

# Impact of Mgnregs on Marginalised Sections in Anantapuramu District of Andhra Pradesh

B Narayanswamy<sup>1</sup>, Dr. K Venkatareddy<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Dept. of Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP)

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor cum Assistant Director, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), SK University Ananthapuramu

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## ABSTRACT

Marginality is an experience that affects millions of people throughout the world. People who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives, and the resources available to them. This results in making them handicapped in delving contribution to society. A vicious circle is set up whereby their lack of positive and supportive relationships means that they are prevented from participating in local life, which in turn leads to further isolation. This has a tremendous impact on development of human beings, as well as on society at large. As the objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy a productive, healthy, and creative life, it is important to address the issue of marginalization. In general, the term 'marginalization' describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies, where people who they perceive to undesirable or without useful function are excluded, i.e., marginalized. The people who are marginalized - are outside the existing systems of protection and integration. This limits their opportunities and means for survival. The present paper highlighted that the impact of MGNREGS programme on marginalised section of the people in the Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh State.

*Key words: Marginalised people, MGNREGS, Rural Poor.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Marginality is an experience that affects millions of people throughout the world. People who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives, and the resources available to them. This results in making them handicapped in delving contribution to society. A vicious circle is set up whereby their lack of positive and supportive relationships means that they are prevented from participating in local life, which in turn leads to further isolation. This has a tremendous impact on development of human beings, as well as on society at large. As the objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy a productive, healthy, and creative life, it is important to address the issue of marginalization.

In general, the term 'marginalization' describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies, where people who they perceive to undesirable or without useful function are excluded, i.e., marginalized. The people who are marginalized - are outside the existing systems of protection and integration. This limits their opportunities and means for survival.

### **Marginalized Groups**

Marginalization can occur simultaneously at various levels, i.e., at international, national, regions, groups, etc. In India the most vulnerable marginalized groups is as follows.

#### **1. Women**

Under different economic conditions, and under the influence of specific historical, cultural, legal and religious factors, marginalization is one of the manifestations of gender inequalities. In other words, women may be excluded from certain jobs and occupations, incorporated into certain others, and marginalized in others. In general they are always marginalized relative to men, in every country and culture. Women belonging to lower classes, lower castes, illiterate, and the poorest region have different levels of marginalization than their better off counterparts.

## 2. People with disabilities

People with disabilities have had to battle against centuries of biased assumptions, harmful stereotypes, and irrational fears. The stigmatization of disability resulted in the social and economic marginalization of generations with disabilities, and like many other oppressed minorities, this has left people with disabilities in a severe state of impoverishment for centuries.

## 3. Scheduled Caste

The caste system is a strict hierarchical social system based on underlying notions of purity and pollution. Brahmins are on the top of the hierarchy and Shudras or *Dalits* constitute the bottom of the hierarchy. The marginalization of *Dalits* influences all spheres of their life, violating basic human rights such as civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. A major proportion of the lower castes and Dalits are still dependent on others for their livelihood. Dalits does not refer to a caste, but suggests a group who are in a state of oppression, social disability and who are helpless and poor.

## 4. Scheduled Tribes

The Tribes are marginalized across nations, whether it is advanced countries or the developing and underdeveloped countries in Asia and Africa. In India, the Scheduled Tribes population were considered to be socially and economically disadvantaged. They are mainly landless with little control over resources such as land, forest and water. They constitute a large proportion of agricultural labourers, casual labourers, plantation labourers, industrial labourers, etc. This has resulted in poverty, low levels of education and poor access to health care services among them.

Social protection programmes have been an important part of development process and planning in India since its Independence. However, after seventy-five years, around one-fourth of its population lives in poverty. Despite a plethora of social protection programmes, vulnerable groups among the poor have not been well targeted. However, the recent paradigm shift towards rights-based legislations may have hit the right chord with its self-targeting mechanism. The Right to Work or the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provided employment to almost 5.4 crore households and spending nearly Rs. 1, 06,357.02 crores from April 2020–March 2021. Participation of women and socially backward groups has been exceptionally high.

### MGNREGS and Marginalised sections

Employment in a form of legal statute with strong provisions for an inclusive approach serves as a powerful tool for the poor and the vulnerable groups. MGNREGA through its policy design not only covers for the economic risks but also addresses the socio-cultural dynamics faced by the disadvantaged sections of poor. The legal provision and the implementation strategy encourage participation of the marginalized groups and women in numerous ways. An important problem faced by the marginalised sections such as the Scheduled Caste (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST), women and differently able persons is inadequate wage employment. Given that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) implemented by Gram Panchayats, provides scope for greater flow of benefits to these marginalised sections through the decentralised government.

