

A Study on Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Sivasagar District of Assam

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Abstract

In India poverty alleviation programme like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) plays an important role to solve the problems of poverty and unemployment of the country. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been implemented in the country since 2nd February, 2006. The study attempts to evaluate the performance of the scheme in Sivasagar district of Assam considering employment generation from 2013-14 to 2015-16. It is based on secondary data collected from nrega websites.

Key Words: employment provided, persondays generation, poverty, resources.

Introduction:

India is a developing country with poverty and unutilized natural resources. High growth rate of population of the country with inadequate growth of secondary and tertiary sector has created the problems of unemployment and poverty in the country. After independence the Government of India has started 1st five year plan in 1951 and since then it has adopted different steps to develop the country and also to solve the problems of poverty and unemployment. From the 5th five year plan the Government of India has undertaken serious poverty alleviation programmes. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an important step of the Govt. of India to provide jobs to the rural people, to help them to reduce their poverty and to provide sustainable livelihood to the rural people by creating durable assets, to help in the empowerment of socially disadvantaged groups like women, Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes(SCs). The main aim of the act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household willing to do unskilled manual work under MGNREGS. According to the Act, the work is to be provided within 15 days of application for the work and if fails the State has to bear unemployment allowance. The Act wants equal payment for both male and female with making payment of wage within 15 days of work. The Act wants at least 33 percent participation of female

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workers in the activities under the scheme. It wants to provide some facilities like crèche, safe drinking water, shade for children and period of rest at the worksites.

Objective of the study:

The objective of the study is to evaluate the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Sivasagar district of Assam. The performance is evaluated considering the generation of employment by the scheme.

Methodology used:

The study is based on secondary data collected from nrega websites. The period of study is from 2013-14 to 2015-16 i.e. of three years.

Discussion:

Sivasagar is one of the resourceful and oldest districts of Assam, created by colonial British rulers in 1836. It is subdivided for three times i.e. in 1951, in 1983 and in 2016. The present study considers the pre-2016 Sivasagar district only. The district consists of 2668 square kilometers of land. According to 2011 Census, the district has a population of 11,51,050 with 5,89,216 males and 5,61,384 females. MGNREGA has been introduced in the district since 2008-09. Since the inception of its implementation it has generated employment to the rural people of the district, increased their income and thereby helps to reduce their poverty. In 2018-19, up to 3 October 2018, under the scheme the district has issued job cards to 95,447 number of cumulative households, 7,589 households have demanded employment and employment has been provided to 5,542 households, the district has generated 85,307 persondys. (www.nrega.nic.in)

Employment generated by the scheme in the district from 2013-14 to 2015-16 has been shown in the table-1 given below.

Table-1: Employment generation in Sivasagar District from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Year	Cumulative No of Households Issued Job cards	Households Demanded Employment	Persons Demanded Employment	Households Provided Employment	Persons Provided Employment
2013-14	138500	69338	84471	67609	81977
2014-15	142821	55020	68738	50494	61445
2015-16	149006	51092	65526	45841	57428

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

Table-1 shows that in 2013-14 job cards have been issued to 1,38,500 households. In 2014-15 and 2015-16 cumulative number of households issued job cards have been increased to 1,42,821 and 1,49,006. In 2013-

14, 69,338 households demanded employment while employment was provided to 67,609 households. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, 55,020 and 51,092 households demanded employment and employment was provided to 50,494 and 45,841 households. In 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16; 84,471, 68,738 and 65,526 persons demanded employment and employment was provided to 81,977, 61,445 and 57,428 persons respectively.

Table-2 given below reflects the employment generation to disabled persons of the district from 2013-14 to 2015-16.

Table-2: Employment generation to disabled persons of Sivasagar District from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Year	No of Disabled Persons Registered	No of disabled persons worked	Persondays Generation
2013-14	348	107	2162
2014-15	406	130	1399
2015-16	436	157	2835

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

Table-2 reflects that in 2013-14, 348 numbers of disabled persons registered their name under the scheme, 107 persons worked under the scheme and 2162 persondays were generated. In 2014-15 and 2015-16, 406 and 436 persons were registered under the scheme and numbers of persons worked under the scheme increased to 130 and 157 and 1399 and 2835 persondays were generated to disabled persons respectively.

