



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KARNATAKA THROUGH MGNREGA – FROM 2006 TO 2015

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ABSTRACT

Women Empowerment deals with improvement or tremendous changes in the present position of women compared with earlier decades. The position and status of women all over the world has risen incredibly in the 21st century. We find that it has been very low in 18th and 19th centuries in India and elsewhere when they were treated like 'objects' that can be bought and sold. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. Their dependence on menfolk was total. A total struggle going back over a century has bought women the property rights, voting rights, equality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment. In addition to the above rights, in India, the customs of purdha (Veil System), female infanticide, child marriage, sati system, dowry system and the state of permanent widowhood were either totally removed or checked to an appreciable extent after independence through legislative measures. The concept of women empowerment got wider popularity and acceptance with launching of decentralized planning's in various places. Rural women are traditionally homebound; the employment guarantee act played a significant role for curbing gender discrimination and empowering rural women. The national rural employment guarantee act 2005 or NREGA was brought into force by the union government in February 2006 a different scheme for the betterment of women empowerment and development of rural population. The scheme is attractive especially for women because it stipulates that one third of the total workers should be women.

INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is one of the most progressive legislations enacted since independence. Its significance is evident from a variety of perspectives. First, it is a bold and unique experiment in the provision of rural employment – in India and indeed in the world at large. Second, it is the first expression of the right to work as an enforceable legal entitlement. In a country where labour is the only economic asset for millions of people, gainful employment is a prerequisite for the fulfillment of other basic rights – the right to life, the right to food, and the right to education.

Women Empowerment refers to increasing strength of individuals or communities in the different spheres of life such as economic, political, social, spiritual etc. It also refers to instilling confidence in people in their own capacities. Women's empowerment essentially refers to empowering women to change power relations between them and men in their favour. Women in general and women in developing countries in particular are observed to be lagging behind men in the different spheres of life such as, labour and employment, health and nutrition, education and skills, asset ownership, political and social participation etc., with the result that power of decision making in the multiple spheres of life lies more with men than with women.

On the economic front, women own no assets as compared to men. This restricts their access to credit, to technology, to markets and to upward mobility.

The government of India has implemented many welfare programs since the 1970s, and MGNREGA is the latest one, combining lessons and best practices. Given the program's large size, high costs, and potential to contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation, an assessment of where it is succeeding and failing is very important. I assess MGNREGA's design and implementation, problems, and whether it is achieving its objectives, using data

Provided by the Indian government and many reports and articles from experts on the subject.

OBJECTIVES OF MGNREGA are

- (1) To guarantee 100 days of work at the legal minimum wages to each household that demands work in rural India,
- (2) To generate productive assets in the economy and thereby enhance livelihoods of people and
- (3) To empower Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabha by ensuring their participation in the planning and implementation of MGNREGA, and thereby strengthen decentralized democracy.

MGNREGA in Karnataka

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was notified on September, 2005. The Act provides a legal Guarantee of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work at the minimum wage rate notified for agricultural labour prescribed in the State or else an unemployment

allowance.

The objective of the Act is to supplement wage employment opportunities in rural areas and in the process also build up durable assets. Government of Karnataka (Government of Karnataka) launched MGNREGS on February 2, 2006 in 13 districts of the state. The scheme was subsequently expanded to all the districts by April 2008.

Karnataka has entered into the seventh year of its implementation of MGNREGS. For effective implementation and greater transparency of the scheme, Government of Karnataka has made necessary changes, based on its experiences, within the purview of the Act. MGNREGS is in implementation in 21862 Gram Panchayats of 1098 mandals with 1.3 Crore registered rural households.

For ST households.

- 57.8 days of average employment provided per household
- Rs. 106.97 is the average wage rate
- Labour : Material ratio is 74:26
- No. of households completed 100 days: 10.5 lakh

Processes in the Implementation of MGNREGS-Karnataka.

