

Performance of Mgnrega in Madurai District with Special Reference to Tamilnadu

S. Thangamayan¹, S. Chandrachud², S. N. Sugumar³

¹Assistant Professor, ²Associate Professor, ³Professor and Head, Department of Economics, VELS Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies, (Deemed to be University) Chennai

ABSTRACT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has given rise to the largest-ever employment in human history. The share of SC/ST families in the work provided under MGNREGA is over 47 per cent and around 49 per cent of workers are women. They not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, droughts and other natural calamities. They create rural infrastructure, which support further economic activity. Apart from providing livelihood to millions of household, these programmes have become a significant vehicle for strengthening grassroots level democratic processes. Employment generation programmes in India continue to be one of the major interventions aimed at alleviating rural poverty. Assured wage rate and employment opportunities are the important determinants of rural poverty in India. By improving the purchasing power of the rural people living below poverty line, both assured wage rate and improved employment opportunities help them to cross the poverty barriers in a sustained manner. The present study is undertaken to highlight of the MGNREGA implemented to uplift the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes their impact for socio-economic development, in the study area of Madurai district in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Employment Opportunities, performance, Impact.

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has given rise to the largest-ever employment in human history. Over the last nine years, MGNREGA has generated more than 1,827 crore person-days of work at a total expenditure of over 2, 80,450 crore. Between 4.14 and 5.49 crore families got work through the programme every year in this period. The share of SC/ST families in the work provided under MGNREGA is over 47 per cent and around 49 per cent of workers are women. Average wages of workers have gone up by 118 per cent over the last nine years and since 2011, wages have been so indexed that workers are protected from the ravages of inflation. Nearly 10 crore bank/post office accounts of our poorest people have been opened and around 80 per cent of MGNREGA payments are made through this route, an unprecedented step in the direction of financial inclusion. India's population has increased many folds every decade. Similar way of unemployment also increased in rural India. Agriculture activities are the

mainstay of rural people.¹ as agriculture is gamble in the monsoon, it generates only seasonal unemployment. Climate variation, declining productivity and lack of suitable employment opportunities during most of the year after the livelihood security of the rural people, a sizable segment of them are poor. It led to be increase in multiple factor of unemployment that unemployment should eradicate through innovative employment scheme in India is required. India's population as on 1st March 2001 stood at 1,028 million (532.1 million males on 496.4 million females). India accounts for a meager 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq.km yet it supports and sustains a whopping 16.7 per cent of the world population. The population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century was around 238.4 million, increased to reach 1,028 million at the dawn of the twenty-first century. India, by her sustained efforts, has attained a substantial magnitude of development. However, the dark side of this development is that the rural areas could not keep pace with the urban areas for various reasons. Wage employment programmes, an important component of the anti-poverty strategy,

have sought to achieve multiple objectives.² they not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, droughts and other natural calamities. They create rural infrastructure, which support further economic activity. These programmes also put an upward pressure on market wage rates by attracting people to public works programmes, thereby reducing labour supply and pushing up demand for labour. Such an assurance would ensure a minimum level of employment and stability to the incomes of the poor and give them an opportunity to develop their collective strength. Apart from providing livelihood to millions of household, these programmes have become a significant vehicle for strengthening grassroots level democratic processes. Employment generation programmes in India continue to be one of the major interventions aimed at alleviating rural poverty. Assured wage rate and employment opportunities are the important determinants of rural poverty in India. By improving the purchasing power of the rural people living below poverty line, both assured wage rate and improved employment opportunities help them to cross the poverty barriers in a sustained manner.⁴

Review of Litreature

Reetik Khera and Nandini Nayak (2009)⁹ has analyzed about “Women workers and perceptions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act”. The study was based on field work in six states in 2008, and the socioeconomic consequences of the NREGA for women workers. The study reveals that, in spite of the drawbacks in the implementation of the legislation, significant benefits have already started accruing to women through better access to local employment, at minimum wages, with relatively decent and safe work conditions. The work is available at the statutory minimum wage, allowing workers to get work. Finally, this article concluded that the NREGA provided some benefits for women: migration and hazardous work now can be avoided by NREGA.

Ankitta Venkatesha Murthy et al (2010).³ In their study an attempted to investigate about sources of information and individuals’ insight formation about the informant in public work programmes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Based on primary data collected from Ghodaj and Baghulgan villages in Nanded district of

Maharashtra, using a qualitative research strategy-grounded theory approaches. Their study found that interpersonal relationships between the participants and implementing agents who represents the state is vital in making perceptions. Further, two information nodes – Gramsevak and Sarpanch – Turn out to be the most influential agents who act as prime informants. Their contest that there are individual cognitive limitations that hinder a person’s information seeking ability from impersonal sources, generating dependency on personal communication through core nodes mentioned.