Table-3 given below shows monthly employment provided to the households in the district from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Table-3: Monthly employment provided to the households in the district from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Months	Years		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
April	311	122	5520
May	1188	5636	9479
June	15950	6769	13899
July	18764	4412	11459
August	10873	9230	9804
September	8719	17631	9141
October	14034	19488	9082
November	32790	17886	7838
December	40386	18897	9818
January	19398	5094	11259

February	15473	4443	10272
March	14367	9730	6577

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

It is seen from the table that in 2013-14, employment was provided to highest numbers (40386) of households in December and lowest in (311) in April. In 2014-15 and 2015-16 employment was provided to highest number of households in October and June and lowest in the month of April in both the years. It is observed in the table that in all the three years employment was given to the least number of households in April.

Table-4 presented below reflects households completed 100 days work in the district from 20013-14 to 2015-16.

Table-4: Households completed 100days work in Sivasagar District from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Year	Households provided employment	Households completed 100 days of work	% of households completed 100 days of work(% of Col.3 to Col.2)
1	2	3	4
2013-14	67609	1212	1.79
2014-15	50494	182	.36
2015-16	45841	427	.93

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

It is clear from the table that in all the three years very less percent of households completed 100 days of work indicating that the scheme has not succeeded in providing 100 days of work to every rural household.

Table-5 given below shows employment generated to Schedule Caste (SCs) in the district in studied years.

Table-5: Employment Generation to Schedule Caste in Sivasagar district from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Year	No of households provided employment		% of SC households provided employment(% of Col.3 to Col.2)	Persondays Generated		
	Total	SCs		Total	SCs	% of persondays generated to SCs (% of Col.6 to Col. 5)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2013-14	67609	1974	2.92	1838160	57906	3.15
2014-15	50494	1593	3.15	937967	29827	3.19

2015-16	45841	1415	3.09	1006342	30137	2.99
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Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

It is seen from the table that in 2013-14, employment was provided to 1974 SC households against employment provided to total households 67,609. The table states that in this year employment was provided to 2.92 percent of SC households. In 2014-15, 1593 SC households got employment while employment was provided to 50,494 total households of the district. In 2014-15, 3.15 percent of the SC households got employment. In 2015-16 employment was provided to 1,415 SC households constituting 3.09 percent. The table shows that in 2013-14, 14-15 and 15-16 persondays generated to SCs was 57,906, 29,827 and 30,137. The table indicates that in the studied three years persondays generated to SCs of the district was 3.15 percent, 3.19 percent and 2.99 percent which are very low indicating that the scheme has not succeeded in generating more employment to the SCs of the district.

Table-6 presented below shows employment generated by MGNREGS to the STs in the district in the studied years.

Table-6: Employment generation to STs in Sivasagar district from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Years	Number of Households provided employment		Percentage of ST households provided employment (% of col. 3 to col. 2)	Persondays generated		% of persondays generated to STs (% of col. 6 to col. 5)
	Total	STs		Total	STs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2013-14	67609	3313	4.9	1838160	85376	4.64
2014-15	50490	2762	5.47	937967	45762	4.88
2015-16	45841	2859	6.42	1006342	55332	5.50

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

The table states that employment was provided to 4.9 percent of ST households in 2013-14 and the scheme generated 4.64 percent persondays to STs. In 2014-15 MGNREGS has provided employment to 5.47 percent ST households and has generated 4.88 percent persondays. In 2015-16 employment was provided to 3859 ST households consisting 6.24 percent of the total households. In this year the scheme generates 5.50 percent persondays to STs of the district.

Table 7 given below reflects employment generation to non-ST/SCs of the district in the studied years.

Table-7: Employment Generation to non ST/SCs in Sivasagar District from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Years	Number of Households provided employment		Percentage of non ST/SCs households provided employment (% of col. 3 to col. 2)	Persondays Generated		% of persondays generated to non ST/SCs (% of col. 6 to col. 5)
	Total	Non ST/SCs		Total	Non ST/SCs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2013-14	67609	62322	92.18	1838160	1694878	92.21
2014-15	50490	46139	91.38	937967	862378	91.94
2015-16	45841	41567	90.68	1006342	920873	91.51

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

The table states that in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 employment was provided to 62,322, 41,639 and 41,567 non ST/SC households. The scheme has provided employment to 92.18 percent, 91.38 percent and 90.68 percent non ST/SC households in the three years. In 2013-14, the scheme has generated 16,94,878 persondays to non ST/SCs constituting 92.21 percent. It can be said that the scheme has attained success in generating more persondays to non ST/SCs.

