

Impact Assessment of MGNREGA: Study of Pauri Garhwal District of Uttarakhand, India

R.S. Negi, Santosh Singh and Rekha Dhanai

Department of Rural Technology, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal Uttarakhand, India

Accepted 20 Jan 2015, Available online 25 Feb 2015, Vol.3 (Jan/Feb 2015 issue)

Abstract

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the most pragmatic approach to the problems of rural poverty and unemployment. In fact, the Scheme ensures the economic security of the rural poor by providing guaranteed wage employment. MGNREGA has positive impact on employment pattern of women. MGNREGA works are largely focused on land and water resources which include: water harvesting and conservation, soil conservation and protection, irrigation provisioning and improvement, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development and drought proofing. The study is an attempt to assess the impact on implementation and effectiveness of the Act in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, during the financial year 2013-14.

Keywords: Employment, MGNREGA, Poverty; Water Scarcity

Introduction

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 is a unique policy intervention by the State for providing 'livelihood security' to the resource poor people in rural India. Under the Act, the Governments are legally bound to provide 100 days guaranteed manual employment on local public works to every rural unskilled adult (job-card holder) who is willing to work at the prevailing minimum statutory wage rate. In the absence of employment they would be paid unemployment allowance. The Act came into force on February 2, 2006 and was implemented in a phased manner. In Phase I it was introduced in 200 of the most backward districts of the country. It was implemented in an additional 130 districts in Phase II in 2007-2008. The Act was notified in the remaining 285 rural districts of India from April 1, 2008 in Phase III. The Scheme offers a statutory minimum wage of Rs. 142 for each job holder per day in 2013 prices.

In Uttarakhand, the NREGA was initially launched in 3 districts i.e., Chamoli, Champawat and Tehri in 2006-07 (Phase-1). In second phase (2007-08), two additional districts, i.e., Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar were added. In the last phase, all the remaining districts have been notified under the NREGS.

MGNREGA was applied to district Pauri Garhwal in the third phase and the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the district commenced on April 1, 2008. The registration for job card commenced from January 1, 2008. In the first year the NREGA teams were constituted

in the District, equipment was procured and the necessary infrastructure for the programme established. The Act also seeks to create durable assets to augment land and water resources, improve rural connectivity and strengthen the basic needs of the rural poor. MGNREGA works are largely focused on land and water resources which include: water harvesting and conservation, soil conservation and protection, irrigation provisioning and improvement, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development and drought proofing. These MGNREGA have the potential to generate environmental benefits such as ground recharge, soil and water conservation, drought and floods.

Objectives

The present study was mainly focused on the impacts of MGNREGA related to natural resources include soil, water etc. The other objectives were to create wage employment for the rural sustainable livelihood to raise productive capacity of the economy. The paper also analyzes the extent of women participation.

Review of Literature

Das (2013) evaluates the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) according to criteria viz. average number of days of employment per household; percentage of households completing 100 days of employment under NREGS; percentage of expenditure

against total available funds etc. Performance across the first two criteria has been disappointing and has deteriorated over time. Percentage of expenditure against total available funds has risen sharply. Finally, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the NREGS has not performed well, Sivasankari and Bharathi (2012) analyze the awareness of beneficiaries on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The results of the study indicate that the beneficiaries have adequate awareness in Registration for employment, Employment, Wage payment, Facilities at the workplace and Records in workplace except Casualty at work site and Grievance Redressal mechanism. In addition, the beneficiaries who have studied higher secondary level have more awareness on MGNREGA than others, Garje (2012) study the impact of NREGS wages on poverty, agriculture, non-agriculture sector and food inflation, and see the importance of NREGA work and need of high wages in unorganized sector to reduce the impact of poverty and migration in rural India, Singh and Nauriyal (2009) assessed the impact of MGNREGS in three districts of Uttarakhand and reported that NREGS activities were found to be supplementing income of the household to the extent of 10-20 per cent and hence no significant improvement in their income and employment levels. Further, marginal improvement in curtail of migration and indebtedness were found. Increase in consumption levels and savings were also marginally improved among the sample households. The report indicates that lack of procedures, low levels of awareness and weak PRIs etc. were the reasons for low performance of MGNREGS in the sample districts, Mukherjee S. and GhoshSaswata (2008): In their paper "What Determiners the Success of 100 Days Work at Panchayat Level? A Study of Birbhum district in West Bengal", they critically examined the NREGA Scheme in Birbhum district. Their major findings were most of the rural households applied for job cards and everybody knows about NREGA. They suggested some formal training regarding NREGA at GP level to achieve the common goal, Subbarao (1997) concluded that, the level of the wage rate is critical in determining the distribution of benefits from the program, as well as how much of the program is targeted towards the poor.

