



MGNREGA: An Employment Programme A Case Study of Narmada District

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Abstract:

The Government of India has many employment generating programmes to address unemployment problem in rural area, however it remains major challenge to India's development. MGNREGA is the flagship programme of the government and perhaps is the largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world. This field report main focuses on MGNREGA in the rural development of the Narmada district. The outcome of scheme has widely been appreciated because of its ability to create durable assets for sustainable livelihood of the poor community and its legal binding to provide employment. MGNREG scheme has become a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic governance.

Key Words: MGNREGA, Awareness, Sustainable Development, Social protection

1. Introduction:

The Government of India has given legal right to provide employment to the rural household through MGNREGA. One of the objectives of the scheme is to provide maximum 100 days' job guarantee to those households living in rural areas and who are willing to do unskilled manual work so that their livelihood opportunities may improve. MGNREGA is a source of long lasting development through livelihood social security and democratic process.

National rural employment guarantee Act was enacted by the central Government on 7 September 2005; it was implemented in legal frame work in three separate stages. In the first stage, it was implemented in the most backward 200 district of the country. Then in 2007-08 in the second stage, 130 districts were included and from, April, 2008, in the remaining 2085 districts were included for implementation. Thus,

nowadays, MGNREGA scheme is in to effect in all the districts of the country. MGNREGA is the first ever Act in the world which guarantees wage employment. The primary objective of the Act is to increase wage employment and secondary objective is to reinforce the natural resource management which removes reasons to poverty like drought, deforestation, and land erosion and land fertility and thus increases long lasting development. This process also strengthens democratic order and transparency in management and responsibility.

2. Implementation of MGNREGA in Narmada District:

When MGNREGA was first implemented on 2 February, 2006, in the first stage, it was extended to 200 districts of the country. It included 6 districts of Gujarat namely, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Dahod, Dang and Narmada.

3. Objective of the Study: **The following are the specific objective of the study.**

1. To evaluate the impact of MNREGA on wages, income and social security.
2. To evaluate the impact of MNREGA on standard of living and rural migration.

4. Research Methodology:

Present study is based on exclusively secondary data only, the desk research method has been adopted, the data for study is collected from various sources including annual reports of rural development ministry, government publications, various reports, journals, books, department websites etc.

5. Performance of MGNREGA in Narmada district:

Table no-1

Sir	Details	Years									
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	No.of.H.H issued job card	35788	24376	54192	62639	43211	50084	50801	54048	47671	47644
2	No.of.H.H provided employment	35788	24376	54192	62639	43211	50050	49195	52440	44586	42098
3	Total person days generated (in lakh)	16.30	7.96	8.72	27.20	15.68	20.63	19.27	23.71	13.87	11.16
	SC	0.31	0.26	0.08	0.79	0.75	0.60	0.58	0.62	0.27	0.24
	ST	15.79	7.47	8.18	25.79	14.10	18.95	17.64	21.84	12.80	10.22
	Other	0.20	0.23	0.46	0.62	0.83	1.08	1.05	1.25	0.80	0.70
	Women	7.41	3.16	3.99	11.30	7.00	9.44	6.71	9.11	6.05	5.67
4	Total Exp.	1106.93	805.40	1115.10	3093.08	3150.60	4289.92	4407.85	5342.83	3438.68	2364.75
5	Total Exp. on wage (in lakh)	774.42	433.16	728.95	2054.09	1732.27	2453.08	2474.50	3253.18	2262.68	1871.02
6	Total work Taken up	2748	2559	3049	10342	5476	7745	7435	7404	6544	7197
7	Total work completed	209	905	2340	6235	2168	2082	725	1526	1336	153
		7.61%	35.37%	76.75%	60.23%	39.59%	26.88%	9.75%	20.61%	20.42%	2.13%

Source: various MGNREGA reports

After implementation of MGNREGA, wage employment opportunities and social security's of backward people having low income and those who are deprived of employment have strengthened. MGNREGA was implemented in Narmada district on Feb 2, 2006. While looking for the performance of the scheme during the last 10 years in rural areas of Narmada district, we find that there are remarkable achievements and results which have contributed to the development of the district.

