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Unemployment, inequality and poverty are related phenomena. Any success in solving one of these problems would imply some success in solving the other. They are correlated with each other. ‘Poverty and unemployment are two sides of the same coin when we are going to solve one problem in the society, second will be taken care with that. The poverty and unemployment in present scenario are most severe problems of Indian economy’. The problem of unemployment is hunting the minds of planners, political leaders economists and social reformers of India since long. Rural unemployment has been more severe than urban area unemployment in India, for the solution of rural unemployment; wage employment programmes were stressed in unlimited labour surplus economy like India. The poverty and unemployment in rural India cannot be alleviated solely through government act and policies. The problem goes far deeper than merely rectifying the economic conditions of the poor people. MGNREGA:(Mahathma Ghandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) The scheme cum Act provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in each and every financial year to unskilled member of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum. The paper contains overview of MGNREGA, performance at national level, and at Chikkamagalur district level in Karnataka State, etc.

Key Words: haunting, phenomena, poverty, Unemployment, unskilled
1. Introduction

Unemployment, poverty and inequality are related phenomena. Any success in solving one of these problems would imply some success in solving the other. ‘Poverty and unemployment are two sides of the same coin when we are going to solve one problem in the society, second has been taken care with that. The poverty and unemployment at present scenario are most severe problems of Indian economy’. The problem of unemployment is haunting the minds of planners, economists, political leaders and social reformers of India since long. According to Jawaharlal Nehru - “The prosperity of a nation is judged by members of people who are employed, unemployment is bane of nation”. Rural unemployment has been more severe than urban unemployment in India, for the solution of rural unemployment; wage employment programmes were stressed in labour surplus economy like India. The poverty and unemployment in rural India cannot be alleviated merely through government policies. The problem goes far deeper than merely rectifying the economic conditions of the poor people.

Agricultural wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non-agricultural activities, constitute the bulk of the rural poor. Small land holdings and their low productivity are the cause of poverty among households dependent on land-based activities for their livelihood. Poor educational base and lack of other vocational skills also perpetuate poverty. Due to the poor physical and social capital base, a large proportion of the people are forced to seek employment in vocations with extremely low levels of productivity and wages. The creation of employment opportunities for the unskilled workforce has been a major challenge for development planners and administrators.

The Government's policy and programmes have laid emphasis on poverty alleviation, generation of employment and income opportunities and provision of infrastructure and basic facilities to meet the needs of rural poor. For realising these objectives, self-employment and wage employment programmes continued to pervade in one form or other. As a measure to strengthen the grass root level democracy, the Government is constantly endeavouring to empower Panchayat Raj Institutions in terms of functions, powers and finance. Gramasabha, NGOs, Self-Help Groups and PRIs have been accorded adequate role to make participatory democracy meaningful and effective. India has been a welfare state ever since her Independence and the primary objective of all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its millions. It was realized that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself.

In spite of a high rate of growth in the economy, the Indian economy suffers from several distortions. The incidence of poverty in the country is still very high, at 26.6 percent with the bottom 10-15 percent poor frequently suffering from starvation, largely emanating from the
lack of adequate purchasing power. Rural poverty and its eradication has been part of the discourse since independence. A plethora of programmes since then have been tried in rural India to eradicate poverty, with varied impacts. The potential beneficiaries may find that the income from cultivation of small plots falls short of subsistence requirements. Specifically, through a work-requirement, these programs are expected to exclude the more affluent sections. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005.

2. Overview of Literature

There are many studies have been conducted by institutions, government and researchers to find out the impact of the MGNREGP. Let us have an overview of these studies to know the gaps.

Ashok Gulati, Anjan K Jena (2012) observed that during the period of 2000-01 to 2006-07 the average annual rate of growth in real wages was negative i.e. -0.44 per cent whereas during the period of 11th five year plan the real farm wages have been consistently rising with an annual growth rate of 6.8 percentage per annum in real terms. The authors claim that the intervention of government in rural labour market through MGNREGA could be one of the possible reasons.

Yanyan Liu and Christopher B Barrett (EPW 2013) used the 2009/10 National Sample Survey data to describe patterns of seeking, rationing, and participation in MGNREGS. The administrative rationing of MGNREGS jobs is not pro-poor but, rather, exhibit a sort of middle-class bias. At the state level, as they argued, roughly half of 27 states exhibit rationing and participation profiles that signal effective pro-poor targeting.

