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## IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS AND PERFORMANCE IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is the flagship programme of the Government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is the first ever law internationally that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment and its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development. The process outcomes include strengthening grass-root processes of democracy and infusing transparency and accountability in governance.

### Introduction:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is particularly an obvious target for convergence with rural livelihood programmes. NREGS a safety net programme providing a guarantee of employment for each household up to 100 days, and much of this work is based on implementing soil and water conservation activities. However, in view of the potential that the scheme has to benefit rural areas, especially the rural poor for whom it promises a supplementary source of livelihood, it was decided to extend it to the entire country with effect from April 2008. The scheme has positive impact on the rural poor and reflects the government's commitment to improving the condition of the rural poor. Rural Development Minister estimated that the scheme would require around Rs 20,000 crore annually to cover all 595 rural districts in the country.

### Emergence of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA):

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was enacted on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005 is a landmark legislation which empowers the rural population with the legal right to demand work. One can see the NREGA as a shift from supply side to a demand side approach. The Act



aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household shows adult members who volunteer to do unskilled manual work. On February 2, 2006 with a great hype and hope, the NREGA came into force, in its first phase, covering 200 districts across the country. The second phase beginning 2007 – 08, covered an additional 130 districts totaling to 330. In these districts, the earlier wage employment programmes like the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) were merged with NREGA. The other 266 districts have been notified on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 where the NREGA came into force w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. Thus fulfilling the commitment of the National Government and implemented in all the rural districts of the Country. This is the largest ever public employment programme visualized in human history in rural areas over the last 60 years in India.

#### **Objectives of the study:**

The present study is undertaken keeping in view the following major objectives, viz.

1. To assess the impact of MGNREGP on migration
2. To reduce rural unemployment and under employment.
3. To Provide wage employment to unskilled labours in rural areas
4. To analyze the different issues relating to Progress of NREGS Activities.

#### **Methodology:**

The present study is conceptual survey with exploratory cum descriptive in nature. It is based on the analysis of secondary data. The secondary data is availed from various journals, internet, and books.

#### **Implementation of MGNREGS in India and in the State of Andhra Pradesh:**

According to the NREGA Website, as on March 2009, out of total 99 million and the cumulative number of households that have completed 100 days of employment is about 4 million. Although there is considerable lag in meeting the set target, the fact that the NREGA has been able to provide jobs and employment to millions of rural households in some of the poorest states in the country is a major achievement. More significantly, it promises to serve millions of households, especially those who are poor. Many analysts feel the programme is boosting the purchasing power of the rural poor and it



has led to a stable income for the rural population. The most eligible rural families that the NREGA hope to benefit are those of the landless labours as well as small and marginal farmers. Still, the scheme has managed to touch and improve the lives of close to 5 crore rural people more effectively than most of the anti poverty programmes in the country providing at least 100 days of wage payment to around 3 crore eligible families. NREGA has achieved moderate success in two of India's largest states – Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Along with successes elsewhere, it has put the country on its way to eradicating acute poverty by 2015, as envisaged under the Millennium Development Goals set by the UNO.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized early on that if corruption was to be stemmed in NREGA, several steps would have to be taken to plug potential sources of leakages. For one thing, past experience with the National Food-For-Work Programme (NFFWP) revealed that inflated budgets would be prepared by engineers and contractors, workers would be defrauded of their wages (particularly if they were paid in cash) and it was difficult to track expenditure as vouchers, bills, pay orders and sanction orders were prepared at different levels. It was virtually impossible to assemble all the papers needed for a scrutiny. The state government decided to computerize the entire process from end to end with the help of Information Technology Company. Thus, for instance, from the process of registration to the issuing of the pay order, everything is computerized and is available for scrutiny. Secondly, engineering norms have been digitalized so that the discretion available to local engineers is no longer available. Payments for materials are based on fixed rates and works cannot be sanctioned unless they follow the sanctioned norms.

#### **Performance of NREGS in the Srikakulam District:**

The Srikakulam district is one of the leading districts relating to the implementation of NREGS in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The general aspects relating to its implementation are presented in the following Table-1.