Statement of the Problem

Socially disadvantages groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been receiving special focus over the years for their social and economic advancement. Government has taken several steps for framing appropriate policies needed to design and implement various welfare programmes for achieving the objectives of creating favourable environment to ensure specify socio-economic development of SC’S/S.T’s, and OBC’s for the well being of these communities, special target oriented programmes are being implemented by earmarking funds, providing subsidies, offering reservations in employment and educational institutions, etc.⁵ The major activities for these communities are grouped as educational development, economic development, housing and other schemes, special component plan and tribal sub-plan. Provision of burial ground and pathways to burial ground, drinking water facilities, electricity facilities etc, were also implemented. The present study is undertaken to highlight of the MGNREGA implemented to uplift the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes their impact for socio-economic development, in the study area of Madurai district in the state of Tamil Nadu.⁶

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the real wage increase or not after implement of MGNREGA across the states in India,
2. To know the socio economic status of pre and post reform of MGNREGA performance in the study area,
3. To examine the employment opportunities of pre and post reform of MGNREGA in the study area,

Scope of the Study

The study covers a sample of MGNREGA under Madurai district and across the different states of India, In Tamil Nadu among the district of Madurai concentrated the district has been chosen the study area.

Sampling Procedure: The multi-stage random sampling technique had been adopted for the study with the Madurai district as the universe, the block, and the village beneficiaries of MGNREGA had been considered as the different stratum.

Collection of Data: The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was collected mainly from published sources of State Governments, Government of India. State-wise wage data for agricultural labour by gender and operation published by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India for various years have been primarily used for the analysis.

Period of the Study: The field survey was carried out during the period of May to June 2014 for the purpose of collection of the primary data. The data collection pertained to the Agriculture years of 2013 – 2014.

Tools of Analysis

The statistical tools are used to analyses the collected data and to interpret the research. in addition to tabular form, percentages, Linear Growth Rate compound growth rate, etc, were used to assess the feasibility of beneficiaries of MGNREGA under Madurai district.

Analysis of Data

Socio Economic Status of Sample Farmers in Madurai District: The present chapter provides the information of characteristics of selected sample units. It explains the socio-economic characteristics of selected sample beneficiaries of MGNREGA, such as classification of sample beneficiaries are gender, age, caste, educational status, family size in Madurai district.

Table 1: Block Wise Distribution of Sample Respondent

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Number of Sample Respondents	Percentage of Sample Respondents
1.	Thirumangalam	130	37.7
2.	Usilampatti	90	26.1
3.	Vadipatti	125	36.2
	Total	345	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 shows that Block wise Distribution sample respondent in position of four Blocks, number of sample respondent is 345. Only used by percentage analysis out 100 samples, likewise Thirumangalam Block respondents 130 (37.7) Usilampatti Block respondents per cent (26.1) 90.

Table 2: Distribution of State Wise Male Agricultural Wage

Sl. No.	States	Growth Rate of Real Wages at 1986–87 prices.				
		Real Wage Rate of Male (Rs/day)			Growth Rate (percent/annum)	
		2000-01	2005-06	2010-11	Pre-MGNREGA	Post-MGNREGA
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.05	16.03	26.88	1.05	9.00
2.	Bihar	16.00	17.00	19.35	1.02	2.18
3.	Gujarat	16.63	17.43	15.93	0.79	-1.49
4.	Haryana	26.05	25.78	30.33	-0.18	2.75
5.	Karnataka	16.98	16.28	19.35	-0.70	2.93
6.	Kerala	48.10	47.88	59.53	-0.08	3.70
7.	Madhya Pradesh	14.38	14.23	15.13	-0.17	1.03

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8.	Maharashtra	18.88	17.18	20.08	-1.56	2.63
9.	Orissa	14.45	17.03	22.85	2.77	5.03
10.	Punjab	24.53	22.75	29.58	-1.24	4.47
11.	Rajasthan	27.08	22.95	24.8	-2.72	1.30
12.	Tamil Nadu	25.53	23.38	31.35	-1.46	5.01
13.	Uttar Pradesh	17.75	16.75	20.38	-0.57	3.40
14.	West Bengal	18.60	20.45	21.88	1.59	1.13
	All India	18.93	19.28	22.25	0.31	2.42

Source: Labour Bureau.

