

Impact of MNREGA on Tribal Womens

Abstract

In the present and modern time of globalization liberalization and privatization when we talk about the overall and inclusive growth of the country, the need of the development of the rural and agricultural sector of the country comes first. This fact is well established and supported by various studies that Indian economy is mainly a rural and agriculture dominant economy. A huge part of the population (about one third) depends on agriculture sector for their livelihood. This population lives in villages. Although the share of agriculture in G.D.P. is continuously decreasing but we cannot ignore its importance for providing employment to a huge part of the population.

Since the Indian economy is rural and agriculture dominant therefore the success of any developmental programme will not only affect this two third part of the population but its success also depends on the fact that how much stress and importance has been given to the rural and agricultural development in it. It means that the overall development of Indian economy is impossible if we ignore such a huge part of the population which lives in rural areas and indulge in agricultural and allied activities. The planners of Indian economy were fully aware of this fact and they started a number of programmes for rural and agricultural development.

Although some efforts were made for the rural and agriculture development before independence but there was a lack of special and targeted programmes for development. Special targeted programmes for removing poverty and for employment generation and equal availability of livelihood has been started after independence in succeeding five year plans of the country. Present study tries to find out the impact of MNREGA on women empowerment

Keywords: M.N.R.E.G.A., Agriculture, inclusive growth, Tribal women, Unemployment, Saving, Income

Introduction

In the present and modern time of globalization liberalization and privatization when we talk about the overall and inclusive growth of the country, the need of the development of the rural and agricultural sector of the country comes first. This fact is well established and supported by various studies that Indian economy is mainly a rural and agriculture dominant economy. A huge part of the population (about one third) depends on agriculture sector for their livelihood. This population lives in villages. Although the share of agriculture in G.D.P. is continuously decreasing but we cannot ignore its importance for providing employment to a huge part of the population.

Since the Indian economy is rural and agriculture dominant therefore the success of any developmental programme will not only affect this two third part of the population but its success also depends on the fact that how much stress and importance has been given to the rural and agricultural development in it. It means that the overall development of Indian economy is impossible if we ignore such a huge part of the population which lives in rural areas and indulge in agricultural and allied activities. The planners of Indian economy were fully aware of this fact and they started a number of programmes for rural and agricultural development.

Although some efforts were made for the rural and agriculture development before independence but there was a lack of special and targeted programmes for development. Special targeted programmes for removing poverty and for employment generation and equal availability of livelihood has been started after independence in succeeding five year plans of the country.

Various schemes for the employment generation and for the removal of the poverty has been initiated by the central and state governments like Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, National Rural



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Livelihood Mission, Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, T.R.Y. SEM. Plan, I.C.D.S. programme etc. A special reservation for the females has been arranged in these programmes.

In the chain of the various programmes of women empowerment, the latest one is MAHANREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) which was started in 2005.

There were no provisions for availability of work in Indian constitution before NREGA act 2005. The shadow of this act depicts the provisions of equal availability for social and economic development, justice, prestige and other facilities for men and women. The design of this act was prepared by "Jean Dreze". There is 33 percent reservation for the females under this scheme.

After the introduction of MAHANREGA the women of the country get a chance to upgrade their social and economic level. This plan offers the job under the 5 km radius from their home to them.

With the help of this scheme women have become an aware part of the Indian society. Now they are in a position to ask for their rights. Their economic condition gets upgraded and they are actively participating in the development process of rural India.

Review of Literature

Review of available research enables the researcher to know about the research works already done on the research problem and what is to be known or to search on the problem. The review of the available research work avoids the problem of repeatedness and gives new directions to the researchers to research.

BENNI, NAGARAJA and BASAVARAJ in their study "Women Empowerment Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Act (Mgnrega): In Ballari District Karnataka State" published in IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 22, Issue 7, Ver. 3 (July. 2017) PP 26-30 reveals that India is soon after freedom from colonial rule, took major initiatives to transform its stagnate economy into developed economy. Economic planning system was adopted to realize the dreams of transforming economy into developed one and self-reliant. Unemployment, poverty, inequalities, inflation increased gradually during last six decades of planned economic development. Fruits of development did not reach to all sections of people in all regions.

This experience made ruling elite to rethink development strategy and to introduce parallel strategy which will directly target the problems. Several programmes were launched and implemented from the 5th five year plan onwards for employment generation and poverty eradication. But they are not comprehensive in nature to cover all the areas and regions of the country and all sections of people who were to be actually targeted. All those programmes did not yield desired results due to many loopholes-lack of sufficient funds, operational and monitoring problems, wrong selection of areas and beneficiaries,

overlapping of schemes etc. it is in this backdrop the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Scheme- MGNREGA has come into force with statutory provisions.

