

The Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme on Rural Development: An Empirical Study with Special Reference to Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract: The goal of this study was to analyse the effect of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP) system on rural development in India with respect to Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. Data was obtained from 2000 recipients of MGNREGP in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. The data analysis is multidimensional in nature and has helped to make constructive suggestions. The report seeks to create a connection between the implementation of government schemes such as MGNREGP on rural development and to provide the basis for conceptual clarification on the implementation of major social projects.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP) is being introduced as a poverty alleviation programme in India aimed at providing livelihoods for poor people in rural areas. It has been believed that it would reduce deprivation and raise the quality of life of people living in rural areas of the country. One of the key goals of the MGNREGA is to reduce migration from rural India. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted on 25 August, 2005 and is India's largest public initiative launched by the government. This began in 2005-2006 with 200 districts, and gradually expanded to another 130 districts in 2007-2008, and the remaining 285 rural districts included in 2008-2009. Under this Act, every adult member of the rural household is entitled to at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in the financial year if he or she volunteers to do unskilled manual work. At present, the system has expanded steadily in a short period of time, reaching more than 50 million households (since its introduction in 2006) in 696 districts across the country.

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS PROGRAMME IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The MGNREGS Act aims to improve the protection of livelihood of people in rural areas by ensuring hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour. Andhra Pradesh is at the top level in the country when it comes to enforcing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The State contributes 14 per cent of the country's achievement in terms of individual days generation.

2.1 Performance of MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Table displays the Andhra Pradesh production of MGNREGA from the time period between 2016–2017 to 2020–21. In all the 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, the programme was implemented and covered 12,914 villages. The produced individual days decreased from 2055.09 lakhs in 2016-2017 to 1891.38 lakhs in 2020-2021. During the 2020-2021

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period, 56.52 per cent of the programme beneficiaries were women. Also, 19.46 per cent of participants are ST members and 7.28 per cent are Scheduled Tribes members. Land development, road connectivity, flood control and protection, water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, dewatering of ponds, minor irrigation works and the provision of irrigation facilities to Scheduled Caste/Tribe families and other beneficiaries of land reform were among the types of work undertaken. The number of beneficiaries in the programme in the district are 93.11 lakh individuals.

3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The MGNREGS Act established a statutory minimum pay for MGNREGS employees. In cases when there is available job within a 5-kilometer radius, the Act also provided for additional wages. To observe the reality of the aforementioned provision, the study is helpful. Among the tasks carried out under the MGNREGS programme are land development, road connection, flood control and protection, water conservation, drought protection, pond distillation, minor irrigation, and irrigation facilities for SC and ST families and other land reform beneficiaries. A thorough investigation at the local level is required to determine how well the aforementioned programmes are being implemented, which is why the current study is significant in and of itself.

It was crucial for the study to concentrate on comprehending and identifying issues like the prompt issuance of job cards, the possibility of wage discrimination between male and female labourers, and whether or not the authorities are providing the bare minimum of amenities at the workplace, such as drinking water, child care facilities, worker shade, and floor shelters.

3.1 Objectives

The major objectives of the present study are given below:

1. To critically examine the operational issues in implementation of MGNREGS in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh
2. To study the impact of MGNREGS on Socio-Economic development of beneficiaries with reference to the geographic area under the study

3. To study the specific problems of beneficiaries with regards to getting Job Card, allotment of work, wage payment, etc.

3.2 Research Methodology

The broad methodology followed encompasses both qualitative and quantitative variables to allow an in-depth understanding of the study on the role of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme on Rural Development – Empirical Study with Special Reference to the Krishna District, A.P.

3.2.1 Coverage

To enable a thorough understanding of the study on the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Project on rural development - Empirical Study with Particular Reference to the Krishna District, A.P. - broad approach was used.

3.2.2 Data Collection

The MGNREGP website's study reports, records, annual action plans, bulletins, and documents created by Krishna District's District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) are the primary sources of secondary data. In addition to the books, journals, and seminar papers that are also regarded as the major sources, the secondary data was gathered from the administrative guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India websites.

3.3 Limitation of the Study

The study limits to observe the issues related with Impact of Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP) on Wage earners in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. As the study confines to only Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, the findings cannot be generalised at macro level considering the vast diversity of the nature of our country in terms of socio, economic factors.

