



IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT IN KODAGU DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

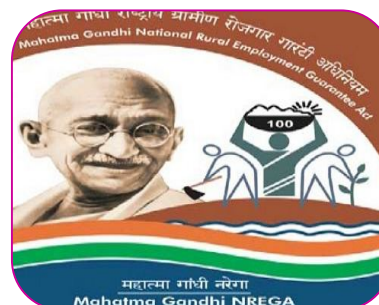
Dr. Shekara B.¹ and Ramesh Rangappa²

¹Assistant Professor SKVMS, Govt. First Grade College, Koteshwara, Kundapura Tq, Udupi District.

²Research Scholar, Department of PG Studies and Research in Economics, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri.

ABSTRACT

The present study conducted in kodagu district Karnataka state, has assess the Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Kodagu District". The impact of MGNREGA on the livelihood, of rural poor through infrastructural development mainly comprised of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. The study is based on secondary data source, It has been found that significant changes have taken place in the socio-economic variables like annual per capita income, monthly per capita food expenditure, per capita savings. Access to healthcare facility and possession of other assets, for those households which are regularly working under MGNREGA. The study has observed that although being a source of employment, MGNREGA has been able to infrastructural development through its works.



According to the value of the socio-economic index prepared, it has been found that in the initial year of implementation (2007-08) of MGNREGA 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 2012-13. The study has made some suggestions also for incorporating improvements in the present MGNREG Act.

KEY WORD: MGNREGA; Employment; Infrastructure Development.

INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure development is a key tool to measure the development of the nation and that development is needed to take place from the development of villages. Indian government has introducing several programmes from last 70 year, for the infrastructural development all over India. All these programmes were inadequate and piecemeal in their approach. Therefore, each and every programmes failed to make any major changes in the social order. The study has observed that although being a source of employment, MGNREGA has been able to generating employment opportunities to the needy hands and infrastructural development through its works.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the first ever Act internationally, that guarantees wage employment and minimum level of livelihood security to the people in rural areas. MGNREG Act guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteers to do unskilled manual work. It is also seeks to create durable assets to augment land and water resources, improve rural connectivity and strengthening the livelihood resources base of the rural poor. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is probably the most important intervention. In 2011, MGNREGA was successful in creating 2.14 lakhs man-days for rural people in which 1.44 lakhs are utilized by men and 0.70 lakhs by women.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries regularly working under MGNREGA.
- To assess the Impact of MGNREGA in Kodagu district.
- To study the assets creation under MGNREGA in Kodagu district.

METHODOLOGY:

The Present Study on assure job opportunity through infrastructure development under MGNREGA and its impact in Kodagu district, based on secondary sources of data. Collected from different journals, book, theses, reports etc. The structure of the district economy, infrastructural development and patterns of livelihood that it offers to the people. work participation rates and the occupational structure, food security status of the district. It also brings out the nature and extent of state intervention in labour market to generate adequate livelihood for the people in the study area.

TRENDS IN WORK PARTICIPATION

Population pressure on employment is low in Kodagu since the decadal population growth rate (2001-2011) in Kodagu was as low as 1.1 per cent. Decadal growth rate in employment in the district was 4.52 per cent, which shows that there are considerable job opportunities for the existing population in the district. Further, as noted earlier, with high demands for agriculture labour, provision of labour (especially agricultural and plantation labour) in the district is comparatively easier. However, whether employment leads to accumulation of income and expansion of opportunities for Infrastructure Development is something to be explored at a deeper level. For this purposes, this section begins with understanding trends in different categories of employment in the district. In all, employment can be classified on the basis of the nature of work, namely, main workers represented by cultivators, agricultural labourers, artisans, other workers and marginal workers. The table below gives work participation rate in Kodagu district and state during the years- 1999, 2001 and 2011. Work participation rate has always remained higher than the state average in the 95 district which indicates high rate of employment in the district. It is been increasing across the years from 1999 (47.11 per cent) to 2011 (50.30 per cent). The percentage of marginal workers within the total population is also increasing but far lower than the state averages. While share of agricultural labourers is decreasing in Kodagu, "Other labourers" which also includes plantation workers⁶ has remained high.

Table 2: Trends in work participation rates in Kodagu (2011)

Particulars	District			State		
	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
Work participation rate	47.11	48.55	50.30	42.01	44.51	45.62
Percentage of total workers within total population	45.11	45.11	46.66	38.51	36.61	38.27
Percentage of marginal workers within total population	2.01	3.41	7.24	3.51	7.91	16.00
Percentage of agricultural labours within total workers	14.42	4.31	5.43	29.91	26.51	25.67
Percentage of home based industries within total workers	0.55	0.91	0.50	1.91	4.11	3.28
Percentage of other workers within total workers	65.98	86.8	86.42	42.81	40.21	47.44

Source: Kodagu District Human Development Report, 2014.

