



IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RURAL WORKERS IN ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT

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Abstract

Development is a subjective and value-loaded concept and, hence, there cannot be a consensus as to its meaning. The term is used differently in diverse contexts. It basically means 'unfolding' revealing or 'opening up' something which is talent. When applied to human beings, it therefore means unfolding or opening up their potential powers. Generally speaking the term development implies a change that is desirable. Since what is durable at a particular time, place and in a particular culture may not be desirable at other places or at other times at the same place and in the same culture milieu. It is impossible to think of a universally acceptable definition of development. But, generally speaking, development could be conceptualized as a set or vector of desirable societal objectives or development index, which does not decrease over time. Development is cherished by all individuals, communities and nations, irrespective of their culture, religion and special location. According to all issues, the government have been implementing various schemes for development of rural people especially in better policy like MGNREGS. Hence, the present paper highlights the impact of MGNREGS on economic conditions of the rural poor in Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: *Economic Development, MGNREGS and Rural Poor.*

Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a social and economic security for the rural poor. In August 2005, the Indian Parliament passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which provides for 100 days of guaranteed employment to every rural household. On February 2, 2006, amid great hype and hope, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) came into force in 200 of India's most backward districts. The NREGA is the first tangible commitment to the poor that they can expect to earn a living wage, without loss of dignity and demand this as a right. In 2007, it was extended to cover to all districts of rural India. Now the NREGA is in operation in the whole country. This is the largest ever public employment programme visualized in human history and flagship programme of UPA Government.

NREGA has placed a judicially enforceable obligation on the state. Under the provisions of the Act, State Governments are to provide unskilled, manual work within 15 days to a person making an application, within a radius of 5 kms from the applicant's residence. Failing this, the state government is to provide an unemployment allowance. Workers are entitled to a statutory minimum wage for their labour, to be paid within 7 days after the work is done. Men and women are to be paid equal wages. This Act is based on the principal of self-selection by focusing on unskilled, manual work.

In MGNREGA programme there are strong provisions for transparency and accountability at all levels. For instance, wages are to be paid in the presence of the community on pre-specified dates, all relevant documents are to be made available for public scrutiny and regular social audit of all works has to be conducted. NREGA, unlike other employment programmes, confers a right and an entitlement. There is a ban on the use of contractors, because, their participation was often associated with corruption in



food-for-work or other works programmes. Since the work has to be provided directly to the people by district authorities or by gram panchayats, it is easier to hold them to account.

It is the responsibility of the district authorities to register any household that wants work and issue them Job Cards in which details of the number of days of employment provided and payment made have to be entered. The names and photographs of every household member are to be on the Job Card and this Card is to be kept by the household. Massive campaigns and social mobilization efforts are made to inform people of their rights and entitlements under the Act.

Statement of the Problem

About 27 per cent of the country's rural population is poor as per the Planning Commission Report 1999-2000 for the poor in rural parts of the country, addressing their basic needs and livelihood is still an issue. Degradation of natural resources, deforestation, recurring droughts and calamities are threatening the livelihood of the poor laying tremendous pressure on their day-to-day survival. This is sometimes resulting in migration of poor from rural to urban areas increasing their risk. Keeping in view of this rural scenario, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was promulgated on September, 2005 by the government of India. Hence, the present paper highlights the impact of MGNREGA programme on economic conditions of the rural people in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Methodology

The methodological aspects of the study such as the area of the study, the universe of the sample, sources of data, analysis of data and the plan of the study have been hereunder.

Source of Data

The data of the study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources material related to the field are collected through interview schedule from sample beneficiaries relating to the implementation and eliciting their opinions on various aspects of the scheme in the district of Anantapuramu district of Rayalseema Region. Informal discussions were also made with the administrative officials who are linked with the programme on the practical problems being faced while implementation the programme.

Sample Design

The MGNREGS programme has been extended to all sections of the society irrespective of rural families' economic, social and political status. All the revenue villages, hamlets in the districts are covered by the programme. For collected study of the impact of the programme on beneficiaries, purposeful random sampling method was followed. For the collection of respondent's views and ideas on the impact of the MGNREGS scheme. In the first stage four Revenue divisions were selected from district. In second stage, one mandal were selected from each revenue division and third stage three revenue villages selected from each mandal. All together, 12 revenue villages were selected in four mandal and from each village 50 beneficiaries were selected based on random sampling. Thus, the total sample constitutes 600 beneficiaries.



