

Research Paper



IMPACT OF MGNREGA IN FAMILY DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

Dr. G M Dinesh¹

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Government First Grade College, Davanagere, Karnataka-577004, India

Komala²

²Research Scholar in Economics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

A successful woman is one who can build a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at her. According to this if women will get the education and awareness of the society means she can build the modern and strong family from available resources.

Economic security is one of the main components of humanity in the globe. Economic security requires employment and an assured source of basic income adequate for meeting one's basic needs. Today the biggest challenges before the world are poverty, unemployment and pollution. These problems differ from that which prevails in developed nations. In India, the most serious problem is unemployment problem. The unemployment problem is also associated with disguised employment. The most important component of the unemployment in India is women who need to be empowered to improve their socio-economic conditions.

KEYWORDS: women, unemployment, Empowerment of women, poverty, MGNREGA

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment is a process aimed at changing the nature and direction of systematic forces, which marginalize women and other disadvantaged sections in a given context. A large segment of Indian womanhood still suffers deprivation and discriminatory attitudes. It is necessary to mobilize the vast women power, if the country has to progress in all the sphere of development. Empowerment of women is a long and difficult process which has to be promoted with full public support and this could be successful only when those women living at the lower strata who have been suppressed by the male dominated society taking undue advantage of their lack of education and poverty can rise up to claim their rightful place in their own society. In spite of the draw backs in the implementation of the legislation, significant benefits have already started accruing to women through better access to local employment, at minimum wages, with relatively decent and safe work conditions.

The MGNREGA was passed by the Indian Parliament on 23rd August 2005 during monsoon session. The president of India gave his assent for the MGNREGA on 5th September 2005 and it was notified on 7th September 2005. In the first phase, the act was implemented in 200 most backward districts of India. Later on its coverage was extended to another 130 districts in the second phase. On 1st April

2008 the act was implemented in all the districts of India. The MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. (Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India).

Being the first tangible commitment to the poor, MGNREGA is considered as the unique scheme of Government of India. It enshrines the right to work of the people defined under the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV, Article 39 (a) and Article 41, Constitution of India). Thus MGNREGA is making a difference to the lives of the rural poor by providing them the employment. MGNREGA is one of the few experiments in the world to provide alternative source of livelihood and it's very significant for various reasons like reducing migration, growth in education and healthcare spending.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ACT

The salient features of the Act are as follows:

- All adult members of a rural household who would come forward to do unskilled and manual work have the right to demand employment.
- The members of such household/unskilled manual workers needs to apply for registration at Gram Panchayat



- After verification, the Gram Panchayat will issue a Job Card with a photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under the programme.
- The Job Card must remain in the custody of the household.
- Job Card holder can apply for work to the Gram Panchayat which will issue him/her a dated receipt of the work application
- Employment will be provided by the Gram Panchayat (local self-governing body) within 15 days of work application, failing which unemployment allowance will be paid.
- Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight.
- Wages will be paid at the wage rate to the wage earners through their Bank/Post office accounts.
- An annual shelf of works to be prepared in advance for each year.
- A ratio of 60:40 for wage and material costs should be maintained at GP level.
- No contractors and no labour-displacing machinery shall be used in execution of works.
- Panchayat Raj Institutions will have a principal role in planning, monitoring and implementation
- At least one-third of the workers should be women.
- Inbuilt incentive-disincentive structure to the State Government for guaranteeing employment.

