

A Comparative Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with Reference to Employment for Three Year Period from (2015 to 2018)



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Abstract

Poverty is a big challenge Indian economy is facing in modern time. The Government of India is focusing more on providing more employment opportunities and reducing poverty. It is only through economic growth, poverty can be reduced. Government of India has been running many schemes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) etc. These schemes are not successful in eradicating unemployment that leads to poverty. With the failures of these schemes, the Government of India started a new scheme named as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The main focus of this scheme was on inclusive growth. This scheme also provides employment opportunities to women. The main focus of this scheme was unskilled, semiskilled and women workers. It provides employment opportunities in the rural sector of India. The target of this scheme was people living below poverty line. NREGA Act was incorporated in 2006. It was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October 2009. The main aim of research is to study about the impact of MGNREGA on employment and also its impact on women employment opportunities. The current research relies mostly on secondary data.

Keywords: Employment, MNREGA, Poverty alleviation and Rural Development.

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified on 5th September 2005. Its main objective is to provide livelihood security by providing a minimum hundred days guaranteed employment during a year to every household of rural area where the adult member of the family is ready to do any unskilled physical work. During the first phase it covered around 200 districts and the scheme was spread to all other rural areas of the country in other phases. During the financial year 2015-2016 this scheme provided employment to nearly 48132074 households. This scheme had high work participation from lower groups like SC, ST and women. The participation of women under the scheme exceeded the legal minimum requirement of 33%.

Features of MNREGA

1. Employment will be provided by the concerned governing body within 15 days of work request. In case the governing body fails to provide employment opportunities, unemployment allowances will be paid.
2. The MNREGA scheme provides 100 days guaranteed employment in a financial year.
3. This scheme involves labour intensive work less machinery is used and more labour is utilized.
4. Facilities like proper drinking water, first aid facilities, proper sanitation facilities and shade is provided at work place.
5. According to this scheme one- third beneficiaries must be women.
6. Here in this scheme no contractors and no labour displacing machinery will be used.

7. Wages have to be paid on weekly basis.
8. Transparency and accountability have been given priority in this scheme. Transparency and accountability will be achieved through MIS and social audits.
9. Decentralized planning will be done in this scheme.
10. 75% funding for skilled, semi-skilled and material is provided by central Government. 25% funding for skilled, semi-skilled and material expenses is provided by state Governments. Also 6% administration costs are funded by the centre.

Review of Literature

Ahanger (2014) examined that traditionally rural women are homebound, the employment guarantee act plays a significant role in removing gender discrimination and helps in empowerment of rural women. This scheme is important for women, one third of the total workers should be women. The empowerment of women is unintended consequences of MGNREGA. A survey is conducted and the results of survey of survey showed that their social status is improved after joining this programme.

Kumar (2014) in his paper examined that this programme MGNREGA has significant impact on rural area. MGNREGA plays an important role in employment generation and enhancing the rural

livelihood. The panchayat Raj institution plays an important role in planning and implementation of the programme.

Prasad (2012) conducted a research on "performance of MGNREGA". THE outcome of the research was that MGNREGA acts as a real safety net for the unemployed people living in rural areas. It supported them with appropriate purchasing power and now they are capable to at least fulfill their basic necessity.

XAVIER (2014) the scheme ensures improved standard of living of vulnerable poor more specially among women.

Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the employment opportunities provided by MGNREGA.
2. To analyze the employment opportunities provided by MGNREGA to SCs, STs, and women.
3. To offer suggestions in the light of the study.

Research Methodology

The present study has been done from the data collected from secondary resources. The data is collected from the Ministry of Rural Development, www.mgnregs.nic.in. The analysis of the study led the suggestion and conclusion of the research.

