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RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN INDIA: A CASE STUDY OF MGNREGP IN TELANGANA

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Abstract

India's rural development is a complicated topic with many social, economic, demographic, and occupational issues. To address the problems of poverty and unemployment in rural areas, the Indian government established a number of programs and initiatives for rural development. Since the Community Development Program was first introduced in 1952, these programs have undergone significant revisions, culminating in the current Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. 2005. In 2005, the Indian government passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In accordance with the Act, the Telangana government also developed the NREG plan. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act would provide employment under this program for one hundred days of the fiscal year to a major who is prepared to work voluntarily but lacks skilled work experience. This will enable the impoverished unskilled people make ends meet. On October 2, 2009, the National Rural Employment Guarantee was renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The study makes it possible to observe how the State of Telangan is executing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment assurance Scheme as a component of rural development and employment assurance.

Key words: Rural development, Poverty, Government of India, MGNREGS, Telangana

Introduction

India's rural development is a complicated topic with many social, economic, demographic, and occupational issues. The governments were forced to give the country's developmental map top priority due to a number of factors, including absolute poverty levels, distress migration brought on by seasonal unemployment, extremely poor transportation and marketing, and other facilities like health, education, and the traditional social structure, as well as the associated rural distress. The governments' intentions and programs reflect this. Numerous initiatives have been developed since the nation's independence to hasten rural development. Enhancing the standard of living in rural areas while bridging the gap between rural and urban areas by providing all utilities has been the aim of rural development.

The policy and programs of rural development aim at basic issues like alleviating rural poverty, generating employment and removing hunger and malnourishment accompanied by the enrichment the quality of human life. It is unfortunate that still rural areas are associated with poverty, unemployment and distress migration even after about 70 years of planned initiatives.

To address the aforementioned issues, the Indian government sponsored a number of rural development initiatives. There were many stages of success and failure for the programs. However, the efforts continue to be as focused and vigorous. Scholars have thoroughly documented and investigated these elements. This chapter makes an effort to show how rural development in India has changed over time and to examine current rural development initiatives in order to identify key trends.

Rural Development Strategies in India

In 2005, the Indian government passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In accordance with the Act, the Telangana government also developed the NREG plan. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act would provide



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employment under this program for one hundred days of the fiscal year to a major who is prepared to work voluntarily but lacks skilled work experience. This will enable the impoverished unskilled people make ends meet. On October 2, 2009, the National Rural Employment Guarantee was renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. All Telangana districts have successfully adopted this system, with the exception of Hyderabad district.

Our research makes it possible to observe how the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented in the State of Telangana, particularly in the Nalgonda area. It also looks at the scheme's beneficiaries, who are extremely impoverished and in need of employment. The primary goals of this program are to prevent impoverished or reliable farmers from leaving their villages in search of new employment in neighboring towns or larger cities if they are unable to find employment in agricultural fields throughout the year.

Additionally, the program helps the poor working people retain a decent living by giving them 100 days per fiscal year if they are unable to continue working in their regular fields. Additionally, it aids with the village's greening and cleanliness as well as the reconstruction of its streets and tiny roads. It undoubtedly affects the beneficiaries' social and economic circumstances in rural villages.

This program's primary goal is to provide basic livelihood security. This is the only program in the world that guarantees paid employment in such a special way. The purpose of this Act is to improve rural natural resources and offer strong social safety for the impoverished who are unemployed. They will receive 100 days of employment with a guaranteed wage per fiscal year. This program encourages inclusive growth and has a direct impact on the lives of the impoverished. All unskilled households who voluntarily participate in the program are eligible to receive the employment pay guarantee for 100 days of each fiscal year.

This programme is aimed to show the dignity of the poor people by providing the source of employment and it also built the foundations to the social security system, by providing legal guarantee of work.

The main aspects of the programme are as follows:

- Livelihood security
- System of wages
- Conditions of work
- Permissible work

It is effective with the marginalized groups of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Below Poverty Line People and Women. It is a supplementary income source to the poor people in non agricultural season.

The primary aim of the present study is to examine the implementation of NREGS in and impact of MGNREGP in Telangana .Perceptions of stakeholders on Rural development and MGNREGP has been analysed in this article and also discussed the impact.

Table-1: Opinion on in-time Payment

	Frequency	Number
Yes	289	96.3
No	11	3.7
Total	300	100.0

The majority of the people have expressed that they are receiving money on-time. Payment of money ensures that the public are socially secured by the government and the on time payment is reducing their financial burden. This means that NREGA has been making them independent where they have purchasing power. Many people have expressed their happiness on the same and indicating the efficiency of the NREGA scheme.



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**Table-2: : Before NREGS what was your income source**

S.No	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	100	33
Labor	140	47
Business	30	10
Other	30	10
Total	300	100

Most of the people remarked agriculture and labor work constitute to a major source of income. People either work on their own fields or work as laborers on others place. Business seems to be the option of a handful of people as much as 10 percent as the latter requires investment which is hard to find. Other options for source of income include migration to other places, or working in the nearby mandals or small towns.

Table-3: : Kind of facilities are provided at work place

S.No	Frequency	Percent
Water	30	10
Transport	50	17
Shed	40	13
Crèche	0	0
First aid	150	50
None	0	0
Total	270	90
	300	100

The data shows that NREGA participants lacked the facilities. The availability of drinking water is also a rare phenomenon. Many a time's participants carried their own water bottles to their work places. The availability of washrooms is also a very rare phenomenon. The availability of shed is also a speculative, as in most cases this didn't happen. The case of crèche to provide for the infants of the working women is not at all functional. This shows that many provisions under the NREGA are still not practically functioning at the village level. The only positive factor is the availability of first aid kits which could be available as a preventive measure to take care as emergency situations.

