

Socio-Economic Impact of Mgnrega - A Study Undertaken among Beneficiaries of 20 Villages of Dungarpur District of Rajasthan

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“Social economic problems do not exist everywhere that an economic event plays a role as cause or effect - since problems arise only where the significance of those factors is problematical and can be precisely determined only through the application of methods of social-economics.” **Max Weber**

Abstract- MGNREGA is an ambitious scheme providing employment to rural people of India. The basic aim of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to enhance livelihood security of household in rural area. By this scheme Govt. gives assurance of employment to unskilled rural laborer for 100 days. With better implementation such type of scheme may be an effective weapon to fight against poverty. It also aims at transforming the rural areas by improving the socio-economic conditions of people. Rural economy is the back-bone of Indian economic development. Providing employment to rural households will certainly boost the economy. It increases demand for goods and services. In this article an effort has been made to analyse the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA scheme on the life of beneficiaries of Dungarpur district. The findings of the study revealed that the programme has brought the change in the lives of the beneficiaries. Though it is always a debatable issue that such changes, by MGNREGA are sustainable or temporary.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the flagship programme of the Indian Government that directly touches the lives of the rural poor. The act was enacted on 25th August, 2005 and it came in force on 2nd February, 2006. MGNREGA is the Scheme which can definitely improve the economic and social condition of beneficiaries if implemented properly. For last several decades these villages have been suffering from poverty, lack of quality health services, poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities of education. The rural economy mainly depends on agriculture.

MGNREGA marked a paradigm shift from the other employment programmes with its right based approach. Govt. is legally accountable for providing employment of hundred days to those who demand it. This programme not only provides employment but also focuses on inclusive growth, as it conserves natural resources and creates productive assets. By protecting the environment and reducing rural-urban migration this programme has transformed the face of the rural India. In Dungarpur district agriculture solely depends on monsoon. So villagers have no job

when there is no agricultural work. Searching for short period job in villages is very difficult and therefore, many times they earn nothing. Thus, during this period MGNREGA is a bliss for them.

II. OBJECTIVE

Development of a nation depends more upon the human capital. India is a labour abundant nation with severe poverty in rural and specially in tribal areas. In the Dungarpur district main source of livelihood is agriculture and labour work. As irrigation facility is not adequate, agricultural land is less productive, the key objective of the paper is to find out the potential of this scheme to attack on the 'CHAKRAVIEWHA' of poor Socio-Economic condition of people of the area. The study also explores about changing expenditure pattern of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA. This study examines the earning level of each house hold and expenditure pattern on food and non food item. In this study effort was also made to find out views and feedback of the beneficiaries about the programme. In this study we have also tried to observe the socio-economic condition of migrant people.

Why Dungarpur ?

Dungarpur is a district which was selected in the first phase of the programme. More-over it is a back-ward and tribal district. MGNREGA samiksha report claimed that the performance of the programme is remarkable in Dungarpur district. The human development index of Dungarpur district has remained substantially low. Dungarpur is a district where large scale distress migration takes place and govt. claimed that MGNREGA has achieved its targets.

III. METHODOLOGY

There are 5 panchayat Semite 237 gram panchayats and 918 villages in Dungarpur district. For the field survey we have purposively selected Dungarpur district and all five panchayat samities of the district. From each panchayat smitee two Gram Panchayat were selected. The criteria for selection of Gram panchayat was one headquarter Gram Panchayat and the other

one was far away from the headquarter. Thus total 10 Gram Panchayats were selected by using purposively sampling method from each grampanchayat 2 villages were randomly selected for the study. After the selection of the villages the list of jobcard holders of MGNREGA household was obtained from gram panchayat and 10 MGNREGA jobcard holders were randomly

selected. Thus the sample size concise of 200 MNREGA beneficiaries .

The following table shows the distribution of panchayat samiti-wise list of randomly selected 10 gram panchayats and 2 villages from each Gram panchayat of Dungarpur.

Table – 1: Distribution of Selected Villages

Panchyat Samiti	Gram Panchayat	Villages
1. Dungarpur	1. Bilri	1. Bilri
	2. Khempur	2. Mathugamra
2. Sagwara	3. Vardha	3. Khempur
	4. Padardi Badi	4. Vagdari
3. Simalwara	5. Kua	5. Vardha
	6. Dhambola	6. Kishanpur
4. Bichhiwara	7. Jhana	7. Padardi
	8. Gamdi Ahada	8. Kundola
5. Aspur	9. Devla	9. Kuwa
	10. Sakani	10. Nai Chikhali
		11. Dhambola
		12. Kovadia
		13. Jhana
		14. Bori
		15. Gamdi
		16. Dhanmat
		17. Devla
		18. Gav Devla
		19. Sakani
		20. Parada

Mainly our research is based on descriptive method. Basic statistical tools have been used to analyse and examine the facts and information collected from the field survey.

