



An Analysis of Mode of Information About Employment Among the Beneficiaries of MGNREGS

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ABSTRACT

There have been many attempts to combat rural poverty through various programmes after our independence. Of various governmental programmes their limited success implies that we need a new and innovative strategy. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act may be just what we need. It certainly has created a potential to improve the livelihood of millions of rural poor, by providing job opportunities, gender equality and assets creation in villages. The present study makes an attempt in understanding the nature of and the way the beneficiaries availed information about the employment. Thus the study is conducted in five district of Karnataka and for collecting data interview method is adopted and the sample size consists of 2500 samples with 500 each from the districts of Bellary, Davangere, Gulbarga, Mandya and Shimoga. The study finds out that majority of the information was received through programme officer.

KEYWORDS : Employment, MGNREGS and Panchayath

Introduction.

The village in India holds a inimitable place both in socio-economic, cultural and geographical spheres. In the past, a village was a homogeneous, closely-knit and self-sufficient unit. The village communities, wrote Sir Charles Metcalfe, were "little republics, having nearly everything they can want within themselves, and almost independent of any foreign relations. They seem to last where nothing else lasts." Thus, village a century ago was a simple and self-dependent place. But after independence and with the advent of MLPG (Modernisation, Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation) there were drastic changes village were no more simple but turned out to be complex with varying problems like illiteracy, poverty, low status of women, malnutrition, unemployment, agricultural losses, rural settlement etc. This resulted in government focusing on rural development as India's development is solely dependent upon on village development.

Rural development entails a holistic development of socio-economic, political and cultural aspects to achieve a complete social renovation and transformation. This can be achieved only when people are given a proper access and information about the availability of various welfare programmes that which are notified by the government. Rural poverty and other problems can be tackled through a host of programmes like advanced health care, development of infrastructure, agricultural development, access and affordable education and employment security. However, in recent decades employment prospects tend to be more silver screen to the skilled, refined and educated while the untrained, partially or less educated are turned down and thus creating a furor in the society. Rural areas youth become an easy victim for unemployment due to lack of the aforesaid issues and along with this lack of information about the employment tends to keep them in crossroads. Furthermore women become more prone to discrimination and setbacks due to educational and social stigma setbacks like women being confined to merely the village they stay in accompanied with educational and skill deficiencies.

Thus in this process Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme comes as a boon to many ruralities which not only provided a employment guarantee but could transform the lives of the people. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guarantees 100 days of employment to every household which can be a pathway in reducing rural underemployment and unemployment and thereby can be important contributing factor in reducing rural poverty.

The prospective benefits for rural welfare as a result of an employment guarantee scheme are colossal. The work involved in the programme would build infrastructure, such as roads, footpaths, irrigation, construction of bus stands, water harvesting, conservation of

vegetation, development of health facilities etc. Providing employment would have a beneficial impact on health, education and other determinants of social welfare by breaking the cycle of rural poverty. There may also be indirect benefits if more women are given the opportunity to work, as higher levels of female labour force participation are associated with enrolment rates, for example. The revival of rural employment opportunities would reduce migration to urban centres, and help ease problems in these areas.

Finally, the introduction of an employment guarantee act which establishes employment as a right would give greater bargaining power to traditionally disadvantaged groups and lead to greater mobilization of the rural poor.

A Brief sketch of MGNREGS

One of the most significant interventions by the government to generate employment has been the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in February 2006 in two hundred most backward districts of the country. Consequently, the scheme was extended to another 130 districts and from April 2008 it would be operative in all districts. For the current financial year, a budget provision of Rs. 12,000 crores was made for implementation of the Act. The objective of the 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 whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The main goals of the act were to ensure employment guarantee and empowerment of rural people and create durable assets through participation of people and thereby lead to social transformation. The original act was based on the principles of universality and self-selection, which allowed all household to apply and an extension of the Act to the whole of rural India within a five-year period. The NREGA promises to provide legal guarantee for at least one hundred days of employment, to begin with on asset-creating work programs every year at minimum wages. It was open to adult members of every rural household who would volunteer to do casual manual work. Under the act there should be no gender discrimination in the "provision of employment or the payment of wages". Every applicant should be offered employment within 15 days of registration. If this were not the case an unemployment allowance would be paid. The gram panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment against which the guarantee of providing employment within 15 days operates. If employment is not provided within 15 days, daily unemployment allowance in cash has to be paid. Liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the states.

Employment opportunities created under the scheme:

In the year 2015-2016 Cumulative number of Households that de-

manded for employment was 1662978 and the number of households provided with employment was 1237167. The scheme has also met the market rate while paying the wages to the workers. In 2013-14 the wage paid per day for per worker was Rs 173.62 while it rose to 203.69 in 2015-16 and now it is Rs. 222.92 in 2016-17.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to analyse about the mode of information received by the beneficiaries of the scheme.

Universe

Area selected for the study was Bellary, Davangere, Gulbarga , Mandya and Shimoga districts in Karnataka. From each district two panchayath comprising of 4 villages from each taluk was selected for the study.

Methodology

Simple random sampling method and the sample size consists of 500

beneficiaries each from the districts of Bellary, Davangere, Gulbarga , Mandya and Shimoga

Method Of Data Collection

The data was collected through a structured interview schedule

Data Analysis and interpretation.

From the Above Table No- 1 with regard to information of employment we find that in all the district majority of the beneficiaries received the employment information from Programme officer amount to 73 percent in Bellary, 59.4 per cent in Davangere, 54.2 in Gulbarga while in Shimoga information was received in Panchayath Office, it is found in the study that majority of the beneficiaries received information through programme officer amounting to 56.72 percent. Further village panchayath also played a role in providing information about employment in almost all the district either by directly sending the letter or by displaying it on the noticeboard.

SLNo	Information received	Bellary		Davangere		Gulbarga		Mandya		Shimoga		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Letter form village panchyath	43	8.6	126	25.2	45	9	90	18	235	47	539	21.56
2	Letter form programme officer	365	73	297	59.4	271	54.2	327	65.4	158	31.6	1418	56.72
3	Notice board in village panchyath office	73	14.6	74	14.8	114	22.8	72	14.4	89	17.2	422	16.88
4	Notice board of programme office	7	1.4	2	0.4	33	6.6	7	1.4	18	3.6	67	2.68
5	Members of village committee	9	1.8	1	0.2	35	7	4	0.8	0		49	1.96
6	Others	3	0.6	0		2	0.2	0		0		5	0.2
Total		500	100	500	100	500	100	500	100	500	100	2500	100

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