

## **A STUDY ON MGNREGA EMPOWERMENT CO-OPERATIVE SUPPORT ON CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study conducted in the Chamarajanagar district, has examined the intervention of cooperatives training and for bringing additional developments among the rural poor through MGNREGA who are mainly comprised of landless, small and marginal farmers in the present context. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was developed by the Indian government to reduce rural poverty through 100 days of guaranteed employment per year. 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. The objective is to ensure livelihood and food security by providing unskilled work to people through creation of sustainable assets. The Study mainly concentrated on to study the performance and impact of MGNREGA in the study area.

**Keywords: MGNREGA, Rural employment, Trainings and Development.**

### **Introduction**

MGNREGA, who come seeking an unskilled manual job, could soon be offered an opportunity to learn for free a skill that will make them employable at much higher remunerations. The government believes reaching out to people who can benefit the most from learning a trade will boost its Skill India initiative along with making MGNREGA more effective. It has therefore decided to converge its recently unveiled Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana with MGNREGA or Mahatma Gandhi National employment program. Despite high rates of economic growth in India since the 1990s, rural poverty continues to be a policy concern. Over two thirds of India's population inhabits rural areas, accounting for 68% of all impoverished citizens in India. Currently, nearly 29.5% of rural Indians live below the poverty line (Rangarajan committee). Risks for rural poverty include caste, employment status, gender and land ownership. Employment generation, particularly in rural areas, appears to be most challenging task for planners in the socio-economics sectors and policy makers. Though MGNREGA was introduced to check rural outmigration, it now seems that it has become the main cause of rural out-migration of partially educated youths and unskilled less educated youths indirectly because of its wage rate and nature of its work. Haque (2011) has discussed that most rural youth were still migrating to urban areas in search of employment from both

MGNREGA and non-MGNREGA households. Rural youth seems to regard agricultural work as strenuous and a low status job; and especially educated youths don't prefer agricultural work. Some of the rural youth state that agriculture is boring, low paid and requires hard work, and thus they prefer to move to urban areas. The programmes so far implemented to enhance the labour absorption capacity of agriculture sector have failed to reach the point of success majority of them earns their livelihood through unskilled, casual manual labour and exploiting of the natural resource base. This dependence makes them more vulnerable to crises, like climate change, natural disaster, ill-health, etc, all of which adversely impact their employment opportunities and reduce their ability to move out of the poverty trap. The Ministry of Rural Development has a gamut of programmes which aim at providing direct employment, self employment, social security, housing, building rural infrastructure and managing land resources to alleviate poverty. Since the First Five year Plan, many programme interventions have been promoted. Although there has been an improvement in employment generation through these programmes in rural areas over the years, particularly certain sections of the rural population, especially those unskilled, casual, manual labourers remained unaffected to a greater extent by these measures.

During the structured discussion through meeting, five critical areas under MGNREGA which were explored through study and trusted that they could positively work towards were suggested. Those are;

1. Reducing the cost and duration of cultivation through indigenous rural techniques;
2. Enhancing production through the efficient use of water or other inputs;
3. Providing remunerative price to farmers by incentivising aggregation and market infrastructure;
4. Rehabilitating agricultural land and assets after natural disasters; and
5. Re-planting using the MGNREGA fund and bringing diversification in agriculture

### **Works and Generating Rural Employment**

The employment situation has worsened over a period of time. One of the main objectives of various five year plans is to create employment avenues for over six million rural people every year. In addition, the number of unemployed in rural areas is reportedly increasing at the rate of one million per year. The government believes reaching out to people who can benefit the most from learning a trade will boost its Skill India initiative along with making MGNREGA more effective. Gram Panchayats (GP) could use these mainly Sanitisation and Health Entrepreneurs (SHE) to take care of sanitisation and hygiene needs with respect to public and private assets under the new normal. Work guarantee under MGNREGA could act as a floor for basic sustenance, and a one-time government subsidy for training and buying equipment could get a large number of these workers take the first steps towards sustainable self-employment. These SHE need not restrict themselves to work allocated by GP and could also take on private work related to health and sanitisation. Under MGNREGA, 6% of total expenditure can be on administrative expenses. Of this, 50% needs to be utilised at the GP level.

