Volume : 2 | Issue : 12 | Dec 2013 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160

Research Paper | Agriculture

Socio-Economic Impact of MGNREGA in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

In India the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)has come up which guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The present study was conducted to analyze the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu. The study reveals that 33.33 per cent of the sample belongs to the age group of 41-50 under the MGNREGA participants. Which shows that the elderly people were given employment for their livelihood. It was found that the number of earners in the family under Non-MGNREGA was more when compared to MGNREGA which shows that there is scope for preventing migration for Non-MGNREGA by providing employment opportunity under MGNREGA. Both the farmers and government can contribute to the wages given to beneficiaries and offers employment to a family for hundred days only in one financial year. Those who are living below poverty line (BPL), landless families should be confided with much priority and provided with job opportunities

KEYWORDS : MGNREGA, migration, socio-economic impact

INTRODUCTION

India accounts for one-sixth of the global population and is growing at faster rate that it will become the most populous nation in the world. Presently, 72 per cent of country's poor are in rural areas. Nearly two-third of the Indian population still depends on agriculture for its livelihood (Acharya, 2009). Thus, agricultural development is a precondition for economic development in a developing country like India. A number of programmes have been taken up after fourth five year plan for poverty alleviation. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act was notified in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006. NREGA covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have hundred percent urban populations. The act stipulated that priority should be given to women and while implementing it, a minimum of one-third of the beneficiaries should be women who had registered and requested for work. Women participation for financial year 2012-13 was 53 percent. In Tamil Nadu the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched on 02.02.2006 and was initially implemented in six districts, viz., Cuddalore, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram from 02.02.2006 onwards and in four more districts viz. Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Karur from 01.04.2007 onwards. From 01.04.2008 onwards, the scheme was extended to the remaining twenty one districts of the State which includes Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Namakkal, Vellore, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagarar, Salem, Erode, Tiruchirapalli, Kancheepuram, Theni, Tiruvallur, Madurai, Nilgiris, Kanniyakumari, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri and Tiruppur. It was observed from the Table 1 that the employment provided to the households through MGNREGA in India is 400 lakhs in which fromTamil Nadu 70.54 and from Coimbatore 1.19.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Based on the man days working under MGNREGA Coimbatore was purposively selected for the study by the reason that more number of people are relying on this scheme and very less research had been conducted in the study area earlier. Hence the present study has been designed to assess, socio-economic impact of MGNREGA beyond employment generation. In Coimbatore district among the 12 blocks, Thoondhamuthur was selected in which Narasipuram,Vellimalaipattinam,Devarayapuram, Booluvampatti, semmedu villages were covered. Each villages were covered with six samples based on the performance of MGNREGA and Non-MGNREGA which forms a sampling size of 30 MGNREGA and 30 Non-MGNREGA. Thus totaling of 60 samples were taken for this study period 2013. Tabular analysis was carried out to examine the socio economic profile of the selected samples.

It was found that 33.33 per cent of the sample belongs to the age group of 41-50 under the MGNREGA participants and it was 43.33 per cent comes under the age group of 31-40 in Non-MGNREGA as shown n Table 2. This shows that the elderly people were given employment for their livelihood. The average family size in Narasipuram under MGNREGA was 4.62 followed by Booluvampatti (4.21), Devarayapuram (3.85) and semmedu (3.76).

Table 1. MGNREGA - Statistics

Sl. No.	Particulars	India	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
1	Employment provided to households (La)	400	70.54	1.19
2	Persondays [in Lakh]:			
3	Total:	12498	4079.45	57
4	SCs:	2834 (22.67)	1139.88(27.94)	20.42(35.82)
5	STs:	2133 (17)	54.11(1.33)	1.28(2.24)
6	Women :	6468 (51.75)	3025.61(74.1)	47.14(82.7)
7	Others:	7531 (60.26)	2885.46(70.73)	35.31(61.94)
8	Works completed (in numbers)	13.59 lakhs	73769	853

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Table. 2 Age Distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Age group	No. of samples	
		MGNREG	Non-MGNREG
1	20-30	5 (16.67)	10 (33.33)
2	31-40	8 (26.67)	13 (43.33)
3	41-50	10 (33.33)	4 (13.33)
4	51-60	7 (23.33)	3 (10.00)
5	Total	30 (**100.00**)	30(100.00)

Table. 3 Average Family Size

Sl. No	Particulars	Family size (Avg)	
		MGNREG	Non-MGNREG
1	Narasipuram	4.62	4.02
2	Devarayapuram	3.85	5.24
3	Booluvampatti	4.21	4.98
4	Semmedu	3.76	4.85
5	Vellimalaipattinam	4.13	4.14
	Average	4.11	4.77

Table. 4 Educational status

Sl.No	Particulars	No. of samples	
		MGNREG	Non-MGREG
1	Illiterate	13(43.33)	9(30.00)
2	Primary	7 (23.33)	6(20.00)
3	Secondary	7 (23.33)	8(26.67)
4	Higher secondary	3 (10)	5(16.67)
5	Degree	0(0.00)	2(6.67)
	Total	30(100.00)	30(100.00)

The average family size was more under MGNREGA (4.11). The average family size in Devarayapuram under Non-MGNREGA was 5.24 followed by Booluvampatti (4.98), Semmedu (4.85) and Narasipuram (4.02).The average family size was more under Non-MGNREGA (4.77). as shown in table 3. It was found that 43.33 per cent of illiterate comes under MGNREGA when compared to Non-MGNREGA (30.00 %). This shows that people who were illiterate were given employment opportunity under MGNREGA.

Table. 5 Migrant labour status of the sample households:

Sl. No	Particulars	MGNREGS participants	MGNREGS non participants	Overall sample
1	Number of family members			
	Male	2.45	2.84	2.64
	Female	1.66	1.93	1.79
2	Average family size	4.11	4.77	4.44
3	No of earners in the family	2.25	2.41	2.33
4	Number of migrants in the family			
	Male	1.58	1.85	1.71
	Female	1.23	1.95	1.59
5	Average migrants(family)	1.68	2.33	2.00
6.	Percentage of members migrated	74.66	96.68	85.83

From the Table.5 it could be inferred that the number of earners in the family under Non-MGNREGA (2.41) was more when compared to MGNREGA (2.25) this shows that there is scope for preventing migration for Non-MGNREGA by providing employment opportunity under MGNREGA. As the more number of female migrants (1.95) under Non-MGNREGA where observed hence migration will prevent them to work under other income generating activities. Finally 54.06 per cent of members have been migrated under Non- MGNREGA and this implies this scope for coverage of MGNREGA members.

CONCLUSION

MGNREGA provides employment for their livelihood and the people who were illiterate were also given an opportunity. This prevents the migration of the people by providing other income generating activites.

The employment offered to a family for hundred days only in one financial year is no way sufficient to sustain a family. Those who are living below poverty line (BPL), landless families should be confided with much priority and provided with job opportunities. A massive programme of generating public awareness about the programme with the help of information technology should be initiated at a large scale and the use of ICT technologies in fast developing villages will be helpful in enhancing the participation.

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