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MGNREGS: Impact on income and employment generation: A study on Amaravathi mandal in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Poverty in India is the result of multiplicity of factors such as population explosion, unemployment, under employment, low level of wages, low asset base, low educational standards, inequalities in income, under development, agrarian structure, low productivity of labour, unsatisfactory growth, high incidence of rural indebtedness, social factors religious factors and political factors. Poverty alleviation is one of the prime objectives of planned economic development in India. The study finds that MGNREGS has become a beacon of light in the rural areas, and contributed substantially for the increased living and economic conditions by reducing the income imbalances in the rural areas.

Keywords: MGNREGS, inclusive growth

Introduction

A majority of the poor in rural areas of the country depend mainly on the wages they earn through unskilled, casual and manual labour. Inadequate labour demand or unpredictable crises adversely impact their employment opportunities. Unemployment and poverty are strongly related, and hinder the economic growth and development of the country. The concept of inclusive growth is increasingly being embraced by most of the developing countries; it emphasizes ensuring that the economic opportunities created by growth are available to all particularly the poor.

The government has taken up the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGS) for generating gainful employment. The government of India passed the NREGS Act, in September 2005. The Act gives legal guarantee of at least 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household. But the NREGS renamed in 2009 as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), is back in the news. The employment guarantee is an opportunity to create useful assets in rural areas, and releasing the massive potential for labour intensive works in areas like environmental protection, and regeneration, restoration or rural tanks, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works. It also helps in creating rural infrastructure improve in road connectivity, school building and water supply, water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, including a forestation and tree plantation etc.

Objectives

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To analysis the impact of the programmes on the beneficiaries before and after the scheme was launched and
2. To bring our suggestions for the effective implementation of the programmes in the study region.

Hypothesis

1. The MGNREGS scheme has positive/negative impact on income and employment generation in the study area

Source of the data

Identification of source of data is very important for any study. Studies can be conducted by using primary data of secondary data or both.

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In the present study primary data were collected through the field survey and the secondary data were gathered from publication, journal, reports, web sites etc.

Methodology

The study on MGNREGS – facet of inclusive growth covers Attalur and Mandepudi grampanchayaties of Amaravathi Mandal, Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Each of these grampanchayaties had largest persons registered in the programme 1043 persons from Attalur grampanchayat and 724 persons from Mandepudi Grampanchayat registered in this scheme. Data collected from these grampanchayaties after examine the response of job card holders in the pilot study, the questionnaire was finalized and used form the main study in the study area.

I have taken 150 beneficiaries through systematic random there are 75 samples from attalur and remain samples from Mandepudi Grampanchayaties, and exam conducted in the month of May, 2018 year. The present study covers emphasizing the economic conditions like income and expenditure levels along with the deficit and saving pattern of the families, community, age wise particulars, occupational pattern and also evaluated the impact of the programme before and after it is launched.

Social and economic characteristics

The person who starts enterprises will have different characteristic which are different from the normal individual in the society. This is the specific group of people which indentified characteristic.

India is an agricultural county and most of the people depend on land for their livelihood. The average number of acres of land possessed by the people is very small as compared to advanced countries. The government of A.P has introduced land reforms and land ceiling as an important component under land reforms. In the present study the farmers are grouped as marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmers and also landless labour basing on the land possessed by them.

Age

Age is one of the important social factors. It influences both social economic and demographic situation in any county. The young age distribution in near feature of population reveals the high growth of population in the county. The aging of the4 population implied high dependency ratio. As compared to developing countries the aging of the population is less in the developing countries such as India.

Table 1: Age – wise Distribution of the respondent

| S. No. | Age | Number | Percent |
|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| 1 | 20-30 | 32 | 21.4 |
| 2 | 30-40 | 90 | 60.0 |
| 3 | 40-50 | 28 | 18.6 |
| Total | | 150 | 100 |

Source: Computed

An analysis of table-1 shows the age distribution of the respondents. Majority 90 (60%) are in age group between 30-40 years, followed by 32 (21.4%) 20-30 years and 28(18.6%) between 40-50 years. This shows that majority (81.4%) of the workers is below 40 years of age, and this is making use of the utilization of the youth force in generating employment.

Sex is one of the social and demographic factors. The sex distribution of the population determines the future growth of population in a county. In almost all the countries in the world, the sex ratio is favorable towards women except in India. As 2011 censuses male and female ratio is 1000:914.

Table 2: Sex Distribution of the Respondents

| S. No. | Sex | Number | Percent |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Male | 70 | 46.7 |
| 2 | Female | 80 | 53.3 |
| Total | | 150 | 100 |

Source: Computed

A personal of table-2 shows the sex distribution of the respondents. Majority 80 (53.3%) are females and a small proportion are males. This is the usual pattern found is most of the studies in India. This table shows female participation in the scheme higher than male percent.

Community

Indian society is broadly divided into different communities such as OCs, SCs and STs. The tradition and customs the person adopts depend upon his community, which in turn influence the social fabric in different ways.