4 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Sample Distribution of the Study

The Table shows the distribution of samples for the analysis. The research was carried out in ten selected mandals of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. Five

villages were selected in each district, and 40 respondents were selected from each village. Total 2000 samples are considered for analysis and 74.8 per cent of participants are men out of the 2000 samples.

Table 1: Sample distribution.

Men	Women	Total
1495	505	2000
74.8 %	25.2 %	100.0 %

4.2 Beneficiaries' Awareness About MGNREGS in Krishna District

Table and section show the beneficiaries awareness about the programme in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India.

4.2.1 Awareness about MGNREGS in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

It is noted that approximately eighty per cent of respondents are completely aware of the MGNREGS programme. The relation between the participant's level of group and consciousness is also important. It is noted that the respondents belonging to the SC, and ST category have a greater knowledge than the others. There is also important correlation between age and awareness on the MGNREGS.

4.2.2 Awareness of the Right to Apply for Work and Fifteen Days Approval Period

It is found that within fifteen days, sixty-one per cent of respondents have complete knowledge of the right to work and obtain job allocation order. It is found that the beneficiaries of BC and ST are more aware of the right to apply and assign jobs compared to the other groups. The correlation between age and knowledge about the right to apply and the allocation of work is significant.

4.2.3 Knowledge About the Process of Applying for MGNREGS

About sixty per cent of respondents are found to have full knowledge of the application process for MGNREGS. It was also observed that men have a greater understanding of the process of applying for MGNREGS than women and the relation between gender and knowledge. It was observed that the beneficiaries of BC and ST are more knowledgeable

of the method of applying for MGNREGS than compared those of the other groups.

4.2.4 Awareness of Minimum Wage

Under MGNREGS, there was no association between gender and knowledge about minimum wage. It was observed that the beneficiaries of SC have lower knowledge of minimum wage and the beneficiaries of ST who had greater knowledge of minimum wage under MGNREGS comparatively than those of other groups. The community's association with knowledge about minimum wage under MGNREGS is important. Significant association between education qualification and knowledge of minimum wage under MGNREGS was observed.

4.2.5 Awareness on the Calculation of Wages in MGNREGS

The SC and ST beneficiaries are more aware of the estimation of wages in MGNREGS compared to other communities where the interaction between the Community and understanding of MGNREGS wage measurement was significant.

4.3 Implementation of MGNREGS

The table and section show the respondents awareness about Implementation of MGNREGS in the selected district of Andhra Pradesh.

4.3.1 Awareness of Beneficiaries on Job Cards

It was also noted that there was an association between gender and awareness on the MGNREGS job card. Men were more aware of MGNREGS job cards compared to women. It was also noted that there is no significant association between the community and awareness on the MGNREGS Job Card.

4.3.2 Number of Members Having Job Cards in a Family

Nineteen per cent of the respondents have only one MGNREGS beneficiary from their family and more than two third of the respondents mentioned that two members of their family are the beneficiaries of the MGNREGS. It was observed that from ST and SC community, more number of family members are working compared to the other communities working under MGNREGS.

4.3.3 Number of Working Days in a Year Under MGNREGS

Approximately thirty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they worked less than fifty days, about one-third worked between 76 and 100 days, and about twenty-three per cent of respondents worked between 51 and 75 days under MGNREGS. It was also noted that there was an association between gender and the number of days worked under MGNREGS. Approximately forty per cent of men worked less than 50 days, while forty-five per cent of women worked more than 75 days. It was also noted that the minority and SC beneficiaries worked fewer days than other communities, and there was a significant association between workdays and the community.

4.3.4 Wages Under MGNREGS

Approximately thirty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they are receiving wages in the range of Rs. 150-200. There was no significant difference in wages between men and women. There was a significant association between community and wage emoluments. The BC and ST participants reported receiving an average wage of between Rs. 150 – 200 per day.

4.3.5 Annual Income Received Under MGNREGS

Thirty-seven per cent of respondents received income between five and ten thousand in one year, about twenty-seven per cent of beneficiaries received ten to fifteen thousand in one year, and about thirty-one per cent of respondents received more than fifteen thousand in one year under MGNREGS.

