



IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON RURAL EMPLOYMENT - A STUDY OF BOLANGIR DISTRICT IN ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

Since independence a number of poverty eradication and welfare programmes have been introduced by the government of India for rural upliftment. However these programmes could not provide legal right to the beneficiaries for their economic wellbeing. During the year 2005, the Government of India enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides legal guarantee of 100 days of work to the rural household willing to do unskilled manual work on demand. Thus, the present study has been conducted on the basis of secondary data to examine the impact of MGNREGA on wage implement of rural household of Bolangir district in western Odisha. Though the women have been provided 1/3rd of total employment, the study found that the full potential of the act has not been reflected in term of providing 100 days of guarantee employment on demand. Further the study suggested for a village level comprehensive work plan and proactive role of the Gram Panchayat to address this issue.

KEYWORDS : Household, Comprehensive, Unskilled

1. Introduction:

India is a country of villages. So the real development of the nation lies with the development of the rural masses. The main hindering factors to the economic growth of the country is the existences of deep rooted and wide spread poverty, heavy pressure on agriculture, unemployment, under-employment and high rate of growth of population. Understanding the reality a large numbers of poverty eradication and welfare programmes have been implemented in the country since independence. Among the major initiatives taken by the government of India are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP, 1980), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY, 1989) and Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY, 1999). But India is still predominant by agricultural economy with high incidence of unemployment and poverty. So, the rural development is continued to be one of the major focus areas of the national development and challenge for the planners and administration. During the year 2005 the government of India enacted the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)' which came in to force on 2nd February, 2006 in 200 districts all over the country and later from 1st April 2008 onwards extended to cover all the districts of the country. On 2nd October 2009 this act renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on the occasion of 140th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. This is an ambitious and universal poverty eradication programme which ensures livelihood security to the rural poor by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment in every financial year. MGNREGA is a right- based programme designed to provide an alternative source of employment and income for the rural households during agricultural lean season. In Odisha, MGNREGA was introduced at the first phase in 19 districts during 2006-07 including a most back ward district Bolangir. Till the end of the year 2016-17, a total number of 2, 93,436 household consisting of SC (51246), ST (65976) and other category (176214) issued job card under the scheme in this district.

2. Objectives of the study:

- To examine the pattern of demand and employment under the scheme in Bolangir district.
- To study the achievement of basic entitlement of MGNREGA to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment to the beneficiaries.
- To assess the person days generated among different categories of workers.

3. Research methodology:

The present study is based on secondary data of last five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17 collected from the office of the District Rural Development Agency, Bolangir, Economic survey of Odish, Planning and coordination Department. The relevant data also

collected from different books, journal, magazine and web site of MGNREGA.

4. Data Analysis:

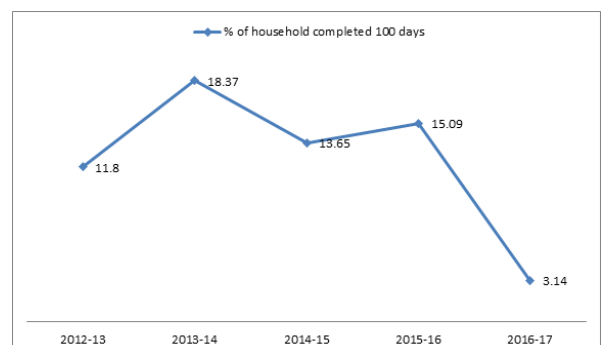
Table1: Employment generated under MGNREGS in Bolangir Dist.

Year	House hold demanded employment	Household Provided employment	% of household provided employment
2012-13	74578	60712	81.40
2013-14	81656	67012	82.06
2014-15	66416	50153	75.51
2015-16	103607	86205	83.20
2016-17	116935	89761	76.75
Total	443192	353843	79.84

Source: DRDA, Bolangir

As per the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act the job card holders will be provided employment on demand. However, the data of table 1 reveals that there is the greater deviation between demand and employment under the scheme in any of the year from 2012-13 to 2016-17. As much as 83.20% of household provided job during the year 2015-16 on demand. The study also indicates about the fluctuating trend of both demand and employment over the years. During the last five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17, a total number of 353843 household consisting of 79.84% provided job as against the demand of 443192 household in Bolangir district.

Figure 1: Percentage of household completed 100 days of work under mgnrega



Source: DRDA, Bolangir

As shown in figure 1, as highest as 18.37% of household completed

hundred days of work during the financial year 2013-14. The situation became worsen in the year 2016-17 which reduced to lowest 3.14%. Thus, the entitlement of providing 100 days of employment in Bolangir district under the scheme is far from the target.

Table-2: Person days generated under MGNREGA in Bolangir District.

Year	SC	ST	Other	Total	Women	Wage expenditure
2012-13	4.86	7.65	15.36	27.87	10.47	3130.95
2013-14	6.34	10.79	19.88	37.01	13.04	2649.97
2014-15	3.26	5.45	11.15	19.86	7.32	3421.63
2015-16	8.02	12.96	26.11	47.09	18.62	4904.96
2016-17	6.58	10.01	22.68	39.27	16.08	7908.13
Total	29.06	46.86	95.18	170.10	65.53	22015.64

Source: DRDA, Bolangir

Category-wise person days of employment generated among the vulnerable section of the society exhibited in table 2 highlights that total 170.10 lakhs of work days created in Bolangir district under MGNREGA including SC(29.06), ST(46.80) and other 95.18 lakhs during the period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 by spending a huge amount of Rs.220.16 crores.. It is also evident from the data that the minimum one- third of total employment has been provided to women workers as per the act in all the years under study. Though the highest amount of expenditure incurred towards wages during the year 2016-17, persondays generated is less than the previous year. As the persondays of employment during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 are 47.09 and 39.27 lakhs respectively.

5. Major findings:

- During the period under study about 80% of household allocated job on demand indicating mismatch between demand and employment..
- The entitlement of providing 100 days of employment is significantly low in Bolangir district.
- A total of 170.10 lakhs man days generated by spending about Rs.220 crores during the period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 which comes to Rs.129.43 per day.
- The scheme has positive impact on women beneficiaries as minimum 1/3rd of employment have been provided as per the act.
- In comparison to SC, more numbers of ST workers provided job under the scheme as it was 29.06 and 46.86 lakhs respectively during the last five years.

6. Conclusion:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act possesses the outstanding potential to enhance the livelihood security among the rural masses. The scheme has positive impact on women employment; however, the vital objective of the act to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment to the job card holders on demand has not been fully translated in to reality under study. As about 80% of house hold allocated job on demand and highest 18.37% completed 100 day of work only during 2013-14. The active involvement of the Gram Panchayat with a comprehensive work plan and timely payment can only make this scheme fruitful for the economic wellbeing of the rural poor.

7. References:

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