



PARTICIPATION OF SC/STS UNDER MGNREG ACT: A MICRO LEVEL INVESTIGATION IN RAICHUR DISTRICT

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Abstract

The present study conducted in the Raichur district of Karnataka state, has examined the Participation of SC/STs under MGNREG Act – A Study conducted in Raichur District. Impact of MGNREG Act on the rural poor who are mainly comprised of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, marginal farmers form the depressed communities. The study is based on a simple random sample of 100 respondent's method from two good-performing and two poorly-performing Gram Panchayats in the study are Raichur district. After independence India was in such situation to formulate its own constitution, which defines social justice, which provides equal rights to everyone and the constitution should create a Nation, where there is no discrimination. Because, the Population in the country to be given first priority, in developing countries like India and China. In that context, to fulfill the fundamental values made in the constitution. Many governments have implemented several programs for the development of rural pours, among them MGNREG Act is well known program. With this context policy makers formulated MGNREG Act to create productive employment opportunities in rural India. MGNREG Act was a flagship program which came into force on 2nd February 2006, with the intention of providing 100 days Guarantee employment opportunities for unskilled and semiskilled manual workers. More over it is the first program which denied the wage discrimination in unorganized sector for the first time. As for the MGNREG Act he and she will get equal wages under the program

Keywords: MGNREGA; SC/STs; Agriculture; Employment; Wage; poverty.

I. Introduction

After independence India was in such situation to formulate its own constitution, which defines social justice, which provides equal rights to everyone and the constitution should create a Nation, where there is no discrimination. Because, the Population in the country to be given first priority, in developing countries like India and China. In that context, to fulfill the fundamental values made in the constitution. Many governments have implemented several programs for the development of rural pours, among them MGNREG Act is well known program. With this context policy makers formulated MGNREG Act to create productive employment opportunities in rural India. MGNREG Act was a flagship program which came into force on 2nd February 2006, with the intention of providing 100 days Guarantee employment opportunities for unskilled and semiskilled manual workers. More over it is the first program which denied the wage discrimination in unorganized sector for the first time. As for the MGNREG Act he and she will get equal wages under the program.

The Act was notified in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006 and then extended it to additional 130 districts in the year 2007-08 (113 districts were notified with effect from April 1st 2007 and 17 districts in UP were notified with effect from May 15th 2007). The remaining districts have been notified under the NREG Act with effect from April 1st 2008. Thus, MGNREG Act covers the entire country with the exception of a district that has a hundred percent urban population. In Karnataka state for the first phase five most backward districts were selected for the implementation of NREG Act are districts like "Bidar, Gulbarga, Chitradurga, Davangera, and Raichur. The wage rate begin with Rs. 67 from the implementation of NREG Act in the year of 2006 it became Rs. 72 in the financial year of 2007 and it has increased to Rs. 84 in the financial year 2008 and it has again increased to Rs. 84 to 92 in the year of 2009 then it reached to Rs. 100 in the year of 2010. The wage rate has been increased to Rs. 125 in the year of 2011-12 again as for the demand of respondents the government increased wage rate up to 150 in the year 2012-12 then Rs. 175, now in the financial year the wage under MGNREG Act is Rs.200 is allotted and the government has plans to increase the wage rate to Rs. 250.

II. Salient Features of The Act

- **Right based Framework:** For adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- **Time bound Guarantee:** 15 days for provision of employment, else unemployment
- Allowance up to 100 days in a financial year per household, depending on the actual demand.
- **Labour Intensive Works:** 60:40 wage and material ratio for permissible works; no contractors/machinery.
- **Decentralized Planning** Gram Sabhas to recommend works At least 50% of works by Gram Panchayats for execution Principal role of PRIs in planning, monitoring and implementation



- **Work site facilities :** Crèche, drinking water, first aid and shade provided at worksites
- **Women empowerment:** At least one-third of beneficiaries should be women
- **Transparency & Accountability:** Proactive disclosure through Social Audits, Grievance Redressal Mechanism,
- **Disbursement of wages:** Payments must be made in Scheduled Banks, post offices, co-operative banks, cooperative societies in the form of families' joint account.
- **Equal rights:** Equal wages for both men and women.
- **Implementation:** Under Sec 3, States are responsible for providing work in accordance with the Scheme. Under Sec 4, every state government is required to make a scheme for providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year, to those who demand work.
- **Minimum Wages Act 1948:** Wages are to be paid according to minimum wages as prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the state, unless the centre notifies a wages rate which will not be less than Rs. 60 per day.

