

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME: A CASE STUDY OF MGNREGS IN NIZAMABAD DISTRICT OF TELANGANA STATE

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Paper Received On: 21 FEB 2022

Peer Reviewed On: 28 FEB 2022

Published On: 1 MAR 2022

Abstract

MGNREGA, the largest poverty alleviation programme initiated by the Government of India in the year 2005 had the sole objective to offer a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment to every rural household, whose adult members are willing to do unskilled labour at minimum wage rate. Programme also envisages the creation of sustainable community assets besides protecting environment, reducing migration & empowering rural women. The Government of India emphasizes the MGNREGS is the largest anti poverty programme in the world that has the potential to benefit the poor rural household in India. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, always cherished about India's rural beauty, resilient power as much he was concerned about the poverty and living conditions. His pet phrase was India lives in Villages. Rural development as an integrated concept of growth and poverty elimination has been paramount concern in all the five year plans. Traditionally, Rural Development programmes comprise of following basic concepts like infrastructure facilities in the rural areas, namely schools, health centers, roads, adequate drinking water and electrification. This article discusses the awareness among households and the successful implementation of MGNREGS in the Nizamabad district of Telangana State.

Key words: MGNREGS, Poverty, Rural Development.



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Introduction

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", MGNREGS), is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The MGNREGS was initiated with the objective of enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Another aim of

MGNREGS is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells). Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. Thus, employment under MGNREGS is a legal entitlement. The MGNREGS ensures that poor households in India have guaranteed access to 100 days of work at the minimum wage. The scheme attempts to reduce the barriers faced by women in accessing the labour market and thereby intends to increase female labour participation in rural India.

MGNREGS: Implementation

MGNREGS is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayat (GPs). The involvement of contractors is banned. Labour-intensive tasks like creating infrastructure for water harvesting, drought relief and flood control are preferred. The MGNREGA Act underlines the legitimate role of Panchayats in its implementation mechanism. The recognition of Panchayati Raj Institutions is the main agency of implementation under MGNREGA.

The programme comprises of following five tier of implementation

- (i) Gram Panchayat
- (ii) Block Panchayat
- (iii) District Panchayat
- (iv) State Government &
- (v) Central Government.

In this five tier system, Gram Panchayat occupies the bottom & Central Government the top. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, NREGA can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others. Under the MGNREGA Act the Gram Panchayat has the responsibility to identify, execute & supervise the projects in the Gram Panchayat area, which are to be taken up under the scheme, as per the recommendations of the Gram sabha.

Universe & Sampling

Population

The population or universe represents the entire group of units which is the focus of the study. Thus, the population could consist of all the persons in the country, or those in a particular geographical location, or a special ethnic or economic group, depending on the purpose and coverage of the study. The universe of the present study consists of men and

women in the rural areas availing the Poverty Alleviation Programmes from Nizamabad District of Telangana State.

Sample

Sample for the present study has been chosen by using Stratified Random Sampling Technique. Respondents will be selected by using stratified random sampling. Size of sample is 420 (i.e. 10% of total beneficiaries in highest implemented three villages of select Mandals as well as lowest implemented three villages of three selected Mandals). These Mandals will be selected on basis of implementation record of the Nizamabad district. Each respondent selected represents one household.

A sample of 420 was drawn from the universe of Nizamabad District. Among them

Highest implemented Mandals were

- ❖ Nizamsagar
- ❖ Yedapalle
- ❖ Gandhari

Lowest Implemented Mandals were

- ❖ Madnur
- ❖ Bichkunda
- ❖ Nandipet

Tools for data collection

This study will be conducted by using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data gathering and also the research scholar utilizes several instruments and techniques. The questionnaire consists of questions which were categorized under following heads, they were:

- (i) Analyze
- (ii) Evaluate
- (iii) Participation of the beneficiaries in the program

Objective of the study

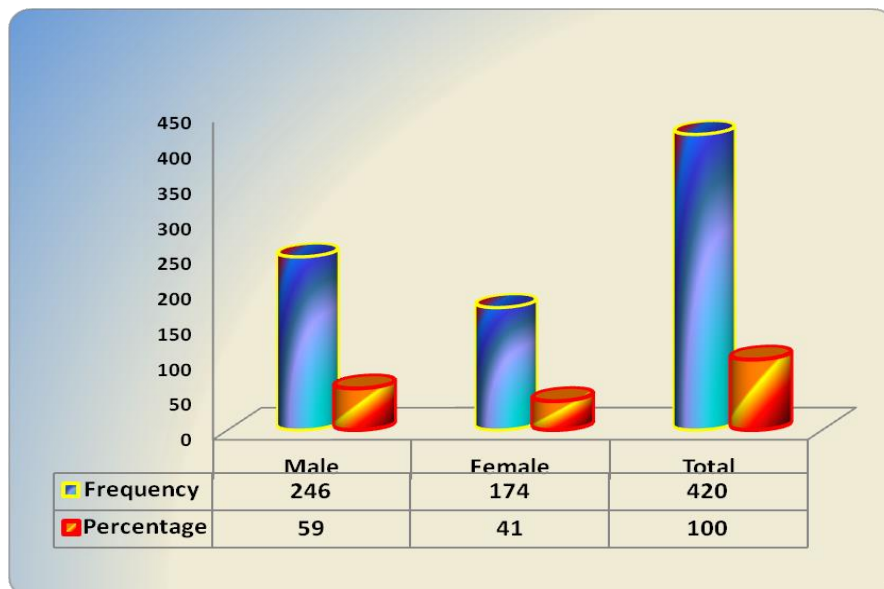
To examine the planning and implementation of the poverty alleviation programme (MGNREGS) in Nizamabad district of Telangana

Hypothesis of the study

Hypothesis 1: Poverty alleviation programme (MGNREGES) aims at sustainable rural development assuring quality life, economic growth and poverty reduction.