**Table -1**  
**General Aspects relating to implementation of NREGS (2013-2014)**

District	Mandals	Gram-panchayats	Habitations	Jobcards Issued	Labour (SSS) Groups Registered	Labour in Labour Groups
Srikakulam	38	1104	4370	540902	32603	626281

Source: [www.nrega.ap.gov.in](http://www.nrega.ap.gov.in)



From the above it can be noticed that the NREGS programme is carrying in a big way in all the 38 Mandals of the district. This programme is effectively implementing by 1104 grampanchayats which covers 4370 habitations. During 2013-14, 540902 job cards are issued to the 32603 labour (SSS) Groups registered to 626281 labour in labour groups. The information relating to Expenditure incurred towards execution of NREGS works in the district are presented in the following Table -2.

**Table - 2**

**Expenditure incurred towards execution of NREGS works**

No. of Works		Expenditure-(Rs in Lakhs)							
2013-14	Cumulative Since Inception	2013-2014				Cumulative Since Inception			
		Wages	Material and Skilled Wages	Contingent Exp	Total	Wages	Material and Skilled Wages	Contingent Exp	Total
51768	185654	287204	960043	200189	4032275	14466548	3111349	1038352	18616249

Source: [www.nrega.ap.gov.in](http://www.nrega.ap.gov.in)

From the above Table it can be observed that during 2013-14, 51768 No. of works are initiated. Since Inception the cumulative works recorded to 185654. During 2013-14, the wages provided is estimated at Rs. 2872043 lakhs, In that material and skilled wages Rs.960043, the contingent expenditure consists of Rs.200189 and the total amount of wages paid during the year comprises of Rs.4032275. Since inception of this programme in the district the total amount of wages paid towards this programme recorded as 18616249 lakhs. The details relating to the provided wage employment are presented in the following Table-3.

**Table - 3**

**The particulars of wage Employment Provided**

Sl.No.	ITEM	2013-14	Cumulative Since Inception
1	Household (Nos)	3,66,153	4,33,442
2	Individual (Nos)	6,23,641	8,06,490
3	Men (Nos)	2,65,275	3,54,318
4	Women (Nos)	3,58,366	4,52,172

Source: [www.nrega.ap.gov.in](http://www.nrega.ap.gov.in)



The above table shows that during 2013-14 under the NREGS programme in the Srikakulam district there are 3,66,153 Household which comprises a total number of 6,23,641 Persons among which 2,65,275 are men and 3,58,366 are women. Since inception of this programme in the district on cumulative basis a total number of 4, 33,442 households which comprises 8, 06,490 persons among which 3, 54,318 are men and 4, 52,172 are women. This indicates that women are effectively participation in the NREGS works undertaken in the Srikakulam district. The details relating to other aspects of NREGS are presented in the following Table-4.

**Table - 4**  
**Other aspects relating to implementation of NREGS**

Sl.No.	Aspects	2013-2014	Cumulative Since Inception
1	Person days generated	2,87,98,994	15,11,33,440
2	Average Wage rate per day per person (Rs.)	99.73	95.72
3	Average No of days employment provided per Household	78.65	-
4	Total No of Households completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	1,26,378	5,42,084

Source: [www.nrega.ap.gov.in](http://www.nrega.ap.gov.in)

The information presented in the above table reveals that during 2013-14, in the Srikakulam district 2, 87,98,994 person days are generated, since its inception on cumulative basis 15,11,33,440 total person days are generated under NREGS. Similarly during 2013-14, the average wage rate per day per person is recorded as Rs. 99.73 where as on cumulative basis it is estimated as Rs. 95.72. The average number of days employment provide per household under NREGS is estimated as 78.65. On the other hand the total number of households completed 100 days wage employment during 2013-14 are 1,26,378, since its inception on cumulative basis they are recoded as 5,42,084.

From the above four tables it can be observed that the NREGS is able to provide a higher rate of employment to the rural poor households with a higher average wage rate per day per person since its inception in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.



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**Conclusions:** In Srikakulam district, poverty is very high in Proportion before the implementation of NREGS. While after implementation of NREGS considerable proportion of poverty among the selected beneficiaries is reduced. It has the decline on poverty to reduce the extent of migration of labour in the Srikakulam District because of the successful implementation of the NREGS.

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