Planning Process – Development Plan:

The objective of the planning process is to ensure that the district is prepared well in advance to offer productive employment on demand. The need to coordinate different levels of planning and to prepare a 'shelf of projects' to provide wage employment on demand requires preparation of an Annual Plan for the District. This is done before the commencement of the financial year so that the shelf in each GP is sufficient to meet the demand of wage seekers in the financial year.

Each GP will have a labour budget for the financial year to meet the demand of all wage seekers. Consequently, the Program Officer matches the demand for work for all the GPs in the Mandal with the employment opportunities arising from MGNREGS-AP projects. He/She prepares a plan for the Mandal by consolidating proposals of Gram Panchayats and Mandal Panchayats. Subsequently, The Mandal Panchayat approves and forwards the Mandal Plan to the Zilla Parishad. District Program Coordinator prepares 'labour budget' by the December end for the district.

Table – 1:- Women Performance through MGNREGA in Karnataka

Year	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of women participation
2006-07	1495193	1656354	3151547	53
2007-08	3403623	3986501	7390124	54
2008-09	4605587	5382659	9988246	54
2009-10	5259317	6206631	11465948	55
2010-11	5428102	6349942	11778044	55
2011-12	4108610	5003496	9112106	55
2012-13	4843485	5815743	10659228	55
2013-14	4950023	6052398	11002421	55
2014-15	5235930	6465096	11701026	55

METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING

The present study is focused in Karnataka state. Women Beneficiaries' participation under the MGNREGS with the covering of Karnataka State to study Women employment generation, asset creation and wage accruals in the community development by participating in the program at gross-root level. The study is based on primary and secondary data collected from MGNREGS Beneficiaries through the official website

FINDINGS

1. Socio-economic development benefits not effect to the Women Empowerment in expected rate.
2. Mostly of the rural Women's migrated, to urban areas with their Families and
3. There is no awareness among the women's about the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme and they unable to find it is as sort of right to get employment from officials by demand and 1/3 of employment reserved for women.
4. Below the minimum man days and wages according to the act at least 100 days of employment guaranteed in a financial year to every household, but women employment guaranteed 25-45 days of employment in every financial year (except 2009-10) for the first five years of the program. And also wage rate varies between 60 to 90 rupees it is below the minimum wage under the Act.

SUGGESTIONS

The following are the suggestions for making changes in the implementation of the programme:

1. The amount of employment provided by this scheme is limited in the agricultural sector. Some extent in agricultural sector, it is help to be growth rate on generation of employment and agricultural production in rural India.
2. There is need to motivate the small and marginal farmers to register under NREGA, so more projects may be started for the development of agricultural sector.
3. Social audit under MGNREGA should be strengthened. More creative useful of information technology should be made. This can greatly strengthen social audit and reduce chances of fraud and leakage.
4. Facilitate speedy registration, job card and application of programme for improvement of this scheme in prospect.
5. Allocation of fund for the purpose of promotion in a campaign made with the support from media and other agencies. It will be help to reduce corruption while the fund allocation.

OBSERVED CONCLUSION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), a scheme of Central government is unique in the sense that it provides adequate guarantee for the job. In this programme women are benefited most as a worker, than as a community. They are found to take this opportunity as freedom from their routine and tiresome family activities. Thus empowerment of women has emerged as an unintended consequence of MGNREGA. SHGs become a part of its successful implementation, which helped to increase the number of workers under this programme. Payment of wages through bank helps the workers to increase their deposits in the bank which helps the bank in financial inclusion process. Equal wages for men and women helps to reduce the gender inequality to some extent. And payment of unemployment allowances in the event that the local administration fails to provide work, is also an attracting feature of this programme. The old people, widows are the benefited group of this job. They get more respect from their family and society. The women become an earning member of the family. Therefore the programme benefited all the rural people and women especially. Overall, it brings women empowerment to a greater extent compared to earlier schemes and programmes introduced by the central and state government in India.

The subject of empowerment of women has becoming a burning issue all over the world including India since last few decades. Inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women have also been age-old issues all over the world. Thus, women's quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. This new phenomenon has also given economic power in the hands of women for which they were earlier totally dependent males. Economically independent women feel more confident about their personal lives.

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