

Work Progress and Financial Development of MGNREGA in context of Haryana state

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Abstract

In this paper we had studied the impact of MGNREGA on rural development in Haryana. This was studied by the data analysis of employment generation, Work progress and financial progress through MGNREGA in Haryana from 2017-18 to 2020-21. From the study we had found that Haryana state has made good progress in implementation of MGNREGA scheme. This was done by providing income source, by release of more funds from the center government, by increase in number of works taken up and by promoting this scheme by providing training to the rural people and staff. Further from the study it was found that the MGNREGA scheme was very helpful for poor people during the covid-19 pandemic as government gave a big boost to this program as an instrument of increasing employment and income of poor segment of the society which further improves the rural development in Haryana.

Key Words: MGNREGA, Rural development, Financial Progress, Work Progress, Haryana.

1. Introduction

Individuals living in remote and population wise dense areas are often refers as Rural people. The process of increasing their life style and financial status is called Rural development. Conventionally, rural development was dependent on the misappropriation of land-intensive natural resources like sylviculture and agriculture. However, in modern days, the nature of rural areas transformed very fast due to change in global output networks and increasing urbanization.

In India 1/3rd of rural population is living below poverty line and 2/3rd of total population of country is dependent on agriculture for their life support. Hence the government can achieve the goal of overall development of country by upgrading the standard of living and by providing enough basic facilities to the rural areas. Because Rural development is still the basis need for gross economic growth of the country.

Rural development focuses on the activities performed for the rural areas development to enhance the economy of rural areas. Following activities of rural areas required to have significant attention and new initiatives:

- I. Sanitation and Public health
- II. Financial position enhancement for rural poor and backward population, Women empowerment
- III. Development of infrastructure (roads, electricity, transportation, irrigation, etc.)
- IV. Agriculture extension facilities
- V. Credit Availability
- VI. Opportunities for Employment

Rural development is very crucial for economic development of the country as well as for people living in rural areas. As compared to old times, in present times rural development is significantly important for progress of country. It is a policy that tries to obtain higher productivity, equality and stability in social economic development.

Today, concept of inclusive development of rural areas is distinctive than earlier. It includes improving the overall quality of life of rural population. Particularly inclusive rural development consists of two different but identical dimensions - social dimension and economic dimension. Economic dimension helps in economic growth by creating capacity and by providing opportunity for development of low income group and poor people of rural areas. Social dimension enhances gender equality, supports women empowerment and provides safety to endangered groups for purpose of developing poor and low-income people socially.

Innovative ideas for development of rural India:-

- Use of locally available resources
- Start industries for rural areas light industries based on agriculture, forest and handicrafts etc.
- Variety of services can be made available
- New businesses can be started
- Technological services like computer based services and internet services can be made available
- Rural peoples can be encouraged to become entrepreneurs.

1.1. Progress Made by MGNREGA

MGNREGA scheme progresses very vigorously in the starting years i.e. from 2006-07 to 2009-10 due to the rapid increase in the number of districts covered. By the year 2009-10, MGNREGA scheme has covered all the districts and rural areas in the country.

In just starting four years, MGNREGA scheme has played an adequate & marvelous role by covering more than 40 million rural households and generating employment of over 1.7-billion-person days. This remarkable achievement has become feasible due to the ingathering of domestic finances and available institutional structures for bringing the scheme. By institutionalization of MGNREGA as a right in Indian Constitution, Government of India has implanted it as a enduring scheme which cannot be subject to political impulse. The important factors responsible for the Progress of MGNREGA are:

