



IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT ON RURAL URBAN MIGRATION IN BACKWARD AREAS -A MICRO LEVEL INVESTIGATION IN YADGIR DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA STATE

Dr. Anilkumar¹

¹UGC-Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Studies in Economics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka, India.

Virupakshappa Mulagund²

²ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, Department of Studies in Economics, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka, India.

ABSTRACT

The history of migration is the people's struggle to survive and to prosper, to escape insecurity and poverty and to move in response to opportunity. In India, the urban population has increased by more than 100 percent between 1901 to 2001, fueled largely by migration from the rural areas, the place of origin to urban locations, mainly in search of employment and better resources. While India has a long tradition of urbanization which has continued since the days of the Indus valley Civilization, the current spate of migration from rural to urban locations has been driven by poverty, unemployment, natural calamities and underdevelopment at the origin place.

The main focus of this article is to examine the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the Rural Urban Migration in backward areas and the present study also tries to assess the working of MGNREGA in two villages Sydapur and Mudnal in Yadgir district. Yadgir district is one of the most rural regions in India and this has been identified by the Dr. Najundappa Committee by Government of Karnataka. So it is hoped that the study is suitable for to find out the, in what extent the MGNREGA Scheme has impact on the rural urban migration in backward areas. Hence the performance of MGNREGA Scheme in Yadgir district would be of considerable interest both to the planners and to administrators.

KEYWORDS: Rural Urban Migration, Distress Migration, Employment, Backward areas, natural calamities.

I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Evolving the design of the wage employment programmes to more effectively fight poverty, the Central Government formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005. With its legal framework and rights-based approach, MGNREGA

provides employment to those who demand it and is a paradigm shift from earlier programmes. Notified on September 7, 2005, MGNREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to

do unskilled manual work. The Act covered 200 districts in its first phase, implemented on February 2, 2006, and was extended to 130 additional districts in 2007-2008. All the remaining rural areas have been notified with effect from April 1, 2008.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is one of the most progressive legislations enacted since independence. Its significance is evident from a variety of perspectives. First, it is a bold and unique experiment in the provision of rural employment – in India and indeed in the world at large. Second, it is the first expression of the right to work as an enforceable legal entitlement. In a country where labour is the only economic asset for millions of people, gainful employment is a prerequisite for the fulfillment of other basic rights – the right to life, the right to food, and the right to education.

There is much that the NREGA promises from the perspective of women's empowerment as well. Most boldly, in a rural milieu marked by stark inequalities between men and women – in the opportunities for gainful employment afforded as well as wage rates – NREGA represents action on both these counts. The act stipulates that wages will be equal for men and women. It is also committed to ensuring that at least 33% of the workers shall be women. By generating employment for women at fair wages in the village, NREGA can play a substantial role in economically empowering women and laying the basis for greater independence and self-esteem.

❖ **Salient features of the Act**

- **Right based Framework:** For adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- **Time bound Guarantee:** 15 days for provision of employment, else unemployment Allowance Upto 100 days in a financial year per household, depending on the actual demand.
- **Labour Intensive Works:** 60:40 wage and material ratio for permissible works; no contractors/machinery.
- **Decentralized Planning** Gram Sabhas to recommend works At least 50% of works by Gram Panchayats for execution Principal role of PRIs in planning, monitoring and implementation
- **Work site facilities :** Crèche, drinking water, first aid and shade provided at worksites
- **Women empowerment:** At least one-third of beneficiaries should be women
- **Transparency & Accountability:** Proactive disclosure through Social Audits, Grievance Redressal Mechanism,

➤ **Implementation**

Under Sec 3, States are responsible for providing work in accordance with the Scheme. Under Sec 4, every state government is required to make a scheme for providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year, to those who demand work

Migration in India is not new and historical accounts show that people have moved in search of work, in response to environmental shocks and stresses, to escape religious persecution and political conflict. However improved communications, transport networks, conflicts over natural resources and new economic opportunities have created unprecedented levels of mobility. But as we discuss in following sections, the increase in mobility is not fully captured in larger survey so often leading to erroneous conclusions about mobility levels in India. Traditional rural-urban migration exists in India as villagers seek to improve opportunities and lifestyles. In 1991, 39 million people migrated in rural-urban patterns of which 54% were female.

