
Research Papers



A study of Performance of MNERGA for BPL families with special reference to Nagpur District.

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Abstract

The MNERGA is the Indian job guarantee scheme which has responsibility of providing 100 days of job guarantee to inform of unskilled manual work to adult members. This programme is one of the challenging project ever undertaken by Government of India. Through its ambitious working it has benefited lakhs of people and has attracted the same number of criticism.

Nagpur district which is situated at the centre of India is traditionally farmer's area having cotton as its main crop. Over the years the cost of production of cotton has increased but the revenue hasn't increased at the same rate. This situation has not only affected the farmers but also labours dependent on agriculture most of them coming from BPL families. This paper has tried to study whether MNERGA is helping the BPL families. What are their expectations from MNERGA and what are the lacunas in implementation of MNERGA.

Key Words:- BPL Families, Income, Problems of MNERGA.

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian [job guarantee](#) scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005. The scheme provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult

members of any rural household willing to do [public work](#)-related unskilled manual work at the statutory [minimum wage](#) of 120 (US\$2.68) per day in 2009 prices. The law was initially called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) but was renamed on 2 October 2009.

NREGA, the Union government's flagship anti-poverty programme that promises 100 days of employment every year to the rural poor, is partly credited with driving the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to victory in the April-May general election. Although 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 in rural India, whether or not they are below poverty line. But research has shown that the majority of beneficiaries are from the below poverty line. Hence it is important to study how this programme is being implemented for the betterment of BPL people.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To Study working of MNREG in available time & Geographical limit.
- 2) To find out the causes responsible for ineffective working of MNERG.
- 3) To suggest the effective measures for better implementation of MNERG with respective to BPL families in study area.

Duration of the study: The Study carried out in January to October -2011

Study Area:-

This study is carried out in Nagpur district. The MNERGA works though tehsils. There are total 13 tehsils in Nagpur district. These tehsils along with the Zila parishads have a sole responsibility of -implementing the MNERG. The total employment generated in vidarbha district due to MNERGA is 1.03 Lakh. Total Fund of MNERGA in vidarbha is 14.32 Crore.

The tehsil wise BPL families in Vidarbha District are as follows:-

| Tehsil | Families | Bpl families | % |
|------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| Nagpur | 40,122 | 12,053 | 30.04 |
| Hingna | 21,847 | 8,387 | 38.39 |
| Kamptee | 31,737 | 8,470 | 26.69 |
| Kalmeshwar | 21,150 | 6,786 | 32.09 |
| Katol | 28,695 | 16,364 | 57.00 |
| Narkhed | 28,815 | 14,622 | 50.74 |
| Saoner | 34,266 | 10,397 | 30.34 |
| Parseoni | 28,429 | 8,505 | 29.92 |
| Ramtek | 26,467 | 11,657 | 44.04 |
| Mouda | 27,569 | 9,792 | 35.52 |
| Umred | 20,975 | 6,651 | 31.71 |
| Bhawapur | 20,090 | 7,361 | 36.64 |
| Kuhi | 28,363 | 11,715 | 41.30 |
| Total | 3,58,525 | 1,32,760 | 37.03 |

Source: - Daily Hitvada, Nagpur dated 7th September 2011 based on official data of Collector office of Nagpur.

Research Methodology and Data collection

The data is collected by both the sources i.e. primary and secondary. Out of 13 talukas, the research carried out in 5 talukas namely, Highna, umred, kamptee, Narkhed and mouda. 10 people who are the head of BPL families were selected randomly from each of these five talukas. The questionnaire was constructed in local language i.e. Marathi. These questioners were filled from head of BPL families while the interview was conducted of rest of family members. The secondary sources include books, websites etc.

Profile of Respondents

| Particulars | | Number | Percentage |
|--|--|--------|------------|
| No. of Family Memebers | 0-2 | 05 | 10 |
| | 2-4 | 16 | 32 |
| | 4-6 | 19 | 38 |
| | 6 and above | 10 | 20 |
| Caste | Open | 07 | 14 |
| | OBC | 16 | 32 |
| | SC | 14 | 28 |
| | ST | 12 | 24 |
| | ETC | 01 | 02 |
| Average Age | 0-20 | 18 | 36 |
| | 20-40 | 29 | 58 |
| | 40-60 | 03 | 06 |
| No. of People worked in MNERGA Proiect | 0-2 | 16 | 32 |
| | 2-4 | 31 | 62 |
| | 4-6 | 03 | 06 |
| No. of Days Worked in a financial year | 0-30 | 09 | 18 |
| | 30-60 | 26 | 52 |
| | 60-90 | 11 | 22 |
| | 90-100 | 04 | 08 |
| | | | |
| Time of Employment in a year | Jan- March | 11 | 22 |
| | April- June | 20 | 40 |
| | July-September | 14 | 28 |
| | October | 05 | 10 |
| Works Carried | Rural Activity | 03 | 06 |
| | Flood control | 10 | 20 |
| | Water conservation and Harvesting | 22 | 44 |
| | Renovation of traditional water bodies | 10 | 20 |
| | Irrigation canals | 02 | 04 |
| | Land Development | 02 | 04 |
| | Other work | 01 | 02 |
| Satisfied with MNERGA | Yes | 08 | 16 |
| | No | 42 | 84 |
| Reason for Unsatisfaction | Issues of Job card | 06 | 12 |
| | Work Place | 04 | 08 |
| | Favoritism | 11 | 22 |
| | transparency | 07 | 14 |

The analysis shows that most of the respondents families have 2-6 family members. The averages age of BPL families are basically between 0-40. Out of these families 62% families have 2 to 4 members working for MNERGA. Further research has shown that 52% of families have employment of 30-60 days in a financial year. The analysis of data shows that majority of families are from SC & ST category. Nearly 68 % of respondents have confirmed that they are working between April to September. 64% of respondents are working for water conservation.

Further it was found that 84% of respondents are not satisfied with the MNERGA. The main reasons for this un-satisfaction among many others are less payment and Favoritism.

Conclusion

- 1) The MNERGA in Nagpur District is giving employment to1.03 lakh people. The fund of MNERGA for Nagpur District is 14.32 crores. The employment for BPL families is not enough for upliftment of their living standard.
- 2) Most of the respondents were not availing employment for 100 full days.
- 3) The employment generation process is more concentrated in months of April to September.
- 4) Max. respondents along with their family members strongly felt that remuneration of MNERGA is very low. There is favoritism in allotting job cards to the people.

5) The basic facilities at the work place are not enough. The women workers are suffering the most.

6) Maximum respondents were not aware about the benefits of MNERG, they were only aware of the wages they are receiving.

7) The problems like transparency, fake attendance are diverting the implementation of MNERGA from its objectives.

Recommendations

1) The favoritism in allocation of job cards and work should be avoided.

2) The effort must be there to create assets through MNERGA

3) The work of MNERGA should be concentrated in non agriculture work days

4) There is need of full time mechanism in implementation of MNERGA. This mechanism should made available for each district.

5) The social audit must be conducted every now and then preferably once in a financial year.

6) The work of MNERGA should be concentrated in non agriculture work days so that proper labour will be available for agriculture purpose.

Conclusion

Through this study, the researcher has tried to study the implementation of MNERGA one of the most ambitious project of the Government of India in Nagpur District for BPL families. The BPL Families are not getting enough remuneration which could satisfy their basic needs. The favoritism is seems to be the most dangerous problem in MNERGA implementation. It is the need of time to increase the remuneration of MNERGA as inflation rate is touching %. It is essential that MNERGA should create an asset which could increase the living standard of people.

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