Above table gives work participation rate in Kodagu district and state during the years- 1999, 2001 and 2011. Work participation rate has always remained higher than the state average in the district which indicates high rate of employment in the district. It is been increasing across the years from 1999 (47.11 percent) to 2011 (50.30 percent). The percentage of marginal workers within the total population is also increasing but far lower than the state averages. While share of agricultural labourers is decreasing in Kodagu, "Other labourers" which also includes plantation workers has remained high.

MGNREGA in Kodagu district:

Employment and Unemployment Income generation through adequate and remunerative employment is essential to make a direct attack on poverty. Adequate income is essential to ensure a decent standard of living and record economic growth. Availability of Income and employment is largely influenced by the structure of the economy. A diversified structure is able to generate alternative employment opportunities for a growing labour force.

Impact of MGNREGA in Kodagu District:

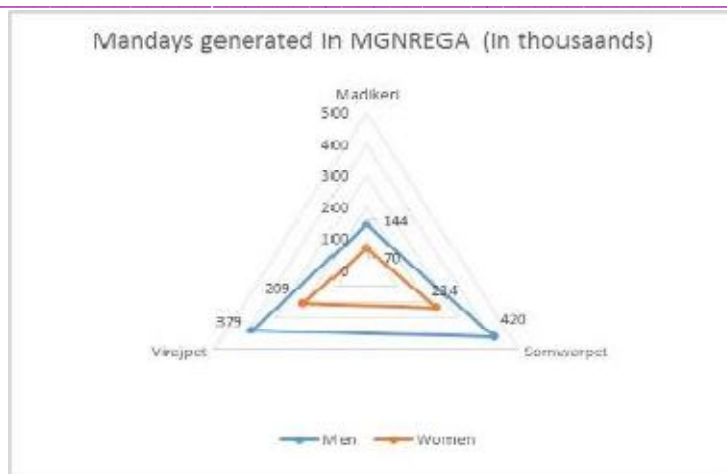
To tackle the complicated problem of poverty in the country, central and state governments have implemented various schemes. The schemes broadly include programs to promote broad based growth and specific targeted initiatives to reach the poor. It is important to study the critical programs which are active till date and successfully implemented in the district. In this regard, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is probably the most important intervention. In 2011, MGNREGA was successful in creating 2.14 lakhs man-days for rural people in which 1.44 lakhs are utilized by men and 0.70 lakhs by women.

Table 1: MGNREGA in Kodagu (2011)

Sl. No.	Particulars MNREGA	Madikeri	Somwarpet	Virajpet	Total
a.	Men (man-days generated in lakhs)	1.44	4.20	3.79	9.43
	Women (man-days generated in lakhs)	0.70	2.34	2.09	5.13
	Total man-days generated in lakhs	2.14	6.54	5.88	14.56
b.	Job cards issued	16618	21221	20844	58683
	Household demanded employment	4849	8556	7921	21326
	No. of persons/ households worked under MNREGA	4710	8477	7900	21087
	No. of families availing 100 days of employment	92	339	295	295

Source: Kodagu District Human Development Report, 2014.

The number of rural households issued with job cards form about 35.30 per cent of the total rural households. The highest job card coverage of households is in Somwarpet, followed by Virajpet taluk. Madikeri taluk has the least coverage of job cards. Somwarpet also leads in terms of employment provided to households, among the households having job cards. The radar graph below captures the taluk trends in the provision of labour for men and women in Kodagu for the year 2011-12. While women have consistently procured less days of work in comparison to men in all taluks of the district, Somwarpet taluk has been more successful than other taluks.



Vulnerable groups

The status of human development among vulnerable groups specifically that of forest based scheduled tribes in the district is a cause of concern. The analysis of educational status shows that retention rates and completion of primary education as the major hurdles for ST communities. Their health profile provides a grim picture of the issues related to maternal and child health, alcoholism and general lack of health seeking behaviour. These issues are further amplified due to the problems of accessibility to emergency health infrastructure.

The analysis of livelihood options reveals that these communities do not have a significant resource base and are predominantly dependent on agricultural labour. In this scenario, effective poverty alleviation interventions, skill development activities, expansion and the creation of demand in the secondary and tertiary sector are crucial for economically empowering these communities. Further, the standard of living of the SC and ST communities in the district is considerably lower than that of the other social classes and hence, prioritization is needed in issues like housing and sanitation.

