



ROLE OF MGNREGA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA: A CASE STUDY OF KOPPAL DISTRICT

¹Dr. Nagaraja J and ²Dr. N Honnurswamy

¹Full Time Guest Faculty, Department of Studies in Economics, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sarovara Post Graduate Center, Nandihalli, Sandur, Karnataka

²Coordinator & Assistant Professor, Department of Studies in Economics, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sarovara, Post Graduate Center, Nandihalli, Sandur, Karnataka

Abstract

The development economist is often warning that unless the eradication of poverty takes place the growth of the nation could not be expected; also the growth-oriented economy cannot be reined justifiably. Thus, the vital key to the distribution of natural resources lies down in the conception of employment opportunities for the developing country like India. The component of expenditure on machinery is also predetermined. If the Gram Panchayat fails to employ individual registers and demands employment, there is a provision for paying unemployment allowance. This section seeks to present briefly the progress made by the Ballari district in the implementation of the MGNREGS. Poverty is always depending on the base of income, expenditure and nourishment value. The Indian government has implemented several policies in order to generate employment and eradicate poverty. In this series, the Government of India has introduced one of the world's most significant development programme in human history with a new concept, i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP). At present, India has become the second most popular front and the sixth largest economy in the world, the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP), and it is also one of the most poverty-stricken countries. Our economy is surpassing China; hence we call India an emerging nation (World Economic Outlook, [2018]). As of now, 70 per cent of people live in rural areas, and significantly poverty in India is estimated to have one third of the world. Historically, developing economies such as India have been plagued by the unequal distribution of valuable natural resources. Such imbalance is leading to poverty, illiteracy, meager consumption, low investment and slower growth.

Keywords: Employment, MGNREGP, Expenditure, Wage Rate.



Introduction

MGNREGA is the most significant act in the history of Indian polity in many ways like grass-root level participation of every citizen and beneficiary through democratic process, multi-layered social audit and transparency mechanism by involvement of civil society, comprehensive planning at village level towards sustainable and equitable development etc. Important salient feature of the Act is to improve the quality of life of rural people who are vulnerable to out-migration in search of daily wage employment by channelizing the wage workforce towards developmental activities at the village level itself. The scheme was initially in progress in the first phase of 200 districts during its cognitive stage has generated lot of enthusiasm among social scientists, and NGOs and led them to initiate several surveys on their own. The surveys as in the cases of any other scheme are centered on the end results such as targeting all the needy beneficiaries, and implementation of the Act in letter and spirit. The scheme is gigantic in nature and in the process of implementation and achieving the desired output. There are many issues which are straddling the implementing agencies right from District to Gram Panchayat. The MGNREGA involves participatory planning and implementation of the scheme through

- (i) Proactive role of Gramsabha,
- (ii) Rigorous & continuous monitoring by way of social audit, and
- (iii) Involvement of ordinary people at the grass-roots level.

The MGNREGA was passed on August 23, 2005 by the Indian Parliament. The president of India gave his assent for the MGNREGA on September 5, 2005 and it was notified on September 7, 2005. In the first phase, the act was implemented in 200 most backward districts of India. Later on its coverage was extended to another 130 districts in the second phase. On April 1, 2008 the act was implemented in all the districts of India. The MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. (Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India).

Review of Literature

A brief review of literature focusing on financial and physical progress in India and Karnataka is presented as follows.

Kumar (2014) in his paper examined that Programme has a major impact on rural area. MGNREGA is playing pivotal role in rural employment generation and enhancing the rural livelihood. It is one of major wage employment initiative which provides at least hundred days of employment in the rural area. The panchayat raj



institution played a leading role in planning and implementation of the programme. MGNREGA help generating wage employment in the rural area.

