

Mgnrega and Empowerment of Marginalized Communities in India: with Special Reference to Sc/St



Economics

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

In India, many programmes were implemented for providing employment opportunities and eradicate poverty like National Rural Employment Programme (1980), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee (1983), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (1989), Employment Assurance Scheme (1993), Jawahar Gram Samridhi (1999), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar (2001) and Food for work Programme in 2004. Like this, the government of India introduced National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in 2005 with an objective of 100 days of guaranteed employment for unskilled manual work in rural areas. Initially, this Programme was implemented in 200 backward districts in 27 states in the country and 2.1 crores household were benefitted. As of now it covered all the rural areas and provided employment to 5 crores. Regarding the women participation in MGNREGP in India during the 2006-07 there were 36.40 crores benefitted and it has increased to 86.42 crores in 2012-2013. Moreover, the SC (22%)/ST (15%) household also benefitted from this scheme during 2012-2013. The present study analyzes the empowerment of marginalized communities (particularly SC/ST) through MGNREGA in India.

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a flagship programme of Government of India. The Act was notified initially in 200 most backward districts of the country February 02, 2006 and subsequently extended all over India. The programme aims at enhancing livelihood security of the rural poor by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act seeks to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. Over the last few years there has been an increased demand from States to include new works which would create an even stronger positive synergy between MGNREGA and agriculture and allied rural livelihoods. This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. Roughly, one-third of the stipulated work force must be women.

Salient Features

Among the features of MGNREGA the four important ones with respect to the present paper are:

Aiding in the empowerment of the marginalized communities, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), through the processes of a rights based legislation

Strengthening decentralized, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives

Deeping democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Objective

To analyze the empowerment of marginalized communities, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Part I

Employment in MGNREGA

As pointed above, there were many programmes was implemented to provide employment to rural people. Like that, MGNREGA was also established to create employment in rural areas particularly women's were getting more benefitted.

Table 1 Women Employment in MGNREGA

| Year | Total Employment (crores) | Women Person days | % share of Women |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 2006-07 | 2.10 | 36.04 | 40 |
| 2007-08 | 3.39 | 61.50 | 43 |
| 2008-09 | 4.51 | 103.57 | 48 |
| 2009-10 | 5.26 | 136.40 | 48 |
| 2010-11 | 5.49 | 122.74 | 48 |
| 2011-12 | 5.04 | 103.81 | 48 |
| 2012-13 | 4.48 | 86.42 | 53 |

Source: MGNREGA Briefing Book 2014

From the above table, it was found that during the initial period, the total employment was 2.10 crores in 2006-07 but it has increased to 4.48 crores in 2012-13. Out of that, the percentage share of women participation in MGNREGA was also increased from 40 percent to 53 percent in the respective years.

Part II

Economies of MGNREGA

The main purpose of MGNREGA was to create the demand in the rural areas. According to Keynes in Multiplier effect, creating income will help to create the investment. Likewise, this programme would help to create the demand in the rural areas through providing employment opportunities.

Table 2 Wage Rate in MGNREGA: Top 5 States (Rs rupees)

| State | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Haryana | 99 | 135 | 141 | 179 | 191 | 191 |
| Punjab | 93 | 93 | 100 | 153 | 166 | 166 |
| Kerala | 125 | 125 | 125 | 150 | 164 | 164 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 75 | 75 | 100 | 120 | 157 | 157 |
| Karnataka | 69 | 74 | 100 | 125 | 155 | 155 |
| Tamil Nadu | 80 | 80 | 100 | 119 | 132 | 132 |

Source: MGNREGA Briefing Book 2014

Though, it was introduced in different states in India during the same period i.e., 2006-07 Kerala was a leading state in providing more wage and after that Haryana have been given more wages to the workers i.e Rs 99 in 2006-07 to Rs 191 in 2012-13. Compared with all other states Tamil Nadu was giving lower wages i.e Rs 132 in 2012-13.

Part III**Employments of SC/ST in MGNREGA**

The special features of MGNREGA were aiding the marginalized communities particularly SC/ST people and also to empowering people at the grass root level.

Table: 3 Employments for SC in MGNREGA (in lakhs)

| State | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 467.82 | 732.69 | 1216.90 | 2007.84 | 1807.02 | 866.87 | 361.61 |
| Tamil Nadu | 102.48 | 370.10 | 725.39 | 1412.23 | 1550.06 | 871.11 | 900.71 |
| Rajasthan | 159.50 | 322.91 | 1390.40 | 1193.52 | 771.56 | 355.75 | 312.80 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 202.41 | 557.16 | 715.02 | 998.00 | 815.03 | 774.17 | 648.12 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 312.96 | 491.96 | 525.07 | 485.18 | 425.18 | 344.87 | 160.18 |
| Total in India (SC) | 2295.23 | 3935.98 | 633.90 | 8644.81 | 7875.65 | 4769.69 | 3605.28 |

Source: MGNREGA Briefing Book 2014

Table: 4 Employments for ST in MGNREGA (in lakhs)

| State | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Madhya Pradesh | 959.05 | 1342.46 | 1379.55 | 1189.82 | 955.02 | 453.23 | 237.91 |
| Rajasthan | 642.90 | 778.60 | 1122.52 | 1011.87 | 704.60 | 519.14 | 420.22 |
| Chattisgarh | 318.98 | 544.77 | 513.65 | 397.85 | 405.43 | 452.23 | 299.20 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 88.31 | 257.18 | 354.36 | 594.30 | 537.08 | 531.97 | 415.28 |
| Odisha | 393.87 | 160.66 | 154.90 | 200.91 | 347.21 | 173.22 | 127.61 |
| Total in India (SC) | 3298.73 | 4207.05 | 5501.64 | 5874.31 | 5361.83 | 3959.05 | 2658.84 |

Source: MGNREGA Briefing Book 2014

The above table (3&4) revealed that the participation of SC and ST people in MGNREGA has been increasing trend but in

last year 2012-13 it has decreased. It was found that, in 2006-07, 2295.23 lakhs of SC (Table 3) and 3298.73 lakhs of ST people were benefitted (Table 4). In 2012-13, it has increased to 3605.28 (SC) and 2658.84 (ST) were benefitted from this scheme in 2011-12. But in the year 2012-13 it show a decreasing trend. In terms of providing employment to SC in region-wise, Tamil Nadu had the first place (900.71 lakhs) followed by Andhra Pradesh (648.12 lakhs). And for ST, Rajasthan (420.22 lakhs) had the first place in providing employment followed by Andhra Pradesh (415.28 lakhs) during the 2012-13.

Conclusion

The percentage of share of women has increased from 40 per cent in 2006-07 to 53 per cent in 2012-13.

Regarding the economies, the beneficiaries were getting economic status because in 2006 they were getting low wages except few states like Kerala (Rs. 125). But in 2012-13, almost in all the states, it increased the wages.

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