WOMEN IN INDIA

India is perhaps the first country to recognize the social fact underlined by Lenin on the International Working Women's Day in 1921, and have taken concrete measures to draw women into leadership positions and thereby into politics by giving them one-third reservation in what may now be called the Third Tier of governance-the Panchayat Raj. The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992, Article 243D (3) reads: Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to the different constituencies in a Panchayat. (Anveshi, Hyderabad, 1993). The constitutional amendment providing one-third representation to women in elected bodies as well as reserving one-third of the offices of chairpersons for them will have far-reaching consequences in Indian political and social life. This is indeed a welcome gesture, though delayed, for we cannot make democracy meaningful in a traditional society like ours- without the full involvement of women. But a constitutional provision is only a necessary step which should be followed by effective measures for women's uplift in the country. To make women's participation in society and politics a reality, enormities work remains to be done, given their present socio-economic condition. (Ebert, Fredrich, .1993). As it is well known, if we take the age-specific death rate for children between 0 to 4 years, the male infant mortality rate is 33.6 percent, while the female infant mortality rate touches 36.8 percent, as per the 1987 data. The sex ratio (1991) is one of the lowest with 929 females for every one thousand males. The female literacy rate (1991) is only 39.42 percent when compared to 63.86 percent for males. The work-force participation rate (1991) for males is 51.56 percent and for females, less than half, that is, 22.73 percent. Although all of the above mentioned indicators bear a certain degree of

relationship, two key socio-economic indicators, in particular, the literacy rate and the work-force participation rate amply testify to the male bias in our society. (Ebert, Fredrich, .1993)

WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

Women in Karnataka are better positioned in terms of literacy and human development index compared to other Indian states. The vast reservoir of untapped female potential can contribute towards the prosperity of the state, provided adequate credit and support system is ensured. The innovative credit delivery system emerged in the country during 90's, through group formation following the axiom of self-help and mutual help is found to be a powerful tool to mitigate the problems arising out of the deplorable situation of poor women. In the year of 2000's various women empowerment programmes were launched by the Government of India.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The assessment extensively focuses on examining whether MGNREGA has made successful inroads into the impact of rural women's in India. National Federation of Indian Women (NIFW) being an organisation working on women's issues believes that such a perspective of examining MGNREGA would be of extreme importance for equity-based empowerment. Thus, this assessment study believes that such a perspective would enable MGNREGA in the rural districts to become more effective and responsive and even could re-orient wherever needed especially in the case of women's empowerment in the long run.

The study tries to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic empowerment of women in Karnataka. It further analyses various risk associated with the women during the working time of MGNREGA. The study finds that the MGNREGA increases income and expenditure of the households compared over the pre MGNREGA period and the scheme significantly enhances the social and economic decision-making power to women in the men dominated rural society. Hence the scheme ensures improved standard of living of the vulnerable poor, more specifically among women. It also finds that poor worksite facility, hot climate condition and reduction of leisure time have put them much into hardship during the working hours of MGNREGA.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

As regards the scope of India's rural development, one may note that India's resources are very rich. It has man power, which is 1/5th of the world's human population. An important goal of development in planning in India is to provide for increasing employment opportunities to all, irrespective of gender who are willing to do unskilled work which not only to meet the backlog of the unemployment. But, also the new additions to the labour force. The increasing diversification of the economy together with acceleration in economic growth has resulted in structural changes in the nature of the job market. The primary aim of the Ninth Plan was to generate greater productive employment in growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors, and technologies which are more labour intensive in the regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. The tenth and eleventh Five Year Plans have noticed that employment growth should exceed growth of labour force to reduce the backlog of unemployment. Rural development programmes are being implemented since the inception of five-year plan (1951) in India. Evaluation of the

performance of beneficiaries and such performance is an important component to improve them to achieve better results. In this direction, a few evaluative studies have been conducted which focus mainly on the impact of each programme separately on income and employment generation. In this study, the attitude of women beneficiaries towards MGNREGA and to study the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on women beneficiaries are highlighted as main objectives. The study would also throw light on the relationship between the attitudes of MGNREGA women beneficiaries with the independent variables considered. In addition, the study also helps to know the profile of MGNREGA women beneficiaries and also helps to documents the constraints and suggestions of women beneficiaries on effective implementation of MGNREGA programme.

