Performance of MGNREGA to Poverty Reduction: Study in Pauri Garhwal District, Uttarakhand

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Abstract

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to provide for enhanced livelihood security for households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. As a legal right to work, MGNREGS contrast with previous employment-generation schemes in several aspects. The purpose of the study is to analyze the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in district Pauri Garhwal of Uttarakhand state. However, the paper finds large women participation under this scheme; highest number of assets is created in the area of rural connectivity and few in drought proofing.

Keywords: Assets, Employment, Mgnrega, Performance, Poverty.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the flagship welfare programme of India was passed by the Parliament in August 2005 and came into effect on 7th September 2005. Under this Act, every adult member of any rural household who is willing to do unskilled manual work have a legal right to get 100 days in a financial year at the statutory minimum wage. The law was initially called the NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) but was renamed as the MGNREGA on 2nd October, 2009 on the eve of the birth anniversary of the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It brings a path breaking legislation that provides a social safety net to the poor people in India.

On February 2, 2006, the MGNREGA came into force in 200 most backward districts of India (Known as Phase I districts) formally launched at Bandlapalle village in Ananthpur District of Andhra Pradesh. It was further extended to 130 additional districts w.e.f. 1st April 2007 (Known as Phase II districts) making a total of 330 districts under the act. The Act has been universalised w.e.f. 1st April 2008 to cover all the remaining backward districts in the country except the districts that have hundred per cent of urban population (NREGA, 2008). It is found as one of the world’s largest public employment guarantee programme to give the right to employment to every rural household.

In Uttarakhand, the scheme was initially launched in 3 districts i.e., Chamoli, Champawat and Tehri in 2006-07 (Phase-1). In second phase (2007-08), two additional districts, i.e., Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar were added. In the last phase, all the remaining districts have been notified under the scheme. MGNREGA was applied to district Pauri Garhwal in the third phase and the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the district commenced on April 1, 2008. The purpose of the study is to analyze the performance of MGNREGA in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand state.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

As the scheme is ongoing from 2006 onwards, various attempts have been made to analysis the performance of MGNREGA. Das (2013) evaluates the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) according to criteria viz. average number of days of employment per household; percentage of households completing 100 days of employment under NREGS; percentage of expenditure against total available funds etc. Performance across the first two criteria has been disappointing and has deteriorated over time. Percentage of expenditure against total available funds has risen sharply. Finally, it is difficult to escape the
Conclusion that the NREGS has not performed well, CRRID (2010) has analyzed in its study on “Mahatma Gandhi NREGA” in selected districts of Himachal Pradesh (Sirmaur), Punjab (Hoshiarpur) and Haryana (Sirsa) that with this scheme, the economic conditions of the wage earner have improved and there is no need for workers to go outside the village for their livelihood. Moreover, People’s faith in Panchayats has increased and agricultural productivity has also improved to a large extent in these areas, Pattanaik (2009) reports that the income earned from MGNREGA has enabled them to purchase additional amount of Pulses, Vegetables and other items for their households, RTBI (2009) the program remained true to its ‘right to work’ entitlements and did not counsel households that approached for works with better living standards, Singh and Nauriyal (2009) assessed the impact of MGNREGS in three districts of Uttarakhand and reported that NREGS activities were found to be supplementing income of the household to the extent of 10-20 per cent and hence no significant improvement in their income and employment levels. Further, marginal improvement in curtail of migration and indebtedness were found. Increase in consumption levels and savings were also marginally improved among the sample households. The report indicates that lack of procedures, low levels of awareness and weak PRIs etc. were the reasons for low performance of MGNREGS in the sample districts, Ghuman et al. (2008) says that the achievement of the Act in terms of annual average days of employment per household has been nearly 1/4th of the minimum 100 days employment, Harway et al. (2008) NREGA can reduce poverty at the bottom and empower the poor. If planned well, it can have highly positive output, income and employment multiplier effects on the local economy in the medium and long run. These works can also raise the multiplier co-efficient and accelerate the process of development subsequently, Joshi et al. (2008), the impact of the study reveals that people at large are satisfied with the scheme.