Caste and tribe systems complicate these population movements Seasonal urban migration is also evident throughout India in cities like Surat where many migrants move into the city during periods of hardship and return to their native villages for events such as the harvest. Although significant in recent years, growth has been unequal in India (Balisa can and Ducanes 2005), characterized by industry in developed states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab drawing labour from agriculturally backward and poor regions such as eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, southern Madhya Pradesh, western Orissa and southern Rajasthan. High productivity agricultural areas (“green revolution areas”) continue to be important destinations, but rural urban migration is the fastest growing type of migration as more migrants choose to work in better paying non-farm occupations in urban areas and industrial zones. Delhi and the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra are top destinations for inter-state migrant labour. Labour mobility has grown and will probably continue to grow once the economy recovers from the current crisis. Migrant labour makes enormous contributions to the Indian economy through major sectors such as construction, textiles, small industries, brick-making, stone quarries, mines, fish and prawn processing and hospitality services. But migrants remain on the periphery of society, with few citizen rights and nopolitical voice in shaping decisions that impact their lives (Kabeer 2005).

Table: 1.Census 2001 Data on Migration Count by place of Birth

Sl no	Migrants	persons	Males	Females
1	Intra-district migrants	181,799,637	42,781,678	139,017,959
2	Inter-district migrants	76,841,466	24,778,327	52,063,139
3	Inter-state migrants	42,341,703	19,675,774	22,665,929
4	International migrants	6,166,930	3,174,717	2,992,213
5	Unclassifiable	421	194	227
	Total migrants	307,150,157	90,410,690	216,739,467

Chart 1.Census 2001 Data on Migration Count by place of Birth

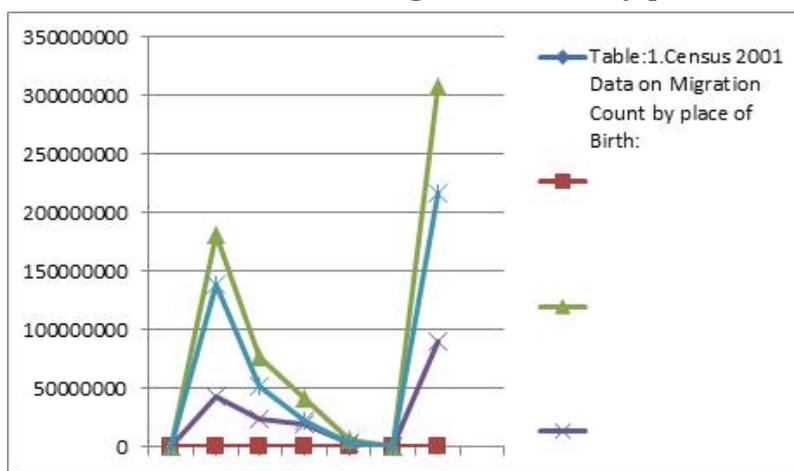
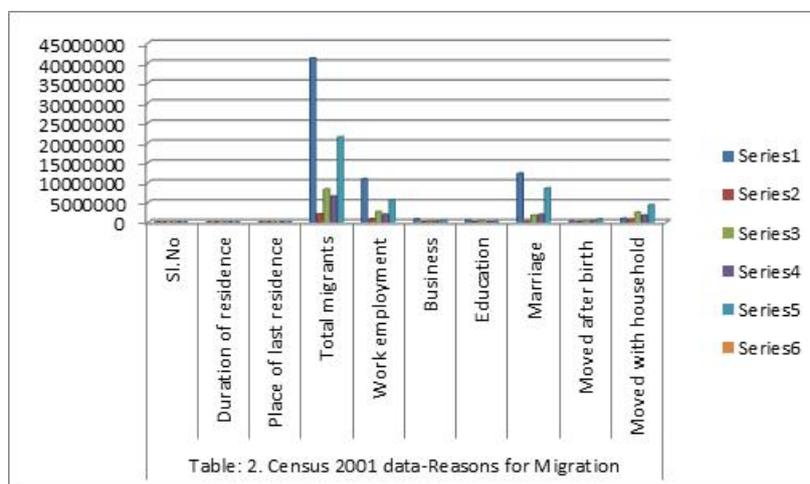


