



IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA SCHEME UNDER DALU BLOCK, WEST GARO HILLS, MEGHALAYA

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ABSTRACT

MGNREGA was set up on Feb. 2, 2006 from district Anantapur in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India and originally protected 200 real "poorest" zones of the nation. The Act was applied in phased way- 130 zones were included in the year of 2007-2008. With its propagate over 625 zones across the nation, the leading program of the UPA Government has the prospective to increase the buying power of non-urban inadequate, decrease problems migration and to make useful resources in non-urban area. In addition, it can promote public and sex equal rights around 23% employees under the program and Planed Castes, total 17% Planned Communities and around 50% women. In the year of 2010-11, about 40 thousand houses were applied on NREGA worksites. This study reveals that despite numerous problems, MGNREGA is a program that has begun to make a difference in the lives of women. Women have started asserting their voices in the family matters and nature of spending money. Though, awareness still continues to be a stiff challenge, women in study area have become pro-active learners and participants in the schemes.

Keywords: Implementation, MGNREG, Scheme.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a "Silver Bullet" for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labor force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India has grown in an unprecedented manner during last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, malnourished children, pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation death, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solutions of these problems and to provide livelihood security to unemployment, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Act in 2015. It is the biggest poverty alleviation program in the world which is started with an initial outlay of Rs 11,300 crore in year 2006-07 and now it is 40,000 crore (2010-2011). This Act is now called as Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any members of any rural household will do public work related unskilled work at the statutory minimum wage. Thus it is a universal program. This it is a universal program. This minimum wage varies from state to state in some states it is Rs 80 where as in other it is 125 or 120. According to the Act the minimum wage cannot be less than Rs 60. The 100 days of work figure is estimated because usually the agricultural season is only supposed to last roughly around 250 days and unskilled workers have no alternative source of income in the remaining parts of the year.

NREGA has come after almost 56 years of experience of other rural employment program, which includes both

centrally sponsored schemes and those launched by the state government. These comprise the National Rural Employment Program (NREP) 1980-1989; Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program (RLEGP) 1983-1989; Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) 1989-1990; Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) 1993-99; Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) 1999-2002; Samoorna Grameen Rozgar Yozana (SGRY) from 2001; National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) From 2004 were national rural employment schemes.

MGNREGA aims to achieve the objectives as enunciated in the article -41 of the Indian Constitution - "giving citizens the right to work". The act is significant due to the following reasons:

- While the earlier wage employment programs did not provide any guarantee of job, this act provide guarantee job. This guarantee for wage employment is now uniformed all over the country like never before.
- It is a development initiative chipping in with essential public investment for creation of durable assets, without which the growth process cannot possible in the most backward regions of rural India.
- The key element of MGNREGA is the provision of employment by the state to those people who are unable to find alternative employment which provides a form of social safety net to the rural employment people.
- In other wage employment programs anyone can be engaged as labour while is MNREGA only job can be engaged as labourers.

There is no time frame in other wage employment programs but in MGNREGA employment will be given within 15 days of demand payment also within 15 days of whole.

1.1 Significance of the Study

The present study attempts to understand the implementation procedures of MGNREGS and its impact on people under Dalu Block in West Garo Hills. The research focuses on the MGNREGA SCHEME to generate sufficient employment opportunities, the procedures for registration, issuance of job cards, and application for employment. This would enable us to understand and examine the institutional mechanisms under which the entire program is being implemented. The problems and prospects of MGNREGA can then be better understood and accordingly, necessary measures can be devised to make the program realize its set objectives. The outcome of the study will help in understanding the problem of implementation of the project. It will help in formulating the better policy and strategy for the future.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

- To know the socio-economic status under Dalu Block.
- To study the implementation of MGNREGA.
- To study the role of MGNREGA in West Garo Hills
- To know the impact of implementation of MGNREGA

1.3 Research Questions

- To know about the social economic status of the village
- To know about the implementation of MGNREGA scheme/program.
- To find out the effectiveness of MGNREGA under Dalu Block.

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The main purpose of the literature review pertaining to the evaluation of performances of MGNREGP in Rural Development is to give a proper orientation and prospective to the present work. A survey of literature plays a significant role in establishing the backdrop for any research work in social sciences. It is felt that justification of present study can be made by reviewing the available-literature on the subject. Therefore, an attempt has made to review the literature on the subject so as to establish to relevance of the present study.

Dreze (2007), stated that corruption in rural employment programs in Orissa even continues in NREGS as well. He further added that there is tremendous potential of NREGA in the survey areas. He was of the opinion that NREGA offers opportunity for the rural poor's, and that it is appreciated by casual labourers and other disadvantaged sections of the population also. There is the hope among

workers that NREGA would enable them to avoid long-distance seasonal migration and its hardships.

