



## A National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) – A Case Study of Chittoor District

### KEYWORDS

NREGS, Rural Employment and Government schemes

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**ABSTRACT** NREGS has become a trendsetter for public expenditure on poverty reduction. It has become a growth stimulus in the era of economic recession in India. As a right based scheme the first of its kind in India it has helped to a great extent to raise the quality of life in rural India and became instrumental to improve conservation and development of natural resources of the country. As a majority of the workers are females it is becoming a programme for raising the social status of women and their visibility has increased considerably because of this scheme. The most important short coming is that the average number of work days provided is only around 60 and the unspent budget outlay is around 40 percent.

### INTRODUCTION

During the last two decades of globalization, India has been experiencing a skewed development pattern. Whereas the growth of the economy has been impressive, the disparity amongst the people has also been growing alarmingly. A prevalent Indian sentence catches this dichotomy lucidly while the economic Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is increasing another GDP has also increased namely, **Garibi** (Poverty) **Dalits** (Low castes) **Pidith** (Oppressed). This dichotomy has added a host of problems in the social life of majority of the population. The agrarian sector has been in total distress, especially in the rural areas and in many states like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh thousands of small farmers and agricultural workers have committed suicides during this period due to social and financial insecurity. Seasonal migration of agricultural laborers has been increasing. Prices of agriculture products have been coming down and the farmers find it difficult to repay their loans distress is visible everywhere. Left parties in general academicians and movements like the Right to Work and Food have trying to raise the debate for legislative measures of the national level. The NREGS Act was adopted in 2005 and its pilot implementation of the development scheme began in 2006. It was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2009. MGNREGS is believed to be the largest employment guarantee scheme in the world. The scheme was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008, its coverage was almost universal.

### OBJECTIVES

1. The historic act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wages employment in financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
2. The sustainable growth of livelihood systems in rural areas.
3. The target includes empowering the rural poor through right based enactment.

### METHODOLOGY

Illiteracy particularly in rural areas and also among cultivations agriculture labour and also among other labour is very compared to the of urban survey urban areas to this

many government program are less utilized by the target group political beneficiaries. Hence the researcher is interesting to evaluate the knowledge attitude of practice of government programme National Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

### Organizational set up

To design organize implement and monitor the whole programme of NREGS an effective organization has been set up. The NREGS council was set up at national and state levels including experts and social activists in the field with substantial powers to take policy decisions. Under the 4 states council directives three tier local Governments called Panchayats take the responsibilities to register the worker, issues job cards accept application for work prepare work plans allot the workers at each work site verify the works done distribute wages conduct social audit and so on.

### Financing

The UPA government initiated a set of development programmes which can create nationwide changes in key areas such as education health livelihood child care and so on and they are generally called Flagship programmes. NREGS is the first such Flagship programme of the national government.

### Type of works that can be taken up

NREGS envisions not simply providing wage labor but to create an atmosphere for sustainable opportunities for employment in the rural areas.

1. Water conservation and water harvesting.
2. Drought proofing including a forestation and tree plantation.
3. Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works.
4. Provision of irrigation facility plantation horticulture land development to land owned by rural poor.
5. Land development.
6. Flood-control and protection works including drainage in waterlogged areas.
7. Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks.

**Rights of the workers**

NREGS is primarily a right based scheme. All stakeholders have their specific right. The workers have the following rights in this programme:

- i) Application for registration
- ii) Obtaining a job card
- iii) Application for work
- iv) Choice of time and duration of the work applied for provision of work within fifteen day of application.
- v) Payment of wages within fifteen days of work done.

**Rights of the Gram Sabha**

Gram Sabha or the village assembly has the following rights in the implementation of this scheme.

- i) It will recommend works to be taken up under NREGS
- ii) It will conduct social audits on implementation of the scheme
- iii) Gram Sabha should be used extensively as a forum for sharing information about the scheme.

**Achievements**

MGNREGS has created tremendous impact in the rural life of India. Different studies show that that out-migration for jobs in the off seasons has reduced substantially. Purchasing capacity of the rural population has enhance ed. Their expenditure for food as well as non food items has increased. Their expenditure for food as well as non food items has increased. Quality of life in the villages has visibly improved. They have started purchasing bicycles, electric fans steel utensils, cattle, land and so on. It has brought visible changes in the social status of the workers. As the scheme is totally under the purview of local governments, they have become more active.

