



RESEARCH ARTICLE

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MGNREGA

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ABSTRACT

Every year Govt. of India has initiated to launch the various schemes for the upliftment of the poor community of country. In 2016 our Prime Minister has announced different schemes for the different beneficiaries like start up India, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Make in India, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, Skill India, Bharat Vikas Kauchal Yojna etc. These schemes have shown an impressive and significant improvement in the employment generation and other aspect as well. Earlier two basic schemes have started namely NAREGA and MGNREGA. The special attempts have been made to elaborate these aspects of research study.

INTRODUCTION

As independent India has a long history of employment generating programme especially for the poor and the rural areas of economy. Two national employment programme were introduced in 1980 based on the past experiences, namely the "National Rural Employment Programme" (NREP) and the "Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme" (RLEGP). As the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) plays a predominant role in alleviating the problems of the rural people living in poverty. The MNREGA was notified on 7th September, 2005 and covered 200 districts in first phase, implemented on 2nd February, 2006 and was extended to 130 additional districts in 2007-2008. All other areas have been notified with effect from April 1, 2008. There is no need of description that poverty is the curse to nation which must be rooted out to develop the country. The main objective of MGNREGA to provide the guarantee employment (100 days) to the rural people of economy as around 50-60 percent population living in distress state and need development.

Agenda of MGNREGA

As discussed rural peoples without work have right to demand for the work provided a job card with photograph verified which is issued by the Gram Panchayat.

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Thus, job card holder can apply to get work from Gram Panchayat and will succeed to get work within 15 days from the date of application]. Workers will get their wage as per the prescribed rate through bank account or post office account. The role of middleman (contractor) has abolished and Panchayati Raj will have a principal role in planning, monitoring and implementation of such policy.

Literature Review

Various experts have different views on MGNREGA scheme for its establishment and successful implementation:

- Datt (2008) revealed that out of 20.1 millions household employed in the MGNREGA, only 2.2 millions i.e. 10.5 percent received the full 100 days employment and wages. The average employment per household was 43 days in 2007-08 respectively.
- Shekhawat (2002) in his study revealed that disbursement of assistance to beneficiaries was delayed and assistance given under employment generating programmes (EGPs) was insufficient, there were the major problems faced by the respondents in taking advantages of EGPs.
- Datt (2008) reported that main constraint under MGNREGA were lack of professional staff, lack of proper project planning, bureaucratic resistance to MGNREGA, inappropriate rates of payment and lack of transparency and social audit.
- Richard Mahapatra (2010) in his study found that increasing participation of women's in MGNREGA can

be used for more effective delivery of its core objective; local ecological revival. Now it is mandatory to have 50 percent women panchayat representatives who have nodal roles in the programme's implementation and including preparing the village development plans.

- National Tribunal (2006) studied 100 days programmes of NREGP in district of Madhya Pradesh and reported that tremendous hurdles faced at the first stage of registration and acquiring of the job cards.
- Pankaj, A and R Tanka (2010) highlighted the fact that high literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh is the cause of high awareness level among women about the Act. They stated that 71 percent of the female workers were able to meet their personal needs with income earned from MGNREGS. The payment of wages through saving bank accounts leads to greater incidence of self-collection and control over the usage of wages.
- Ghose, P (2006) opined that the success of the scheme could be assured if the responsibility of implementation is given to the elected representatives i.e., the Panchayat and not the Bank Development Officer (BDO) or Gram Sevaks. Generally, in strong PRI system, the BDOs and Gram Sevaks work under the control and supervisions of PRIs.
- Goswami H.K (2009) reported in his study that salutary effects on natural resources through water conservation, land and forestation projects taken up large measures under MGNREGA.
- Harsha, A (2010) argued that MGNREGA cannot be a long term solution to the problem of rural India. A comprehensive and a more sustainable solution that creates large scale self employment opportunities in the secondary and tertiary sector in the rural areas that stimulates demand and increases rural productivity is still need to be found.
- Bipul & Sebak (2013) concluded that implementation of the MGNREGA in ten villages of the Sonamukhi block of district Bankura in West Bengal so as to identify the emerging strength & weakness of the programme. They also concluded that though the programme has potential for upliftment of the socio-economic status of the rural poor providing guaranteed employment but because of some irregularities in the implementation people were not satisfied.
- Keshlata (2014) stated that though it cannot be denied that MGNREGA programme has benefited tribal household by providing employment but they need special focus and attention regarding their presence in the Gram Sabhas.
- Jagdeeshwari Yasodha (2015) made an appraisal of MGNREGA scheme in Tamil Nadu. She found that there has been shift towards the MGNREGA work especially of women folk. She further held that payment of MGNREGA wages through bank has encouraged saving habit.

