

An Analytical study of Rural Development Schemes in Chhattisgarh: A case study of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)

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ABSTRACT

Rural Sector of India has long been a neglected sector in India. It has been suffering from poverty, lack of education and other socio economic backwardness symptoms. The GOI launched various rural development schemes to address this problem. One of the main focus areas has been generation of Employment at rural areas and with particular emphasis on Marginalised communities. To this effect MGNREGA 2005 was formulated and launched throughout the country. The paper studies the status of the MGNREGA in Chhattisgarh state for a period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 and makes suitable suggestion based on the observations and data gathered

Keywords: Rural Areas, MGNREGA, NREGA, Chhattisgarh, Employment

1.Introduction

India has a large population of people residing in rural areas. Their percentage to total population is about 70%. Indian rural populace is facing widespread poverty, un employment, lack of education, lack of proper infrastructure and Medical facilities. The socio-economic indicators show that rural areas are performing unfavourably in comparison to urban areas. However the problem of rural areas is not limited to the rural areas itself as the mass exodus from the rural areas has also led to burdening of social infrastructure of urban areas. of Therefore in order to correct this imbalance and to address the various socio economic problems that the government India has launched various schemes for rural development. The GOI has set up Department of Rural development Under Ministry of Rural development to Identify and launch various schemes for rural development. These schemes are expected to address the multidimensional aspects of various socioeconomic aspects of rural areas. These schemes prominently include

1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna - Gramin
2. DAY-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
3. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
5. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)
6. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005

Among many others.

Though the rural development has different facets to address yet in view of maintaining a focussed approach this paper has concentrated on the analysis of MGNREGA in Chhattisgarh and its trends and likely impact. The mandate

of the Act is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year (FY) to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The objectives of the programme include¹:

1. Ensuring social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India through providing employment opportunities,
2. Ensuring livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity,
3. Strengthening drought-proofing and flood management in rural India,
4. Aiding in the empowerment of the marginalised communities, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation,
5. Strengthening decentralised, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives,
6. Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs),
7. Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.

2.Coverage

The Act was notified in 200 rural districts in its first phase of implementation (with effect from 2 February 2006). In FY 2007–08, it was extended to an additional 130 rural districts. The remaining districts were notified under MGNREGA with effect from 1 April 2008. Since 2008, MGNREGA has covered the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred per cent urban population².

3.Research Methodology

The objectives of the paper are as following:-

1. To study the implementation of MGNREGA in Chhattisgarh.
2. To Obtain information on the achievements in terms of no. of working days generated under the MGNREGA
3. To obtain information regarding the state of participation of SC & St categories in the MGNREGA in the Chhattisgarh state.
4. To obtain information regarding the focus areas of different types of works undertaken to generate employment under the MGNREGA scheme in the Chhattisgarh state.
5. To make suitable suggestion for better implementation of the scheme with respect to above objectives in the state.

The paper covers a period from 2012-13 to 2016-17 and makes use of secondary data available from various government websites and its MIS reports to record observation and make analysis. It makes use of both national and state level data for this purpose

The table no. 1 reveals following facts:-

1. The Chhattisgarh state has done well with respect to work completion rate vis a vis the national work completion rate.

2. In the recent years we see that the work completion rate has shown a downward trend.
3. The Number of Gram panchayats with nil expenditure has come down significantly this means that now more gram panchayats are being covered and the benefit of the scheme is reaching to more people.
4. It is also clear that the in the recent years the percentage of expenditure against the available funds has shown in the recent years. This has happened to an extent that in the year 2016-17 the percentage was 103.79. Thus the expenditure on the various projects undertaken was more than the amount available to the state under the scheme.
5. The only down point shown by this table is that the state has always since the year 2013-14 paid a lower notional wage rate than that being paid at the national level

Table No.1 Showing Status of work completion, Expenditure and Notified wage rate under MGNREGA 2005

Year	Work Completion Rate		No. of GPs with Nil Expenditure	Percentage of Expenditure Against Available Funds	Notified Wage Rate	
	National	State			National	State
2012-13	98.1	99.69	1458	81.9	136.62	146
2013-14	97.07	99.34	1450	93.24	151.57	146
2014-15	95.35	99.12	1548	96.1	166.83	157
2015-16	77.2	85.41	496	97.5	177.68	159
2016-17	48.63	55.53	112	103.79	186.45	167
2017-18(18/02/2018)	12.4	17.89	85	101.28	191.53	172

Source : Compiled table from various MIS Graphs of <http://nrega.nic.in>

From the table no. 2 we can conclude that the Chhattisgarh state was much ahead of National average in the years 2012-13 to 2014-15. However in the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 the percentage to projected target achieved in Chhattisgarh state was much lesser than that of national level. However the difference was reduced in the most recent years of 2016-17 which is a positive sign. We also find that over the years there has been substantial fall in the projected person days. This trend is visible both in case of Chhattisgarh state as well at National level. However this is more prominent in case of Chhattisgarh state. However in case of Actual person days generated the table shows that while the Chhattisgarh state registered a decline the national level target showed a Increasing trend

