

MGNREGA as Social Transformation Instrument by Reduction Rural Poverty – A Sociological Study (With Special Reference to Tumkur District, Karnataka)



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Abstract

Transformation is the rudimentary and internal character of the society, no society is static, as well India have been changed for stretch in different aspects in terms of institutional, structural, cultural, political, and ideological. Mahatma Gandhiji was one of thinkers who dreamt to bring changes in Indian social structure and he tried to contrivance through the Nehru, consequently revolutionary changes in institutions, social structures and values of Indian society through democratic participation. Many of socio-economic thinkers opened that social transition somewhat depends on economic changes, of course to strengthen the economic way of life may bring social transformation. Hence independent India has brought about ample developmental programmes in order to achieve socio-economic stability. MGNREGA is one of fore most important multiplier developmental programmes with aims to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment opportunity to rural households whose adult willing to do manual unskilled work in a financial year. The main intention of the scheme is to eradication of poverty and to avoid migration by providing employment. The objective of this study is to find socio-economic status of the MGNREGA beneficiaries, to understand the rate of social changes through MGNREGA. The present study covers 184 respondents selected through convenient and snowball random sampling. The data would be collected from secondary as well as primary resource to analyse with simple statistical tools such as mean, mode, median, frequency and percentage to find the results. This is an attempt to understand MGNREGA as developmental programme helps to social transformation through eradication of rural poverty by providing employment opportunity.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Social Transformation, Development, Rudimentary, Employment, Multiplier.

Introduction

India as most diversified and democratic country largely based on rural area nearly ¾ of the total population residing at rural villages and depends on agricultural and allied occupation for their livelihood. Mahatma Gandhi said that the rural villages are essence of the country, unless development of the rural villages India will not be developed, Indian economy based on rural. This is the Gandhian approach to development in spite of many developmental perspectives. Ample rural developmental programmes were introduced since British period and after the independence in order to improve the rural lives to bring them to main stream of the society with the expected direction. In the context MGNREGA is one among the fore most and multi expectation programme especially wage employment scheme. MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act-2005) was launched by UPA Government headed over Dr.Manmohan Singh the prime minister of the country to ensure guaranteed employment opportunity to the rural household. The prime aim is to strengthen economic condition of rural poor by providing work for the rural hands with minimum guaranteed employment opportunity. The main intention is to provide 100 days guaranteed employment to rural household whose adult members are enthusiastic to do unskilled manual work at minimum wage. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act enacted on August 25, 2005 aims to create and providing employment opportunities in rural area to strengthen the rural poor in order to maintain sustainable development

and livelihood security. The NREGA provides a legal guarantee for hundred days of employment to every adult members of rural household who is willing to do unskilled manual work in a financial year at minimum wage. In the present context there is a badly needed to maintain economic equality among all Indians by reducing the economic disparities. This is to be necessary to expect radical changes in socio-economic life of rural households. In order to enhance livelihood security of rural poor NREGA is most ambitious scheme plays a significant role at the maximum extent in eradicate or deducting of poverty. At first time in the history of India National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in 2005, August 25 and later it has renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, implemented in 200 districts in first phase in 2006-07 and later on 130 districts were added in 2007-08, and decided to implement this scheme all over India within five years. Now it is covered entire India except Jammu and Kashmir. To understanding of the scheme well there is a need have explained elaborately in tern the objectives such as:

1. To provide employment opportunity for the rural poor,
2. To avoid the migration, provide the livelihood security
3. To the people who below poverty line,
4. To eradication of rural poverty,
5. To create durable assets in the rural village through properly use of rural resource.
6. Managing drought proofing and flood.
7. Effectively implement of democracy in the gross root level by strengthening the panchayat raj institutions.

