

## Social Inclusion of SC/ST and Women Under-MNREGA:A Cost Benefit Analysis ConcerningMagadh Commissionerary of Bihar

By

Pramod Kumar Choudhary

Associate Professor,

Department of Sociology,

Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, Gaya, Bihar

**Abstract:** In this paper our aim is to discuss the ways and means for the social inclusion of SC/ST women's by virtue of the government scheme, called MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) 2005 under Magadh Commissionerary of Bihar.

**Key Words:** MNREGA, social inclusion, beneficiaries, BPL families, Panchayati Raj, Trickle-down- mechanism, target families, liberalization, growth, poverty line, sample size, random sampling etc.

### Introduction

The road map of India's growth has led to exclusive growth, creation of enclaves within the economy patterned as ox-bow lake and to output employment lags due largely to laziness on institutional reforms front, appetite for capital intensive technique of production negligence to wage-goods approach and confidence in "Trickle-down- mechanism". Even during the reform era, the LPGs model by passes the have not's. K. R. Narayanan, the past President of India made an apt observation, "the fury of the patient and long suffering people would be unleashed if the three way fast lane of liberalization, privatization and globalization failed to provide" safe pedestrian crossings" for the underpowered in India Republic Day Message, January 25, 2000]. As not only as pity to by-passed ones in the process of development; but also for "social equilibrium India's growth must be wedded to equity.

This requirement of the nation has been solicited by our then Prime Minister of India as follows:

"The challenge before us is to combine the Economics of growth with the economics of equity and social justice. We have no option but to work on two legs". (Business Line, May 23, 2005)It is in such walking that design employment scheme, like MNREGA being carried out in India can make, if effectively implemented, immense contribution to inclusive-growth vis-a-vis social justice. It is pleasant to note that policy-makers of the country have been awakened to the need of inclusive growth. There is still a big size of population that lacks any 'entitlement' over means of production. They have nothing to sell but their labour; their misery can be lessened by wage-employment offers. C. H. Hanumantha Rao rightly observers.

"Generation of adequate employment opportunities, particularly for the socio-economically disadvantaged section, is key to achieving inclusive growth (Presidential Address to 92nd Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association, 2009). MNREGA acquired its significance not from the angle of 'inclusive growth' only but also due to the fact that it pilots decentralized planning. It is first flagship programme in which grass root democracy plays a participatory role. This act is creating a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of grass root democracy, transparency and right to livelihood. Here Panchayati Raj Institutions have a principal role in its planning and implementation. It is due to the very fact that a candidate coached in Public Administration can focus more properly the role and functioning of such institutions from selection to execution stage of workers under MNREGA. Further, very functions of PRI'S determine to a great extent the nature of the cost; benefit ratio. Now use of cost benefit analysis can be of great use to present a comparison-based project report. Schedule 1, Paral (NAREGA-the initial scheme launched on September 7, 2005] lists different works such as water conservation and water harvesting drought proofing, micro and minor irrigation works, desilting of tanks and renovation of traditional water bodies, land development, flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas and rural connectivity etc. The cost incurred on such entities and result (i.e. value created) can be compared from one entity to other using the cost benefit yardstick. Not only inter-entity comparison lent inter-villages comparison can also be made to asses' comparative results on locational basis. Only work valuation from the angle of asset development is not enough to measure working efficiency of the MNREGA creation of wage Employment is rather a key issue. JRY emphasized asset creation, MNREGA focuses more on wage employment generation. The very preamble of MNREGA(the erstwhile NAREGA) states that it is " an act to provide for enhancement of livelihood security of households in the rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to unskilled manual work (Gov., of India, 2005) .

Enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas is the mission of this Act which may be regarded as a very ambitious plan to generate employment opportunities. So, the primary objective of the Act is to augmenting wage employment. Its auxiliary objective is strengthening rural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought and so encourage Sustainable development. The Comptroller and Auditor General Report (2007) points out, "the basic objective of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas. This work guarantee can also serve other objectives; generating productive assets, protecting the environment, empowering the rural women, reducing rural urban migration and fostering social equity, among others". Now all these cannot be calculated in monetary terms e.g. Empowerment of rural women can hardly be given monetary expression. So for correct measurement, economic achievements would be specially focused.

In nutshell following will be the main pillars of this work:

1. Employment content of various works under MNREGA in sample villages.
2. Post-work employment-result.
  - (a) Creation of employment in man-days.

- (b) Volume of wage-disbursement work-wise.
- (c) Estimate of secondary employment through multiplier (K) effect.
- 3. Contribution to assets creation (applying cost: benefit-analysis)
- 4. Contribution towards stabilization of family incomes of the rural poor.
- 5. Crossing of poverty line by BPL families due to MNREGA

Fulfillment of the above type of investigation based work requires selection of such areas that could not be activated in the process of development. It is an unconcealed fact that other states have stolen the pace of development as well as employment generation over that of Bihar. It is a poverty-struck state in which, according to BPL survey 2009-2010 (of the State Government) the number of BPL families was 1, 25, 55,110. A state specific employment scheme viz. EG3s in Maharashtra set the example as to how schematic efforts can help poor families to come above the poverty line. So, in Bihar also such scheme, especially MNREGA can help poverty-line crossing of the poor. To assess such results not within it (Bihar also) more slow-moving region viz. Magadh Commissionerary is being selected for this project work

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the present study have been enumerated below

- (a) To study the process of assistance including planning, formulation, preparatory steps/ advance action and the procedure laid down and generally followed at the district, Block, Village and Beneficiary levels in relation to:
  - (i) Needs and aspirations of target families, and
  - (ii) Appropriateness of schemes,
- (b) To study the organizational and administrative infrastructure;
- (c) To study the economic infrastructures and selection of BPL families.
- (d) To study the existing credit infrastructure and flow of credit for financing economic activities;
- (e) To study the post-acquisition of aspects including utilization and maintenance of assets, supply of inputs, marketing linkages, etc.; and
- (f) To study the impact of the programme on the target families.