Socio-Economic Background of Beneficiaries :

Dungarpur is located in the south of Rajasthan having only 1.1% area and 2.0% population of the state. In the district 65% people belongs to ST community & 93% people reside in rural area . The study reveals that 59.0% respondents are tribal, 22.5% are OBC, 13.0% are SC and only 5.5% are from General category. 37.5% beneficiaries are engaged in agricultural activities, 57.0% are labourer, 85.0% households have less than 6 members in the family only 3% respondents have reported that they possess higher education. Very few family lives in Pucca houses, many of them live in huts on the top of a small hill. Main source of drinking water in this area is the hand pump. It is reported by the respondents that even if there were public taps installed, but availability of water is rare and does not fulfill their requirement. The large section of the respondents fall in the income group of 10,000 to 25,000 Rs. in a year. 65% families have their own land, but the land size is very small . The land available for agriculture is hilly also, so it is difficult for them to use new and scientific techniques of cultivation. Distress migration in the area was also found during the survey.

Table – 2: Caste wise distribution of the facilities available beneficiary families

Facilities		Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Total	%
Electricity	Yes	11	25	97	44	177	85.5
	No	-	01	21	01	23	11.50
Water Connection	Yes	09	08	02	15	34	17.00
	No	02	18	116	30	166	83.00
Connection	Yes	04	08	03	09	24	12.00
	No	07	18	115	36	176	88.00
Television	Yes	10	11	29	17	67	33.50

Mobile	No	01	15	89	28	133	66.50
	Yes	09	16	100	34	159	79.50
Cycle	No	02	10	18	11	41	20.50
	Yes	05	04	33	09	51	25.50
Meter Cycle	No	06	22	85	36	149	74.50
	Yes	06	07	35	12	60	30.00
Sanitation	No	05	19	83	33	140	70.00
	Yes	04	02	12	02	20	10.00
	No	07	24	106	43	180	90.00

Source: Field survey.

Basic Facilities :

The study of the table-2 describes the basic facilities available in survey area. It includes electricity, drinking water and gas connection. It also gathers facts about television and toilet facilities available to households. The use of cycle , motorcycle and mobile is very common in survey area.

If we examine the study reveals that 88.5% have electricity connection at their home. Their are only 33.5% family have Television at there home. The condition of drinking water connection is poor, only 17% household have reported that they have this facility at their home, only 12% families have gas connection in their kitchen. It is interesting to note that less than 3% tribal family have gas and less then 2% tribal families have drinking water connection. Lack of appropriate Sanitation is a major concern for the people of India .The basic toilet and sanitation facilities are available to only 10% of households. Therefore "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" has a role to play in survey are.

Impact on Migration:

One of the important objectives of MGNREGA is a significant reduction in migration of unskilled labour force from the rural villages to urban cities through its provision of hundred days of guaranteed wage employment. The survey has also gathered facts about various facts of migration in the selected

villages of Dungarpur districts. Important features regarding migration of the surveyed area are as follows--

- Out of 200 households, only 14.5% reported that they migrated for their livelihood.
- No migration was observed in Varda and Kuwa Gram Panchayats.
- Total numbers of migrated person in all the surveyed villages were 38.
- Among the migrated beneficiaries 50% were migrated to Gujarat.
- Study shows that 83% of the migrants were male.
- 79% of migrants have reported that they lived at migrated places not more than six months period, though they prefer to come back frequently to their native villages.
- There are 82% of migrants are married, 66% are educated and 74% fall under the age group of 25 to 49 years.

The following Table-2 shows the daily wage received by male and female migrants, during migration period.

Table 3: Wages reported during migration

Daily Wages	Female	Male	Total	Percent
Up to 100 Rs.	06	05	11	28.80
100 to 200 Rs.	0	05	05	13.40
200 to 400 Rs.	0	20	20	52.60
Not Responded	0	02	02	05.20
Total	06	32	38	100.00

Source: Field survey.

Ho— Sex and wages are independent.

The above table reveals that only 16% women had migrated. Further they reported that they are involved in local migration only. To examine the independence of sex and wages, χ^2 test was applied. The calculated value of χ^2 at 5% significant level at 3 df, was 15.4 and the table value was 5.99. Thus the calculated value of χ^2 was greater than the table value. Hence we rejected the null hypothesis. By this statistical analysis we can say that women workers are getting low wages compared to male workers during migration.