Avinash Joshi (2013) feels that for a long term sustainable implementation of the program, the newer developmental initiatives like inclusion of ‘Aadhaar’, hand held devices; and biometric authentication system will play a crucial role. Also empowerment of workers can attain better synergy with inclusion MGNREGA workers under schemes like RSBY, NRHM, and National Literacy Mission.

Salian, Prasanna V. and D.S Leelavathii (2014) - Implementation of MGNREGA in Karnataka: Issues and Challenges, the MGNREGA was introduced in Karnataka since 2006 as an additional source of wage employment to eradicate poverty and unemployment. Rural areas of Karnataka have two-pronged issues i.e., poverty and unemployment, marred by low wages, seasonal agricultural employment and informal nature of work. However, it has been observed that the performance under MGNREGA in Karnataka is not consonance with the rate of poverty and unemployment in the State. The low performance in Karnataka in MGNREGA compared to many better performing States has been attributed to various programmatic and implementation issues. The paper explores on three objectives viz., (i) to
analysing the status of rural poverty and unemployment in Karnataka (ii) to evaluate the performance of MGNREGA in Karnataka since inception and (iii) to examine the issues and challenges in the implementation of MGNREGA in Karnataka and way forward. Overall, the paper assesses the programme on the pre-requisites for an inclusive growth model warranting reductions in unemployment and poverty alleviation in rural areas of Karnataka.

Gangadhara Reddy Y and Aswath G.R. (2016) Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Karnataka, India. Rural Development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of Indian economy. India is regarded as the land of villages. Out of 1,210,276,932 (121 crore) Indians 833,087,662 (68.84 crore) live in rural areas while 377,105,760 (31.16 crore) live in urban areas. Poverty, unemployment, farmers deaths, drought, low level of communications, illiteracy have increased during the last few decades. In order to overcome all these problems especially rural unemployment, Government of India enacted The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on 25th August 2005. This act has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October 2009. This Act guarantees 100 days of employment in each financial year to rural adult members of the family who are willing to do unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wages. MGNREGA is the largest employment guarantee programme in the world providing work to 5 crore rural household or 10 crore workers. One in every 3 rural households is a worker under this programme. It addressed 41% of the problem of under employment in rural areas. In Karnataka 57.23 lakh households registered and 57.23 lakh job cards have been issued. In 2014-15 total availability of fund is 1590.40 crores. This paper studies about the performance of MGNREGA in Karnataka State.

These reviews through lights on the various issues and problems involved in the implementation of the program; in this project an attempt has been made take care of the limitations of these studies.

3. Statement of the problem

India is the vast country and filled with second largest population in the world. Given the nature of developing economy, India has many problems to solve. Among them rural-urban disparities, poverty, unemployment etc. to mention few. The problem of poverty and unemployment is alarming in the rural area, due to seasonal nature employment provided by the agrarian economy. These twin problems further lead to low standard of living as the presence of vicious circle of poverty. In a developing country like India state plays pivotal role in providing basic facilities to the society. Government of India has implemented number of rural development of programs since independence.

Due to liberalization, privatization and globalization the rate of growth of employment has slowed down in the post reforms period raising the backlog of un/under employment in the
Indian economy and leading to deficiency in aggregate demand. Agricultural sector that houses about 60 percent of the population is lagging behind experiencing a very low rate of growth, and natural resources around which the livelihood of many is linked are getting depleted and degraded with economic growth. Infrastructure development is far from adequate to ensure a minimum quality of life to people. In rural area the problem of poverty and seasonal unemployment are rampant. Rural poverty and its eradication has been part of the discourse since independence. A plethora of programmes since then have been tried in rural India to eradicate poverty, with varied impacts. The potential beneficiaries may find that the income from cultivation of small plots falls short of subsistence requirements. Specifically, through a work-requirement, these programs are expected to exclude the more affluent sections. With this backdrop the MGNREGP program plays a vital role in solving the problem of unemployment and poverty. Thus, there is need to evaluate the performance of the program.

4. Objectives of the Study

The overall aim of the study is to assess the impact of MGNREGA on employment generation in Chickmagalur and Tumkur Districts. The specific objectives of the study are:

- To study the functioning and relevance of MGNREGA in eradication of rural poverty and unemployment in India.
- To examine the execution and implementation of MGNREGA in Chickmagalur and Tumkur Districts of Karnataka.
- To study the problems involved in the implementation of MGNREGA in Chickmagalur and Tumkur Districts of Karnataka.
- To assess the impact of the programme on employment generation and poverty in rural areas in Chickmagalur and Tumkur Districts of Karnataka.
- To offer necessary suggestions for the improvement of the programme.

