



Impact of MGNREGA in Improving Socio-Economic Status of Rural- Women in Binauli Block: A Study of Baghpat District of UP

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Abstract

The Government of India's MGNREGA initiative, the largest programme in the world to eradicate poverty, aims to increase the livelihood security of rural poor people by offering 100 days of guaranteed wage employment per fiscal year to households whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labour with a third of jobs reserved for women. Since it promotes giving legal guarantees of equal pay for male and female workers, this act is also delicate for women. In this context, an effort has been made to gauge how the MGNREGA has affected the socioeconomic empowerment of rural women in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district's Binauli block. The study is based on initial information gathered from 120 women beneficiaries using a pre-tested organised routine and simple random sampling. A weighted average and multiple regression analysis were both used to analyse the data. According to the study, MGNREGA has a good effect on women's economic empowerment, but social empowerment is less notable due to a lack of knowledge about the act's provisions.

Key Words: Rural, MGNREGA, Women Empowerment, socio economic.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of 2005 (NREGA) is a social security programme that aims to give rural labourers in the nation jobs and a means of subsistence. The NREGA was enacted as a labour law and implemented in 200 districts in 2006 in an effort to make inclusive and comprehensive development a reality. It eventually spread across the entire nation by 2008. Any adult who registers for rural employment will receive a minimum job guarantee of 100 days each fiscal year under the plan. This is unique in the entire world and includes unskilled labour. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) took its place as the new name for the law. Every adult citizen has the right to work under the MGNREGA. Should such employment not materialise within 15 days of registration, the applicant will be qualified for unemployment benefits.

The Gramme Panchayats were in charge of carrying out MGNREGA. Government sources claim that since the program's commencement, the Indian government has spent a total of INR 289817.04 crores on it, helping to employ 68,26,921 people on 2,61,942 sites (statistics as of June 2015). The first minimum wage set was INR 100 per day, but it was later amended in accordance with state labour laws. The states currently set the minimum wages, which range from INR 163 in Bihar to INR 500 in Kerala. Over the years, the MGNREGA has come in for a lot of criticism. The

plan has come under fire for a number of things, including accusations that it promotes corruption, increases inequality, and acts as the UPA's election trump card. Detractors contend that the program's genuine advantages do not reach the rural labour force in addition to significantly depleting the nation's financial resources. This programme seeks to create community assets, promote sustainable development, and offer adequate employment to women at a competitive wage while also helping the rural poor during the lean agricultural season. Therefore, the programme mandates that 2/3 of all employees be women.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In their article The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of India, 2005, Basu, Chau, and Kanbur (2015) provide a detailed description of the Act and its key characteristics. After describing the characteristics of the Act, the essay addresses poverty targeting in rural labour markets, which aided this research in understanding the Act's key features. The articles Employment Guarantee and Women's Empowerment in Rural India by Jandu (2018) and Employment Guarantee Policies and Related Gender Dimensions by Antonopolous (2017) place emphasis on the Act's priority for women.

There is a wealth of research on MGNREGA's contribution to sustainable development and achieving livelihood security that is based on empirical studies. According to these research, the MGNREGA schemes have so far had a mixed record across all of India.

Mathur argued in 2017 that the MGNREGA had started a series of significant transformations in the lives of rural poor people. He demonstrates how migration has decreased in a number of Andhrapradesh, Chattisgarh, and Orissa villages.

Ambasta tried to concentrate on the asset quality through MGNREGA works in 2018. They draw attention to the asset's subpar quality. Farm bundling was started without any technical planning, and the work was of poor quality.

The national employment guarantee scheme is a programme that offers all job searchers who are at least 18 years old and willing to perform 100 days of unskilled labour.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The goal of the current study is to determine how MGNREGA has affected women's empowerment and socioeconomic growth. Both primary and secondary data are used in order to identify the same. The Binauli block of the Baghpat district served as the convenience sampling location for the participants.

3.1 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The study's sample was chosen using a random sampling technique when choosing study participants and respondents.

3.2 SELECTION OF DISTRICT

Because women in this district participated in the MGNREGA scheme, the Baghpat District was specifically chosen for this study.

3.3 SELECTION OF BLOCK

The Binauli block was deliberately chosen based on the amount of MGNREGA programmes that were implemented.

3.4 SELECTION OF VILLAGE

The block office of the Binauli Block provided the Bannoli village MGNREGA..

3.5 SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS

The village panchayat office provided a list of the women who were eligible for MGNREGA subsidies. The chosen village has produced a total of 30 non-beneficiaries and 90 beneficiaries. Consequently, 120 respondents in total were chosen for the current study.

3.6 SELECTION AND MEASUREMENT OF VARIABLES

The socioeconomic and psychological variables are examples of the kinds of variables that affect respondents' knowledge. The researcher can get a reasonable and precise conclusion by operationalizing and measuring the variables. As a result, the variables chosen for the current study were operationalized and measured as follows.