Water Supply

The table below presents the status of water supply and drainage coverage in the towns of Kodagu. It shows that Somwarpet and Kushalnagar towns provide the highest proportion of water tap connections followed by Madikeri. Similarly, these two towns have the highest household drainage coverage as well. Both Madikeri and Virajpet towns lag considerably in both these indicators.

Sanitation

Sanitation and Infrastructure Development are deeply interconnected since the condition of sanitation has a direct bearing on other parameters of development such as health, education, participation of women, etc. The spread of communicable diseases, hygiene level of children, environmental issues arising out of poor waste management and handling practices, are just a few of the problems connected to sanitation. MGNREGA working for sanitation through infrastructure development in kodagu district.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

- The district trends show that both in housing and sanitation, SCs and STs far behind other social classes. Thus, special attention is needed to improve the conditions of these marginalized groups. Specifically, in the context of Kodagu, the provision of amenities to forest based tribes has to be prioritized since they are the most vulnerable groups within the district.
- Income generation through adequate and remunerative employment is essential to make a direct attack on poverty. Adequate income is essential to ensure a decent standard of living and record economic growth. Availability of Income and employment is largely influenced by the structure of the economy. A

diversified structure is able to generate alternative employment opportunities for a growing labour force.

- The social, economic and environmental areas in the district, which needs the attention of policy makers. Though Kodagu district ranks third in per capita income in the state, the growth trends in income dimension in recent years is not quite inclusive and holistic.
- There is considerable 'class difference' between planters and labourers. The distribution of land in the district is highly skewed towards the Kodavas whereas the Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations of the district hardly have profitable land ownership.

CONCLUSION

Assess people's standard of living in Kodagu district with a focus on their housing and living conditions, availability of drinking water, sanitation facilities, and assets. It has been observed the improvement in the living conditions among the different social groups including people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. A significant feature of these indicators is that the values can be linked directly to the implementation outcomes of various Government policies and schemes. The trends in analysis of MGNREGA shows a gradual decrease in the man-days generated and the number of households that have availed the benefits of the scheme. However, these trends could also denote stricter enforcement of scheme regulations, leading to efficient utilization of funds. But, field evidence also suggests that vulnerable groups like STs weren't involved in the scheme and had not availed its benefits. Thus, the scope of MGNREGA to provide sustainable livelihoods to these communities, and more importantly to bring them to the mainstream (by participation in Gram Sabhas, understanding and utilizing the different government interventions etc) has to be tapped effectively.

REFERENCES

1. Jha Raghendra, Raghav Gaiha 2012: "NREGAS: Interpreting the official statistics", *Economic and political weekly*. Vol. XLV, No. 40, pp. 18-22.
2. Adhikari Anindita, Kartika Bhatia 2010: "NREGA wage payments: can we Bank on the Bank", *Economic and political weekly*. Vol. XLV, No. 01, pp. 30-37.
3. Swamy Narayana Raju 2013: "Social Legislation and Social Security A Case Study of MGNREGA", *Kurukshetra*. Vol. 61, No. 04, pp. 38-40.
4. Gundegowda and G.H. Nagaraju 2012: "Impact of MGNREGA Programme and Poverty: A Study", *Southern Economist*. Vol. 51, No. 10, pp. 37-39.
5. Anupam Hazra. 2011. Rural India: Still searching jobs for the millions. *Kurukshetra*. Vol. 59, January, pp. 3-5.
6. Bharat S. Sontakki and Laxman M. Ahire. 2011. Rural employment Guarantee Scheme: Boon or Bane to Indian Agriculture? *Kurukshetra*. Vol. 60, April, pp. 39-44.
7. Charan Chanchal 2013: "Working of MGNREGA in Bihar and Millennium Development Goals", *Southern Economist*. Vol. 51, No. 22, pp. 36-42.
8. Jawed Akhtar. S.M. Abdul Azeez. N.P. 2012: "Budgetary Allocation and its Utilization MGNREGS – A Viewpoint", *Kurukshetra*. Vol. 60, No. 06, pp. 19-22.
9. Ramesh Rangappa 2017: Topic on "Economic Reforms and Employment Generation in India: Special Reference with MGNREG Act", in a online Journal "*Indian Streams Research Journal*", *International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*," "Laxmi Book Publication World", Vol-7, Issue – 3, April -2017 Pp, 1-8
10. Kodagu District Human Development Report, 2014
11. MGNREGA website, Ministry of Rural Development.
12. Zilla Panchayat Report Kodagu, 2015. <http://planning.kar.nic.in/planning.htm>.