



TRAJECTORY OF SOME MGNREGA ACTIVITIES: A STUDY IN NAGAON AND MORIGAON DISTRICTS, ASSAM.

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Abstract

This paper aims at investigating into Trajectory of some MGNREGA activities in two districts of Assam. The aspects to be undertaken include Government Expenditure, Households engaged (Job cards), person- days, works completed and their distributions across social classification and blocks and over gender.

Key Words: MGNREGA, Person- Days.

1. Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme that was notified on 7 September, 2005. The Act came into force on 2nd February, 2006. It is the biggest employment providing programme ever started in a country for the development of its rural areas. The main objective of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to participate in unskilled manual work. This Scheme is different from the earlier employment programmes launched by the Government of India.

The Act is an important step towards realization of the right to work and aims at arresting emigration of rural household in search of employment simultaneously enhancing people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas. In order to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi dream of "Gram Swaraj" and also to create the sense of morality among all the stake holders of the scheme, the Government of India renamed the scheme as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2009 expecting a better implementation of the scheme. This scheme is on one hand demand-driven and on the other, treats employment as a right of the rural households. Thus, the scheme provides income directly to the unskilled workers in the rural areas.

The MGNREGA has shown a significant improvement in different aspects. The number of households associated with MGNREGA works has been increasing consistently, the number of days for which employment has been provided have also increased. Another important aspect of MGNREGS is the increasing participation of women in it. It not only provides employment to them but by giving wage rate equal to that of a man, it has empowered the women economically as well as socially.

The first phase of MGNREGA was started on February 2, 2006 in 200 districts of the country including seven districts of Assam. In the year 2007, the second phase of NREGA had started where five districts of Assam were also included. The third phase started on April 1, 2008 where remaining 15 districts of Assam came under the purview of the Act. Hence, at present all the districts of Assam are implementing the scheme of MGNREGA. On March 31, 2013 Assam completed seventh year of MGNREGA implementation.

MGNREGA has emerged as a very prominent area of interest among the academicians of the country and the world and a lot of studies have been taken up to explore analysis and discuss the various facts of the activities and its stages of implementations.

The scheme had raised high expectations even before inception particularly for its potential to protect rural households from poverty and hunger, reduce rural-urban migration, as well as being instrumental in creating useful assets in rural areas.

The present work is carried out in the lines of (Sing, 2013), (Das, 2013), (Kadrolkar, 2012) and (Das, 2012).

MGNREGA Activities

The major activities have been carried out in Nagaon and Morigaon districts under MGNREGA are rural connectivity, flood control, water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation, micro irrigation, provision of irrigation facility to land development, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development, any other activity approved by MRD and work under Bharat Nirman. Among all the programmes, the scheme rural connectivity got top priority. It may be happened due to the prevailing poor road connectivity in the villages of two districts.



2. Objectives

Objectives of the study under taken go as:

- Trajectory of growth of the aspects such as Government expenditure, household engaged (job cards), person days and their distributions across social composition and block and over gender.
- An insight into the NREGA activities and employment status that have taken place.
- A Comparative study of these aspects would be made in two districts Nagaon and Morigaon.

3. Source of Data

Data used under this study is of secondary in nature. The data are collected from District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon and Morigaon Districts from the year 2007 onwards.

4. Methodology

Trajectories of different aspects of MGNREGA such as job cards issued and jobs provided by the card holders, employment generated, Government expenditures, person days, Wage, etc. across social compositions, gender have been empirically examined. Descriptive, Graphic details and curve fitting have been used in the study.