SHAMIM AHMAD, FAIZAN KHAN SHERWANI and MOHAMMED JAMSHED in their study "WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MGNREGA: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF MEWAT (HARYANA)" published in International Journal of Management and Applied Science, ISSN: 2394-7926 Volume-3, Issue-2, Feb.-2017 reported that women in Indian society represent a totally deprived lot. Their empowerment has a great potential in leading the country to spectacular development.

The emerging issues and challenges in rural India also compel us to adopt a pragmatic support system to empower the women. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and its implementation support this agenda through facilitating the essential processes of entrepreneurship, capacity building, education, health and hygiene etc. especially by involving the women folk of the rural India. The achievement of inclusive growth and overall development is highly dependent on the gender equality and prosperity of women in the rural society.

V, RAJALAKSHMI in her study "IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND THEIR ISSUES AND CHALLENGES: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE FROM 2005 TO 2015" published in Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce *Jan 2017, vol. 22, no. S7*. They reported that "National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005 and it was renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October 2009. The MGNREGA has completed ten years since its inception in India".

The aim of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security of the household in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed employment in every financial year of every household whose adult member volunteers to do the unskilled work. The purpose of the study is to examine the women empowerment, issues and challenges and impact on MGNREGA scheme in India from 2005 to 2015 and this review paper helps new and young researcher who wants to do research under this area may really be helpful to them in order to identify the research problem and research gap. Women participation is very high with 80% of the total beneficiaries under the scheme. The concept of women's empowerment has got wider popularity and acceptance in Tamil Nadu with the launching of decentralized planning in the state. The study concludes that economically empowering women on MGNREGA scheme lays the basis for greater independence and also for self-esteem. It has become a beacon of light in the empowerment of the rural women.

Dutt, Vijay Ranjan in his research study "employment in villages by NREGA" (2010) evaluates the progress of this scheme. He finds that on one hand by women has empowered by rural employment

and their participation in public works, agriculture production and productivity has increased while on the other hand non availability of unemployment allowances, neutrality of officers, low wages poses many problem. Therefore he suggests the regular monitoring of this scheme.

Singh, Shrawan Kumar studies MNREGA in his research paper "MNREGA" (2010). He presents the whole but precise description of this scheme with its objectives. He concludes that this scheme boosts up the rural development but on the other hand it creates some problems like non availability of payment and employment to eligible person, use of machines and other problems. He suggested empowering the workers.

Joshi, Varsha in her study "evaluation of MNREGA in Rajasthan"(2008) ⁽³⁾ evaluate the MNREGA programme in Rajasthan. She includes Dungerpur, Jhalawar, Banswara, Jalore and Karoli districts in her study. She collects the information about labour families, job cards, and tribal women working in this scheme and about other schemes through schedule. She finds that the migration has been checked because of availability of employment at local level. This plan increased their purchasing power and their indebtness also decreased.

Bura, Neera in her research paper "NREGA and its impact on child labour: Fields notes from Dungerpur" (2008) studies the effect of MNREGA on child labour. He uses various statistical tools and concludes that migration has been checked, starvation is reduced and gross enrolment ratio in school has increased. He also says this scheme leads to increase in agricultural production and productivity.

Menon, Sudha (2008) in her research "Right to Information Act and NREGA: Reflection on Rajasthan" shows the importance of right to information in MNREGA scheme and evaluates the programmes of the scheme. She finds that women work participation rate, land productivity, bargaining power has been increased and migration and rural indebtness has decreased for this scheme. She suggests the micro planning for the better performance of MNREGA.

Ritika Khera (2007) in her research "Group measurement of NREGA work: the Jalore experience" empirically evaluated the NREGA works. She shows that in such programmes if we given training to them the labour productivity will increase which increased the wages. She finds that the management of MNREGA is better in Rajasthan than other states.

Objectives of The Study

The main target of this study is to find out the impact of MNREGA scheme on the socio-economic upliftment of the rural tribal women more specifically followings are the main objectives of the study:

1. To find out the impact of MGNREGA on the socio-economic upliftment of the rural tribal women of Udaipur.
2. To find out the impact of MGNREGA on the migration of rural tribal women of Udaipur.

