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IMPACT OF MGNREGA PROGRAMME IN KARNATAKA

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Abstract:

The world's biggest employment Guarantee programme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified on 7th September 2005 and came into force from 2nd February 2006. It was launched by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly Government of Karnataka formulated the scheme MGNREGS and it came into force from 2nd February 2006. Karnataka implemented this programme in 3 phases. Around 83,517 Lakh households were given employment. MGNREGA is not just an employment provider, it is a programme designed to create rural infrastructure like roads connectivity, minor irrigation works, public buildings, water supply, water conservation and harvesting, drought relief, forestation etc. and to empower the women in rural areas, especially from the lower strata of the society. The present study is undertaken to know the impact of the programme in Kolar District rural economy since its implementation. Even though it is very early to assess its impact, pros and cons, an attempt has been made to understand the programme. The study is undertaken in 2012-13 and primary data required for the study is collected from 250 respondents those who are beneficiaries of this programme. The sample of the respondents has been selected randomly from all the five blocks (Taluks), one panchayat selected from each taluk. Information collected from the total sample is based on interview method and for this questionnaire has been prepared and canvassed for the collection of data. Observation method is also used, secondary data. To analyze the data simple statistical tools are used in the study. The main objectives considered while doing this study are to assess the employment availability under MGNREGP, to know the complementary benefits of MGNREGP on the beneficiaries income level and to assess the economic empowerment of women through MGNREGP in the study area. Their average wage income has also been increased. The landless agricultural labourers benefited more when compared to others. Around fifty percent of the workers are women. There is an increase in their income level which in turn empowered to express themselves. The study reveals that the MGNREGS should be further strengthened to ensure further increase in availability of employment, livelihood and security to rural poor; with special schemes to empower women. Accordingly programme needs to be reoriented in such a way that better utilization and management of locally available natural resources. It should become compulsory activity to the progress in agriculture sector.

KEY WORDS:

Mgnrega Programme , economic empowerment , livelihood and security .

INTRODUCTION

The world's biggest employment Guarantee programme *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural*

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Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified on 7th September 2005 and came into force from 2nd February 2006. It was launched by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly Government of Karnataka formulated the scheme MGNREGS and it came into force from 2nd February 2006. Karnataka implemented this programme in 3 phases. The first phase implemented on 2nd February 2006 and Districts covered are Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Davanagere and Chitradurga. The second phase implemented on 1st April 2007 and covered Districts of Bellary, Belgaum, Chikkamangalore, Hassan, Kodagu and Shimoga. The remaining districts have been covered in phase-III which has been implemented on 8th October 2007 and came into effect on April 1st 2008. Since the onset of this programme in all the Districts covered fewer than three phases employment opportunities have provided under different activities of MGNREGP. Around 83,517 Lakh households were given employment. MGNREGA is not just an employment provider, it is a programme designed to create rural infrastructure like roads connectivity, minor irrigation works, public buildings, water supply, water conservation and harvesting, drought relief, forestation etc. and to empower the women in rural areas, especially from the lower strata of the society. The present study is undertaken to know the impact of the programme in Kolar District rural economy since its implementation. Even though it is very early to assess its impact, pros and cons, an attempt has been made to understand the programme. The study is undertaken in 2012-13 and primary data required for the study is collected from 250 respondents those who are beneficiaries of this programme. The sample of the respondents has been selected randomly from all the five blocks (Taluks), one panchayat selected from each taluk. Information collected from the total sample is based on interview method and for this questionnaire has been prepared and canvassed for the collection of data. Observation method is also used, secondary data collected from www.nrega.nic.in. To analyze the data simple statistical tools are used in the study. The main objectives considered while doing this study are,

- To assess the employment availability under MGNREGP.
- To know the complementary benefits of MGNREGP on the beneficiaries income level, and
- To assess the economic empowerment of women through MGNREGP in the study area.

Based on the activities undertaken in MGNREGP in the year 2012-13, the number of person day's employment generated is considered in all the blocks of Kolar District in Karnataka. The Availability of employment is presented in Table - I.