5. Results and Analysis

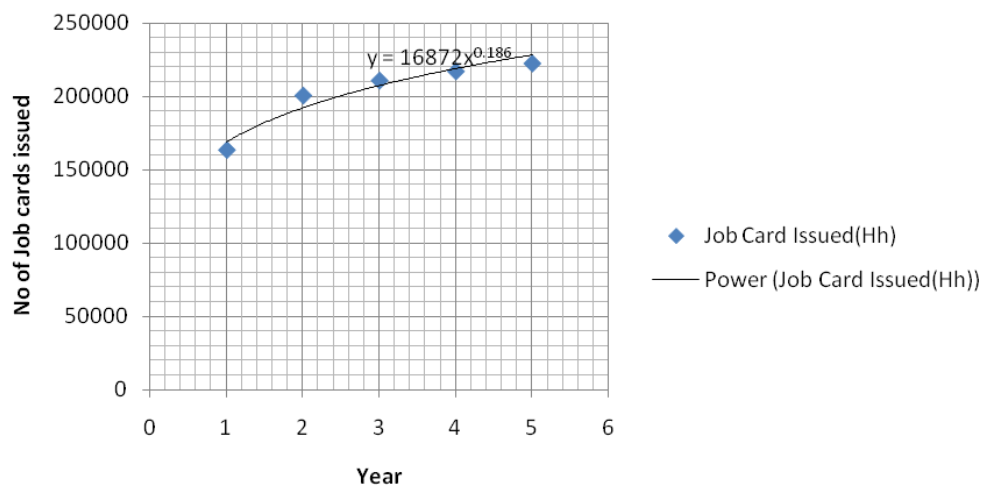
5.1 Job Card Issued: Job cards issued across social compositions in Nagaon District under MGNREGA is presented in a tabular form in Table 5.1.1. These are expressed in the form of share in angle and in percentage (Relative frequency). The social compositions are SC, ST and Others and cards issued are spread over the years 2008-09 to 2012-13. So far as share in Job card issued is concerned, ST sharing is about 10% (9.68% to 10.46%) while in case of SC ranges of share is between 11.70% to 16.78%. In case of others category range in share varies from 73.05% to 77.83% over the implementation periods.

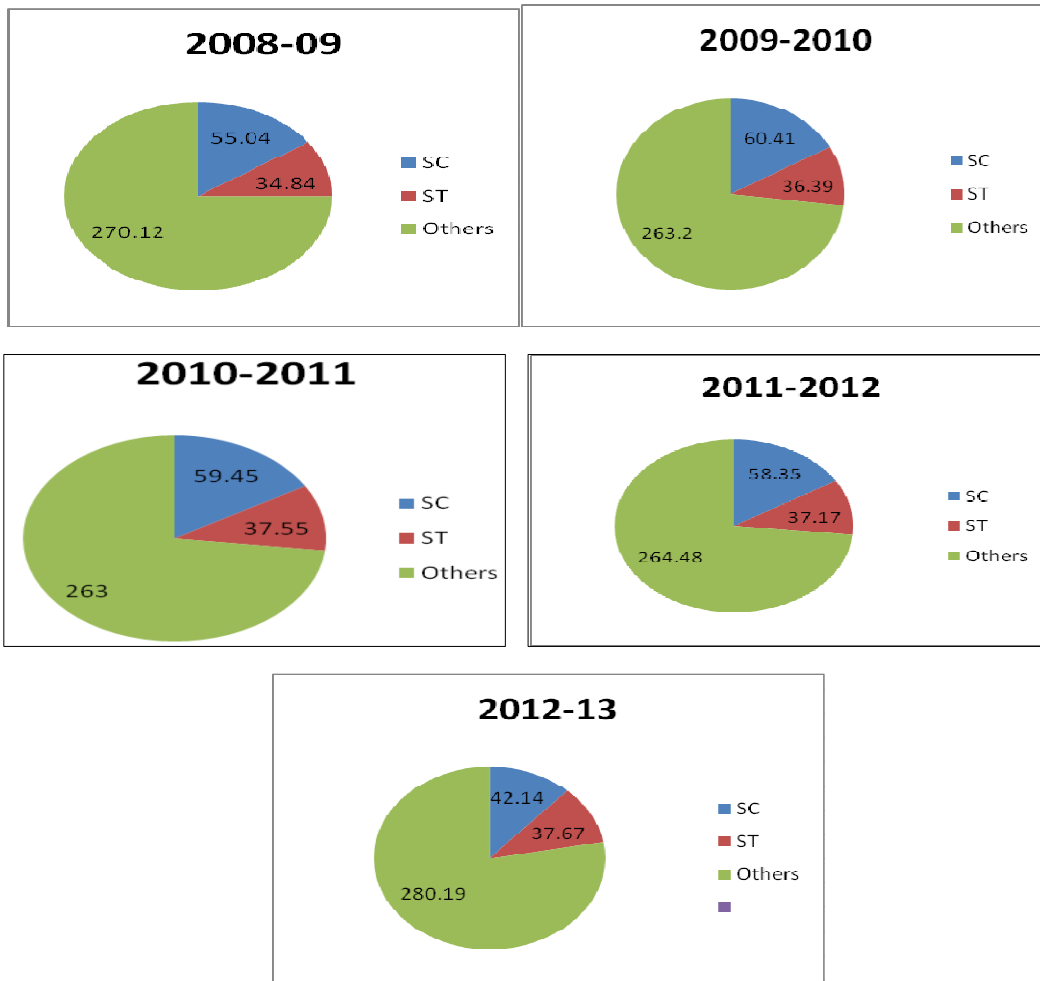
Table 5.1.1: Job Cards Issued Across Social Compositions in Nagaon District