III. Objectives of the Study

Seatrains objectives have been selected to analyze the participation of SC/STs under MGNREG Act in study area Raichur district.

1. To study the participation of SC/STs under MGNREGA in Raichur District.
2. To study the Socio Economic conditions of SC/STs after implementation of MGNREGA.
3. To study the problems faced by SC/ST beneficiaries at work site under MGNREGA.

IV. Methodology

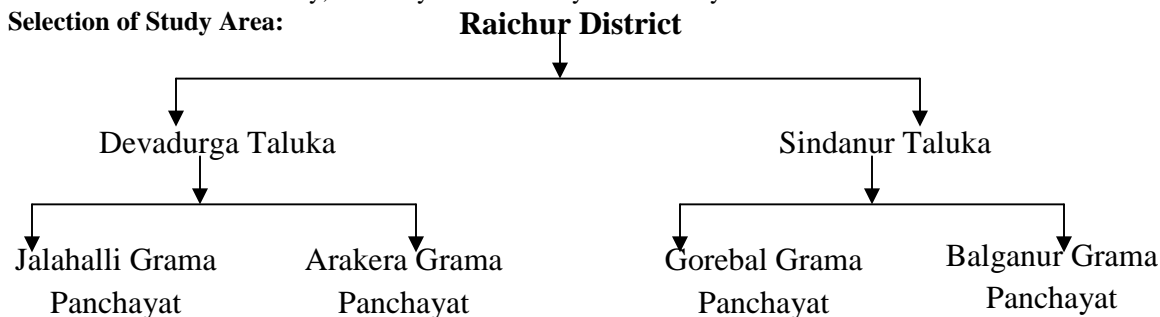
The Present Study on the livelihood of the rural poor, employment opportunities and Participation of SC/STs with special reference to MGNREGA workers is based on both primary and secondary sources of data.

Collection of Data

For the Present Study, both primary and secondary data are used. Regarding the primary data, an interview schedule was designed to collect the data relating to the sample respondents socio-economic background, the method of recruitment, occupational hazards, the nature of exploitation, wage gap, job satisfaction, year of experience, contribution of family income and other aspects relating to the overall objectives of this Study. The schedule was canvassed for collection of information by personal interview method.

Secondary data relating to the study area were gathered from Administrative Reports, Census, Study Reports, District Profile of Raichur District, Journals, Articles, Union Office Records and Books. The data thus collected from various reliable sources enhanced the validity, accuracy and reliability of the Study.

Selection of Study Area:



Sample size: The Present Study covers the 2 talukas in the Raichur district. To ensure that the sample is statistically representative total SC/ST population in the study area, every 50 respondents from each taluka. Again from selected two talukas, four Grama Panchayats were selected (two Gram panchayats from each taluk) in that 25 sample respondents has been selected from each Grama Panchayat on random sampling basis and a total of 100 samples respondents were taken.

Table: 1 Employment provided to different categories under MGNREGA (in lakhs)

Year	SC	ST	Others	Women	Total
2006-07	73.37	45.18	319.25	112.2	550
2007-08	59.79	37.94	352.87	99.4	550
2008-09	79.89	39.88	167.84	145.03	432.64
2009-10	334.64	171.77	1497.02	737.07	2740.50



2010-11	177.4	102.72	817.75	505.08	1602.95
2011-12	109.84	58.02	531.68	321.32	1020.86
2012-13	104.89	55.63	461.40	287.59	909.51
2013-14	16.41	09.12	74.34	46.81	146.68
2014-15	114.15	56.97	547.3	334.71	144.96
Total	1070.38	577.23	4769.45	2589.21	8098.1

Source: www.mgnrega.nic.in

Table-1 shows the employment provided to different categories under MGNREG Act, data collected from 2006-07 to 2014-15 for the period of Nine years. Total employment provided in nine years is 8098.1 lakhs and total number of Dalits (SCs) participation under MGNREG Act is around 1070.38 lakhs, which is more compare to the participation of Scheduled Tribes 577.23. Majority of employment provided in the year 2009-10 that is around 2740.50 lakhs and again here participation of Dalits (SCs) is more around 334.64 lakhs, compare to the participation of STs is around 171.77 lakhs.