MGNREGA has its own silent characteristics. First and foremost people who willing to do unskilled manual work should be registered their name along with address in the concern Grampanchayat. After the necessary verification the Grampanchayat officials issued a job card contains the name, address and details of the household within 15 days of applied. Thereafter the applicant have qualified to apply for the work either in written or orally to the concern Grampanchayat. The Grampanchayat should be provided the work within 15 days of applied and work should be provided within 5 km radius of own village, in the case of work provided out of the 5km of radius, Grampanchayat is held responsible to paid extra (25%) wage for transport convenience. There is a special provision for women in the Act that there should be one-third of the MGNREGA total beneficiaries must be women. If Grampanchayat is failed to provide suitable work to the needy within 15 days of demand, the Grampanchayat itself held responsible to paid unemployment allowance. The important feature of the MGNREGA is to be paid the wage through the beneficiary's bank account directly, no cash mode of payment. That implies to avoid bribe, intention is to payment should be paid to the beneficiary without intervention of any mediators, contractor or Grampanchayat officials. The prescribed NMR is to be maintained, the allocation offinancial

assistance is shared 75:25 ratio between central and state government. But this is purely central government programme; hence wage payment is paid by the central government. Finally accountability and transparency is maintained by the concern Grampanchayat, means everything must be recorded and accessible to the general public. Such accountability and transparency called as Social Audit is conducted by the higher authority with the supervision of the state.

Social transformation: - the term social transformation most likely to use in twentieth century in order to indicate the changes which occurs in the societal structure, means the changes happening in and among the distinguish fragments of the society. The social transformation increasingly used to explain the societal changes towards development. The social transformation that notions towards expected one, it includes material and non-material culture such as instruments, tools, things, means which visible, and values, mores, ideas, customs, traditions, which non visible. In other words it can be define that changes occurred over a period of time.

In 18-19 century social transformation has took place in to consideration by social thinker and sociologists to study as serious concern in the sociology. They wanted to study the changes which had been occurring in the economic and political field of life. But basically social change is internal character of the society, after the industrial and political revolution the speed, scope and quantity of the social change increased radically. Then it became a serious concern to the sociologists to study.

Johnson defined the social change as changes in the social structure. That social structure contains social institutions, associations, social groups, social stratification, social process etc. if anything altered in this concern over a period of time may call as social transformation.

K. Devis defined the social transformation indicates "the changes in the social structure and functions of the social organization".

Social transformation is a social trend which has a particular time bond and it has social and geographical background and it may happen purposefully or intentionally.

Poverty in India

India is named as poor country since from the past, but now the scenario has been changed. After the independence the government of India brought enormous developmental programmes in order to achieve welfare state. Gradually the rate of poverty has been decreased by taken action against to poverty. The concept poverty is defined as low level of life standard that has inadequate chances. Economically degraded, suffering from educational opportunity and insufficient chances to the daily life. Poverty means the scarcity of sufficient food, cloth, lively shelter. Till today almost 21 percent (NSSO-2011) of Indian population is being poor. Many reasons may support for continued the poverty most likely unemployment. Poverty and unemployment are closely related with each other like two faces of the same coin. Over population is also another cause.

However the government of India has taken it as a challenge to reduce the poverty with comprehensive strategy. In this concern the government of India has introduced number of development programmes. At first Community Development Programme (CDP) was taken place, but unfortunately it was failed due to non-participation of people and corruption. There after series of programmes and schemes were taken place to provide basic infrastructure to the individual as well as community. Wage employment schemes also were introduced to reduction of unemployment especially in rural India.

Review of Literature

The review of literature is a necessary factor which helps to know the facts and figures of the research topic and to understand the studies which were covered already. The main purpose of the review is to find the statement of the research as well as to obtain deep knowledge about the topic.

Bagchi K.K. (2011) the book reveals that MGNREGA plays a significant role in the alleviation of poverty process. Almost it helps to enhanced livelihood of rural people in terms of created durable assets and provides employment opportunity in other words that avoids the unemployment. These two important aspects positively effect on poverty reduction through increase economic efficiency which leads to social transformation. MGNREGA is the finest approach to empower the rural economy and plays an important role which encouraged the local solutions.