5. Research Methodology

The study has been conducted in Karnataka state covering two districts on the basis their performance in the implementation of the programme.

i. **Data Base:** The present study is based on both primary and secondary data.

   a. **Secondary Data:** The secondary data has been collected from various published sources like books, journals, published and unpublished reports, online access, research articles, newspapers, magazines, government reports and statistical reports of various agencies etc.

   b. **Primary Data:** The primary data has been collected through structured questionnaire schedule prepared separately for beneficiaries’ and implementing authorities. The schedule had questions on the socio-economic background, awareness about the
programme, implementation of the programme as per the stipulated guidelines, employment and income generated, impact on standard of living and suggestions (if any) for the improvement of the programme.

ii. **Coverage:** The study has covered two districts they are- Chickkmagalur and Tumkur in Karnataka state.

  - **The universe of the study:** Study aimed to cover 320 sample beneficiaries of MGNREGA spread over four taluks in both the districts. Two taluks each from both the district has been selected on the basis of highest job cards and lowest job cards along with number of man days provided (Table-4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blocks in Tumakuru District</th>
<th>Cumulative Job cards</th>
<th>Household Demanded Employment</th>
<th>Cumulative man-days Generated</th>
<th>Blocks in Chickmagaluru District</th>
<th>Cumulative Job cards</th>
<th>Household Demanded Employment</th>
<th>Cumulative man-days Generated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiknayakanhalli</td>
<td>30960</td>
<td>10780</td>
<td>401692</td>
<td>Chickmagalur</td>
<td>27852</td>
<td>10980</td>
<td>538296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gubbi</td>
<td>31089</td>
<td>9060</td>
<td>296630</td>
<td>Kadur</td>
<td>36289</td>
<td>14048</td>
<td>553783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koratagere</td>
<td>20636</td>
<td>6855</td>
<td>281043</td>
<td>Koppa</td>
<td>9771</td>
<td>4562</td>
<td>166607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunigal</td>
<td>30768</td>
<td>16603</td>
<td>996644</td>
<td>Madugere</td>
<td>16978</td>
<td>6668</td>
<td>262540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhugiri</td>
<td>39855</td>
<td>17771</td>
<td>796416</td>
<td>Narasimharajapuram</td>
<td>7183</td>
<td>2818</td>
<td>112483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavagada</td>
<td>45506</td>
<td>12642</td>
<td>648999</td>
<td>Sringen</td>
<td>4514</td>
<td>1671</td>
<td>59781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sira</td>
<td>48942</td>
<td>13011</td>
<td>376482</td>
<td>Tarikere</td>
<td>31316</td>
<td>11018</td>
<td>373440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiptur</td>
<td>21507</td>
<td>6458</td>
<td>227725</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>133903</td>
<td>51765</td>
<td>2066930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumkur</td>
<td>31181</td>
<td>5427</td>
<td>192997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turuvkere</td>
<td>23699</td>
<td>10912</td>
<td>462856</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>324143</strong></td>
<td><strong>109519</strong></td>
<td><strong>4881484</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- **Sampling frame:** The sample beneficiaries had been selected from the two districts and four talukson the basis of secondary data on various variables like number of job cards, number of man-days of work generated and amount disbursement towards the wages, etc. Two gram panchayts each from all four taluks are selected from the final survey. 40 beneficiaries each from 8 gram panchayts are selected randomly for the final field survey. The total sample size of the study is 320 beneficiaries (Table-5).

- **Sampling methods:**
  - **I.** The study had been based on the stratified random sample, systematic random sampling and random sampling basis. For the selection of the districts, taluks and villages based on stratified random sampling technique,
  - **II.** taluks and villages based on systematic random sampling technique and
  - **III.** the selection of the final sample beneficiaries, etc. had been based on random sampling technique.

- **Sample size:** Total sample size of the study was 320 sample beneficiaries of MGNREGA.

5.1 Data Analysis
The data collected through the questionnaire schedule has been processed by using SPSS package and other simple statistical tools. The cross sectional analysis has been used for viable conclusions.

5.2 Techniques of Analysis
The study has used simple statistical tools for analysing and interpreting statistical data viz. percentages, averages etc. Advanced statistical tools like Chi-square, have been used wherever necessary to arrive at precise conclusions.

