

MGNREGA impact on income and employment of Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes: A study in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the rural households and can provide the basis of permanent social security system and even act as an instrument for planned and equitable rural development. The provisions of the MGNREGA will be implemented at the state level through the State Employment Guarantee Council which will be the nodal agency to monitor and review the implementation of the Act at the state level. This study examines the role and significance of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and its impact of the income and employment generation on the beneficiaries in study area during the period of 2014-15. The Government of India made a commitment that would immediately enact an employment Guarantee Act. The draft proposed by the National Advisory Council (NAC) envisaged legal guarantee to every household in rural areas for 100 days for doing casual manual work. The Chittoor district is one of the drought prone districts in Andhra Pradesh. The weaker sections such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are not provided with minimum working days under this programme as stipulated in the guidelines of the programme. In many cases, the works are not provided to the workers in time. Middleman/supervisors play a dominant role and the nature of exploitation is one of the major constraints in the implementation of the programme involved, setting aside the very purpose of the programme. Worst sufferers are the SC/ST people because of their weak social-economic bottlenecks. Hence, there is an urgent need to evaluate, this programme.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Income and Employment, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

1. Introduction

Most people will agree with Dandekar and Rath that the urban poor in India are largely the overflow of the rural poor into the urban areas. These migrants from the rural areas to cities could have crossed the poverty line, had industrial development in this country been sufficiently rapid to absorb them adequately in the modern manufacturing industries. But this was not to be. Some of the urban poor have enough in cities and have acquired distinct characteristics. However, the major causes of poverty in India are to be found in the socio-economic structure prevailing in the country side. It is this reason why major policy measures to remove poverty have been undertaken with a view to tackle rural poverty. To alleviate poverty and generate employment to the rural people, the Government launched a good number of anti-poverty programmes.

The MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the rural households and can provide the basis of permanent social security system and even act as an instrument for planned and equitable rural development. The provisions of the MGNREGA will be implemented at the state level through the State Employment Guarantee Council which will be the nodal agency to monitor and review the implementation of the Act at the state level. This study examines the role and significance of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and its impact of the income and employment generation on the beneficiaries in study area during the period of 2014-15.

2. Scope of the study

The Chittoor district is one of the drought prone districts in Andhra Pradesh. The total population of the district is 41,74,064 of which SC population is 7,85,760 (18.8 per cent) and ST

population 1,59,165 (3.8 per cent), 69,145 households have been benefited under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Many studies revealed that there are many irregularities found in the implementation of the programme. The weaker sections such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are not provided with minimum working days under this programme as stipulated in the guidelines of the programme.

In many cases, the works are not provided to the workers in time. Contractors play a dominant role and the nature of exploitation is one of the major constraints in the implementation of the programme involved, setting aside the very purpose of the programme. There is no people's participation in decision-making, supervision of funds. Now the Government is providing only cash as wages instead of food-grains. The workers have been receiving their wages under this programme through post-offices in order to avoid the irregularities in payment. Worst sufferers are the S.C/S.T people because of their weak social-economic bottlenecks. The social accounting has become nominal in many places. And there are a number of such cases. Hence, there is an urgent need to evaluate, this programme. This study examines the role and significance of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and its impact of the income and employment generation on the beneficiaries in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

3. Objective of the study

The main objective of this paper is to assess the impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on income and employment generation of the sample beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with regard to SC and ST population.

4. Results and discussions

From the table-1, explores SC and ST beneficiaries of MGNREGA in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. According to the government of Andhra Pradesh report, the total number of household's employment provided through MGNREGA noted 186372 households during 2015-16, from these 7689 (4.13 per cent) households belongs to ST community and 61456 (32.97 per cent) households belongs to SC community.

From the data the man days of all communities through MGNREGA were recorded averagely 110.82 man days of all communities, of these ST community man days were recorded averagely 4.17 man days and SC community man days were recorded averagely 34.85 days generated respectively. About the SC and ST households of Chittoor district with regard to MGNREGA particulars were presented in table-1.