Rhonda Breitreuz et.al (2017) the study confined that there was some noticed differences were found in the process of implementation and usages of the programme. Gender and social status also appeared to impact the experience of MGNREGA participants.

Ahuja R.U.et.al. (2011) the study was conducted among almost 60 families in two districts of Hariyana to aims that to understand the beneficiaries income level, size of family, assets, etc. the main finding of the study were there was a significant difference in the degree of employment under MGNREGA works. MGNREGA was not able to control migration somehow it was failure to improve the poor.

Sushanth Kumar Misra (2016) study found that MGNREGA was created various permanent assets to reduction of rural poverty which is right-based programme gone to step door of the rural poor. The major findings of the study were there is substantial impact on assets creation for both individual and village. But individual assets were maintained quality than community wise.

Mohamed Asharf Mir, et al (2018) reveals MGNREGA is a distinguished development programme which provides employment assurance to the rural poor with minimum wage intended to shoot the rural poverty. The study found that there was SC and ST workers were largely worked under MGNREGA. There was no gender discrimination at the work site. Women workers had much interested, due to the scheme provided employment within their village.

Kabit Borah, RamjhimBordoli (2014) the study found there was a significant impact of MGNREGA on economic status in terms of increase income level. MGNREGA helped to beneficiaries to enhance their purchasing power, enriching literacy, improved health care are the significant indicators of poverty reduction.

Objective of the Study

1. To understand the socio-economic condition of the respondents in the study area.
2. To know the impact of MGNREGA in poverty reduction in rural.
3. To know the progress of social transformation among rural people through MGNREGA.

Methodology of the Study

Neralapura a village of tumkurtaluk was selected as research area with convenience of the researcher. The research paper consist both secondary and primary information. The secondary information was collected from related books, articles, journals, newspapers and websites. The primary source was collected through interview schedule; the researcher visited beneficiaries of MGNREGA personally and recorded the responses. The total size of the study was 184 respondents selected through snowball sampling method. The collected data was analysed with the help of research technical tools like: mean, average and percentage to find the results.

Significance of the Study

The proposed study helps to understand the socio-economic situation of the respondents in the study area. This study enriches our knowledge towards impact of MGNREGA on poverty reduction process especially in rural community. Also it is an attempt to understand the social changes which occurs in rural people after the implementation of the programme. This study draws an attention of administrators, planners of the rural development, policy makers and concern officials who intervene in the social change. This will be useful for government to understand the facts and figures that related to impact of MGNREGA in poverty reduction and to bring social transformation as well as to take necessary action for the future.

Village Profile

Tumkur is known as educational city, nearly 70 km away from the capital city of Karnataka. The district has ten distinguished taluks with their own historical, cultural significance. Usually Tumkurtaluk consist almost 373 villages with administrative town. Total population is around 562397, with 303197 male and 289200 female. The sex ratio of tumkurtaluk is about 1000:954. Literacy rate is almost 82.6 percent. The village Neralapura is selected for the study on the basis of highest expenditure in MGNREGA. Total population of the village is around 1039. Among them 541 are male and 498 are female. Out of total population 288 people belong to SC category, remaining 751 belong to various categories.

Findings and Analysis of the Study

MGNREGA is a flagship programme which was introduced by the government of India to provide 100 days guaranteed employment for the needy rural people intended to enhance their livelihood security.

The study needs to understand the socio-economic background of the respondents is one of the factors that actively participate in the programme and utilize the same in order to get the employment opportunity and improve their economic status more higher than before the implementation of the MGNREGA

programme. The socio-economic profile consists of gender, age, marital status, education, occupation and income which indicate the standard of living of a person. Socio-economic background of the respondents in the study area is presented in the below table 1.

