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**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE
TIME OF SENDING THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WORK
DONE ON THE PROJECT**

1. Name and Address of Principal Investigator : **Dr. Raksha Singh**
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3. UGC Approval No. and Date: **MH-126/202081/XII/14-15/CRO**
26/5/2015
4. Date of Implementation : **20/06/2015**
5. Tenure of the Project : **2 Years (2015-16, 2016-17)**
6. Total Grant Allocated : **2,70,000.00**
7. Total Grant Received : **1,80,000.00**
8. Final Expenditure : **2,77,624.00**
9. Title of the Project : **"Mnrega's Impact In Generating**
Employment And In Curbing
Migration; Analysis With Special
Reference To Chhattisgarh
State"

10. Objectives of the Project :

The following objectives have been determined for the study –

1. To study the MGNREGA impact in generating employment in Chhattisgarh State.
2. To study the MGNREGA impact in curbing migration in Chhattisgarh State.
3. To suggest and advocate better processes and methods for improving condition of rural people.

11. Achievements of the Project :

1. Provide detail about the Act and benefits gained out of it
2. Analyse that if training will be provided at Block and Panchayat level it will enhance the scope and reach of MGNREGA.
3. Control the problems of beneficiaries and enhance their awareness about the work.
4. Increase earnings of the rural people.

12. Summary of the Findings :

MGNREGA is land mark legislation in the Indian history of social security legislation after independence .This program is unique and innovative in its own sense in generating employment. The mandate of the Act 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. Data given by Ministry of Rural development says that after the implementation of MGNREGA, the infrastructure becomes strong; it is creating employment opportunities as well as developing the assets and sustainable infrastructure for the village and curbing migration of local people by generating employment opportunities in their own area. This act played a key role in bringing social change. Two hundred ten respondents of Durg District of Chhattisgarh State has been considered as a sample to represent the Stat Data is collected and analyzed in the form of discussion and few tables and graph in the following chapters. While collecting data and interacting with respondents and government officials many factors came to notice that proper training in utilisation of funds must be given to persons who are implementing this Act work so that utilisation of funds can be at its maximum. It was found

in present study that at least in Chattisgarh the impact in generating employment and in curbing migration was very positive in both the frame of reference. The period when people are more likely to sit idle, MGNREGA has provided them with an option to get engaged at a substantially very high wage rate, especially for female workers. The standard of living of people is improving in post MGNREGA along with social security.

13. Contribution to the Society :

This study is beneficial for the society as a whole. Author has given detailed analysis of how jobs can be taken in MGNREGA and what are the benefits which a worker can avail while doing work under MGNREGA. This project can be helpful in

1. Promoting new ways in creating awareness.
2. Effective adoption of the schemes.
3. Enhancing the socio-economic condition of the rural people.

14. Weather any Ph.D. Enrolled/Produced out of the Project: N.A.

15. No. of Publication out of the Project : 02


Signature of Principal Investigator

Dr. Raksha Singh

Economics


Principal
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Research Paper

Impact of MGNREGA Project in Raising The Standard of Living of Rural People

The study is based on Durg District of Chhattisgarh state to analyse the impact of MGNREGA on standard of living of rural people considering variables income & education. The study is purely qualitative & this was undertaken with an assumption that people who are not getting any employment are really getting benefit with the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the period of seasonal unemployment. The study can be concluded with the fact that there is a positive impact of sufficient income & education level on the improvement in standard of living. JEL Classification : J18, J31.

Key words : MGNREGA, Standard of Living, Income Level.

GURPREET KOUR TALWAR* & DR. RAKSHA SINGH**

Introduction :

Indian economy is an economy known for its strong agriculture base; it is trajectory that Indian economy at the same time suffers from the distortions since independence to till date. There were many steps, policies, programmes had been made & implemented by the government for the betterment of the village economy of our country, but still it suffers from poverty & unemployment. Many employment generation programmes had been made to create number of job opportunities especially in the rural area. In continuation to this the government of India had made a right to employment for creating job opportunities for the rural landless labourers. The scheme named as national rural employment guarantee act 2005, which was amended & renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2009. MGNREGA was now known as the largest ever public employment programme of government of India under MoRD in the history of India for poverty alleviation programmes.

