



## THE PERFORMANCE OF MNREGP IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT A CASE STUDY OF KRISHNARAJA NAGARA TALUK OF MYSORE DISTRICT.

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### **Abstract**

Rural Development Programme is aimed at implementing different programmes and schemes for economic and social development of people in rural areas with a view to increase the income level and quality of life of rural people. This programme has led to the rural infrastructural development which has its influence on social and economic conditions of rural masses. This paper explains the concept of and need for rural development. And also elaborate the performance of MNREGP in case study area. Importantly, this study tries to analysis the socio-economic status of workers of this rural development programme.

### **INTRODUCTION**

India's development is predicated on rural economic development because over 70 percent of Indians live in rural areas. Rural development aims at finding the ways to improve the rural lives with participation of the rural people themselves so as to meet the required need of the rural area. Panchayat Raj Department is responsible for the Rural Development, which is implemented of various Centrally-sponsored, State-funded, and Externally-aided schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, sanitation, capacity building, women's social and economic empowerment, Tsunami rehabilitation, apart from provision of basic amenities and services. Rural development has acquired special significance in the countries of the Third World. Since independence the Government of India has launched various programmes of 'planned change' encompassing social, economic and political processes. There are two approaches adopted by the government with regard to the patterns of development. These approaches are (a) the 'transformation' approach and (b) the 'improvement' approach. The 'transformation' approach attaches importance to a radical change in the existing system in terms of scale of operation, production techniques, and socio-legal reforms. Implementation of land reform measures comes within the purview of this approach. The 'improvement' approach seeks to bring about agricultural development within the existing peasant production system. It attaches importance to the programmes of rural development such as the Community Development Programme, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other programmes and agencies related to the process of development in rural India.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

1. Singh (1988) in his paper entitled "Socio-economic impact of Integrated Rural Development Programme on Weaker Sections in Punjab" has concluded that the Integrated Rural Development Programme is showing its impact on the weaker sections served by it. Those who could take advantage of the facilities (especially credit) were in better position to improve their socio-economic life than those who did not avail themselves of such facilities. Again, it was noticed that comparatively well-off sections of the community derived more benefits than the weaker sections from IRDP.
2. Srivastava and Singh (1987) have come to the conclusion based upon the Proceedings of Dialogical Session, 1985 that asset creation under NREP and RLEGP should have a long-term income-employment generation effort rather than taking up only short-term projects at ad hoc basis. Creation of durable assets for strengthening economic infrastructure in rural area may provide long-term income-employment generation effect. Similarly, asset creation in terms of a large number of irrigation work will improve agriculture and will reduce the risk involved in cultivation and will lead to greater labour absorption.
3. Shekhar (1987) a journalist states that an evaluation study of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the district of Hamirpur, H.P. has revealed that 49 per cent of the families covered under the programme have crossed the poverty line. The percentage of the scheduled castes families which have crossed the poverty line is 49.1 and for others it is 48.92.

The studies reviewed above are relating to macro level and they are not dealing with the micro level of study of recent rural development programmes like MNREGP and above studies not covered the socio-economic status of working people, hence I have interested to select this study.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To study the nature of MNREGP in rural development in general.

1. To analyse the role of MNREGP in rural development in particular – A case study of Krishnaraja Nagar taluk.
2. To understand the socio-economic status of workers of this programme.



## METHODOLOGY

The study conducted is analytical in nature aimed at finding out the nature, performance of MNREGP and further elaborate the socio-economic status of workers those who are working under this programme. The study is descriptive in nature. To conduct the study during 2013-2014 with a sample size of 100. It is mainly based on both primary and secondary data. Questionnaire has been used to collect primary data from employees working in MNREGP. And secondary data has been collected from official sites, books, different journals and articles.

## NEED FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Rural development** generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Rural development has traditionally centered on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. However, changes in global production networks and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. The need for rural communities to approach development from a wider perspective has created more focus on a broad range of development goals rather than merely creating incentive for agricultural or resource based businesses. Education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing rural regions. Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. In contrast to urban regions, which have many similarities, rural areas are highly distinctive from one another. For this reason there is a large variety of rural development approaches used globally. The outsider may not understand the setting, culture, language and other things prevalent in the local area. As such, general people themselves have to participate in their sustainable rural development. Since Fifth and Sixth plan the Government of India implemented the number of Rural Development Programmes in rural areas. Rural development programmes like NREP, RLEGP, JRY, PMRY, PMGSY, TRYSEM and others were promoted to create employment and income generation of rural people. These programmes have helped to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural people.

## ABOUT MNREGP

After the notification of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on September 7, 2005, a new scheme named “National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme(NREGP)” has been launched on February 2, 2006. The ongoing programmes Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana and National Food for Work Programme are being subsumed within the NREGP in the 200 districts identified in the initial stage. Last year it was extended to cover another 130 districts. Government has announced to cover all districts of the country under NREGP from the year 2008-2009. This programme was renamed as “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGP)” in 2009. This programme was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of un-skilled labourers of rural India. Around one-third of the stipulated work force is women. The MNREGP achieves twin objectives of rural development and employment which in turn leads to educational development of rural people. The MNREGP is stipulated to a set of specific rural development activities such as: water conservation and harvesting, a forestation, rural connectivity, flood control and protection such as construction and repair of embankments, etc. Digging of new tanks/ponds, percolation tanks and construction of small check dams are also given importance. The NREGA is an important step towards realisation of the right to work. It is expected to enhance people's livelihood security on a sustained basis, by developing economic and social infrastructure in rural areas. This work guarantee also serve other objectives: generating productive assets and skills thereby boosting the rural economy, protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural urban migration and fostering social equity, among others. The Act offers an opportunity to strengthen our democratic processes by entrusting principle role to Panchayats at all levels in its implementation and promises transparency through involvement of community at planning and monitoring stages.

