



ISSN:0976-4933
Journal of Progressive Science
Vol.11, No.01 & 02, pp 25-28 (2020)

Constraints faced by beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act

P. N. Chaubey

Department of Agriculture Extension

Shri Murli Manohar Town PG College, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

Email- drpnchaubey@gmail.com

Abstract

The present study was conducted purposively in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh state during the year 2019-2021. From this district Bhadohi block was selected purposively. From Bhadohi block 10 villages were selected purposively for the study. 10 beneficiaries of MGNREGA were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus a total of 100 beneficiaries were selected from Bhadohi block for research study. It was found that, beneficiaries of MGNREGA scheme faced major constraints related to the employment of hundred days (per household per year) is too less in the present situation, low wage rate, Delay in payment of wages and MGNREGA beneficiaries strongly suggested to allot the work in off season time and increase in the wage rate to the beneficiaries.

Keywords: Beneficiaries, randomly, household, wages

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to the provides employment to the rural poor by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer do unskilled manual work. This chapter deals with MGNREG Acts, objectives, goals, features, pattern, transparency and accountability and the performance of *MGNREGAs*. A majority of people in India live in villages and about 50 per cent of the villages have very poor socio-economic conditions. Since the dawn of independence, concerted efforts have been made to uplift the living standards of rural masses. Rural development as an integrated concept of growth and poverty elimination 'has been of paramount concern in all the consequent five year plans. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, runs a number of schemes and programmes with the principal objective of enabling rural people to improve the quality of their lives. In the process of planned development, it has been realized that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on 'increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself. In the Sixth'

Five Year Plan emphasis was laid on employment generation and poverty alleviation. To generate additional gainful employment in rural areas, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India launched National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) in October 1980. Under this programme total budget was to be shared equally between the Centre and the States. The creation of durable assets was an important objective of this programme. Currently MGNREGA wage rates of 17 states are less than the corresponding state minimum wages. Various judgements have upheld that the MGNREGA wage rate cannot be less than the minimum agricultural wage rate of the state. The ridiculously low wage rates have resulted in lack of interest among workers in working for MGNREGA schemes, making way for contractors and middle men to take control locally.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh. This district covers an area of 1055.99 Sq. Kms. Selection of district is difficult to conduct such a study in the entire state (U.P.) in a short period and with limited resources. Therefore, one district of the state i.e Bhadohi located at 82 km east of Allahabad. Moreover, the investigator was also aware about the bhadohi district and is conversant with the language, geography, agriculture and other aspects of the area. The district is surrounded by Jaunpur district to the north, Varanasi district to the east, Mirzapur district to the south, and Allahabad district to the west. The data were collected with the help of pre -tested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage were used for the analysis of data.

Results and discussion

Rural development in India is an essential segment of the country's overall development. Though millions of rupees have been invested in rural development during the last six and a half decades after independence, the problem of underdevelopment in the rural areas is as crucial as it was. But the significance of the subject has grown over the years. Rural development has gained importance and is not simply an economic proposition but it has political, social, psychological, cultural and environmental dimensions. The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

1. Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

It is observed from table 4.1 that the major constraints faced by beneficiaries in MNREGA were: employment of hundred days (per household per year) is too less in the present situation (85%), low wage rate (84%), Delay in payment of wages (82%), lack of medical facilities near the work site (80%), Continuous work is not provided (76%),

Unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job (75%), Wages are not provided according to MGNREGA act (60%). The findings of Dhulgand and Kadam (2020) Bhandari (2014) and Arunrao *et al.* (2018) confirm the present finding.

Table-1. Constraints faced by the beneficiaries in MGNREGA. (N= 100)

S. No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1	Employment of hundred days (per household perr year) is too less in the present situation	85	I
2	Low wage rate	84	II
3	Delay in payment of wages	82	III
4	Lack of medical facilities near the work site	80	IV
5	Continuous work is not provided	76	V
6	Unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job	75	VI
7	Difficulties in the withdrawal of payment from the bank	60	VII

2. Suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by the beneficiaries of MGNREGA

It was observed that, majority (90%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that allowed work in offseason which rank I, 85 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that Increase in wage payment should be the main factor for successful

Table-2. The suggestions given by the MGNREGA beneficiaries. (N=100)

S. No.	Suggestion	Percentage	Rank
1	allowed work in offseason	90	I
2	Increase in wage payment should be the main factor for successful implementation of the scheme	85	II
3	Work should be related with agriculture field and allied sector	70	III
4	Demanded that the social audit in gram panchayat should be conducted by the third party	65	IV
5	The issue regarding enlarging the scope of work under MGNREGA can be addressed	64	V

Implementation of the scheme which rank II, 70 per cent of the beneficiaries Work should be related with agriculture field and allied sector which rank III. It was observed that, majority (65%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that

demanding the social audit in gram panchayat should be conducted by the third party which rank IV, 64 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that the issue regarding enlarging the scope of work under MGNREGA can be which rank V. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Dhulgand and Kadam (2020) Bhandari (2014) Drèze and Khera (2009) and Arunrao *et al.* (2018).

Conclusion

Major constraints faced by beneficiaries in MNREGA were: employment of hundred days (per household per year) is too less in the present situation (85%), low wage rate (84%), Delay in payment of wages (82%), lack of medical facilities near the work site (80%), Continuous work is not provided (76%), Unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job (75%), Wages are not provided according to MGNREGA act (60%) respectively. Majority (90%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that allowed work in offseason followed by 85 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that Increase in wage payment should be the main factor for successful implementation of the scheme and 70 per cent of the beneficiaries Work should be related with agriculture field and allied sector respectively.

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Received on 07.06.2020 and accepted on 19.10.2020