Table – 1
Socio-economic background of the STs

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	96	52.17
	Female	88	47.83
	Transgender	00	00
Age	Below 25 years	54	29.35
	25-40 years	52	28.26
	40-50 years	50	27.17
	Above 50 years	28	15.22
Religion	Hindu	177	96.19
	Muslim	07	3.81
	Christian	00	00
Marital status	Unmarried	42	22.82
	Married	137	74.45
	Widow	3	01.63
	Widower	2	01.10
Education	Illiterate	41	22.26
	Primary	32	17.39
	Secondary	42	22.84
	Higher secondary	29	15.76
	Pre-university	15	08.16
	Graduation	06	03.26
	Post-graduation	2	01.09
	Technical course	17	09.24
Family Type	Nuclear	133	72.28
	Joint	51	27.72
Total		184	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

As per the data collected from the study area shown that 96(52.17%) of the respondents were male and 88(47.83%) were female, no transgender was recorded. Around 54(29.35%) of the respondents were below 25 years. Almost 52(28.26%) of the respondents were between 25-40 years. Around 50(27.17%) of them were 40-50 years old. About 28(15.22%) of the respondents were above 50 years. Almost all the respondents were in similar number there was no huge difference related to age group. About 177(96.19%) of the villagers were Hindu, only 07(3.81%) were Muslims, Christians were not found. Around 42(22.82%) of the villagers were unmarried. About 137(74.45%) of the respondents were married. About 03(1.63%) of respondents were widow and only

02(1.10%) of them were widower. In the study area the education level is as follows, around 41(22.26%) of the respondents were illiterate. About 32(17.39%) of them studied primary. Almost 42(22.84%) of the respondents studied up to secondary school. About 29(15.76%) of the respondents went up to the higher secondary. Around 15(8.16%) of the respondents studied up to pre-university. Only 06(03.26%) of the respondents studied graduation. Around 17(9.24%) of the respondents went to technical course. Around 133(72.28%) of the respondents had nuclear family structure and remaining 51(27.72%) had joint family. Almost majority of them wanted to live separately due to some reasons.

Table -2
Living Condition of the Respondents

Characters		Frequency	Percentage
Ownership	Own house	183	99.45
	Rented house	01	00.55
Type of house	Kachcha	125	67.94
	Semi-pakka	41	22.28
	Pakka house	18	09.78
Number of rooms	1 room	82	44.56
	2-3 rooms	24	13.04
	No rooms	78	42.40
Kitchen	Yes	174	94.56

	No	10	05.44
Source of drinking water	Public tap	166	90.22
	Private tap	18	09.78
Toilet facility	Yes	180	97.82
	No	04	02.18
Used toilet	Yes	175	95.10
	No	09	04.90
Drainage facility	Opened	122	66.30
	Closed	62	33.70
Electricity	Yes	184	100
	No	00	00
Main Occupation	Agriculture	116	63.04
	Wage employment	42	22.82
	Government employee	03	01.63
	Private employee	23	12.51
Agricultural land size	Below 1 acre	42	22.83
	2-3 acres	134	72.83
	3 and above	08	04.34
Total		184	100

Source: field survey, 2019

MGNREGA is considered as silver bullet programme to eradicate rural poverty with the best participation of the rural public. To know the impact of the scheme necessarily understand the living condition of the respondents in the study area. Hence table-2 consists of ownership of the house, type of house, number of rooms in the house, kitchen, source of drinking water, toilet facility, toilet used, drainage facility, electricity, main occupation, agriculture land size etc are able to explain such a situation. Around 183(99.45%) of the respondents had their own house and only 01(0.55%) of them were residing in rented house. Almost 125(67.94%) of the respondents were in kaccha house. About 41(22.28%) of the respondents were in semi-pakka house and 18(9.78%) were in pakka house. Majority of the respondents constructed their house with the use of sheets. About 82(44.56%) of the respondents had single room facility at home. Around 24(13.04%) of the villagers had 2-3 rooms and almost 78(42.40%) of the respondents had no rooms. About 174(94.56%) of the respondents had separate kitchen to prepare food and remaining 10(05.44%) of the respondents had no kitchen. Around 166(90.22%) of the respondents were used drinking water from public tap. About

