

Impact of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme on poverty eradication and elevation of socio-economic status of rural women

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a prudential programme, with an engendering vision of development launched and implemented by the Central Bank of India. It is started with a deliberation that the development of a nation reaches its aim only when it happens at rural areas. It is being widely recognized that the soul of India lies in the village and the people who toil hard are the real asset of every nation. So this scheme plays a vital role in the social economical sphere of rural areas of India. The comprehensive study evaluates significance and salient features of MGNREGA. To achieve the objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data are used. Primary data is collected through questionnaire from 50 respondent of kuttiattoor panchayat, personal interview. Secondary data is collected through website, newspaper, books, research paper.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme, poverty eradication

1. Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme- An Over View

The programme takes a momentous role in the social scenario of the countries like India, since where an economical inequality endures. Hence the scheme mainly put forward a vibrant concept to give '100 days of work' to rural women to alleviate poverty of rural people and give them a prosperous life. Since the scheme started in 2005, it made a spectacle impact among the life of rural people of India, especially in Kerala. Among the rural women the unemployment rate decreased from 30.9% to 21% and among urban from 42.9 to 19.8 during the same period. Employment participation which was 34.3% in the rural areas in Kerala in the period of 2004-05 which was increased to 35.3% in 2009-10 and again it moved to 36.3%. This remarkable change is the cause of the vibrant functioning of MGNREGA.

Review of Literature

Aswan and Ms. Paulomee Mistry found that there had been impact of MNREGA on the wages of Non-MNREGA works. The different ways of measuring the same work led to different wage payment across villages. Vanish Anish found that employment generation has been quite low. There were delays of 40 to 50 days in wage payment. Hence workers choose to leave MNREGA worksites for immediate payment when alternative employment available. No new works were taken up in the summer when work is most needed. Reetika Khera and Nayak, large interstate variations in the participation of women have been observed. Women constitute more than two third of MNREGA workers in Kerala (71%). NGOs and individuals conducted studies which looked into implementation, functioning and impact of MNREGA on employment, out migration and providing food security owing to no assurance of providing employment throughout the lean period.

Objectives of the Study

- To identify the impact of MGNREGA on poverty alleviation and women empowerment in Kuttiattoor Panchayath.
- To identify the factors that motivates the relevant employees.

Research Methodology

To achieve the objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data are used.

Primary data is collected through questionnaire from 50 respondent of kuttiattoor panchayat, personal interview. Secondary data is collected through website, newspaper, books, research paper.

Policies and Programmes towards Poverty Alleviation

The programmes that are being implemented now are based on the prospective of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) expanding self-employment programmes and wage employment programmes are being considered as the major ways of addressing poverty.

Examples of self-employment programmes are;

- Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)
- Prime Minister's Rosa Yojana (PMRY)
- Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rogers (SJSRY).

The government has a variety of programmes to generate wage employment for the poor unskilled people living in rural areas. Some of them are;

- National Food for Work Programme (NFWP)
- Zamora Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

The Indian government has taken up various measures to overcome the problem of poverty. Poverty alleviation programme comprising of wage employment programmes,

rural housing schemes and a public distribution system have been initiated from time to time. Some were partially successful in addressing the issue of poverty whereas others suffered from major flows in their implementation.

National level rural employment generation schemes are;

- National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) 1980-89
- Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)1983-89
- Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) 1989-99
- Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) 1993-99
- Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) 1999-2002
- Zamora Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) since September 2001
- National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) since November 14, 2004.

(SGRY and NFFWP now merged with NREGS 2005)

In August 2005, the parliament has passed a new Act to provide guaranteed wage employment to every household whose adult volunteer is to do unskilled manual work for a minimum of 100 days in a year. This Act is known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act-2005. Under this Act all those among the poor who are ready to work at the minimum wage

can report for work in areas where this programme is implemented.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

Amidst great hype and hope, Indian parliament passed a revolutionary novel and unique Act i.e. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. The ongoing programme of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) were subsumed within NREGA. It is renamed on 2nd October 2009, as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is engaged in the implementation of MNREGA.