1. Powerful leadership of country and the enactment of MGNREGA as a right in the Indian Constitution.
2. High spirited secular society at the national and regional level.
3. Devolved administration duties, accountability and resources to the government at local level; and
4. High degree of poverty and inequality.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies have been conducted on MGNREGA in India as well as in other countries. Present review of literature is related with impacts of MGNREGA on rural areas of Haryana. **Chakraborty (2014)** observed using secondary data benefits of MGNREGA for rural areas. The objective of study was to find how MNERGA helped in employment generation for rural folk in diversified socio-geographical conditions. The study was conducted in west Bengal. Results of the study indicated that procedural delays and structural deficiencies effect the attainment of desired results of employment generation programme. Implications of MNERGA were non-satisfactory as lack of crèche facility, improper drinking water and no SHG member to observe work at work site. Participation of women and SI works was significant but still a lot was needed to be achieved for attainment of MGNREGA objectives. **Rahmatullah (2013)** investigated role of MGNREGA in inclusive growth. Secondary data is used for study like MGNREGA's MIS report, planning commission sources and other sources. Result of the study revealed that MGNREGA provide employment to marginalized groups like SC's, ST's, women's and others. Creation of infrastructure, income generation and enhanced living standard of rural people are also some benefits of MGNREGA. Rural people considered MGNREGA as "halt a loaf is better than none". Govt. should concentrate on providing 100 days employment guaranteed and urban peoples must also not be overlooked.

Singh (2011) analyzed Panchayat's role in implementing MGNREGA in Sirsa. Results indicated Panchayat act as major Centre for implementation of NREGA. But in Sirsa Panchayat face few hurdles in proper implementation of the scheme. So, these hurdles needed to be removed immediately so that process of implementing NREGA can be completed with efficiency at base level and maximum transparency can be insured.

Aiyar and Samji (2006) examined effectiveness of MGNREGA through some important principles. Results of the study indicated that Panchayati Raj Institution's (PRI's) should work in transparent and accountable manner. Minimum wage rate, sufficient resources availability for PRI's, transfer of resources to Gram Panchayat, Technical Support for administration and plan construction, financial management, dispute settlement mechanism were basic requirements of efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme. For reducing corruption, leakages and delayed payments social audit reports can be used. Funds monitoring through IT and RTI act, 2005 can be used. GP should work for operational activities and state government for monitoring and regulation of the process of implementation of scheme. High quality infrastructure and participation of workers by making them aware of the scheme helped in creating MGNREGA a strong system.

Shah (2004) stated NREGA as historical opportunity for rural transformation. The study revealed that 1990's was crisis period for rural India with low productivity, and low per capita income. Due to that poor person suffer a lot. Drinking water crisis was also major problem. NREGA acted as boon for rural poor's as it provided employment for 100 days and enhance earning of rural people. Women participation, employment allowance, safe drinking water and child care facility at work place were also beneficial for rural areas development from social and economic point of view.

Ahuja and Tyagi (2011) observed impacts of MGNREGA on Haryana's agriculturally backward and advanced districts. Both quantitative as well as qualitative data were collected for the year 2010-11. Results concluded that MGNREGA provide livelihood security to rural resource poor people. People of underdeveloped areas participate more in agriculture. MGNREGA was not able to stop migration in agriculturally developed regions. MGNREGA was source of employment for backward and resource poor areas. Participation in MGNREGA was negatively affected by size of land, number of animals, dependency ratio, migration and ownership of vehicles.

Prakash (2013) investigated impact of MGNREGA on livelihood security for rural people. Results indicated due to its human approach MGNREGA plays a very crucial role for rural poor's. Basic food necessity is supported by sufficient purchase power provided by scheme. MGNREGA also reduce migration and confined people to their areas by providing non-agricultural work for livelihood. By building rural assets scheme also improve infrastructure in rural areas. MGNREGA helps in sustainable development of rural areas.

Farin and Ahmed (2017) observed MGNREGA's role in development of rural areas. Secondary data is collected for the study from various sources. Results concluded that level of income, employment rate increased due to MGNREGA which helped in enhancing standard of living of rural people. maximum benefit of the steam is received by women, SC ST and disable people who are considered as most deprived segment. Work provided under MGNREGA depends upon demand of work therefore it is demand drive the program. MGNREGA help in rural development and social inclusion.

