

**Performance of MGNREGA in India:
A Case Study of Jalaun District, Uttar Pradesh
(SUMMARY)
DISSERTATION**

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Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) was launched in India during 2nd February, 2006. It is a social legislation that guarantees 100 days of employment to households in rural areas in one financial year. The main objective of MGNREGA is to provide wage employment and to protect rural households from poverty and hunger. The programme also aims at generating productive assets, protecting the environment, empowering women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity. In the first phase, it was introduced in 200 most backward districts in the country. Beginning on April 1, 2007, the second phase included another 130 districts. The third phase was launched on April 01 2008, and it extended to the remaining districts of India. Since then the MGNREGA Scheme has been in operation in all districts of the country. MGNREGA is, therefore, not just an employment scheme; it is a tool of economic and social change in rural areas.

Using both primary and secondary data, the presents study examines the provisions and implementation of MGNREGA in India. It also examines the availability and demand of Jobs under MGNREGA Act 2005 in Jalaun District. Further, the study explores the impact of MGNREGA on Socio-economic conditions of household in the selected district i.e. Jalaun.

The second chapter deals with the provisions and implementations of MGNREGA. The MGNREGA is being implemented at the Panchayat level, block level and at the district level. The basic motto of the programme is to reduce migration. Therefore, at the Panchayat level, the officials have to be proactive to implement the programme. The Gram Panchayat creates awareness generation among actual and prospective MGNREGA workers at the village level. The provisions of NREGA, registration, the issue of job card, demand for work, worksite facilities, payment of wages through Bank / Post Office and other rights of the job seekers are explained. Applications for registration and demand for work are also collected. Estimated cost of the work, the nature of the work, wage rate, wage payment schedule also explained by the officials at Gram Panchayats. Under MGNREGA, there is also a constitution of Social Audit Committee consisting of ten (10) members at the village level by the Palli Sabha. There is provision of election of President / Secretary by SA committee and formation of three

committees for verification of documents/inspection and field visit and muster rolls verification at the village.

Under MGNREGA, there are certain provisions at the worksite. These are; Facilities of shed, drinking water, first-aid box and crèche to be provided in all worksites ; Muster roll and job cards to be maintained every day in the worksite; Transparencies pillar/detailed worksite boards to be erected in each worksite before execution of work; Depute one woman worker to look after five or more children below the age of six years of women laborers; Wide publicity of the Social Audit calendar through the beat of drums, leaflets, advertisement through newspapers and website etc.

The financial outcome of MGNREGA has been examined for 18 major states. It has been found that that more developed states such as Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra received least fund compared to other less developed states. On the other hand, states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Jharkhand received highest fund on per capita basis. Almost similar trend is observed in case of expenditure under MGNREGA. According to the provision of MGNREGA, the percentage of wages should be more than the percentage of expenditure on materials. This would ensure sufficient employment to the unskilled workers. It has been seen that states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the proportion of expenditure on wages was highest. They also maintained maximum proportion in later years. States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, the proportion of expenditure on wages was lower. As far as types of work is concerned, road construction, agriculture and water bodies have received highest attentions in almost all states.

In the third chapter, the progress and implementation of MGNREGA has been examined by surveying 10 worksites in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. It examines the details of worksite regarding the types of work, facilities available at the worksite, types of labours working etc.

The findings reveal that majority of worksite have completed the work under MGNREGA. As high as 90 percent of the total work sites, the work is completed. Most of the facilities, as per the provision under MGNREGA are not found, except shades for rest. For about half of the worksites, labour materials are being provided. Majority of workers in the worksite belong to Scheduled Caste. About 82 percent workers belong to Scheduled Caste and 18 percent workers

belong to OBCs. No worker from Scheduled Tribe and General category is found. Female constituted only less than one-third of the total workers. Therefore, it has been seen that even if worksite facilities are lagging behind, it could solve the purpose of providing employment to the majority of households belonging to Scheduled Caste.

The fourth chapter analyzes the socio-economic characteristics of MGNREGA workers and studies the impact of MGNREGA on certain socio-economic characteristics like change in income and change in household assets using structured questionnaire of 100 households in Jalaun district. The chapter has been divided into three sections. First section studies the household particular like gender, social category etc. second section deals with socio-economic change characteristics of MGNREGA workers. And the third section examines the impact of MGNREGA.

The study finds that male workers cover 57.2 percent of selected samples of household and female worker participants under MGNREGA constitute only 42.8 percent of total workers. SCs category as it constitutes the 78 percent. OBCs category covers 21 percent and lowest distribution of population are found under the general category i.e. only 1 percent. Further, it has been revealed that majority of workers found under BPL category as it covers 63 percent of total households surveyed while Antyodaya category of households constitute around 36 percent of total selected samples. There is only one percent of total households comes under MGNREGA representing in APL category.

