

Impact of Mgnrega on Rural Poverty: A Case Study of Sirsa District

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INTRODUCTION

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) was renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" (MGNREGA) aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members ready to do unskilled manual work. This scheme was starting from 200 districts on 2 February 2006, and then NREGA covered all the districts of India from 1 April 2008. The statute is hailed by the government as "the largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world" In. its World Development Report 2014, the World Bank termed it a "stellar example of rural development".

The MGNREGA was started with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work". Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds, wells). Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs). The involvement of contractors is banned. Labour-intensive tasks like creating infrastructure for water harvesting, drought relief and flood control are preferred. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, NREGA can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others."

The law provides many safeguards to promote its effective management and implementation. The act explicitly mentions the principles and agencies for implementation, list of allowed works, financing pattern, monitoring and evaluation, and most importantly the detailed measures to ensure transparency and accountability. MGNREGA is the best job guarantee scheme of India. The MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) is designed to provide job guarantee for at least 100 days in rural areas of the country. Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. It is the largest poverty alleviation programme. This Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household to do public work related to unskilled manual work at the legal minimum wage. Thus it is a universal programme. Its minimum wage varies from state to state. In some states, it is Rs. 80 whereas in other, it is Rs. 125 or Rs. 120 per day. According to the Act, the minimum wage cannot be less than Rs. 60. The 100 days of work figure was estimated because the agricultural season is only supposed to last approximately around 250 days and unskilled workers have no alternative source of income in the remaining parts of the year.

OBJECTIVES OF MGNREGA:-

- ❖ Enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every registered household.
- ❖ Creating productive assets
- ❖ Protecting the environment
- ❖ Reducing rural-Urban migration
- ❖ Empowering rural women and the poor through the provision of a right-based law.
- ❖ Fostering social equity.

- ❖ To create strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing employment source, when other alternative are inadequate.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the BPL Families of village Asa Khera in Sirsa District of Haryana.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on Primary Data. For the collection of data, Interview Schedule was prepared. We have taken 100 respondents from village Asa Khera of Sirsa District. 30 questions in interview schedule represented the response of the respondents. Purposive sampling method for the study area was selected. The randomly selected respondents belong to SC, BCs and the General categories of BPL families. The socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries were looked after working under MGNREGA programme.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table-1: Gender-Wise Distribution of respondents

Gender	Respondents	Percentage
Male	88	86
Female	12	14
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 shows the impact of MGNREGA, on the respondents belonged to the village Asa Khera, which has two Gram Panchayat namely Sehrawat Gram Panchayat and Sura Gram panchayat. In the Sehrawat Gram Panchayat, there were 86 percent of the male and 14 percent of the female respondents were selected on the basis of availability. On the other hand, in the Sura Gram panchayat, there were 90 percent of the male respondents and 10 per cent of the female respondents were taken as sample respondents for the study.

Table-2: Work-wise distribution of Respondents

Work	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total
Self employed (Agriculture)	21	36.2	10	23.8	31
Self employed (Non-Agriculture)	10	17.3	07	16.7	17
Casual Labour	27	46.5	25	59.5	52
Govt. Service	00	00	00	00	00
Total	58	100	42	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 shows the work-wise distribution of the respondents, which indicate that there were 36 per cent of the male respondents have been engaged in agriculture practice and adopted agriculture, as self-employment. On the other, there were 24 per cent of the female respondents were engaged in agricultural practice too. On the contrary, there were 17.3 per cent of the male respondents were engaged in agriculture activity, as self employed capacity, wherever there were 17 percent of the female respondents, were also engaged in agriculture activities as self-employment capacity. In this context, we have observed that there were 47 percent of the male respondents, used to work as casual labourer, wherever 59 percent of the female respondents, also used to work as casual labourer, it has also been observed that no one found in government service in either of gram panchayat.

Table-3: Caste -wise Distribution of Respondents

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
General	40	40
SC	40	40
BC	20	20
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 3 shows the category-wise distribution of respondents. Table shows that the 40 percent of the respondents belong to General Category, wherever another 40 percent of the respondents also belong to SC category. Lastly, rests of 20 percent of the respondents belong to BC category.

Table-4: Education level of Respondents

Education Level	Respondents				Total
	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	
Illiterate	37	42.1	03	25	40
Below Primary	14	15.9	02	16.7	16
Middle	16	18.2	0	00	16
Secondary	07	7.9	03	25	10
Sr. Sec.	02	2.3	0	00	02
Above Sr. Sec.	12	13.6	04	33.3	16
Total	88	100	12	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 4 shows the 42 per cent of male respondents were illiterate. In this category there were 25 percent of the female respondents, were also illiterate. On other hand there were 16 percent of the male respondents and 17 percent of the female respondents, have studied less than primary level. On the contrary, there were 14 percent of the male and none of female respondents, have studied up to middle level standard. There were 8 percent of the male and 25 percent of the female respondents were studied up to secondary level. On the other hand, there were 2 per cent of the male respondents, have studied up to senior secondary level; lastly, there were 14 percent of the male and 33 percent of the female respondents were studied more than senior secondary.