MGNREGA provides 100 days of wage employment to the rural labourers within the rural areas. The number of days had now been increased from 100 to 150 days every year. It is a development initiative done for the growth of the area, with the help of creating durable assets, empowering women labourers, controlling rural urban migration etc. The paper discusses about the development of the rural people through their living standard in relation to the sufficient income & the education of the beneficiaries working under the scheme. Many studies had been undertaken on the impact of MGNREGA on rural employment, socio-economic aspect & migration with

their cause & effects. Vinod kumar Sharma(2015); Amir ullah Khan & M R Saluja(2009); V. D. Shah, Manish Makwana (2011). Some more studies are also explored on the role of MGNREGA: its issues, challenges, overview on the food security, and livelihood security for the successful implementation of the scheme. Dr. Kiran Arora (2015); V. Rajrajeshwari (2015); Dr. B. Yashodha Jagdeshwari (2015); Abhishek Thakur (2011). But few studies were found on analysing the standard of living of rural poor. Therefore the presented study was done with the following objectives :

(1) To study the impact of MGNREGA on the standard of living of rural people.

(2) To understand the importance of income & education in the socio economic status of beneficiaries.

Statement of The Problem :

Although payment are 157/- per day & that to only for 100 to 150 days which means they will get about $157 \times 100 = 15700/-$ only for the whole year. We have considered this job to give idea about how in rural areas people were not getting any employment in non agricultural season. But with the MGNREGA they are atleast earning for their livelihood. This parameter is only in absolute terms.

Methodology :

The study was done in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state to see the impact of MGNREGA in raising the standard of living. The sample chosen from 21 villages of Durg district, the selection of beneficiaries are based on random sampling. The number of samples for study was 210 who are MGNREGA beneficiaries working under the act or those who are registered under the act & have job cards with them.

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Data Collection :

To understand & interpret the impact of MGNREGA on the macro economic variables are considered such as standard of living, income & education level. Data's are collected through personal interview method by applying self prepared schedule. The study was limited for the period of 2014-15. The information was gathered on the different dimensions of the scheme related to the employment, income, living standards, creation of durable assets, migration, development of the area etc. The utility & characteristics of the programme are also analysed for the beneficiaries. We had collected qualitative data through the discussion with the villagers, labourers & representatives of panchayati raj institutions who are working for the MGNREGA.

Analytical Procedure :

The impact of MGNREGA in raising the standard of living on the beneficiaries of Durg district of Chhattisgarh state has been done through tabular analysis by applying percentage methods. The improvement in standard of living in rural areas can be done in two ways. Author believes with sufficient income & education level this can be achieved.

Table No. 1

Improvement in standard of living	Sufficient income level		
	Yes	No	Total
Yes	105 (91%)	84 (88%)	189 (90%)
No	10 (09%)	11 (12%)	21 (10%)
Total	115 (100%)	95 (100%)	210 (100%)

Source : Primary Data.

The analysis done on the basis of sufficient income level with the living standard in rural area of MGNREGA beneficiaries, according to the responses given by the beneficiaries about 91 % of the persons had responded that their standard of living had been increased immensely after joining the MGNREGA as it gives us the sufficient income for the survival of the their family & on the other hand only 9% had responded that their standard of living had not raised, but they said they have sufficient income level for fulfilling their needs & requirement of their family. While doing the research we found that the persons who were not able to increase the living standard are having a large family size due to that they were mainly engaged in fulfilling their requirements of the family & had not got the chance to increase the standard of living.

If we see the other side of the criteria the persons who had responded that they don't have sufficient income level, but then also they had increased their living were about 88%. The reason behind such a response was either they

have their ancestral land areas or those who are financially strong in rural area in comparison to others. About 12% of the persons are not having sufficient income, there we found that some of the workers had not received the work or they had got less work in comparison to others so they were incapable of increasing their living standard because they had not received sufficient income.

