

ROLE OF MGNREGA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has had a significant influence on the lives of rural poor people in general and vulnerable groups in the rural population in particular in maintaining their means of subsistence. At least one hundred days of paid work for every family with adult members willing to do unskilled manual labor is the goal of the government's MGNREGA program. MGNREGA not only provides wage employment as a source of income, but it also creates long-term assets such as road construction, land development, water conservation, and irrigation facilities, all of which have a significant impact on the village economy. As a result, the researcher has attempted to investigate the influence of MGNREGA on rural life in village panchayats in the state of Uttar Pradesh in the current study.

Key Words: MGNREGA, livelihood, Asset development, village economy.

Introduction

70% of Indians live in rural regions, making it the world's most populous nation by far. A host of social and economic problems afflict these rural areas, including widespread poverty, illiteracy, poor wages, high unemployment, and inadequate access to nutritious food and medical care. The Indian government has set up a variety of rural development programs to address these concerns and improve rural living in India. Every rural family is guaranteed one hundred days of paid work to undertake unskilled manual labor under MGNREGA, which is widely recognized as the most effective strategy to improve the quality and quantity rural life. Phase-1 was launched in February 2006 in the country's 200 backward districts; Phase-2 was launched in April 2007 in another 130 districts; and Phase-3 was launched in April 2008 in the remaining districts of the nation. As an exception, the MGNREGA program was gradually expanded to encompass all of Jammu and Kashmir's districts in 2008 after being

extended in 2007. For rural households, the world in which they are compelled to earn a living is characterized by rural livelihood. In the modern world, agriculture is still a large sector and is growing more important as a means of survival. For rural poor people in general, and vulnerable sectors of the rural population in particular, MGNREGA offered yet another glimmer of hope for securing a living. As part of the MGNREGA, which seeks to promote the economic stability of rural poor people, every family whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual labor is guaranteed at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage work every financial year. Act seeks to build long-term assets including roads, land development and water conservation that have a substantial influence on the village economy and boost the rural poor's livelihood resources. MGNREGA's link with agriculture and rural lifestyles has been bolstered in recent years by a rising desire from states to establish new projects.

Objectives of MGNREGA

An Indian government project for the rural poor, MGNREGA is presently India's biggest self-targeting program. Through social protection, livelihood security, and democratic empowerment it is a potent weapon for rural India's inclusive development. Following is a list of the Act's most important objectives.

- Employment opportunities provide social protection for the most vulnerable persons in rural areas.
- Poor people's livelihood security through the creation of long-term assets.
- Converging multiple anti-poverty and livelihoods efforts to strengthen decentralised, participatory planning.
- Empowerment of the weakest sections of society, such as women, Scheduled Castes, and Schedule Tribes, through rights-based legislation.
- Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions to Deepen Democracy at the Ground Level
- Increasing the level of transparency and accountability in government

Review of Literature

The examination of literature helps the researcher establish an appropriate research strategy by providing a full grasp of the study topic. It was for this reason that a slew of study papers on the subject were evaluated.

Mishra Kumar Sushanta (2011) A research on asset development was carried out under the MGNREGA. The assets created by MGNREGA have a significant impact on rural families, according to the research. More monitoring efforts, on the other hand, might raise these assets' productive worth.

The rural development programs in India were examined by Panda Santanu and Majumder Arup (2013). Because it creates productive assets like roads, water tank cleanings, and soil and water conservation work, MGNREGA has been dubbed the world's largest anti-poverty program because of its impact on reducing migration and restricting child labor while also alleviating poverty in rural communities throughout India.

Rashtrapati Bhattacharyya (2013) Researchers analyzed MGNREGA to see whether it was a good safety net for the jobless, especially during times of hunger or drought. It has given them the ability to satisfy their most basic requirements, such as food, thanks to its ability to supply them with the necessary buying power. Non-agricultural activities are also provided under MGNREGA, which helps rural inhabitants earn a living.

The Chhetri Madan (2013) Rural poverty reduction in Sikkim was examined by researchers utilizing the MGNREGA program. Because of MGNREGA's fight for a higher minimum wage for agricultural workers, it has directly benefitted them, according to a recent research. MGNREGA provided a new sense of self-worth and agency to society's most marginalized citizens.

