



MGNREGS IMPACT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

In order to combat poverty and advance rural development, the main goal of the MGNREGS is to give jobless and underprivileged members of society jobs. The views of respondents who live in rural regions have been gathered in order to determine the impact of MGNREGS on rural development. Thus, the data demonstrated that this programme is a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural regions due to its benefits on social protection, livelihood stability, and democratic empowerment. The poor are provided with a secure means of subsistence by MGNREGS through the creation of durable assets, improved soil conservation, higher land productivity, and improved water security. Because to this plan, household income has increased and living standards have improved for households through greater agricultural productivity. It has also resulted in significant salary increases for workers in rural areas.

Key Words: Rural Development, livelihood security, Creation sustainable assets, Poverty Eradication

INTRODUCTION

It's been argued that India's rural communities are its roots. Giving every rural poor person a guaranteed opportunity to work is the fundamental goal of this act. The Indian government runs numerous projects aimed at reducing poverty, but regrettably, things remain the same today. Some made some progress in addressing the problem of poverty, but others had notable flaws in how they were used. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was the first-ever rural guarantee act enacted by the Indian government in 2005. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the initial legislation in Indian history to give rural areas the ability to support themselves through employment. This statute represents a turning point in Indian history following independence. The right to work has, however, been elevated to a legal requirement, along with the right to receive unemployment benefits in the event that the Act's guaranteed percentage of employment is not fulfilled.

Speaking more broadly, the characteristics of this legislation gave the negligent framework of rural India stability and contributed to its great success in the last ten years since its inception. The Indian government regards and recognises this statute in its entirety, and it is also acknowledged globally. "The largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world" is how this initiative is described. The World Bank described it as a "celestial example of rural development" in its 2014 World Development Report. Furthermore, the 43rd Indian Labour Conference has demanded that national programmes such as MGNREGA be implemented with a comprehensive approach across the country.

In the financial history of independent India, the MGNREGA is undoubtedly noteworthy since it offers a broadly applicable, legally enforced ideal to the most basic kind of labour with the specific aim of eradicating unemployment and financial misery of the rural poor. It is unquestionably a significant step in the right direction towards the formal authorization of the right to labour. By holding the state accountable, the Act provides the rural poor with a bartering energy and a real commitment.

MGNREGA's primary goals are to reduce poverty and aid in the end of hunger. This statute aims to improve work market outcomes while simultaneously protecting the villagers' basic right to work and strengthening their stability. It also ensures the financial basis by providing guaranteed employment. Even though there are differences in the laws, the increase in employee wage rates

also strengthens societal prosperity and provides a stable living environment. These laws fulfil the fundamental needs of mental health, social protection, and job security. At least 60% of the overall budget is expected to come from the labour component of the NREGA.

Because of its severity and breadth, India's poverty frequently prompts sympathy from academic scientists and strategy investigators. "Ensure an adequate standard of living for the masses, as such, to dispose of the horrifying poverty of the general people" should be the goal of improvement interest. Even though Indian citizens have already engaged in numerous discussions and speeches regarding poverty, we have yet to witness any positive outcomes. Nonetheless, the Indian government has consistently shown consideration by launching numerous programmes and initiatives to support their exposure and deficiencies. The MGNREGA scheme is limited to the establishment in the order mentioned above.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pankaj, et.al., (2010) in their article revealed that the Wage payments made through the Account also have additional effects. It also encourages the development of a saving habit in addition to increasing the possibility of having more control over earnings. Most of these labourers used to deduct their entire payment all at once. They have started to progressively withdraw in compliance with their requests. Saving money also helps women avoid needless spending, which is particularly advantageous if their husbands or other male family members often spend money on items like alcohol. It was found that women invested in fixed deposit plans at the same bank.

Mohammad Taufique and Md Areful Hoque (2017) in their article revealed that In the Malda district, MGNREGA had a pioneering role in lowering rural poverty. MGNREGA is not the only welfare initiative programme; it is also a significant development project that has the potential to contribute significantly to transforming the existing state of rural poverty into a new era of wealth.

