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Cell: +91 9824702127, 8866003636

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Research Paper

Commerce

Mgnarega- For Socio-Economic Transformation Of Rural Society In J&K

TARSEM LAL

Assistant Professor, P.G. Dept. of Commerce, University of Jammu.

ABSTRACT

With the country having attained independence and a democratic order ushered in, PRIs in the State of Jammu and Kashmir came to the fore front for shouldering the massive responsibility of building rural infrastructure by way of funds apportioned to them by the State Government as also on the basis of the various taxes and revenues raised for replenishment of the State's own resources for creating durable community infrastructure. Synergy between different departments also was working for the upliftment through this medium under the aegis of Panchayati Raj and extension work also massively carried out through Panchayats in conjunction with different line Departments for popularising various technologies and scientific tools for bringing about socio-economic transformation of the rural society.

KEYWORDS: Panchayati raj, rural society, socio-economic transformation, conjunction

INTRODUCTION

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has been launched in 02-02-2006 in erstwhile Doda and Poonch Districts under first phase, in second phase it was introduced in Jammu & Samba Districts and in third phase the scheme has been extended to all the remaining Districts of Jammu Division ,which guarantees 100 days of assured employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The scheme has been extended to all the Districts w.e.f 01-04-2008.The Physical/ Financial achievement for year 2008-09 and approved outlay of annual plan 2009-10 are as under :-

Scheme	Approved Outlay for 2008-09 (State Share)	Expenditure 2008-09	Approved Outlay 2009-10
NREGA	800.00	729.12	880.00

Targets 2008-09(NoofWorks)	Achievement 2008-09	Targets 2009-10
11561	6061	12717
Targets 2008-09	Achievement 2008-09	Targets 2009-10
132.22	62.294	145.44

Source* Directorate of Rural Development, Govt. Of J&K

MGNREGA STATISTICS :JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Employment provided to households:	4.99434 Lakhs
Persondays [in Lakh]:	
Total:	210.69
SCs:	15.19 [7.21%]
STs:	52.82 [25.07%]
Women :	15.73 [7.47%]
Others:	142.67 [67.72%]
Total fund:	424.83 Crore.
Expenditure:	377.77 Crore.
Total works taken up:	56116
Works completed:	36542
Works in progress :	19574

Source* Directorate of Rural Development Govt. of J&K.

FAILURE OF MGNAREGA SCHEME IN INDIA

In spite of achieving success in the bigger states, the UPA government's flagship MGNREGA scheme appears to have failed in fulfilling its objective in small and remote places like Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep. According to Rural Development Ministry data, no household or person was provided employment under the scheme in Daman and Diu in 2010-11, while it was only 2290 in Dadar and Nagar Haveli in the last financial year. The programme which was introduced in 2006-07 was extended across the country in 2009. According to the provisional report of Census 2011, Daman and Diu has a population of 2,42,911 and that of Dadar & Nagar Haveli is 3,42,853. Though the total number of households provided job under the programme were in four and five digits in Goa, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, their performance under the scheme remained dull.

In Goa, known to many as "Pearl of the Orient", a total number of 13,897 households were provided job under the scheme in 2010-11, the Ministry data said. Goa's population is 1,457,723.

In Andaman and Nicobar, referred to as "weather window to the Indian Peninsula", a total of 17,636 households were provided jobs under the scheme in the last financial year. Its population is 3,79,944.

In Lakshadweep, 4507 households were given employment during the period while it was 38,118 in Pondicherry during 2010-11. Even if the households provided jobs in these small and remote state was low, only a limited number of them availed 100 days of employment, as promised in the scheme. The figures show that no household availed 100 days of employment under the scheme in Dadar & Nagar Haveli in 2010-11. The scenario was no good in other areas. While 174 households availed 100 days employment in Andaman and Nicobar it was 413 in Goa, Lakshdweep (71) and Pondicherry (137) during 2010-1 period. The financial statement of the scheme says that Rs 11.99 crore was made available to Andaman and Nicobar under the scheme in the fiscal 2010-11. The same was Rs 1.27 crore for Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Goa (Rs 16.10 crore), Lakshdweep (Rs 5.80 cr) and Pondicherry (Rs 5.80 crore) during the period. It was no better in the previous financial year 2009-10 too in these places in terms of physical achievements despite the Centre pumping handsome cash under the scheme. Number of households completing 100 days employment in 2009-10 was 24 in Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Goa (121), Lakshdweep (20) and Pondicherry (385), the figures said. A senior officer of Union Rural Development Ministry involved with the MGNREGA scheme admitted low key implementation of the scheme in these far off places and said steps would be taken to improve it.

