



IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RURAL WOMEN IN ANANTAPURAMU DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

Unemployment and poverty are interrelated and predicament to economic growth of any country in general and India in particular. In India, these are the two problems that are severe in rural areas. The effective implementation of the MGNREG Act launched in the year 2006 brought satisfactory results in reaching the challenges of poverty, unemployment and building rural infrastructure. Therefore, the findings of the present study would help the policy-makers in framing new guidelines for effective implementation of MGNREGS in bringing socio-economic development of the Rural Women in drought prone are of Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Women Empowerment, Economic conditions, & Migration.

Introduction

“MGNREGA aids in enrichment of agriculture productivity (through water harvesting, check dams, ground water recharging, improve moisture content, check in soil erosion and micro-irrigation), stemming of distress migration, increased access to markets and services through rural connectivity works, supplementing household income, increase in women workforce participation ration, and the regeneration of natural resources”. India is one of the largest developing countries in the world. The economy of India fundamentally depends upon the cultivation sector. Yet today most of the people live in 7 lakh rural communities of India. Therefore the difficulties of the rural India are more important rather than the overall problems in India. The present study signifies to evaluate the extent of growth made and the dimensions of various issues associated with the programme in the most backward state of Andhra Pradesh. There is a gross mismatch between the needs of the community and the actual work undertaken, which is the major challenge faced by the MGNREGA in the states. Highlighting the critical role played by the MGNREGA, this paper exemplifies the issues and significance of MGNREGA particularly in the context of rural India.

Need for the Study

The conditions of rural people especially agricultural laborers and small and marginal farmers are quite deplorable. Besides, rural areas like Rayalaseema wherein droughts & famine situations are frequently occurring. Large number of small and marginal farmers in these areas is committing suicides due to frequently failure of crops. On the other hand, agricultural laborers are migrating to nearest towns for their livelihood and living & leading a miserable life. Keeping in view all these factors, policy -makers in India introduced various wage employment guarantee programmes. But they failed to yield desired results. The new UPA coalition government at the centre in its Common Minimum Programme promised that it would enact a legislation, which guarantees right to work for unskilled rural people. As promised, the MGNREGA legislation got passed in parliament. But unfortunately, soon after its implementation, various studies and reports noticed several drawbacks in



the scheme. There are a few studies on NREGS, but they have not focused more on women development in rural areas through MGNREGS, hence, this present study is an humble attempt in this direction.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the rural development programme in India
- To analyse the impact of MGNREGS programme on Economic conditions of the rural women in Anantapuramu

Methodology

The methodological aspects of the study such as the area of the study, the universe of the sample, sources of data, analysis of data and the plan of the study have been hereunder.

Source of Data

The data of the study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources material related to the field are collected through interview schedule from sample beneficiaries relating to the implementation and eliciting their opinions on various aspects of the scheme in the Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

The secondary sources material includes reports of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Reports of the ministry of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, reports of DWMA, Anantapuramu, records of MPDOs offices, Statistical Abstracts of Government of Andhra Pradesh, various journals on Rural Development and also from relevant books, magazines, published and unpublished theses and leading newspapers.

As it always not safe to take the published data at their face value, the data will be analysed carefully to make use of material that is suitable and adequate in this context of the present problem. The reliability of the data is suitably examined. After the collection of data from the above mentioned sources, the researcher analyzed and interpreted the data and organized the study in different chapters.

Area of the Study

The MGNREGS programme was formally launched in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh in February 2006. The district is the driest part of the state, wherein the rainfall is recorded below district normal. The dry condition of the district often results in the loss of crops, which inturn forces the agricultural labour as well as small and marginal farmers to migrate to different parts of the state, some times to the neighboring States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka etc., for livelihood. Under these dire conditions, the launching of MGNREGS is considered by the labourers as a boon for their livelihood. As such, the district was purposely selected for the study to examine the pros and cons of the new wage employment programme.

Sample Design

The MGNREGS programme has been extended to all sections of the society irrespective of rural families' economic, social and political status. All the revenue villages, hamlets in the districts are covered by the programme. For collected study of the impact of the programme on beneficiaries, purposeful random sampling method was followed. For the collection of respondent's views and ideas on the impact of the MGNREGS scheme. In the first stage one Revenue division were selected in Anantapuramu district. The district has divided into five revenue divisions. In second stage, one



mandal were selected from each revenue division and third stage three revenue villages selected from each mandal. Altogether, 15 revenue villages were selected in five mandal and from each village 25 beneficiaries were selected based on random sampling. Thus, the total sample constitutes 375 beneficiaries.

