



Evaluation of economic empowerment of MGNREGA beneficiaries: A study in 5 villages of Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

In almost all underdeveloped countries where per capita income is very low, income inequality has resulted in a number of evils, of which poverty is certainly the most serious one. Poverty in fact is a socio-economic phenomenon that is intimately associated with inequality. It adversely affects human health, efficiency and productivity which in turn affect their income. It deprives a segment of society of bare necessities of life-food, clothing, housing, education and health. India is a democratic country where more than 69 percent people reside in rural areas. Rural economy depends on agriculture. In India rural development enhances Indian economy which ultimately reduces to the poverty. So economy, rural development and poverty are interrelated and interdependent to each other. In India present strategy of rural development is to provide basic amenities, infrastructure, better livelihood opportunity by improving socio-economic condition of rural poors and to terminate poverty through various wage and self-employment innovative programmes. In this concern NREGA (which is renamed MGNREGA in 2009) Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house. Its increases demand for goods and services. Through this research paper we will try to focus to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on MGNREGA beneficiaries and their life style of Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. The study revealed that the MGNREGA has a lot of changes in the life style of its beneficiaries but the position of lower class household is same as before or negligible change in their life style specially in migration

Keywords: socio-economic, income, economic empowerment, MGNREGA

Introduction

The "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)" was enacted to reinforce the commitment towards livelihood security in rural areas. The Parliament passed the MGNREGA in the monsoon season on August 23, 2005. The Act received the assent of President on September 5, 2005 and was notified on September 7, 2005. It was implemented in 200 India's most backward districts on February 2, 2006 in its first phase. And its coverage has been extended to 130 more districts of India since April 1, 2007 in its second phase. The Act is implemented in all districts of India from April 1, 2008. The Act provides a legal guarantee of 100 days' work (within 5 km distance of gram panchayat) in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work at a statutory minimum wage rate. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the first tangible commitment to the poor. The scheme aims at providing employment as a source of income by ensuring their dignity. Thus it was considered a unique scheme, which provides them Right to Work, enshrined in the Constitution under directive principles of state policy. In this sense the scheme was supposed to be the most unique scheme after independence as it provides them statutory right to employment and the government has a statutory obligation to provide employment to every rural household in a financial year. The MGNREGA empowers those working class households who are search for short period job in

villages and change their life style also. It is also an unprecedented opportunity to built the foundations of social security system in rural India, revive village economies, promote social equity and empower rural laborers. It is a demand-driven Programme where provision of work is triggered by the demand for work by wage-seekers, The MGNREGA in principle, provide legal guarantee of work and hence it is a milestone in the way of Right to Work. The main aim of the Act is to provide livelihood security in rural areas by providing work to them. Thus the MGNREGA is a blessing Programme for rural workers.

Objective and Methodology

In this study we are trying to examine the earnings of MGNREGA beneficiaries and their expenditure pattern on food and non food items. The study is an effort also made to find views and perceptions of the MGNREGA beneficiaries about this plan and we have also tried to examine the socio economic life style of rural migrants.

There are 6 Tehsil and 2083 villages in Bareilly district (according to census 2011). For the field survey we have purposely selected 5 villages of Bhuta block of Bareilly district for the study. After the selection of the villages the list of total issuing of MGNREGA job card obtained from the block office and 20 MGNREGA job card holders were selected in each villages on the basis of random sampling and some selected on purposely sampling (specially that job card holder who belongs to migration). Thus the sample size

belongs to 100 MGNREGA beneficiaries. This study is a descriptive type study which is based on primary and secondary data both. Where primary data source are used as field survey, block office (Bhuta), internet website etc and

secondary data source as books, article and research paper to complete this research paper. The list of selected villages and total no of job card and sample job cards are given in table: 1-

Table 1

Name of village	Total issued job card	No of Randomly selected job card	No of Purposely selected job card	Total selected job card for the study
Mirzapur	193	10	10	20
Maheshpur	78	10	10	20
Gularia Hajari Lal	61	10	10	20
Faiznagar	415	10	10	20
Rawal kala	107	10	10	20
Total	-	50	50	100

Source: Field survey

Scenario of MGNREGA in selected study area (Based on Field Survey)

100 MGNREGA beneficiaries are includes in the survey belongs to 5 Gram Panchayats of Bhuta block in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. This study prepared on the basis of field survey in concern beneficiaries responses and in all selected beneficiaries 4 belongs to Gen, 59 OBC, 29 SC and 8 belongs to ST categories (out of 100 beneficiaries). Findings and observed scenario of MGNREGA assessment in selected

field of study are presented in following topics which is response by respondents beneficiaries in field survey during to study

i) Share of MGNREGA wage in annual income of beneficiaries

The share of MGNREGA wage in total annual income of beneficiaries are presented in table: 2, according to MGNREGA wage and Unemployment allowance as follows-

Table 2

Contribution of MGNREGA wage in annual income of beneficiaries (IN ₹)	GEN	OBC	SC	ST	Total	%
0-2000	4	25	6	3	38	38%
2001-4000	0	31	22	2	55	55%
4001-6000	0	3	1	2	6	6%
6001-8000	0	0	0	1	1	1%
8001-10000	0	0	0	0	0	0%
More than 10000	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Source: Field survey