Poor performance of MGNREGA works in Jammu and Kashmir

In spite of achieving success in the bigger districts of the state only 67 % funds provided by the Centre could be utilized in J&K till ending January 31, this year under the Scheme. The Ministry of Rural Development has to spend, remaining 33 % of the funds in just these two months despite the fact that the lowest funds (44.46 %) could be utilized in district Doda while merely 50% in district Udhampur, followed by 50.14 % in Budgam. It is said that during the year 2011-12, against the availability of funds to the tune of ` 609.62 crore, nearly `408.75 crore have been utilized till ending January, 2012. Giving region and district- wise break up, In Kashmir region, total 76.49 % MGNREGA funds could be utilized whereas, in Jammu region hardly 59.8 % funds have been spent by the concerned block officers.

The data revealed that in the districts like Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian Ganderbal, Leh etc where work progress is always slow due to winters and heavy snow, the highest percentage of funds utilization has been shown while in the areas like Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi etc the lowest percentage of expenditure has been witnessed. In Kathua the funds utilized are just 48.73 %, in Samba it is just 57 %, Doda is the lowest 44.4 %, Udhampur just 50 %, Ramban, 55.8 %, Kishtwar 71 %, Poonch merely 63 %, Rajouri 76 % whereas, in Reasi district just 70 %.

In Kashmir region, the lowest performance in the funds utilization has been shown in district Bandipora where hardly 54 % fund are shown utilized, 50 % in Budgam and 64 % in Srinagar. The highest (94.73 %) performance has been shown in Ganderbal district. It is also said that in Anantnag district, out of ` 28.69 crore, funds to the tune of ` 26.18 (91.2%) have been utilized.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The research study is undertaken with the following objectives in view.

1. To monitor the progress of the implementation of programmes, projects and scheme for alleviating rural poverty.
2. To measure the level of performance of Govt. in implementing this scheme.
3. To critically analyse the various factors responsible for failure of NAREGA scheme in J&K .
4. To measure the perception of workers towards NAREGA.
5. To advance suggestions for improving the working conditions of workers working in various hazards places.

METHODOLOGY

The present applied research on the topic "MGNAREGA- FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL SOCIETY IN J&K" is to identify specific problem being faced by workers and to suggest remedial measures in the light of new development and thoughts in the field of NAREGA.In the present study the data is collected with the help of a structured questionnaire and an interview schedule. The questionnaire for collecting information was circulated among 500 respondents of different sections of societies. Expert opinion of knowledgeable persons were also recorded. Besides this interviews of workers working in various places were also conducted. The responses were collected on five point likert scale basis ranging from lowest(1) to highest (5).

MAJOR FINDINGS

NREGA is one of the most successful programmes for poverty alleviation. The major findings of this study are-

1. Most of the Villagers are not aware of the full details of NREG Scheme.
2. Job Cards were not issued to all the Eligible Persons. Persons above 50 years of age were not registered.
3. Work was given for less than 100 days . Many were not called for Work even after having Registered. The Villagers do not know that they have to apply for Job whenever they need.
4. Tools were given to only half of the workers.
5. No Rest Break, no Shelter, no Drinking Water, no First Aid Box, no Child Care Facility.
6. No Supervision during work in progress.
7. No Notice Board available.
8. No awareness about Unemployment Compensation. No one was given Unemployment Compensation.
9. JCB was used in this village to remove thorny bushes.

SUGGESTIONS

The scheme should focus on the following works in their order of priority.

I. Water conservation and water harvesting.
II. Drought proofing (including afforestration and tree plantation)
III. Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works.
IV. Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by house holds belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the IAY of Govt. of India.
V. Renovation of traditional water bodies including desiliting of tanks.
VI. Land Development.
VII. Flood Control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas.
VIII. Rural Connectivity to provide all weather access and

2. Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor should be an important object of the scheme.
3. The works taken up under the scheme should be in rural areas.
4. The State Council must prepare a list of preferred works for different areas based on their ability to create durable assets.
5. The scheme should be subject to appropriate arrangements as may be laid down by the State Government under the rules issued by it for proper maintenance of the public assets created under the scheme.
6. Under no circumstances the labourers should be paid less than the wage rate, notified by the State Government.
7. The wages should be paid according to the scheme of rates fixed by the State government for different types of work in every year, in consultation with the State council. 8. The schedule of wage rates for unskilled labourers should be so fixed that a person working for 8 hours would normally earn a wage equal to the wage rate. 9. The cost of material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semi skilled workers taken up under the scheme shall not exceed 40% of the total project costs.

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