4. DISCUSSION AND RESULT:

Because of the programme, women are now able to leave their houses for employment as well as to visit banks and panchayat offices, which was before impossible. This has given women in society a higher standing and enabled them to become wage earners. Even though there haven't been many studies on the subject of how women working on MGNREGS sites are changing their gender roles, studies have shown that women are becoming more self-assured. Women's roles in the workforce, in the home, and in the development of social safety net policies are still limited. The state as a whole refuses to acknowledge the twin responsibilities of women in the family as carers and wage earners. Since women continue to be the primary breadwinners in the household, the MGNREGS meets their needs for a work environment close to home, flexible hours, and other factors. Although the national governments have taken more initiative, there are still many problems and difficulties for women who participate in the programme in the workplace. The government needs to develop more programmes to educate rural women about the key benefits provided by MGNREGA and the need of timely payments made only through bank accounts. According to the literature review, research implications for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will undoubtedly assist policy makers, the government, panchayats, rural states, and the central government in adopting methodologies for new sectors like MGNREGA.

4.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN UNDER MGNREGA

Four variables under each of the economic and social aspects were taken into consideration in order to evaluate the socio-economic empowerment potential of MGNREGA among women. The score obtained by each of the indicators is given in Table 1.

Table: 1

Impact of MGNREGA on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

Sl. No	Indicators	Responses			Total Score	Weighted Average Score
		Increased	Increased to some Extent	No Change		
	Economic Parameters					

1	Income	104	12	4	284	1.88
2	Saving	86	23	11	262	1.76
3	Purchasing power	92	16	12	260	1.30
4	Decreased dependency on money lender	82	23	15	244	1.62
	Total				1050	1.74
II	Social Parameters					
1	Decision making capacity	97	8	15	266	1.78
2	Self Confidence	80	28	12	255	1.70
3	Mobility	71	36	13	242	1.61
4	Social Participation	76	28	16	240	1.62
	Total				1003	1.68
	Total Score for the socio-economic parameters				2053	1.72

The above table shows that MGNREGA has the ability to give women socioeconomic emancipation. This is clear from the overall score of 1.72 when all eight indicators are combined. Indicators of economic empowerment had an average score of 1.74, which is greater than those of social empowerment, which received an average score of 1.68. This shows that, as a result of MGNREGA, women beneficiaries have seen greater levels of economic empowerment than social empowerment. Increased income received the highest economic factor score of 1.88, followed by increased savings (1.76) and lessened reliance on payday lenders (1.62). MGNREGA recipients scored the highest on self-confidence (1.70), mobility (1.62), and decision-making capacity (1.78), all of which are social criteria.

Table :2

Occupation and Annual Income wise distribution of Respondents

S.N.	Occupation	Beneficiaries		Non- Beneficiaries	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1.	MGNREGA Labour	79	86.66	-	-
2.	Farming and Service	-	-	20	68.67
3.	Agriculture Labour	11	35.69	10	35.32
	Total	90	100.00	30	100.00
	Annual Income				
1.	Rs. 12000-14000	12	14.35	14	45.64
2.	Rs. 14001 and above	78	87.68	16	52.32
	Total	90	100.00	30	100.00

It is evident from the above table that the majority of beneficiaries participated in the MGNREGA through employment as workers, while 35.69 percent of beneficiaries and 35.32 percent of non-beneficiaries worked in agriculture. The table also shows that the majority of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in the study area earned more than Rs. 14001 annually.

4.2 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE BENEFICIARIES

Also made was an effort to research the difficulties MGNREGA recipients in Baghpatt District's Binauli Block experienced. The primary restraint, according to more than half of the recipients (55.66%), is a delay in receiving their wages. The failure to close the muster rolls on time and a staffing shortage for MGNREGA may be the causes of the wage payment delay. Lack of regular employment (49.64%) and remote worksite (42.32%) are the beneficiaries' other two primary challenge. More details are furnished in Table 3.

Table:3**Constraints faced by the beneficiaries**

S.N.	Constraints	Percentage of beneficiaries
1.	Delay in wage payment	55.66
2.	Lack of regular work	49.64
3.	Distant worksite	42.32
4.	Providing employment during agricultural seasons	35.66
5.	lack of worksite facilities	33.01
6.	Getting less than 100 days of employment	23.02

5. CONCLUSION:

MGNREGA is a law that ensures all rural poor people who reach the age of 18 will have 100 days of employment. The government anticipates socioeconomic progress and the empowerment of women through this job programme. The majority of the blocks in Uttar Pradesh effectively executed this programme, according to this study, which is the focus of my research on the effects of MGNREGA on socioeconomic development and women's empowerment. The majority of participants in this programme are female workers. The main goal of this study is to determine how MGNREGA contributes to the development and expansion of rural areas. The main drawbacks of this study were its time constraints and participants' resistance. MGNREGA will play a significant role in and have a significant impact on rural development in the future, and it is best to expand this programme to other relevant areas like agriculture, industry, construction, etc. on the basis of data gathered from various sources for the in-depth study on this topic.

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