



“IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON THE RURAL WOMEN” - A MICRO LEVEL STUDY IN KHAMMAM DISTRICT OF TELANGANA STATE

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This paper is divided into Two parts. Part-I deals with the Introduction, Objectives and Methodology. Part-II deals with the Socio Economic Background of sample respondents, awareness about the contents and entitlements of the act, impact, findings and conclusions.

PART-I

Introduction:

The Government of India combined the merits of employment guarantee scheme (EGS) of the state of Maharashtra and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and enacted NREGA on 23rd August 2005. In a three phased coverage all the rural districts in the country where brought under the act by 2008 and the act was renamed “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act” on 2nd October 2009. The basic objective of MGNREGA is to address the challenges of rural development in India besides enlarging wage employment. It provides rights and entitlements to the workers and every aspect of the implementation is to be kept transparent. MGNREGA works are to be productive and useful to the community.

During the review period of 2006-2012, quantitative achievements have been striking as reveal by “MGNREGA Sameeksha, 2012”. The Act is recognized as an ecological act is it helps to regenerate the natural resource days of the rural areas. It provides adaption to climatic changes and helps to increase the area under cultivation and crop productivity. The present government at the center has also assured to continue this coveted wage employment programme by linking it with agriculture.

Objectives:

The objectives of this study are as follows

- 1) To find out the percent of women in MGNREGA employment in the study area
- 2) To examine the level of awareness of the women about the contents of the Act.



- 3) To examine the extent of discrimination between men and women in wage rates and working conditions.
- 4) To analyse the work site facilities in the study area
- 5) To assess the overall impact of MGNREGA on the house holds of the respondent women in the study.

Methodology

A sample of 100 respondent women are taken from Usirikayalapally village of Singareni mandal in Khammam district of the Telangana State. Data is primary collected through a questionnaire schedule. Secondary data available at the Grama Panchayats has also been contacted. Simple tools of research like percentages and averages are used to analyze the data.

PART-II

Socio Economic Conditions of the Sample Respondents:

Age wise distribution of the respondents shows that majority (60 percent) are below 40 years of age. 79 percent are below 50 years of age and they are in a position to take up manual work effectively as age is favourable to them. Only 9 percent of the respondents are above 50 years of age and 12 are in the age group of 51-60 years, as shown in table-1.

TABLE-1
Age –Wise Distribution of the Respondents

Age	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	Total
No.of respondents	33 (33%)	27 (27%)	19 (19%)	12 (12%)	06 (06%)	03 (03%)	100 (100%)

Source: Filed Study

Education particulars of the respondents as noted from the data show that 72 percent are illiterate and 13 percent have completed primary / upper primary levels of education . interestingly 9 percent have completed secondary, 5 percent intermediate and 1 percent degree levels of education as given in table-2

TABLE-2
Education Levels of the Respondents

Education Level	‘O’ Education	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Inter	Degree	Total
No.of respondents	72 (72%)	07 (07%)	06 (06%)	09 (09%)	05 (05%)	01 (01%)	100 (100%)

Source: Filed Study



Most of the respondents (82 percent) are married and living with spouses while 16 percent are widows and just 2 are divorcee.

Total family members of the sample respondent women are 483 accounting for 4.83 as the average size of the family. Males are 53 percent and females are 47 percent and sex-ratio is 93 females per 1000 males. The details are given in table-3

TABLE-3
Sex wise Distribution of the Family Members of the Respondents

Sex	Male	Female	Total
No.of respondents	256 (53.0)	227 (47.0)	483 (100%)

Source: Filed Study

Job card holders under MGNREGA in the households of the respondents are 231 of which 131 (56 percent) are belong to males and 100 (43.29 percent) belong to females as shown in table-4. It implies that the share of women in the job cards in the study area is 43.29 percent.

TABLE-4
Sex wise Job Card Holders of the Respondents Family Members

Sex	Male	Female	Total
No.of respondents	131 (56.71%)	100 (43.29%)	231 (100%)

Source: Filed Study

Annual incomes of the respondent households are given in table-5 Data shows that 66 percent of the respondents are in the income range of Rs 10,001 – Rs.30,000. Only 24 percent of the house holds have higher incomes of above Rs. 30,000 and 10 percent at the lowest level of income range of below Rs 10,000. It can be inferred that 90 percent of the respondent households have incomes of above Rs.10,000 per annum.

TABLE-5
Annual Income of the Respondent Households

Income Range	0-10000	10001-20000	20001-30000	30001-40000	40001-50000	Total
No.of respondents	10 (10%)	19 (19%)	47 (47%)	15 (15%)	09 (09%)	100 (100%)

Source: Filed Study



Most of the house holds have pucca (76 percent) houses while 10 percent have semi pucca. It implies that thatched houses and huts are just 14 percent in the study area.

83 percent of the house holds have electricity facility and remaining 17 percent depend on Kerosene for lighting purpose. Housing programmes and rural electricity programmes have benefitted the rural households to a large extent in Khammam district.

MGNREGA in the Study Area:

100 job card holding women in the study area form 43.29 percent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries in the study area. It implies that the share of the women is 43.29 percent as all the respondent women have been active in MGNREGA participation. However the awareness of the respondent women about the contents of the Act as depicted in table 6. It shows that more than 80 percent are aware of registration, job card procedure, 100 days of employment, and equal wages. Awareness is in the range of 38 percent to 76 percent in the aspects of rest shelters, crèches, first aid kits, Gramasabha, and drinking water. Awareness is very low with regard to unemployment allowance (10 percent) prompt wage payment (22 percent) and social audit (12 percent). It can be inferred that the respondents in the study are not totally aware about the contents and entitlements of the Act.

