



**IMPACT OF MGNREG PROGRAMME:
A CASE STUDY IN KOLAR DISTRICT, KARNATAKA**

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INTRODUCTION:

The world's biggest employment Guarantee programme 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee act (MGNREGA) was notified on 7th September 2005 and came into force from 2nd February 2006. It was launched by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Sing in Ananthapur District of Andra Pradesh. Accordingly, Government of Karnataka formulated the scheme MGNREGS and it came into force from 2nd February 2006. Karnataka implemented this programme in 3 phases. The first phase implemented on 2nd February 2006 and Districts covered are Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Davangere and Chitradurga. The second phase implemented on 1st April 2007 and covered Districts of Bellary, Belgaum, Chikkamangalore, Hassan, Kodagu and Shimoga. The remaining districts have been covered in phase III which has been implemented on 8th October 2007 and came into effect on April 1st 2008.

Since the onset of this programme in all the Districts covered under three phases employment opportunities have provided under different activities of MGNREGA. Around 83,517 lakh households were given employment. MGNREGA is not just an employment provider, it is a programme designed to create rural infrastructure like roads connectivity, minor irrigation works, public buildings, water supply, water conservation and harvesting, drought relief, afforestation etc. and to empower the women in rural areas, especially from the lower strata of the society.

The present study is undertaken to know the impact of the programme in Kolar Districts rural economy since its implementation. Even though it is very early to assess its impact, pros and cons, an attempt has been made to understand the programme. The study is undertaken in 2012-13 and primary data required for the study is collected from 250 respondents those who are beneficiaries of this programme. The sample of the respondents has been selected randomly from all the five blocks (Taluks), one panchayat selected from each taluk. Information collected from the total sample is based on interview method, and

for this questionnaire has been prepared and canvassed for the collection of data. observation method is also used, secondary data collected from www.nrega.nic.in. To analyse the data simple statistical tools are used.

The main objectives considered while doing this study are

- To assess the employment availability under MGNREGS.
- To know the complementary benefits of MGNREGS on the beneficiaries' income level.
- To assess the economic empowerment of women through MGNREGS.

Based on the activities undertaken in MGNREGS in the year 2012-13, the number of person days' employment generated is considered in all the blocks of Kolar District. Availability of employment is presented in table - 1.

Table-1. Employment generated to households (Persondays) under MGNREGS more than 100 days.

Blocks (Taluks)	Employment Provided HH	Employment provided to workers (person days)				
		SC's	ST's	Others	Total	Women
Kolar	54	29192	6461	15398	11059	49804
Bangarpet	13	28659	5373	55453	89485	47413
Malur	29	27341	12489	72833	112663	57558
Mulbagal	11	10282	850	24183	35315	16814
Srinivasapur	75	20846	9014	45428	75288	36868
TOTAL	162	116320	34167	273292	423602	207457

Source : www.nregaindicia.in

The above table shows the available employment under this programme. In 2012-13 total 162 households have been given more than 100 days employment. in Srinivasapur

block, employment provided households are more when compared to other blocks, Mulbagal taluk provided to less households, Further, when we observe person days employment provided, in all five blocks SC's are given more opportunities, It shows that the working person days have been distributed according to the norms set up by the government. It is evident from the table, that around half of the work force is women' labourers. Thus, it can be observed from the above table, majority of the beneficiaries are belonged to the economically, socially backward classes and women.

Employment received on age wise under MNGREG scheme

The average age of the beneficiaries of this scheme is taken into consideration to assess availability of opportunities to the different age groups.

Table - II Age wise employment (persondays) available

Blocks (Taluks)	Age wise employed beneficiaries									
	18-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60+	
	Regist- ered	employe d	Regist ered	employ ed	Regist - ered	employ ed	Regist - ered	empl oyed	Regist- ered	employed
Bangarpet	42881	1996	42594	4380	34386	3742	20401	1946	9397	651
Kolar	61579	1740	70816	3325	50953	5598	30940	1505	9421	501
Malur	26638	1222	26530	2451	22299	2207	12579	1061	6576	439
Mulbagal	99296	2830	101985	2904	77130	2464	38203	1397	9725	490
Srinivasapur	36464	2773	38845	3931	36165	2742	21024	1567	6471	451
TOTAL	266858	10561	280770	15991	22093	13753	123147	7476	41590	2532

Source :www.negrea.nic.in

From the above table, we could observe that, more employment beneficiaries are in the age group of 30-40 years, the very next employment beneficiaries are in the age group of 40-50 years. Even though more number of people registered in the age group of 18-30, the

employment provided to them is less when compared to the next other two groups. So the majority employment is given to the age group of 18-50 years. Opportunities less provided to the age group of 50-60 years and 60+ years age. At the same time table above clearly depicts that the job seekers are very high in number than the employment available irrespective of their age group. Job seekers are highest in the 30-40 years age group. It may be because, Kolar District is basically agriculture based economy and drought prone area where rains become scanty in the last 10-15 years. The other reason may be that 30-40 age group workers and job seekers are in their secondary working ages, who could not really want to go out of their place and seek employment elsewhere.

Wage employment of the respondents.

Implementation of MNGREG has really enhanced the employment opportunities and provided wage employment to the rural sector people, whether this opportunity increased their income level etc has been analyzed. To analyze their wage employment, respondents primary occupation and employment availability under MNGREG is taken into consideration.