Table-I.
EMPLOYMENT GENERATED TO HOUSE-HOLDS (PERSON DAYS) UNDER MGNREGP IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

Taluks	Employment provided House-holds	Employment provided to workers (Person Days)				
		SC	ST	Others	Total	Women
Kolar	54	29192	6461	15398	11059	49804
Bangarpeta	13	28659	5373	55453	89485	47413
Malur	29	27341	12489	72833	112663	57558
Mulbagal	11	10282	850	24183	35315	16814
Srinivasapur	75	20846	9014	45428	75288	36868
Total	162	116320	34167	273292	423602	207457

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

The Table-I shows the available employment under this programme. In 2012-13 total 162 households have been given more than 100 days employment. In Srinvaspur Block, employment provided house-holds are more when compared to other blocks, Mulbagal taluk provided to less house-holds, Further, when we observe person days employment provided, in all five blocks SC are given more opportunities, It shows that the working pesondays have been distributed according to the norms set up by the government. It is evident the table, that around half of the work force is women labourers. Thus, it can be observed from the above table, majority of the beneficiaries are belonged to the economically, socially

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backward classes and women.

EMPLOYMENT RECEIVED ON AGE WISE UNDER MGNREGP IN KARNATAKA

The average age of the beneficiaries of this scheme is taken into consideration to assess availability of opportunities to the different age groups. The age wise employment groups are presented in Table - II

**Table – II
AGE WISE EMPLOYMENT (PERSON DAYS) AVAILABLE IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF
KARNATAKA**

Taluku	AGE WISE EMPLOYED BENEFICIARIES									
	18-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		ABOVE 60	
	Registered	Employed	Registered	Employed	Registered	Employed	Registered	Employed	Registered	Employed
Kolar	42881	1996	42594	4380	34386	3742	20401	1946	9397	651
Bangarpeta	61579	1740	70816	3325	50953	5598	30940	1505	9421	501
Malur	26638	1222	26530	2451	22299	2207	12579	1061	6576	439
Mulbagal	99296	2830	101685	2904	77130	2464	38203	1397	9725	490
Srinivasapur	36464	2773	38845	3931	36165	2742	21024	1567	6471	451
Total	266858	10561	22093	13753	22093	13753	123147	7476	41590	2532

Source: - Field Data

From Table-II, observe that, more employment beneficiaries are in the age group of 30-40 years, the very next employment beneficiaries are in the age group of 40-50 years. Even though more number of people registered in the age group of 18-30, the employment provided to them is less when compared to the next other two groups. So the majority employment is given to the age group of 18-50 years. Opportunities less provided to the age group of 50-60 years and 60+ years age. At the same time table above clearly depicts that the job seekers are very high in number than the employment available irrespective of their age group. Job seekers are highest in the 30-40 years age group. It may be because; Kolar District is basically agriculture based economy and drought prone area where rains become scanty in the last 10-15 years. The other reason may be that 30-40 age group workers and job seekers are in their secondary working ages, who could not really want to go out of their place and seek employment elsewhere.

WAGE EMPLOYMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN KARNATAKA

Implementation of MNGREG has really enhanced the employment opportunities and provided wage employment to the rural sector people, whether this opportunity increased their income level etc has been analyzed. To analyze their wage employment, respondents primary occupation and employment availability under MNGREG is taken are presented in Table-III.

**Table-III
OCCUPATIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS AND WAGE EMPLOYMENT AVAILABILITY
UNDER MGNREGP IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA**

Occupations	No. of Respondents	House-holds worked more than 100 days	Person Days
Agricultural Labourers	106 (43)	69	6152
Small / Marginal farmers	58 (23)	21	1007
Daily wage workers	35 (14)	23	4932
Village artisans	20(8)	12	1287
Others	31(12)	12	2981
Total	250 (100)	137	16359

Source:- Field Data

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From the Table-III, among the respondents 43 per cent of them are agriculture sector labourers, 23 per cent of them are small and marginal farmers, 14 per cent are daily wage workers (those who do works on the basis of availability of job both in agriculture and non agriculture sector, mostly unskilled laborers). Even the village artisans (8 per cent) have been attracted to MGNREGP scheme. Others are around 12 per cent of the respondents. This is evident that, this scheme is providing opportunities to all skilled and unskilled jobseekers.