Followings are the guided hypothesis of the study:

1. There is no significant impact of MNREGA on the socio-economic upliftment of rural tribal women.

Research Methodology

Following research methodology has been adopted in the study:

Selection of the Study Area

Present study is an attempt to find out the contribution of MNREGA in socio economic development of rural tribal women of Rajasthan. Rajasthan is mainly divided in 33 districts and 237 development blocks administratively. Presently this scheme is working in all the rural areas of the state.

For the present study we have purposively selected the Udaipur district for micro study. The reason behind the selection of this district is that it is regional headquarter and highest tribal population lives in this district therefore it is selected for the study.

Sample Design

Administratively Udaipur district has been divided into 11 tehsils (Mavli, Gogunda, Kotra, Jhadol, Girwa, Vallabhnagar, Lasadiya, Salumber, Sarada, Kherwara and Rishabhdev), 7 blocks and 2392 revenue villages.

For the intensive micro study we have purposively select the three tehsils for micro study namely "Kherwara, Jhadol and Gogunda". All the three tehsils are tribal dominant. With the help of convenience sampling we have selected 10 villages from each tehsils. This makes a total of 30 villages. Out of the total tribal women of these villages we have selected 10 females from each village on the basis of simple random sampling to find out the impact of MNREGA on socio economic upliftment of the rural tribal women. It makes a total of 300 respondents which is our sample size.

Present study is based on both secondary and primary data. The data relating to the socio-economic conditions, employment, income and purchasing capacity, migration, literacy etc. has been collected through a specified schedule. The secondary data relating to the study has been collected through various publications of government of India and Rajasthan. The data related to Udaipur district has been collected from D.S.O. and D.R.D.O. Udaipur.

We have used various statistical tools in this research like average, percentage, correlations, regression and analysis of variance etc.

Results and Discussion

Factors affecting the involvement of the rural tribal women in MNREGA

Here we have tried to analyze the factors affecting the involvement of the rural tribal women in MNREGA. Here we have used the multiple regression model. Following model has been adopted in the study:

$$Y_i = \alpha + B_1 X_1 + B_2 X_2 + B_3 X_3 + B_4 X_4 + B_5 X_5 + B_6 X_6 + B_7 X_7 + B_8 X_8 + U_i$$

Where Y_i = involvement of women in MNREGA

X_1 = level of education

X_2 = age of women

X_3 = Awareness of the women

X_4 = wages

X_5 = basic facilities at worksites

X_6 = government machinery

X₇ = political will
 X₇ = availability of work
 U_i = error term

Following relationship has been established in the model:

1. Y_i: Involvement of the women in MNREGA is termed as a dependent variable which depends on the other independent variable.
2. X₁: There is positive relationship between the education level and involvement in MNREGA. Educated tribal women will involve in MNREGA more than uneducated women.
3. X₂: Positive relationship has been assumed between the age of women and the participation in MNREGA.
4. X₃: Positive relationship has been established between the awareness and the involvement in MNREGA.

5. X₄: There is positive relationship between the wages and women involvement in MNREGA. Higher will be the wages, higher will be involvement.
6. X₅: Positive relationship has been assumed between the facilities of work place and women involvement in MNREGA.
7. X₆: Positive relationship has been assumed between the good working of government machinery and the women involvement in MNREGA.
8. X₇: Positive relationship has been established between the will of politicians to develop the area and the women involvement in mnrega.
9. X₈: Positive relationship has been assumed between the availability of work and women involvement in MNREGA.

Following results has been drawn by the model.

Results of Regression Model

Variable	Sign	B	t value	R2	\bar{R}^2	F value	P. value
X ₁	+	.68*	2.69	.814	.792	4.862	0.041
X ₂	+	.49	1.64				
X ₃	+	.72*	3.8914				
X ₄	+	.84*	6.294				
X ₅	+	.42*	1.008				
X ₆	+	.281*	0.86				
X ₇	+	.416*	1.291				
X ₈	+	.818*	2.891				

Source: Computed, * significant at 5% level of significance

Here the null hypothesis is

H₀ = B = 0

i.e. B's are not significantly affecting the women involvement in MNREGA.

Here all the variables are found to be positive and significantly affecting the dependent variable. The value of B's are .69, .49, .72, .84, .42, .28, .41 and .818 respectively. It means that if there is 1 percent change in each independent variable than there is .68, .49, .72, .84, .42, .28, .41 and .81 percent change in the dependent variable.

Our model is found to be best fitted as the value of the coefficient of determination and adjusted coefficient of determination is quite high. It is .814 and .792 respectively. It means that the 81 percent variations in dependent variable can be explained by the explanatory variable.

