Original Research Article

Constraints Faced by the MGNREGA Labourers in Kaddapa District of Andhra Pradesh, India

Chappali Neeharika, Jahanara and Harihara Tripathy*

Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

**Corresponding author*

A B S T R A C T

The present study was conducted in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh to find out the constraints faced by constraints faced by the MGNREGA. A total of 120 respondents were selected purposively for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries for the present investigation. The data was collected by using pre-tested schedule and analysed using appropriate statistical tools. The major findings of the study for the beneficiaries are 100 days employment is not fulfilled (1st rank) followed by Delay in job card approval (2nd rank), no extra wage payment for works outside 5km of radius (3rd rank), Late payment of wages (4th rank), No timely allotment of works (5th rank) & Gender bias (6th rank). In case of non-beneficiaries, the major constraints are People faced so many problems in pandemic situation(1st rank) followed by Difficulties to buy due to high cost of products in the time of Covid (2nd rank), Delay in job card approval (3rd rank), Season to un-season problems (4th rank). No provision of employment in own village (5th rank), Losses due to heavy rains (6th rank), Late payment of wages (7th rank), No unemployment allowances (8th rank), No timely allotment of work(9th rank) and No provision of proper worksite facilities (10th rank). It was suggested to conduct similar study in larger area with large sample size so that the conclusion can be generalized to comparatively large area followed by a comparative study between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, districts, regions is necessary as these areas differ widely in their employment needs followed by Impact studies of this scheme must be conducted. As Gram Panchayats are the pivot of this scheme, studies on the role of Gram Panchayats in implementing MGNREGA must be carried out, Similar studies with same objectives can be replicated in the other areas for drawing valid conclusions, Studies on gap analysis of activities of MGNREGA are required, the training needs of officials at different levels of MGNREGA implementation can also be studied, followed by Future research in the field of MGNREGA could be in the areas of transparency of the Act and about the awareness among the people about its benefits for the poor and More rigorous research studied are required to understand the impact on income of small and marginal farmers as well as the productive potential of these works.

Introduction

In India, GDP and Unemployment rates are going hand in hand, causing fret for any democratic society. Unemployment and poverty are strongly related and hinder the economic growth and development of the country. In India these two problems are severe in rural areas, living it outside the growth path. Thus, Government of India, aiming at balanced growth and to overcome above mentioned Weaknesses of past employment programmes, passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on 25th August, 2005 in order to empower the rural labourers with right to get employment of 100days per year family during off season. In accordance, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February, 2006. Its effective implementation started from 1st April 2006 in 200 drought prone and backward districts in India. This was extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008.

Thus, NREGS covered nearly 625 districts in the entire country with the expectation of districts that have a hundred percent population. This Scheme was launched in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in the financial year 2007-08. This programme has been formulated by merging early formulated programmes such as Sampoorna Garmin. Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) of 2001 and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) of 2004. Again, the Government of India on 2nd October, 2009 renamed its flagship rural job guarantee programme National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). MGNREGA is a social safety net and the performance of the scheme is highly appreciable in regard of public works (Das, 2016).

It aims to enhance livelihood security of rural people by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every house hold whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The main objectives of this study to find out the constraints and suggestions of MGNREGA for both beneficiaries & non-beneficiary labourers.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Ramapuram Mandal, Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh state, in which the Mandal was selected purposively, the village was selected randomly and the respondents also selected randomly from both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

The sample is comprised of 120 respondents in that 60 were beneficiaries and remaining 60 were non- beneficiaries from 3 villages which were selected randomly. The pre-structured interview schedule was prepared for data collection. Ex-post facto research design was used for this study. The statistical tool such as frequency, percentage, mean, and path analysis was used for the analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Constraints