Table-5: Information sources- Wise Distribution of Respondents

Source of information	Total	
	No. of respondents	Percentage
Gram Panchayat	84	84
Block	06	06
Media	08	08
Other	02	02
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 5 shows the 84 per cent of the respondents, have received the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the Gram Panchayat. On the other hand, only 06 per cent of the respondent, have acquired the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the Block office, wherever a considerable number of the respondents (08 per cent) have acquired their knowledge of the different mode of media (Print & electronic). Lastly 02 percent of the respondents, have gained the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the other sources such as publicity by the public relation personal etc.

Table-6: Distribution of respondents, having Knowledge about wage rate of MGNREGA

Response	Total	
	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	30	30
No	70	70
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 6 shows the wage-rate prevails in the MGNREGA programme. In this context, there were only 30 percent of the respondents, had knowledge about wage rate of MGNREGA programme. On the other hand a considerable percentage of respondents i.e. 70 percent, do not about the wage rate of MGNREGA programme.

Table-7: Distribution of respondents, working days in MGNREGA programme

Number of Work	Total	
	No. of respondents	Percentage
0	11	11
0-5	53	53
5-10	13	13
10-15	18	18
15-20	03	03
20 Above	02	02
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 7 shows the working days, receive from the programme MGNREGA. There were 11 percent of the respondents, have received nil no. of working days from this rural generating programme. On the other hand, there were 53 percent of the respondents, got from 0 to 5 days of work, during a year. It is also obvious from the tabulated figure that indicates the 13 percent of the respondents have received their jobs for 5 to 10 working days. On other hand, there were 18 percents of the respondents, have received their job for 10 to 15 working days, whenever only 3 percent of the respondents, have received their jobs for 15 to 20 working days, lastly, there were only 2 percent of the respondents, used to get their jobs for more than 20 days. Hence, it is obvious from the tabulated figures which indicate that the rural employment generating programme has failed to provide a consistent magnitude of employment number within their village itself.

Table-8: Opinion on improving the socio-economic status by MGNREGA programme

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
No	84	84
To Some Extent	02	02
A Great Extent	00	00

Can't Say	14	14
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 8 shows that 84 percent of the respondents, do not claim that the programme has done something for them for providing any employment for them. Only 2 percent of the respondents have admitted that the programme like MGNREGA has been successful to a certain extent for providing employment for them. On the other, not even a single percent of the respondents has claimed for providing job to a great extent for them. Lastly, 14 percent of the respondents have failed to give any answer in this context.

Table-9: Attitudes of respondents on MGNREGA for uplifting BPL families

Response	No. of respondents	Percentage
No	90	90
To some extent	00	00
A great extent	00	00
Can't say	10	10
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 9 shows the impact of MGNREGA programme on bringing out the BPL families from the below poverty line status, a considerable number (90 percent) of the respondents indicate that the impact of MGNREGA programme has been nil, in this context, the 10 percent of the respondents have failed to form any opinion in this regards. Hence, it is obvious from the tabulated figure that not even a single percent of the respondents have formed their opinion on great extent nor on some extent even. It therefore, according to majority of the respondents, the MGNREGA programme has been failed out only for bring them out the poverty situation.

Table-10: Attitude towards providing permanent solution for BPL family, worked under MGNREGA

Response	No. of respondents	Percentage
No	95	95
To some extent	05	05
A great extent	00	00
Can't say	00	00
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 10 shows the programme like MGNREGA has failed to provide permanent employment solution for the families belong to below poverty line. It has justified by 90 percent of the respondents, belong to Panchayats of the village Asa Khera. Only 5 percent of the respondents have pointed out that the programme has been successful to some extent only. In this contest, not even a single percent of the respondents have claimed for a greater extent. Lastly not even a single percent of the respondents have formed only opinion in this regards.

FINDING AND CONCLUSION

- ❖ The main objective of paper was to check the impact of MGNREGA on the respondents belonged to the village Asa Khera of Sirsa district in Haryana.
- ❖ The work-wise distributions of the respondents, which indicate that there were 36 per cent of the male respondents have been engaged in agriculture practice and adopted agriculture, as self-employment. On the other, there were 24 per cent of the female respondents were engaged in agricultural practices too. On the contrary, there were 17.3

per cent of the male respondents were engaged in agriculture activity, as self employed, wherever there were 17 percent of the female respondents were also engaged in agriculture activities as self-employment. In this context, we have observed that there were 47 percent of the male respondents, used to worked as casual labour, wherever, 59 percent of the female respondents used to worked as casual labour, it has also been observed that no one found in government service in either of gram panchayat.