Swapna M (2018) in her paper examine how MGNREGA affects employment creation, the kinds of work that are done under this statute, and the degree to which this plan is effective in reducing rural India's poverty. Numerous experts have discovered that this plan has a significant effect on rural India's employment structure. This study examines and summarises the impact of the MGNREGS on rural development and poverty alleviation in India, hence empowering the rural populace.

Maroti Nivarati Gaikwad (2020) in his book stated that the primary issue facing India is unemployment, which feeds poverty, which is one of the most serious problems facing the nation. Poverty affects all aspects of people's lives, contributing to high rates of infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition, hunger, and backwardness as well as discrimination against those in need of basic amenities. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act may help to alleviate the most of these worries. In light of the previously mentioned backdrop, the sub scheme aims to assist low-income households by creating sustainable livelihood assets and creating wage employment for more self-sustaining forms of income generation.

Anwar Hussain and Archana Singh(2022) in their article revealed that one of the government of India's major programmes, MGNREGA offers a wide range of employment possibilities to improve the standard of living for the impoverished in rural areas. There are 3.63 crore people living in the Indian state of Assam, and 86% of them are rural dwellers. Most of them fall into the BPL category. At its highest point is also the unemployment rate. Therefore, there is a doubt regarding these people's safety and security. This curriculum will provide a fresh approach to leading a safe social life. This year, the total labour budget must be decreased; however, creative and comprehensive use of these resources will guarantee the people's ability to live in rural areas. With its supportive measures for women's empowerment, poverty alleviation, and self-reliance, this project will transform the economy as a whole.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Examine Impact of MGNREGA on Rural Development
2. To examine Satisfaction levels of respondents about income and livelihood security through MGNREGS

METHODOLOGY

Sampling Design

The study adopts multi-stage random sampling method to select the sample units in Tirupati district in of Andhra Pradesh. The Tirupati district was selected purposefully. Tirupati district consists of 4 Revenue Divisions, viz. Gudur, Srikalahasti, Sullurupeta and Tirupati For the purpose of this study 4 Revenue Divisions are selected. From each selected Revenue Division, one Mandal Parishad was selected randomly. From each selected Mandal Parishad, 4 Gram Panchayaths were selected and from each selected Gram Panchayath 20 MGNREGS workers were selected as sample respondents. Thus, the sample MGNREGS workers covered by the study are 320.

Table-1: Impact of MGNREGS on Rural Development

	completely	to a great extent	to some extent	Not at all	Total
Creation sustainable assets	28 (8.75)	52 (16.25)	209 (65.31)	31 (9.69)	320 (100.00)
Usefulness of assets	25 (7.81)	42 (13.13)	226 (70.63)	27 (8.43)	320 (100.00)
Improved the drinking water availability	55 (17.19)	46 (14.38)	152 (47.50)	67 (20.94)	320 (100.00)
Improved the irrigation water availability	29 (9.06)	52 (16.25)	199 (62.19)	40 (12.50)	320 (100.00)
Improved the soil fertility	26 (8.12)	27 (8.44)	222 (69.38)	45 (14.06)	320 (100.00)

The impact of MGNREGS on rural development with reference to creation of sustainable assets, usefulness of assets, improvement of drinking water availability, irrigation water availability and soil fertility are presented in the Table-1. Out of total respondents 65.31 percent said to some extent the MGNREGS created sustainable assets in the rural villages, whereas 16.25 percent said to a great extent, 9.69 percent said not at all created sustainable assets. It can be understood from the table that 70.63 percent opined to some extent the usefulness of assets utilized in the rural villages, but 13.13 percent said to a great extent, 7.81 percent said completely usefulness and 8.43 percent said not at all usefulness of assets for their family.

It shows that 47.5 percent of the households felt that to some extent the improvement of drinking water availability in their villages, whereas 17.19 percent felt completely, 14.38 percent felt to a great extent and the rest 20.94 percent said not at all improved the drinking water availability in their villages. With reference to improvement of irrigation water availability in the study villages it is found that 62.19 percent said to some extent, but 16.25 percent said to a great extent, 9.06 percent said completely and 12.5 percent said not at all improved the irrigation of water availability in their villages. Regarding improvement of soil fertility in the study villages it is observed that 69.38 percent opined to some extent, 8.44 percent said to a great extent, 8.12 percent said completely improved and 14.06 percent said not at all improved the soil fertility in their villages.