It was also noted that the beneficiaries of OC and ST received more annual income from MGNREGS than other communities, and the association between the recipient's annual income and the community was significant

4.3.6 Awareness of Right for Unemployment Allowances

Women were more aware than men of the right to unemployment allowance. It was found that members of Backward Caste (BC), SC, and ST have more knowledge of the right to unemployment benefits than those of other classes. The relationship between the population and the right information for

unemployment compensation proved important in contrast.

4.3.7 Awareness of Maintenance of Attendance Registers at the Place of Work

It was observed that the Other Castes (OC) beneficiaries have lower awareness on maintenance of attendance registers under MGNREGS than that of the other communities comparatively. The association between the community and awareness on maintenance of attendance registers under MGNREGS proved to be very significant. From the analysis of the data it was identified that, majority of the respondents have complete awareness about the MGNREGS programme. It was also observed that men have more awareness than that of the women. The SC, ST community of the MGNREGS programme has greater awareness than that of the others. A significant association was also observed between the educational qualifications and awareness level on MGNREGS.

4.4 Operational Issues of MGNREGS in Implementation

The table shows the operational issues of MGNREGS Programme in the selected district of Andhra Pradesh, India.

4.4.1 Opinion on the Benefit Scheme

It was noted that more than ninety-five per cent of the respondents expressed their satisfaction with the benefit of MGNREGS and only 2.6 per cent of the beneficiaries argued that there was no benefit under MGNREGS. It was noted that there was no significant association between gender and benefit opinion in the context of MGNREGS. It was also noted that more SC beneficiaries felt to have benefitted from MGNREGS compared to other communities, and that there was a significant association between the benefit opinion and the community.

Table 2: Beneficiaries' Awareness about the MGNREGS in Krishna District.

Sl. No.		Pearson Chi-Square	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
1	Awareness about MGNREGS	49.903	.00
2	Awareness of the right to apply for work and fifteen days approval period	75.999	.00
3	Knowledge about the process of applying for MGNREGS	60.589	.00
4	Awareness of minimum wage	26.826	.00
5	Awareness on the calculation of wages in MGNREGS	85.834	.00
6	Awareness of right for unemployment allowances	38.364	.00
7	Awareness of maintenance of attendance registers at the place of work	15.576	.04

Table 3: Awareness about Implementation of MGNREGS.

Sl. No.		Pearson Chi-Square	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
1.	Awareness of Beneficiaries on Job cards	5.779	.672
2.	Number of members having job cards in a family	70.978	0.00
3.	Number of working Days in year under MGNREGS	175.820	0.00
4.	Wages under MGNREGS	84.476	0.00
5.	Annual Income received under MGNREGS	152.872	0.00

4.4.2 Problems Faced by Rural Beneficiaries

It was noted that more than fifty-five per cent of beneficiaries reported poor drainage facilities. Bad road conditions, a bank loan, and water supply are the other major problems faced by the beneficiaries. There was a significant link between the gender and the household problems of the beneficiaries, where women felt more need for drainage facilities and men felt more need for better roads and availability of bank loans. In general, recipients of OC, BC, and SC felt a greater need for drainage and, ST recipients felt the need for better roads and bank lending facilities, and a significant association between community and house holding problems.

4.4.3 Supervision of Officials

Table-4.42 presents the results on the level of satisfaction with the effective supervision of various demographic variables and the need for frequent personal visits by the authorities concerned. Approximately ninety-four per cent of the respondents indicated that there is no need to visit the authorities frequently.

4.4.4 Minimum Wages

Approximately ten per cent of the beneficiaries mentioned that they were underpaid as a minimum wage and eighty-eight per cent of the respondents felt that they were paid a minimum wage. From the analysis of the data, it can be identified that MGNREGS

workers were receiving more than the national average wage in the chosen district of Andhra Pradesh.

4.4.5 Loss of Daily Wages

Approximately 15 per cent of beneficiaries felt that they had lost their daily wage due to MGNREGS involvement and about 80 per cent of respondents felt that there was no job loss due to MGNREGS. There was a significant association between the community and the opinion on the loss of wages due to MGNREGS where the OC and BC beneficiaries felt that they were losing their daily wages more than the other communities.

