



AN ANALYSIS ON ROLE OF THE MGNREGA IN INCLUSIVE GROWTH



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ABSTRACT

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act) has become as an act in the 2005. Before the implementation of MGNREGA by government of India in 2006, there was plenty of programs to improve the rural poor's living standard and to alleviate the poverty in the rural areas. Whatever programs existed in the past, but MGNREGA has a special characteristics it included the all sections of the peoples in the inclusive growth with aim of giving the 100 days of employment every individual household every financial year. This program not only give the employment to the peoples who has job card and also improving the agricultural productivity and ground water level etc. Present study mainly focus on the important achievements of MGNREGA through the inclusive growth since inception of the act.

KEYWORDS: *Employment, Inclusive Growth, MGNREGA, Livelihood Security, Wage Employment.*

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 70 percent of rural population of the country depended on the agriculture & allied activities. Employment in the agriculture is available in one or two seasons. Remaining seasons some of people used to migrate to the cities and other countries' for their employment. Most of the people in the rural areas are in the below poverty line and in unemployment, this is the situation before the enactment of MGNREGA in India in 2005. The Act came into force on February 2, 2006 with aim of increasing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country 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, Generate productive assets through wage employment, Proactively ensure social inclusion and build up Panchayat Raj Institutions.. MGNREGA has become as important instrument for inclusive growth in rural India. It has become largest employment provide program in the world. MGNREGA on of the important programme for

the marginalized groups in all over India giving the social and economic benefit through providing the employment opportunities. Present study mainly focus on the important achievements of MGNREGA through the inclusive growth since inception of the act.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Some of the studies previously described on the performance of the MGNREGA in various measures. MGNREGA is giving the employment opportunity to the rural poor. Apart from, this program having the snubbing blocks, corruption, irregularities, and lack of safety measures in the implementation (L. J. Chaarlas & J.M. Velmurugan 2012). Implementation of MGNREGA has given the employment security to the village laborers and also increased the wage rate of the labor (Abhishek Thakur 2011). Rural labor getting the minimum wage and increased the bargaining power of the labor Consequences of the NREGA. (Basu 2005). MGNREGA having the



goodness in the following matters protection of Soil erosion, water harvesting, environmental, traditional crops (Mathew K Sebastian, P A Azeez.2014).There is huge potential for using the NREGA program as an approach to reducing the vulnerability of production systems and livelihoods in the short and long term, especially against the background of increasing climate variability and climate change (Rakesh Tiwari etc. 2011) The MGNREGA in tribal areas constitutes an essential safety net against starvation and destitution, particularly during the lean agricultural season. It is crucial that peculiar ecological, social, cultural and economic conditions of tribal areas are taken into account. The state administration did make a sincere attempt to do so; but a greater effort is needed in order to fill the gap between government orders and ground reality (Diego Maiorano, Chakradhar Buddha 2014). Nationally representative data suggest that the MGNREGA has performed reasonably well. The programme is explicit in its commitment to be inclusive of women and to enable their access to the programme. It is beyond hesitation that the MGNREGA has proven to be an imperative arena of women's participation in wage employment (Sudha Narayanan, Upasak Das 2014). NREGA employment can enhance women's economic independence by providing them access to cash earnings. Relatedly, NREGA earnings can bring about a sense of equality fostered by earning, for the first time, the same wage as men (Reetika Khera etc 2009). Furthermore, there are other aspects of the MGNREGA that make work eye-catching for women, at least in principle, for example, the condition that work is within five kilometers of an applicant's residence. The functional procedures too incorporate measures sensitive to gender- related issues (Holmes et al 2011).

METHODOLOGY

This study mainly focused on the achievements of MGNREGA since the inception of the programme. Analysis of the study based on the secondary data, data observed from the ministry of rural development, government of India.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF MGNREGA

1. Augmented Wage Earning and Livelihoods Security of the labor:-

MGNREGA is one of the important government implemented program in India, it is providing the employment to average 6 crore individuals and 4.6 crores households every year in the country. Performance of the program since inception Person days Generated 1827.52 crore, Total expenditure (Rs. In Cr.): 281106.61. Wage

rate also increased from the Rs. 65 to 124 rupees per every individual who participate in the work. Before the inception of the MGNREGA wage paid to the labor was very low. Especially in agriculture big farmers and land lords used the man labor in their field, but they used to pay the low wage. But from the labor side no one used to ask, they used to take whatever amount paid by their superior. MGNREGA has given the minimum wage to the rural labor for their work, it has increased the bargaining power and income and saving level of the rural land less laborers.

2. Financial inclusion and Disbursement through Banks and Post Offices:-

Through the MGNREGA the rural poor achieved the financial inclusion in the form of opening of the bank accounts, and postal account. It makes the poor awareness on the money transaction, loans and saving their income in the banks rather than the keep with them.

To make sure transparency in wage payments and prevent misuses, the Government of India commanded that all MGNREGA wage payments should be made through banks/ post office accounts opened in the name of the worker. As a result, nearly 9.8 crore bank and post office accounts of rural people have been opened under MGNREGA and almost 80 per cent of MGNREGA payments are made through this route in all over India.

3. Inclusive Growth:-

Mahatma Gandhi rural employment guarantee act (MGNREGA) has succeeded to increase the participation of marginalized groups in the programme, which are scheduled caste (SCs), scheduled tribes (STs), and other back word class (OBCs). This programme has become backbone to the marginalized groups generate the employment opportunity. Especially for SCs, STs vulnerable groups, working class and wage labor in the rural areas. This group's employment opportunity was depended on the agriculture performance in the previous. Agriculture in India give the employment opportunity approximately six months for this groups, remaining period in that year this groups used to migrate the neighboring cities and other countries for their employment opportunity. Whenever the MGNREGA incepted in the rural areas, it reduced the migration of the marginalized groups.