Results and discussions

Table 1, Impact of MGNREGS on the conditions of house pattern.

| S.No | Type of House | Respondents | |
|------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Before | After |
| 1 | Kacha | 180(30.00) | 100(16.67) |
| 2 | Semi Pucca | 104(17.33) | 124(20.67) |
| 3 | Pucca under Government | 280(46.67) | 304(50.67) |
| 4 | Pucca Owned | 36(06.00) | 72(12.00) |
| | Total | 600(100) | 600(100) |

Source: Field Survey

The information relating to the impact of MGNREGS on the farm assets and households, durables across the respondents of the selected backward areas like Anantapuramu district of Rayalaseema region.

The impact of MGNREGS on the respondent’s farm assets is estimated by way of collecting information about the quantity and value of farm assets owned by the respondents before and after implementation of MGNREGS in the study area.

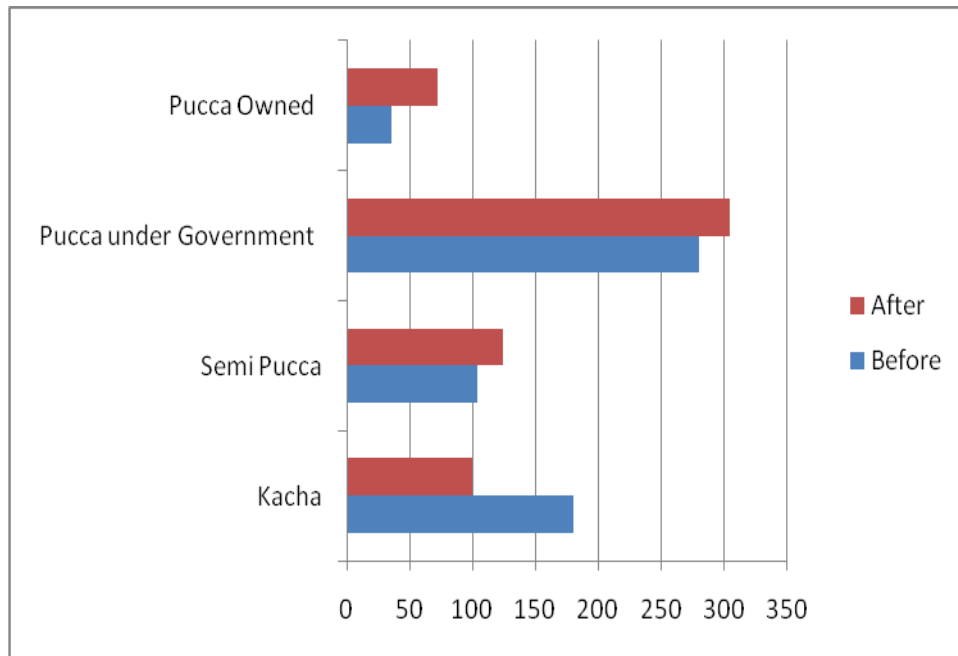


Fig.6.2

The statistical information regarding the net difference between the values of farm assets of the respondents reveals that much change is identified regarding their housing condition. It can be noticed from the table 1 that the impact of MGNREGS on the housing conditions of the respondents, the respondents it is found that a positive impact of MGNREGS on the housing conditions in the selected district.



Table 2, Impact of MGNREGS on the consumer durable goods of selected samples

| S.No | Particulars | Respondents | |
|------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Before | After |
| 1 | Television | 536(89.33) | 600(100) |
| 2 | Electrical goods | 48(8.00) | 120(20.00) |
| 3 | Fans | 576(96.00) | 600(100) |
| 4 | Motor cycles | 116(19.33) | 484(80.67) |
| 5 | Bullock carts | 64(10.67) | 88(14.67) |

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 depicts the impact of MGNREGS on the selected households in Anantapuramu district. It is found that, similarly in case of household durables, the respondents have after the implementation of MGNREGS is indicated a positive change across the respondents in the study area. The positive change is noticed too much extent regarding the durable items like motor cycle and electrical goods.