Table 1. Shows Mgnrega Outcomes; Employment Number of Households and Employment Generated (Amount in crores)

Financial year	No. Of Households who have demanded employment	No. of Households provided employment	No. of Households availed 100 days of employment	No. of HH which are beneficiary of land reform /IAY	No. of Disabled beneficiary individuals
2015-16	53479564	48132074	4847893	2552830	459576
2016-17	56930348	51222192	3991163	2592882	471811
2017-18	57315688	51158907	2955151	2605185	472229

Source; Ministry of Rural Development www.mgnregs.nic.in

Interpretation

In the year 2015-16 the number of households who have demanded employment was 53479564, No of households provided employment were 48132074, No of households availed 100 days of employment were 4847893, No of households which were beneficiary of land reforms /IAY were 2552830 and No. of Disabled beneficiary individuals were 459576

In the year 2016-17 the No. of households who have demanded employment was 56930348, No of households provided employment were 51222192,

No of households availed 100 days of employment were 3991163. No of households who were beneficiaries of landreform /IAY were 2592882 and No. of Disabled beneficiary individuals were 471811

In the year 2017-18, the No. of Households who have demanded employment was 57315688, and No. of households provided employment were 51158907, No of Households availed 100 days of employment were 2955151, No of Households who were beneficiaries of landreform /IAY were 2605185 and No. of Disabled beneficiary individuals were 472229.

Table 2 Shows Employment provided to women, STs, SCs People Number of Households Employment Generated (SCs, STs, and Women) (persons in lakhs) (Figures in lakhs)

Financial year	SCs	STs	Others	Total	women	Families completed 100 days			
						SCs	STs	Others	Total
2015-16	109.301	81.243	290.776	481.321	363.693	10.444	9.704	28.332	48.48
2016-17	112.324	85.416	314.481	512.22	390.373	8.363	7.103	24.448	39.91
2017-18	110.697	85.828	315.063	511.591	388.043	5.983	5.959	17.606	29.551

Source; Ministry of Rural Development www.mgnregs.nic.in

Interpretations

The aggregate employment opportunities offered to SC, ST and Women is presented in Table 2. In the financial year 2015-16, the MGNREGA

provides employment to 109.301 lakhs belonging to SC and it provides employment to 81.243 lakh persons belonging to ST and it provides employment to 290.776 persons belonging to other category. The

table also shows that it provides employment to 363.693 lakh women. Table 2 also shows the data related to families completed 100 days.

During the financial year 2016-17 the MGNREGA provides employment to 112.324 lakhs persons belonging to SC category and also it provides employment to 85.416 lakh persons belonging to ST category. For other category it provides employment to 314.481 lakhs persons. The table 2 also depicts that this scheme provides employment to 390.373 lakhs women.

For financial year 2017-18 this scheme provides employment to 110.697 lakhs persons belonging to SC category. Also it provides employment to 85.828 lakhs persons belonging to ST category. In case of other category it provides employment to 315.063 lakh persons. It also provides employment to 388.043 lakh women in the FR 2017-18

Findings of the Study

The study had taken the data of 3 years.

1. The number of households who have demanded employment was 53479564 during the year 2015-2016 and the number of households provided employment were 48132074.
2. During the year 2016-2017 the number of people employed under SC category was increased to 112.324 lakhs, ST was 85.416 lakhs and for women 390.373 lakhs.
3. In the year 2018-2019, the employment provided to SC category decreased to 109.749 lakhs.
4. The percentage participation of women has been constantly increasing during these three years which are under study 2015-2018.

Suggestions

1. Planning activities are initiated for the accomplishment of the work by the set time.
2. Labour budget must be submitted on time.
3. Registration of people who are ready to work by doing surveys.
4. Registered employees must be provided 100 days employment opportunities.
5. Trained and adequate manpower must be posted at each level.
6. Education must be provided regarding this scheme.
7. Ensure transparency in fund distribution to districts.
8. Only the annual plan project should be taken up.
9. Social audits must be ensured.

Conclusions

Without any doubt MNREGA is the flagship program and produced so many benefits when it comes to the development of Rural India. The whole structure of employment has been changed by MNREGA. MNREGA is an employment guarantee scheme that provides 100 days assured wage employment. Women are given one-third share in total employment. Backward groups like SCs, STs and others have been permitted to do their own work for development and also these groups are provided wages for these works. The socio-economic condition of the workers who have been continuously functioning, Under the MNREGA scheme have

improved as compared to other groups or households. There is a need to merge the other welfare schemes with the MNREGA. To create awareness among the people regarding MNREGA training conferences must be arranged to train the employees. Political intervention in the scheme should be restricted.

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