Arora, et al (2013) evaluated women empowerment in relation to MGNREGA. Study was conducted in Rohtak District of Haryana using semi structured questionnaire in 2012. Respond of 250 respondents were analyzed using stratified random sampling. The findings of the study reveal that employment and income generation opportunities created through MGNREGA what significant change in life of rural women.

After going through various studies, it has been observed that present era is witnessing growing role of rural sector in the economy of the Haryana. Governments focus on rural sector activities required the attention of researchers and academicians to conduct study with regard to rural areas economy. A lot of studies have been done focusing on the different dimensions of MGNREGA. In the previous studied it has been found that MGNREGA is a social security scheme to enhance livelihood security, enhance purchasing power, eradicate poverty, develop infrastructure, generate income and reduce migration. MGNREGA plays important role in creation of physical, social and financial infrastructure in rural areas. Along with economic security and creating assets, environment protection, empowerment of women, reducing income inequalities and migration of rural poor's from rural areas to urban cities are some of significant impacts of MGNREGA.

3. Objectives Of the study

This study is carried out to analyze the impact of MGNREGA on rural development of Haryana. Impact of MGNREGA on rural development of Haryana was studied by the following data study:

1. Performance of MGNREGA in Haryana in terms of persons engaged.
2. Performance of MGNREGA in Haryana in Terms of financial progress.
3. Performance of MGNREGA in Haryana in Terms of Work Progress.

4. Data source and discussion

The present study is based on secondary data which has been taken from official website of MGNREGA, online sources and other published source of information available in public domain. Time period of study was from 2017-2018 to 2020-2021. Published Secondary data pertaining to Employment generation, Work progress and financial progress has been analyzed to reach to conclusion for the study.

4.1 MGNREGA in Haryana at a Glance

In last 2 decades rapid growth his observed in India but decline in poverty is not according to growth. To reduce poverty multi dimensional strategy is required. Three types of policy initiative are used for poverty reduction. Firstly, Organising together for getting strong ability. Secondly transfer of funds to needy through different means. Thirdly providing self employment and wages based employment program. In India sufficient efforts have been taken in all types through welfare schemes. Now, we concentrate mainly upon MANREGA.

MANREGA provides better opportunity to come out of poverty. As per niti aayog report 2020, 25.01% population was poor in India. poverty ratio of rural areas is high (37.75%) as compared to poverty of urban areas(8.81%).

4.1.1. Progress of MGNREGA in Haryana in terms of employment generation

The **table 1** shows the progress of MGNREGA in Haryana in terms of numbers of persons who were engaged through MGNREGA program till December 2021:

Table-1 Progress in terms of persons engaged

I Job Card	2021
Total No. of Job Cards issued [In Lakhs]	12.1
Total No. of Workers [In Lakhs]	21.17
Total No. of Active Job Card [In Lakhs]	6
Total No. of Active Workers [In Lakhs]	8.9
(i)SC worker against active workers [%]	45.33
(ii)ST worker against active workers [%]	0

Source: MGNREGA.nic.in

The **table 1** reveals the cumulative number of job cards issued up to December 2021. The total number of job cards issued were 12.1 lakhs and the total workers were 21.17 lakhs in 2021. Though the total number of job card issues was 12.1 lakhs but against this value total number of active job cards was only 6 lakhs, just 50 percent of the total job cards issued. Likewise, out of total workers of 21.7 lakh only 8.9 lakh were active workers. Out of Total active workers 45 percent were from Schedule caste which can be considered a good sign for uplifting of socially deprived class.

