



# PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGA IN COMMUNITY ASSETS CREATION - A CASE STUDY IN KARNATAKA

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## Abstract

MGNREGA is the most significant act in the history of Indian polity in many ways like grass-root level participation of every citizen and beneficiary. The key feature of this act is to improve the quality of life of a rural household who are marginalized in the society. The scheme is enormous in nature and in the process of implementation and achieving the desired output. The most important feature of the act is that it is inclusive in nature as a result of the basic objective and vision of the act. The act targeted the growth and development of the economy with the aims of poverty reduction among the rural people through employment generation. The study shows that community assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA in the study area. The data clearly show that the majority of the respondents said that land development, renovation of traditional water bodies and rural connectivity/roads work has been undertaken under the MGNREGA programme in the study area. These assets are helped the community development.

*Key Word: Employment, Assets, Community And Development*

## INTRODUCTION

After independence, the government launched many poverty alleviation and employment programs, especially for the rural people. These programmes were somehow effective, but not up to the expectations of the people in solving the problem of unemployment and poverty eradication on account of several shortcomings noticed in the wage employment programmes. In this context, the Act was enacted in 2005 and came into force on February 2, 2006. Initially, it was introduced in 200 most backward districts and later on April 1, 2008, implemented in all the districts, except the districts with hundred percent urban population. Presently, MGNREGA is being implemented in all the notified rural areas of the country.

MGNREGA is the most significant act in the history of Indian polity in many ways like grass-root level participation of every citizen and beneficiary through the democratic process, multi-layered social audit and transparency mechanism through the involvement of civil society, towards integrated planning and sustainable development at the village level. The key feature of this act is to improve the quality of life of a

rural household who are marginalized in the society. The scheme is enormous in nature and in the process of implementation and achieving the desired output.

The most important feature of the act is that it is inclusive in nature as a result of the basic objective and vision of the act. The act targeted the growth and development of the economy with the aims of poverty reduction among the rural people through employment generation. The acts don't says about only the employment generation, but guarantees all the rural people without distinction of below poverty line, for at least 100 days. The act for employment generation is certainly distinct from earlier employment generation schemes which never given a legal right to demand employment of the government. The following goals of the MGNREGA bring into being the rural people inclusive.

- Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in India.
- To increase the livelihood Security for the poor through the creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and high level land productivity.
- Drought proofing and food management in rural India.
- Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, through the process of rights-based legislation.
- Strengthening decentralized, participatory planning through the convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.
- Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Giving importance to employment creation for unskilled workers by way of manual work, improvement of land and water resources are an important part of the work undertaken. This is an important step in the direction of moving from unskilled manual labour to self dependent skilled farming practices.

Gangadhara and Aswath (2016) reported that the MGNREGA has helped in providing employment and creation of durable assets, reduction in rural-urban migration and work participation by women, SCs, STs and disabled persons. Asha Sharma (2012) in her study found that the high status of women among the SC/ST groups in the Rajnandgoan, Jhabua, Mayurbhanj and Cuddalore has an important effect on the generating community assets and enhancing their spending capacity. In this backdrop, the following objective and Hypotheses of the present study.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- To study the activities carried out under different type of works permitted under MGNREGA in Karnataka
- To study the performance of MGNREGA in community assets creation in four districts of Karnataka.

#### **HYPOTHESIS:**

- There is an association between increased in community assets and the implementation of the MGNREGA programme.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary data and secondary source of data. The present research was conducted in Karnataka. The present study was focused on four MGNREGA Phase-1 districts of Karnataka namely Bidar, Chitradurga, Gulbarga and Raichur districts. These districts are among the 200 most backward districts in the country and representatives of the poorest/backward districts where MGNREGA was implemented (2006). On the basis of stratified-random sampling techniques, the primary sources of data were collected from 400 beneficiaries in Bidar, Chitradurga, Gulbarga and Raichur districts of Karnataka. The data collected from primary and secondary sources were analyzed by using statistical techniques like Average and Chi-Square Test were used to analyze the data.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

MGNREGA is considered to have significant achievements in terms of coverage of households, the inclusion of marginalized groups and women, community assets created etc. It has created more employment for the rural poor than any other program in Indian history. MGNREGA has been implemented since 2006 by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The Act now includes all 30 districts of the state. The State Government strives to implement this programme in a more transparent and effective way.