Statement of Problem

To enhance the rural way of life, the Indian Parliament enacted the MGNREGA, or Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, in 2005. But rural poor people found the system attractive because of the certainty that wages would be paid, the simplicity of implementation, equal salaries, accountability, and openness. As a result of the MGNREGA, rural poor people received a wide range of social and economic advantages. Aside from that, agricultural farming is an essential study topic since it is seen as a need for human life. To find out how MGNREGA has affected rural poor people in Uttar Pradesh's local panchayats, the research set out to do just that.

Objectives of the Study

The following goals guided the development of this study:

- Examine the respondents' attitude about MGNREGA work and their satisfaction with it.
- To determine the impact of the MGNREGA on the respondents' living conditions.
- To determine how respondents, feel about the production of assets.

Methodology

The study took place in an Uttar Pradesh hamlet panchayat on purpose. Rural poor people are the focus of the present study, which employs a descriptive research technique to examine how MGNREGA has changed their lives. Primary and secondary sources of information are used in the study. It was done using an interview schedule and many other sources, such as journals and the MGNREGA official website, to acquire primary data.

Sampling Procedure

There are a total of 266 MGNREGA-registered homes in the research area. The researcher chose 25% of the households, or 67 respondents, for data collection purposes out of these registered households. Using the random sampling procedure, the researcher has also randomly picked one job card holder from the selected households as a respondent.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected was analyzed via the use of coding and tabulating. The Chi-Square test and basic percentages were used to arrive at a reasonable conclusion concerning the impact of MGNREGA on rural poor people's life.

Table-1 Distribution of the Respondents as per age and marital Status

Variables	Sub group	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
Age	Below 25	13	19.4
	26-35	16	23.9
	36-45	11	16.4
	Above 45	27	40.3
	Total	67	100.0
Marital Status	Married	43	64.2
	Unmarried	24	35.8
	Total	67	100.0

The distribution of respondents by age and marital status is shown in Table 1. According to age, 40.3 percent of respondents are over 45 years old, while 23.9 percent are between the ages of 26 and 35. Furthermore, 19.4 percent of the respondents are under the age of 20, while 16.4 percent are between the ages of 36 and 45. Furthermore, the majority of responders (64.2%) are married, with the remaining 35.8% being single.

Table- 2 Gender wise distribution of registered households under MGNREGA

Panchayat	No. of registered house holds	No. of workers registered		Percentage (%)
		Male	Female	
Hangah	266	339		99.7 %
		1		0.29 %
	Total	340		(100%)

The gender distribution of registered households under MGNREGA is shown in Table 2. The table reveals that males account for 99.7% of the respondents, while females account for 0.29 percent.

Table-3 Distribution of the Respondents by their age and marital status in view of approach for work under MGNREGA

Age	Approach for work			Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Sarpanch	Panchayat Secretary	Ward memebr				
Below 25	11 (84.6)	1 (7.69)	1 (7.69)	13 (100.0)	2.59	6	0.85
26-35	13 (81.2)	1 (6.2)	2 (12.5)	16 (100.0)			
36-45	9 (81.8)	2 (18.1)	-	11 (100.0)			
above 45	21 (77.7)	4 (14.8)	2 (7.4)	27 (100.0)			
Total	54 (80.5)	8 (11.9)	5 (7.4)	67 (100.0)			
Marital status	Approach for work			Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Sarpanch	Panchayat Secretary	Ward memebr				
Married	32 (74.4)	7 (16.2)	4 (9.3)	43 (100.0)	3.00	2	0.22
Unmarried	22 (91.6)	1 (4.1)	1 (4.1)	24 (100.0)			
Total	54 (80.5)	8 (11.9)	5 (7.4)	67 (100.0)			

80.5% of those polled said they were looking for work as sarpanches, and the vast majority of those polled were under the age of 25, as seen in Table 3 The remaining 11.9 percent and 7.4 percent of respondents contacted the panchayat secretary and ward member, respectively, to inquire about MGNREGA employment prospects. The calculated chi-square value of 2.59 with degree of freedom 6 was not determined to be significant at p-value of 0.85, as well. It is acknowledged that there is no correlation between respondents' age and their attitude toward employment. It's been shown that the willingness of respondents to work under the MGNREGA is not correlated with their age. About nine in ten of those who weren't married said they'd asked the sarpanch for employment. The calculated chi-square value of 3.00 with degree of freedom 2 was not determined to be significant at p-value of 0.22, as well. As a consequence, the null hypothesis that there is no significant association between respondents' marital status and their work ethic is accepted. There is no correlation between marital status and interest in working under the MGNREGA.

