



IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGA: A STUDY OF DHAMTARI DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH

Anand Raghuvanshi¹ and Sangya Shrivastav²

¹Faculty Member, Thakur Pyarelal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Raipur, Panchayat and Rural Development Department. C.G

²Kruti group of institutions, Raipur

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is one of the largest pro poor programmes being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development which aims at strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. By this scheme Govt. gives assurance of employment to unskilled rural laborer for 100 days. MGNREGA works are largely focused on land and water resources which include: Water conservation, minor irrigation, horticulture, rural connectivity, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development and drought proofing. This study is an attempt to assessment the impact on implementation and effectiveness of the Act in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh, during the financial year 2016-17.

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INTRODUCTION

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 is a unique policy intervention by the State for providing 'livelihood security' to the resource poor people in rural India. Under the Act, the Governments are legally bound to provide 100 days guaranteed manual employment on local public works to every rural unskilled adult (job-card holder) who is willing to work at the prevailing minimum statutory wage rate. In the absence of employment they would be paid unemployment allowance. The Act came into force on February 2, 2006 and was implemented in a phased manner. In Phase I it was introduced in 200 of the most backward districts of the country. It was implemented in an additional 130 districts in Phase II in 2007-2008. The Act was notified in the remaining 285 rural districts of India from April 1, 2008 in Phase III. The Scheme offers a statutory minimum wage of Rs. 142 for each job holder per day in 2013 prices.

Out of 18 districts of Chhattisgarh, NREGA was implemented in 11 districts *i.e.*, Baster, Bilaspur, Dantewada, Dhamtari, Jashpur, Kanker, Kabirdham, Korla, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon and Surguja in Phase-I. In second phase (1 April 2007), 4 additional districts *i.e.*, Raipur, Janjgir- champa, Korba and Mahasamund were added. In the third phase all the remaining districts have been notified under the NREGA.

***Corresponding author: Anand Raghuvanshi**

1Faculty Member, Thakur Pyarelal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Raipur, Panchayat and Rural Development Department. C.G

MGNREGA was applied to district Dhamtari in the first phase and the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in the district commenced on Feb. 02, 2006. MGNREGA works are largely focused on land and water resources which include: water harvesting and conservation, soil conservation and protection, irrigation provisioning and improvement, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development and drought proofing. These MGNREGA have the potential to generate environmental benefits such as ground recharge, soil and water conservation, drought and floods.

Objectives of the Study

- The impacts of MGNREGA related to natural resources include soil, water *etc.*
- To create wage employment for the rural sustainable livelihood to raise productive capacity of the economy.

Review and Literatures

Malhotra (2004) attempt to investigate the expected benefits of NREGS work involved in the programme would build infrastructure such as roads, irrigation, health facilities, *etc.* this could help reverse the recent neglect of rural infrastructure and can be a crucial part of regenerating the rural economy by providing employment of social welfare by breaking the vicious cycle of rural poverty. There may also be indirect benefits if more women are given the opportunity to work. Mukherjee and Saswata (2008) in their paper "What Determiners the Success of 100 Days Work at Panchayat

Level? A Study of Birbhum district in West Bengal”, they critically examined the NREGA Scheme in Birbhum district. Their major findings were most of the rural households applied for job cards and everybody knows about NREGA. They suggested some formal training regarding NREGA at GP level to achieve the common goal.

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.

Garje (2012) study the impact of NREGS wages on poverty, agriculture, non- agriculture sector and food inflation, and see the importance of NREGA work and need of high wages in unorganized sector to reduce the impact of poverty and migration in rural India.

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 100days 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.

Negi *et al.* (2015), this is case study on the impact assessment of MGNREGA in pauri garhwal district of Uttarakhand and reported that the employment provided to households, percentage of households completing 100 days of employment and cast wise registration under MGNREGA and also reported the scheme has a vital role to reduce poverty and unemployment. Through the implementation of the scheme the income of the rural people of the district definitely raised and hence their livelihood.

Gupta and Pandey (2016) study on the implementation of MGNREGA in Chhattisgarh and reported that the performance of MGNREGA had a clear positive impact on the rural economy through employment and income generation and also through raising the standard of living and socio-economic performance of the rural community of the Bilaspur district. Overall the implementation procedure of the scheme is good and found effective.