Table 1: SC and ST beneficiaries of MGNREGA in Chittoor district during 2015-16

Particulars	ST Beneficiaries	SC Beneficiaries
Total No. of HHs Employment Provided (all castes)	186372	186372
Total No. of HHs Employment Provided	7689	61456
% of HHs Employment Provided	4.13	32.97
Total Man Days Generated (all casts)	110.82	110.82
Total Man Days Created	4.17	34.85
% of Man Days Generated	3.76	31.44
Total Wages Paid b (all castes)	15612.96	15612.96
Total Wages Paid	588.23	4618.69
% of Wages Paid	3.77	29.58
Total No. of LDP acres taken up (in progress) (all castes)	65630.08	65630.08
Total No. of acres taken up (in progress)	3222.49	16510.59
% of acres taken up	4.91	25.16
Total Expenditure on LDPs (all castes)	4581.55	4581.55
Total Expenditure on lands in LDP	47.46	295.24
% of Expenditure on lands in LDP	1.04	6.44

Source: <http://www.nrega.ap.gov.in>

4.1 Income of the sample Respondents

Income is one of the most important indicators to measure the status in the society. A comparative picture of the levels of income among the sample respondents is presented in table-2. Income is very essential for the sustenance of life and higher the income, higher will be facilities, is ensuring a comfortable life. Average income of the respondents in the sample divisions respectively.

Table 2: Average Income of Respondents in the Sample Divisions (in Rupees)

S. No.	Division	Beneficiaries	Non- Beneficiaries
1	Tirupati	15,450	12,450
2	Chittoor	13,950	11,550
3	Madanapalle	16,420	12,860
	Total	15,273	12,286

Source: Field survey 20014-15.

On the whole, in Chittoor district average annual income of the beneficiaries is Rs.15, 273 and whereas average annual income of the non-beneficiaries is Rs.12, 286 respectively. In Tirupati division, the average annual income of beneficiaries is Rs. 15,450, whereas in the case of non-beneficiaries the average annual income is Rs. 12,450. In Chittoor division, the annual income of the beneficiaries is Rs. 13,950 whereas in the case of non-beneficiaries the average annual income is Rs. 11,550. In Madanapalle division, the average annual income of beneficiaries is Rs. 16,420, whereas in the case of non-beneficiaries the average annual income is Rs. 12,860 respectively. The comparison of the three divisions, the highest average annual income of the beneficiaries was registered in Madanapalle division, followed by Tirupati and Chittoor divisions. As the average income of the sample non-beneficiaries is comparatively less than that of sample beneficiaries, the implementation of MGNREGA works is the need of the hour for generating employment opportunities to them and enabling them raise their income levels.

Table 3: Average Income of the Sample Respondents by Caste-Wise (in rupees)

S. No.	Caste	Beneficiaries (per year)	Non- Beneficiaries (per year)
1	Scheduled Castes	14,265	11,265
2	Scheduled Tribes	13,550	10,250
3	Back ward Castes	25,650	19,950
4	Other Castes	20,350	19,480
	Total average	18454	15236

Source: Field survey 2014-15.

Average income of the sample respondent by caste-wise in the sample Divisions are presented in table-3. The beneficiaries average annual income of sample respondents of Scheduled Caste is Rs. 14,265 and for non- beneficiaries, it is Rs. 11,265. The category of Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries is Rs. 13,550

and non-beneficiaries' Rs.10, 250. Those in the category of Backward Castes registered highest average income i.e., Rs.25, 650, followed by those in the category of 'other castes' (i.e., Rs.20, 350), Scheduled Tribes (i.e., Rs.13, 836) and Scheduled Castes (i.e., Rs.13, 342). While the sample

beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Backward Caste had highest average income. As they could set up small business undertake dairy (milk cows) goat and sheep rearing with the wage-incomes earned living employed in MGNREGA.

4.2 Average Expenditure of Sample Respondents

To assess the expenditure pattern of sample respondents, data were collected from the respondents and is presented in Table-4.