The findings will be of immense practical utility to administrators, policy makers and academician's/extension personnel in the field of rural employment generating programmes to understand the lacunae and implement the programmes more effectively keeping in view of women beneficiaries enrolled. Thus, the present study tries to make a contribution to the understanding of MGNREGA in this perspective and seeks to provide necessary guidelines for the success of the programme in Bangalore rural district, Karnataka state and elsewhere in the other parts of the state and the country where the programme is being implemented.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study concentrates the problem of women's as socio and house hold issues which are profound. What knowledge is currently available in rural area about MGNREGA? What is the impact of MGNREGA on women empowerment? How does MGNREGA lead to women economic and social change? How would MGNREGA effect on Women Rural area? What is the relationship between Grama panchayat and MGNREGA? Whether women's life style has changed? Whether women are participating in SHG's after joining the scheme? Whether women have got any power after joining the scheme? **What is the position of women after joining in their household from the scheme?** The following objectives would give a brief understanding of the study.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the empowerment of women through MGNREGA with respect to role play in family decision making.

HYPOTHESES

- ✓ There is a significant change in women participation in family decision making.

METHODOLOGY

In order to realize the set of objectives on MGNREGA in Karnataka. The data required for the present study was collected through pre – tested sources; the primary data were collected through schedule methods. And the secondary data was collected through published and unpublished records from the PRIs, reports from government of Karnataka and from the department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), MGNREGA report etc.,.

A sample of 340 women were selected for the present study through random sampling technique and the data were collected by interviewing 340 respondents from the selected villages using a detailed interview schedule across the selected districts from Bangalore Rural district and Tumkur district of Karnataka. From both the districts, two taluks were selected and from each taluk, four villages were selected. The data gathered through primary investigation were analyzed by using appropriate statistical methods like mean, correlation, regression, chi-square test, ANOVA etc. to validate the hypothesis.

SAMPLING DESIGN

A random sampling design was used to collect the data using a questionnaire method. The researcher also discussed the issues with the rural people to make inferences on the programme and views of the people. For the present study MGNREGA in Karnataka is chosen where the developed and less developed area. The primary survey was conducted in 340 beneficiaries to analyze the rate of women empowerment and with the help of interview schedule that contain all relevant queries.

KARNATAKA STATE															
BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT								TUMKUR DISTRICT							
Devanahalli				Nelamangala				Gubbi				Tiptur			
1 (492)	2 (747)	3 (389)	4 (148)	5 (270)	6 (1194)	7 (253)	8 (234)	9 (319)	10 (419)	11 (523)	12 (1240)	13 (292)	14 (270)	15 (214)	16 (427)
Were selected 4% from each grama panchayat. Then the total value of sample are 340															

Note: 1. Harohalli, 2. Yeliyur, 3. Kannamangala, 4. Budigere., 5. ARishinakunte, 6. Soladevanahalli, 7. Yantaganahalli, 8. T Beguru, 9. Chelur, 10. Nittur, 11. M N Kote, 12. C.S Pura, 14. Huchagondanahalli, 15. Biligere, 16. Echanuru.

PRIMARY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY PERIOD

The primary survey was conducted through a prepared questionnaire among the selected respondents during March and November, 2015.

DATA SOURCES

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from 340 beneficiaries by using interview schedule method. For collecting primary data, the questionnaire was prepared in such a way that the

respondents were able to understand clearly and give their opinions freely and frankly. The interview schedule method had been pre tested and validated so as to accuracy and liability.

Secondary data such as profile of Karnataka, population data, mapping of MGNREGA covering area, number of beneficiaries, number of Job card issued, number registered toward jobs, number employment created, number of people completed 100 days have been collected from Grama

panchayat, Zila panchayat, and Indian Institute Social and Economic center, Bangalore and various libraries, various websites and Social and Economic Journals and articles.