Table: 2. Census 2001 data-Reasons for Migration

Sl.No	Duration of residence	Place of last residence	Total migrants	Work employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after birth	Moved with household
1	All duration	Inter-state migrants	41166265	10865197	816572	549372	12233530	153918	970817
2	Less than 1-year	Inter-state migrants	2014770	784138	30136	46756	142081	59571	705939
3	1-4 yaers	Inter-state migrants	8276637	2633007	143842	323061	1744035	286392	2446938
4	5-9 years	Inter-state migrants	6535472	1942871	136537	72389	1868728	293607	1747072
5	10 years and above	Inter-state migrants	21389642	5501948	505792	106898	8476006	783782	4328886

Chart 2: Census 2001 data-Reasons for Migration



II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Poverty, unemployment and migration are dominating to the nation in the 21st century. Developing economy invites the rural poor to urban migration many Governments have tried to fight against poverty, unemployment and migration by conducting various programmes but have meet little success. So what India need is something more lasting than patch work policies to help its millions of poverty stricken people. The government Guarantee Act can solve the problem given that it has the potential to provide a livelihood of millions.

The United Progressive Alliance Government has passed the historic” National Rural Employment Guarantee Act bill on December 23,2004 and the Act was notified on September 7th 2005 and it has started the golden days of NREGA by implementing on 2nd February 2006.

The study area Yadgir district has the label of most backward district in Karnataka state, where NREGA is being implemented well and where there is a history of distress migration the area is industrially backward, agriculture have not productive and looking at yields. So the study area is backward and semi-irrigated area of Karnataka state and recently this district suffered from flood in the year of 2008-09 for this reason the present paper is tries to analyses the effectiveness of the programmme impact on rural urban migration in backward areas like Yadgir district in Karnataka state. This study also tries to bridge that lacuna by attempting to study the impact of NREGA on Rural Urban migration in backward areas like Yadgir district. The potential of NREGA in reaching the rural poor is unsurpassed as it is now being

implemented in all the district of India. There is thus an urgent need to some studies how such success stories can be made. Impact on rural urban migration, what are the lacuna and drawbacks and how they can be addressed.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the proposed study shall be an evaluation of the MGNREGA on rural urban migration in Yadgir district. The study shall have the following specific objectives are outlined for the present study.

- ✦ To examine the socioeconomic condition of the beneficiaries under MGNREGA.
- ✦ To analyze the impact of MGNREGA on rural urban migration in Yadgir district.
- ✦ To analyze the extent of additional employment generation through MGNREGA to the rural poor
- ✦ To know the problems faced by the MGNREGA beneficiaries.
- ✦ To verify the work site management in the study area.
- ✦ To identify the administrative drawback in the implementation of MGNREGA

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation of MGNREGA scheme is Yadgir block, for the purpose of the present study, two gram panchayats from Yadgir block are selected on the basis of simple random sampling method. For the purpose of the evaluation of MGNREGA scheme in Yadgir Block, 60 households were selected from different categories on the basis of simple random sampling method.

Table-3 Age wise classification of sample beneficiaries

Gram Panchayat	21-25	40-60	60	Total
Sydapur	10	15	05	30
Mudnal	12	13	05	30
Total	22	28	10	60

Source: Field survey.