Our null hypothesis is rejected as P. value is less than the 5 percent as it is 0.0041. It can be concluded that the B's are significantly affecting the women involvement in MNREGA.

Impact of MNREGA on the Income of Women

Here we have tried to analyze the impact of MNREGA on the income of the women of rural tribal areas. We have collected the data of income of 20 randomly selected women and applied the t test to test the significance of the change of income due to MNREGA. Following hypothesis has been framed here.

H₀

There is no significant increase in the income of tribal women due to MNREGA.

H_A

There is significant increase in the income of tribal women due to MNREGA.

Impact of MNREGA on Income

Wor kers	Expenditure		Difference	S	t value	P. value
	Pre MNREGA	Post MNREGA				
I	2000	3000	1000	3120.05	4.33	0.002
II	2000	3500	1500			
III	1500	4000	2500			
IV	1600	4500	2900			
V	1600	3800	2200			
VI	2000	5000	3000			
VII	1500	5000	3500			
VII	1600	5200	3600			
IX	1700	5500	3800			
X	1800	5000	3200			
XI	1500	4800	3300			
XII	1600	5600	4000			
XIII	1800	6000	4200			
XIV	2000	6000	4000			
XV	1800	3600	1800			
XVI	1700	4200	2500			
XVII	1500	4800	3300			
XVIII	1600	4900	3300			
XIX	1600	5000	3400			
XX	1500	5000	3500			

Source: Computed

Here the calculative value of 't' is 4.33 values the tabulated value of t at 19 degree of freedom. Since the calculated value of t is greater than the table value therefore our null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that there is significant increase in the level of income of the rural tribal women. Same results can be obtained from P. value.

Impact of MNREGA on Migration

It has been observed that in rural tribal areas people migrate in search of work because they do not

get any employment opportunity at their home town. Since agriculture is a seasonal activity an irrigation facilities are limited in the study area therefore it is very important to find out the impact of MNREGA on the migration. It is presented in following table.

Impact of MNREGA on Migration

Impact	Kherwara	Gogunda	Jhadol	Total
Increased	5	15	10	30
Decreased	80	85	80	245
Stable	15	0	10	25
Total	100	100	100	300

Source: Field survey

Data reveals that 5 respondents of Kherwara, 15 of Gogunda and 10 respondents of Jhadol reported that migration has been increased after the introduction of MNREGA.

80 women of Kherwara, 85 of Gogunda and 80 women Jhadol reported that migration has checked due to the MNREGA in study area.

30 women replied that migration has been increased while 245 women replied that migration has stopped because people get job opportunities at their home town. It can be concluded that migration has been checked after the introduction of MNREGA.

Hypothesis Testing

H₀

There is no association between migration and the study area.

H_A

There is association between migration and the study area.

Here the calculated value of χ^2 is 14.621 while the table value of χ^2 is 9.48 at 4 degree of freedom. Since the calculated value of χ^2 is greater than the table value therefore our null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that there is association between the migration and the study area.

Conclusions

We have drawn some major conclusions from the study ,which is presented as follows;

1. The tribal women are facing the serious problem of unemployment and M.N.R.E.G.A. proves to be very beneficial for these tribal women.
2. The main motivating factor of women participation in M.N.R.E.G.A. is the awareness of the women about the government's schemes and the wages. Aware people can take the better benefit from these schemes and the higher wages promotes them to involve in M.N.R.E.G.A.
3. The income of the tribal women has been increased due to their involvement in M.N.R.G.A. our null hypothesis is THAT There is no significant increase in the income of tribal women due to MNREGA has been rejected and it can be concluded that there is significant increase in the level of income of the rural tribal women due to their involvement in M.N.R.E.G.A.
4. It can be concluded that migration of the people has been checked after the introduction of MNREGA because people can get employment at their native places.

Suggestions

1. Government should emphasis on perfect monitoring on the works of M.N.R.E.G.A.; it improves the efficiency of the workers.
2. Corruption should be controlled in the works of M.N.R.E.G.A.
3. Special village level committees should be framed to monitor the implementation of M.N.R.E.G.A.
4. Permanent staff should be recruited in this department.
5. Government should emphasis on the involvement of women's in M.N.R.E.G.A...
6. There is a need of encourage women's to involve in M.N.R.E.G.A. works. Government should think over it.
7. The wages should be equal and the process of determining wages should be made transparent.
8. Women's should be aware about their exploitation at work places.
9. There should be facilities of child care on work places.

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