Details of Respondents Role in Family Decision Making After Joining the MGNREGA

Districts	Respondents Family Decision Making Is Increased			Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Maturate	
Less developed	58 (38.9) {36.7}	66 (44.3) {48.2}	25 (16.8) {55.6}	149 (100.0) {43.8}
Developed	100 (52.4) {63.3}	71 (37.2) {51.8}	20 (10.5) {44.4}	191 (100.0) {56.2}
Total	158 (46.5) {100.0}	137 (40.3) {100.0}	45 (13.2) {100.0}	340 (100.0) {100.0}

Source: Primary Survey 2016

() the parenthesis indicates row wise percentages

{ } the parenthesis indicates column wise percentages

Table shows that respondents role in family decision making after joining MGNREGA. In less developed district, 38.9% of the respondents strongly agree that after joining the scheme, their role in family decision making level has increased, 44.3% of the respondents agree that after joining the scheme, their role in family decision making level has increased, 16.8% of the respondents mature that after joining the scheme, role in family decision making level has changed. In developed district, 52.4% of the respondents strongly agree that after joining the scheme, their role in family decision making level has increased, 37.2% of the respondents agree that after joining the scheme, their role in family decision making level has increased, 10.5% of the respondents mature that after joining the MGNREGA, their role in family decision making level has matured. Finally, the respondents opined that after joining the MGNREGA, their role in family decision making has increased in a very good manner.

It can be observed from the result that after joining MGNREGA, respondent's role in family decision making level has increased. Compare to less developed district, developed district respondents strongly agree that their role in family decision making level has increased after joining of MGNREGA scheme. In the same manner, in less developed district, majority of respondents agree that their role in family decision making level has increased after joining the MGNREGA. So from this opinion, we can say that after joining the MGNREGA, respondent's role in family decision making has increased and respondents are empowered.

FINDINGS

In a male dominated society, women have been always underestimated and discriminated in all spheres of life, may be in their family and social life or their economic and political life. Moreover, the traditional duties of managing households create hindrance in their social and economic life. As a rural wage employment programme, MGNREGA recognized the relevance of incorporating gender equity and empowerment in its design. Various provisions under the Act and its guidelines, aim to ensure that women have equitable and easy access to work decent working conditions, equal payment of wages and representation on decision making bodies.

From the result we can say that after joining MGNREGA, respondent's role in family decision making level has increased. Compare to less developed district, developed district respondents strongly agree that their role in family decision making level has increased after joining of

MGNREGA scheme. In the same manner, in less developed district, majority of respondents agree that their role in family decision making level has increased after joining the MGNREGA. So from this opinion, we can say that after joining the MGNREGA, respondent's role in family decision making has increased and respondents are empowered.

OBSERVED CONCLUSION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), a scheme of Central government is unique in the sense that it provides adequate guarantee for the job. In this programme women are benefited most as a worker, than as a community. They are found to take this opportunity as freedom from their routine and tiresome family activities. Thus empowerment of women has emerged as an unintended consequence of MGNREGA. SHGs become a part of its successful implementation, which helped to increase the number of workers under this programme. Payment of wages through bank helps the workers to increase their deposits in the bank which helps the bank in financial inclusion process. Equal wages for men and women helps to reduce the gender inequality to some extent. And payment of unemployment allowances in the event that the local administration fails to provide work, is also an attracting feature of this programme. The old people, widows are the benefited group of this job. They get more respect and strong position in their family and society from the this scheme. The women become an earning member of the family.

REFERENCES

1. Abdul Kareem and Jayaramaiah (1999): "Determinants of Employment Generation from Integrated Rural Development Programme Schemes", *J of Extn. Edn*, 10(4): 2552-2557.
2. Ambasta, Vijayashankar, and Shah (2008): "Two Years of NREGA: The Road Ahead", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 18(8): pp. 41-50.
3. Amritha Chatterjee (2011): "Employment Guarantee and women's empowerment in rural India: Assessing institutional and governance need". *IAFFE*.
4. Anitha (2004): "A Study on Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Market Participation of Farm Women in Bangalore Rural District of Karnataka, M.Sc (Agri.) Thesis (Unpub), University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore.
5. Ankita, Ashish (2012): "The impact of MGNREGA on Purio Gram Panchyath, Jharkhand.
6. Anonymous (2010): "A study on performance of NREGA in Kerala", *Department of Extension Education, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamilnadu*, pp. 1-175.
7. Anonymous (2011): "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act,
8. Report to the People", *Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India*, pp. 1-54.