

IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MNREGA) ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

S.K. Badodiya*, R.S. Kushwah**, S.K. Garg*** and S.K. Shakya****

ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MNREGA) has the potential to transform the geography of poverty. This act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household. The present study was conducted in Morar Block of Gwalior district. A sample of 110 beneficiaries of rural poors was used for the fulfillment of objectives under this investigation. Majority of the beneficiaries increased their annual income and belonged medium to high income category. Personal characteristics like- education, social participation, land holding, credit availability, source of information, contact with MNREGA personnel, attitude towards scheme and knowledge of the beneficiaries about scheme were observed significant relationship with annual income increased of the beneficiaries due to scheme. The major suggestions for improvement of benefits of the programme was suggested more than one third of the beneficiaries- The entitlement of 100 days should be increased of guaranteed employment in a financial year are in terms of a household.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), also known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, (NREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. The MNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt. of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments. This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women. Adult members of rural households submit their name, age

and address with photo to the Gram Panchayat. The panchayat registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card. The job card contains the details of adult member enrolled and his /her photo. Registered person can submit an application for work in writing (for at least fourteen days of continuous work) either to panchayat or to Programme Officer. Strong social safeties for the vulnerable groups are providing a fall-back employment source, when other employment alternatives are scarce or inadequate. Growth engines for sustainable development of an agricultural economy. Through the process of providing employment on works that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. Effectively implemented, MNREGA has the potential to transform the geography of poverty. New ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy. Thus, MNREGA fosters

* Asstt. Professor, Dept. of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, RVSKVV, Gwalior.

** P.C., Dept. of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, RVSKVV, Gwalior.

*** Ph. D Scholar, Dept. of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, RVSKVV, Gwalior.

**** PA, College of Agriculture, RVSKVV, Gwalior.

conditions for inclusive growth ranging from basic wage security and recharging rural economy to a transformative empowerment process of democracy. Keeping the above views the present study was undertaken with following objectives:

1. To assess the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme on beneficiaries.
2. To analyze the association between characteristics of beneficiaries & impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme (in terms of increased in annual income).
3. To seek the suggestions for betterment of the scheme.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Morar Block of Gwalior district. The district consists of four blocks viz. Morar, Dabra, Ghantigaon and Bhitwarwar. Out of these blocks, Morar block was selected purposively as maximum numbers of poor families have been benefited under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). A sample of 110 beneficiaries of landless, marginal, small farmers and rural poor was used for the study. The impact of MNREGA on Poverty Alleviation among the farmers was assessed with the impact of MNREGA in terms of annual income increased due to the programme.

The data were collected with the help of a pre-tested interview schedule from the respondents who were benefited by the programme. The secondary data were collected from the official records and other sources. The independent variables like- age, education, social participation, family size, land holding, credit availability, source of information, contact with MNREGA personnel, cosmopolitaness, attitude towards scheme and knowledge about scheme were included for the study, while impact of MNREGA in terms of annual income was considered as dependent variables. X²-test was used for finding the association between dependent and independent variables.

Chi-square test:

The degree of association between variables

was assessed with the help of chi-square test. The formula of the chi-square is given below:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

With (r-1)(c-1) d.f.

Where,

O = Observed frequency of respondents

E = Expected frequency of the same respondents

Σ = Summation taken overall the respondents

X² = Is based on (C-1) (r-1) degree of freedom and significant tested at 5% level and 1% level where R and C stand for number of rows and columns.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Impact of MNREGA programme on poverty alleviation in respect of monetary gain to the beneficiaries-

The distribution of beneficiaries according to their annual income increased the under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) programme has been presented in Table-1.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their impact of MNREGA in terms of annual income increased of beneficiaries

S. No.	Categories	Respondents (n=110)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low income (<Rs. 5,000)	11	10.00
2.	Medium income (Rs. 5,000 to 9,000)	65	59.09
3.	High income (>Rs. 9,000)	34	30.91
Total		110	100.00

The data presented in table-1 indicate that after the engaging of respondents in MNREGA programme, a higher percentage of the beneficiaries (59.09%) increased their annual income upto Rs 5000 to 9000/- and belonged to medium income category, followed by 30.91 per cent beneficiaries increased their annual income above Rs 9000/- and belonged to high income category, whereas only 10.00 per

cent beneficiaries increased their annual income upto Rs 5000/-. and belonged to low income category.