The study revealed that the main source of earnings of beneficiaries is agriculture and labour work in surveyed area. It is important to note that household reported that this programme has definitely remained beneficial to support in adding their yearly income but scenario of yearly income of 100 MGNREGA beneficiaries is not attractive. Out of 100 beneficiaries, 38% beneficiaries have reported that the contribution of MGNREGA wage in their total yearly income was under ₹ 2000 and 55% have reported that the contribution of MGNREGA wage in their annual income was between ₹ 2000 to ₹ 4000 from MGNREGA wage, 6 % beneficiaries have reported that the contribution of MGNREGA wage in their annual income was between ₹ 4000 to ₹ 6000 and only 1 respondent reported that their annual income was ₹ 6000 to ₹8000 from MGNREGA wage. Study revealed that no beneficiary earns ₹ 10000 or more than ₹ 10000 annually from MGNREGA wage.

ii) Basic Amenities available to MGNREGA beneficiaries in study Area

Table-3 describes the basic amenities available to beneficiaries in study area. It includes some various parameters which belongs to fundamental economic

entitlement for the rurals and its refer to that basic socio-economic infrastructure which is Indian government try to provide in rural areas with the help of different plans and schemes. These are follows-

Table 3

Basic Amenities available to beneficiaries	Facility Status	
	Yes	No
Pakka house	49	51
Shauchalaya	40	60
Drinking Water	82	18
Electricity Connection	23	77
Mobile	96	4
Television	11	89
Cycle	98	2
Motor cycle	13	87

Source: Field survey

The study reveals that 49% beneficiaries have pakka house and 40% beneficiaries have Shauchalya and only 23% respondent are reported that they have electricity connection at their home. The condition of drinking water connection is so good, 82% household have reported that they have drinking

water facility at their home. Mobile use is very common in survey area 96% respondents have response that they are use mobile phone. We are examine in study that only 11% household use television for his entertainment and only 13% respondent have use motorcycle. Thus the study reveals that the socio-economic standard of MGNREGA beneficiaries is to good but not enough and this requirement to do something more in this job.

iii) Scenario of Migration in MGNREGA beneficiaries in study area

If we examine the guidelines of MGNREGA scheme, then it is clear that the MGNREGA was launched with two major goals. One of them, to provide guaranteed employment and second is to reduce migration (from village to urban) in rural areas. So the table- 4 describes the condition of migration in surveying area which is based on responses of the respondents-

Table 4

Category of Beneficiaries	Total no of Beneficiaries	No of Beneficiaries who migrants	%
GEN	4	1	25%
OBC	59	17	28.81%
SC	29	13	44.83%
ST	8	3	37.5%
Total	100	34	34

Source: Field survey

Survey data shows that Out of 100 MGNREGA beneficiaries, 34% reported that they migrated for their livelihood from their native place to urban areas. Total numbers of migrated person in all the surveyed villages were 34. If we examine the table, then it will be known that 25% migrants belongs to GEN, 28.81% belongs to OBC, 44.83% belongs to SC and 37.5% migrants belongs to ST category in total migrants. Main source of employment is agriculture and labour work in survey area and because of seasonal employment in agriculture, people have migrate their livelihood to urban areas. During the survey, the beneficiaries have reported two main reasons for this level of migration-

1. Not getting the enough work on native place due to mismanagement of panchayat and lack of workplace.
2. Wage Difference between migrants place and native place.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is considered as a milestone for the change of living standard of unskilled labour in rural India. This is not only provides an alternative source of livelihood to the unskilled labour but also changed the expenditure pattern of rural workers. Changing of expenditure pattern is reflects to the increment of income. It is evident from the field survey that 49% beneficiaries respondents were have pakka house and 40% have shauchalaya in their houses and 96% respondents were use mobile sets. It shows that the expenditure pattern of surveyed household is changing gradually and improved their quality of living standard. But the other side the picture is not so good. The study reveals that 89% households do not have television in their house and 60% of sampled households have no toilet facility in their houses and 77% beneficiaries have no electricity connection in their houses. If we are talk about migration in study area, the data reveals that 34 beneficiaries out of 100 are affected from migration. There are two main reason, one lack working place and second is wage difference between migrants place and native place, for this level of migration. Thus a long way has to go to improve the quality of life at village level because the absence of these basic amenities.

Study also reveals that beneficiaries have lack of knowledge about MGNREGA. Due to lack of knowledge they can't get proper benefit of this scheme or they get cheated. During the survey it was found that no beneficiaries knows about unemployment allowance and he doesn't know if he can't get work, he can demand for work to concern authority. It's not enough, during the survey some beneficiaries also reported that that some money being taken by Rojgar Sevak for the work. Apart from this the supply chain of MGNREGA has been to prolonged, due to which there is a lack of accountability.

If we are examine overall study, then it can be said that MGNREGA has proven to be a flagship scheme to improving the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries in rural areas. On the other hand, the fact has also been revealed that due to some flaws the beneficiaries couldn't get the expected benefits. However the achievements of MGNREGA are very commendable to improving employment and wage rate in rural areas, still the simplification of supply chain of MGNREGA, public awareness program and merged with agriculture sector of MGNREGA, more good results can be obtained.

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