Sharma (2017) found that many employment generation programmes are being introduced by the Government of India to fulfill the gap of employment generation in rural India. Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act is the first ever act in the history of India to provide guaranteed work and wage. This paper studies the effect of MGNREGA on the generation of employment, type of work done under this statute and up to what extent this programme is successful in poverty alleviation in rural India. Many researchers have found that this programme has a huge impact on the employment structure of rural India. The present paper studied and outlines the role of MGNREGA in enhancing the livelihood of poor rural people through twin incorporation of work with skill. Also, there is the need of overcoming the procedure of payment.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the functional aspects of MGNREGA in Koppal district of Karnataka.
- To study the socio-economic profile of the beneficiary in the study area.
- To explore the role of MGNREGA in the economic empowerment in Koppal District of Karnataka.

Research Methodology

The data required for the present study was collected through both primary and secondary sources; the primary data was collected through questionnaire and schedule methods. The secondary data was collected through published and unpublished records from the PRIs, reports from government of Karnataka and from the department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), MGNREGA report etc., A sample of 50 respondents were selected for the present study through random sampling technique and the data were collected by interviewing 50 respondents from the selected villages from Koppal District, using a detailed questionnaire and interview schedule across the selected districts of Karnataka. The data gathered through primary investigation were analyzed by using appropriate mathematical and statistical methods. The present study has considered only the current practices and benefits gained by the respondents of the selected district of Karnataka and hence the results of the study would be more applicable to the geographical location of the state.



Table – 1

Respondents' Opinion on MGNREGA

Particulars on MGNREGA	Koppal District	
	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
Awareness of MGNREGA	67	33
Employed under MGNREGA	68	32
Getting 100 days of employment under MGNREGA	49	51
MGNREGA worksite is within 5Km radius of your residence	74	26
MGNREGA has benefitted your family	86	24
MGNREGA has increased your family income	78	22
Aware of the present wage rate under MGNREGA	53	47
Present wage payable under MGNREGA is sufficient	31	69
MGNREGA should be continued	91	9

Source: Primary Data.

Table 1 shows the opinion of respondents on MGNREGA. 67% of the respondents are aware of the employment scheme- MGNREGA, 68% of the respondents are employed under MGNREGA, 49% of the respondents are getting 100 days of employment under MGNREGA, 74% of respondents' worksite is within 5Km radius from their locality, 86% respondents family is benefitted from the scheme, 78% of respondents family income has increased because of MGNREGA, 53% of respondents are aware of the present wage rate under MGNREGA, only 31% of the respondents opine that the wage rate payable under MGNREGA is sufficient and 91% of the respondents opine that MGNREGA scheme should be continued.

Table 2 shows the details regarding the expectation of the respondents from MGNREGA scheme. From Koppal District 99% of the respondents opine that wages have to be increased, 91% of the respondents opines that percentage of wages have to be increased, 76% of the respondents opine that more activities have to be added to the MGNREGA scheme. Thus it can be said that majority of the respondents from the district are expecting increase in wage rate and percentage increase in wages and also increase in the activities of MGNREGA.

**Table – 2****Expectations of the Respondents from MGNREGA Scheme**

Expectations	Koppal District	
	Required (%)	Not Required (%)
Increase in the wage rate	99	1
Percentage increase is expected	91	9
Activities have to be added/increased	76	24

Source: Primary Data.

Table 3 shows the source of income of the respondents before joining MGNREGA. From Koppal District 37.33% of the respondents were unemployed, 8% of the respondents source of income was agriculture, 45.33% respondents source of income was non-agricultural activities and 9.34% of the respondents were doing other works.

Table – 3**Source of Income of the Respondents before Joining MGNREGA**

Source of income	Koppal District (%)
Unemployed	37.33
Agriculture	8
Non agriculture	45.33
Other	9.34

Source: Primary Data.

The overall analysis shows that the majority of respondents were from non-agrarian community.

Table - 4**Main Expenditure Areas of the Respondents (From their Total Income)**

Activities	Koppal District
	Expenditure (%)
Meeting home needs	63
Medicine	21
Repayment of loan	9
Travelling	2
Others	5

Source: Primary Data.



