

A study on Empowerment of Rural employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee ACT (MGNREGA): Special reference to Bishnupur District, Manipur

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Abstract: The MGNREGS formerly known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is a unique job scheme introduced by the Government of India sharing with State to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to reinforce livelihood security in rural areas. Its main objective is to enhance the livelihood quality of rural people by providing direct benefit by means of employment generation. To know the impact of MGNREGA on empowerment of rural people and implementation strategies of MGNREGA in Manipur especially in Bishnupur District, the present study is selected based on 1870 respondents (active job card holders). From the study it was observed that 50-60 days is the highest no. of days of employment in a year since the implementation of MGNREGA in Bishnupur District. After the implementation of MGNREGA, 1770 respondents think that their family income was increased as well as improved the earlier financial shortage in their family and 100 respondents think that their family income was not increased as well as improved in the earlier financial shortage in their family.

Key words: MGNREGA, Socio-economic, Livelihood, Empowerment, Bishnupur.

Introduction

MGNREGA, since its inception in year 2005, is one of the biggest poverty alleviation programme in the world. The act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual labour at the statutory minimum wage rate. The programme also aims at providing of livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets. Manipur is one of the states situated in the North Eastern Region of India. There are 16 districts in Manipur state. Bishnupur is one of the districts in Manipur. The Bishnupur district with its headquarter at Bishnupur was fashioned on 25-05-1983. The total geographical area of the District is 6 Sq. Km. It is bounded on the North by Imphal West District, on the South by Churachandpur District, on the East by Imphal East and Thoubal Districts. There are 64 Revenue villages in the District. For a far better and convenient administration the District is split into 3 Sub-Divisions, viz (1) Bishnupur Sub-Division with its HQ at Bishnupur and (2) Moirang Sub-Division with its HQ at Moirang and (3) Nambol Sub-Division with its headquarters at Nambol. There are six (six) SDC Circles within the district. Nambol, Oinam and Bishnupur circles are set inside Bishnupur Sub-Division. Ningthoukhong, Moirang and Kumbi circles are situated within Moirang Sub-Division. As for the convenience of organic process activities of the rural areas there are 2 C.D Blocks, namely (1) Bishnupur C.D. Block with its headquarters at Bishnupur and (2) Moirang C.D Block with its headquarters at Moirang Khunou. The MGNREGS was launched initially on 13th April, 2006 at District Headquarter, Tamenglong by distributing Job Cards to registered applicants. During 2007-08, Chandel and Churachandpur districts have also been covered while in 2008-09; Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Senapati and Ukhrul have also been covered.

Methodology:

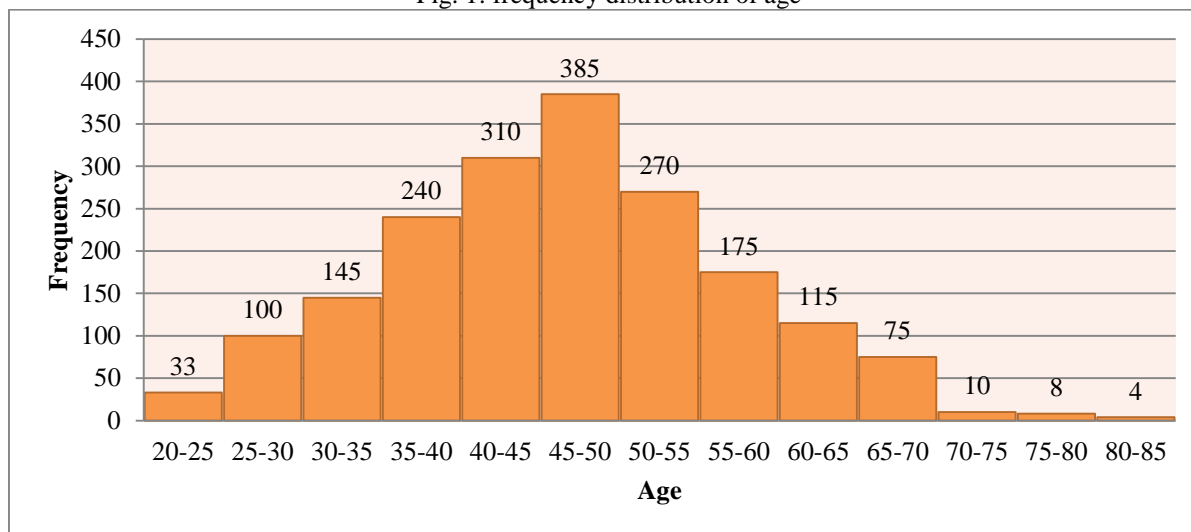
There are three Blocks in Bishnupur District namely (i) Bishnupur (ii) Moirang and (iii) Nambol CD Block. In Bishnupur District there are 24 panchayats, they are Khoijuman Kwasiphai, Nachou, Phubala, Thinungei, Borayangbi, Kha Thinungei, Kwakta, Moirangkhnou, Ngangkhlawai, Saiton, Thanga I, Thanga II, Torbung, Tronglaobi Terakhongshabi, Wangoo, Wangoo Terakhong, Irengbam, Ishok, Keinou, Leimapokpam, Ngaikhong Khullen, Sanjenbam Pukhrambam, Toubul and Utlou. There are 47,131 Active Job Cards of different Panchayats in Bishnupur District. A sample of size 1870 job card holders were selected by adopting Stratified random sampling for the present study and data has been collected for the study with the help of questionnaire.

Results and discussion

To know the impact of MGNREGA on empowerment of rural people and implementation strategies of MGNREGA in Manipur especially in Bishnupur District, the present study is selected for the welfare of the society. A sample of size 1870 respondents is selected with the help of Stratified random sampling. Data from the 1870 respondents are collected with the help of questionnaire. Among the 1870 respondents, 96.8% are married and 3.2% are unmarried. Among the 1870 respondents, there are 1200 male and 665 are female and 5 are others. Maximum no of participant in MGNREGA is male (64.17%) and second is female (35.56%) and 0.27% are others. Age group 45-50 is the highest age groups of respondent (active job cards) and this shows that as the increase in the age group, there is increase in number of respondents in MGNREGA till age group 45-50 and decrease in number of respondents in MGNREGA even age group increased. The most interesting is that even their age is between 80-85, they joint

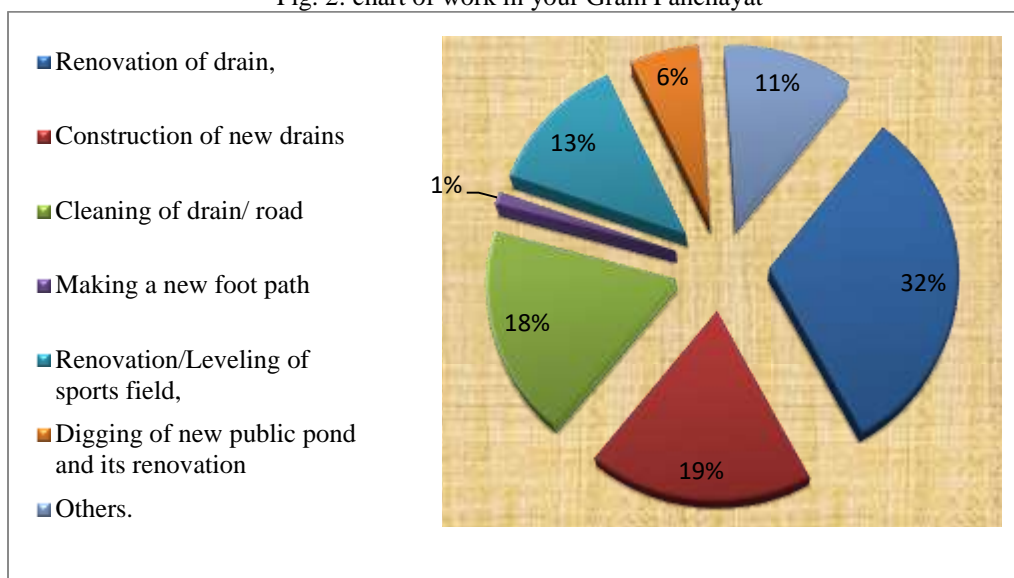
MGNREGP as shown in fig. 1. In MGNREGA required hard work with honesty and physically fit job card holders. In field work it was observed that a good number of young were involved in MGNREGP as they knew that during their young period they can do all kinds of work at worksite.