The overall comparison done on the two expresses that the income level had played a key role in increasing the standard of living of the workers & beneficiaries of MGNREGA is about 90%. In only Durg district & in surveying for about 21 villages we found that majority of the persons had improved their living standard & on the other hand only 10% of the workers were below the standard of living as they have different problems in different aspects like family size, insufficient number of working days etc.

In a descriptive analysis another aspect we had tried to explain is that the education level or the literary rate also relates to the standard of living of the people. Education plays an important role in creating awareness & understanding the process of working under the act.

Education plays a key role in increasing the standard of living as the education level of the person will increase the standard of living will also increase accordingly. The table no. 2 tries to derive the relation of living standard with the education level of the people working under MGNREGA. Starting from the primary level education the out of 76 persons about 66 i.e. 87% favoured the improvement in standard of living & rest 13 % had responded against it. In secondary level of education about 89.5% had said that there is much improvement in their living had been

Table No. 2

Improvement in standard of living	Education level					Total
	Primary	Secondary	Graduation	Others	None	
Yes	66 (87%)	60 (89.5%)	33 (97%)	22 (88%)	08 (100%)	189 (90%)
No	10 (13%)	07 (10.5%)	01 (3%)	03 (12%)	00 (-)	21 (10%)
Total	76 (100%)	67 (100%)	34 (100%)	25 (100%)	08 (100%)	210 (100%)

Source : Primary Data.

done after they had joined under the act as earlier the situation was very critical in terms of job opportunities in the area, rest 10.5% had said there were not much improvement done after it. The educated persons or we can say the graduates those who are working under the act without their interest because they are not getting jobs in the area, so they had favoured the act completely. As they know the processes & benefits of the act provided to the labourers. Some of the other education levels are also found in the area, they had responded 88% in yes improvement had been done under the act for the beneficiaries of MGNREGA. Lastly at the end some of the illiterate persons were also had fully agreed to the benefits of the act as they

got the job under this which they had not thought of it. These persons are those who are still doing the thumb impression for their identity on the muster rolls.

If we see the overall affect of the education on the standard of living we found that in all the education levels the beneficiaries are in the favour of the act. About 90% had said that yes the improvement had been done after they had joined the MGNREGA. Only 10% had said there were no improvements in the living standard, mainly the primary level persons who are not able to understand the process of MGNREGA had not favoured it. Education had played an important role in raising the standard of living as they are able to understand that how they have to manage the funds for improving their living standards.

Conclusion :

The study can be concluded with the fact that there is a positive impact of sufficient income & education level on the improvement in standard of living. The income level provided to the beneficiaries of MGNREGA is sufficient to them for increasing their living standard. The majority of the responses received from the field survey had been in the favour of the act. The education level had helped the rural people in understanding the work & processes of programme. The aspect of education had also supported to have an improvement in standard of living. As majority of the rural people are more or less educated & they have the positive reflection of the standard of living. The study is basically confined to the area of Durg district of Chhattisgarh state. If we see the overall impact the rural people of Durg district are taking active participation in the MGNREGA. This shows the successful functioning of the act in the area.

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Transparency through Bank Accounts in MGNREGA

*** Gurpreet Kour Talwar**

****Raksha Singh**

***Abstract-** Bank plays a crucial role in the development of the country. In 2008 government declared wage payments under NREGA act would be made through banks. This new system is cost effective solution to reduce leakage & promote transparency. Payments through bank have been made mandatory in the scheme so that it increases transparency & accountability in wage payments. About 9 crore accounts have been opened in the banks & post offices of NREGA workers & for their wage disbursement make this largest financial inclusion scheme of rural poor. But after this also it is seen that there are many irregularities are there in the act which is to be taken care by the strict supervision of the responsible dignitaries. But banking process was seen as a positive effect towards the savings and new process of banks for rural poor. It is done through the help of E-fms, DSC, FTO, etc. done under NREGA portal the main source of transparency in public domain.*