1. Increase in Income and Social Security:

While studying the above table, MGNREGA scheme has provided safety for optional income in Narmada district to large number of people. If we see the overall average for the last 10 years, MGNREGA has provided employment to more than 45000 thousand households. If we examine the statistical details of the last 10 years, on an average, 16.45 lakh person days have been generated.

During the period between 2006-07 and 2015-16 (10 years) Rs. 180.37 lakh have been spent in Narmada district. It is 62% amount of the total expenditure. Because of the implementation of MGNREGA programme, there is an increase in the rate of wages. In 2006-07, under the scheme, daily minimum wages was Rs. 65, which is Rs. 167 per day in recent days. Besides, there is an increase in the rate of wages in agriculture sector Rs 150 is paid everyday to the labourers.

After the implementation of MGNREGA programme, there is an increase in total expenditure of people's savings and improvement in the standard of living. According to the report of International Research Institution, after 25 years of implementation in the period of two years between 2009-10 and 2011-12 as compared to the urban areas, there is a considerable increase in the livelihood expense of rural people. MGNREGA is a contributory factor for this rise.

2. Impact on productivity in agriculture:

Indian economy is based on agriculture It provides employment to more 60% of the people. The basic need is the proper development of agriculture. Because of scarcity of water, there is no sufficient yield. But because of MGNREGA programme and the construction bunds and ponds and check dams, the availability of water for irrigation has increased. As a result, total yield of crops has also gone up. The works undertaken under MGNREG scheme has been extended. With extensive works, social and economic conditions of ST, small and marginal farmers have also improved. The central Government sanctions more and more works in the land areas where such group of people live. Sufficient amount of money is also allotted. As a result there is a remarkable improvement in the socio economic condition of such deprived groups.

3. Development:

On the basis of the Statistical information, MGNREGA has been successful in the form of self targeting programme under MGNREGA programme; maximum employment has been given to 95 % SC and ST people in Narmada district.

MGNREGA has prevented migration of population only in search of work. This programme also provides dignified options to labourers for work. For example, there is a remarkable decrease in the debts of poor people living in rural areas. As a result, they are able to live dignified life.

4. Women Employment:

Another important objective of the programme is to Provide equal opportunity. The programme tries to assert that women should get employment under suitable circumstances and women should represent in the fields where decisions are taken. During 2006-07, in Narmada district, Rs 7656 lakh were paid to women as wage employment. Out of total human generated employment days, 43% women got employment which is higher than 33% minimum requirement legally.

MGNREGA programme has provided more employment to women, which has positive impact on the economic welfare of women. It has also brought down discrepancies in wages. Women have partnered in paying off debts, purchase of household goods and expenses on social occasions.

5. Natural resource management and durable development:

In MGNREGA primary importance is given to water harvesting, water storage, irrigation, and works preventing drought, land development and road building works. This programme focuses on restoration of environment and long lasting development. As a result, productivity in agriculture has also gone up wages have also increased undertaken in the MGNREGA programme, more than 50% of works undertaken under MGNREGA programme are related to land development and water harvesting Special attention is being paid to rural environment and optional system which increases local employment.

Because of the works undertaken through the scheme, underground water level has come up. The quality of land has also improved. A research study taken up in villages where small bunds and check dams are constructed have proved that water level has gone up to the extent of 1000 to 2000 cubic meter every year in water storage ponds. Consequently irrigation and drinking water crises have eased up.

Conclusion:

MGNREGA has proved to be more successful than any other rural employment programmes. So many factors have played their roles for it. Because of the spread of

education in villages, there is awareness among people for the demand for work, selection of works, sufficient wages, employment at local level, people's partnership, transparent administration. These useful aspects have prompted benefit rural workless people to take maximum benefit of MGNREGA. In brief, MGNREGA proved to be the backbone for rural people's development.

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