Table 3, Impact of MGNREGS on the farm of land of selected sample house holds

| S.No | Land particulars | Respondents | |
|------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Before | After |
| 1 | No land | 520(86.67) | 408(68.00) |
| 2 | <3 acres | 56(9.33) | 152(25.33) |
| 3 | 3-7 acres | 24(4.00) | 40(6.67) |
| | Total | 600(100) | 600(100) |

Source: Field Survey

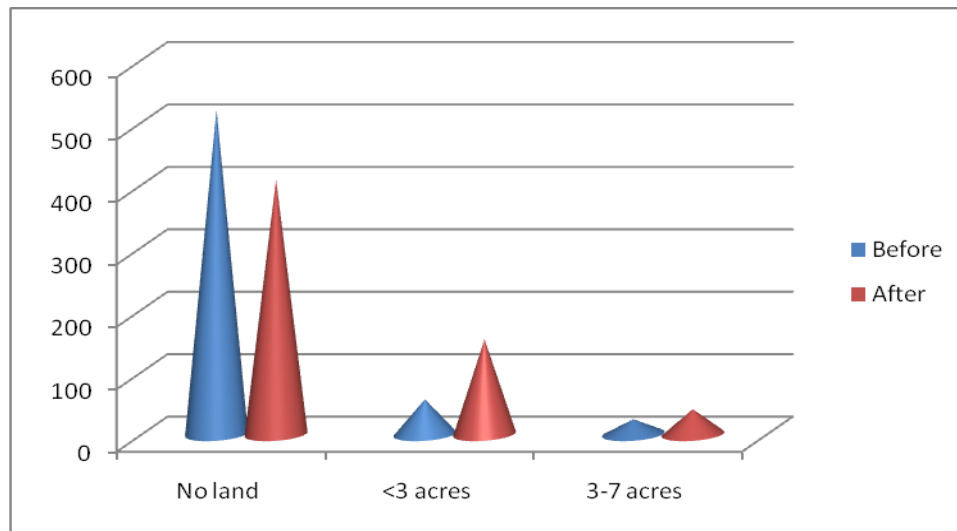


Fig 6.3

The impact of MGNREGS on the respondents' farm assets is estimated by way of collecting information about the quantity owned by the respondents before and after implementation of MGNREGS in the district. Table 3 shows that a positive increase of the fixed assets like land after implementation of MGNREGS programme.



Table 4, Satisfaction of the sample households on implementation of MGNREGS

| S.No | Opinion | No. of Respondents |
|------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Very Good | 448(74.67) |
| 2 | Good | 124(20.67) |
| 3 | Not-satisfaction | 28(4.66) |
| | Total | 600(100) |

Source: Field Survey

The statistical information relating to the respondent’s satisfaction about the implementation of the MGNREGS in the study area are presented in the table 4.

It is revealed from the table that, 74 per cent of the sample households opined that, MGNREGS programme is implemented very well by the government and 20 per cent of the MGNREGS labourers and they opined good only. Only 5 per cent of the sample respondents are not satisfied about that programme. The main reason for not satisfaction of MGNREGS workers for irregular payments and their measurement of work in the backward district like Anantapuramu.

Table 5, Impact of MGNREGS on awareness of sample household on different activities

| S.No | Particulars | Opinion | |
|------|--|----------------|----------------|
| | | Yes | No |
| 1 | Changes of food habits | 126 (21.00) | 474 (79.00) |
| 2 | Changes in dressing pattern | 96 (16.00) | 404 (84.00) |
| 3 | Awareness about diseases and health care | 378 (63.00) | 222 (37.00) |
| 4 | Aware of children’s education and its importance | 415 (69.17) | 185 (30.83) |

Source: Field Survey

The details of impact of MGNREGS on awareness of different activities in the Anantapuramu are presented in table 5. It shows that 21 per cent of the sample households have stated that change of food habits after the MGNREGS, 16 per cent of the MGNREGS workers change their dressing pattern, 63 per cent of the MGNREGS workers have aware about the diseases and health care, 69 per cent of the workers aware of children’s education and its importance because of their participation MGNREGS programmes. It can be concluded that the workers are concentrating on health and their children education.

Conclusions

The Government has been implementing various development programme for weaker sections in the society. Among these, MGNREGA programme have most appropriate to increase the income levels and reduce migration of rural people. It is also evidence that majority of the rural people have stated that their income levels and social status were increased after implementation of MGNREGS programme in the study area. Hence, the government will be increased man days for rural people.



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