



WILL MNREGA ENSURE SECURITY AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT?: A STUDY OF DISTRICT GARHWAL (UTTARAKHAND)

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ABSTRACT

Since the independence, Government of India has launched many poverty eradication and employment generation program as SGRY, JRY, SJGSY etc. In spite of these programmes the condition of poverty and unemployment of India is not so far better. Government of India passed a bill in parliament and launched a new program National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MNREGA) from 2nd February 2006 for eradicating the poverty and generation of employment in rural areas of India. Again 2nd October 2008 on eve of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti the scheme launched as a Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), which is truly homage to Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of rural development. MNREGA gave rural people an opportunity to improve their financial conditions to boost standard of living and socio-economic condition of rural masses through this scheme. In this paper researcher has attempted to show the analysis of this programme by indicating employment generation, 100 days of employment achievement, proportion of women including SCs, gap between issued job cards and provided employment and average number of employment in a year through MNREGA in District Garhwal.

KEYWORDS: SGRY, JRY, MNREGA

INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is a historic legislation passed by the Government of India in September 2005. It was enacted in order to address the crucial issues of unemployment and poverty in rural India. The MNREGA guarantees a hundred days of unskilled employment to each household in every financial year at an equal wage rate for both male and female workers. Additionally, it guarantees the "right to work" as a legal right of every able-bodied adult in rural India. It is fundamentally different from all other wage employment programmes operating since 1980 in that these programmes do not guarantee employment as a legal right. A well-designed employment guarantee programme can, under favorable circumstances, promote job creation, gender equality and pro-poor development. The MNREGA has great potential for increasing the volume of employment among the rural unemployed and underemployed. It provides ample opportunities for creating rural public assets, which has been largely neglected. It helps to enhance the purchasing power of rural households, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation. It also has the capacity to tap the hitherto under-utilized labour of women in rural India.

MNREGA was launched in two hundred selected districts on 2nd February 2006 in Phase I and was extended to 130 more districts in 2007-08 in Phase II. It was further extended to the remaining 285 districts from 1st April 2008

onwards, in Phase III. The responsibility has been assigned primarily to Local-Self Governments function the programme.

The basic objectives of MNREGA are:

- (i) Providing wage employment opportunities,
- (ii) Creating sustainable rural livelihoods through regeneration of the natural resource base i.e. augmenting, productivity, and supporting creation of durable assets and
- (iii) Strengthening rural governance through decentralization and processes of transparency and accountability.

Main elements of MNREGA

- Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat
- The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card. The Job Card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under MNREGA and is free of cost
- The Job Card should be issued within 15 days of application.
- A Job Card holder may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration for which work is sought. The minimum days of employment have to be at least fourteen.

- The Gram Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment, against which the guarantee of providing employment within 15 days.
- Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work, if it is not then daily unemployment allowance as per the Act, has to be paid liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the States.
- Work should ordinarily be provided within 5 km radius of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10% are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses
- Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the State, unless the Centre notifies a wage rate which will not be less than Rs. 60/ per day. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.
- Wages are to be paid according to piece rate or daily rate. Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case.
- At least **one-third beneficiaries shall be women** who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided.
- The shelf of projects for a village will be recommended by the gram sabha and approved by the zilla panchayat.
- At least 50% of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution.
- Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works.
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed.
- The Central Government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi skilled workers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the mandays employment and percentage of women including SCs in employment given through MNREGA in district Garhwal.
2. To study the achievement of 100 days of employment of MNREGA in district Garhwal.
3. To find out the gap between issued job card and provided job through MNREGA in district Garhwal.
4. To find out the average number of employment per HHs given through MNREGA in district Garhwal.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Significance of this study can be understood by following points-

1. This study will show the position of employment given to rural people and will show the employment generation through MNREGA.
2. The result obtained from this study will help the MNREGA official of state of Uttarakhand and Government of India to improve the condition of MNREGA.
3. This study will show the condition of 100 days of employment goal targeted through MNREGA.

4. This study will show that effectiveness of MNREGA on SCs and Women of rural people of district Garhwal.
5. Finally this study will help the future researchers on MNREGA and give the researcher a path of research on MNREGA.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Unit (2008) found out in his study that the Act has not been able to generate the kind of employment demand as expected. It has created at an average 43 days of employment in whole India in 2006-07.

NFIW (2008) stated that MNREGA is significant for various reasons, it is one of the few experiments in the world to provide alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, growth in education and healthcare spending.

