

Performance of MGNREGA in District Rajouri of J&K State- A Study of two blocks

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Abstract

Landmark legislation in Indian history of social security legislation had taken place in the year 2005 by enacting National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). The act provides 100 days of guaranteed employment to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled labour work at statutory minimum wages. In district Rajouri MGNREGA has been implemented in the third phase i.e in the year 2008-09. So in this context present study is an attempt to study the performance both in form of physical & financial aspects of MGNREGA in District Rajouri.

Key Words: MGNREGA, Performance, Asset Creation, Mandays, Income.

Introduction

India is densely populated country in the world with second rank after china. Majority of the population lives in villages. After independence Government of India launched various rural development programmes from time to time so as to eradicate rural people from the grip of poverty & unemployment. MGNREGA was one such programme launched by the Government of India in the year 2005 with the main aim to ensure livelihood security of the rural poor's by providing 100 days of guaranteed employment to every household in every financial year whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled labour work. The act covered 200 rural districts in first phase, implemented on February, 2, 2006 and was extended to an additional 130 districts in 2007-08. All the remaining rural areas have been notified with effect from April, 1 2008. Since 2008, this programme has covered the entire country with the exception of districts that have a 100 percent of urban population. The Government of India (GoI) on 2nd October 2009 renamed this programme NREGA as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Mandate of the Act

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 main objectives of the NREGA are as under:-

1. To provide social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities. At least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.
2. To ensure 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. Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, scheduled castes (SCs) and schedule tribes (STs) through the process of a rights-based legislation.

5. Strengthening decentralized and participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.
6. Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
7. Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Thus, MGNREGA has become a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic governance.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the socio-economic profile of beneficiaries in the study area.
2. To make an analysis of MGNREGA performance in the study area.
3. To identify various assets being carried out under MGNREGA Programme.

Research Methodology

Methodology plays an important role in the research process. It not only guides the researcher to formulate research questions but also helps him to answer various questions related to his research work. Present study is an attempt to study the performance of MGNREGA in two blocks- Rajouri & Budhal of district Rajouri of J&K state. The study is based on both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data has been collected through various group discussions, personal interviews, worksite visits etc. while as secondary data has been collected from various reports, journals, books and also from MGNREGA website. For the collection of primary data a total sample of 100 beneficiaries (50 beneficiaries from block Rajouri & 50 beneficiaries from block Budhal) were taken for the study.

Performance of MGNREGA- An overview

Poverty and rural unemployment are the two acute problems facing India and act as a drag on economic and social development. After years of planning the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was a well thought of measure to make a dent in poverty on our villages by delivering cash in hands of workers for work done under various heads to improve rural infrastructure. District Rajouri is also covered under MGNREGA during the financial year 2008-09. Now after implementation of MGNREGA in the district, the rural unemployment/ job card holders are able to get 100 days guaranteed employment in their native village. The scheme has not only created infrastructure in rural area, but also improve living standard of the masses.

MGNREGA in District Rajouri

Table1: Physical Performance of MGNREGA of district Rajouri

Indicators	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
No. Of households provided with job cards	35202	52497	63945	83590	91279	87037
No. Of households who have demanded employment under MGNREGA	13910	24721	18942	63604	61159	46220
No. Of households provided employment	13910	24721	18942	63604	61159	42428
Total Person days generated (in lakh)	5.86	8.54	6.65	20.19	30.080	20.05
SC person days	0.17	0.60	0.388	1.40	1.940	71250
ST person days	2.73	4.19	2.83	8.72	12.910	5.70
Women person days	0.02	0.34	0.00	0.14	0.252	2.40
Average days of employment to HH	42	35	35	32	49	47

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

During financial year 2008-09, 35202 households have been provided with job cards, 13910 households have been provided employment generating 5.86 crore person days as shown in table 1. It is evident from the table that 42 days of employment on an average were provided to every household during the first year of implementation of MGNREGA programme in the district. Also the table shows that the no. of households who have been provided job cards and employment has been increased from 35202 in year 2008-09 to 91279 in the year 2012-13 that means 39% of increase, in case of job cards and 61159 households have been provided employment in the year 2012-13 as compared to 13910 households in the year 2008-09 which shows that 23% increase in providing of employment.