Chart 3.Age wise classification of sample beneficiaries

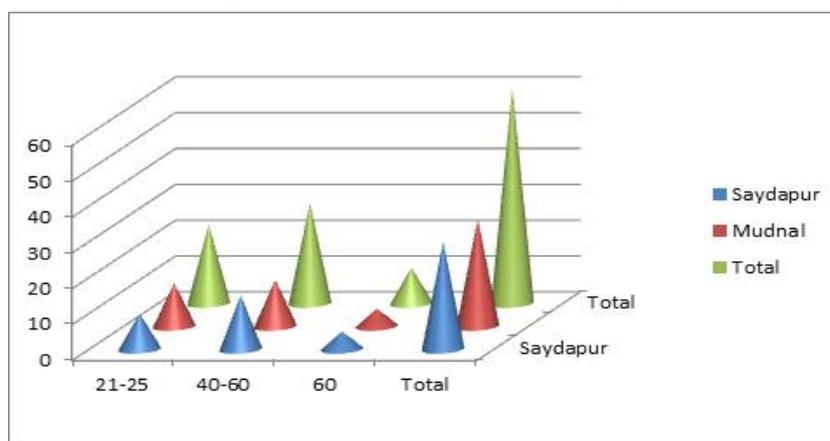


Table -4 Gender wise classification of the sample respondents

Gram Panchayat	Male	Female	Total
Sydapur	22	08	30
Mudnal	20	10	30
Total	42	18	60

Source: Field survey.

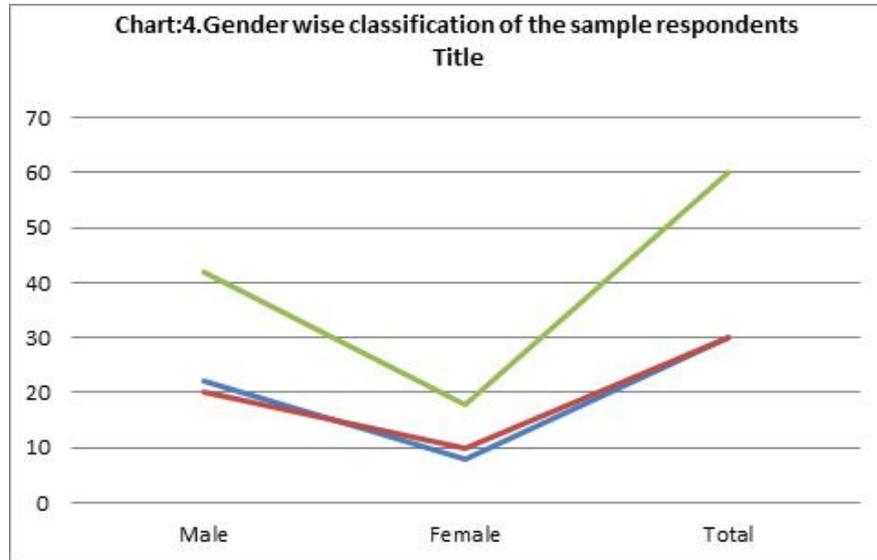


Table -5 No of worked during 2009-2010

Gram Panchayat	No of days worked				Total
	< 75 days	76-90 days	90-100 days	>100 days	
Sydapur	14	8	4	4	30
Mudnal	8	12	3	7	30
Total	19	20	7	11	60

Source: Field survey

Chart: 5.No of worked during 2009-2010.