Works on private lands under the Act, has also significantly helped the marginalized section which are SCs, STs and

disabled. Since 2006-07, inception of the mahatma Gandhi national rural employment grantee act most of the private works has taken in the lands of the marginalized groups which is clearing the bushes, removing the rocks and improve the soil quality.

If observe the table .1 it shows the number of persons days worked by the different social groups, since inception of the MGNREGA, total number of the working days increasing the every year. In which around 45 to 55 per cent of person days belongs to the SCs and STs. Here it is telling to us how much important of the MGNREGA to the marginalized groups.

Table.1 Performance of MGNREGA from 2006-07 to 2013-14.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	20 11-12	2012-13	2013- 14
Total Job Card issued[in Crore]	3.78	6.48	10.01	11.25	11.98	12.50	12.79	12.81
Employment provided to households [inCrore]	2.10	3.39	4.51	5.26	5.49	5.06	4.98	4.79
	Person days [in Crore]							
Total	90.5	143.59	216.32	283.59	257.15	218.76	229.86	220.35
SCs	22.95 (25%)	39.36 (27)	63.36 (29)	36.45 (30)	78.76 (31)	48.47 (22)	50.96 (22)	50.27 (22.81)
STs	32.98 (36)	42.07 (29)	55.02 (25)	58.74 (21)	53.62 (21)	40.92 (19)	40.75 (18)	38.61 (17.52)
women	36.40 (40)	61.15 (43)	103.57 (48)	136.40 (48)	122.74 (48)	105.27 (48)	117.93 (51)	116.39 (52.82)
Others	34.56 (38)	62.16 (43)	97.95 (45)	138.40 (49)	124.78 (48)	129.38 (59)	138.14 (60)	131.46 (59.66)

SOURCE: Ministry of rural development report and data on MGNREGA, government of India.

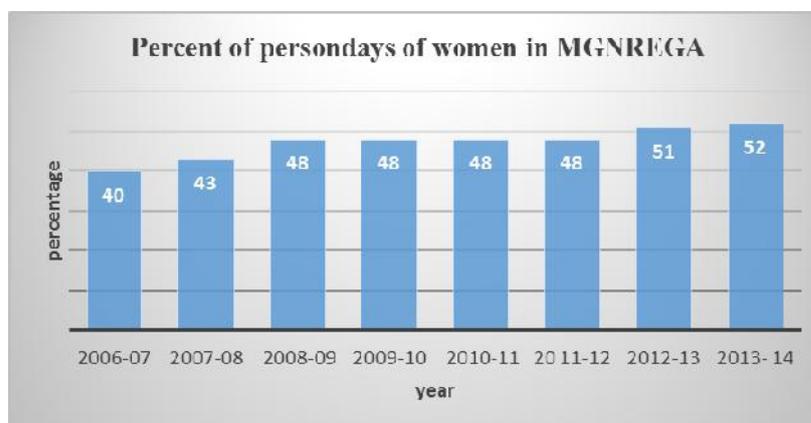
4. Women's empowerment:-

Various requirements under the Act and its Procedures aim to make sure that women have rightful and easy access to work, decent working environments, equal payment of wages and representation on decision-making bodies. For the increase participation of women who has children, arranged the one or two persons to take care the children at work place.

Through the MGNREGA women's decision making power has increased. Women's has become the prime earner of income in every family. Wage discrimination between men and women is the common

thing in Indian labor market. This wage discrimination has removed in the MGNREGA works, and equal wage payments has been taking place to the men and women. Women's earning has become important to their families, to improve their economic condition, to save the money. A large percentage of these women expend their money to avoid hunger, repay small debts, paying their child's schooling, etc. Since inception of MGNREGA if observe figure.1 all over the India per cent of persons days of the women increasing every year. This increased from 40 per cent of person days in 2006-07 to 52.82 percent of person days in 2013-14.

Figure: 1 Per cent of person days of women in MGNREGA



5. Effect of MGNREGA on agricultural productivity:-

Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act has made significant contribution to the rural agriculture in the form of increase the productivity and improve the soil fertility, increase the ground water. Facility of water is vital for agriculture and ensuring food and water security in rural India. Most of the marginalized groups in the rural areas are small and marginal land holders, their lands were uncultivable. Through the MGNREGA their lands had become the clean and fertile land. This groups now became the producers of the agriculture products, no more be depend on the wage earning. Another end is already who has small and marginal farmers among the all social groups their productivity of crop also increased through the ground water improve technics and soil conservation works in their fields. Most of the farmers does not have any roads to go their cultivated lands by the tractors and bullock carts. Lack of the ways to the cultivated areas farmers obtained the some loses. Under the MGNREGA new roads has been developed, then after reaping products farmers are now timely bringing their products to the markets.

6. Renewal of Natural Resource and Sustainable Development:-

The works under MGNREGA give priority to undertakings related to water harvesting, groundwater recharge, drought-proofing, and flood protection. If improve the renewal resources that helps to the increase the productivity of lands and also leads to increase the employment of labors with sustainable living. MGNREGA works focused on regenerating the rural ecosystem and creating rural infrastructure that supports sustainable livelihoods.

CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is a wonderful programme forever in India, it achieving the inclusive growth through the giving the employment opportunity to the rural poor, and also different social groups, women's in the work programme. It achieved the equality in the division of work and wage payments among the social groups and genders

group. In the drought and lack of employment situations, MGNREGA is the main source of income to the rural poor, educated unemployed persons. It is not only giving the employment opportunity to the men, and also improving the land, water and agriculture related matters such as soil fertility, productivity, construction of small dams, ground water level and sustainable development. It has reduced the poverty in rural areas some level.

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