Table 2: Financial Performance under MGNREGA in District Rajouri

Indicators	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total available funds (in Lakh)	615.43	1494.27	3805.87	7045.80	6400.79	4094.47
Total expenditure (in lakh)	573.82	1247.14	2629.34	4596.73	6330.16	3969.77
%age utilisation of available funds	93	83	69	65	99	97
Expenditure on unskilled wages	375.97	814.26	1741.04	2935.91	3161.96	1808.9
Expenditure on semi-skilled and skilled	81.04	260.54	520.04	745.13	768.17	668.3
Expenditure on material	84.43	117.47	313.83	713.33	2056.65	1244.66

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

As far as financial performance of the programme is concerned, a total of 615.43 lakh funds were available in the year 2008-09 which has been increased to of 7045.80 lakh in the year 2011-12. Table further shows that expenditure has been increased from 573.82 to 6330.16 lakh that is around 90%. It indicates that funds were not utilized to the tune of 100%.

Performance of MGNREGA in the study area

Socio-economic profile of beneficiaries

Table 3

Particulars	No. of respondents	
	Block Rajouri (n=50)	Block Budhal (n=50)
a) Educational status		
Illiterate	26	33
Primary	19	12
High school	3	4
Graduation	2	1
Literate men	47	50
Literate women	3	0
b) Family size		
2-4	12	6
5-7	23	24
8-10	10	11
>10	5	9
c) Social profile		
General	14	9

OBC	8	11
SC	9	6
ST	19	24
d) Occupation		
Agriculture	18	9
Non agriculture	32	41

Source: Field survey

Table 3 shows the socio-economic profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries in the study area. So far as educational status of beneficiaries is concerned, it is evident from the table that majority of the beneficiaries are illiterate in both the study blocks i.e 26 (52%) respondents in case of block Rajouri while as 33 (66%) respondents in case of block Budhal. As far respondents having education level up to primary level is concerned, there were 19 respondents in block Rajouri as compared to only 12 respondents in case of block Budhal. Only 2 respondents were found to be literate up to graduation level in block Rajouri & 1 respondent in case of block Budhal.

As far as family size of the respondent households is concerned, majority of the beneficiaries in both the blocks were from the family size of 5-7 members, this was followed by the respondents having family size 8-10 members in both the blocks. Further it was evident from the field that there was also good participation from the respondents having family size of more than 10 members as evident from the table 3.

Now so far as social class of the respondents is concerned, majority of the beneficiaries in both the blocks were scheduled tribes (38% in block Rajouri & 48% in block Budhal). This was followed by the respondents having general category. This thus means that MGNREGA provides employment to all categories of people.

Further it was evident that majority of the respondents were having occupation other than agriculture while as 36% respondents were having occupation as agriculture in block Rajouri & only 18% in case of block Budhal.

Table 4: Gender and age-wise distribution of respondents

Particulars	No. of respondents	
	Block Rajouri (n=50)	Block Budhal (n=50)
Gender		
Male	44	50
Female	6	0
Age (in years)		
20-30	17	22
31-40	21	18
41-50	10	7
>50	2	3

Source: Field survey

Gender & age-wise distribution of respondent's shows that majority of the beneficiaries in the study area were male (88% in block Rajouri & 100% in block Budhal) and only 12% respondents were females in case of block Rajouri were as there was no any participation from women beneficiaries in case of block Budhal. Majority of the beneficiaries in the study area were from the age groups 20-30 years & 31-40

years as evident from the table 4. This was followed by age group 41-50 years. Further it was evident from the table that there was also participation from the respondents following in the age group of greater than 50 years. This further proves that MGNREGA provides employment opportunities also to old age persons.

Table 5: Size-wise classification of respondents

Category	No. of respondents	
	Block Rajouri (n=50)	Block Budhal (n=50)
Marginal (<2.5 acres)	27	30
Small (2.5-5 acres)	13	11
Medium (5-10 acres)	10	9

Source: Field survey

Size-wise classification of respondents as evident from the table 5 shows that majority of the beneficiaries in both the blocks were marginal farmers which was followed by small farmers contributing to 26% in block Rajouri & 22% in case of block Budhal.

Employment: To know the performance of MGNREGA in the study area an attempt has also been made know the employment generated in the study area. The data regarding employment generated in the study area is shown in table 6.