Table 1: Showing distribution of respondent households - Gender wise

S. No	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	246	59
2	Female	174	41
Total		420	100 %



(iv) Fig 4.1: Gender wise distribution of household respondents

The above table shows gender wise distribution of the sample respondents selected for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Out of the total of 420 sample, 246 were male and the remaining 174 were female. It is evident from the above table that 59% of the sample were male and 41% were female. Thus it can be concluded that six tenth of the sample consists of males and the other four tenth were of females.

Table 2: Showing distribution of respondent households - Age wise

S. No	Age (Years)	Frequency	Percentage
1	18 – 27	44	10
2	28 – 37	92	22
3	38 – 47	203	48
4	48 – 57	57	14
5	58 & above	24	06
Total		420	100 %

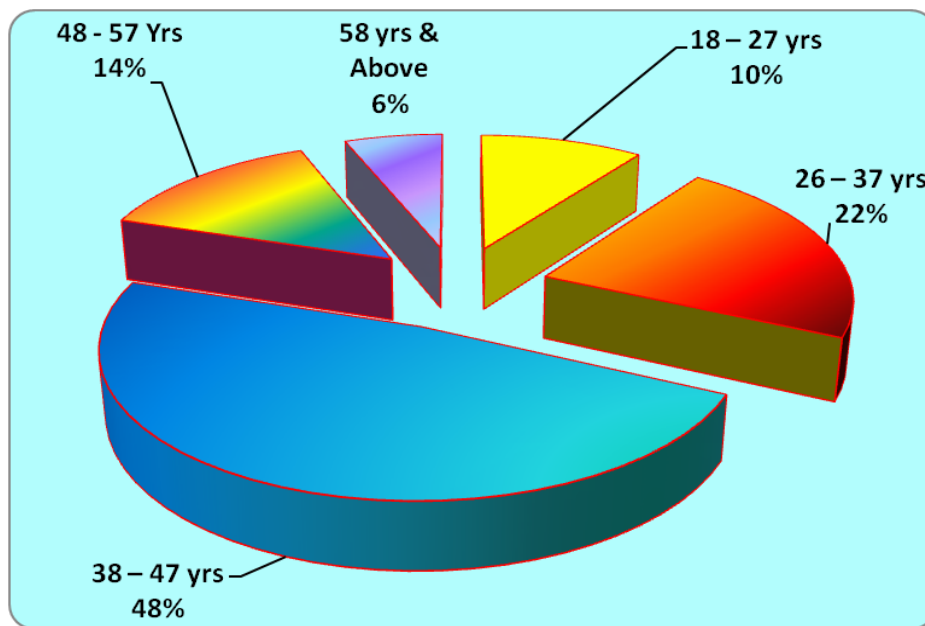


Fig 4.2: Age wise distribution of household respondents

Table 4.2 represents age wise distribution of the sample. Out of the total of 420 sample of household respondents, 44 were from the age group of 18 to 27 years, 92 were from the age group of 28 to 37 years, 203 were from the age group of 38 to 47 years, 57 were from the age group of 48 to 57 years and the remaining 24 were 58 years and above. It is evident from the above table that 10% of the sample belonged to 18 to 27 years, 22% were from 28 to 37 years, 48% were from 38 to 47 years, 14% were from 48 – 57 years and the remaining 6% were 58 years and above. Thus it can be concluded that nearly half of the sample were from 38 to 47 years and the other half were from 18 to 27 years, 28 to 37 years and 58 years and above.

Testing of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: Poverty alleviation programme (MGNREGS) aims at sustainable rural development assuring quality life, economic growth and poverty reduction.

To test the above hypothesis chi-square was employed to test the divergence of observed results from those expected on the hypothesis of equal probability of distribution of trait in the sample.

Distribution of scores of program beneficiaries

Sample size	Frequency	No	Yes	Neutral	Chi-square value
420	Fo	109	242	69	*18.637
	Fe	70	320	30	

**significant at 0.01 level*

df=2,p at 0.01 level of significance 9.210

It is clear from the table that distribution of scores of program beneficiaries in the whole sample was not normal, as the chi-square value was significant. On the basis of this the Hypothesis - 1 stated as ‘Poverty alleviation programme (MGNRGS) aims at sustainable rural development assuring quality life, economic growth and poverty reduction is **accepted** as majority of the beneficiaries believe that the program (MGNRGS) has made a considerable development in their quality life, economic growth and poverty reduction.

Findings

The study was conducted to know the awareness among households and the significant impact of MGNRGS program on improvement of socio-economic status of the unskilled workers in the Nizamabad District, of Telangana State. The programme reduced poverty level and beneficiaries believe that the program (MGNRGS) has made a considerable development in their quality life, economic growth and poverty reduction. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) reduced poverty by up to a third and gave a large number of women their first opportunity to earn cash income.

Conclusion

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 enacted by the Government of India, is perhaps the most ambitious anti-poverty programmes launched anywhere in the world. The success of MGNREGA depends on enabling workers in rural areas to receive their entitlements under the Act as well as to leverage resources provided under the Scheme to access development opportunities through other programmes, for transiting from wage employment to sustainable livelihood.

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