Table 4: Average Expenditure of Sample Respondents-by Sample Division-Wise (In rupees)

S. No.	Division	Beneficiaries	Non-Beneficiaries
1	Tirupati	28,550	25,850
2	Chittoor	26,660	23,560
3	Madanapalle	25,450	22,670
	Total Average	26,887	24,027

Source: Field survey 2014-15.

Table-4 reveals that in Tirupati division, the beneficiaries' average expenditure of sample respondent is Rs. 28,550. In Chittoor division, the annual average expenditure of the beneficiaries is Rs. 26,660 and it is Rs.23, 560 for non-beneficiaries. In Madanapalle division, the annual average expenditure of the beneficiaries is Rs. 25,450 and it is Rs.22, 670 for non-beneficiaries. It is observed that total average expenditure of sample beneficiaries is Rs. 19923.98 it is Rs. 16094.73 for non-beneficiaries. On the whole, the average expenditure incurred by the beneficiaries is more than non-beneficiaries because of the factors such as joint family system with its attendant responsibilities of caring the old people to do the people and children. From the data found that there is a significant variation among different divisions and between pre and post MGNREGA period with regard to the average expenditure of the sample respondents.

Table 6: Average Days of Employment of Sample Respondents by Caste-Wise (Man-days)

S. No.	Castes	Beneficiaries	Non-Beneficiaries
1	Scheduled Castes	250	249
2	Scheduled Tribes	196	176
3	Back ward Castes	269	212
4	Other Castes	275	226
	Total Average	247	216

Source: Field survey 2014-15.

From the table-6 it is found that the average number of days of employment of the sample respondents was high in the category of 'other castes' noted 275 man days, followed by 'Backward Castes' 269 man days, 'Scheduled Castes' 250 man days, and 'Scheduled Tribe' 196 man days, where as in non-beneficiaries the average number of man days of employment for 'Scheduled Castes' 249 man days, 'Scheduled Tribes' 176 man days, 'Backward castes' 212 man days and 'other castes' 226 man days. On the whole total average days of employment of beneficiaries are 247 man days and it is 216 man days for non-beneficiaries and also they are getting more employment than non-beneficiaries. From the results it is concluded that there is a significant difference between the caste categories with respect to average man days of employment of sample respondents.

Table 5: Average Expenditure of Sample Respondents by Caste-Wise (In rupees)

S. No.	Castes	Beneficiaries	Non-Beneficiaries
1	Scheduled Castes	21,768	16,550
2	Scheduled Tribes	19,155	18,006
3	Back ward Castes	25,462	16,450
4	Other Castes	29,019	28,690
	Total Average	23,851	19,924

Source: Field survey 2014-15.

Table-5 explore that the average expenditure incurred by the sample beneficiaries in the category of 'other castes' Rs.29,019 followed by Backward Castes accounts Rs.25,462, Scheduled Castes noted Rs.21,768 and 'Scheduled Tribes' recorded Rs.19,155 respectively. In the case of non-beneficiaries, in category of 'other castes' it is Rs.28,690 followed by Scheduled Tribes Rs.18,006, Scheduled Castes Rs.16550 and 'Backward Castes' Rs.16,450. It is estimated that total average expenditure of beneficiaries Rs.20273.26 and it is Rs.15654.10 for non-beneficiaries. The average expenditure incurred by to sample beneficiaries is comparatively more than that of the sample non-beneficiaries as they expended more on consumer goods, consumption of Cheap Liquor/Alcoholic beverages. The results implying that there is a significant difference between Caste categories with regard to the average expenditure incurred by them respectively

4.3 Employment Status of Sample Respondents

Employment is one of the prime sources of income and means of repaying debt. The average man days of employment during 2014-15 regarding to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are presented in tables-6 respectively.

5. Conclusions

The Chittoor district is one of the drought prone districts in Andhra Pradesh. The total population of the district is 41,74, 064 of which SC population is 7,85,760 (18.8 per cent) and ST population 1,59,165 (3.8 per cent), 69,145 households have been benefited under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Many studies revealed that there are many irregularities found in the implementation of the programme. The weaker sections such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are not provided with minimum working days under this programme as stipulated in the guidelines of the programme. The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on income and employment generation of the sample beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with regard to SC and STs respectively.

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