Table: 2 Shows the literacy status and educational level of the sample respondents

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Educational level					Total
			Primary	High School	PUC	Degree	Illiterate	
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	4	3	-	-	18	25
		Arakera	9	1	-	-	15	25
2	Sindanur	Gorebala	7	2	1	-	15	25
		Balganur	8	3	2	-	12	25
Total			28	9	3	-	60	100

Source: Primary data

The above table shows that when all the villages taken together, the percentage of the illiteracy is 60 per cent. Whereas the respondents with Primary education 28 per cent and high school education constitute a little over 9 per cent. Only 3 sample respondents have reached up to PU level, no any Graduates found working under MGNREGA at the work site. Hence, what we can realize from this table is MGNREGA provides work to the Unskilled and Semi-skilled workers in the study area. From the above analysis, it can be inferred that the high incidence of illiteracy and low levels of education are due to the poverty conditions of the workers.

ETable: 3 Shows the caste composition of the sample respondents in the study area

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Caste composition of the sample respondents			
			SC	ST	Others	Total
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	12 (26.09)	7 (18.42)	6 (37.5)	25
		Arakera	10 (21.74)	11 (28.95)	4 (25)	25
2	Sindanur	Gorehala	13 (28.26)	9 (23.68)	3 (18.75)	25
		Balganur	11 (23.91)	11 (28.95)	3 (18.75)	25
Total			46 (46.00)	38 (38.00)	16 (16.00)	100

Source: Primary data

The above table represents the caste composition of the sample respondents in the study area. The large number of respondents about 46 per cent are belongs to SC category working under MGNREG Act. About 38 per cent of respondents are ST category working under MGNREG Act and only a little about 16 per cent are belongs to other category in that also I found only some of poor Muslims families and converted Christian families. Off course majority of Lingayaths and Brahmin families are there in the study area but they will not work under MGNREGA, because they are economically very well.

Table: 4 Shows the nature of work of the sample respondents under MGNREGA

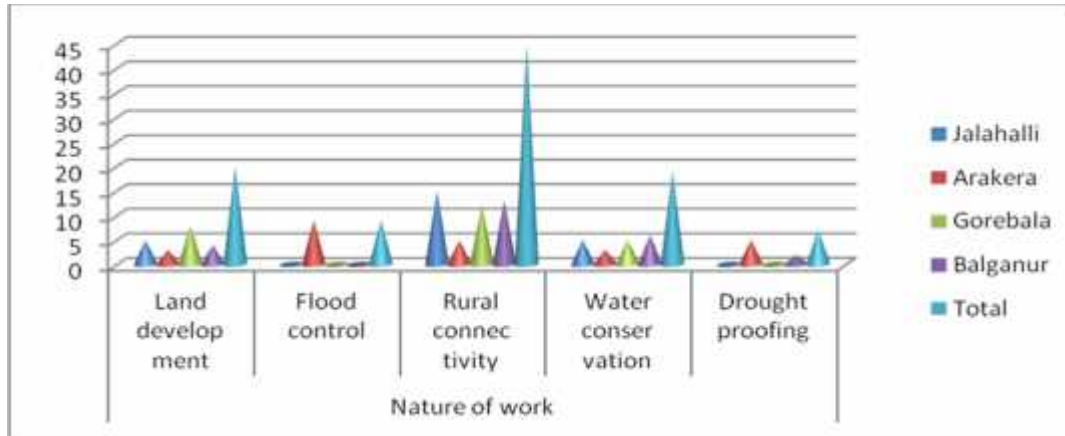
Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Nature of work					Total
			Land develop ment	Flood control	Rural connec tivity	Water conser vation	Drought proofing	
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	5	-	15	5	-	25
		Arakera	3	9	5	3	5	25



2	Sindanur	Gorebala	8	-	12	5	-	25
		Balganur	4	-	13	6	2	25
Total			20	9	45	19	7	100

Source: Primary data

Chart- 1 Nature of work of the sample respondents under MGNREGA



The above table explains that the majority of workers have been assigned in the most common type of work. Such as rural connectivity, 45% of respondents are workers in the rural connectivity. 19 per cent of respondents work in water conservation and 7 per cent of the respondents work in drought proofing. The great thing is that the 20 per cent of respondents are working in their own land and 9 per cent of respondents are working in flood control work in the village Arakera which has suffered from flood recently.

