



Assessment of Shortfalls in Implementing MGNREGA in Telangana

Ramesh Gaddam

Senior Research Fellow in Public Administration

Osmania University

Abstract:

One decade of transition period is lapsed ever since the implementation of the MGNREGS program and many changes have been advocated to give a major fillip to the successful execution of MGNREGA at grass root level. Various studies have unearthed several implementation hurdles regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and its potential is not being fully utilized as a demand-driven, right-based program. Therefore, a research paper titled “Assessment of Shortfalls in Implementing MGNREGA in Telangana” is proposed to be studied at this juncture to trace out the shortfalls of this revolutionary program.

Key words: MGNREGA, livelihood, implementation, beneficiaries, wage-seekers.

Introduction:

Today India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world and also exhibited remarkable resilience in recovering from global financial crisis. The challenges India facing are poverty eradication and sustainable development. The growing population need food, clothing, shelter, fuel. In India, over 60-70% of the people are living in rural areas that neither have adequate land holdings nor alternate service opportunities to produce or procure these commodities. In the absence of adequate employment opportunities, the rural people are unable to generate enough wages to sustain their livelihood. In his famous talisman, Mahatma Gandhi urged us, in our moments of doubt, to recall the face of the poorest person we may have seen and ask ourselves whether the step we are contemplating is likely to be of any use to him or her. It is in this spirit that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was launched in February 2006. It is perhaps the largest and most ambitious social security and public works program in the world. The main objective of this Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteered to do unskilled manual work. It is characterized through its various provisions, as demand-driven, rights-based, wage-based and democratic-decentralized program so that it has huge potential to develop the marginalized sections of the rural areas. But the decadal experiences of implementation of this scheme have given mixed results and now it is pertinent to understand the pitfalls of the program.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the overview of MGNREGS in Telangana.
2. To know the perceptions of beneficiaries on the implementation of MGNREGA

Research Methodology:

The first objective proposes to provide a bird eye view on MGNREGS in Telangana which will be accomplished purely with the help of secondary data.

The second Objective is achieved by collecting primary data from the registered workers through structured questionnaire from selected villages and data is analyzed through five point Likert's Scale with 1 to 5 from strongly disagreed to strongly agreed respectively..

Sample size:

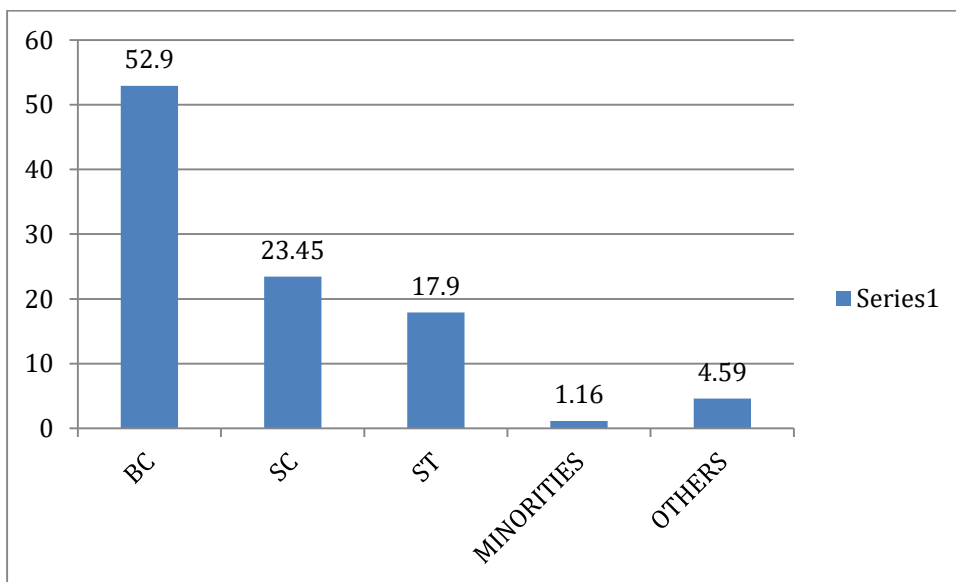
This proposal considers the sample size of 300 respondents pooled with the help of random sampling method i.e from the population of Telangana State in such a way that 50 members will be selected from each village and the six selected villages are khudvanpur, Kamanpur, Boothpur, Kadem, Naidupalem, Guduru which represent geographical diversity.