6. Overview of MGNREGA
The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005 and renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October, 2009 includes activities under nine different heads to provide employment to village communities and improve their livelihoods. On February 2, 2006, amidst great hype and hope, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) came into force in 200 of India’s backward districts. In 2007, it was extended to cover another 130 districts and with effect from April 1, 2008 the Act is covering all rural India. The scheme provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage of 120 per day in 2009 prices. This legal commitment is a landmark event in the history of poverty reduction strategies in India. It is also a unique event in the pro-poor strategies in the world, as no country in the world has ever given a right of this kind to such a large population so far.

6.1 Performance of MGNREGA in India
The performance of MGNREGA has been seen with the Table-1. Table -1, throws light on the district covered under and other indicators of the MGNREGA. MGNREGA has covered 685 district, 6863 blocks and 262774 Gram Panchayats., 12.52 Crore Job Cards have been issued (6.72 active Job Cards), 25.21 Crore workers involved in the work (10.42 Crore active workers), 20.24 crore SC and 16.61 Crore ST workers have been benefited under the scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars (As on 14-06-2017)</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Karnataka</th>
<th>% to India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Districts</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Blocks</td>
<td>6,863</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of GPs</td>
<td>2,62,776</td>
<td>6,024</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Job Cards issued[In Cr/In Lakhs]</td>
<td>1264000</td>
<td>5346</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Workers[In Cr/In Lakhs]</td>
<td>2521000</td>
<td>13779</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Job Cards[In Cr/In Lakhs]</td>
<td>675000</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Workers[In Cr/In Lakhs]</td>
<td>1046000</td>
<td>5947</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Further the details of the progress of MGNREGA continued in the Table-2. Which focuses on the physical performance of the scheme and other details like Approved Labour Budget, Person days Generated so far, % of Total LB; % as per Proportionate LB; SC person days % as of total person days; ST person days % as of total person days; Women Person days out of Total (%); Average days of employment provided per Household; Average Wage rate per day per person(Rs.); Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment; Total Households Worked; Total Individuals Worked; Differently abled persons worked; Works Number of GPs with NIL exp; Total No. of Works Taken up (New + Spill Over); Number of On-going Works; Number of Completed Works; % of NRM Expenditure(Public + Individual); % of Category B Works; % of Expenditure on Agriculture & Agriculture Allied Works; Financial Progress; Total centre Release; Total Availability etc. Data’s are given for the recent four years for India and Karnataka State. Approved budget is fluctuating over the years. Man days generated is continuously increasing, number of Gram panchayts has increased progressively. 60 per cent of the works are completed on time and financial assistant provided by the centre has increased alarmingly over the years.

Table 2: Comparison of Progress of MGNREGA between India and Karnataka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved Labour Budget [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>258.57</td>
<td>692.61</td>
<td>220.67</td>
<td>933.95</td>
<td>239.112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person days Generated so far [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>220.37</td>
<td>718.86</td>
<td>166.21</td>
<td>433.28</td>
<td>235.1465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total LB</td>
<td>85.23</td>
<td>103.79</td>
<td>75.32</td>
<td>46.39</td>
<td>98.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% as per Proportionate LB</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC person days % as of total person days</td>
<td>22.81</td>
<td>15.89</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>15.85</td>
<td>22.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST person days % as of total person days</td>
<td>17.52</td>
<td>7.94</td>
<td>16.97</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Person days out of Total (%)</td>
<td>52.82</td>
<td>46.59</td>
<td>54.88</td>
<td>46.86</td>
<td>55.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average days of employment provided per Household</td>
<td>45.97</td>
<td>49.56</td>
<td>40.17</td>
<td>39.61</td>
<td>48.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Wage rate per day per person(Rs.)</td>
<td>132.7</td>
<td>173.62</td>
<td>143.92</td>
<td>190.26</td>
<td>154.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment</td>
<td>46,59,347</td>
<td>1,17,725</td>
<td>24,92,654</td>
<td>41,315</td>
<td>48,47,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households Worked [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>10.94</td>
<td>4.8134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Worked [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>7.39</td>
<td>42.33</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>30.08</td>
<td>7.2261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1.1 Performance of MGNREGA in Karnataka State

MGNREGA has covered total 30 districts, 176 blocks and 6022 Gram Panchayats in Karnataka state. 53.42 lakh Job Cards issued (25.38 active), total 137.8 workers (59.3 active), 16.34 lakh SC and 8.67 lakh ST workers are involved in the scheme in Karnataka (Table-1). Further the details of the progress of MGNREGA continued in the Table-2. Data’s are given for the recent four years for both India and Karnataka State. Approved budget is fluctuating over the years for Karnataka State. Man days generated is also fluctuating, number of Gram panchayats has declined drastically in Karnataka. 77 per cent of the works are completed on time and financial assistant provided by the centre has been fluctuating over the years (Table-2).