Table 3: Community of the respondents

| S. No. | Community | Number | Percent |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | OC | 45 | 30.0 |
| 2 | BC | 30 | 20.0 |
| 3 | SC | 50 | 33.3 |
| 4 | ST | 25 | 16.7 |
| Total | | 150 | 100 |

Source: Computed

An analysis of table-3 shows the community of the respondents, Majority 50 (33.3%) are SCs, followed by 45 (30.0%) OCs, 30 (20.0%) BCs and 25 (16.7%) STs. Generally the SC and STs who are engaged in agricultural activities are very less in the society. Only a very few of them possess land, house and other assets. They are found satisfied number in the present study.

Occupation

In the rural areas most of the people are engaged in agricultural activities, generally agriculture will be their main occupation and at times they will have secondary occupation also.

Table 4: Occupation of the Respondents

| S. No. | Name of the Occupations | Number | Percent |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Agriculture Labour | 25 | 16.7 |
| 2 | Small Farmers | 20 | 13.3 |
| 3 | potters | 24 | 16.0 |
| 4 | Tailors | 15 | 10.0 |
| 5 | Carpenters | 19 | 12.7 |
| 6 | Mason | 17 | 11.3 |
| 7 | Daily wise labours | 30 | 20.0 |

Source: Computed

An analysis of table-4 shows the occupation of the respondents. Majority 30 (20.0%) are daily wise labour, followed by 25 (16.7%) agriculture labour, 24 (16.0%) potters, 20 (13.3%) small farmers, 19 (12.7%) carpenters, and 17 (11.3%) mason. These tables indicate majority

(50.0%) artisans participate in the programme. This evidently speaks that is providing opportunities to all the skilled and unskilled professions. Future the observation explains that this programme has helped in reducing the wage discriminations among the different occupations in the area.

Monthly income

The respondents are earning income through various sources such as occupation assets, agriculture, livestock, household and MGNREGS. Income of the family is generated not the respondents alone but other members of the family also contribute. The household family income determines the economic position of the respondents.

This table indicates the impact of MGNREGS programme a question is also served to the workers to elicit the views on the programme before and after launching of the programme in the area. Income and expenditure and net saving levels are accepted as appropriate measures of economic well being the behavior of income levels speaks about the economic status of the different sub groups of workers participated in this programme. It is observed that the income

levels of the workers have increased substantially, and all the workers daily wage income was increased to two fold in turn it helped in catering the minimum needs of the MGNREGS workers. The study also reveals that the expenditure levels before implementation of this programme was met by the workers by indulging debts to meet their minimum needs expenditure. Further they expressed that this programme helped in easing out the debt burden to some extent after the implementation of the MGNREGS.

Table-5 also surplus or deficits lever that the saving levels of the beneficiaries increased substantially, and this also helped in paying the debts they made before the implementation of the programme. The light thrown on one aspect in this study is that it enhanced the affordability of the programme workers the changing circumstances, and contributed the reduction of migration from the rural areas to urban for searching petty jobs. That table shows the net saving per beneficiaries. High net surplus Rs.1480/- possessed by daily wage beneficiary, followed by Rs. 1080/- potters, Rs. 880/- Agriculture labour Rs. 580/- tailors, and Rs. 80/- Another beneficiaries.

Table 5: Net Saving per Beneficiaries

| S. No. | Occupation | Before MGNREGS | | | After MGNREGS | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Monthly Income | Monthly Expenditure | Net Surplus/ deficits | Monthly Income | Monthly Expenditure | Net Surplus/ deficits |
| 1 | Agriculture labour | 1000 | 1200 | -200 | 2080 | 1200 | 880 |
| 2 | Small Farmers | 1500 | 1500 | 00 | 2080 | 2000 | 80 |
| 3 | Potters | 900 | 1000 | -100 | 2080 | 1000 | 1080 |
| 4 | Tailors | 2000 | 1500 | 500 | 2080 | 1500 | 580 |
| 5 | Carpenters | 1800 | 2000 | -200 | 2080 | 2000 | 80 |
| 6 | Mason | 1950 | 2000 | -50 | 2080 | 2000 | 80 |
| 7 | Daily wage labour | 500 | 600 | -100 | 2080 | 600 | 1480 |

Source: Computed

Note: Income calculated for 26 days in the month of May, 2018

Findings

The programme as a facet of MGNREGS it has become a beacon of light in the rural areas, and contributed substantially for the:

- Increasing of beneficiaries are living and economic conditions by reducing the income imbalance in the study area.
- Reduction of wage differences in various works by creating equal wages to male and female beneficiaries.
- This scheme helped to eradication of unemployment in the study area.
- Work culture norms in bringing cohesiveness among the workers in the rural areas. Irrespective of caste and creed, gender and age.
- Ushered to meet the raising prices in the market.
- This scheme helped to the increasing of daily wage in the rural after and
- Increasing of scarcity for labours/daily wise workers in the implemented areas.

Conclusion

The study reveals that the beneficiaries expressed the following changes in the programme in order to be more comprehensive. Wages should be paid to workers on time. Health and life insurance is required not only during the working days but other days, and require transparency in recording day wise details of all the beneficiaries who are

willingly participate in this programme. Nature of the work should be amicable to all versatile workers benefiting to the community and workers in the area. Effective social audit is necessary to eliminate bogus beneficiaries. At the field level the qualified persons require to maintain the accurate records of the beneficiaries. In spite of the few shortfalls in the programme the programme is successful but it requires more transparency in the implementation of the programme in future.

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