### Progress at a glance 2012-13

Sr. No	Particulars	Status
1	Housesold registered	38,22,152
2	Job Cards issued	38,22,152
3	Demand for employment	7,17,108 households
4	Employment provided	7,08,977 households
5	Total person days generated (In Lakhs)	2,30,48,319
6	Works completed	30,144
7	Works in progress	80,287
8	Fund available in the year	64,263.06 Lakhs
9	Total expenditure	48,730.59 Lakhs

Sources: Commissioner ate of Rural Development, Govt. of India.



### CASE STUDY OF KRISHNARAJANAGAR TALUK OF MYSORE DISTRICT

Krishnarajanagara taluk is a taluk of Mysore district in Indian state of Karnataka. It was named after Krishnaraja Wodeyar; the maharaja of Mysore. Head Quarters is Krishnarajanagara town. It belongs to Mysore Division. It is located 37 KM towards west from District head quarters Mysore. 168 KM from State capital Bangalore towards East. Total population of Krishnarajanagara Taluk is 2,52,657, Spread across total 234 villages and 31 panchayats . Males are 1,26,539 and Females are 1,26,118. Krishnarajanagara is a Town Municipal Council city in district of Mysore, Karnataka. The Krishnarajanagara city is divided into 23 wards for which elections are held every 5 years. The Krishnarajanagara Town Municipal Council has population of 35,805 of which 17,900 are males while 17,905 are females as per report released by Census India 2011.

Taluk Name	Total Population	Male	Female
Krishnarajanagara( Total)	252657	126539	126118
Rural	216852	108639	108213
Urban	35805	17900	17905

Rural development programs are usually top-down from the local or regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, national governments or international development organizations. But then, local populations can also bring about endogenous initiatives for development.

#### Details of Job Cards and Workers Krishnarajanagar taluk. 2013-14

Number of Grama Panchtayaths	Total number of Job Cards	Total number of workers
31	30616	102205

#### Socio-Economic status of workers

##### Educational level of workers

Level of education	No. of workers	Percentage(%)
Up to 4 <sup>th</sup> std	26	52
5 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> std	12	24
8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> std	9	18
PU level	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table and picture clearly indicates that out of 50 respondents, 52 percent of the respondents belongs to lower primary school level, reason is that their parents not willing to send for further education in due to low level of income of their family, and their parents mainly depends on unskilled work. Around 42 percent of the respondents studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> std, only 6 percent respondents has studies PU. But no worker having any graduation education among 50 respondents.

#### Age level of workers

Age	No. of workers	Percentage (%)
18 to 25	8	16
25 to 35	17	34
35 to 45	19	38
Above 45	6	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Above table depicts that out of 50 respondents majority belongs to age group of 35-45 years, around 38 percent and 34 percent of people belongs to 25 to 35years age group. Totally 72 percent of workers belongs to 25 to 45 years of age group, they have only primary education. activities. And 12 percent of the lowest respondents belong to above 45 age group.

#### Income level of workers

No. of workers	Income level ( Annual)	Percentage (%)
3000 to 5000	12	24
5000 to 8000	22	44
8000 to 12000	10	20
12000 to 15000	6	12

he above table shows that 44 percent of workers have income between Rs 5000-8000, 24 percent of people belongs to income slab of Rs 3000-5000. But only 12 percent of workers have income level between Rs 12000-15000. This data indicate that economically backward people indulge in work under this MNREGP.



#### Caste element of workers

Different caste	No. of workers	Percentage
General	8	16
OBC	21	48
SC	14	28
ST	7	14

The table shows category of the respondents out of 50 respondents, majority belongs to OBC category that is 48 percent. Among them secured primary and secondary education. Similarly 28 percent of workers belong to SC group and 14 percent of people come from ST category. But only 16 percent of workers belong to General category. Some general category workers secured PU level education.

#### FINDINGS

1. According to the opinions of people of the study area, MNREGP is very much helpful to the unskilled people.
2. Majority of the workers do not know the rules, regulations and instructions of this scheme. At the sometime they are aware of wage level, man days due to their low educational status.
3. People with primary education, that is around 52 percent of workers are involved in this programme.
4. Around 72 percent of workers belong to age group between 25 to 45. Thus youth workers (between 18 to 25 ) are very meager.
5. Less income group of people are working in this programme, that is 44 percent of workers belongs to income slab of Rs 5000 to 8000. Similarly, only 12 percent of workers having income of RS 12000 to 15000.
6. Majority of 48 percent of workers belongs to Other backward Community (OBC) group, 42 percent of people come from SC and ST groups. Only 16 percent of workers from General Category are involved in this employment generation programme.

#### SUGGESTIONS

1. Wage level has to be increased to enhance the standard of living of the people of study area.
2. The Government should increase the man days from 100 days to atleast 200 days.
3. The programme should attract people of various categories.
4. This programme fails to attract the young age group of people; So Government should undertake various attractive developmental activities to MNREGP.
5. Government should undertake measures to make rules, regulations, facilities and other related information of this scheme reachable to all working masses.

#### CONCLUSION

The present strategy of rural development mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment. The NREGA ranks among the most powerful initiatives ever undertaken for transformation of rural livelihoods in India. The programme is instrumental in raising the standard of living of the rural. In fact many of the developed countries have very active rural development programmes. The main aim of the rural government policy is to develop the undeveloped villages.

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