The design features of MGNREGS also provide scope for greater flow of benefits of wage employment to marginalised sections. The scheme aims to provide social safety net to the socially disadvantageous groups of SCs and STs when the alternative employment is inadequate or unavailable. Towards inclusive growth, the scheme has made the following provisions; i) Wider dissemination of information on MGNREGS, especially in the localities and the hamlets where the SC/STs are residing; ii) Special efforts to include the priorities of marginalized households in the planning process; iii) Special provision for landowning SC and ST households to undertake land development works, provision of irrigation facility, plantation and horticulture. In fact, the scope of works was broadened further in 2013 by including agriculture and livestock related works (vermi-composting, bio-manure, shelter for cattle, goat), those relating to rural drinking water and sanitation (soak pits, recharge pits, latrines, toilet units) and specific to coastal areas. However, the guidelines make it clear that these works can only be taken up when marginalized households possess job cards and the members of their household work on the project undertaken on their land; iv) Prohibiting acquisition of land belonging to SC/ST households for works under the programme; v) Priority to roads that give access to SC/ST habitations while planning for improvement in the connectivity; and, vi) Provision to include SC/ST households in the constitution of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee for monitoring the progress and quality of works undertaken under MGNREGS.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Manjula Ramachandran (2017) in her paper discusses provisions made in the design to promote the SC/ST participation in MGNREGS and analyse the extent to which they have participated in MGNREGS in

Karnataka with the help of secondary data. The data analysed in the paper show that participation of the SC/ST households in MGNREGS tended to be high in those districts where their incidence is high, a large proportion of them demanded work and participated in the scheme. The key finding of the study is that a large proportion of SC/ST households demanded MGNREGS work and participated in the scheme. However, they were not favoured in the provision of wage work under the scheme, thus, indicating discrimination against SC/ST households in Karnataka. The author concludes that the SC/ST households enthusiastically participate in the MGNREGS programme because of landlessness, predominance of tiny and unviable landholdings and dependence on wage labour for livelihood.

Sammaiah B. and Sode Raghavendra (2018) in their study examines the impact of the scheme on poverty reduction and employment generation as well as income generation of the marginalized sections of society like Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes especially in new state of Telangana. The objective of the study were analysed through simple average, percentage, Z-Test analysis (Test for Proportions), correlation, between factors identified and perceived level of MGNREGA development. The study was based on the primary data collected from the various parts of the two districts, namely, Mahaboobnagar and Khammam and supplemented with the secondary data. It can be concluded that there is greater need to increase number of job days to help to increase thus leading to development of SC and ST sections of people.

Samba Murty C., and M. Srinivasa Reddy (2020) in their research study found that the fact that the socially lowly placed scheduled castes (SCs), scheduled tribes (STs) and other backward castes (OBCs) were well represented among the beneficiaries of the Scheme, female participation in the Scheme was way beyond expectations, the Scheme was indeed the mainstay of the illiterate and the little educated that look for manual labour, and the otherwise rarely preferred elderly of the labour market found place in the Scheme and they could make significant contribution to earnings of poor households. It further throws up the finding that the Scheme was an important employment avenue to reckon with in the rural labour market and therefore, it increased the bargaining strength and the reservation wage rate of the labour force. Briefly, the Scheme contributed to inclusive growth.

#### **Statement of the problem**

The marginalized sections in India have for centuries remained on the periphery of the mainstream high-caste society as victims of exploitation and neglect, with little opportunity to participate in the mainstream activities and opportunities for growth. Poverty tends to get concentrated among socially disadvantaged marginalized groups. It is rightly that poverty in India is a social phenomenon as poverty among marginalized sections remains disproportionately high. Keeping in view of their deplorable conditions The Union and various State Governments introduced diverse social protection programs like food subsidies (Public Distribution System), wage and food employment programs (Flood Relief, Rural Manpower (RMP), the Cash Scheme for Rural Employment (CRSE), National Food for Work), skill building (Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, National Skill Building Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission) and rural infrastructural development (Indira Awas Yojna (IAY), Integrated Rural Development Program) apart from a gamut of education, health and pension policies. These programs are aimed at providing economic assistance and relief from vulnerabilities from loss or fluctuations in income or assets. However, most of these initiatives often suffer from design and implementation issues. The marginalized groups are socially alienated from participating in these programs due to active and passive social exclusion, problem of elite capture and control; social and economic inequalities and reinforces unequal power relations. Consequently, these programs failed to evolve as democratic mechanisms to ensure democratic practice.