Year	Job cards issued for SC	Job cards issued for ST	Job cards issued for Others	Total No. of job cards issued	Relative Frequency			Share in Percentage (%)		
					SC	ST	Others	SC	ST	Others
2008-09	25047	15855	122924	163826	0.153	0.097	0.750	15.29	9.68	75.03
2009-10	33676	20285	146714	200675	0.168	0.101	0.731	16.78	10.11	73.11
2010-11	34813	21992	154013	210818	0.165	0.104	0.731	16.51	10.43	73.05
2011-12	35181	22413	159462	217056	0.162	0.103	0.735	16.21	10.33	73.47
2012-13	26033	23273	173112	222418	0.117	0.105	0.778	11.70	10.46	77.83

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon District

The curve derived is $y = 16872 t^{0.1869}$, which corroborates the scatter plot. Sharing of Job cards is displayed in the Pie diagram:





Job cards issued across social compositions in Morigaon District under MGNREGA are presented in a tabular form in Table 5.1.2. These are expressed in the form of share in angle and in percentage (Relative frequency).

The social compositions are SC, ST and Others and cards issued are spread over the years 2007-08 to 2012-13. So far as share in Job card issued is concerned, ST sharing is about 17% (16.77% to 17.96%) while in case of SC ranges of share is between 12.84% to 14.21%. In case of others category range in share varies from 67.83% to 70.39% over the implementation periods.

