



CONTRIBUTION OF MGNREGS TO EMPLOYMENT CREATION IN INDIA

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Abstract: *The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) came into existence after the enactment of a Parliament Act 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' (2005) in September 2005. The scheme initiated in 200 districts was subsequently enlarged twice to cover all the 593 rural districts of the country. The scheme has now been re-christened as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The goals of the scheme are strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment source, growth engine for sustainable development of an agricultural economy, empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a rights- based law and new ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy (Government of India, 2008). The primary objective of the scheme is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.*

To rapid change in employment, Government has initiated National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in 2005. The main objectives of the scheme are providing rural employment, attain sustainable rural livelihood and check the migration. The novel idea of Grama Swaraj of Mahatma Gandhi will be meterialised by employment generation programme of MGNREGS.

On this background the researchers are attempted to focus how MGNREGS helps employment and income generation especially the SC/ST and Women.

The following are the objectives of this paper.

To analyse increasing employment opportunities under MGNREGS

To find out employment opportunities to weaker sections of the society.

To investigate state wise employment opportunities through MGNREGS

The analysis is based on purely the secondary data collected from different sources like ministry of rural development and planning commission websites and scheme implementing state line departments. The researchers have calculated percentage to analysis the change in employment over year by year.

Introduction:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) came into existence after the enactment of a Parliament Act 'National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act' (2005) in September 2005. The scheme initiated in 200 districts was subsequently enlarged twice to cover all the 593 rural districts of the country. The scheme has now been



re-christened as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The goals of the scheme are strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment source, growth engine for sustainable development of an agricultural economy, empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a rights-based law and new ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy (Government of India, 2008).

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The scheme has a systematic approach with regard to identification of works, issue of job cards to the eligible and execution of works, provision for social audit and transparency in payment among others. The scheme in the last six years of its existence has brought in a noticeable change in the rural areas with regard to employment opportunities, nature of works, systems and procedures in work opportunities.

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Trends in Budget Allocations:

The total budget allocation for MGNREGS has increased year by year. It was Rs. 11000 crores in 2005-06 and Rs.11700 crores in 2006-07. It was increased Rs.12000crores and Rs. 16000crores in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. But in 2009-10, the total budget allocation for MGNREGS was Rs. 39100 crores; it rose to Rs. 40100 crores in 2010-11. The scheme in its six years of existence has spent about Rs. 1.3 lakh crores. The annual growth rate in budget allocation was widely varying with a high of 144 percent during 2009-10 compared to the previous year.

Household employment under MGNREGS:

MGNREGS has provided employment to 210.16 lakhs households during 2012-13 and in 2017-18 it was increased to 498.63 lakhs, which accounts for approximately 237.25 per cent increase. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, totally 339.09 lakhs and 451.15 lakhs households got employment opportunities



respectively. In 2015-16 and 2016-17 it was 525.30 lakhs and 549.54 lakhs. But in 2017-18, it was reduced by 07.10 percent compared to that in 2016-17. Under MGNREGS the employments for households have increased continuously.

Total Employment provided under MGNREGS:

As in the data, during 2012-13, the scheme was able to provide employment opportunities for 12729.59 lakh people .In 2013-14, 20537.02 lakh people were benefited from this scheme

(i.e; increase of 61.33 per cent) .In 2014-15, 31990.02 lakh people got employed under the scheme (i.e; 51.30 per cent increase).In 2015-16 MGNREGS has provided employment opportunities to 42000.08 lakh people which accounts for 29.94 per cent increase. But in 2016-17 and 2017-18, 37989.49 lakh(-09.55%) and 31328.89 lakh (-17.53%) people got employed under the scheme respectively, where in both the years there was a little decline.

Table.1

Category- wise employment provided under MGNREGS from 2012 to 18.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
ST (In lakhs)	3298.73 (25.91)	4265.6 (20.77)	5501.64 (17.19)	5874.39 (13.98)	5361.8 (14.11)	3838.49 (12.25)
SC (In lakhs)	2295.23 (18.03)	3942.34 (19.19)	6336.18 (19.80)	8644.83 (20.58)	8644.83 (20.58)	4660.57 (14.87)
Women (In lakhs)	3679.01 (28.90)	6109.1 (29.74)	10357.32 (32.37)	13640.51 (32.47)	12274.23 (32.30)	10186.8 (32.51)
Others (In lakhs)	3456.59 (27.16)	6219.98 (30.30)	9795.06 (30.64)	13840.35 (32.97)	12477.81 (32.84)	12643 (40.37)
Total (In lakhs)	12729.59 (100)	20537.02 (100)	31990.02 (100)	42000.08 (100)	37989.49 (100)	31328.89 (100)