6.1.2 Performance of MGNREGA in Chickmagalure and Tumkur Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Differently abled persons worked</th>
<th>4,86,495</th>
<th>7801</th>
<th>4,13,316</th>
<th>5284</th>
<th>4,59,597</th>
<th>5445</th>
<th>4,69,786</th>
<th>8022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Works</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of GPs with NIL exp</td>
<td>27,154</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>39,531</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>39,469</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>19,429</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Works Takenup</td>
<td>93.52</td>
<td>8.79</td>
<td>97.65</td>
<td>9.77</td>
<td>123.12</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>160.01</td>
<td>10.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(New+Spill Over)[In Lakhs]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Ongoing Works[In Lakhs]</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>6.88</td>
<td>68.21</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>86.94</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>99.08</td>
<td>7.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Completed Works</td>
<td>27.42</td>
<td>190.754</td>
<td>29.44</td>
<td>479.295</td>
<td>36.18</td>
<td>317381</td>
<td>60.93</td>
<td>2722949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of NRM Expenditure[Public + Individual]</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>60.94</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>52.38</td>
<td>58.71</td>
<td>61.66</td>
<td>60.22</td>
<td>63.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Category B Works</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>13.32</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>15.13</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>38.45</td>
<td>72.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Expenditure on Agriculture &amp; Agriculture Allied Works</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>63.39</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>60.94</td>
<td>62.85</td>
<td>74.75</td>
<td>66.03</td>
<td>77.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The comparison of the data of Chickmalore and Tumkur district is shown in Table -3. Numbers of works started in Tumakur district are more than the double; that of the Chickmagalore District; whereas the works completed are comparatively less to that of Chickmagalore district. Work completion rate is almost similar in both the districts.

Table 3: Comparison of Progress of work MGNREGA between Chickmagaluru and Tumakuru Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>No. of Works started</th>
<th>No. of Works Completed</th>
<th>Not Yet Completed</th>
<th>Work Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chickmagalore</td>
<td>Tumakuru</td>
<td>Chickmagalore</td>
<td>Tumakuru</td>
</tr>
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7. Major Findings

7.1 Findings from Secondary Information

- MGNREGA has covered 685 district, 6863 blocks and 262774 Gram Panchayats in India.
- 12.52 Crore Job Cards have been issued of which 6.72 were active Job Cards,
- 25.21 Crore workers involved in the work of which 10.42 Crore were active workers,
- 21.28 percent of SC and 17.6 percent of ST workers have been benefited under this scheme in the year 2016-17 in India.
- Women Person days out of Total percentage was 56.11 in 2016-17 at national level.
- Total No of House Holds completed 100 Days of Wage Employment was 39,85,638 in India.
- Total 5.1202 Crore households worked in 2016-17 at national level.
- Total 7.6615 Crore individuals worked in 2016-17 at national level.
- MGNREGA, has covered total 30 districts, 176 blocks and 6022 Gram Panchayats in Karnataka state.
- In Karnataka, 53.42 lakh Job Cards were issued of which 25.38 were active.
- Total 137.8 workers of which 59.3 were active in Karnataka.
- 16.34 lakh SC and 8.67 lakh ST workers were involved in the scheme in Karnataka.
- Average Wage rate per day per person was Rs. 223.37 in 2016-17 in Karnataka.
- Total No of House Holds completed 100 Days of Wage Employment was 1,96,822 for the same year.
Average Wage Rate per Day per Person ₹ 226.77 in both Chikkamagalur and Tumkur districts.

Number of Completed works 29 lakh in Chikkamagalur district in 26 lakh Tumkur district.