It is envisaged from table -2 that the all India level, the average real wage rate for male agricultural labourers has increased from ₹ 18.93/day in 2000-01 to ₹ 19.28/day in 2005-06 and then to ₹ 22.25/day in 2010-11. That is, the wage rate grew only at a rate of 0.31 per cent per annum for male labourers during pre-MGNREGA period, whereas it registered a growth rate of 2.42 per cent per annum during post-MGNREGA period at the all India level.

This trend is not only true at the national level but also turned out to be correct in most of the states considered for the analysis. For instance, of the 14 major states considered for the analysis, the wage rate registered a negative growth in 9 states during pre-MGNREGA period. Even in developed states like Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, the real wage rate for male agricultural labourers has declined sharply before the introduction of employment scheme.

Table 3: Distribution of State Wise Female Agricultural Wage

Sl. No.	States	Growth Rate of Real Wages at 1986-87 prices				
		Real Wage Rate (Rs/day)			Growth Rate (percent/annum)	
		2000-01	2005-06	2010-11	Pre-MGNREGA	Post-MGNREGA
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.80	10.90	19.80	0.15	10.46
2	Bihar	13.37	14.57	16.47	1.44	2.06
3	Gujarat	14.43	14.87	13.87	0.49	-1.15
4	Haryana	21.90	24.60	29.20	1.96	2.90
5	Karnataka	11.97	11.43	13.03	-0.76	2.21
6	Kerala	29.40	29.27	31.77	-0.08	1.38
7	Madhya Pradesh	11.73	11.43	13.33	-0.43	2.60
8	Maharashtra	12.20	10.83	13.30	-1.96	3.48
9	Orissa	11.80	14.60	18.40	3.61	3.93
10	Punjab	23.47	22.13	29.10	-0.97	4.67
11	Rajasthan	20.70	16.10	17.63	-4.10	1.53
12	Tamil Nadu	13.50	12.90	19.03	-0.75	6.70
13	Uttar Pradesh	15.13	13.77	17.43	-1.57	4.01
14	West Bengal	15.30	16.37	17.67	1.13	1.28
	All India	14.53	14.53	17.47	0.03	3.11

Source: Labour Bureau.

It is inferred from table 3 the wage rate has increased at a relatively faster rate for female labourers as compared to the male labourers during post-MGNREGA period. Real wage rate for female farm labourers was 14.53 day in 2000-01, but it increased to 17.47 day in 2010-11 at the all India level. In terms of growth, the wage rate grew only

at a rate of 0.03 percent during pre-MGNREGA period, whereas it registered a growth rate of 3.11 percent per annum for female labourers during post-MGNREGA period, which is much higher than the growth rate of male wage (2.42 percent per annum). Since wages are paid for female labourers on par with the male labourers under MGNREGA scheme, it must have helped to increase the wage rate at a relatively faster pace for female labourers.

Although the growth performance of wage rate for female labourers is much better than the male counterpart, the overall state-wise scenario in terms of growth rate of wage for female labourers is almost the same with the male labourers. For instance, 8 out of 14 states have registered a negative growth rate in female wage rate during pre-MGNREGA period, which is almost the same with male wage rate as well. Similarly, except Gujarat, all others states have registered positive growth in female wage rate during MGNREGA period which is exactly matching with the growth rate of wage for male farm labourers. Not only this, our growth analysis further shows that all those states which have registered high growth rate in male wage during MGNREGA period have also recorded high growth rate in female wage rate during the same period. States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have registered high growth rate in male wage which is also same with female wage rate during MGNREGA period. On the whole, the analysis shows that not only the average wage rate for male and female agricultural labourers has increased considerably during the MGNREGA period across the states except Gujarat and West Bengal but the pattern of growth rate in farm wage is also the same for both male and female labourers across the states.⁷

Conclusion

To concluded that, most of the sample respondents are know about the MGNREGS through Rural work programme. The bigger percentages of sample respondents are registered by the scheme. Moreover, the rate of growth in marginal workers engaged in non-agricultural activities is found to be higher than those of main workers increasing share of marginal workers in the total workforce of non-agriculture sectors is a cause of concern.⁸ The Panchayats are collecting money to issue job cards in the name of the photograph and preparation of the job card. Most of the sample respondents reported awareness about the guaranteed days of employment.

Ethical Clearance: Completed

Source of Funding: Self

Conflict of Interest: Nil

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