Table 2. Association between profile of beneficiaries & impact of MNREGA programme

S. No.	Characteristics	χ^2 (Chi-square)	D.F.
1	Age	2.99 ^{NS}	4
2	Education	21.59	8
3	Social participation	15.56	4
4	Family size	2.086 ^{NS}	4
5	Size of land holding	11.76	4
6	Credit availability	13.79	4
7	Source of information	12.01	4
8	Contact with NREGA personal	13.80	4
9	Attitude towards scheme	10.73	4
10	Cosmopolitaness	2.96 ^{NS}	4
11	Knowledge about scheme	17.59	4

NS- Non significant

It may be concluded that after the engaging

Table 3. Suggested strategies for improvement of the programme

S. No.	Suggestions	Beneficiaries (n=110)		Rank
		Number	%	
1	Proper monitoring of work should be done in time	68	61.81	II
2	The entitlement of 100 days should be increased of guaranteed employment in a financial year is in terms of a household	92	83.63	I
3	Proper implementation of programme	56	50.90	IV
4	Making of job card should be easier	60	54.54	III
5	Wages of labours should be increased	68	61.81	II
6	Cooperation should be made by the officials	45	40.90	VI
7	Benefits of the programme should be circulated in readable form (local language) in remote area	50	45.45	V
8	The information related to programme should be supplied on time and in proper way.	60	54.54	III

Suggested Strategies for betterment of the programme-

The strategies suggested for betterment benefit of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act programme are presented in Table 3.

The data presented in Table-3 indicate that most of the beneficiaries (83.63%) suggested that

of respondents in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act programme, their annual income was increased in significant way. This finding supports the view expressed by Badodiya et al. (2008) and Kannapiram, (1992).

Analysis of association between profile of beneficiaries & impact of MNREGA programme -

The data collected to find out the relationship between socio-economic, communicational and psychological attributes of beneficiaries and their annual income increased due to the scheme were analyzed and presented from Table 2.

Independent variables like- education, social participation, land holding, credit availability, source of information, contact with MNREGA personnel, attitude towards scheme and knowledge of the beneficiaries about scheme were observed significant relationship with annual income increased of the beneficiaries, while age, family size and cosmopolitaness were found no significant relationship with annual income of the beneficiaries. The finding of Badodiya *et al.* (2008) was in the same line of the present finding.

the entitlement of 100 days should be increased of guaranteed employment in a financial year is in terms of a household. Wages of labours should be increased and proper monitoring of work should be done in time reported by 61.81 percent of the beneficiaries. Making of job card should be easier & the information related to programme should be supplied on time and in proper way (54.54%), Proper implementation of programme(50.90%), Benefits of

the programme should be circulated in readable form(local language) in remote area (45.45%), and Cooperation should be made by the officials(40.90%).

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that higher percentage of the beneficiaries increased their annual income medium to high income category. It shows the good impact of MNREGA programme among the beneficiaries for enhancing their livelihood security in rural areas. In the context of strategies for improvement of benefits of the programme, more than one third of the beneficiaries suggested that the entitlement of 100 days should be increased of

guaranteed employment in a financial year is in terms of a household and Proper monitoring of work should be done in time reported by 61.81 percent of the beneficiaries.

REFERENCES

- Badodiya, S.K., Shakya, S.K., and Daipuriya O.P. 2008. A study on Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana with reference to increase in annual income of swarozgaries. *Bharatiya Krishi Anusandhan patrika* vol. 3-4 p.p. 184-189.
- Kannapiram, C. 1992. Financial impact of IRDP on rural poverty in India. *Journal of Rural Development*. 11: 789 - 801.