For social programmes to target marginalized groups, the programmes should first have targeting strategies to focus and proactively select marginalized groups or strategies that allow them to self-select into the program for social protection programs in order to build their capacities and empower them. Under these conditions the MGNREGA was launched in India in 2005. The participation rates of women, disabled, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in MGNREGA have been higher than earlier employment programmes. Hence the present study makes an assessment of the real impact of the MGNREGS on marginalized sections in the poverty and drought ridden Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Objectives of the study**

1. To study the concept of the concept of the marginalised sections.
2. To analyse the impact of the MGNREGS on rural people.

## Sampling

**Table 1: Universe of the sample**

Mandal with highest person days	Sample drawn	Mandal with Lowest person days	Sample drawn
<b>Scheduled Caste's</b>			
Singanamala (143289)	30	Kothacheruvu (19281)	30
Narpala (137191)	30	Hindupur (22464)	30
Total	60	Total	60
<b>Scheduled Tribe's</b>			
Mudigubba (92855)	30	Hindupur (138)	30
Kadiri (79576)	30	Putlur (318)	30
Total	60	Total	60
<b>Differently Able Persons</b>			
Chennekothapalli (16425)	30	Anantapuramu (1060)	30
Peddapappur (15342)	30	Hindupur (1716)	30
Total	60	Total	60
<b>Women</b>			
Chennekothapalli (350913)	30	Hindupur (57590)	30
Singanamal (327233)	30	Kothacheruvu (97061)	30
Total	60	Total	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

### Sources of data

To examine the objectives of the study, relevant data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Field survey was undertaken for collection of primary data. The secondary data regarding the origin of MGNREGS scheme in India and in Andhra Pradesh and data regarding MGNREGS in Ananthapuramu district was collected from different published records which include reports of the Government of India, reports of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, reports of DWMA Ananthapuramu, Statistical Abstracts of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Ananthapuramu District etc.

### Analysis of data and use of statistical tools

The collected data have been processed and analysed both manually and with the help of a computer. Both primary and secondary data were tabulated to bring out systematic analysis of the impact of MGNREG schemes on marginalized sections in terms of income generation, social upliftment, employment, asset creation etc.

**Table 2:Opinion of the sample respondents on village asset creation like advantage in communication and transportation**

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
1	Yes	187	78.00
2	No	12	05.00
3	To some extent	41	17.00
	Total	<b>240</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey

The present table demonstrated that the opinion of the sample respondents on village assets creation like advantage in communication and transportation in their locality. It is found that 78 per cent of the sample respondents were stated positive opinion, i.e., "Yes", 17 per cent of the respondents have stated that "to some extent" and only 5 per cent of the respondents have stated negative opinion. It can be concluded from the table that MGNREGS programme has positive impact on the transportation and communication in their localities.

**Table 3: Positive impact on Better irrigation and water management**

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
1	Yes	202	84.00
2	No	02	01.00
3	To some extent	36	15.00
	Total	<b>240</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey

The table denoted that opinion of the respondents on MGNREGS is a positive impact on better irrigation and water management in Ananthapuramu district. According to the table data, 84 per cent represents 202 are stated that 'yes' it is positive impact on irrigation and water management by implementing MGNREGS programme, and 15 per cent of the respondents were stated that to some extent in the study area.

**Table 4: Impact of MGNREGS on creating infrastructure for Cattle Shelters**

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
1	Yes	214	89.00
2	No	05	02.00
3	To some extent	22	09.00
	Total	<b>240</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey

The researcher has raised a question to the sample respondents regarding creation of infrastructure for cattle shelters by conducting the MGNREGS programme. The respondents has given their responses like yes, no, to some extent. In this regard, the data found that 89 per cent of the respondents have stated that yes, the MGNREGS programme is a positive impact on providing infrastructure facilities for cattle shelters, and nine per cent of the respondents have stated that to some extent in the study area.

**Table 5: Impact of MGNREGS on benefit from Afforestation activities**

S. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	%
1	Yes	209	87.00
2	No	12	05.00
3	To some extent	19	08.00
	Total	<b>240</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Filed Survey

The present study found that the opinion of the sample respondents on impact of MGNREGS on benefit from afforestation activities in the study area. It is discloses that 87 per cent of the sample respondents have stated that yes, it is a positive impact on afforestation activities, 8 per cent of the respondents have stated that to some extent, and five per cent of the respondents have expressed negative opinion.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study can be concluded with the fact that there is a positive impact on various aspects of the rural people in the study area. The income level provided to the beneficiaries of MGNREGA is sufficient to them for increasing their living standard. The majority of the responses received from the field survey had been in the favour of the act. It is concluded that, if properly implemented, it can be used not only as social protection program but also as rural transformation program. But one has to be pragmatic.

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