### Asset Creation under MGNREGA

The MGNREGA programme is not just about cash transfers to people in rural India instead it is creating durable assets. It ultimately relies on people on the MGNREGA. The assets created under the MGNREGA programme can be broadly divided into two categories, i.e., Assets created in individuals' land and assets created in community land.

**Table – 1: Types of Work under MGNREGA**

Type of Work	Nature of Work
Water conservation and harvesting	Digging new tanks/ ponds, small check dams, etc.
Draught proofing and plantation	Afforestation, tree plantation, etc.
Flood control and protection	Drainage in waterlogged areas, construction and repair of embankment, etc.
Land development	Plantation, land levelling, etc.
Micro-irrigation Works	Minor irrigation canals, etc.
Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	Desilting tanks/ponds, Desilting of old canals, desilting of traditional open wells, etc.
Provision of irrigation facility, land owned by	Scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, beneficiaries of land reform etc.
Rural connectivity	Construction of roads, etc.
Any other activity approved by the ministry of rural development	Other works, etc.

Source: Compiled from <http://nrega.nic.in>

## Activities Carried Out Under Different Type of Works Permitted Under MGNREGA

As per the MGNREGA, the main objective of the program is to strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor and the creation of durable assets. In this context, the following table 2 depicts the name of the activities undertaken by the respondents in the study area.

**Table – 2: Name of the Activities undertaken by the MGNREGA Respondents**

Name of the Activities	Bidar	Chitradurga	Gulbarga	Raichur	Total
Construction of Roads	5 (5.0)	5 (5.0)	8 (8.0)	4 (4.0)	<b>22</b> <b>(5.5)</b>
Renovation of Existing ponds and Formation of new Ponds	6 (6.0)	19 (19.0)	6 (6.0)	18 (18.0)	<b>49</b> <b>(12.25)</b>
Recharge Pits	5 (5.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (5.0)	2 (2.0)	<b>12</b> <b>(3.0)</b>
Solid and Liquid Waste Management	3 (3.0)	6 (6.0)	2 (.0)	5 (5.0)	<b>16</b> <b>(4.0)</b>
Canal Construction	4 (4.0)	6 (6.0)	6 (.0)	4 (4.0)	<b>20</b> <b>(5.0)</b>
Take a deep of existing lake	9 (9.0)	7 (7.0)	6 (6.0)	10 (10.0)	<b>32</b> <b>(8.0)</b>
Contraction of Roads, Renovation of Existing ponds and Formation of new Ponds and Recharge Pits	7 (7.0)	12 (12.0)	7 (7.0)	13 (13.0)	<b>39</b> <b>(9.75)</b>
Contraction of Roads, Renovation of Existing ponds and Formation of new Ponds and Solid and Liquid Waste Management	26 (.0)	19 (19.0)	23 (23.0)	16 (16.0)	<b>84</b> <b>(21.0)</b>
Contraction of Roads, Recharge Pits and Canal Construction	17 (17.0)	10 (10.0)	18 (18.0)	18 (18.0)	<b>63</b> <b>(15.75)</b>
Contraction of Roads, Recharge Pits and Take a deep lake	18 (18.0)	16 (16.0)	19 (19.0)	10 (10.0)	<b>63</b> <b>(15.75)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>400</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

Source: Primary data.

Note: Figures in brackets represent percentages to the total.

The table 2 shows that out of 400 respondents in the study area, 5.5 percent of the respondents are involved in the formation of new roads, 12.25 percent of the respondents are doing the renovation of existing ponds and Formation of new Ponds and 3 percent of the respondents are occupied recharge pits. A Recharge Pit allows rainwater to replenish groundwater. Creating a fine hole to help infiltrate water in one area and this will help improving the sustainability of water source. Effective solid and liquid waste management can lead to many benefits. Therefore, 4 percent of the respondents are involved in Solid and Liquid Waste Management.

Whereas 5 per cent of the respondents are involved in the formation of Canal Construction and 8 per cent of the respondents are involved in taking a deep of existing lake. Around 10 per cent of the respondents are involved in various activities include the formation of Contraction of Roads/ Renovation of Existing

ponds/Formation of new Ponds/Recharge Pits and 21 per cent of the respondents are involved in Contraction of Roads/Renovation of Existing ponds/Formation of new Ponds/ Solid and Liquid Waste Management. In the case of 15.75 percent of the respondents are involved in Contraction of Roads/ Recharge Pits / Canal Construction and 15.75 per cent of the respondents are involved in forming new Roads/ Recharge Pits and Take a deep lake.