Table No.2 showing Projected Persons days and Persons days Generated Under MGNREGA 2005 from 2012-13 to 2016-17 at Chhattisgarh State and National Level

Year	Chhattisgarh			National		
	Up to March			Up to March		
	Projected Person days	Person days Generated	Percentage of Projected target Achieved	Projected Person days	Person days Generated	Percentage of Projected target Achieved
2012	136347122	119386787	87.56091	2633952132	2172716883	82.48885
2013	121435931	129883618	106.9565	2435161824	2087863034	85.73816
2014	62438963	55581607	89.0175	2206735270	1661260745	75.28138
2015	123462178	101396458	82.12755	2391120427	2351330116	98.33591
2016	90000000	88594327	98.43814	2209274000	2356732560	106.6745

Source: compiled from various MIS reports of <http://nrega.nic.in>

Table No. 3 showing participation of SC & ST category in terms of Job cards Issued and Employment Provided against total Household under MGNREGA 2005 by Chhattisgarh State

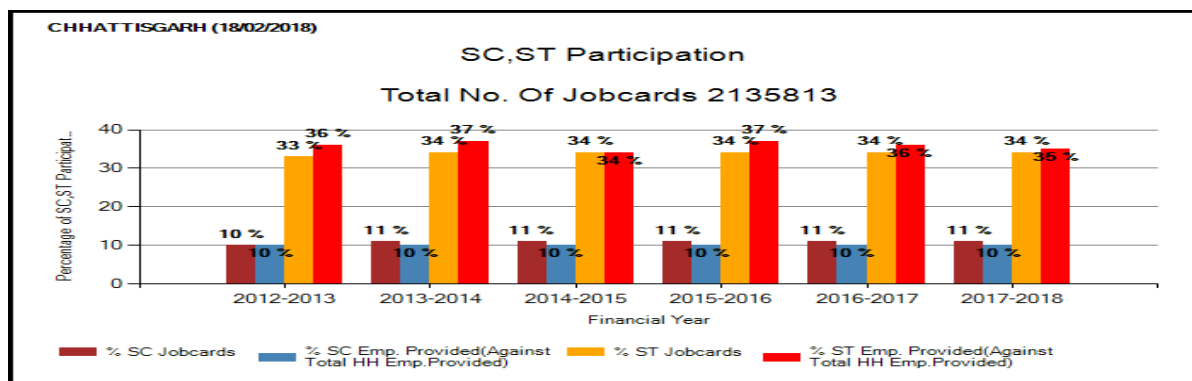


Table Source: http://164.100.129.6/GRAPH/State_graphs_xml.aspx?source=national

In terms of participation of SC, ST people towards availing the benefit of the Government schemes we find that that the above table no. 3 reveals following Information:-

1. We find that the SC category has been allotted 10% to 11% of all job cards issued till date
2. The percentage of SC Households since 2012-13 to 2016-17 has been a constant 10%. This means that either the Job cards issued have either been fully utilized or partially utilized where the % of SC Job cards issued has been more.
3. We find that the ST category has been allotted 33% to 34% of all job cards issued till date.
4. The percentage of ST Households since 2012-13 to 2016-17 has varied from 34% to 37%. However in all cases it was always equal to or more than the Percentage of jobcards issued in the respective year This means that either the Job cards issued have either been fully utilized or the category people have been in some cases also been given more jobs than their share of Job cards issued
5. In totality we find that SC & ST categories have been issued 43% to 45% of total Job cards and the SC & ST have been provided employment to the tune of 44% to 47%. Thus we can say that the SC& ST category people have always been allotted slightly more Jobs than the percentage of Job cards issued to them.

No. 4 showing Percentage of Various types of Projects Undertaken by State of Chhattisgarh from Period of 2012-13 to 2016-17 under MGNREGA 2005

Year	Category IV work	Rural sanitation	water Conservation	Land development	Rural Connectivity	Renovation of traditional water Bodies	Micro Irrigation Works	Drought Proofing	Aangan wadi	Rural Drinking water	Fisheries	Flood Control and Protection	Play Ground	BNR GSK	other Works
2012-13	20.14	2.18	10.1	28.1	23.14	6.41	2.11	4.53	0.02	0.52	0	0.72	0	0.65	1.37
2013-14	17.26	10.5	8.53	27.34	20.19	5.08	1.45	3.9	0.25	1.11	0.03	0.48	0	0.65	3.21
2014-15	16.88	21.21	8.26	20.71	17.86	4.45	1.43	3.46	0.38	0.69	0.04	0.38	0	0.62	3.62
2015-16	24.87	32.52	8.18	10.53	9.49	3.36	1.49	2.59	0.67	0.62	0.04	0.31	0.01	0.38	4.94
2016-17	42.35	30.77	6.14	5.77	4.51	2.02	1.08	1.52	0.84	0.62	0.02	0.21	0.01	0.21	3.9