These funds can be utilised on the skilling of SHE. As we show later in this note, just this portion of funds will not be enough and governments need to make more funding available through other components of MGNREGA and other schemes.

### **The salient features of the Act**

1. Right to Work
2. Time Bound Employment Guarantee
3. Guaranteed Minimum 100 days of wage employment in a fiscal year, per household.
4. Decentralized planning
5. Worksite Facilities
6. Women Empowerment
7. Transparency and accountability
8. Labour intensive works

### **Review of literature**

**Sarda Prasad (2014):** Labour shortage in agriculture is being major problem in agriculture sector in India. The main cause of labour shortage in agriculture are- rural out-migration of agricultural labour; MGNREGA works and its wage rate; high wage rate; institutional factors. Former two factors are more prominent in rural areas. According to the farmers' response, labour shortage started since 1990s when economic reform was introduced but acute labour shortage started since 2005-06 when the MGNREGA was begun. Mechanization in agriculture is the best alternative for labour shortage but it has some limitation such as costly, small landholding, high maintenance charges, etc. MGNREGA is a labour bank in rural areas and involvement of it in agriculture is the best strategy to overcome labour shortage in agriculture.

**Y. Sharma(2015):** "After implementing the programmed for three years, it was found that there are households which can improve livelihoods by acquiring suitable skills, which in turn will help them increase wages by at least 50% and will provide horizontal and vertical mobility to the hitherto unskilled workers," the official said. Eligible MGNREGA beneficiaries will be identified and grouped as construction and agricultural labour cooperatives, so they can be trained in the respective areas.

**Dheeraj R P(2017):** long way to alleviate the quality of the life of the rural people. Thus, the MNREGA programme has definitely brought about development in the rural household and it has enabled them to access many facilities and enhance the quality of the life, but this development is limited, MNREGA has not developed the rural households completely and it is not possible for MNREGA individually to develop the rural household completely. This complete development can only happen when the central and state governments introduce policies and initiatives which will cause growth and development of the rural household.

The study has been carried out with a conceptualized ideas under the following objectives

### **Objectives of study**

- To Analyse Supporting component needed for rural Empowerment through MGNRAGA
- To find out the restructured working participant households in MGNREGS specifically for rural people who are less or no skilled partial educates.
- To blend the Cooperatives Training and rural Development among beneficiaries of MGNREGA.

### **Limitations of the study**

The present study was mainly focusing and confined to rural people (both un educated and less educated) of Chamarajangara district only.

### **Methodology**

The present study is purely based on primary study through structured discussion and secondary data. The secondary data have been used to discussion about basics of MGNREGA by using research paper, magazines, newspaper discussion on MGNRAGA scheme and concern issues.

### **Recommendations from the study**

- MGNREGS scheme of public works will certainly be improved through blending of partially educated also for integrating the skill levels as immediate need to mitigate the problems being faced by the old age persons of the rural areas due to rural youths out migration.
- Integrate smart approach To make payments smooth, a specialized section in banks and post offices to deal with MGNREGA works and should be developed through formation of job specific rural cooperatives.
- Providing only unskilled manual labour to work through the MGNREGA scheme does not seem to be a healthy idea in future as rural youths are becoming unemployed after partially educated.
- long-run. Provision for the semi-skilled and skilled workers should be incorporated into the Scheme with the intervention of co-operative formation in different sectors specifically for the rural needs in the post modern era.
- The beneficiaries had less knowledge about existence and functioning of Local Vigilance and Monitoring for unemployment allowance, incase Gram Panchayat fail to provide employment.

### **Conclusion**

The study has found that comparatively backward ethnic groups are regularly participating in larger proportions in the MGNREGA works, whereas general and other -backward caste people also constitute the larger share. The traditional concept of joint households in rural areas

is being disturbed due to implementation of the programmer as a proportion of the job cards are held by smaller size of households through there is a large size missing groups. The education level of the beneficiaries has been found to be lower but not fitting in to traditional rural employment satisfied The study has revealed that the socio- economic condition of the households regularly working under the MGNREGA scheme is considerably but not effective to offer comfort life to poor in the rural area.

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