Key words: Banks, MGNREGA, Accountability, Transparency

Introduction: India's most ambitious scheme which provides right to employment to one of the family member in rural India. It became government of India's largest ever financial inclusion scheme when the bank linkage started for the wage payments to the labourers. By developing this scheme NREGA tries to create a transparency in the public funds distribution to the workers involved in this scheme. Before that payments were done in cash according to muster rolls. After submitting it in the gram panchayat the estimated amount was transferred in the account of gram panchayat, then the cash payments were given to the labourers. With the aim of creating transparency in the act the amendment had made & the wage payments had been done through the bank accounts. This is a system which is trying to create some bridge between the work done manually and

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technically. The payments done through the bank are more accountable & easy to observe by the GOI. It is done through a system naming e-fms¹. In this about 9 crore accounts have been opened in the bank & post office of NREgA workers for their wage payments. This had now become the largest financial inclusion scheme of rural poor.

Review of literature: In a paper made by Anandita Adhikari & Kartika Bhatia had concluded that there are some of the positive responses from the respondents towards the banking system for the wage payments to the rural labourers. They had concluded that post office accounts are more than bank accounts may be because of the distances of the bank from their living area. It is known to be the best protection against the empowerment of workers. A research study by Abhishek Thakur had done his study in changing the wage relation in the district of Madhya Pradesh which shows the comparison between the wage rate before & after the implementation of MGNREGA & how the rural people had increased their sources of livelihood.

Objective

1. To study the impact of accounts opened under MGNREGA.
2. To identify the effectiveness of implementation of wage payments through Bank accounts.
3. To examine the level of significance & problem related.

Methodology: Study is presented in the form of descriptive research on Secondary data consists of information that has been previously gathered data is collected from published sources & official website of NREGA had been considered to select secondary data. Paper is based on secondary information collected from official website of NREGA. Secondary sources of any data to be complete the research has to heavily depend upon information from existing sources. The study depends upon information collected from print media and information qlearned from the internet.

Analysis & problems related: The bank & post office accounts opened due to GOI's instructions due to many leakages came in the lime light. The basic & main problem in the system was there is easy to enter, fake names in the muster rolls. So that the amount entered in the fake muster rolls will come in their hands. While many strict actions were taken by the act but there are many irregularities in the act floating in the field. These irregularities can be stopped with the strict supervision of government & the responsible dignitaries. But it was seen that these irregularities are widely rising in the disbursal of payments. It was easy to divert the funds to the gram panchayat officials, contractors or middlemen's lying in between workers & the paying agencies & to create a transparency in keeping all the records as bank always keep all the records very clearly. But one of the most shocking fact

came in the lime light about the boundations of the bank. It was also found that there are some manipulations are still there in bank accounts by the contractors & officials involved. These irregularities show the lack of strict norms & the guidelines used in the process of opening up an account for the NREGA workers.

In the directives given by RBI to all the banks it was mentioned that bank should open zero balance account, but it was seen that most of the NREGA workers had paid an amount at the time of opening up an account. This can be seen in their pass books whether they had opened a zero balance account or not. In some of the studies it is found that while searching for the transparency in the bank records. It was seen that bank does not give all details of the NREGA workers while it is clearly mentioned in the guidelines for the NREGA workers that it is to be issued in the public domain. Banks having an argument that they are following their bank's own guidelines & according to that they have to keep their customers records as private and confidential. But it is a key question that banks guidelines & NREGA guidelines cannot go simultaneously. As one says to give every information in public domain but other is following the criteria of keeping the records private & confidential. In general meaning the banking process was seen as positive towards new process because they want to understand the new process. Some of the findings of the bank payments for NREGA workers are positive responses given by the workers related to the new system of banking which are eagerly learned by the workers. One of the main step to be taken in this direction is to launch all the muster rolls & bank payments to be published in the public domain. So that record of each & every worker can be easily taken out from the website.