Table No. 5 showing Percentage of Expenditure on Various types of Projects Undertaken by State of Chhattisgarh from Period of 2012-13 to 2016-17 under MGNREGA 2005

Year	Category IV work	Rural sanitation	water Conservation	Land development	Rural Connectivity	Renovation of traditional water Bodies	Micro Irrigation Works	Drought Proofing	Aanganwadi	Rural Drinking water	Fisheries	Flood Control and Protection	Play Ground	BNRGSK	other Works
2012-13	5.18	0.05	14.15	8.42	48.7	13.3	3.81	3.34	0	0.01	0	1.04	0	1.6	0.4
2013-14	4.71	0.2	15.12	8.79	47.57	13.15	2.89	4.58	0.22	0.05	0.01	0.79	0	1.28	0.62
2014-15	4.04	0.66	17.46	8.85	45.04	14.72	3.12	2.72	0.29	0.02	0.01	1.49	0	0.74	0.85
2015-16	11.45	3.55	24.63	6.05	25.83	13.38	5.04	5.45	0.59	0.02	0.23	1.35	0.01	0.97	1.43
2016-17	12.9	13.56	21.63	4.35	20.85	13.22	4.03	3.06	2.83	0.05	0.1	0.88	0.03	0.66	1.82

An analysis of the Table No.4 and table no.5 reveals following trends regarding various programs undertaken under from 2012-13 to 2016-17

1. In terms of total expenditure rural connectivity projects accounted for maximum expenditure in (48.7) 2012-13 though its share was only 23.14 % in terms of projects undertaken in the same year. However its share in terms of both total percentages of projects undertaken as well as the total expenditure has come down significantly by the year 2016-17. Thus there is a significant decline.
2. Land development projects in terms of percentage in number as well in terms of percentage of expenditure shows a declining trend over the years same as rural connectivity. However its decline is lesser than the decline in rural connectivity.
3. Rural sanitation projects have shown a increasing trend over the years. The trend is observable in terms of both percentages to no. of projects undertaken as well as the expenditure on the total projects undertaken. Thus we can say that state government is focussing on rural sanitation in recent years.
4. In case if water conservation projects we find that while the percentage of total projects undertaken has registered a decline yet in terms of expenditure it shows a increasing trend over the years.
5. In terms of Category IV works we find that it shows increasing trend both in terms of percentages to total no. of projects as well as the percentage to total expenditure on the projects. Thus the focus on this particular type of projects is increasing.
6. Renovation of traditional water bodies has shown a decline in terms of total no. of projects undertaken. However the expenditure percentage on its head has more or less remained stable over the years. Thus there is no change in its focus over the years. Same is the case with the Micro irrigation works and drought proofing projects.
7. Among the minor focus projects we find that while Aanganwadi projects have shown increasing trend over the years both in terms of percentage to total no. of projects undertaken and percentage to total expenditure, rural drinking water projects, play ground projects and fisheries projects have more or less shown a stable percentage both in terms of total no. of projects as well as the total expenditure on the projects. Lastly Flood Control and Protection and BNRGSK projects show a declining trend over the years especially with

respect to the expenditure on the projects. Thus we can say that there is declining focus on these projects over the years.

8. Projects or works which do not come under any of these heading have been clubbed under other works heading. In respect of these we find that such works show a increasing trend both in terms of no. of projects undertaken as well as the total expenditure on projects over the years.

4.Conclusion

Therefore from the analysis of above data we can conclude that the state is doing well in respect of coverage of the targeted Gram panchayats for extending the benefits of the scheme and also in terms of utilisation of available funds for different projects. However there is shortcoming in the sense that not only the notified wage rate is less in the state for the past some years but also the number of the person days generated against the projected person days is also lower than the national average in the last two years. Thus it is advised that the state government focus on increasing the notified wage rate as well as achieving the actual person days generated against the target. The target person days has also registered a higher decline in state than the national level which increases the severity of the shortcoming. In terms of extending the benefit to SC& ST category we find that the state government has been making a determined effort to maintain the percentage of Job cards issued to these categories and of ensuring that these categories get a higher percentage of Jobs than the percentage of Job cards issued to them.

5.Reference:-

1. http://nrega.nic.in/Circular_Archive/archive/MGNREGA_SAMEEKSHA.pdf
2. http://nrega.nic.in/Circular_Archive/archive/MGNREGA_SAMEEKSHA.pdf