4.1.2 Performance of MGNREGA in Haryana in Terms of Financial Progress

Table-2 (i) Financial Progress

Financial Progress	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19	FY 2017-18
Approved Labour Budget[In Lakhs]	185	100	100	100
Persondays Generated so far[In Lakhs]	179.62	91.19	77.9	90.37
% of Total LB	97.09	91.19	77.9	90.37
% as per Proportionate LB				
SC persondays % as of total persondays	36.29	42.14	45.58	47.66

ST persondays % as of total persondays	0	0	0.01	0.01
Women Persondays out of Total (%)	48.8	50.59	50.05	48.64
Average days of employment provided per Household	39.31	35.37	33.73	33.12
Average Wage rate per day per person (Rs.)	308.29	286.37	281.27	277.85
Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	14,077	4,831	3,789	3,924
Total Households Worked [In Lakhs]	4.57	2.58	2.31	2.73
Total Individuals Worked [In Lakhs]	6.51	3.64	3.27	3.96
Differently abled persons worked	727	514	464	638

Source: MGNREGA.nic.in

The above **table 2(i)** reveals that during last, four years, Haryana has made good progress in implementation of the program but this progress can be considered more remarkable in 2020-21. The reason behind this progress has been the current pandemic of covid-19. During the pandemic, government gave a big boost to this program as an instrument of increasing incomes of poor segment of the society and also boost aggregate demand to improve overall economic activity in the economy.

One noteworthy fact is that in 2020-21 total approved labour budget was 185 lakhs which was Rs 100 lakhs in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. Likewise, the number of person days has been doubled in 2020-21 in comparison of last three years. Average wage rate has also increased in 2020-21 from Rs 286 to 308 which is a good step taken during the time of pandemic. Number of households completed 100 days' work has increased drastically in 2020-21. Total no. of HH completed 100 days of wage employment increased from 4831 to 14077, such a significant increase is really a very good measure taken by the government.

The picture is also very bright in terms of individuals who worked as well as differently abled persons who were given employment in 2020-21.

Table-2(ii) Financial Progress

IV Financial Progress	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19	FY 2017-18
Total center Release	77666.71	34526.69	35625.15	30140.64
Total Availability	83154.97	37582.34	40281.99	33245.24
Percentage Utilization	96.52	103.02	91.33	96.18
Total Exp (Rs. in Lakhs.)	80,262.25	38,716.43	36,788.40	31,976.24
Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)	54,907.44	26,572.96	22,464.22	24,868.42
Material and skilled Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)	24,028.97	10,984.03	13,045.23	5,962.28
Material (%)	30.44	29.25	36.74	19.34
Total Adm Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs.)	1,325.83	1,159.44	1,278.95	1,145.54
Admin Exp (%)	1.65	2.99	3.48	3.58
Average Cost Per Day Per Person(In Rs.)	407.31	346.67	369.72	330.99
% of Total Expenditure through EFMS	99.85	99.65	99.71	99.58
% payments generated within 15 days	99.57	95.44	89.26	81.52

Source: MGNREGA.nic.in

The above **table 2(ii)** shows financial performance of MGNREGA in state of Haryana for last four years. It is clear from the table that the total amount which has been released by the center has become more than double in 2020-21 in comparison of 2019-20 in view of COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise total expenditure of the government of Haryana has been doubled in 2020-21 in comparison to 2019-20 which is a very good sign and depicts that the government has given a very important role to MGNREGA during pandemic to create more employment opportunities for poor for increasing their income.

4.1.3 Performance of MGNREGA in Haryana in Terms of Work Progress

Table-3 Work Progress

III Works	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19	FY 2017-18
Number of GPs with NIL exp	388	1,219	1,934	2,002
Total No. of Works Taken up (New+Spill Over) [In Lakhs]	0.43	0.29	0.26	0.28
Number of Ongoing Works [In Lakhs]	0.22	0.13	0.11	0.16
Number of Completed Works	21,193	15,920	15,132	12,407
% of NRM Expenditure (Public + Individual)	52.04	61.36	57.81	59.84
% of Category B Works	34.7	20.76	46.45	48.32
% of Expenditure on Agriculture & Agriculture Allied Works	56.45	60.71	59.58	63.32

Source: MGNREGA.nic.in

As far as work progress is concerned, same picture emerges if the data is analyzed. Total number of works taken up have been increased significantly in 2021. It can be seen from the **table 3** that total number or works taken up which were 0.29 lakhs in 2019-20 rose to 0.43 in 2020-21. It is clear from the table that government has given very high priority to this program for providing protection to poor people against COVID-19. Similarly, the number of completed works which was 15920 in 2019-20 rose to 21193 in 2020-21. This is a significant increase during the pandemic era.

5. SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is the latest in India's endeavour to upbringing social and economic status of poor living below poverty. Distinct from the several earlier projects, MGNREGA scheme gives poor people an option to get enroll in the scheme and hence it is a self-targeting and demand driven programme. In simple words, they can utilize this scheme when they require it and can easily opt out from the scheme in case of better work opportunities. By linking this scheme to minimum wages and by ensuring that minimum wages are paid to the workers in MGNREGA, this scheme enhanced the bargaining power of workers across other jobs.

MGNREGA has been witnessed as an effort to fetch about the greatly needed economic protection to the lives of poor who are struggling for their existence. With work available locally, the programme has the potential to reduce rural-urban migration. Further, MGNREGA acts as a means to create advantageous assets in the rural domains. The MGNREGA work that is assigned to laborer's results in creation of useful infrastructure in villages, thereby fostering growth in villages.

Major Findings Based on Secondary Data –

In Haryana, the total number of job cards issued was 12.1 lakhs and the total workers were 21.17 lakhs in 2021. Though the total number of job card issues was 12.1 lakhs but against this value total number of active job cards was only 6 lakhs, just 50 percent of the total job cards issued. Likewise, out of total workers of 21.7 lakh only 8.9 lakh were active workers. Out of total active workers 45 percent were from SC which can be considered a good sign for socially deprived class.

In last few years, Haryana has made good progress in implementation of the program but this progress has been more remarkable in 2020-21. The reason behind this progress has been the current pandemic of covid-19. During the pandemic, government gave a big boost to this program as an instrument of increasing incomes of poor segment of the society and also boost aggregate demand to improve overall economic activity in the economy.

One noteworthy fact is that in 2020-21, total approved labor budget was 185 lakhs which was Rs 100 lakhs in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. Likewise, the number of person days has been doubled in 2020-21 in comparison of last three years. Average wage rate has also increased in 2020-21 from Rs 286 to 308 which is a good step taken during the time of pandemic. In 2020-21, the number of workers who has completed 100 days' work increased drastically. This value was 4831 in 2019-20 and increased to 14077 in 2020-21. Such a significant increase is really very good indication of government efforts during the current pandemic to protect poor people in the state of Haryana. The picture seems very bright in terms of individuals who worked as well as differently abled persons who were given employment in 2020-21.

Total number of works taken up has been increased significantly in the year 2020-21. It is visible from the data that total number of works taken up which were 0.29 lakhs in 2019-20 rose to 0.43 in 2020-21. It is clear that government has given very high priority to this program for providing protection to poor people against COVID-19. Similarly, the number of

completed works which was 15920 in 2019-20 rose to 21193 in 2020-21. This is a significant increase during the pandemic era.

Total amount which has been released by the center has become more than double in 2020-21 in comparison of 2019-20 in view of COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise total expenditure of the government of Haryana has been doubled in 20 20-21 in comparison to 2019-20 which is a very good sign and depicts that the government has given a very important role to MGNREGA during pandemic to create more employment opportunities for poor for increasing their income.

Government has been putting a lot of efforts to promote digitization of various processes under the program by providing training to the rural people and staff. The coverage of blocks and Gram Panchayat is gradually increasing which are being selected for the training purpose. For this purpose government has initiated various training program at different levels to make people aware so that they may be encouraged to adopt these habits. This will also induce transparency in the whole process and curb the degree of corruption.

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