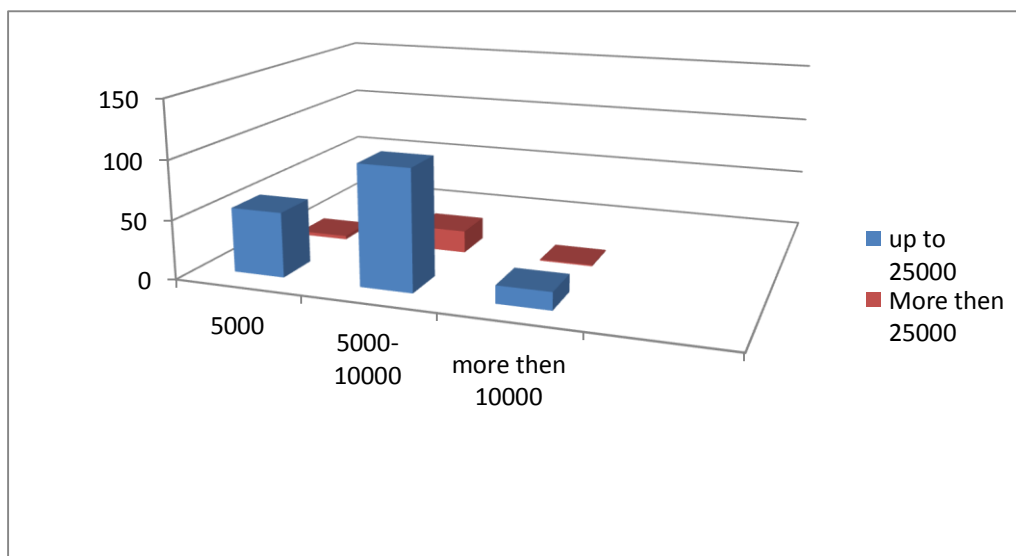
Share of MGNREGA Income in Annual Income :

Main source of earning is agriculture and labour work in survey area.

Table 4: Share of MGNREGA Income in Annual Income

Total Yearly Income Yearly from MGNREGA	Up to 25,000	More then 25,000
0-5000	55	03
5000-10,000	102	19
More then 10,000	15	01
Not Responded	05	-
Total	177	23

Source: Field survey.



The study reveals MGNREGA has been successful in increasing the income by providing wage employment to rural households in Dungarpur district. 51% households, who reported yearly income up to Rs. 25000, have admitted that MGNREGA jobs have contributed somewhat from Rs. 5000 to 10000 in the

yearly income of their family. Similarly 8% of the total households reported that yearly income from MGNREGA has been more than Rs. 10000 and only 29% respondents have shown yearly contribution from the scheme upto Rs. 5000. It is important to note that 97.5% household reported that this

programme has definitely remained beneficial to support in adding their yearly income.

The picture of yearly income of 200 MGNREGA beneficiaries is not attractive. 86% beneficiaries have reported that their annual income was up to Rs. 25000 and only 11.5% have reported their annual income more than Rs. 25000. This depiction shows that among this sample mass is earning below 25000. With this yearly income, contribution of MGNREGA income is very good. Out of 200 households, 29% have reported that the contribution of MGNREGA in their total yearly income was up to Rs. 5000 whereas 60.5% have up to Rs. 5000 to 10000 and only 8% of households reported that the contribution of MGNREGA income was more than Rs. 10000 in their annual income.

IV. CONCLUSION

Generally, when income of a family increases, it has a profound impact on the expenditure pattern. It is evident from the data that 79.5% respondents were having mobile sets and 30% were possessing motor-cycles. Similarly 33.5% households have T.V. sets and 88.5% have electricity connection in their dwelling units. This is a bright side of the story.

But the other side of the picture is not so good. The data reveal that 83% households do not have gas connection in their kitchen and 90% of our sample households have no toilet facility in their dwelling units. Thus, a long way has to go to improve the quality of life at village level because the absence of these basic amenities to the households ultimately adversely affected the health front of the families.

During the survey it was also noticed We also found short duration and temporary migration among MGNREGA families.

The female members of these households preferred local migration only. Therefore the assured employment in rural areas could certainly reduce out-migration. MGNREGA can certainly check distress related migration from rural areas. Thus study observed that the wages received by female-worker at migrated place was not different from the minimum MGNREGA wage.

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