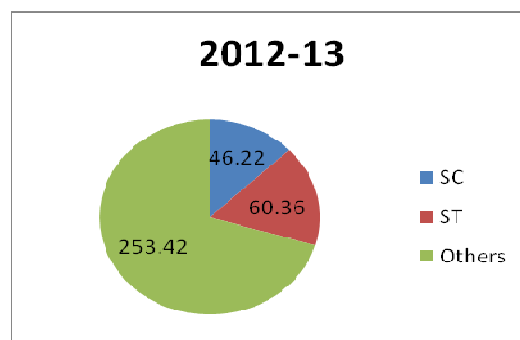
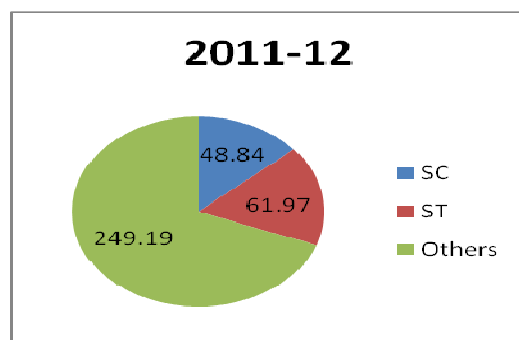
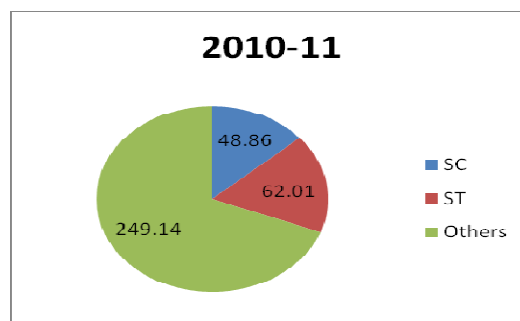
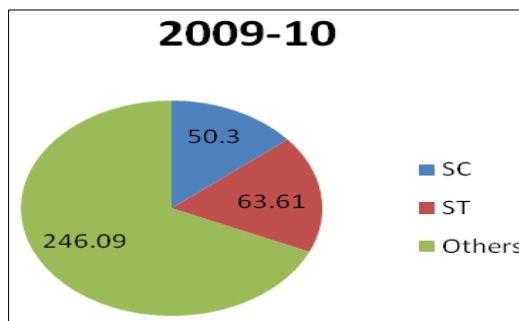
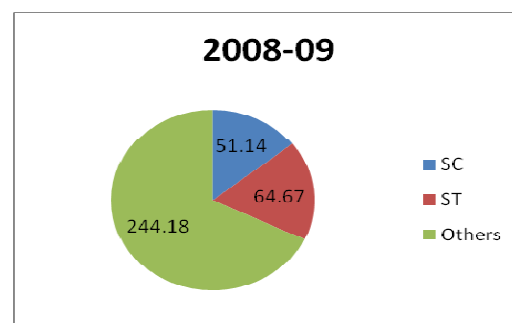
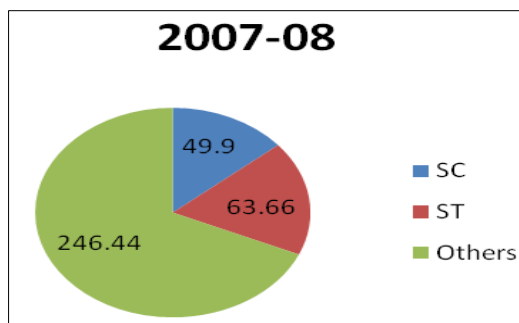
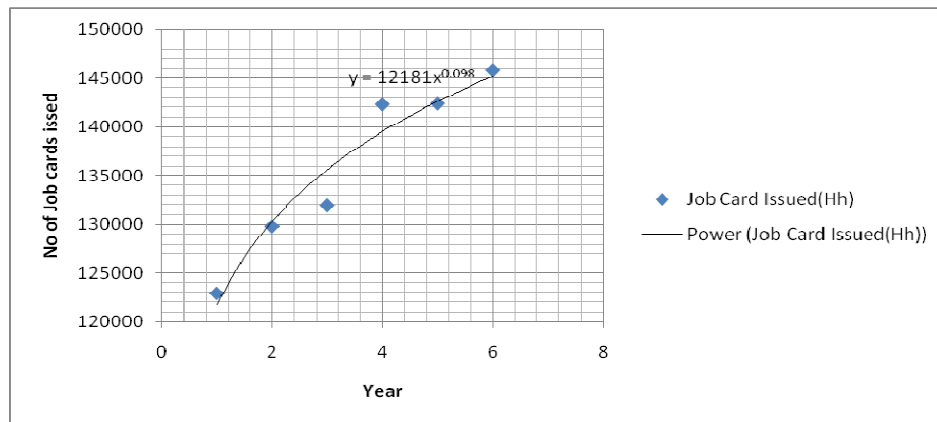
Table 5.1.2: Job Cards Issued Across Social Compositions in Morigaon District