Objectives of research study: The main objectives of the study are

- To discuss how rural development reduces the unemployment;
- To assess the contribution of MGNREGS towards generating employment in rural areas;

- To know the participation of women in implemented scheme;
- To know the sources (banks and post offices etc.) of disbursal of wages;
- To give suggestions which may remove the bleak sides of the Act.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

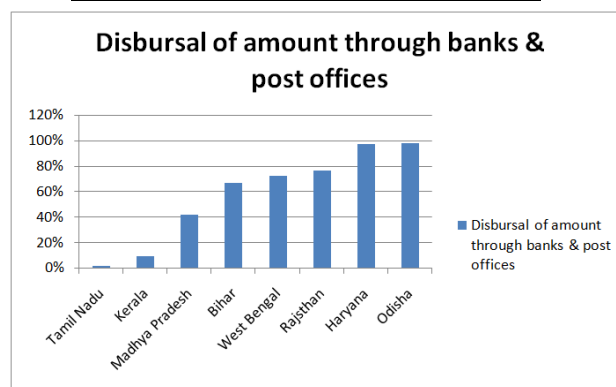
Research methodology is systematic techniques to find out solution of the given problem with apply the method and tools by the researcher. Every sincere efforts have been done to present the result in significant way. The present study is completely based on secondary data collected from report published, budgets and research journal etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

This segment of research study would help to the researcher to analyze and give interpretation thereto.

Disbursal of wages amount through banks and post offices

States	Disbursal of amount through banks & post offices
Tamil Nadu	2%
Kerala	10%
Madhya Pradesh	42%
Bihar	67%
West Bengal	73%
Rajasthan	77%
Haryana	97%
Odisha	98%



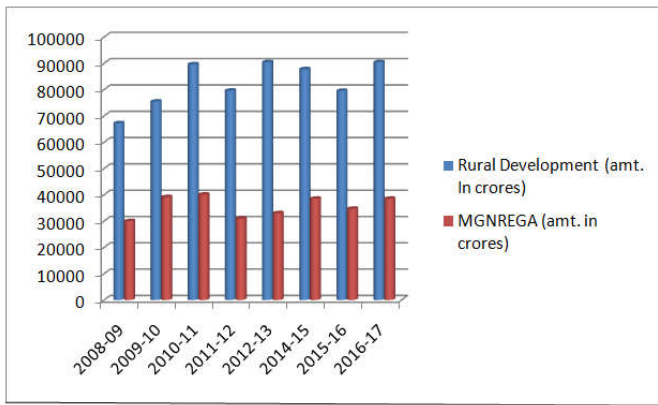
Sources: Report from NIS 2010-2011 available online

Interpretation

Above figure revealed that amount of wages paid to workers through banks and post offices are very lesser in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh as compared to West Bengal, Haryana and Odisha resulting chances of frauds and manipulation of funds because of lack of transparency.

Allocation of funds to Rural Development and MGNREGA

years	Rural Development (amt. in crores)	MGNREGA (amt. in crores)
2008-09	67191	30000
2009-10	75431	39100
2010-11	89629	40100
2011-12	79621	31000
2012-13	90435	33000
2014-15	87765	38500
2015-16	79526	34699
2016-17	90435	38500

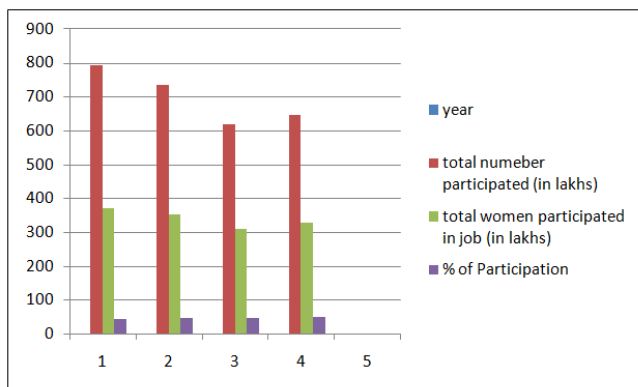


Sources: Union Expenditures Budget, Vol. 2, Ministry of Rural Development

Interpretation: The figure revealed that Government has expanding the amount for rural development every year except 2011-12 and 2015-16 and fund for MAGNREGA also expanding except 2011-12. In 2016-17 budget has gone up 11 percent as compared to 2015-16.

Women participation in jobs and generating income sources

year	Total number participated (in lakhs)	Total women participated in job (in lakhs)	% of Participation
2012-13	797.34	374.97	47.03
2013-14	738.9	354.48	47.97
2014-15	621.69	312.26	50.23
2015-16	650.14	331.18	50.94



Source: Rural development ministry

Interpretation: The above figure revealed that MGNREGA schemes achieved to generates employment and people living in poverty get the opportunity of earning money through involvement of this scheme. It also shows that participation of women has shown impressive increased in last three year.

Recommendations and suggestions: MGNREGA open up the tremendous possibilities of creating a livelihood resource base for rural poor people. To implement the successfully this schemes following measures may be taken:

- Timely wages should be paid to the workers. Effective and better communication between beneficiaries (workers) and officials should be developed in order to fulfil the objectives of this scheme.
- Sincere efforts should be made to reduce the gap between time and work and timely payment made to workers.
- Trained and dedicated staff should be appointed for the effective implementation of scheme.
- Qualified persons are required maintain the proper and accurate records of the beneficiaries.
- Government should organize the awareness programe to make people aware about their rights and encourage them to use the RTI Act.
- Working conditions need to be made more conducive by enforcing and strengthening existing provisions and adding more norms.
- Effective social audit is necessary to eliminate bogus beneficiaries.

Conclusions

It has been seen throughout the study that MGNREGA scheme playing a very significant role generating employment opportunity not only poor community of the economy even for the household women. But greater responsibility is required to assign upon the official to make it more transparent and effective. Payment should be released to workers through transparent manner without making unreasonable delay and time to time awareness programmes should be organized for the poor people. Undoubtly it is working impressively but still there is a long way to go.

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