Khan, Ullah and Salluja (2007), have discussed the direct and the indirect effects of NREGP on employment generation and poverty reduction in a local area. For this, a detailed survey was done in a poor agricultural village with 400 households, nearly 2500 people. The survey recorded income and expenditure levels by type of household including large, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour etc. The survey also recorded production activities undertaken by the inhabitants.

Centre for science and environment (CSE) in his report, (2008), on NREGA stated that there have been a lot of success stories of economic & environmental regeneration where employment has been generated throughout the year by the efforts of community or NGO. As these success stories were not part of the earlier Government employment guarantee schemes, the report suggested that the immediate focus should be given to study that how these success stories should be made part of the employment guarantee schemes besides to identify its lacunae & the drawbacks & as well as their redressal.

Ghosh (2008), stated that MGNREGA will prove to be an extremely cost-effective way of increasing employment directly and indirectly, reviving the rural economy, providing basic consumption stability to poor households and improving the bargaining power of rural workers.

Johnson (2009), reported that MGNREGA not only made money available to rural poor households but also facilitate them when they are in need of it. He suggested that if households are able to use MGNREGA as an ex-post substitute for formal weather insurance, then they may be able to shift away from investments in low-risk, low-return assets to higher-risk and higher-return assets.

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Chennai (2009), "Evaluation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: In Districts: Cuddalore, Dindugal, Kanchipuram, Nagai, Thiruvallar, State: Tamilnadu":- This study generally reveals the impact of MNREGA in the state of Tamil nadu by taking 5 districts into account. In each districts 4 GPs were chosen.

This study shows many positive aspects of the programme. These are mainly:

- Villagers consider NREGA is promising to be a boon for improving rural livelihood.
- Provision of job within the village is very much encouraging to villagers.
- NREGA also ensured gender equality in rural Tamilnadu.
- The programme employed a very good proportion of scheduled caste and backward caste people.
- Involvement of SHG members improves people's NREGS awareness and this is very important for future NREGS planning.

- f) Financial inclusion strategies like bank account opening and rural ATM for NREGS beneficiaries at four villagers of cuddalore block has resulted in multiplier effects of savings, financial safety etc.
- g) Registrations are open throughout the year.
- h) Most of the respondents perceived that payment were received within a week.

Sainath (2009), in his article on expansion of MGNREGA stated that it is a positive step taken by the Rural Development Ministry which allows, though small but vital assets like farm ponds on every farm. He advocated that a massive expansion of MGNREGA will no doubt provide cushion to the lakhs of labourers struggling to find work and devastated by rising food costs.

Dey and Bedi (2010), studied the functioning of the NREGS between February 2006 and July 2009 in Birubham district, West Bengal. Their study reveals that in order to serve as an effective “employer of last resort”, the programme should provide more job days during lean season and wages should be paid in a timely manner. This study shows that, in Birubham, there is universal awareness about the NREGS, job card have been made available to all those who have applied and NREGS related information is well maintained and relatively accessible. But there are long delays in wage payments during 11 the first year of the programme, since then, the payment lag has declined and it is now in the range of 20 days.

Babu and Rao (2010), in their Studies undertaken by NIRD in Tripura, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal highlighted some issues of MGNREGA in relation to Scheduled tribes (STs) & Scheduled castes (SCs). Their studies also elaborated problems related to MGNREGA implementation included awareness levels regarding the scheme among beneficiaries. In addition, impact of the programme with regardance to agriculture wages & migration has also been found.

Bedi, and Subhasish(2010), studied the operation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme between February 2006 and July 2009 in Birbhum district, West Bengal. They stated that in order to serve as an effective, employer of last resort, “the scheme should provide proportionately more employment during the lean agricultural season & also the wages under this programme should be paid on timely basis”.

Pankaj and Tankha (2010), examined the empowerment effects of the MGNREGA scheme on rural women in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. They stated that women workers have definitely gained from the scheme.

Bagchi (2011), in an edited volume of book titled “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) As Right to Employment” assessed its impact and effectiveness. The primary objective of the act, he stated, is to augment wage employment. Experiences of

implementation of the programme demonstrated that the results have been mixed. He identified the causes of limited success of the programme in different parts of India and gave few suggestions for better implementation of the programme.

Imbert and Papp (2011), presented evidences on the impacts of NREGA related to labour market equilibrium. They used the steady roll-out of the programme & make estimation of the changes in those districts which received MGNREGA programme earlier than those who received the programme later. Their estimation revealed that following the introduction of the programme, public employment per prime-aged person has increased by three days per month (1.3 per cent of private sector employment) in early districts than in the rest of India. Their results suggested that public sector hiring crowds in private sector work increases private sector wages.