Table III Occupations of the respondents and wage employment availability under MNGREG

Occupations	No. of Respondents	House holds worked more than 100 days	Person days
Agricultural labourers	106 (43%)	69	6152
Small / Marginal farmers	58 (23%)	21	1007
Daily Wage Workers	35 (14%)	23	4932
Village Artizans	20 (8%)	12	1287
Others	31 (12%)	12	2981
TOTAL	250	137	16359

Source : Field Data

As given in the table, among the respondents 43 percent of them are agriculture sector labourers, 23 percent of them are small and marginal farmers, 14 percent are daily wage workers (those who do works on the basis of availability of job both in agriculture and non

agriculture sector, mostly unskilled laboures). Even the village artizans (8 percent) have been attracted to MNGREG scheme. Others are around 12 percent of the respondents.

This is evident that, this scheme is providing opportunities to all skilled and unskilled jobseekers. The avearge persondays of employment and households worked more than 100 days under this scheme among the respondents has also be shown in the table. Among different occupations Agricultural labourers' house holds, 69 househlds received more than 100 days of work and 6152 person days employment has been given. In the same way, daily wage workers, village artizans and others' house holds got more than 100 days work and personday work they got 4932, 1287 and 2981 respectively. But where as in the case of small and marginal farmers persondays work availability is less when compared to others. With respect to other than this group of workers, average number of labour force per house house hold increased, It has happened may be because of women's participation in this work force has been increased.

It is also evident that there is an increase in their average wage income earning opportunities by the implementation of the MNGREG programme, Both number of employment days per annum and household work days has been increased. The impact of MNGREG served to the workers of elicit the view on the programme before and after launching the programm in Kolar District of Karnataka. Income, expenditure and net savings are taken into considreation to measure the economic well being, and speak about the economic status of different groups of workers participated in this programme.

Table IV Income levels of respondents

Sl. No.	Occupation	Before MGN			After MGN		
		Annual	Exp	Surplus Benefit	Annual	Exp	Surplus Benefit
01.	Agricultural labourers	16200-00	19200-00	-3000-00	24000-00	21600-00	+2400/-
02.	Small/Marginal farmers	15600-00	19800-00	-4200-00	24000-00	21000-00	+3000/-
03.	Daily wage workers	19800-00	21600-00	-2640-00	24000-00	22200-00	+1800/-
04.	Village Artizans	17760-00	20400-00	-1800-00	2400-00	22800-00	+1200/-
05.	Others	13800-00	18000-00	-4200-00	24000-00	19200-00	+4800/-

Source : Field Data

The total annual income of MNGREG participants has been increased after the implementation of MNGREG scheme. From the above table we could see that all the respondents from different occupation groups have earned more income from participating in MNGREG.scheme. Before the implimentation of the MGNREG .Scheme the availability employment opportunities at their respective fields were less, and income levels were deficit. It is evident from the table IV which shows annual income and expenditure criteria of labourers of different occupation category. All the respondents annual income level when compared to the expenditures is less, and all of them were in debt. But, after the implimentation of MGNREG programme, all respondents income level has been

increased. Now they are not in the deficits and debt. So MGNREG scheme has enhanced the affordability in the changing cirucmstances of their present world, It is clear that MGNREGS has positive impact on income pattern of the respondents.

Empowerment of rural women in all walks of their life in one of the important concept of MGNREG scheme. Under this scheme more importance is given to SCs, SCTs and women. Under this programme women participation in the house hold work force has been increased. They had better control overfamily expenditure, savings, and social

participation is increased. Women participation is increase in household management decisions and financial management decisions.

Table V: Female participation in Decision making of the family Respondents.

Response	Before Participation in MNGREGS				After Participation in MNGREGS			
	Expense	Savings	Social Participation	H.H Management	Expense	Savings	Social Participation	H.H. Management
Very Less	200 (100%)	200 (100%)	200 (100%)	200 (100%)	-	-	-	-
Less	-	-	-	-	-	120 (60%)	-	-
Good	-	-	-	-	156 (78%)	80 (40%)	-	-
Increased	-	-	-	-	44 (22%)	-	200 (100)%	200 (100%)
No Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	200	200	200	200	-	-	200	200

Source : Field Data

The above table shows that, women participation in decision making in household Management, their social participation, their expenditure is increased. After joining MGNREG Scheme, their income, savings also increased. The participation in MGNREGS gave them more confidence as they earned their own lively hood and also had opportunity to express themselves in the society. Thus MGNREGS has paved the way to empower the women. All the respondents said their participation increased in their socio economic strata of their lives. This indicates that MGNREGS is enhancing the empowerment of women.

To sum up the study revealed that after the implementation of MGNREGS in Kolar



Districts' rural sector, availability of employment per household and person days has been increased. Their average wage income has also been increased. The landless agricultural labourers benefited more when compared to others. Around fifty percent of the workers are women. There is an increase in their income level which in turn empowered to express themselves.

The study reveals that the MGNREGS should be further strengthened to ensure further increase in availability of employment, livelihood, security to rural poor, with special schemes to empower women. Accordingly programme needs to be reoriented in such a way that better utilization and management of locally available natural resources. It should become compulsory activity to the progress in agriculture sector.

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