The average person days of employment and households worked more than 100 days under this scheme among the respondents has also be shown in the table. Among different occupations Agricultural labourers households, 69 households received more than 100 days of work and 6152 person days employment has been given. In the same way, daily wage workers, village artisans and others' households got more than 100 days work and person day work they got 4932, 1287 and 2981 respectively. But where as in the case of small and marginal farmers person days work availability is less when compared to others. With respect to other than this group of workers, average number of labour force per house hold increased, It has happened may be because of women's participation in this work force has been increased.

It is also evident that there is an increase in their average wage income earning opportunities by the implementation of the MGNREGP programme, Both number of employment days per annum and household work days has been increased. The impact of MGNREG served to the workers of elicits the view on the programme before and after launching the programme in Kolar District of Karnataka. Income, expenditure and net savings are taken into consideration to measure the economic well being, and speak about the economic status of different groups of workers participated in this programme.

**Table-IV
INCOME LEVELS OF RESPONDENTS IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA**

S.No	Occupations	Before MGNREGP			After MGNREGP		
		Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Benefit	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Benefit
1	Agricultural Labourers	16200	19200	-3000	24000	21600	+2400
2	Small / Marginal farmers	15600	19800	-4200	24000	21000	+3000
3	Daily wage workers	19800	21600	-2640	24000	22200	+1800
4	Village artisans	17760	20400	-1800	24000	22800	+1200
5	Others	13800	18000	-4200	24000	19200	+4800

Source:- Field Data

From the Table-IV shows that the total annual income of MGNREGP participants has been increased after the implementation of MGNREGP scheme. From the above table we could see that all the respondents from different occupation groups have earned more income from participating in MGNREGP scheme. Before the implementation of the MGNREGP scheme the availability employment opportunities at their respective fields were less, and income levels were deficit. It is evident from that which shows annual income and expenditure criteria of labourers of different occupation category. All the respondents annual income level when compared to the expenditures is less, and all of them were in debt. But, after the implementation of MGNREGP programme, all respondents income level has been increased. Now they are not in the deficits and debt. So MGNREGP scheme has enhanced the affordability in the changing circumstances of their present world, It is clear that MGNREGS has positive impact on income pattern of the respondents.

Empowerment of rural women in all walks of their life in one of the important concept of MGNREGP scheme. Under this scheme more importance is given to SC, ST and women. Under this programme women participation in the house hold work force has been increased. They had better control over family expenditure, savings, and social participation is increased. Women participation is increase in household management decisions and financial management decisions are presented in Table-V.

TABLE-V
FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING OF THE FAMILY RESPONDENTS IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

Responses	Before MGNREGP				After MGNREGP			
	Expense	Savings	Social participations	H.H. Management	Expense	Savings	Social participations	H.H. Management
Very less	200(100)	200(100)	200(100)	200(100)	-	120 (60)	-	-
Less	-	-	-	-	-	80 (40)	-	-
Good	-	-	-	-	156 (78)	-	-	-
Increased	-	-	-	-	44(22)	-	200(100)	200(100)
No change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	200(100)	200(100)	200(100)	200(100)	200	200	200	200

Source:- Field Data

The Table-V shows that, women participation in decision making in household Management, their social participation, their expenditure is increased. After joining MGNREGP Scheme, their income, savings also increased. The participation in MGNREGP gave them more confidence as they earned their own lively hood and also had opportunity to express them in the society. Thus MGNREGP has paved the way to empower the women. All the respondents said their participation increased in their socio economic strata of their lives. This indicates that MGNREGP is enhancing the empowerment of women.

To sum up the study revealed that after the implementation of MGNREGS in Kolar District rural sector, availability of employment per household and person days has been increased. Their average wage income has also been increased. The landless agricultural labourers benefited more when compared to others. Around fifty percent of the workers are women. There is an increase in their income level which in turn empowered to express themselves. The study reveals that the MGNREGS should be further strengthened to ensure further increase in availability of employment, livelihood and security to rural poor, with special schemes to empower women. Accordingly programme needs to be reoriented in such a way that better utilization and management of locally available natural resources. It should become compulsory activity to the progress in agriculture sector.

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