Table 4 shows the main expenditure details of the respondents from their total income. Expenditure details of the respondents from Koppal District are – 63% on meeting home needs, 21% on medicine, 9% for repayment of loans, 2% for travelling, 5% for meeting other needs. The overall analysis reveals that highest percentage (63%) of the income of respondents are been spent for meeting home needs. Table 5 depicts the details of the opinion of the respondents on different activities of MGNREGA. From Koppal District 78% of the respondents said that their nature of employment changed after joining MGNREGA, 77.33% of the respondents said that their time utilization for selected activity has joined after joining MGNREGA, 80.66% of the respondents income has changed after joining MGNREGA, 26% of the respondents have purchased property after joining MGNREGA, 47.34% of the respondents household income has increased after joining MGNREGA.

Table – 5
Respondents' Opinion on Different Activities of MGNREGA

Parameters	Koppal District	
	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
Does your nature of employment changed after joining MGNREGA?	78	22
Is there a change in the time used for selected activities under MGNREGA?	77.33	22.67
Is there a change in your income level after joining MGNREGA?	80.66	19.34
Have you purchased any property after joining MGNREGA? (land, livestock etc.)	26	74
Does your household expenditure have increased after joining MGNREGA?	47.34	52.66
Do you have the ability to make small or large purchases independently?	80.66	19.34
Does your socio-economic status have increased after joining MGNREGA?	76.66	23.34

Source: Primary

Data. 80.66% of the respondents have got the ability to make small/large purchases independently after joining MGNREGA, 76.66% of the respondents socio-economic status has increased after joining MGNREGA.

Table – 6
Satisfaction Level of the Respondents about MGNREGA Scheme

Satisfaction level	Koppal District (%)
Highly satisfied	6
Satisfied	15.34
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	42.67
Dissatisfied	28.66
Highly dissatisfied	7.33

Source: Primary Data.



Table 6 shows the satisfaction level of respondents about MGNREGA scheme. Out of 50 respondents from Koppal District 6% of the respondents are highly satisfied, 15.34% are satisfied, 42.67% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 28.66% are dissatisfied, 7.33% are highly dissatisfied. The overall analysis shows that majority of the respondents i.e., 47.33% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is one of the prominent demand driven programmes of the government where provision of work is triggered by the demand for work in the rural areas for unskilled labourers. The scheme also been considered as a landmark legislation in the history of social security legislation and a silent revolution in employment generation in rural areas of the country. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) has been hailed as a forum initiative in women empowerment by providing employment, training, skill programmes and other promotional activities. The scheme not only on employment generation but also to increase in the production of agriculture sector. Therefore it can be said that the MGNREGA helps in revive of the village economies, promote social security, equity and empower wage employment programme.

References

- Disha Sharma et.al (2017) “MGNREGA: a Tool for Generation of Employment & Poverty Alleviation” SSRG International Journal of Humanities and Social Science (SSRG-IJHSS) volume 4 Issue4 July to August 2017.
 - Institute of Applied Manpower Research. All-India Report on Evaluation of NREGA: A Survey of Twenty Districts, Narela, Delhi-40, i-22.
 - Jandu Navjyoti. Employment Guarantee and Women’s Employment in Rural India, National Seminar on NREGA at Vigyan Bhavan, 16 May, 2008.
 - Kumar, S. (2014). “Role Of Mgnrega In Rural Employment: A Review. EPRA” International Journal of Economic and Business Review. 2(1), 18-22.
-



- Subha, K. and Bhargava, B. S. (2002). Feminism and Political Empowerment of Women at the Grass-roots. The Karnataka Experience, South Asian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 2, 72-86.
- Vinita Arora, Kulshreshtha. L. R, and Upadhyay, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Women Employment Guarantee Scheme: A Unique Scheme for Indian Rural International Journal of Economic Practices and Theories, Vol.3, No.2.2013.