Fig. 1: frequency distribution of age



Social factor like caste is one of the most important which can interlink with the social economic condition of people in the rural set up. It also plays a vital role for the fund released. Majority of respondent 40% (750) belongs to Other Backward Classes (OBC), 33% (615) of respondent belongs to General category, 25% (465) of respondent belongs to Schedule caste (SC), 1% (20) belongs to Schedule tribe (ST) and 1% (20) belongs to other caste. Study comes out with the fact that out of 1870 respondents, 23% (425) are illiterate and 77% (1445) are literates' respondents with respect to the selected sample. Those respondents who are taking major role in the MGNREGA are literates. Study shows that 58.8% respondents were given 14 days employment under MGNREGA, 16.3% respondents were given 15 days employment, 8% respondents were given 16 days employment, 2.4% respondent were given 17days employment, 2.4% respondents were given employment for 18 days, 6.7% respondents were given employment for 12 days and 5.3% respondent were given employment for more than 18 days in the year 2017-18. Out of 1870 respondents 98.7% wanted to work for 100days under MGNREGA but 1.3% respondent did not want to work for 100days under MGNREGA. It is observed that 48.1% (900) respondents were working for 1-2hrs under MGNREGA, 36.9% (690) respondents were working for 1-4hrs, 7.2 % (135) respondents were working for 1-6hrs and 7.8 % (145) were working for 1-8hrs under MGNREGA. Majority i.e. 900 respondents (active job cards) were working only 1-2hrs. Study shows that the personal interest for becoming a job card holder is - 71% for any unskilled adult family member, 17% for work was done mostly at the time of non-agricultural season and 12% for receiving wage money without hard work. Out of 1870 respondents, 32% respondents worked as renovation of drain at their Gram Panchayat in 2017-18 under MGNREGA, 19% respondents worked as construction of new drains at their Gram Panchayat, 18% respondent worked as cleaning drain/road, 1% respondent worked as making a new foot path, 13% respondents worked as renovation/leveling of sports field, 6% respondents worked as digging of new public pond and its renovation and 11% respondents worked in other activities in their Gram Panchayat in 2017-18 with respect to the selected sample as shown in figure 2.

Fig. 2: chart of work in your Gram Panchayat



From the study it was observed that 50-60 days is the maximum no. of days of employment in a year provided to the Job Card holders by the Concerned Authority after the implementation of MGNREGA in Bishnupur District. 1255 respondents out of 1870 respondents got Rs. 81.4 as wage per day when they joined the MGNREGP, 155 respondents got Rs. 126 when they joined the MGNREGP, 125 respondents got Rs. 144 when they joined the MGNREGP, 65 respondents got Rs. 153 when they joined the MGNREGP, 115 respondent got Rs. 175 when they joined the MGNREGP, 85 respondents got Rs. 190 when they joined the MGNREGP and 70 respondents got Rs. 197 when they joined the MGNREGP. After the implementation of MGNREGA, 1770 respondents think that their family income was increased as well as improved the earlier financial shortage in **their** family and 100 respondents think that their family income was not increased as well as improved the earlier financial shortage in their family. 1700 respondents sent their children to school before they joined MGNREGP and 170 respondents did not send their children to school before they joined MGNREGP. 1770 respondents got better health care after working with MGNREGP and 100 respondents did not get better health care after working with MGNREGP. It was observed from the study that 1845 respondents believed that the MGNREGP assets created at their village have helped them and others in the village and 25 respondents did not believe that the MGNREGP assets created at their village have helped them and others in the village.

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