

Relevance of MGNREGA in India

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Abstract: This cogitation deals with assessment of actual ramification of MGNREGA. It studies certain factors like exodus and migration of daily wages labors. The data, which has been used for above contemplation, is the household panel data of Indian human development survey (2005 & 11). A very lucid and judicious approach has been used by using Heckman sample selection model and inverse mills ratio. After the above scrutiny and investigation, it has been confirmed that there has been a sharp enfeeblement and diminution in distress migration. It has even been stated in results that agriculture worker and construction worker are 0.1 times less likely to work MGNREGA compared unemployed population. The participation of women in MGNREGA is 5.2 times more than males. The eminence of MGNREGA can be done on the factor that its share is observed to be 1/10 times of total rural population.

1. INTRODUCTION

Generation of employment has been the top pre-eminence of government today. There is a huge difference in rate of employment between less industrialized and more industrialized countries. If we compare the unemployment rate of India and china then India lies in a terrible abhorrent and atrocious state because unemployment rate of India is twice as compared to china. However, there has been some liberalization in recent years while it was not fully successful. However, MGNREGA has been very affluent.

2. HISTORY OF INDIA'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

Many programmes started in India from early 1970s, but due to instability between central and state government it was not implemented in a proper way. Prime Minister's cash programme in 1972-73 (during the fourth five-year plan) is the first employment programme. The introduction of various wage employment programmes in the 1970s and the 1980s like kam ke badle anaj programme in 1977-78, Integrated Rural Development Programme in 1978-79, National Rural Employment Programme in 1980-81, RLEGP IN 1983 and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in April 1989 were very significant to tackle the growing rural unemployment. The Narshima Rao government's prime ministers Rozgar Yojana was started in 1993-94. Our policy makers brought employment generation into focus in the eight five-year plan with other parameters so set a target to achieve 3 percent growth per year.

In 2002, employment assurance scheme, which was launched in 1993, and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were merged and make a new programme called Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana. After two years, in 2004, the national food for work program was launched with an exclusive focus on the 150 identified backward districts. The different strategies and plan adopted time to time towards rural employment generation. It is apparent that most of the schemes were incapable of bringing about the desired impact on agricultural job growth due to some factors. Like the lack of need-based planning, absence active participation of various stakeholders in the planning and implantation process, irregular fund flow, political will and improper monitoring are some major reason of failing (BHOMBE).

3. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Studying the repercussion of income on destruct population is a ponderous aspect of social demography. There is less option of employment, "quod era demonstrandum" daily wagemakers are migrating, and they are living an insalubrious life. Moreover, we can see from many kinds of literature that income directly affect the health, poverty, gender inequalities, and standard of living of the economically derived population. In India, many employment programs were started as early as from the 1970s. Some were successful in achieving what they intended to achieve while some other programs rolled back into the timid submission of high needs. One of the main reasons for improper implementation of employment programme is instability of central & state government. MGNREGA is one of the successful programmes in the history of the country. The main objective of the study is what the participation rate of daily wages labor in MGNREGA? What was the occupational status of MGNREGA worker in 2005 (before implementation of MGNREGA)? Moreover, to assess the impact of MGNREGA on employment opportunities and standard of living of the rural India workers.

4. WHAT IS MGNREGA?

To design wage employment programme to fight poverty more effectively, the central government formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in

2005. It was started in 200 selected districts of the country were brought under this ambit. NREGA covered all the districts from 1st April 2008. In 2009-10, through an amendment, the NREGA was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). At present, it is being implemented in 625 districts in the country. MGNREGA major target was enhancing livelihood security of poor households in rural areas of the country by giving at least hundred days of guaranteed wages employment in a financial year, whose adult member is a volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The act mandates 33% participation of women. Positive outcomes of MGNREGA are: agricultural wages have increased, distress migration showed a decline; cultivated area in some states has increased, and water conservation structures have been built and in many cases have been revived. Planning Commission finds poor implementation of the plan in states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; payments to workers are being delayed; only 19 percent of the 850,000 differently abled people registered for the scheme have work under MGNREGA.

5. DATA & METHODOLOGY

In the present study, national representative sample survey, India Human Development Survey (IHDS) household data is used. Two rounds of IHDS were conducted, first in 2004-05 and second in 2011-12. IHDS-I survey interviewed 41,554 households and covered 215,754 individuals from 1503 villages and 971 urban blocks of India. Whereas IHDS II interviewed 42,152 households consisting of 204,568 individuals. Among these 42,152 households 40,013 households have been previously interviewed in IHDS-I. The advantage of using the IHDS survey data in the estimating transition of poverty is that it provides comprehensive information on key dimensions of consumption expenditure, employment, education, socio-demographic variables along with the panel component of the data. The details of the survey design, sampling instrument, variables and constructed variables, and various codes used are available in the national report (Desai et al., 2009). The longitudinal panel household data of Indian Human Development Survey (2005 & 11) is used for analysis. In IHDS II, at least one of the members in 4072 households is working in MGNREGA. Total sample of households only include those workers who are currently working in MGNREGA. Cross-tabulation has been done with selected background characteristics of the rural population to observe the pattern of participation and share of MGNREGA into total employment. The selected household background characteristics taken here for analysis are sex, age, caste, religion, education, marital status, and place of residence. The Heckman sample selection method is used for statistical analysis to check the selection bias, using inverse mills ratio. Logistic regression is used to see the participation in MGNREGA by their background characteristics.

6. FINDINGS

Rural labor demographic characteristics, which are currently working in MGNREGA employment program. The participation of female in MGNREGA is more than male. There are 46% male and 54% female workers. By age group, the 19-44 year age group worker enrolment in MGNREGA is 40%, 45-69-year age groups worker is 53%, and the 70+ worker is 5%. Among all age group, highest enrolment is seen in 45-69 year age group worker. In education, 50% of the worker are illiterate, 50% of worker are attending the school for a 1-9 year. By marital status, the currently married worker is 79%, 21% worker is a widow and single. By caste, 43% of MGNREGA workers are from backward castes in compare to another caste-like Brahmin (18%) and OBC (40%). In religion, 90% of workers are Hindu and rest of them is from other religion. By place of residence, the data show that 97% of worker enrolment in MGNREGA is from rural sector only 3% are urban outskirts because this program is only for villages not for the city.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

MGNREGA has accosted criticism on the quality and sustainability of the assets created under it. While work completion by itself is not a criterion to assess the quality of work, it is an important parameter to evaluate to MGNREGA processes involved in the creation of the assets. MGNREGA is recognized as an ecological act that aims to create sustainable livelihoods through regeneration of the natural resources base of rural India. The program has increased rural labor participation rates by drawing into the workforce many who were not active workers and making enticing and convenient work opportunities easily accessible. The participation of women in MGNREGA is higher than male population because the male is doing other jobs for survival. The participation of illiterates in MGNREGA is higher than an educated person. The currently married population is highly enrolled in MGNREGA. The share of MGNREGA employment program is 1/10 of total rural employment. Most of the MGNREGA workers were earlier doing the job of cultivation, farming, and construction. The chances of working in MGNREGA are high among not working for population, currently a married couple, landowner, and primary level education worker.

Government is investing a lot in MGNREGA, but the outcomes are not up to the mark. The government of India has to review this employment program and link this with different sectors for a better outcome. No doubt, that it is a good program but still there are many inherent problems in this scheme. The government must now think about increasing the number of working days. Linking this program with globalization and by giving training to the unskilled worker, it may help in boosting the morale of workers. There are many programs already existing; the only need is to merge those

programs together to give a robust shape to this MGNREGA scheme.

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