METHODOLOGY

Data were collected from various secondary sources like from District web site (www.dhamtari.gov.in), different reports of government, published and unpublished sources like books, journals, reports, publications, unpublished doctoral dissertation and from www.nrega.nic.in.

Brief Profile of Chhattisgarh

The State Chhattisgarh is one of the youngest States of the Indian nation. Constituted on 1st November, 2000,

Chhattisgarh is located in the heart of India. The geographical area of the State covers over 135,000 square kilometers and the total population in 2011 was 25545198 (2.55 crore). Of this, 77 percent of the people live in rural areas and 23 percent live in urban areas. The State has a low density of population, 189 persons per square kilometer. The sex ratio for the State is 991 females per 1,000 males. In rural Chhattisgarh, there are more women than men.

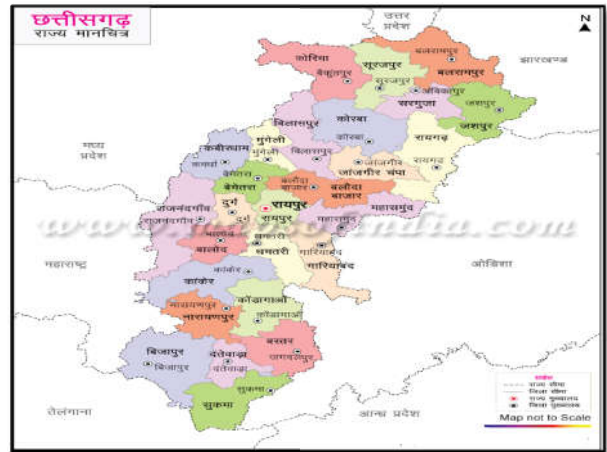


Fig.1 Map of Chhattisgarh State

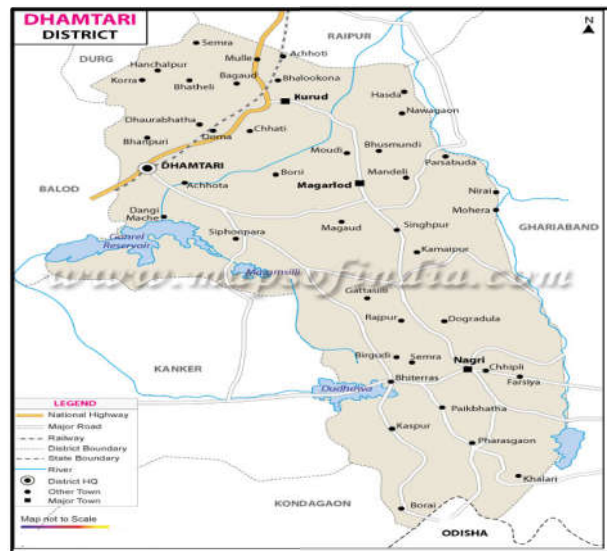


Fig.2 Map of Dhamtari district

Brief Profile of Dhamtari District

The total area of the dhamtari district is 4,084 km² including 3,985.51 km² rural area and 98.49 km² urban area. District is situated between 20042' N Latitude and 81o33' E Longitude. The district is administratively divided into four tehsils/block viz., Dhamtari, Kurud, Nagari and Magarlod and 355 Gram Panchayats comprising 651 villages, as per 2011 census. According to the census report of 2011, the total population of this district was 7,99,781 of which 3,97,897 were males and 4,01,884 were females. But in 2001 census, the total population of this district was 7,06,591 of which 3,52,524 were males and 3,54,067 were females. The total area of the district is 4084 sq. km. The density of population was 196 per sq.km in 2011 and 209 in 2001. Out of the total Dhamtari population for 2011 census, 18.65 percent lives in urban regions of district. In total 149,195 people lives in urban areas of which males are 74,477 and females are 74,718. The over-all sex ratio and child sex ratio in urban region in this district were 103 and 968

respectively. Child population (0-6) in urban region was 17,450 of which males and females were 8,866 and 8,584. This child population figure of Dhamtari district is 11.90 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Dhamtari district as per census 2011 is 84.26 % of which males and females are 91.26 % and 77.32 % literates respectively. In actual number 111,008 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 59,874 and 51,134 respectively. The sex ratio of the district in 2011 was 1010 females" per1000 males and the figure in 2001 was 1004.