RTB, Indian Institute of Technology (2009) concluded in its paper that the sustainable livelihood is possible only by initiatives like NREGS. NREGS becomes the major employment assuring initiative during non-agriculture season.

Raghavan, Singh and Das (2008) in their paper concluded that MNREGA is providing opportunity to the poor and unskilled rural persons of India to earn their livelihood in a sustainable way and to create sustainable community assets by providing 100 days employment.

Jaiswal (2008) concluded in her study that NREGS is a very good step from the Government to reduce unemployment, but if the conditions will go like this and there will be so many drawbacks in implementation, it is not going to sustain.

M.S. Swaminathan (2009) described MNREGA as the world's largest ecological security programme, which can successfully strengthen the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India on Nov 9th 2000. The state shares common boundaries with Tibet (China) to the north and Nepal to the east. Uttarakhand is situated in the north eastern Himalayan region part of India and geographically line between 28°43' N to 31°27' N latitude and 77°34' E to 81°02' E longitude. It has an area of 53483 sq.km. The climate of the state is min -3.0p c and 43.2p maximum and having the population 10,116,752 (2011). The male population of the state is 5,154,178 and female population is 4,962,574. The population density of the state is 189 per Sq. Km (2011). The capital of the state is Dehradun. Literacy rate of Uttarakhand in 2011 were 79.63% in which male and female literacy were 88.33 and 70.70% respectively. It has 13 districts, 78 blocks and 16826 villages.

Pauri Garhwal, a district of Uttarakhand state encompasses an area of 5230 sq. km and situated between 29° 45' to 30°15' Latitude and 78° 24' to 79° 23' E Longitude. The District is administratively divided into nine tehsils. Population of Pauri district is 6, 86,527 (2011) in which males are 3, 26,406 and females are 3, 60,121. Literacy rate of Pauri Garhwal in 2011 were 82.59% in which male and female literacy were 93.18 and 73.26% respectively. The main occupation of the population is agriculture. Some large and small industrial units have been established around Kotdwara e.g. SIDCUL. There are no major industries in the hilly part of the district due to the lack of required infrastructure and the geography of the area.

Data collection technique

The data for this paper has collected from the secondary sources as Government departments and websites related to MNREGA.

Population and Sampling

The population for the study comprises of the job card holders existing in the District Garhwal. For studying the performance of employment through MNREGA in District Garhwal, researcher has selected 10 blocks out of 15 blocks of district Garhwal. The selection criteria of selection of block is that the 5 blocks (Thalisain, Bironkahl, Duggada, Yamkeshwar, Nainidanda) have been chosen as the highest number of households and 5 (Pauri, Jaiharikhal, Kot, Pokhra, Khirsu) have been chosen on the basis of lowest number of household who have been issued the job card.

Tools of Data Analysis:-

On the basis of tabulation, the data has analyzed by the Average method.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

❖ Position of employment generation in district Garhwal

MNREGA provides the employment to rural people and gives them to increase their financial conditions. It focuses upon SCs and Women of rural areas. Table 1.1 shows the condition of employment generation in District Garhwal in the financial year 2012-13.

Table 1.1. Condition of employment generation in district Garhwal 2017-18

Block	Persondays employment generated				
	Total	SC	Women	% of SC from Total	% of Women from Total
Thalisain	263143	29770	157231	11.31	59.75
Bironkhal	216886	28175	159522	12.99	73.55
Duggada	89514	10478	46306	11.71	51.73
Yamkeshwar	137125	6692	85171	4.88	62.11
Nainidanda	169622	18461	118617	10.88	69.93
Pauri	123045	30467	90233	24.76	73.33
Jaiharikhal	125533	7122	74790	5.67	59.58
Kot	87763	21328	65627	24.30	74.78
Pokhra	110395	10449	81369	9.47	73.71
Khirsu	83549	9929	53766	11.88	64.35
Average				12.79	66.28

Source: nrega.nic.in

Table 1.1 shows that Women providing employment in persondays is above 33%, that is above the provision of MNREGA while the percentage of SCs in selected 10 blocks is highest in Pauri block and lowest in Yamkeshwar in financial year 2017-18 that is below the provision of MNREGA act.

Thus the average persondays employment of SCs and Women is 12.79% and 66.28% in District Garhwal respectively. Thus we can conclude that the percentage of women in employment in district Garhwal is very good but

percentage of SCs did not reached according to provisions of MNREGA.