Table: 5 Monthly income of the sample respondents before joining to MGNREGA work

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Monthly income of the sample respondents before joining to MGNREGA work					Total
			1000-2000	2001-3000	3001-4000	4001-5000	5000 >	
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	-	5	5	4	11	25
		Arakera	-	4	1	6	16	25
2	Sindanur	Gorebala	-	11	1	2	13	25
		Balganur	-	5	3	3	10	25
Total			-	25	10	15	50	100

Source: Primary data

Chart-2 Monthly income of the sample respondents before joining to MGNREGA work

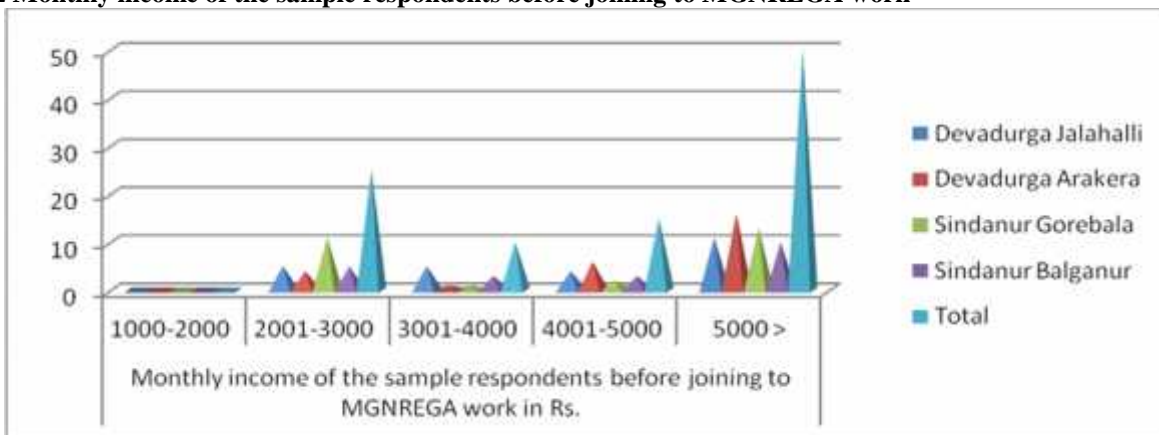


Table 5 shows the Monthly income of the respondents before joining to MGNREG Act. Among total 100 sample respondents, 25 respondents said that they were earning 2000 to 3000 Rs. monthly income, 10 respondents said that they



were earning 3000 to 4000 Rs. monthly income, 15 respondents said that they were earning 4000 to 5000 Rs. monthly income and majority of 50 respondents said that they were earning more than 5000 Rs. monthly income before joining to MGNREG Act.

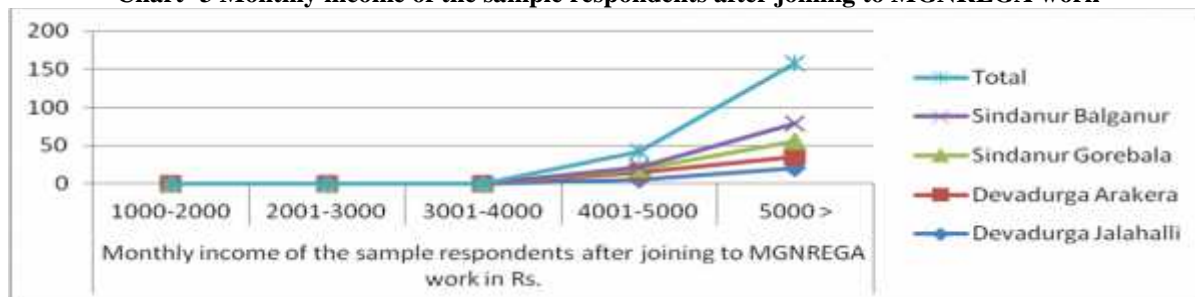
25 respondent those who said that they were earning 1000 to 2000 Rs. Monthly income, they were tribal families they use to collect firewood from the forest and put up for sale in towns. from that they use to get around 60 Rs to 70 Rs per day. The 10 respondents those who said that they were earning 3000 to 4000 Rs monthly income, they were Agricultural and daily wage labours where they use to get 100 Rs to 120 Rs per day. 15 respondents those who said they were earning 4000 to 5000 Rs monthly income, they are Construction workers works in nearby towns and in construction work they use to get 150 Rs to 180 Rs per day and the majority of respondents 50 those who said that, they were getting more than 5000 Rs monthly income before they joining to MGNREG Act, they were the migrant labours, they use to get more than 200 Rs daily wage in capital cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Table: 6 Monthly income of the sample respondents after joining to MGNREGA work