Table-4: Do you notice reduction in migration

S.No	Frequency	Percent
Yes	210	70
No	90	30
	300	100

Participants have also indicated that NREGA had prevented permanent migration to other places. Through NREGA they sought a definitive amount of work through which they were based in their own village surroundings. But however seasonal migration continued despite this. This trend persists as families seek more employment opportunities to cater to the growing needs of the family. It comes as no surprise that people continue to migrate seasonally though in a small number.

Table-5: Do you notice Development after NREGS

S.No	Frequency	Percent
Yes	180	60
No	120	40
Total	300	100



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People remarked that they could see change in their lives after the coming of the scheme. People have stopped going to long distance in search of work, and also spend long hours of work. But in case of infrastructural development there is no significant change. There is a need to strengthen public systems through which such schemes can be efficiently monitored on further.

Table-6: Do you feel that there is a need to continue NREGS in future?

S.No	Frequency	Percent
Yes	180	60
No	120	40
TOTAL	300	100

Yes, there is a need to continue with this scheme as people require minimum support from the government to address the issues of unemployment and under employment, apart from the NREGA scheme people also voiced their opinion over the need to introduce other reforms which also cater to the needs of educated and skilled youth. Through this way, the government can also utilize their skills.

Table-7 : Financial status after NREGA

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	78	26.0
No	37	12.3
Better	167	55.7
Not Better	18	6.0
Total	300	100.0

Most of the people remarked that their financial status is relatively better off after the NREGA. Some people had clearly opined that they are doing well after the NREGA implementation. While few people said no to financial betterment, their response did not seem very clear. The schemes for rural welfare like MGNREGA were introduced to reduce rural poverty and rural unemployment to create better socio-economic conditions of the rural people. In the same way, this data also discussed about economic changes of who are working with this NREGA scheme. 26% (78) people are believing that it's changed their financial status after engaging with this act. At the same time 12.3% (37) job card holders are not felt with same but 55.7% (167) major contribution of this survey there are observing better financial changes in their life. 6% (18) people are discussing, they have not come across any there any financial changes after working with NREGA scheme. The MNREGA did not differentiate educated/skilled workers from illiterate/unskilled. The NREGS remained true to its right to work entailments and did not counsel households that approached for works with better living standard.

Table-8 : Inclusion of other programmes in MGNREGP

	Frequency	Percent
Village development work	135	45.0
Agricultural –work	37	12.3
Horticultural –works	12	4.0
Drainage lines	6	2.0
Drains	31	10.3
Horticulture	11	3.7
Lighting	3	1.0
Open wells	9	3.0
Roads	46	15.3



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Other Miscellaneous works	10	3.3
Total	300	100.0

As mentioned in the table above. schemes such as village developmental work, drainage, horticulture, agricultural works, roads, lighting, open wells, and other miscellaneous works should be included in order to incorporate more work into the NREGA. Through this people will get more work, and availability of regular work will guarantee them basic assured income also.

Table-9 : NREGS is useful to agriculture development

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	205	68.3
No	6	2.0
A Little	89	29.7
Total	300	100.0

They opined that this measure has addressed the issues of migration in the village. The NREGA has worked as an employment allowance scheme, where people also did other works alongside with the NREGA work. This made transition into agricultural works also easier.

Table-10 : Farmers also getting benefit through NREGS

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	138	46.0
No	2	.7
A Little	160	53.3
Total	300	100.0

Farmers also benefitted with the NREGA scheme, as they got work on one hand. On the other hand, they were also able to get people to work on their lands.

Table-11: If Yes, how

	Frequency	Percent
Other	195	65.0
Irrigation	100	33.3
L.L	5	1.7
Total	300	100.0

Many NREGA participants revealed that they were called to work on the lands of the other people and asked to work there. They did irrigations works, well digging and many other works.

Table-12 : Decrease of Migration after NREGs

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	117	39.0
No	24	8.0
Temporary	159	53.0
Total	300	100.0



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The One of the main aim of government to introduce NREGA is to stop urbanization. Now a day's urbanization is the problem ting issue for developing countries like India. Though several studies were conducted to examine the rural employment issues in the country, very few studies are made focusing exclusively on the MGNREGP and its issues. Since, the MGNREGP is a unique scheme focusing on guaranteed employment, first of its kind in the world but this study is showing 53% (159) people are feeling, it's not a clear solution for the migration. 39% (117) of the interviewed stated that they have seen NREGA as a positive alternative for reducing migration. Remaining 8% (24) respondents believed that they did not find any changes in migration patterns after working with NREGA.

Table -13: Overall Opinion on NREGS system

	Frequency	Percent
Better	45	15.0
Good	177	59.0
Not bad	64	21.3
Very good	14	4.7
Total	300	100.0

Many people have indicated on the need for better facilities under the NREGA. While some are hesitant about this it is a very much reflective when they talk about the need for better facilities. Each person aspires for better facilities at their work this indicates the need for improvement in the present way things are working.

Conclusion

This study revealed that NREGA is having a positive impact on Rural development in villages. It is preventing migration and also improvising wage rates. A number of centrally sponsored schemes have been implemented under rural development mission and welfare of the poor. But NREGA is one of the greatest experiments undertaken in India to eradicate rural poverty. The scheme has been launched to supplement the error and gaps of all previous schemes with the involvement of Panchayats, Civil society and local administration. Poor families were targeted to get benefits of employment and livelihood to supplement their family income. After this field study data analysis it may be conclude that there is great impact of MGNREGP on Rural poor and found great change in development and lives of the rural folks particularly marginalized and backwards section of the people in Telangana state.

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