Overview of MGNREGA in Telangana:

Since the inception of the program in 2006, the total number of wage seekers are 11308415 with the issuance of the total job cards of 5103409. The cumulative number of works completed till 2018, February 4 is 3612145 with an estimated value of 9821743.39 lakhs rupees. As per the reports, the cumulative expenditure spent on this scheme is 1929403.33 lakhs rupees. The total number of households to which wage employment provided is 6633981. The total number of individuals who have been provided wage employment is 13375953 of which men constitute 44.63% whereas women constitute 55.37%. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 stipulates that at least one - third of the total beneficiaries shall be women. It

is clearly evident from the secondary data that this provision of the Act is being successfully implemented in the State of Telangana.

The following bar diagram illustrates the individual wage employment provided to different sections of the society in terms of percentage.



Source: www.nrega.telangana.gov.in

The following table depicts the caste wise population of Telangana State

Caste	Percentage of total Population
BC	51.08
SC	17.50
ST	09.91
MINORITIES	14.46
OC	21.50
TOTAL	100

(Source: Telangana Household Survey, 2014)

It can be deduced from the above bar diagram and table that backward sections of the society i.e. BCs, SCs, STs, are represented more in the MGNREGS in proportion to their total population of the State where as minorities are far lagging behind in this aspect.

**Perceptions of the beneficiaries regarding the implementation of the MGNREGS:
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ENROLLED WORKERS**

Questi on No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5	Mean
1.	MGNREGS is useful for Livelihood Sources	23	32	07	89	149	4.03
2.	Wages are paid on time	78	162	0	36	24	2.22
3.	There is no gender discrimination with respect to wages	02	13	0	63	222	4.63
4.	Payment of Wages are Properly entered in Muster rolls	132	84	17	43	24	2.34
5.	Unemployment Allowance is paid within Time	193	74	08	12	13	1.59
6.	Durable Assets are created under MGNREGA	148	86	12	23	31	2.01
7.	Works are ensured during Non-Agricultural Season	11	28	0	104	157	4.22
8.	Authorities are providing proper technical Assistance while executing works under the scheme	56	68	17	86	73	3.17
9.	Authorities are properly maintaining all records of the scheme	63	148	13	51	25	2.42
10.	Authorities are properly maintaining assets created under the MGNREGA	171	66	23	28	12	1.81

1. It is evident from the primary data that MGNREGS plays a significant role in providing livelihood sources to the needy.
2. The primary survey reveals that there is no timely payment of wages to the beneficiaries of this scheme.
3. It is worth noting from the survey that there is no gender discrimination in the payment of wages.
4. It is highlighted by the primary data the payment of wages is not being entered into muster rolls for transparent payment of wages to the beneficiaries.
5. The survey tells that unemployment allowance is not being paid to the wage seekers.
6. The primary data surfaces the fact that durable assets are not created under the MGNREGS.
7. The data shows that MGNREGS is very vital in providing wage employment during non agricultural season.
8. The survey unearths the fact that Authorities are almost neutral in providing proper technical assistance while executing the works under the MGNREGS.
9. It can easily be interpreted from the survey that authorities are not properly maintaining all records pertaining to the scheme.
10. The primary data highlights the fact that authorities are not properly maintaining the Assets created under the MGNREGS.

Conclusion:

This study calls attention to many issues regarding the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme such as, timely payment of wages and unemployment allowance, proper maintenance of records, creation of durable assets etc. This study can also be instrumental to understand the flip sides of the scheme. The findings of the study are pointing to the need for the better utilization of this demand - driven and rights - based scheme.

References:

1. MGNREGA Report to the people 2014, Ministry of Rural Development, GOI
2. The Gazette of India (2005), "*The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005*", Ministry of Law and Justice, (Sept. 7), No.48.
3. Ministry of Rural Development (2012), "*MGNREGA Sameksha*", Govt. of India
4. India Year Book 2017
5. Telangana Household Survey 2014
6. www.nrega.telangana.gov.in