It is the flagship programme of the government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment and its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development

Data Analysis

Table 1: Poverty eradication

Particulars	No. of respondents (Percentage)									
	Before					After				
	V.H	H	A	L	V.L	V.H	H	A	L	V.L
Financial self sufficiency			16	24	60	72	28			
Financial stability			4	48	48	72	28			
Efficiency to manage day to day requirements		12	48	40		52	12			
Shebang to give better education and food to children			28	24	48	48	48	4		
Optimistic approach towards life		16	24	48	24	48	36	16		

Source: Primary data

Table 2: Empowerment of women

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
Yes	20	40
No	30	60
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

Table 3: Rating of performance of MGNREGA

Performance	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Very good	2	4
Good	20	40
Average	18	36
Poor	10	20
No comment	0	0
Total	50	100

Table 4: Quantitative Changes

Particulars	No. of respondents (in percentage)									
	Before					After				
	V.H	H	N	A	V.L	V.H	H	A	L	V.L
Leadership		8	20	24	48	36	36	24	4	
Management capacity		4	12	36	48	24	36	32	8	
Planning capacity		4	16	36	44	36	44	16		
Level motivation		4	16	32	48	40	48	12		
Decision making capacity		8	20	32	40	48	36	16		
Controlling ability		12	24	28	36	44	44	16		
Ability to co-ordinate		24	40	36	16	48	44	12		

Source: Primary data

Table 5: Qualitative Changes

Particulars	No. of respondents (in percentage)									
	Before					After				
	V.H	H	N	A	V.L	V.H	H	A	L	V.L
Earning capacity				28	72	60	40			
Mobility			12	40	48	36	48	16		
Status			12	40	48	56	40			
Self-respect		48	48	4		44	56			
Self confidence				48	52	56	44			
Self-skill			36	16	48	48	48	4		
Capacity to interact		4	48	24	24	48	48	4		

Findings

The majority 56% of the respondents are of highly dissatisfied with the present work timing (9am to 5 pm) of the scheme. 64% are of opinion that they are dissatisfied with the present wage scale of the scheme. 84% are not engaged in any other economic activity and they have no any other source of income. 56% are of the opinion that, fulfillment of daily needs with the earnings from this job is average. 40 % of them has faced hazardous situation at worksite. This shows the difficulties of the job to women. These types of works are not suitable to women. All the employees are of the opinion that there is a strong empowerment of women after this is established. Women came out of their home and they are ready to hard work for getting earning. MGNREGA scheme has an important role in women empowerment. After the scheme is established, there is a great improvement in socio-economic status of rural women.40% of the respondents have the opinion that MGNREGA is a good scheme because of empowerment of rural women. And 20 % opined that it is poor because of low wages.It has been found that this scheme leads to some quantitative changes in employees as a group member. Leadership and planning capacity has become very high for 36% respondents. Coordinating ability and decision making capacity is also very high among 48% respondents. Controlling ability, motivation level and management capacity also improved at high level. It has been found that MGNREGA also leads to some qualitative changes among its employees as an individual. Earning capacity has become very high for 60% respondents. Self-skill and interacting capacity is improved at 56% respondents. Mobility and self-respect also changed to high at 36% and 46% respectively. This study also reveals that poverty level among rural women also has a great improvement financial self-sufficiency and financial stability now at becomes very high for 72% respondents. Shebang to give better education and food to children and employee’s optimistic approach towards life has become improved to very high at 48%. The ability of respondents to manage day to day requirement is also become very high for 52% respondents.

Suggestions

- The government should take appropriate measures to increase the wage scale under MGNREGA scheme.
- The works which are not suitable to women should be exempted from the work list of the scheme.
- The government should make sure that proper availability of food and interval time at work site.
- A workers committee and a quality circle have to be set up in the panchayat for discussing the various problems relating to workers.

- The government must give bonus and incentive to employees for promoting them to the work.
- The government should guarantee the payment of wages within one week.
- Government should involve more workers in to the scheme.
- The government must provide material / weapons which are supporting to the workers to the employees.
- The government should change the present work timing of the scheme (9 am to 5 pm).
- The government must sure that a benefit of the work is getting to poor people because the owners need not pay any wages to such employees.
- The government should try to increase the number of work days in a year.

Conclusion

MNGREA scheme has made considerable change in the lives of rural area women in India. In order to have the conspicuous impact of MNGREA which made in the social economical scenario of rural women, especially in Kerala, the study was conducted for. So, the study and analysis was conducted to get the crystal idea about the employment guarantee scheme, its activities and results. The MNGREA scheme made a spectacular change in the financial self sufficiency of rural women, and a progressive change in the living status of rural women. If the suggestions and findings those received during this study, would be implemented in future, certainly the scheme can perform miracle in the concerned area.

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