Table 6: Employment generated from MGNREGA in the study area.

Block	Total No. of beneficiaries surveyed	Total employment days generated	Average mandays
Rajouri	50	2050	41
Budhal	50	2387	48
Total	100	4437	44

Source: Field survey

Table 6 shows the employment generated in the study area. It is evident from the table that a total of 4437 employment days were generated in the study area contributing to 2050 mandays in block Rajouri & 2387 mandays in block Budhal. On average 44 days of employment were provided to every respondent in the study area.

Income: An endeavor has also been made to study the income earned by beneficiaries through MGNREGA in the study area. Income under MGNREGA has been calculated on the basis of prevailing market rate of Rs. 157 per day in the study area. Income generated from MGNREGA is shown in table 7.

Table 7: Income generated from MGNREGA in the study area.

Block	Total No. of beneficiaries surveyed	Total employment days generated	Total income generated	Average Income
Rajouri	50	2050	321850	6437
Budhal	50	2387	374759	7495
Total	100	4437	696609	13932

Source: Field survey

A total of Rs. 696609 income has been generated in the study area contributing to Rs. 321850 in case of block Rajouri & Rs. 374759 in case of block Budhal. On an average every respondent generated income of Rs. 13932 in the study area.

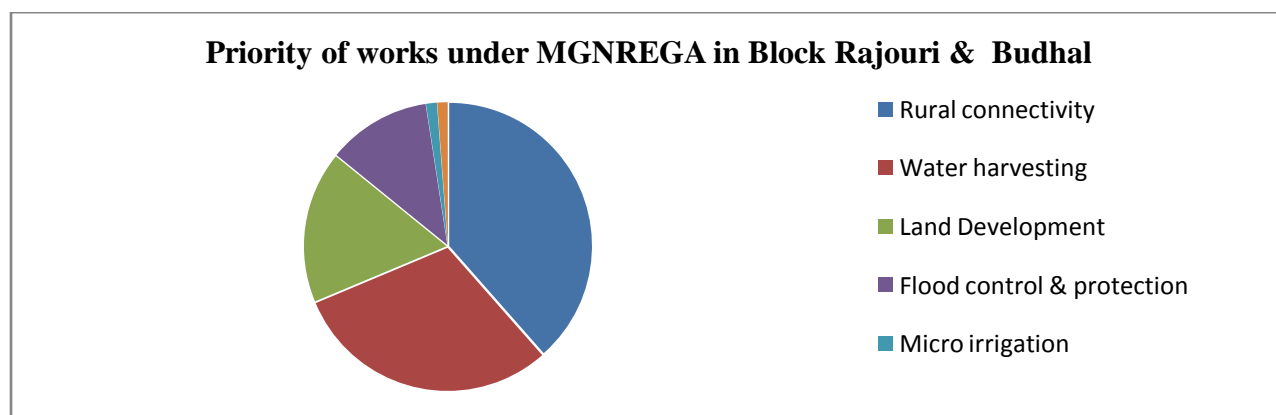
Assets created under MGNREGA in the study area

Table 8 gives an eye view of the different works completed in the study area i.e. block Rajouri & block Budhal of district Rajouri from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Table 8:

Types of works	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Rural connectivity	56	400	225	503	1184
Water harvesting	36	489	198	205	928
Land development	35	139	178	176	528
Flood control & protection	18	130	89	123	360
Drought proofing	0	0	0	0	0
Micro irrigation works	0	5	15	18	38
Renovation of traditional water bodies	0	3	8	25	36
Any other activity approved by MRD	0	0	1	0	1
				Total	3075

Source: www.nrega.nic.in



The above pie chart and table 8 shows the priority of works undertaken under MGNREGA. It further explains that priority has been given to rural connectivity. This was followed by water conservation works & land development related works.

Conclusion

MGNREGA programme as implemented in the study area has proved to be the sigh of relief for the rural poor's as it has proved to be an additional source of employment & income in the study area. The act has helped the rural poor to secure their livelihood by providing employment and enhanced their social status through income generation. It has also improved the rural infrastructure by creation of assets which lead to sustainable development. Thus it is high time that more awareness should be provided to local people about various entitlements of the act so that people may participate fully in this programme.

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