4.4.6 Work – Wage Parity

Approximately 15 per cent of beneficiaries felt that they had lost their daily wage due to MGNREGS

involvement and about 80 per cent of respondents felt that there was no job loss due to MGNREGS. There was a significant association between the community and the opinion on the loss of wages due to MGNREGS where the OC and BC beneficiaries felt that they were losing their daily wages more than the other communities.

4.4.7 Problems in Post Offices /Banks During Financial Transactions

Approximately two thirds of the participants felt that they were facing problems while making financial transactions at the bank/post office. Significant association between the community and problems during the financial transaction at the bank/post office was observed. Whereas the beneficiaries of BC and SC felt more difficulty in carrying out their financial transactions than that of other communities.

Table 4: Operational Issues of MGNREGS in Implementation.

Sl.No.	Pea
1.	Opinion on the benefit scheme
2.	Problems faced by Rural Beneficiaries
3.	Supervision of Officials
4.	Minimum wage
5.	Loss of Daily wages
6.	Work - Wage Parity
7.	Problems in Post Offices /Banks during financial transactions
8.	Display board/details of approved works in the Panchayat office

4.5 Working Conditions Under MGNREGS

The table shows the working condition under MGNREGS works under Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

4.5.1 Display Board Details of Approved Works in the Panchayat Office

Approximately two third beneficiaries agreed that the details of the work had been shown in the panchayat office. There was a significant association between gender and the proper display of work details, where more men felt the proper display of the details of their work than that of women. The BC and minority

beneficiaries felt the proper display of work details in the panchayat office than in the other communities, and the association between the community and the proper display of work details was significant.

4.5.2 Facility for Drinking Water

Approximately seventy-two per cent of beneficiaries felt that there was a proper drinking water facility, while the remaining twenty-eight per cent felt that there was no proper supply of drinking water. There was a significant association between gender and the proper provision of drinking water at work, where more women felt that drinking water was being provided properly more than men did. The ST and BC beneficiaries felt that the provision of proper drinking

water facilities at the workplace was significant than that of other communities, and that there was a strong association between the community and the provision of drinking water at the workplace.

4.5.3 Provision of Shelter at the Place of Work

Approximately seventy-one per cent of beneficiaries felt that there was a proper shelter whereas the remaining twenty-nine per cent of beneficiaries felt that there was no proper provision of shelter at work. There was a significant association between gender and the proper provision of shelter at the workplace.

4.5.4 Shelter to the Children at the Place of Work

Approximately sixty-one per cent of beneficiaries felt that there was a proper shelter for children where thirty-eight per cent of recipients felt that there was no proper shelter for their children. There was a

significant association between gender and the provision of shelter for children at work where there were more women than men who felt there was proper provision of shelter for children. The OC and BC recipients felt that shelter for children at work was appropriate than that of other communities, and there was a significant association between the community and providing shelter for children at work.

4.5.5 Availability of First-Aid Kit at the Place of Work

About ninety-one per cent of the beneficiaries felt that first-aid kit was not available at workplace where as only about eight per cent beneficiaries felt first-aid kit was available at work place. No significant association between gender and opinion on availability of first-aid kit at work place was observed. The association between community and opinion and availability of first aid kit at workplace was significant.

Table 5: Working Conditions under MGNREGS.

Sl. No.		Pearson Chi-Square	Asymp
1.	Display board/details of approved works in the Panchayat office	95.994	
2.	Facility for drinking water	71.704	
3.	Provision of shelter at the place of work	145.422	
4.	Shelter to the children at the place of work	61.535	
5.	Availability of first aid kit at the place of work	11.779	

5 CONCLUSION

Most of the 2000 sample respondents were satisfied with the MGNREG programme in the Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Most of the respondents were satisfied with the programme because of wages paid under the programme, work schedules, per month working days, and the behaviour of programme officials. Respondents were not satisfied with the allocation of work by field mate, the application process, the allocation of work and working conditions in the field and also had very low savings due to low working days. The study also found that political leaders and officials play a key role in the processing of applications and the allocation of work. The study concludes that the MGNREG programme has had a significant impact on rural development and the programme has a greater impact on employment and on the generation of income.

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