18(9.78%) were depended on private arrangement. Almost 180(97.82%) of the respondents had toilet facility for own use. Only 4(02.18%) of the respondents had not toilet due to inconvenient that no space for construct. About 175(95.10%) of the respondents were used toilet frequently but around 9(04.90%) of them were not interested to use toilet, because they said that not to comfortable. Almost 122(66.30%) of the respondents had open drainage system and about 62(33.70%) of the respondents had closed drainage that one was constructed recently under the MGNREGA programme particularly in SC & ST colony. Almost all the respondents had electricity in their house due to free connection. About 116(63.04%) of the respondents were occupied agriculture as their main occupation for their livelihood. Around 42(22.82%) of the respondents were depended on wage employment because they had not agricultural land. About only 3(01.63%) of the respondents were government employee. Around 23(12.51%) of the respondents were worked in private sector. About 42(22.83%) of the respondents had below 1acre land. Around 134(72.83%) of the respondent had 2-3 acres of land. Only 8(04.34%) of the respondents had above 3 acres.

Table – 3**Social changes occurred among beneficiaries:**

Sl.No	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Provided employment in lean period	121	65.76
2.	Increased food security	153	83.15
3.	Increased cloth purchase	97	52.71
4.	Helped to children education	92	50.00
5.	Helped to family health	119	64.67
6.	Improved income level	154	83.69
7.	Helped to repair house	60	32.60
8.	Helped to create individual assets	139	75.54
9.	Increased purchasing power	112	60.86
10.	Helped to construct the toilet	167	90.76
11.	Increased water bodies	119	64.67
12.	Development of own land	62	33.69
13.	Created community assets	135	73.36

14.	Helped to return loan	60	32.60
15.	To avoid migration to city	119	64.67
16.	Increased agricultural labour wage rate	81	44.02
17.	Improved furniture at home	40	21.73
	Total	184	100

Source: Estimated Survey 2019

MGNREGA is an instrument that change the destiny of the rural people through provides guaranteed employment with statutory wage. The main objective of the scheme is to avoid migration and reduction of the rural poor. The real social change means that comprehensive modification in the social life. MGNREGA is one of the tools which eliminate rural poverty and bring social transformation. The social change was occurred among the MGNREGA beneficiaries as follows: about 121(65.76%) of the respondents were opined that MGNREGA provided employment in the lean period. It was supported us to get employment and helped to earn additional income which helped to change our life style. About 153(83.15%) of the respondents said that increased food security. Around 97(52.71%) of the respondents opined that purchase of cloth was increased. About 92(50%) of the respondents opined that helped to children education. Almost 119(64.67%) was helped to family health care. About 154(83.69%) of the respondents were opined that it increased income level. Almost 60(32.60%) of them replied that it helped to repair house. About 139(75.54%) of the respondents were opined that it helped to create individual assets. About 112(60.86%) of the respondents were said that MGNREGA increased purchasing power. About 167(90.76%) of the respondents opined that it helped to construct the toilet. Around 119(64.67%) of the respondents were said that MGNREGA helped to increase water bodies. Almost 62(33.69%) of them opined that it helped to develop the beneficiaries agricultural land. About 135(73.36%) of the respondents said that it created community assets. About 60(32.60%) of them opined that the scheme helped to return loan. Around 119(64.67%) of them were opined that it avoid migration to city. About 81(44.02%) of the respondents were said that MGNREGA increased agricultural labour wage rate. Around 40(21.73%) of the respondents opined that it improved furniture at home. However MGNREGA brought radical change among beneficiaries in the study area.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is a virtual programme which introduced by central government with lot of

expectations in order to reduction of rural poverty as well as to avoid migration. It brought up drastic changes among rural poor in respectto enhance their livelihood security. It could be helped to increased income of the beneficiaries that used to daily expenditure and created both individual and community assets. It also influenced on health, education and sanitation which under the swacchabharath. The proper understanding of the programme may cause for utilization among rural dwellers. Hence there is a need to create more awareness about rural development programmes throughout rural India to achieve the expected goal.

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