The problem faced by both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries during participation under the MGNREGA were listed and highlighted on the basis of responses of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries and ranked using ranking technique. After examination of the data presented, Table-1. Indicates constraints by beneficiaries in various stages while implementing MGNREGA. Majority of the beneficiaries i.e., 100% of the respondents claims that the promised 100 days employment is not fulfilled and thereby

considered as the first major constraint. 95.66% of the beneficiaries consider Delay in job card approval as their second major constraint followed by 91.66% of beneficiaries consider No extra wage payment for works outside 5 km of radius as their third major constraint, followed by 58.33% of the beneficiaries consider Late payment of wages as their fourth major constraint followed by 40% of beneficiaries consider No timely allotment of work is consider as their 5th major constraint followed by 30% of the beneficiaries consider Gender bias is as their 6th major constraint, 21.66% of the beneficiaries consider Works related to post harvest technology practices like i.e., Jasmine, Rose, Chrysanthemum etc. as their 7th major constraint, followed by 16.66% of the beneficiaries consider Link MGNREGA works with agriculture farming practices i.e., weeding, sowing, removing stones in the field, land leveling, harvesting …etc is consider as 8th major constraint. Following these constraints help the implementing agencies to make a step forward in better implementation of MGNREGA.

After examination of the data presented, Table-2. Indicates constraints by non-beneficiaries in various stages while implementing MGNREGA.

Majority of the beneficiaries i.e., 91.66% complain about the people faced so many problems in pandemic situation is consider as their first major constraint in MGNREGA, followed by 88.33% of the non-beneficiaries who complain about the Difficulties to buy due to high cost of products in the time of Covid is as their second major constraint, followed by 76.6% of non-beneficiaries who claim that there is much delay in job card approval is consider as their third major constraint, followed by 70% of non-

beneficiaries who complain about the season to un-season problems is considered as 4th major constraint, 63.33% of the non-beneficiaries consider No provision of employment in own village is consider as 5th major constraint, followed by 58.33% of the non-beneficiaries is considered as the losses due to heavy rains is considered as their 6th major constraint, followed by 55% of the non-beneficiaries who complaint the Late payment of wages is considered as their 7th major constraint, followed by 50% of the non-beneficiaries consider No unemployment allowances is as their 8th major constraint, followed by 46.66% of non- beneficiaries consider No timely allotment of work is as their 9th major constraint, At last 30% of non-beneficiaries consider No provision of proper worksite facilities is as their 10th major constraint of non-beneficiaries respectively.

Suggestions

Suggested to conduct similar study in larger area with large sample size so that the conclusion can be generalized to comparatively large area.

A comparative study between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, districts, regions is necessary as these areas differ widely in their employment needs.

Impact studies of this scheme must be conducted. As Gram Panchayats are the pivot of this scheme, studies on the role of Gram Panchayaths in implementing MGNREGA must be carried out.

Similar studies with same objectives can be replicated in the other areas for drawing valid conclusions. Studies on gap analysis of activities of MGNREGA are required.

Table.1 Constraints faced by the MGNREGA beneficiary farmers

Sl. No	Constraints	Yes Frequency (%)	Rank
1.	Delay in job card approval.	57(95.66)	II
2.	100 days employment is not fulfilled.	60(100)	I
3.	No timely allotment of works.	24(40)	V
4.	Gender bias.	18(30)	VI
5.	Late payment of wages.	35(58.33)	IV
6.	No extra wage payment for works outside 5km of radius.	55(91.66)	III
7.	Link MGNREGA works with agriculture farming practices i.e., weeding, sowing, removing stones in the field, land levelling, harvesting…etc	10(16.66)	VIII
8.	**Works related to post harvest technology practices like i.e., Jasmine, Rose, Chrysanthemum etc.**	**13(21.66)**	VII

Table.2 Constraints faced by Non-beneficiary farmers

Sl. No.	Constraints	Response Frequency (%)	Rank
1.	Delay in job card approval.	46(76.66)	III
2.	No provision of employment in own village.	38(63.33)	V
3.	No timely allotment of work.	28(46.66)	IX
4.	Late payment of wages.	33(55)	VII
5.	No unemployment allowances.	30(50)	VIII
6.	No provision of proper worksite facilities.	18(30)	X
7.	Difficulties to buy due to high cost of products in the time of Covid.	53(88.33)	II
8.	Season to un season problems.	42(70)	IV
9.	Losses due to heavy rains.	35(58.33)	VI
10.	**People faced so many problems in pandemic situation.**	**55(91.66)**	I

The training needs of officials at different levels of MGNREGA implementation can also be studied.

Future research in the field of MGNREGA could be in the areas of transparency of the Act and about the awareness among the people about its benefits for the poor.