According to MGNREGA 1/3rd of MGNREGA workers must be women. It wants 33 percent participation of women in MGNREGA activities, thereby want to empower the women economically. Table-8 presented below shows employment generation to women in the district in the study period.

Table-8: Employment generation to the women in Sivasagar district from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Years	Employment provided to women	Persondays generated		
		Total	Women	% of persondays generated to women(% of col. 4 to col. 3)
1	2	3	4	5
2013-14	27215	1838160	526820	28.66
2014-15	22836	937967	320300	34.15
2015-16	21681	1006342	352963	35.07

Source: Data compiled from <http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

The table-8 shows that in 2013-14, the scheme has generated 5,26,820 persondays to women and in 2014-15 and 2015-16 it has generated 3,20,300 and 3,52,963 persondays to women. The table indicates that in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, persondays generated to women was 28.66 percent, 34.15 and 35.07 percent.

Findings: The findings of the study are mentioned below.

1. It is observed in the study that cumulative number of households issued job cards has been increased in the study period. In 2013-14 job cards have been issued to 1,38,500 number of cumulative households but in 2015-16, it has increased to 1,49,006.
2. In the study period number of households demanded employment has decreased. In 2013-14, 69,338 households demanded employment and in 2014-15 and 2015-16, 55,020 and 51,092 households demanded employment. Number of persons demanded employment has also decreased in the study period. In 2013-14, 84,471 persons demanded employment but in 2014-15 and 2015-16, 68,738 and 65,526 persons demanded employment.
3. Households provided employment has also decreased in the study period. In 2013-14, 67,609 number of households was provided employment where as in 2014-15 and 2015-16 number of households provided employment has decreased to 50,494 and 45,841.
4. Similarly, number of persons provided employment has also decreased in the study period. In 2013-14, 81,977 persons were provided employment but in 2014-15 and 2015-16 number of persons provided employment has decreased to 61,445 and 57,428.
5. It is also found in the study that few number of households completed 100 days of work in the study period i.e. in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 only 1,212, 182 and 427 households completed 100 days of work. In all the three years very low percent of households completed 100 days of work indicating that the scheme has failed to provide at least 100 days of work to rural households.
6. It is observed that the number of disabled persons working under MGNREGS has increased from 107 in 2013-14 to 436 in 2015-16 as well as persondays generated to them also increases from 2,162 persondays in 2013-14 to 2,835 persondays in 2015-16.
7. Employment provided pattern represents that in 2013-14, in December month employment was provided to highest number of households and lowest in April month. In 2014-15, employment was provided to highest number of households in October and lowest in April. In 2015-16, in June, employment was provided to highest number of households and lowest in April.
8. In all the three years the scheme has provided employment to the very low percent of SC households of the district. The scheme has also generated very low percentage of persondays to the SCs as it generates 3.15 percent, 3.19 percent and 2.99 percent persondays to SCs in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. It indicates that the scheme has failed to ensure livelihood security to the SCs of the district.
9. Employment provided to the ST households in the study period is also low but it is greater than the employment provided to SC households as the scheme provides employment to 4.9 percent, 5.47 percent

and 6.24 percent ST households in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. It also generates 4.64 percent, 4.88 percent and 5.50 percent persondays to STs in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 which is greater than the persondays generated to SCs in the three years. It can be called that the scheme has failed to provide livelihood security to the SC households.

10. It is observed in the study that in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 employment was provided to 92.18 percent, 91.38 percent and 90.68 percent households and persondays generated to non ST/SC households was 92.21 percent, 91.44 percent and 91.51 percent. The data reveals that the scheme generates more persondays to non ST/SCs as compared to persondays generated to SCs and STs.

11. The scheme generates 28.66 percent, 34.15 percent and 35.07 percent persondays to women in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 which is greater than the persondays generated to SCs, STs but less than non ST/SCs.

Conclusion: Though MGNREGS has not provided livelihood security to all the needy rural people of the district, but with proper and effective implementation of the scheme problems of unemployment and poverty can be reduced.

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