III. Study Area

District Pauri Garhwal, is the 4th largest District of Uttarakhand state in respect of area. The district covers an area of 5,230 sq kms and situated between 29° 45’ to 30°15’ Latitude and 78° 24’ to 79° 23’ E Longitude. The District is administratively divided into nine tehsils, viz., Pauri, Lansdown, Kotdwar, Thalisain, Dhumakot, Srinagar, Satpuli, Chaubattakhali and Yamkeshwar and fifteen development blocks viz., Kot, Kalijkhal, Pauri, Paboo, Thalisain, Biornkhal, Dwarikhal, Duggada, Jaihrikhal, Ekesherw, Rikhiniokhal, Yamkeswar, Nainidanda, Pokhra and Khirsu and 1214 Gram Panchayats comprising 3423 villages, as per 2011 census. According to the census report of 2011, the total population of this district was 6, 87,271 of which 3,26,829 were males and 3,60,442 were females. But in 2001 census, the total population of this district was 697078 of which 331061 were males and 366017 were females. The total area of the district is 5329 sq. km. The density of population was 129 per sq.km in 2011 and 131 in 2001. According to 2011 census 16.40 % live in urban region in this district. In actual figure a total of 112703 live in urban areas out of which 58800 are males and 53903 are females. The over-all sex ratio and child sex ratio in urban region in this district was 917 and 860 respectively. The child population (0-6 ages) in urban region in this district was a total of 12731 out of which 58800 were males and 53903 were females. The literacy rate was 82.02% (male 92.71% and female 72.60%). The rural literacy rate was 80.37% (male 92.43% and female 70.15%) and urban literacy rate was 90.36% (male 93.91% and female 86.51%). During the period 2001 to 2011 the growth rate of population was -1.41% per annum while the same figure in the last decades was 3.91%. The sex ratio of the district in 2011 was 1103 females” per1000 males and the figure in 2001 was 1106.

IV. Methodology

The present study examines the current status, interior prospects and performance of MGNREGA in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Data were collected from various secondary sources like from District web site (www.pauri.nic.in), different reports of government, published and unpublished sources like books, journals, reports, publications, unpublished doctoral dissertation and from www.nrega.nic.in. The study covers during the year 2012 to 2014.

V. Objective

The objective of the study is (i) to analyze the employment generated and the increased income of the beneficiaries (ii) to analyze the durable assets created by the scheme and its contribution to the village economy.

VI. Result and Discussion

The table 1 reveals that the MGNREGS has provided employment to 60229 household in financial year 2012-13 and 46867 in 2013-14. It has generated 23.79 lakh mandays of employment in 2012-13 and 15.92 lakh mandays in 2013-14. Among which SCs were 12.94 % in 2012-13 and 13.01% in 2013-14, STs were 0.28% in 2012-13 and 13.01% in 2013-14, other was 86.78% in 2012-13 and 86.78% in 2013-14 and women were 60.90% in 2012-13 and 61.55% in 2013-14.

This also indicates that there is large women participation under this scheme. Not only that the SCs and STs are also significantly high participation in this district. The number of family completed 100 days works is 1345 in the financial year 2012-13 in comparison to year 2013-14.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Year 2012-13</th>
<th>Year 2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total job cards issued (in lakh)</td>
<td>112321</td>
<td>112873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment provided to households</td>
<td>60229</td>
<td>46867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person day in lakh</td>
<td>2378565</td>
<td>1591514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCs</td>
<td>307749</td>
<td>206993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST’s</td>
<td>6560</td>
<td>3336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1448649</td>
<td>979612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2064256</td>
<td>1381185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of HH complete 100 dyas</td>
<td>1345</td>
<td>1339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure in Lakh</td>
<td>3155.91</td>
<td>3554.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.nrega.com

The table 2 shows that the number of total works taken up in financial year 2012-13 was 3647 among which works completed were 3630 and works in progress were 17, while in the financial year 2013-14 total works taken up 3338 among which works completed were 2553 and 785 works in progressing. Among the total assets created in the financial year 2013-14, highest number of assets are created in the area of rural connectivity (44.52%) followed by Land development (28.52%), flood control and protection (17.55%), water conservation and water harvesting (3.85%), micro irrigation works (1.92%), renovation of traditional water bodies (1.47%), drought proofing (1.39%), and any other works are (1.05%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Work</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rural Connectivity</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Water conservation and water harvesting</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Renovation of Traditional water bodies</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Drought proofing</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Flood Control and Protection</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Land Development</td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Micro Irrigation</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Other Works</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3630</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.nrega.com

VII. SUGGESTIONS

Though the vital causes of suffering shown above are before our eyes these can be reduced easily if the schemes and its execution are reviewed frequently and in such cases if lapses are seen they should be immediately rectified. Regarding this, the followings suggestions are given:-

1. Large numbers of assets create in the water conservation and water harvesting, renovation of traditional water bodies, and agriculture and plantation in the study region.

2. NREGA works, it is not surprising that quality of works undertaken is uniformly reported to be poor so that the quality of works good.

3. Many of the assets under this scheme are not planned or implemented in a structured manner. This is due to the lack of technical competence of the executing agents at different levels so that the asset under this scheme is well planned and good techniques.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The scheme will continue to supplement the income of the beneficiaries create durable assets in rural people. The assets under this scheme has directly provided employment opportunity and indirectly improved livelihood and food security of peoples. Thus it could be drawn that the works of MGNREGA has made positive impact of reduction of poverty directly and indirectly in the study district.

REFERENCE