Methodology

Data were collected from various secondary sources like from District web site (www.pauri.nic.in), different reports of government, published and unpublished sources like books, journals, reports, publications, unpublished doctoral dissertation and from www.nrega.nic.in. The study covers during the year 2013-14.

Study Area

District PauriGarhwal, is the 4th largest District of Uttarakhand state in respect of area. The district covers

an area of 5,230 sqkms and situated between 29° 45' to 30°15' Latitude and 78° 24' to 79° 23' E Longitude. The District is administratively divided into nine tehsils, viz., Pauri, Lansdown, Kotdwara, Thalissain, Dhumakot, Srinagar, Satpuli, Chaubatakhal and Yamkeshwar and fifteen development blocks viz., Kot, Kaljikhil, Pauri, Pabo, Thalissain, Bironkhal, Dwarikhil, Dugadda, Jaihrikhil, Ekeshwer, Rikhinikhil, Yamkeswar, Nainidanda, Pokhra and Khirsu and 1214 Gram Panchayats comprising 3423 villages, as per 2011 census. According to the census report of 2011, the total population of this district was 6, 87,271 of which 3,26,829 were males and 3,60,442 were females. But in 2001 census, the total population of this district was 697078 of which 331061 were males and 366017 were females. The total area of the district is 5329 sq. km. The density of population was 129 per sq.km in 2011 and 131 in 2001. According to 2011 census 16.40 % live in urban region in this district. In actual figure a total of 112703 live in urban areas out of which 58800 are males and 53903 are females.. The over-all sex ratio and child sex ratio in urban region in this district were 917 and 860 respectively. The child population (0-6 ages) in urban region in this district was a total of 12731 out of which 58800 were males and 53903 were females. The literacy rate was 82.02% (male 92.71% and female 72.60%). The rural literacy rate was 80.37% (male 92.43% and female 70.15%) and urban literacy rate was 90.36% (male 93.91% and female 86.51%). During the period 2001 to 2011 the growth rate of population was -1.41% per annum while the same figure in the last decades was 3.91%. The sex ratio of the district in 2011 was 1103 females" per1000 males and the figure in 2001 was 1106.

Results and Discussion

According to Nation Rural Development site in the Uttarakhand year 2013-14 the total employment provided to households were 3.975 lakhs and the person's man days was 16.562 lakhs. Among which SCs were 3.086 lakhs, STs were 4.304 lakhs, Women were 74.33 and others were 130.45 lakhs. The number of families complete 100 days works were 0.28Lakhs.

Table 1: NREGA Statistics of PauriGarhwal Districts

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Employment provided to households | 46867 |
| Total person days | 1591514 |
| SCs | 206993 |
| STs | 3336 |
| Other | 401573 |
| Women | 979612 |
| Total work taken up | 3409 |
| Works completed | 2332 |
| Works in progress | 1077 |

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The table-1, shows that in the district the year 2013-14 the total employment provided to households 0.469