Year	Job cards issued for SC	Job cards issued for ST	Job cards issued for Others	Total No. of job cards issued	Relative Frequency			Share in Percentage (%)		
					SC	ST	Others	SC	ST	Others
2007-08	17039	21737	84147	122923	0.139	0.177	0.685	13.86	17.68	68.46
2008-09	18440	23317	88040	129797	0.142	0.180	0.678	14.21	17.96	67.83
2009-10	18440	23317	90211	131968	0.140	0.177	0.684	13.97	17.67	68.36
2010-11	19318	24517	98507	142342	0.136	0.172	0.692	13.57	17.22	69.20
2011-12	19321	24517	98584	142422	0.136	0.172	0.692	13.57	17.21	69.22
2012-13	18727	24458	102680	145865	0.128	0.168	0.704	12.84	16.77	70.39

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Morigaon District



The curve derived is $y=12181t^{0.098}$, which corroborates the scatter plot. Sharing of Job cards is displayed in the Pie diagram:



5.2 Jobs Provided (Person Days Generated): Person days generated/ Jobs provided across social compositions and gender over the period under study in Nagaon district is exhibited in the Table 5.2.1. Person days for SC appear to range from 9.79% to 26.86% that for ST ranges from 6.84% to 22.63%, while in case of others it ranges from 50.51% to 82.91%. The person days generated are observed to be 81.96% and 82.91% in 2011-12 and 2012-13 in others- category. While considering the



person days over gender it is found that person days generated for women is found to be of not encouraging, as it ranges from 3.57% to 12.79% over the period. It indicates a poor women participation in the MGNREGA.

Table 5.2.1: Person Days Generated Over Social Composition and Gender in Nagaon District

Year	Total jobs provided	Jobs for SCs	% of Jobs for SCs	Jobs for STs	% of Jobs for STs	Jobs for Others	% of jobs for Others	Jobs for Women	% of jobs for Women
2008-09	1363600	222500	16.32	143800	10.55	997300	73.14	48700	3.57
2009-10	2282700	613200	26.86	516500	22.63	1153000	50.51	78200	3.43
2010-11	1674300	314000	18.75	340000	20.31	1020300	60.94	132000	7.88
2011-12	1885000	211000	11.19	129000	6.84	1545000	81.96	241000	12.79
2012-13	3096000	303000	9.79	226000	7.30	2567000	82.91	310000	10.01

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon District

Person days generated/ Jobs provided across social compositions and gender over the period under study in Morigaon district is exhibited in the Table 5.2.2. Person days for SC appear to range from 8.20% to 16.35% that for ST ranges from 9.24% to 19.98%, while in case of others it ranges from 64.79% to 82.56%. The person days generated are observed to be 80.20% and 82.56% in 2010-11 and 2011-12 in others- category. While considering the person days over gender it is found that person days generated for women is found to be ranges from 6.66% to 15.40% over the period, which is quite encouraging.

In Morigaon district female participation in MGNREGA is moderately high compared to Nagaon.

Table 5.2.2: Person Days Generated Over Social Composition and Gender in Morigaon District

Year	Total jobs provided	Jobs for SCs	% of Jobs for SCs	Jobs for STs	% of Jobs for STs	Jobs for Others	% of jobs for Others	Jobs for Women	% of jobs for Women
2007-08	2178758	304680	13.98	435403	19.98	1438675	66.03	331890	15.23
2008-09	2186320	357511	16.35	412276	18.86	1416533	64.79	291959	13.35
2009-10	2401981	260969	10.86	316682	13.18	1824330	75.95	247345	10.30
2010-11	2538420	234422	9.23	268212	10.57	2035786	80.20	169005	6.66
2011-12	2362430	193776	8.20	218343	9.24	1950311	82.56	363913	15.40
2012-13	2866474	305377	10.65	429022	14.97	2132075	74.38	393217	13.72

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Morigaon District

5.3 Employment Status: Considering the employment status under MGNREGA in Nagaon district, Table 5.3.1 is developed. From table we have seen that jobs demanded are equal to jobs provided by the MGNREGA in all the years. However, in regard to completion of 100 days by households is quite discouraging. In 2008-09 none completed 100 days while during 2009-10 to 2012-13 the percentages of completion of 100 days are very poor, they range from .07% to a maximum of 1.53%. In fine, the trajectory of completion of 100 days is not healthy.