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The above data shows the category-wise employment generation under MGNREGS from 2012-18. According to 2012-13 3298.73 lakh(25.91%) STs have got employment. The percentage of STs that are employed in successive years goes on decreasing there after: i.e; in 2013-14 ,4265.6lakh(20.77%) in 2014-15, 5501.64 lakh(17.19%), in 2015-16, 5874.39 lakh(13.98%) ,in 2016-17 ,5361.8 lakh(14.11%) and 2017-18 3838.49 lakh (12.25%) have obtained employment.

Among SC category, 2295.23 lakh (18.03%) in 2012-13 ,3942,34 lakh(19.19%) in 2013-14 , 6336.18

lakh(19.80%) in 2014-15,8644.83 lakh (20.58%) in 2015-16,8644.83 lakh (20.58%) in 2016-17 and 4660.57 lakh(14.87%) in 2017-18 have succeeded in getting employment under the scheme. Initial year's gradual increase becomes stagnant later and drops suddenly in 2017-18.

Women have got employment opportunities under MGNREGS from 2012 to 2018 as follows: 3679.01 lakh(28.90%) in 2012-13, 6109.1 lakh (29.74%) in 2013-14 10357.32 lakh (32.37%) in 2014-15 ,13640.51 lakh(32.47%) in 2015-16, 12274.23 lakh (32.30%) in 2016-17, 10186.8 lakh



(32.51%) in 2017-18. Here it shows small increase in employment generation from 2012 to 2018.

The people in other category have got more employment opportunities compared to SC, ST and women. (Table 1)

Table 2

Category wise employment generation in major states under MGNREGS

(In percentage to total employment)

State (1)	2012-13			2017-18		
	Percent of SC/ST (2)	Percent of Women (3)	Percent of others (4)	Percent of SC/ST (5)	Percent of Women (6)	Percent of others (7)
Andhra Pradesh	27.68	35.39	36.93	28.76	36.62	34.62
Assam	41.64	24.08	34.28	22.72	19.94	57.34
Bihar	42.83	14.80	42.35	20.84	22.26	57.26
Gujarat	47.46	33.39	19.10	33.13	31.14	35.73
Himachal Pradesh	47.05	10.90	42.04	22.68	37.30	39.98
Jammu and Kashmir	27.41	4.26	68.31	18.97	15.06	65.96
Karnataka	35.46	33.57	30.97	16.44	31.47	52.09
Kerala	19.63	39.62	40.74	8.66	48.16	43.21
Madhya Pradesh	45.03	30.18	24.77	34.05	29.89	36.04
Maharashtra	41.71	27.00	31.27	15.69	31.49	52.80
Rajasthan	48.06	40.17	11.79	24.41	40.88	34.69
Tamilnadu	32.26	44.78	22.94	17.33	42.53	40.13
Uttar Pradesh	51.43	14.20	34.35	27.99	14.62	57.37
West Bengal	46.23	15.45	38.31	31.61	24.51	42.28
Orissa	53.79	26.26	19.97	40.15	27.87	31.97
Chattisgada	41.31	28.22	30.49	32.48	31.15	36.36
India	43.95	28.90	27.15	27.14	32.51	40.35

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The above table shows the comparison of category wise employment generation in major states between 2012-13 and 2017-18. In states like Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa there are decrease in the employment generation for SC/ST section in 2017-18 when compared to 2012-13. Meanwhile only one state namely, Andhra Pradesh has shown increase in the employment

generation for this category in latter year. When we come to women's category, states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Chattisgada are increases in employment generation in 2017-18 when compared to 2012-13. But in states like Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu, we can find the decrease. In the mean time employment



generation in India increased in 2017-18 when compared to 2012-13 for both women and others category. Meanwhile only SC/ST categories were decreased. (Table 2)

Concluding remarks:

It is concluded that the MGNREGS has substantially increased employment opportunity year by year for SC, ST, women and others. All the above data shows that, the employment opportunities increased under MGNREGS. Therefore the research clearly indicates that MGNREGS has great potential to increase employment opportunity and rural livelihoods.

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