Indumati and Srikantha (2011), studied the performance of MGNREGA in Karnataka & Rajasthan (drought prone states) & Andhra Pradesh (irrigation dominant areas). They suggested that subsidies for farm mechanisation should be provided so as to sustain food and livelihood security in the drought-prone as well as irrigation-dominant states of India.

Mangatter (2011), raised some issues on whether MGNREGA has strengthened the rural self-employment in Bolpur sub division of West Bengal or it has not with the basic assumptions that (i) additional income earned stimulates rural demand & facilitate in investments & (ii) assets created under MGNREGA can be helpful for the remunerative activities. The survey showed that merely 17 per cent of the sample households could use MGNREGA assets or other incomes to run expand or start a rural business.

Vaidya and Singh (2011), studied performance of MGNREGA in five districts of Himachal Pradesh. They suggested that out-migration was mainly the result of higher wages prevailing in the nearby towns and also added that MGNREGA did enhanced food security, provided protection against extreme poverty, helped to reduce distress migration and indebtedness and gave greater economic independence and purchasing power to women. They also stated that good quality assets were created under MGNREGA.

According to Verma (2011), the biggest strength of MGNREGS is that it is self-targeting. He stated that in spite of systemic corruption programme benefits can reach the beneficiaries because of fact that the richer population do not opt for unskilled manual labour at minimum wages.

Engler and Ravi (2012), surveyed 1064 rural households from 200 villages of Medak district of Andhra Pradesh. They reported that many households who applied for work under MGNREGA were denied work during early part of implementation of MGNREGA.

According to Hirway and Batabyal (2012), MGNREGA has found certainly triggered those processes which enhance

the women empowerment through guaranteed wage employment with equal wages, mobilization of collective strengths & participation in gram sabhas & social audits. MGNREGA was also observed by them to add up women's time burden and drudgery. Stating that much is yet to be done in empowering women to be the active participants as well as real beneficiaries of MGNREGA they highlighted the impact of MGNREGA on women in the villages of Movasa, Gujarat.

Jain & Singh (2013), studied the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on the touchstone of social security & found that no doubt the program has vast scope & impact on the livelihood security of the rural poor's but Government should strictly discourage educated people to do unskilled labor under MGNREGA. They further added that because of the provision of minimum wages under the program local people do not get attracted to do unskilled manual work & rather has led to their migration.

Shenbagaraj & Arockiasamy (2013), studied the impact of MGNREGA on local development of block Ottapidaran in district Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu and observed that (i) respondent household could get only 26 days of employment and (ii) the average income per respondent could not exceed Rs. 2000 per year.

Keshlata (2014), stated that though it cannot be denied that MGNREGA programme has benefited tribal households by providing employment but they need special focus & attention regarding their presence in the Gram Sabhas..

From the review it is observed that many of the studies have focused on the impact of MGNREGA on household's income and expenditure. While majority of the studies have concluded that MGNREGA has a positive impact on the rural households and improve the food security, some of the problems were also highlighted. According to some of the studies the programme has not reduced migration and sustainable assets were not created.

3.0 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present section deals with the methodology, research design, population, sample, tool, data collection and statistically techniques of the study.

3.1 Research Design

The researcher used survey method for research.

3.2 Population

Table -3.1: Population

| Sl. no. | Name of the village | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Dalugaon | 198 | 196 | 349 |
| 2 | Salbaripara | 454 | 497 | 951 |
| 3 | Bengpara | 123 | 125 | 248 |
| 4 | Lukhikura | 83 | 108 | 186 |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-----|-----|------|
| | TOTAL | 858 | 921 | 1779 |
|--|-------|-----|-----|------|

Source: Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner India

The Dalu block of West Garo Hills, Meghalaya is the population/universe of the study which are given in the table above which Dalugaon has 349, Salbaripara has 951, Bengpara has 248 and Lukhikura has 186.

3.3 Sample

The sample size for the present study is 300. The data is collected only from 4 villages which consist of 20 males 20 females from Dalugao, 30 males 25 females from Salbaripara, 13 males 10 females from Bengpara and 10 males and 8 females from Lukhikura.

Table -3.2: Sample

| Villages | Male | Female | Total numbers |
|-------------|------|--------|---------------|
| Dalugaon | 20 | 20 | 40 |
| Salbaripara | 30 | 25 | 55 |
| Bengpara | 13 | 10 | 23 |
| Lukhikura | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| Total | 73 | 63 | 136 |

3.4 Tools

The researcher used questionnaire method for collecting the data. The questionnaire will consist of both open and closed ended questions.