Table2: works under NREGS during 2013-14

| Category of natural resource conservation works | Work Taken up | Work completed | Ongoing Works |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Flood Control and Protection | 607 | 307 | 290 |
| Drought Proofing | 47 | 31 | 16 |
| Water Conservation and Water Harvesting | 132 | 99 | 33 |
| Irrigation canals | 64 | 46 | 18 |
| Renovation of Traditional Water bodies | 50 | 36 | 14 |
| Land Development | 975 | 719 | 256 |
| Rural Connectivity | 1508 | 1071 | 437 |
| Other work | 26 | 13 | 13 |
| Total | 3409 | 2332 | 1077 |

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Table 3: Cast wise registration under MGNREGA at different block of PauriGarhwal, Uttarakhand

| S.No | Name of Block | No. of Registered | | SC | | ST | | Other | | Male | Female |
|------|---------------|-------------------|---------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| | | H.H | P.Day | H.H | P.Day | H.H | P.Day | H.H | P.Day | | |
| 1 | Bironkhal | 10657 | 105178 | 1540 | 15964 | 1 | 0 | 9116 | 89214 | 37041 | 68137 |
| 2 | Duggada | 10120 | 90629 | 1772 | 9503 | 319 | 1462 | 8029 | 79664 | 47207 | 43422 |
| 3 | Dwarikhal | 7747 | 90155 | 996 | 13386 | 0 | 0 | 6751 | 76769 | 33809 | 56346 |
| 4 | Ekeshwar | 6971 | 138584 | 702 | 15432 | 0 | 0 | 6269 | 123152 | 44856 | 93728 |
| 5 | Kaljikkhal | 7370 | 110506 | 1625 | 27088 | 6 | 88 | 5739 | 83330 | 34632 | 75874 |
| 6 | Khirsu | 4584 | 85020 | 592 | 10621 | 0 | 0 | 3992 | 74399 | 36908 | 48112 |
| 7 | Kot | 5631 | 68880 | 1227 | 17209 | 2 | 0 | 4402 | 51671 | 21785 | 47095 |
| 8 | Nainidanda | 7889 | 146956 | 816 | 14223 | 0 | 0 | 7073 | 132733 | 52505 | 94451 |
| 9 | Pabau | 7796 | 103842 | 184 | 1944 | 8 | 237 | 7604 | 101661 | 30142 | 73700 |
| 10 | Pauri | 6080 | 114310 | 1340 | 30495 | 25 | 463 | 4715 | 83352 | 41735 | 72575 |
| 11 | Pokhra | 5028 | 135466 | 445 | 13697 | 44 | 868 | 4539 | 120901 | 45310 | 90156 |
| 12 | Rikhnikhal | 6335 | 71093 | 819 | 9564 | 2 | 51 | 5514 | 61478 | 35068 | 36025 |
| 13 | Thalisain | 12010 | 95446 | 1427 | 11022 | 7 | 87 | 10576 | 84337 | 50254 | 45192 |
| 14 | Yamkeshwar | 8602 | 142090 | 439 | 9844 | 4 | 80 | 8159 | 132166 | 56114 | 85976 |
| 15 | Zahrikhal | 6052 | 93359 | 425 | 7001 | 5 | 0 | 5622 | 86358 | 44536 | 48823 |
| | Total | 112872 | 1591514 | 14349 | 206993 | 423 | 3336 | 98100 | 1381185 | 611902 | 979612 |

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Lakhs and person's man day was 15.92 lakhs. Among which SCs were 13.01 %, STs were 0.21%, other was 25.23 % and women were 61.55 %. This also indicates that there is large women participation under this scheme. STs are significantly low participation in the district. The number of total works taken up was 3409 among which works completed were 2332 and works in progress were 1077. The number of family completed 100 days works is 1139.