❖ Position of 100 days of employment given through MNREGA in district Garhwal

MNREGA guarantees the 100 days of employment in a year to every household (HH) who demand for the job or employment. Table 1.2 shows the percentage the HHs who gained the 100 days of employment given through MNREGA

Table:1.2. Position of 100 days of employment given through MNREGA in District Garhwal 2017-18

Block	Total no. of HH who have been provided the employment	No. of HH who have gained 100 days of employment	% of HHs gained 100 days of Employment
Thalisain	7346	98	1.33
Bironkhal	5357	31	0.58
Duggada	2727	26	0.95
Yamkeshwar	3618	108	2.99
Nainidanda	4328	114	2.63
Pauri	3561	61	1.71
Jaiharikhal	3050	2	0.07
Kot	2959	8	0.27
Pokhra	2882	22	0.76
Khirsu	2223	48	2.16
Average			1.35
National Average			8.26

Source: nrega.nic.in

Table 1.2 shows that the condition of 100 days of employment in district Garhwal is not good. The percentage of 100 days of employment from the households who have been provided the job is very low and it is highest 2.99 in

Yamkeshwar block and thus in whole district only 1.35 percent job card holders get the 100 days of employment and in national average is 8.26. This shows that MNREGA is far away providing 100 days of employment in a year to every job card holder.

❖ Gap between issued job cards and provided job given through MNREGA in district Garhwal

MNREGA provides the job to every household who have been issued the job card and if it fails to provide the

job than the goal of MNREGA to provide the employment to every HHs can't be achieved. Table 1.3 shows the gap between issued job cards and provided job.

Table 1.3. Gap between issued job card and provided job given through MNREGA in district Garhwal 2012-13

Block	Total no. of HH who have been issued the job card	Total no. of HH who have been provided the job	Gap between issued job card and provided job	% of Provided employment
Thalisain	10766	7346	-3420	68.23
Bironkhal	9012	5357	-3655	59.44
Duggada	7918	2727	-5191	34.44
Yamkeshwar	6487	3618	-2869	55.77
Nainidanda	6159	4328	-1831	70.27
Pauri	5927	3561	-2366	60.08
Jaiharikhal;	4687	3050	-1637	65.07
Kot	5047	2959	-2088	58.63
Pokhra	4458	2882	-1576	64.65
Khirsu	4308	2223	-2085	51.60
Average			-2671.8	58.82

Source: nrega.nic.in

Table 1.3 shows that MNREGA did not provide the job to almost all the household who have issued the job cards in district Garhwal. The gap between issued job card and provided job is very high and it is average 2671 in district. The average percentage of gap is 58.82 thus we can find out that only 41.18 percent HHs gained the job after having job cards. Thus MNREGA failed to provided job to all the job card holders who were willing to do manual work.

❖ Average no. of employment per family given through MNREGA in District Garhwal

The goal of MNREGA is to provide the 100 days of employment to every household. The average number of employment per household put out from total number of mandays employment divided by total number of HHs who have been provided the job. Average number shows the number of employment days given through MNREGA in a year to every worker.

Table 1.4. Average no. of employment per HH given through MNREGA District Garhwal 2017-18

Block	Total no. of HH who have provided the job (A)	Total no. of person-days employment generated (B)	Average no of employment per HH (B/A)
Thalisain	7346	263143	35.82
Bironkhal	5357	216886	40.49
Duggada	2727	89514	32.83
Yamkeshwar	3618	137125	37.90
Nainidanda	4328	169622	39.19
Pauri	3561	123045	34.55
Jaiharikhal;	3050	125533	41.16
Kot	2959	87763	29.66
Pokhra	2882	110395	38.30
Khirsu	2223	83549	37.58
Average			36.75
National Average			43.20

Source: nrega.nic.in

Table 1.4 shows that the number of employment days given to every household who have been provided the job is very low in each block. Thus MNREGA is not providing 100 days of employment in a year to every household in district Garhwal and it is far from the goal of providing 100 days employment. The average number of employment in district Garhwal is 36.75 that is below the national average i.e. 43.20.

CONCLUSION

MNREGA is providing the employment to the rural workers of district Garhwal and the share of Women in employment is satisfactory but percentage of SCs is not good. MNREGA is not providing the employment almost all the households who have issued the job card. On the other hand the performance of MNREGA is showing from other

indicators as 100 days of employment goal and average number of employment given to households that is below the national average. Thus MNREGA is providing employment to many households but it is not reaching to it's goals in district Garhwal.

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