Table-4 Distribution of the Respondents by their age and marital status in view of great place for humanity under MGNREGA

Age	Great place for humanity		Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
Below 25	9 (69.2)	4 (30.8)	13 (100.0)	2.35	3	0.50
26-35	14 (87.5)	2 (12.5)	16 (100.0)			
36-45	8 (72.7)	3 (27.2)	11 (100.0)			
above 45	18 (66.6)	9 (33.3)	27 (100.0)			
Total	49 (73.1)	18 (26.9)	67 (100.0)			
Marital status	Great place for humanity		Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
Married	33 (76.7)	10 (23.3)	43 (100.0)	0.79	1	0.37
Unmarried	16 (66.6)	8 (33.4)	24 (100.0)			
Total	49 (73.1)	18 (26.9)	67 (100.0)			

Table 4 shows that 73.1 percent of the 67 respondents feel that MGNREGA provides a great environment for humanity, and the majority of 87.5 percent of the respondents are between the ages of 26 and 35. The remaining 26.9% of those polled said they didn't agree. Furthermore, at a p-value of 0.50, the estimated chi-square value 2.35 with degree of freedom 3 was not found to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' age and a fantastic location for humans is accepted. As a result, it is concluded that there is no link between respondents' age and the MGNREGA's magnificent place for humanity. In terms of marital status, 76.7 percent of married respondents thought that MGNREGA provides a fantastic opportunity for humanity. Furthermore, at a pvalue of 0.37, the estimated chi-square value of 0.79 with degree of freedom 1 was not found to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' marital status and a fantastic place for humans is accepted. As a result, it is concluded that there is no link between respondents' marital status and the MGNREGA's magnificent place for humanity.

Table-5 Distribution of the Respondents by their age and marital status in view of enhancement in livelihood conditions under MGNREGA

Age	Enhancement in livelihood		Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
Below 25	11 (84.4)	2 (15.3)	13 (100.0)	4.64	3	0.20
26-35	15 (93.7)	1 (6.25)	16 (100.0)			
36-45	10 (90.9)	1 (9.0)	11 (100.0)			
above 45	19 (70.3)	8 (29.6)	27 (100.0)			
Total	55 (82.0)	12 (17.9)	67 (100.0)			
Marital status	Enhancement in livelihood		Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Yes	No				
Married	35 (81.3)	8 (18.6)	43 (100.0)	0.39	1	0.84
Unmarried	20 (83.3)	4 (16.6)	24 (100.0)			
Total	55 (82.0)	12 (17.9)	67 (100.0)			

Table 5 shows that 82.0 percent of the 67 respondents feel that working under MGNREGA has improved their livelihood situations, and the bulk of 93.7 percent of the respondents are between the ages of 26 and 35. The remaining 17.9% of those polled expressed their dissatisfaction. Furthermore, at a p-value of 0.20, the estimated chi-square value of 4.64 with degree of freedom 3 was not found to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' age and improved livelihood conditions is accepted. As a result, it is concluded that there is no link between respondents' age and improved livelihood conditions under MGNREGA. In terms of marital status, the majority of unmarried respondents (83.3%) agreed that working under MGNREGA improved their livelihood situations. Furthermore, at a p-value of 0.84, the estimated chi-square value of 0.39 with degree of freedom 1 was not found to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' marital status and improved livelihood conditions is accepted. As a result, it is concluded that there is no link between respondents' marital status and improved livelihood conditions under MGNREGA.