Water is the essential component of life. Scarcity of water is the main problem in the hilly rural areas. This water scarcity can be solved through this scheme by digging new ponds or renovation, water recharge and storage. These pond water can be used multipurpose fully like in agriculture, some domestic propose etc. Hence through the operation of this scheme a multiplier employment generation may be solved in the long-run. From the above analysis it is clear that women participation has remarkably increased through NREGA scheme. Some people from general caste category are also included in this scheme and there is no caste bar. Each household has one job card for any caste. This simply develops to work jointly with various community people i.e. there is reduction gap among the owner and the labouring class. The scheme has a vital role to reduce

poverty and unemployment. Through the implementation of the scheme the income of the rural people of the district definitely raised and hence their livelihood.

Conclusion

Though there are some limitations the study indicates that the introduction of the programme of MGNREGA had a clear positive impact on the rural economy through employment and income generation and also through raising the standard of living and socio-economic performance of the rural community of the district. So it is recommended that the present programme should be further spread in the rural areas by means of proper planning, adequate supervision, effective implementation and better monitoring. The MGNREGA scheme should not be confined into 100 day's work for wage earners income only.

Suggestions

The implementation of MGNREGA works under the scheme such as water conservation, drought proofing, irrigation, renovation of traditional water bodies, storage of ground water etc. The scheme can be a very important

role on renovation of traditional water bodies through enhancement work on water conservation and drought proofing works for the scarcity of water in the hilly areas of the hilly region.

References

- [1]. Basu, Arnab K. (2011). "Impact of Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes on Seasonal Labor Market: Optimum Compensation and Workers' Welfare", *Discussion paper no. 5701*, College of William and Mary, ZEF, University of Bonn and IZA, Mimeo.
- [2]. Chatterjee, S. (2009) Employment programmes and rural development in India. Jaipur: RBSA Publication
- [3]. Das S. K. (2013), A Brief Scanning on Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Assam, India. *Ame. J. of R. D. 1(3): 49-61*.
- [4]. Debnath, N. & Neogi, D. (2013). "A study on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on generation and distribution of sustainable assets among tribal and non tribal population in Tripura state of North-East India. *Intern. J. of Advanced Res.*, 1(8), 711-721
- [5]. Dey, A. (2008). Impact of rural development on eradication of poverty; A case study of Meghalaya. Ph.D. Thesis, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong
- [6]. Garje R.R. (2012), Impact of NREGS Wages on Poverty, Agriculture sector, Non Agriculture Sector and Food Inflation. *Vario. Multi-Dis. e-Res. J. 2(IV):1-18*.
- [7]. K. Subbarao (1997). "Public Works as an anti Poverty Programme: An Overview of Cross-Country Experience", *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 79, No. 2, PP. 678-683.
- [8]. Mukherjee, S. and Ghosh, Saswata, (2008). "What Determiners the Success of 100 Days Work at Panchayat Level? A Study of Birbhum district in West Bengal", Employment Seminar at CDS, April 3-5,
- [9]. NREGA Operational Guide Line-2008. Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2008), 3rd Edition.
- [10]. S. P. Singh and D. K. Nauriyal, (2009), "System and Process Review and Impact Assessment of NREGS in the state of Uttarakhand", Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, July 2009.
- [11]. S. Patel, (2006). "Empowerment, Co-option and Domination Politics of Maharashtra's Employment Guarantee Scheme", *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 16, pp. 5126-5132.
- [12]. Singh A. (2014), "Assessing the Status and Environmental Implication of Work Under MGNREGA in Uttarakhand", *J. of Studies in Dyn. and Change (JSDC)*, Vol.1 No.2, pp 113-124.
- [13]. Singh S, Negi R.S., Dhanai R. and M.K. Parmar.(2014), "Performance of MGNREGA to Poverty Reduction: Study in Pauri Garhwal District, Uttarakhand. *Int. J. for Inno. Res. & Tech* ;Vol.1 No.7, pp 257-260
- [14]. Sivasankari R. and Bharathi V. (2012), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): A Study of Awareness In Tirunelveli District. *Inter. J. of Mgt. Res. and Review*. 2(6):1490-1497,
- [15]. www.nrega.nic.in.
- [16]. www.pauri.nic.in