**LIMITATIONS AND CRITICISMS**

Even though utmost care has been paid for developing a most efficient system for Implementing MGNREGS it still has lot of loopholes and limitations. Number of families who received the advantage of 100 days employment is still comparatively less distribution of wages is not happening within the mandatory period of 14 days in many places in some places it has even taken more than two months.

**The percentage distribution of beneficiary of NREGS by the family type**

Type of Family	Number of persons	Percentage (%)
Nuclear family	33	66
Joint family	17	64
Total	50	100

As everybody knows that family system of India is getting changed day by day due to modernization and other development they are taking place in the society. The same trend is observed in the study area also. About 66 per cent respondents are in nuclear family system only in the study area.

**The percentage of distribution of benefiociors of NREGS by the annual Income**

Annual Income	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
<20,000	5	10
20,001-50,000	32	64
50,001-1,00,000	12	24
>1,00,000 above	1	2
Total	50	100

With regarding to annual income of the respondent in the study area is presented in the above table. The highest number of respondents (64 percent) are expressed the averring their annual family income in between rupees Rs.20,000-50,000. Remaining two percent respondents have expressed that these annual family income is more than Rs.1,00,000.

The percentage of distribution of benefiociors of NREGS by their expressed attitude on individual development due to NREGS.

Attitude of Beneficiary	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Land development	6	12
Plantation	4	8
Irrigation	3	6
No response	24	48
Savings improved	4	8
Improved social life skill	3	6
Improved income / business	3	6
I received by NREGS work things	1	2
Education	2	4
Total	50	100

The individual opinion of respondent each study is standing on NREGS programme in the study area. Majority of the people (12 percent) the positive respondent have expressed their opinion as NREGS has it is benefited to the individual for land development. About 8percent respondent each have expressed their NREGS benefited for improved saving at individual level. But surprisingly the highest proportion of (48 percent) have not expressed their opinion in the regard they simply consultant.

**The percentage of distribution of benefiociors of NREGS by these houses holds development.**

Attitude of Beneficiary	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No.of respondents	17	34
Education Development	8	16
Savings	8	16
Irrigation development	2	4
Land development	9	18
Improved houses	6	12
Plantation	1	2
Total	50	100

Information is elucidated respondent about the utilization of NREGS and its effect at household level. From the above table shows that majority of the respondent 34 percent did not express their exit responds to the question of benefit at house hold level on NREGS programme. The reason could be as explained either as individual level.

But the remaining expressed that the NREGS has helped the household in improving land development saving education development improved housing facility.

#### The percentage of distribution of beneficiaries of NREGS by their community (village) development

Attitude of Beneficiary	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Cleaning of village areas for all people	14	28
No response	15	30
Improved water resources to the village	13	26
Plantation of the village	7	14
Work things provide	1	2
Total	50	100

Similarly the information NREGS programme is analyzed according to the impressions of the sample under study. The above table shows that about 30 percent of the respondent did not express attitude on the impact of in NREGS programme at community level(village). But about 28 percent sample under study have expressed that villages work and clean as about 26 percent of the respondent have the opinion has villagers are facilitated with improved water resource to the villagers.

#### The percentage of distribution of beneficiaries of NREGS by the working days in a week.

Weekly days	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
7days	11	22
6days	24	48
5days	13	26
Less 5days	2	4
Total	50	100

In this many projects work information number of working days in a week have been analyzed. About 48percent respondents have expressed that they normally get work for 6 days in a week followed by 26percent expressed that they have five days work in a week. About 22percent of the sample under study have expressed that they have work almost every day.

#### The percentage of distribution of beneficiaries of NREGS by the Medical Facility provided.

Medical Facility	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	7	14
No	43	86
Total	50	100

Out of personal quest of researcher information on availability of medical facility if any at working place is also enquired and analyzed from above table. It is undergoes should that provision of medical facility at working place under NREGS programme is very poor as expressed 86 percent respondents under study.

#### SUMMARY

MGNREGS has become a trendsetter for public expenditure on poverty reduction. It has become a growth stimulus in the era of economic recession in India. As a right based scheme the first of its kind in India it has helped to a great extent to raise the quality of life in rural India and became instrumental to improve conservation and development of natural resources of the country. As a majority of the workers are females it is becoming a programme for raising the social status of women and their visibility has increased considerably because of this scheme. The most important short coming is that the average number of work days provided is only around 60 and the unspent budget outlay is around 40 percent. Bridging this gap is the immediate task of the government.

#### REFERENCE

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