Table 1 MGNREGA statistics of dhamtari districts, Chhattisgarh

No. of HH issued job cards	146641
No. of HH provided employment	118294
Total persondays generated	5297177
SCs	265528
STs	2097692
Women	2721091
Other	2933957
No. of HH completed 100 days work	11224
Work completed	18165
Work ongoing	32993
Total work taken	52298

participation has remarkably increased through NREGA scheme. Some people from general caste category are also included in this scheme and there is no caste bar.

Each household has one job card for any caste. This simply develops to work jointly with various community people i.e. there is reduction gap among the owner and the laboring class. The scheme has a vital role to reduce poverty and unemployment. Through the implementation of the scheme the income of the rural people of the district definitely raised and hence their livelihood.

CONCLUSION

Though there are some limitations the study indicates that the introduction of the programme of MGNREGA had a clear positive impact on the rural economy through employment and income generation and also through raising the standard of living and socio-economic performance of the rural community of the district. So it is recommended that the present programme should be further spread in the rural areas by means of proper planning, adequate supervision. The MGNREGA scheme should not be confined into 100 days work for wage earners income only.

Table 2 Works status under MGNREGA during the financial year 2016-17

S. No.	category of works	Work completed			Work ongoing			Total works taken					
		Dhamtari	Kurud	Magarlod	Nagri	Dhamtari	Kurud	Magarlod	Nagri	Dhamtari	Kurud	Magarlod	Nagri
1	Rural infrastructure	0	3	0	8	2	5	7	17	2	8	7	25
2	Rural sanitation	6957	2451	999	1418	3145	175	463	6596	10102	2626	1462	8015
3	Drought proofing	155	239	55	545	303	218	30	187	459	458	85	735
4	Land development	41	66	44	36	77	77	101	157	118	145	145	206
5	Micro Irrigation work	54	82	106	29	122	128	190	47	177	211	296	79
6	Flood control and protection	32	10	56	15	3	26	14	23	37	36	71	42
7	Water conservation and water harvesting	19	41	90	71	182	62	308	246	201	107	398	321
8	Renovation of traditional water bodies	104	141	103	83	163	160	174	116	267	302	279	209
9	Rural connectivity	93	84	203	201	121	121	153	148	214	208	356	351
10	Other works	176	324	1087	1944	2595	4548	4725	7058	2792	4954	6133	9659
	Total	7631	3441	2743	4350	6713	5520	6165	14595	14369	9055	9232	19642

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Nation Rural Development site in the Chhattisgarh year 2016-17 the total employment provided to households were 21.32 lakhs and the person's man days was 885.94 lakhs. Among which SCs were 79.80 lakhs, STs were 340.63 lakhs, women were 436.86 and others were 465.50 lakhs. The number of families complete 100 days works were 01.72 lakhs.

The Table 1 shows that in the districts the year 2016-17 the total employment provided to household 1.18 lakhs and person's man day was 52.97 lakhs. Among which SCs were 5.01 %, STs were 39.60 %, and other was 4.02 % and women 51.37%. This also indicates that there is large STs and women participation under this scheme. SCs are significantly low participation in the district. The number of total works taken up was 52298 among which works completed were 18165 and works in progress were 32993. The number of family completed 100 days works is 11224.

Water is the essential component of life. Scarcity of water is the main problem in the hilly rural areas. This water scarcity can be solved through this scheme by digging new ponds or renovation, water recharge and storage. These pond water can be used multipurpose fully like in agriculture, some domestic propose etc. Hence through the operation of this scheme a multiplier employment generation may be solved in the long-run. From the above analysis it is clear that women

It was also recommended that proper awareness about the scheme should be created so that majority of poor people can get benefitted from the scheme. Overall the impact of the scheme is good and found effective.

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