Results and outcomes

Table 1, Impact of MGNREGS on stopping out migration on rural women in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh

S.No	Particulars	Opinion	
		Yes	No
1	Migration of rural women	195	180
2	Gender discrimination	131	244
3	Discrimination against SC/ST	52	323

Source: Field Survey

The table 1 shows that, a major proportion 195 sample respondents reported that, the ongoing MGNREGS works in the study area are preventing migration of labour from the study area like Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. It is another found that there is no gender discrimination among the gender of MGNREGS worker and SC/ST communities in the present study.

Table 2, Durable position of rural MGNREGS women workers

S.No	Durable goods	Respondents	
		Before	After
1	Television	334 (89.33)	375 (100)
2	Electrical goods	30 (08.00)	75 (20.00)
3	Android mobile	360 (96.00)	375 (100)
4	Motor cycles	72 (19.33)	302 (80.67)
5	Bullock carts	40 (10.67)	55 (14.67)
6	Internet facility	62 (16.53)	112 (29.86)
7	Gold ornament	352 (93.86)	375 (100)

Source: Field survey

The table 2 depicted that impact of MGNREGS on the selected households in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. It is found that, similarly in case of household durables, the respondents have after the implementation of MGNREGS is indicated a positive change across the women respondents in the study area. The positive change is noticed too much extent regarding the durable item like motor cycle and electrical goods. And it is undoubtedly, some of the women have internet facility through using android mobile in the study area.



Table 3, Impact of MGNREGS on the farm of land of selected sample house holds

S.No	Land particulars	Respondents	
		Before	After
1	No land	325(86.67)	255(68.00)
2	Lessthan two acres	35(09.33)	95(25.33)
3	Morethan three acres	15(04.00)	25(06.67)
	Total	375(100)	375(100)

Source: Field survey

The researcher has used interview schedule and collected the information from women MGNREGS workers regarding their land position before and after MGNREGS in drought prone area of Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh state. It can be found that before the MGNREGS, 86.67 per cent of the women workers do not have any land, but after that the number is reduced, it means increased land holders in the study area. Majority of the respondents have increased their land from 9.33 per cent to 25.33 per cent by lessthan two acres land.

Table 4, Satisfaction of the sample households on implementation of MGNREGS

S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents
1	Very Good	280(74.67)
2	Good	77(20.67)
3	Not-satisfaction	18(4.66)
	Total	375(100)

Source: Field survey

The statistical information relating to the respondents satisfaction about the implementation of the MGNREGS in the study area are presented in the table 4.

It reveals from the table that, 74.67 per cent of the sample households opined that, MGNREGS programme is implemented with effectively by the government and they expressed that very good and 20 per cent of the MGNREGS women labourers and their opined good only. Only 5 per cent of the women sample respondents are not satisfied about that programme. The main reason for unsatisfied of MGNREGS women workers for irregular payments and their measurement of work in the backward district like Anantapuramu district.

Table 5, Suggestion given by the sample women respondents

S.No	Opinion	No. of Respondents
1	Provide shelter for children's	47(12.66)
2	Increase MGNREGS working days	242(64.67)
3	Facilitate necessary tools	23(06.00)
4	Provide health kit especially for women	17(04.67)
5	Monitoring with effective	45(12.00)
	Total	375(100)

Source: Field survey

The above table portroyat that, the suggestions were offered by the researcher from the selected women MGNREGS workers and it can be analysed hereunder. They were expressed that 12.66 per



cent represent 47 women workers have stated that -there is need shelter for their children at working place, 64.67 per cent of the respondents were stated that the central government will increase the mandays for rural women to decrease the migration from the rural areas, 6 per cent of them were expressed that the government will provide necessary tools and equipment for effective functioning of the this programme, and 12 per cent of them were stated that monitoring with effective in the study area.

Conclusion

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a gender positive programme which promotes participation of women by providing wage parity with men, provision of separate schedule of rates of wages for women, facilities for crèche, work-side sheds for children and child care services. In convergence with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), women mates have also been introduced, which again facilitate the participation of women. The Scheme also endeavors to provide works near the residence of the beneficiaries. These measures enhance participation of women. Hence, the government will concentrate effectiveness of this programme and increase the working days in summer seasons for increasing income and reducing migration of rural people in the study.

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