More rigorous research studied are required to understand the impact on income of small and marginal farmers as well as the productive potential of these works. The major constraints faced by the beneficiaries are 100 days employment is not fulfilled (1st rank) followed by Delay in job card approval (2nd rank), no extra wage payment for works outside 5km of radius (3rd rank), Late payment of wages (4th rank), No timely allotment of works (5th rank) and Gender bias (6th rank). In case of non-beneficiaries, the major constraints are People faced so many problems in pandemic situation(1st rank) followed by Difficulties to buy due to high

cost of products in the time of Covid(2nd rank), Delay in job card approval(3rd rank), Season to un-season problems(4th rank), No provision of employment in own village(5th rank), Losses due to heavy rains(6th rank), Late payment of wages(7th rank), No unemployment allowances(8th rank), No timely allotment of work(9th rank) and No provision of proper worksite facilities(10th rank). It was suggested to conduct similar study in larger area with large sample size so that the conclusion can be generalized to comparatively large area followed by a comparative study between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, districts, regions is necessary as these areas differ widely in their employment needs followed by Impact studies of this scheme must be conducted. As Gram Panchayats are the pivot of this scheme, studies on the role of Gram Panchayats in implementing MGNREGA must be carried out, Similar studies with same objectives can be replicated in the other areas for drawing valid conclusions, Studies on gap analysis of activities of MGNREGA are required, the training needs of officials at different levels of MGNREGA implementation can also be studied, followed by Future research in the field of MGNREGA could be in the areas of transparency of the Act and about the awareness among the people about its benefits for the poor and More rigorous research studied are required to understand the impact on income of small and marginal farmers as well as the productive potential of these works.

References

Abymon, A., Asish, C. S., Babu, J. O., (2018). Socio-economic impact of NREGA on workers and effectiveness in its implementation. A Study of southern Kerala. *International journal of pure and Applied Mathematics* 118(20): 4149-4157

Adsul, G. B (2016). Socio-economic impact of National Horticulture Mission on its beneficiaries in Marathwada region. Ph.D. (Agri.) Thesis, Vasantarao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Alam, A. S. M. J. M. M. Khatun, S. A Zomo, N. H. Patwary and Md. E. Haque (2016). Impact of MGNREGA in terms of Direct Changes. A Study in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh. *The Journal of Research ANGRAU,* 46(1): 85-91.

Argade, S. A. (2010). A Study on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Thane district of Maharashtra. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis (Unpublished), Acharya N G Ranga Agriculture University, Hyderabad (A.P).

Azam, M. (2012). The Impact of Indian Job Guarantee Scheme Labour Market Outcomes for the study of labour.

Badodiya, S. K., S. Tomar, M. M Patel and O. P. Daipuria (2012). Impact of Swarnjaynati Gram Swarozgar Yojana on poverty alleviation. *Indian Res. J. Extn. Edu.* 12(3), pp: 37-41.

Banerjee K. (2010), The Right to Work in India: An assessment of the MGNREGA *Seminar of the Democratic Left Front, University of the Wit waters and,* Johannesburg, September, 2011. Bhandri, S.D. (2014). Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on the beneficiaries. M.Sc. (Agri) Thesis, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Bhati, Gordhan Singh, Ram, Kesh Patel and R. Sunil (2016). Attitude of beneficiaries towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Programme. Agric. Update, 11(2):118-123.

Bishnoi, S., Rampal, V.K. and H.R. Meena

(2012). Constraints experienced by women work force in MGNREGA in Punjab and Rajasthan. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Research.* 49(3), 286-289.

Bordloi and Jain (2011). Impact of NREGA on Wage Rates, Food Security and Rural Urban Migration- a study in Assam, Report Submitted to the Agro-Economic Research Centre for North East India, Assam Agricultural University, Assam.

Chhabra, S and Sharma, G. I. (2010). National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS): Realities and Challenges. *LBS Journal of Management and Research,* 2 (6): 64-72.

Chapke, R. R., V. R. Bhagwat and J. V. Patil (2015). Impact of national training on sorghum cultivation for value addition. Indian Journal of Extension Education (51), No, 1&2, pp: 78-83. Chauhan, P.N (2019). Impact of mobile based agro advisory services by department of agricultural in Marathwada region. Ph.D. (Agri.) Thesis, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Dad bahu, A. S., and Gopi Krishna, T. (2013). Sustainable Rural Livelihood for Small and Marginal Farmers through Employment Generation in Maharashtra. *International Journal of Scientific Research.* 2 (5): 581-583.