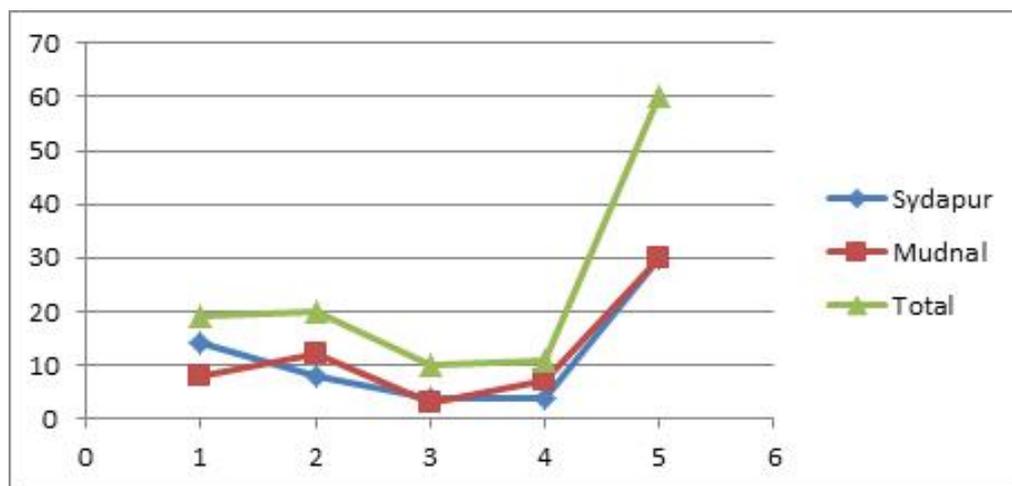
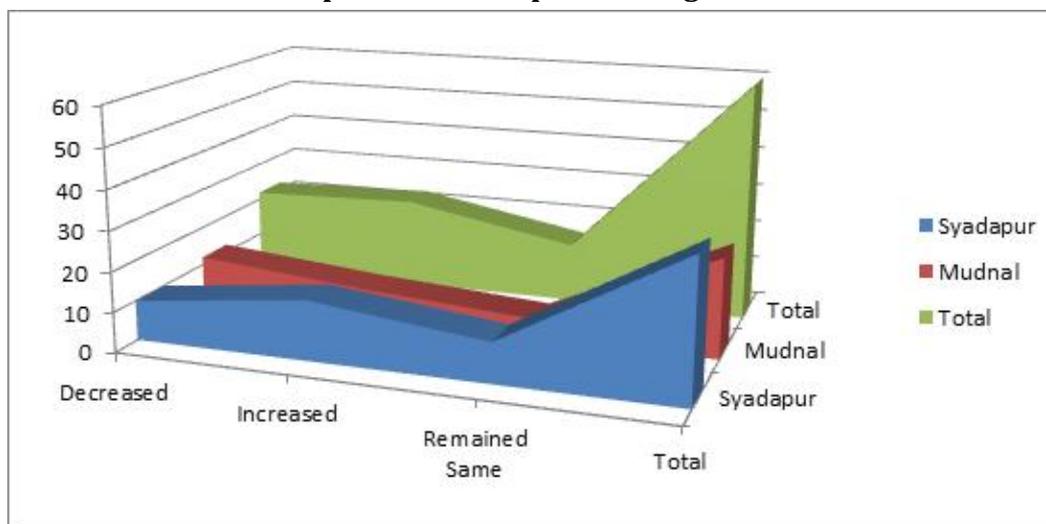


Table-6 .Respondents Perception of Migration to cities

Gram Panchayat	Decreased	Increased	Remained Same	Total
Syadapur	10	15	10	35
Mudnal	12	8	5	25
Total	22	23	15	60

Source: Field survey.

Chart: 6.Respondents Perception of Migration to cities

V. ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

An analysis of the respondent households in two selected Two Gram Panchayat namely Syadapur Gram Panchayat 30 respondents and Mudnal Gram Panchayat 30 respondents has been picked up.

- Revered 40-60 years to be the pre-dominant group of the 40 respondent, 32% were found to be aged of 26 to 40 years, 48% to be aged 40 to 60 years and 12% to be aged 21 to 25 years 8% aged over 60 years as respondents indicates the need for employment even for those over 60 years and the poor framework of MGNREGA which has not set any age limit for considering to be eligible for the scheme.
- The analysis of gender classification of the respondents revealed that 70% of the respondents to male and reaming 30% to be female.
- The study revealed that out of 40respondents 40% are SCs 10% are STs, 30% are OBCand 20% are OCs in all the four panchayats. It is thus clear that MGNREGA has been strictly applied to rural categories people especially in the rural areas like Yadgir district.
- Number of days worked under MGNREGA it's observed from the table that out of 40 respondents from two Panchayat 50 of the respondents in Mudnal.50% in Syadapur had worked less than 78 days during 2009-2010.
- Total wages received under works during 2009-2010 in two Panchayat out of 85 respondents, 42% received an amount of less than Rs 6500, 54% revied between Rs.6500 to 8000 and 15% received between Rs 8500 to 11500 and only 8% received above Rs.1200 from MGNREGA wages during 2009-2010.
- The extent of migration after MGNREGA Scheme it is shown in table number 4% of the respondents opine that there has been a decreases in migration since the launch of MGNREGA. 32% opine that there has been no change and 3% opine that migration has increase even with the introduction of MGNREGA. 63% stating that migration to have decreased with MGNREGA implementation is a good indicator of development for these Gram Panchayat.
- MGNREGA workers as per the study findings in selected villages have helped in food security management as stated by 22% of the respondents. An analysis by Syadapur Gram Panchayat to have a highest proportion of respondents 68% perceive MGNREGA to have helped particularly in food security management. 17% of the respondents perceive that MGNREGA in no way to have helped in food security management while 15% are not sure about food security management.