Table No. 1
Bank & Post Office Account Datas

		CHHATTISGARH	INDIA
BANK ACCOUNTS	Total accounts	24,90,982	6,28,13,149
	Individual accounts	24,34,955	5,25,17,579
	Joint accounts	56,027	1,02,95,570
	Amount disbursed	2,54,53,94,062	1,61,44,31,83,317
POST OFFICE ACCOUNTS	Total accounts	41,21,123	3,54,20,440
	Individual accounts	40,00,681	3,14,48,433
	Joint accounts	1,11,442	39,72,007
	Amount disbursed	6,84,90,86,636	55,02,20,23,396

Source :- www.nrega.nic.in

With the efforts of RBI & the ministry of rural development had

issued a circular on 21st January 2008² that made it mandatory to transfer the wage payments to the accounts of MGNREGA workers in bank or post office it was the main step taken towards the transparency of the act right to employment. After this circular the bank & post office accounts opened by NREGA workers there were about 66,03,105 out of which 24,90,982 are bank accounts & 41,12,123 are opened in post offices in only Chhattisgarh state. The amount disbursed in the account of workers in Chhattisgarh is about 4,54,53,94,062 in the banks & in the post offices was about 6,84,90,86,636 in the financial year of 2014-15. There are individual & joint accounts were opened in the post offices & banks by the workers. But it is clearly seen in the data's that the workers in rural areas are generally opening their accounts in post offices rather than in banks, the main reason for this can be the distance of the banks. Due to that the amount which is distributed among the NREGA workers are more in the post office than in the banks.

Now the question arises that how these funds are transferred and amount is disbursed in the account of the workers? The disbursement of amount in accounts is done with the help of e-fms (electronic funds management system), DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) & FTO (Fund Transfer Order), for authorising the payments from E-fms. The officials had to authorise with the use of Digital Signature Certificate. By using this system of MGNREGA portal, recording of demand from job card, work assignments to workers, generating electronic muster rolls, authenticating measurement & preparing claim for payment & payment into bank & post office accounts of the job seekers except taking attendance & measurement in the field³. With the help of the quantities measured the wage list will be made & fund transfer orders will be generated & authenticated digitally by digital signature certificate. In case of gram panchayat, it is the executive assistant who is responsible to generate fund transfer order & pradhan authorise the payments. In initial stages the block development officers are been empowered to use digital signature certificate. For panchayat samiti & district level the accountant & district development officer is the authority to sign digital signature certificate & after obtaining the signature of responsible authorities it is to be entered in the NREGA portal & until the digital signature certificate are enrolled in portal, this cannot be used in E-fms. Out of 292 DSC's in Chhattisgarh till 2014-15 it is enrolled about 281 & only 11 are left for Digital Signature Certificates.

The wage list generations in Chhattisgarh state is about 14,17,654 & muster rolls included in the wage list generations is about 13,85,076 & the gap is for about 32,578. Along the wage list generations the fund transfer orders are also generated the number of wage list generated are 2,03,607

& the wage list included in the fund transfer order are 96,836 the gap in which was in between the two are 1,06,771. These all are the facts which can be very helpful under the MGNREGA as it can be used to keep a keen watch on the proper implementation of the scheme with the help of transparency & accountability through bank accounts & direct transfer of wages in to their accounts

Suggestion:

1. Ministry of Rural Development should examine & introspect the Loophole in the scheme.
2. Maintenance of Muster rolls & Jobs cards should be implemented properly.
3. The guidelines given by NREGA & RBI regarding the records of consumers should be considered once again.

Conclusion: MGNREGA provides full food, livelihood security & economic independence which had checked the distress migration & it provides the purchasing power & standard of living of rural poor. Bank accounts had given them a positive response towards the new step taken by RBI & MGNREGA guidelines which makes them understand towards the new methods in Banks & the sense of transparency under the programme.

At the end it is important that the bank payments should be seen as a one more towards the transparency in the NREGA. The maintenance of records should be there regarding the job cards, muster rolls should be strictly implemented. Improving the system of banks & the post offices for improving the transparency & accountability the implementation is very important factor.

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