Table 5.3.1: Employment Status under MGNREGA in Nagaon District

Year	Job Card Issued(Hh)	Jobs Demanded(Hh)	Jobs Provided(Hh)	100 Days Completed(Hh)	% of Completed 100 days(Hh)
2008-09	163826	84675	84657	0	0.00
2009-10	200675	140193	140193	93	0.07
2010-11	210818	125208	125208	115	0.09
2011-12	217056	122334	122334	339	0.28
2012-13	222418	218726	218726	3346	1.53

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon District

Hh: No of Household



Considering the employment status under MGNREGA in Morigaon district, Table 5.3.2 is developed. From table we have seen that jobs demanded are more or less equal to jobs provided by the MGNREGA in all the years. However, in regard to completion of 100 days by households is quite discouraging. During 2007-08 to 2012-13 the percentages of completion of 100 days are very poor; they range from 0.23% to a maximum of 1.97%. In fine, the trajectory of completion of 100 days is not healthy. However the performance in Morigaon is higher to a fault than that of Nagaon.

5.3.2: Employment Status under MGNREGA in Morigaon District

Year	Job Card Issued(Hh)	Jobs Demanded(Hh)	Jobs Provided(Hh)	100 Days Completed(Hh)	% of Completed 100 days(Hh)
2007-08	122923	70322	68525	158	0.23
2008-09	129797	56357	56353	1110	1.97
2009-10	131968	65863	65864	778	1.18
2010-11	142342	77099	77099	557	0.72
2011-12	142422	73856	73856	783	1.06
2012-13	145865	83866	83866	1366	1.63

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Morigaon District
Hh: No of Household

5.4 Activities (completed) Under MGNREGA and Government Spending: Based on the activities completed under MGNREGA and the Government spending in Nagaon district Table 5.4.1 is prepared. It is observed that under MGNREGA Government has given higher emphasis on rural connectivity (Activity 1). Government spending on Activity1 ranges from 22.59% to 70.1%. In 2008-09, percentages of spending over the activities (Activity 1 to 9) are found to be 70.1% in Activity 1, 19.63% in Activity 4, 10.27% in Activity 8, while no spending was made in other activities. In 2009-10, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 69.67% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 0.33% in Activity 6. In 2010-11, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 43.57% in Activity1, while spending is minimum of 1% in Activity 4, while no spending was made in Activity 9. In 2011-12, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 42.26% in Activity 3, while spending is minimum of 1.34% in Activity 6. In 2012-13, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 35.06% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 0.07% in Activity 6.

Table 5.4.1: Activity under MGNREGA and Government Spending (Rs. In lakh) in Nagaon District

Activity	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	Govt. Spending	% of Spending	Govt. Spending	% of Spending	Govt. Spending	% of Spending	Govt. Spending	% of Spending	Govt. Spending	% of Spending
1	66.24	70.1	1083.67	69.67	401.67	43.57	301.72	22.59	822.17	35.06
2	0	0	104.55	6.72	196.16	21.28	78.6	5.89	134.4	5.73
3	0	0	100.75	6.48	118.81	12.89	564.4	42.26	224.73	9.58
4	18.55	19.63	61.95	3.98	9.25	1.00	172.5	12.92	408.3	17.41
5	0	0	24.4	1.57	29.95	3.25	94.65	7.09	110.32	4.70
6	0	0	5.2	0.33	9.84	1.07	17.92	1.34	1.6	0.07
7	0	0	90.64	5.83	65.08	7.06	43.1	3.23	117.8	5.02
8	9.7	10.27	74.04	4.76	91.09	9.88	43.08	3.23	510.45	21.77
9	0	0	10.25	0.66	0	0.00	19.53	1.46	15.1	0.64
Total	94.49		1555.45		921.85		1335.5		2344.87	

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Nagaon District



- Activity 1: Rural connectivity
- Activity 2: Flood control and protection
- Activity 3: Water conservation and water harvesting
- Activity 4: Drought proofing
- Activity 5: Micro irrigation works
- Activity 6: Provision of irrigation facility to land owned
- Activity 7: Renovation of traditional water bodies
- Activity 8: Land development
- Activity 9: Any other activity approved by MRD