The data clearly show that the majority of the respondents are involved in the primary nature of MGNREGA implementation is related to the creation of community assets like contraction of new roads, renovation of existing ponds and formation of new ponds and solid and liquid waste management.

The table 3 depicts the opinion about community assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA in the study area.

**Table – 3: Opinion about Community Assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA**

Opinion	Bidar	Chitradurga	Gulbarga	Raichur	Total
Yes	71 (71.0)	76 (76.0)	65 (65.0)	68 (68.0)	<b>280</b> <b>(70.00)</b>
No	29 (29.0)	24 (24.0)	35 (35.0)	32 (32.0)	<b>120</b> <b>(30.00)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>100</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>400</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

Source: Primary data.

Note: Figures in brackets represent percentages

Table 3 shows that 70 of the respondents believe that the assets created under MGNREGA programme work, whereas 30 percent of the respondents not believe that asset created under MGNREGA programme work. The data clearly show that the majority of the respondents believe that asset created under MGNREGA programme work and it has helped them and others to increase their income. Further, the following table 4 depicts the type of community assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA in the study area.

**Table – 4: Type of Community Assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA**

Assets	Bidar	Chitradurga	Gulbarga	Raichur	Total (In %)
Water conservation and harvesting	34	40	32	38	<b>36.00</b>
Draught proofing and plantation	41	42	42	39	<b>41.00</b>
Flood control and protection	32	27	28	31	<b>29.50</b>
Land development	68	76	65	68	<b>69.25</b>
Micro irrigation Works	28	32	31	27	<b>29.50</b>
Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	62	67	72	84	<b>71.25</b>
Rural connectivity/Roads	71	69	68	68	<b>69.00</b>

Source: Primary Data, \* Multiple Responses

The table 4 shows the type of community assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA. Out of 400 respondents, 36 percent of the respondents said that water conservation and harvesting work has

been undertaken under the MGNREGA programme. Whereas 41 percent of the respondents said that draught proofing and plantation work followed by flood control and protection (29.50%), land development (69.25%), micro-irrigation works (29.50%), renovation of traditional water bodies (71.25%) and rural connectivity/Roads (69%) work has been undertaken under the MGNREGA programme.

## TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

- There is an association between increased in community assets and the implementation of the MGNREGA programme.

To test the above stated hypothesis, opinion about community assets and MGNREGA programme variables were used. In this connection, the tables (2, 3 and 4) focus on Opinion about MGNREGA programme has created community assets in the study area. The table 5 shows the results of Chi-Square test about association between increased in community assets and the implementation of the MGNREGA programme.

**Table – 5: Result of Chi-Square Test for an opinion about increased in Community Assets and Implementation of MGNREGA programme**

Opinion	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Chi-Square Value	Asymp Sig
Yes	280	200.0	80.0	<b>64.000</b>	<b>.000*</b>
No	120	200.0	-80.0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>				

*Note: Significant at 1% level*

*Source: Estimated from the primary data*

The data clearly show that the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted because the Chi-Square result shows that there is a significant difference between these two groups of frequencies about increased in community assets after the implementation of the MGNREGA programme. The Chi-Square Value is 64.000 which is statistically significant at the 1 percent level of significance. The test confirms that there is a difference between the opinions about MGNREGA programme has increased community assets. It means that the community asset has increased after the implementation of the MGNREGA programme in the study area. Hence, there is an association between increased in community assets and the implementation of the MGNREGA programme.

## Summary and Conclusion:

The study shows that community assets created after the implementation of MGNREGA in the study area. The data clearly show that the majority of the respondents said that land development, renovation of traditional water bodies and rural connectivity/roads work has been undertaken under the MGNREGA programme in the study area. Land development includes improving the productivity of lands and providing suitable infrastructure for irrigation including, dug wells, farm ponds, earthen bounding, bush cutting, stone bounding, boundary trenching, bund plantations and other water harvesting structures. Renovation of traditional water bodies, including de-silting of tanks, increasing tank storage capacity, groundwater recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of the catchment areas of tank

commands. The development of infrastructures such as roads or rural connectivity enhances people's access to the external environment and thereby plays a crucial role in the reduction of poverty and access to livelihood options. These assets are helped the community development.

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