Table-2: Satisfaction levels of respondents about income and livelihood security through MGNREGS

	completely	to a great extent	to some extent	Not at all	Total
MGNREGS is a steady source of income security	47 (14.69)	71 (22.19)	163 (50.93)	39 (12.19)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS has Improved Financial Status	33 (10.31)	80 (25.00)	167 (52.19)	40 (12.50)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS is an alternative employment source of income for poor families during un-season	43 (13.44)	65 (20.31)	179 (55.94)	33 (10.31)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS provide food security during lean season	39 (12.19)	66 (20.63)	191 (59.69)	24 (7.50)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS has led to increase family savings	19 (5.94)	29 (9.06)	132 (41.25)	140 (43.75)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS has led to reduce family debts	10 (3.13)	37 (11.56)	151 (47.19)	122 (38.12)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS has brought better work and wage opportunities for poor and weaker sections	33 (10.31)	62 (19.37)	163 (50.94)	62 (19.38)	320 (100.00)

MGNREGS led to decreased migration of rural population to urban areas	257 (80.31)	32 (10.00)	10 (3.13)	21 (6.56)	320 (100.00)
MGNREGS impacts on poverty eradication	19 (5.93)	79 (24.69)	187 (58.44)	35 (10.94)	320 (100.00)
Employment generation in rural areas is possible through MGNREGS	16 (5.00)	58 (18.13)	167 (52.19)	79 (24.68)	320 (100.00)

Perceptions of the respondents on level of satisfaction regarding income and livelihood security through MGNREGS are presented in the Table-2. Out of total respondents that a dominated group of 50.93 percent is to some extent and 22.19 percent are yes, to a great extent in which MGNREGS is a steady source of income security. The data reveals that 50.56 percent are said to some extent group and 26.11 percent are said to a great extent in their MGNREGS has improved financial status.

Regarding the MGNREGS is an alternative employment source of income for poor families during un-season, in which 52.19 percent are yes, to some extent and 25 percent are to a great extent groups in their performance indicator. Whereas, 59.69 percent have yes, to some extent and 20.31 percent have to a great extent that provided food security during lean season under MGNREGA.

According to the data 41.25 percent is to some extent group and 9.06 percent is to a great extent group in their MGNREGS has led to increase family savings. It is also observed that 47.19 percent said to some extent and 11.56 percent said to a great extent in which MGNREGS has led to reduce family debts.

From this data, it can be understood that 50.94 percent said to some extent and 19.37 percent said to a great extent in which better work and wage opportunities for poor and weaker sections.

It is mentioned in the above table data that majority of respondents are 80.31 percent is completely and 10 percent is to a great extent that led to decreased migration of rural population to urban areas. Whereas, 58.44 percent said to some extent and 24.69 percent said to a great extent that impact on poverty eradication.

And finally, it is noticed from the data 52.19 percent are to some extent and 18.13 percent are to a great extent that due to employment generation in rural areas is possible through MGNREGS.

CONCLUSION

The MGNREGS significantly affects social protection, livelihood security, and democratic empowerment, according to respondents from rural areas. It is therefore a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural regions. The poor are provided with a secure means of subsistence by MGNREGS through the creation of durable assets, improved soil conservation, higher land productivity, and improved water security.

Because to this plan, household income has increased and living standards have improved for households through greater agricultural productivity. Workers in rural areas have also seen considerable income rises as a result of it. The SC/ST community and socially excluded individuals—women in particular—benefit from this programme. Its intentions might also be a crucial sign of how poverty is declining in rural areas.

This programme has raised household income due to increased agricultural production, which has raised living standards for households. It has also resulted in significant salary increases for workers in rural areas. This programme benefits socially excluded people, women in particular, and the SC/ST community. Its plans may also serve as a key indication of the reduction of poverty in rural areas.

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