- ❖ The category-wise distribution of respondents shows the 40 percent of the respondents belong to General Category, wherever another 40 percent of the respondents belong to SC category. Lastly, rests of 20 percent of the respondents belong to BC category.
- ❖ 42 per cent of male respondents illiterate. In this category there were 25 percent of the female respondents, were also illiterate. On other hand there were 16 percent of the male respondents and 17 percent of the female respondents, have studied less than primary level. On the contrary, there were 14 percent of the male and none of female respondents have studied up to middle level standard. There were 8 percent of the male and 25 percent of the female respondents studied up to secondary level. On the other hand, there were 2 per cent of the male respondents, have studied up to senior secondary level; lastly, there were 14 percent of the male and 33 percent of the female respondents were studied more than senior secondary.
- ❖ 84 per cent of the respondents, have received the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the Gram Panchayat. On the other hand, only 06 per cent of the respondent, have acquired the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the Block office, wherever a considerable number of the respondents (08 per cent) have acquired their knowledge of the different mode of media (Print & electronic). Lastly 02 percent of the respondents, have gained the knowledge of MGNREGA programme from the other sources such as publicity by the public relation personal etc.
- ❖ There were only 30 percent of the respondents, had knowledge about wage rate of MGNREGA programme. On the other hand a considerable percentage of respondents i.e. 70 percent, do not about the wage rate of MGNREGA programme.
- ❖ There were 11 percent of the respondents, have received nil no. of working days from this rural generating programme. On the other hand, there were 53 percent of the respondents, got from 0 to 5 days of work, during a year. It is also obvious from the tabulated figure which indicates that the 13 percent of the respondents have received their jobs for 5 to 10 working days. On other hand, there were 18 per cents of the respondents, have received their job for 10 to 15 working days ,whenever only 3 percent of the respondents, have received their jobs for 15 to 20 working days, lastly, there were only 2 percent of the respondents, \used to get their jobs for more than 20 days.
- ❖ 84 percent of the respondents do not claim that the programme has done something for them for providing any employment for them. Only 2 percent of the respondents have admitted that the programme like MGNREGA has been successful to a certain extent for providing employment for them. On the other, not even a single percent of the respondents has claimed for providing job to a great extent for them. Lastly, 14 percent of the respondents have failed to give any answer in this context.
- ❖ 90 percent of the respondents indicate that the impact of MGNREGA programme has been nil, in this context, the 10 percent of the respondents have failed to from any opinion in this regards. Hence, it is obvious from the tabulated figure that not even a single percent of the respondents have formed their opinion on great extent or on some extent even.
- ❖ The programme like MGNREGA has failed to provide permanent employment solution for the families belong to below poverty line. It has justified by 90 percent of the respondents, belong to Panchayats of the village Asa Khera. Only 5 percent of the respondents have pointed out that the programme has been successful to some extent only. In this contest not even a single percent of the respondents have claimed for a greater extent. Lastly not even a single percent of the respondents have formed only opinion in this regards.

Hence, it is obvious that the respondents indicated their views as ‘not satisfactory’ and failed to generate on adequate employment throughout the year and also failed to uplift themselves from their BPL (Below poverty line) status. It has also failed to provide on jobs sustainable basis for them.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of this study which indicated that the employment generating programme has been failed to achieve its desired results for improving their socio-economic status. The programme has not been implemented 'effectively' it has failed to uplift them from the status of BPL (Below poverty line). They have pointed out that some vested interest of the Sarpanch and the members of Gram Panchayats as well as block level, officials have proved a great barrier to implement the MGNREGA programme is an effective way.

Lastly, some of positive suggestion and recommendations have been suggested to enhance the effectiveness of the employment generating programme is an effective way, so that the programme may be executed in more effective manner in accordance with prevailing local conditions of the respondents, belonged to both the Gram Panchayat of village 'Asa Khera'. In order to make the programme more effective, an institutional support becomes imperative, so that the national programme, like MGNREGA may achieve desired results. The employment generating programme may become more effective, when a periodic monitoring is taken place by the public respondents as well as the block/ district Rural Development Agency's officials, visits are performed on regular basis, and as a result, a constant rigid on the functioning of gram Panchayats is a pre-requisite for 'effective execution of MGNREGA programme.

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