3.5 Data Collection

The researcher has distributed the questionnaire to the villages. After the questionnaire has been filled-in the researcher went to the villages and collected the data.

3.6 Statistical Techniques

The data is analyzed by using simple average, percentagewise, mean, median, mode, t-test.

4.0 FINDINGS

The findings of the study are subjected to the data collected from the field and the investigator's point of view.

- The above study shows that there are four villages under Dalu Blocks with the population of 1779.
- According to the census of 2011.
- It is found that Farming is the major occupation of the village.
- Number of BPL families in these four villages is ranging from 0-100 as said by 54.5% of male and 61.01% of female. Adding to this there are some indications that 45.4% of male and 38.9% of female

said that number of BPL is ranging from 100-200.

- e. It is found that Dalu Block Development Office is the principle authority for planning for implementation of the scheme.
- f. Number of working days MGNREGA in Dalu Block is ranging from 6-7 hours.
- g. Execution of the work in Dalu Block is done by the VEC (Village Executive Committee).
- h. Number of working days under MGNREGA in Dalu Block is ranging from 50-80 days
- i. The payment of MGNREGA after work is done on cash basis.
- j. Under Dalu Block periodic meeting for the assessment of MGNREGA is done by these four villages
- k. Official inspections are done by the Block Development Officer in these four villages.
- l. Under Dalu Block Rs 169 per/day is the minimum wage to MGNREGA employees.
- m. From these four villages most of the people are aware of implementation to MGNREGA.
- n. Self-help groups are not spreading the news about the MGNREGA in the villages.
- o. It is found that to some extent only MGNREGA is able to meet the needs of the family in these four villages.
- p. MGNREGA does not provide any provision to save money in the village bank
- q. Under Dalu Block, MGNREGA doesn't provide job opportunities to the poor women.
- r. MGNREGA is just satisfactory for bringing upliftment of women.
- s. Villagers are not fully agreed on the view that MGNREGA raises the standard of life of the family.
- t. MGNREGA has provided some kind of relief to the family in times of scarcity.
- u. MGNREGA does not provide better job opportunities in the four villages under Dalu Block.
- v. For these four villages MGNREGA is not bringing hope of better living facilities for the poor women.
- w. People are undecided about MGNREGA that raises the dignity of the poor women in the four villages.
- x. Under Dalu Block women are not dependent on MGNREGA for daily life.

5.0 SUGGESTIONS

- a) The success of the programme depends upon its proper implementation. The pitfalls of MGNREGA implementation can be overcome if proper processes and procedures are put in place. Thus, there can be continuous effort towards creating adequate awareness on different provisions of MGNREGA amongst the people. Creating awareness is necessary

not only to motivate the people to work under the scheme but also to encourage them to participate in its planning and implementation.

- b) Irregularity in works arouse among the workers towards the MGNREGA. So there can be regularity in work to achieve the target fully.
- c) MGNREGA offers to guarantee 100 days of wage-employment in a year to the rural households but the 4 villages get an average of 40-50 days of work. So these four villages can get full 100 days of work to develop their village.
- d) There can be periodic meeting in these four villages for MGNREGA on a regular basis.
- e) A proper monitoring mechanism should be developed that can assured correct procedure in job card.
- f) Women can be involved in the selection of work, which can create further mainstream employment in the village.
- g) For comprehensive participation of women the women can be allowed to involve in planning for MGNREGA.
- h) There is delay in making the payment of wages, to avoid this appropriate steps are to be taken by the government to maintain the uniformity in wage payment.

6.0 CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is landmark legislation in the history of social security legislation in India after independence. Enacted after a successful struggle for a comprehensive employment guarantee law, this legislation is a partial victory towards a full-fledged right to employment. Though MGNREGA is a well thought-out legislation, a powerful tool in the hands of the common people to get their basic livelihood, but its poor execution, deprives the rural poor from their basic rights. The study reveals that despite numerous problems, MGNREGA is a program that has begun to make a difference in the lives of women. For example, women have started asserting their voices in the family matters and nature of spending money. Though, awareness still continues to be a stiff challenge, women in study area have become pro-active learners and participants in the schemes. Furthermore, it is popular among the workers, who routinely ask if more work could be made available to them under the MGNREGA, they would like to do. Clearly, there is a massive demand for MGNREGA work, and the administration should respond to it by increasing the scale of employment. Both our executive leader and law maker should take due care that the scheme reaches the people who deserve it. Change should be made at ground levels in the system. Due care should be taken for effective implementation of the scheme.

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