7.2 Initiatives of Karnataka Government

i. 100 per cent works of MGNREGS are implemented by GPs.

ii. From 2009 onwards the online data entry in MIS is being carried out at GP level.

iii. Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS) has been launched in all 30 districts of the State for both unskilled wages and material payments. In this regard Karnataka is disbursing 100 per cent wages electronically directly into accounts of the labourers. Therefore, highest standards of transparency and rigorous method of labour payment have been introduced.

iv. Independent Directorate of Social Audit has been established in the State.

v. Ombudsmen are working in all the districts. Separate software is under development of monitoring the working system of the Ombudsman.

vi. Task of preparation of model perspective plan for five years in selected Gram Panchayats of different regions has been entrusted to ASTRA, Mangalore.

vii. Quality Monitoring cum Third Party independent checks have been done across the State to ensure quality of work and maintenance of transparency.

viii. KayakaSangha (Labour Group of 20-25 persons) headed by Mate (KayakaBandhu) who mobilises the workers and manages worksite facilities.

ix. Nine line departments viz., Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture, Watershed (JalayanaAbivruddi), Minor Irrigation, Animal Husbandary&Panchayati Raj Engineering for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and Panchayati Raj Engineering Departments have been declared as implementing agencies for execution of works.

x. Karnataka has also initiated the innovative measure in which physically challenged persons working under MGNREGS are provided 25 per cent relaxation on the work turn and 10 per cent extra.

xi. Software named “JANMITRA” is developed under RD&PR Department, to address grievance and redressal mechanism.

8. Suggestions

With the steady progress being made by the schemes undertaken under MGNREGA, improved administrative and implementation structure in place and other associated factors, MGNREGA could be considered to play vital role in strengthening rural economy. However, this can be possible unless several issues are focused in the future.
Central government and State Government NGO’s create awareness for the publicity of MGNREGA to provide employment opportunity to the every rural household.

The wage rate has to be increased from present Rs. 236 to Rs 300.

The employment of 100 days should be increased 150 days for rural households and employment opportunities should be provided to every rural household.

A quality awareness campaign (IEC) with a focus on details of the provisions and entitlement of the scheme should be undertaken to popularise the scheme and to bring awareness among the rural households.

Realistic estimation of labour demand through household survey of job card holders, appropriate planning of works and their execution to ensure adequate worker participation rate in MGNREGA is very much essential.

Strengthening of demand registration processes so that all those who wish to apply for work under MGNREGA are facilitated and unmet needs for wage employment are fully addressed.

The works on the land of marginalised sections viz., SC, ST households should be given more priority and special efforts should be made to provide full 100 days of employment to these households.

Adequate steps towards timely work completion should be ensured.

For the poor households in the rural areas, wage is the main source of income. Therefore, timely payment of wages to workers as mandated in the Act should be ensured. The Unemployment Allowance payable as per provisions of the Act for non-provision of works within 15 days of registering of demand for work also needs to be made operational.

Social audits have to be conducted effectively and regularly and findings of it have to be put up in the public domain.

Provision of adequate human resources at all levels of programme implementation holds the key to success of MGNREGA. The PRIs need functionaries, especially at Gram Panchayats to perform to their fullest potential.

To ensure more women participation in MGNREGA, (i) worksite facilities such as crèches, drinking water, shade etc., should be provided (ii) encourage participation of women groups, including Self-Help Groups (Sthree Shakti) in awareness generation, capturing of demand, planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of works.

9. Conclusion

Thus, poverty and unemployment are the two major issues in Karnataka in general and rural areas in particular. Majority of the poor people are living in rural areas. Agriculture wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non-agriculture
activities constitute the bulk of the rural poor. The high incidence of poverty is directly related to prevalence of under-employment and unemployment on large scale. The rural workforce continues to suffer due to excessive seasonality of employment, lack of wage employment opportunities and low wage rates. Migration of labour, discrimination between wages paid to men and women, distressed child labour etc., are therefore, common features of rural areas. The problems of low wage rate, seasonality of agriculture employment, informal nature of work are some of the causes for the prevalence of large scale unemployment in Karnataka.

In continuation to the earlier wage employment programmes, MGNREGA has been implemented in the State since 2006 to eradicate poverty and unemployment by providing legally guaranteed 100 days of employment to each rural household. However, by analysing the physical and financial performance, it has been observed that the performance of Karnataka is far from satisfactory in providing supplementary employment to the rural people considering the rate of rural poverty and unemployment in the State. 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.

Thus, MGNREGA has contributed to increase in the consumption expenditure reducing the debt burden of the beneficiaries. The study has shown that MGNREGA programme often poses the problem of labour scarcity for some of the agricultural operations linked to market wage rates. As a consequence, farmers have brought down their acreage under different crops, leaving the land fallow. Hence, the issue has to be debated to see that 100-day employment guarantee under MGNREGA be confined strictly to months when there is no harvesting or sowing activity.

References


