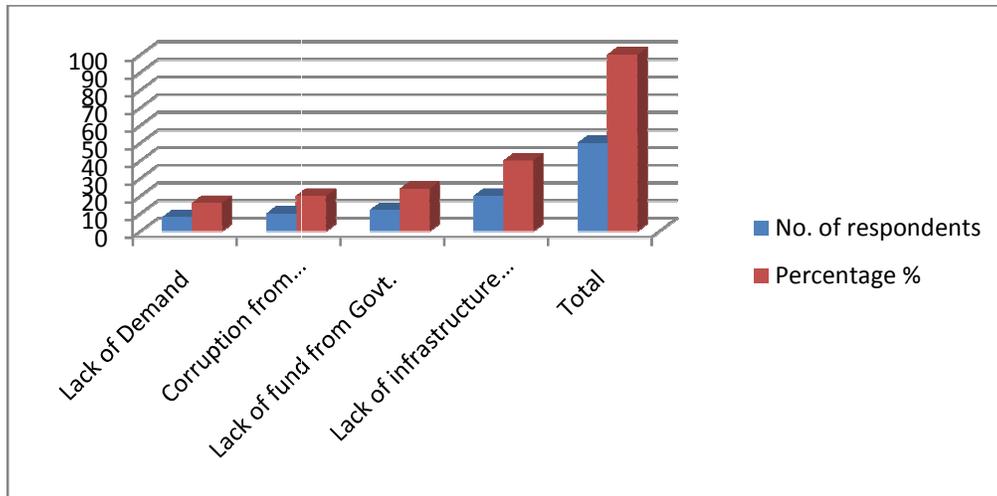
Works	No. of respondents	Percentage
Tree plantation	0	0
Road construction	10	20
Water harvesting	6	12
Irrigation of canals	34	68
Total	50	100

Table 3 reveals that 68% of the respondents preferred the work of irrigation of canals, 20% of respondents preferred the work of road construction and the remaining 12% of the workers were preferred the work water harvesting.

Table 5: Problems faced by the workers

Problems	No. of respondents	Percentage
Lack of Demand	8	16
Corruption from administration	10	20
Lack of fund from Govt.	12	24
Lack of infrastructure facilities	20	40
Total	50	100

Chart 1: Problems faced by the workers



The above table shows that 40% of respondents were faced the problem of lack of infrastructure facilities, 24% of the were faced the problem of the lack of fund from Govt and remaining workers faced the problems of lack of demand and poor administration.

Table 6: Benefits enjoyed by the workers

Benefit	No. of benefits	Percentage
Any Allowance	0	0
Easy Accessibility of loans	0	0
Educational Allowance	40	80
Others	10	20
Total	50	100

Analysis shows that 80% of the respondent have enjoyed the benefit of educational allowance and remaining workers enjoy the other benefits.

Table 7: Satisfaction of workers with their working conditions

	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	45	90
No	5	10
Total	50	100

The above table shows that 90% of the workers are satisfied with their working condition. It indicates that the working condition of MGNREGA Scheme is satisfactory.

Findings of the Study

- All the workers registered under the scheme is women
- This scheme provides job opportunity to uneducated women and also helps to raise their standard of living
- The scheme provides upliftment to BPL category

- The 100 days of work is necessary to rise the income level of rural women and most of the women are satisfied with the wage rate.
- The scheme provides education and of other allowance as a part of overall development of their family.
- The scheme provides better working conditions and rest intervals to work.
- Absence of infrastructural facilities and occupation from administration is one of the main problems faced by the women workers.

Suggestions

- Provisions may also be made for workers to register applications for work through mobile phones in addition to MGNREGA website.
- Provide better infrastructure facilities and also provides scientific tool and materials
- Regular monitoring and follow up of the system minimizing bureaucratic interventions which is quite essential by the panchayath.
- Provide better loan facilities and other allowances for enhancing demand of the work.

Conclusion

The MGNREGA is a wage employment programme, providing minimum wage to casual, unskilled labour, women and disabled especially during lean season has never been at the centre stage of the programme as policy. But this apart, MNGREGA has emerged as a very powerful tool for addressing women empowerment.

It was found that the programme has indeed a positive impact on women empowerment. MGNREGA has been reasonably effective in empowering women through on enhanced income generation .MGNREGA scheme quite meaningful and powerful for rural development and women empowerment.

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