It has also been revealed households under MGNREGA scheme are not having good educational qualification level as most of the households found only in primary group as compared to other educational segments. As far as classification of workers is concerned, casual workers including both agriculture labour and non-agriculture labour and cultivator as occupational structure is in highest and it comprises of 35.2 percent of the total household member. Self-employment, constitute 14.3% workers and other categories including old age and disable constituted 6.5 percent of the total member. It thus reveals that majority of workers are casual workers and self-employed workers. As per the field survey, the rate of wages varies between Rs. 150 to Rs.

300/- per day. In the case of agricultural labour, the wages paid per day about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200. But in case of skilled workers in construction, wages varies between Rs. 200 to Rs. 300/- per day. Thus, it indicates huge shortages of unskilled employment in the study regions. MGNREGA, therefore, has a greater role to play to provide employment to their workers. As far as monthly consumption expenditure is concerned, about 98 percent households spend less than Rs. 4500 per month. This indicates almost all participants or beneficiaries in the present scheme i.e. the selected households of Jalaun district are poor.

The sources of awareness of the scheme in the district reveals that Gram Pradhan as a mean of spreading awareness is more effective. Second source is neighbors, from whom, only 6 percent households got awareness about the scheme. For about 60 percent households, it required one month to six months to obtain a job card. Only a few employments have been generated under the scheme. Around 53 percent of households worked for 1 to 15 days in a year. 21 percent of households worked for 16 to 30 days. Only 5 percent household worked about 31 to 45 days in a year. There is only 1 percent household who have worked 46 days and above in a year. It thus appears that the working days for majority of household are very small.

The impact of MGNREGA is seen by using three indicators: Firstly; perception of households on the changes in their income, secondly; changes in household asset and thirdly; improvement in the children education. It has been seen that nearly half of households' perceived that due to work in MGNREGA, their household income has improved. And, for 51 percent household, it did not have any impact. However, it seems that there are only little changes in the type of assets after MGNREGA. A change or improvement in assets seen in the case of Buffalo, (one) Cow (one) and TV/Radio (one). Therefore, though there is perception by about fifty percent households about improvement in income it did not reflect any significant changes in their household assets. A little above one-third household reported that education of children after MGNREGA has improved and 65 percent household said that MGNREGA did not have any impact on the improvement of children education.

Overall, it appears that MGNREGA did not have a significant impact on the improvement in the standard of living of the household selected. It has been reported that 90 percent households have demanded job under MGNREGA but all households did not get sufficient employment. Therefore, there are still greater roles to be played by MGNREGA scheme in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh as far as generating adequate employment and improvement in the standard of living of people is concerned.

Objective of the Study

- To analyse the provisions and implementation of MGNREGA in India.
- To examine the availability and demand of Jobs under MGNREGA Act 2005 in Jalaun District (Uttar Pradesh)
- To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the Socio-economic conditions of Household in Jalaun District (Uttar Pradesh)

Hypothesis

- The performance of MGNREGA is not Satisfactory in Jalaun District (Uttar Pradesh).
- MGNREGA is not sufficient to improve the Socio-economic conditions of Household in Jalaun District (Uttar Pradesh).

Research Methodology

The present study is based on both secondary and primary data. The primary data has been collected through detailed interview schedule. The study is based on 100 samples. The studies also collect from 10 worksites regarding the nature and progress of works. The purposive stratified simple random sampling has been used for data collection according to framed

objectives. The data has been collected from two villages with 100 sample households and ten worksites areas. Suitable statistical tools have been used for data analysis.

Significance of the study

MGNREGA gives a legal right to the poor to demand work and thereby transfers some power to the powerless at the bottom of the ladder. It will reduce distress migration, as workers are assured of the availability of work during the lean season, which in turn will improve the access of workers to education, health, and other welfare facilities. The guarantee of work can ensure asset generation, particularly ecological regeneration and infrastructure development in backward regions, both of which can promote economic growth.

Jalaun district is a poor district in Uttar Pradesh. The majority of the populations are depending on agriculture, MGNREGA could provide them employment and livelihood security if implemented properly. The study will focus whether MGNREGA is successful in the district or not. The study will provide suggestion to improve the social and economic status of people in Jalaun District of Uttar Pradesh.

Chapterisation

The whole study has been categorized under five chapters keeping in mind the predetermined objectives.

Chapter 1- Introduction

Chapter 2- MGNREGA Provision and Implementation

Chapter 3- Details of Worksite in Surveyed Region

Chapter 4- Socio-economic Status of Workers and Impact of MGNREGA

Chapter 5- Major Findings and Conclusion

Recommendations:

- ✓ The resource flow for MGNREGA scheme must be improved.
- ✓ The number of working days should also increase through better implementation of the programme specially in Jalaun district.
- ✓ The agricultural productivity should improve for enhancing the standard of living of the cultivators and agricultural labourers.
- ✓ More expenditure should be allocated for health and education for the poor.
- ✓ The implementing agencies must ensure that sufficient employment is generated in the poorer districts.

Limitation of the Study:

The present study is based on only 100 sample households. Therefore, with a few sample size it may not be logical to generalize the conclusion of the study.