TABLE-6
Awareness of the Respondents about the Contents of the Act

S.No	Content	Response		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Registration	80 (80%)	20 (20%)	100
2	Job Card	90 (90%)	10 (10%)	100
3	100 days of employment	88 (88%)	12 (12%)	100
4	Unemployment allowance	10 (10%)	90 (90%)	100
5	No delay in wage payment	22 (22%)	78 (78%)	100
6	Equal wage for Men and Women	80 (80%)	20 (20%)	100
7	Worksite facilities			
	a) Shelter	68 (68%)	32 (32%)	100
	b) Creches	42 (42%)	58 (58%)	100
	c) First Aid Kit	38 (38%)	62 (62%)	100
	d) Drinking Water	76 (76%)	24 (24%)	100
8	Grama Sabha	58 (58%)	42 (42%)	100
9	Social Audit	12 (12%)	88 (88%)	100

Source: Field Study



Discrimination between men and women is considerable in the range of 46 percent to 57 percent in the aspects of wages, nature of work and treatment at the work site during work. Discrimination in the nature of work allotted is reasonable in view of the physical stamina and workability of the women but other types of discrimination violate the spirit of the act.

TABLE-7
Discrimination Between Men and Women

S.No	Content	Response		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Wage	46 (46%)	54 (54%)	100
2	Nature of Work	57 (57%)	43 (43%)	100
3	Treatment During Work	52 (52%)	48 (48%)	100

Source; Field Study

Data in the table 8 shows the no.of days of the employment under MGNREGA to the respondent women. About 60 percent have worked for 51-75 days while 14 percent have worked for 76-100 days. However 26 percent of the respondent women have put in 26-50 days of employment. It implies that the mandatory employment of 100 days has not covered as 94 percent of the respondents have not put in 100 days of work.

TABLE-8
No.of Days Employment Provided Under MGNREGA

No.of Days	26 to 51	51 to 75	76 to 100	Total
No.of Respondents	26 (26%)	60 (60%)	14 (14%)	100 (100%)

Source: Field Study

Average wage per day is found to be in the range of Rs 51- Rs 75 for 69 percent of the respondents as given in table-9. Around 19 percent are in the range of Rs 76- Rs.100 while 12 percent are in the range of Rs.26-Rs 50. Here also the researcher has been informed that the NREGA wage is relatively lower than the wages in agriculture.

TABLE-9
Average Wage per day under MGNREGA of the Respondents

Wage Range (in Rs)	26 to 51	51 to 75	76 to 100	Total
No.of Respondents	12 (12%)	9 (9%)	19 (19%)	100 (100%)

Source: Field Study



Impact of MGNREGA on the Respondent Households:

11 parameters are taken to analyse the overall impact of MGNREGA on the respondent households. The impact is more than 90 percent on increasing family income and employment days. It is in the range of 80 percent to 90 percent on improving the status of rural labour, development of agriculture and decrease in urban migration. Impact is in the range of 60 percent to 80 percent on less dependence on debt, health care expenditure, purchase of durable goods and utility of the MGNREGA assets to the community. However, impact on improvements to the house / land of the respondents is 58 percent and on the supply of labour to agriculture it is at the lowest level of 14 percent. The impact analysed is positive implying improvements or helpful trends.

TABLE-10
Responses of the Respondents Overall Impact of MGNREGA on the Respondent Households

S.No	Item	Response		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Less Dependence on Debt	73 (73%)	27 (27%)	100 (100%)
2	Increase Family Income	93 (93%)	07 (07%)	100 (100%)
3	Increase Employment Days	90 (90%)	10 (10%)	100 (100%)
4	Help to Health Care	72 (72%)	28 (28%)	100 (100%)
5	Help to Purchase Durables in the House	63 (63%)	37 (37%)	100 (100%)
6	Improvements to the house / land	58 (58%)	42 (42%)	100 (100%)
7	Utility of the Assets created to the Community	71 (71%)	29 (29%)	100 (100%)
8	Do you feel, that MGNREGA improved the status of Rural Labour	83 (83%)	17 (17%)	100 (100%)
9	Any Shortages of labour in your village due to MGNREGA Employment	14 (14%)	86 (86%)	100 (100%)
10	Is it helpful to the Development of Agriculture	87 (87%)	13 (13%)	100 (100%)
11	Decrease in Urban Migration	84 (84%)	16 (16%)	100 (100%)

Source; Field Study



Findings:

Major findings of this study are as follows.

1. The share of women in MGNREGA employment is 43.29 percent in the study area.
2. Respondent women are not totally aware about the contents and entitlements of the MGNREGA, especially about unemployment allowance, prompt wage payment and social audit.
3. Discrimination in wages and working conditions are noted between men and women to some extent.
4. Work site facilities in the form of crèches and first aid kits are to be improved in the study area.
5. Impact of MGNREGA is encouraging with regard to 9 parameters implying low level of impact on the remaining 2 viz., improvement to the house / land and purchase of durable goods.

Conclusion:

MGNREGA, by all counts, has been contributing for the overall development of rural India. The findings in this study highlight its vital role in improving the rural economy. There may be defects and deficiencies here and there which can be rectified through interventions. The proposal at the national level to merge it with agriculture is laudable and effective mechanism and planning are required in this direction. In conclusion it is to be stated emphatically that MGNREGA should be continued in rural India in some form or other.

References:

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