### **Interdisciplinary Relevance:**

Poverty, un-employment and social exclusion are slur on humanity. These problems got international acceptance. This is the reason that in global millennium goal these problems found place on priority basis design and define by World Bank. So it has international and national relevance across the discipline of studies.

## Methodology:

### Study-Design and Selection of the Sample

The study has been designed to be conducted at three levels viz., at the level of districts, blocks, villages and beneficiaries. Collection of information and data will be made accordingly at these levels. For the selection of the sample at each of these levels the following procedure has been adopted.

This research work will be based on the primary data drawn from purposeful selected districts and blocks. The statistical tools like average or measure of central tendency, co-relation and other non-parametric methods will be used for the analysis of the data and then conclusion will be drawn.

#### (i) District:

A list of all the district within the Commissionery of Magadh will be prepared.

#### (ii) Block

A list of all the blocks within the districts of Magadh Commissionery will be prepared and the number of families actually benefitted during 2011-12 from the officials MNREGA, of Gaya and other district of the M.U. Commissionery will be noted down.

#### (ii) Villages:

From each block two villages will be selected. For this purpose all the villages covered under the programme will be gathered from the officials of MNREGA in descending order depending upon the number of families actually benefitted during 2011- 12. The villages will be then selected at random by random sampling

#### (iv) Beneficiaries:

A list of all the beneficiary families in a village during 2011-12 will be prepared and the beneficiary households will be classified depending upon the nature of economic activity whereby they have derived the benefit under different scheme of MNREGA.

From each village a sample of 20 beneficiary families will be selected by using random sampling method. These twenty sample beneficiary house-holds will be selected from each sample village. In other words 40 sample beneficiary house-holds have been selected from each block.

Thus, the summary position of the sample proposed to be selected for the study at different levels for each district of the M.U. Commissionery will be prepared as bellow:

#### i) District - Gaya

ii) Number of Blocks - 18

ii) Number of Village -36

iv) Number of Beneficiary House-holds - 720

Similar steps will be taken for other districts of M.U. Commissionerary:

### **Instruments of Investigation:**

For the collection of the quantitative data and qualitative information required for the study, the following instruments of investigation and observation will be used at various levels

#### **(a) District Level:**

(i) Schedule for collecting quantitative data on the achievements and progress in the implementation of the programme within each district of the area of investigation.

(ii) Guide points for discussions with the officials of the MNREGA and with the officials of banking institutions including lead bank i.e. The Punjab National Bank at the district.

#### **(b) Block Level:**

(i) Schedule for collecting quantitative data on the achievements and progress in implementation of the programme in the each block of every district of the Magadh Commissionerary.

(ii) Guide points for discussions with the officials of the block, financial institutions functioning within the blocks and other agencies at that level.

#### **(C) Village Level:**

Schedule-cum-questionnaire for canvassing the village functionaries and group of knowledgeable persons in the sample villages.

#### **(d) Beneficiary Level:**

Beneficiary schedule cum - questionnaire for canvassing the sample families of the selected villages to assess the impact of the programme.

### **Reference**

1. **Baily, E.G:-** "Caste and the economic frontier "Oxford University press, Bombay, 1958.
2. **B.S.Minhas:-** Rural Poverty, Land reconstruction and Development, Indian Economic Review, April, 1970.
3. **Adhikari, G:-** The problem of Non-capitalist Path of development of India and the state of National Democracy, World Marxist Review, Hor, 1964.
4. **Ahluwalia, Montek:-** Rural poverty and Agriculture performance in India: The journal of development studies, April, 1978.
5. **A.R. Desai:-** Rural sociology in India, popular Bombay, 1970.
6. **Barnet H.G:-** Innovation: The Basic of cultural change, New York, McGraw Hill

Book Co, 1953.

7. **Bhatty.I.Z**:-inequality and poverty in rural India. Sankhy Series-C, vol.36, 1974.
8. **Bagachee**- Poverty alleviation programmes in Seventh plan; an appraisal Economic and political weekly, Bombay, January, 24. 1987.
9. **Balakrishna,S**:-Incidence of rural poverty in Recent years; Behavioural science & economic development vol.3, No.1,1981.
10. **Centre For Development Studies**:-Poverty unemployment and development. Policy: A case study of selected issue with reference to Kerala, United Nations, New York, 1975.
11. **Naoroji,Dadabhai**:- Poverty in India Wonek worth foulger and Co. The Aldine press, London,1989.
12. **Singh,Y**:- Social stratification and change in India: Manohar publication, New Delhi,1980.
13. **Sharma L.R**:-Poverty and inequality in the rural sector of Himachal Pradesh, Economic affairs, volume-27, no- 7-8, 1982.
14. **Thakur B.S**- "Poverty inequality and unemployment in rural India" B.R. Publishing corporation Delhi, 1985, press, London, 1974.
15. **Singh Sukhpal**- Changing structure and organisation of agriculture and small farmers in India-in .R.R. Prasad Rajanikant(ed),rural development and social change,vol 1, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi,2006.
16. Singh, Ajanta Kumari; Integrated Rural Development (A Socio-Economic Development), Shree Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi, 2013