VI. THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE STUDY IN BRIEF

- ▲ Employment has been generated on a massive scale. The average job card holder in Yadgir has already been employed for nearly 28 days since 2010 compared with just about 2 days for the same period in 2009.
- ▲ Minimum wage Rs. 80 for men and Rs.70 per women are being paid.
- ▲ Wages are paid within a week and there were few complaints of delay in wage payments. .
- ▲ Gender classification of the respondents revealed that 70% of the respondents to male and other 30% to be female.
- ▲ MGNREGA is a life line for the rural poor.
- ▲ The large proportion of the respondents 62% unaware of the MGNREGA in two villages.

VII. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE POLICY MAKERS

- There are more landless poor in Yadgir district who totally depend on farm work and other seasonal, manual labourers, the number of days are to be increased from 100 to at least 150 days. So that the labour can make out their livelihood.
- Participation of women should be increased with the men for raising the income of the family.
- Genuine labourers who richly deserve work should be enrolled there by providing work to all the needy families without any political interference.
- An evaluation of MGNREGA annually would help in releasing the programme effectively.
- Yadgir district is one the more rural district of Karnataka state and is actually in need of proper implementation of MGNREGA.
- Most of the people would prefer not to migrate men and women both. Therefore, if MGNREGA can be used to curb rural urban migration then it will be yet another benefit from this act.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper looks at the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in India that was launched in the year 2005 as a social security measure aimed at providing employment security to the poor in villages. The MGNREGA was also meant to use this labour to construct rural infrastructure

that is clearly wanting in India. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guarantees 100 days of work to all households. This analysis looks at the direct and the indirect effects that the NREGP has on employment generation and poverty reduction in a local. For this, a micro level survey in a specific village was undertaken to highlight the impact of the MGNREGP on the rural urban migration and the living condition of the rural poor in rural areas. This survey covered a poor agricultural village with 60 households. The survey recorded income and expenditure levels by type of household (large, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour).

REFERENCES

1. Anindita Adhikari and Karlika Bhatia (2010). *NREGA Wage Payments : Can We Bank on the Banks? Economic and Political Weekly, January 2nd.*, pp. 30-37.
2. Anupam Hazra. 2011. *Rural India : Still searching jobs for the millions. Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, January, pp. 3-5.*
3. Anupam Hazra. 2010. *Migration : Still a survival strategy for rural India. Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, No. 2., December. pp. 3-5.*
4. Anita Modi. 2011. *Role of migration in urban growth. Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, No. 2., December. pp. 7-10.*
5. Atul K.R. Tiwari. 2010. *Bridging urban-rural divide providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA). Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, No. 2., December. pp. 12-14.*
6. Bharat S. Sontakki and Laxman M. Ahire. 2011. *Rural employment Guarantee Scheme : Boon or Bane to Indian Agriculture? Kurukshetra. Vol. 60, April, pp. 39-44.*
7. Pattanaik, B.K. (2007). *Rural Poverty and Need for Primary Sector Development. Kurukshetra, May.*
8. Prem Chand Kamboj, Manoj Siwach and Narpreet Kaur (2010). *Impact of NREG Scheme on Agriculture Sector. Southern Economist, pp. 45-48.*
9. Ruddar Datta and K.P.M. Sundharam (2006). *Indian Economy. S. Chand and Company Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 89-92.*
10. Venkata Naid, G., T. Gopal and K. Nagabhushan (2010). *Impact of NREGA on the Living Condition of Rural Poor. Southern Economist, pp. 13-15.*
11. Zilla Panchayat Report, 2005. <http://planning.kar.nic.in/planning.htm>.
12. Parmindar Kaur and Arjinder Kaur. 2011. *pattern of rural work force participation in India : Gender inequalities. Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, January, pp. 6-9.*
13. Shushbhashree Sanyal. 2011. *Rural employment generation programme in India : An analytical review. Kurukshetra. Vol. 59, January, pp. 15-17.*