Based on the activities completed under MGNREGA and the Government spending in Morigaon district Table 5.4.2 is prepared. It is observed that under MGNREGA Government has given higher emphasis on rural connectivity (Activity 1). Government spending on Activity1 ranges from 40.60% to 64.28%. In 2007-08, percentages of spending over the activities (Activity 1 to 9) are found to be 44.59% in Activity 1, 16.62% in Activity 2, 7.56% in Activity 3, 3.76% in Activity 4, 4.20% in Activity 5, 7.81% in Activity 7, 15.14% in Activity 8, 0.32% in Activity 9, while no spending was made in activity 6. In 2008-09, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 54.70% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 2.09% in Activity 3, while no spending was made in Activity 9. In 2009-10, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 64.28% in Activity1, while spending is minimum of 0.22% in Activity 6, while no spending was made in Activity 9. In 2010-11, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 51.07% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 0.19% in Activity 6, while no spending was made in Activity 9. In 2011-12, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 40.72% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 0.13% in Activity 7, while no spending was made in Activity 9.

In 2012-0913, percentages of spending over the Activities are found to be maximum of 40.60% in Activity 1, while spending is minimum of 0.30% in Activity 7, while no spending was made in Activity 3.

So far as Activities under MGNREGA are concerned Government spending in Morigaon district is found to be higher than that Nagaon. Both the Administrations of the district are found engage in giving more emphasis on rural connectivity.

Table: 5.4.2: Activity under MGNREGA and Government Spending (Rs. In lakh) in Morigaon District

Activity	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	Govt.Spending	% of Spending	Govt.Spending	% of Spending	Govt.Spending	% of Spending	Govt.Spending	% of Spending	Govt.Spending	% of Spending	Govt. Spending	% of Spending
1	872.83	44.59	1033.17	54.70	2019.6	64.28	1728.73	51.07	1519.44	40.72	1014.52	40.60
2	325.37	16.62	311.68	16.50	119.14	3.79	102.02	3.01	76.39	2.05	27.2	1.09
3	148	7.56	39.47	2.09	137.99	4.39	154.61	4.57	173.63	4.65	0.11	0.00
4	73.59	3.76	97.71	5.17	85.06	2.71	58.24	1.72	125.16	3.35	206.6	8.27
5	82.26	4.20	122.09	6.46	129.83	4.13	104.76	3.09	23.42	0.63	33.21	1.33
6	0	0.00	0	0.00	6.97	0.22	6.5	0.19	308.76	8.27	26.6	1.06
7	152.82	7.81	46.81	2.48	37.97	1.21	23.33	0.69	4.95	0.13	7.53	0.30
8	296.44	15.14	237.89	12.59	605.5	19.27	1207.1	35.66	1500.02	40.2	742.95	29.73
9	6.33	0.32	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	440	17.61
Total	1957.6		1888.82		3142.1		3385.29		3731.7		2498.72	

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Morigaon District

6. Conclusion

The conclusions that may be drawn from the study go as follows:

- There is a good amount of parity between jobs demanded and jobs provided. This is observed in both the districts.



- Percentages of jobs provided to SC in Morigaon district (Morigaon is SC & ST population dominated district) ranges from 8.20% to 16.35%, while in Nagaon the range starts from 9.79% to 26.86%.
- In case of ST percentages of jobs provided ranges from 9.24% to 19.98% in Morigaon district, while in Nagaon it ranges from 6.84% to 22.63%.
- As regards, jobs provided to others in Morigaon district it ranges from 64.79% to 82.56%. On the other hand, in Nagaon it ranges from 50.91% to 81.96%.
- Number of jobs provided to women in Morigaon district is higher than that of Nagaon.
- In regard to employment status, performance in completing 100 days is dismal in figure. Percentage of completed 100 days starts from 0.07% to a maximum of 1.3% in Nagaon, while the very figure starts from 0.23% to a maximum of 1.97% in Morigaon.

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