Table-6 Distribution of the Respondents by their age and marital status in view of asset creation under MGNREGA

Age	Satisfaction level			Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Satisfied	partially satisfied	unsatisfied				
Below 25	12 (92.3)	1 (7.7)	-	13 (100.0)	22.19	6	0.001
26-35	9 (56.2)	1 (6.2)	6 (37.5)	16 (100.0)			
36-45	9 (81.8)	2 (18.1)	-	11 (100.0)			
above 45	14 (51.8)	11 (40.7)	2 (7.4)	27 (100.0)			
Total	44 (65.6)	15 (22.3)	8 (11.9)	67 (100.0)			
Marital status	Satisfaction level			Total	Chi-square	df	p-value
	Satisfied	partially satisfied	unsatisfied				
Married	29 (67.4)	10 (23.2)	4 (9.3)	43 (100.0)	0.79	2	0.67
Unmarried	15 (62.5)	5 (20.8)	4 (16.6)	24 (100.0)			
Total	44 (65.6)	15 (22.3)	8 (11.9)	67 (100.0)			

Table 6 shows that 65.6 percent of the 67 respondents are satisfied with the development of assets under the MGNREGA, with the majority (92.3 percent) of the respondents being under the age of 25. The remaining 22.3 percent and 11.9 percent of respondents are moderately happy and dissatisfied with the MGNREGA asset development, respectively. Furthermore, at a p-value of 0.001, the estimated chi-square value of 22.19 with degree of freedom 6 was judged to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' age and asset development is rejected. As a result, it is determined that there is a link between respondents' age and asset creation under MGNREGA. In terms of marital status, the majority of married respondents (67.4%) are satisfied with the growth of assets under MGNREGA. Furthermore, at a p value of 0.67, the estimated chi-square value 0.79 with degree of freedom 2 was not found to be significant. As a result, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between respondents' marital status and wealth development is accepted. As a result, it is concluded that there is no link between respondents' marital status and asset creation under MGNREGA.

Main Findings

According to the study's examination of data, the bulk of respondents (40.3 percent) are above 45 years old. 64.2 percent of those polled are married, and 99.7% of those polled are men. The majority of the respondents in the under 25-year-old age group (84.6%), have

approached a sarpanch for work. In terms of marital status, the bulk of unmarried respondents (91.6%) have approached the sarpanch for work. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that there is no link between respondents' age, marital status, and their willingness to work under the MGNREGA. The majority of respondents in the 26-35 age group thought that MGNREGA provides a wonderful opportunity for humanity. According to the study's examination of data, the bulk of respondents (40.3 percent) are above 45 years old. 64.2 percent of those polled are married, and 99.7% of those polled are men. The majority of the respondents in the under 25-year-old age group (84.6%), have approached a sarpanch for work. In terms of marital status, the bulk of unmarried respondents (91.6%) have approached the sarpanch for work. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that there is no link between respondents' age, marital status, and their willingness to work under the MGNREGA. The majority of respondents in the 26-35 age group thought that MGNREGA provides a wonderful opportunity for humanity. Furthermore, practically all of the respondents in the under 25-year-old age group (92.3%) are pleased with the development of assets under MGNREGA. In terms of marital status, the majority of married respondents (67.4%) are satisfied with the growth of assets under MGNREGA. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that there is a link between respondents' age and the development of assets under MGNREGA, but no link between respondents' marital status and the development of assets under MGNREGA.

Conclusion

People in rural areas now have more confidence and are making progress in their lives as a result of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which guarantees their livelihood via wage employment and the development of assets. MGNREGA is a safety value since it provides risk factor measures for each personal injury produced by a worker's accident. In this regard, humanity has a significant role to play under MGNREGA, as it provides both social and economic security, as well as a risk factor for workers with adequate worksite conditions. Furthermore, the data reveals that female workers' engagement in Hangah hamlet Panchyat is extremely low. As a result, increasing the participation of female employees necessitates widespread knowledge and motivation among village residents. In addition, assets should be developed in accordance with necessity and demand for the benefit of the entire town. Meanwhile, work opportunities should be made available on a timely basis only to people who have job cards. However, cooperation between the sarpanch (village head) and the local people is required for MGNREGA to run smoothly.

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