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Monthly income of the sample respondents after joining to MGNREGA work					Total
			1000-2000	2001-3000	3001-4000	4001-5000	5000 >	
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	-	-	-	5	20	25
		Arakera	-	-	-	10	15	25
2	Sindanur	Gorebala	-	-	-	4	21	25
		Balganur	-	-	-	2	23	25
Total			-	-	-	21	79	100

Source: Primary data

Chart- 3 Monthly income of the sample respondents after joining to MGNREGA work



The above table reveals that among total 100 sample respondents majority of respondents about 79 said that they were earning more than 5000 Rs and 21 respondents said that they were earning 4000 to 5000 Rs that's after joining to MGNREG Act. 79 sample respondents those who said that they were earning more than 5000 Rs monthly income after joining to MGNREG Act, they are regular workers working under MGNREG Act and 21 sample respondents those who said that they were earning 4000 to 5000 Rs monthly income after joining MGNREG Act, they are irregular workers working under MGNREG Act.

If those 79 respondents migrate now a day, to work in cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad, they will earn more than 400 Rs per day as for today's wage rate in cities. But, they are very happy with the wage rate whatever they are getting in their villages because they know that the livelihood in cities is also very costly.

Table: 8 Shows the problems faced by the respondents at the work site

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Name of Gram Panchayat	Problems faced by the respondents				Total
			No drinking water	No first aid box	No shed for rest	No aya to look over the children	
1	Devadurga	Jalahalli	13	4	5	3	25
		Arakera	15	-	7	3	25
2	Sindanur	Gorebala	10	5	5	5	25
		Balganur	12	3	5	5	25
Total			50	12	22	16	100

Source: Primary data



The above table represents the problems faced by the respondents at the work site. Majority of the respondents about 50 per cent says that they are not getting drinking water at the work site and 22 per cent of the respondents care for their life and health at the work site they says there is no first aid box at the work site and rest of the 16 per cent complaint there is no aya to look over their children at the work site. Large number of sample respondents tells about facing very critical condition at the work site, in some places management not providing even drinking water at the work site. Workers use to take pot full water with them while going to the work site.

V. Analysis of the study

- There is high incidence of illiteracy (60 percent) and low level of education among the respondents of the study area. (table No. 2)
- It is found in terms of caste composition that majority of SC/ST respondents that is 84% are working under MGNREGA in the study area. 16% of respondents are from other backward category (table No. 3)
- There is a persistent wage difference between old occupation and MGNREG Act work in the study area. Central government said that they had planned to increase the MGNREGA workers wage rate Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per day, as well as working days 100 days to 150 days.
- After joining to MGNREG Act the level of earning has been changed 79 percent of respondents earning monthly income more than Rs. 5000, and 21 percent of respondents monthly earning Rs. 4001-5000 and the sample respondents in the study area are very happy with the wage rate whatever they are getting in their villages, because they know that the livelihood is very costly in cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad and Bombay (table No. 5,6)
- MGNREG Act has been changed the standard of living of the sample respondents after they joining to MGNREG Act in the study are Raichur district (table No. 5,6)

VI. Conclusion

Unproductive agricultural land became burden to the farmers of marginalized communities in the dry land areas like Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar. Most of the Dalit and Tribal families let their land barren (unproductive), instead of taking the risk to cultivate it. But, after implementation of MGNREG Act, majority of marginal farmers came forward to cultivate their own land with the help of MGNREG Act. After implementation of MGNREG Act the migration level has been reduced and the rural poor are very happy to stay back in their own village as they know that the livelihood in the capital cities is very costly. The enrolment of children for primary education has increased in the study area. As the parents are stable at work in their own village, they are ready to send their children to schools in the same village. It has been found that in the initial year of implementation (2007-08) of MGNREG Act in the study area, 43.9 per cent beneficiary households were in poor socio-economic conditions which have gradually improved in the succeeding years and decreased to 32.9 per cent in 2009-10 and further to 18.3 per cent in the year 2012-13.

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