



ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at <http://www.recentscientific.com>

CODEN: IJRSFP (USA)

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 10, Issue, 03(C), pp. 31314-31319, March, 2019

**International Journal of
Recent Scientific
Research**

DOI: 10.24327/IJRSR

Research Article

MGNREGA IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A STUDY OF KUIKEDA GRAM PANCHAYAT IN BALANGIR DISTRICT

Sumitra Nial

Research Scholar, School of Political Science, GMU, Sambalpur, Odisha

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2019.1003.3235>

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 12th December, 2018

Received in revised form 23rd

January, 2019

Accepted 7th February, 2019

Published online 28th March, 2019

Key Words:

Poverty Alleviation Programme,
MGNREGA, Kuikeda Gram Panchayat,
Balangir, Odisha

ABSTRACT

The principle object of this article is to know about poverty alleviation programme in India. This article clearly describes about the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It presents the condition of the MGNREGA workers and the impact of their participation in MGNREGS. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a "Silver Bullet", because it successfully eradicates rural poverty, unemployment and to generates 100 days of employment for the rural unemployed people. The primary goals of this Act is to reduce migration, restriction of child labour, reducing poverty and making villages as self sustaining through road construction, cleaning up of water bodies, soil and water conservation work etc. MGNREGA has been considered as the largest anti-poverty programme in the world. But the success of this Act depends upon its proper implementation. The research work is an empirical research and was carried out in Kuikeda Gram Panchayat in Balangir district of Odisha. The study was conducted in between the month of November and December in 2017. Thus, the present study attempts to critically examine the implement process of MGNREGA programme and its impact on the people. The study reveals that there is little impact of MGNREGA on their livelihoods. The faulty implementation strategy of the Gram Panchayat has ruined the spirit of this programme. The involvement of the people under this programme was also not satisfactory. People of this Gram Panchayat area were migrated to other parts of India in searching of job.

Copyright © Sumitra Nial, 2019, this is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

In a State like India democratic decentralization is indispensable because of its vastness of geographical area and diversities. As democratic decentralization process helps in good governance, fulfilling the local needs, demands and aspirations of the people, a single Central Government may not be able to reach to the grassroots level to provide basic amenities of life and good governance. Realizing the rational of decentralization political system, India adopted a comprehensive democratic structure to cater to the needs and demands of the people living in grassroots level. Thus, since the year 1959 the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been flourishing and regarded as vital instruments of participatory democracy. They provide opportunities to the masses to participate actively in the decision making process at the ground level. Moreover, these participatory institutions act as the training grounds for the budding politicians as they provide political education to the people and particularly to the local leaders. An analysis of the performance of the rural local

democratic institutions popularly known as the Panchayati Raj Institutions reveals that from 1959 to 1990, the performance of the institution is highly unsatisfactory. Although several commissions have been setup to boost up the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions yet, due to lack of proper enforcement of the suggestion of the commissions and high politicizations of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institution in India, their condition became very deplorable. It invited serious criticisms from scholars, writers, civil society activists and the public as a whole. Thus, in 1991 the Narasimha Rao Government introduced two historical amendment bills in the Lok Sabha. These two bills finally emerged as 73rd Amendment Act which deals with the Rural Areas Development and 74th Amendment Act deals with the Urban Areas Development. The 73rd Amendment Act 1992 provides 3-tier structures to Panchayati Raj System such as Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block or intermediate level and Zilla Parishad at the district level.

*Corresponding author: Sumitra Nial

Research Scholar, School of Political Science, GMU, Sambalpur, Odisha

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research work was followed systematic methods in order to make the study both scientific and precise. It was an Empirical Study and was conducted in between the month of November and December 2017. The study was carried out in western Odisha. However, the study was confined to the Kuikeda Gram Panchayat in Balangir district. The Gram Panchayat consists of four villages that are Kamarlaga, Rengali, Sikapatrapali. Samples of 60 job card holders were selected for the research. Data was collected both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected from all the stakeholders of MGNREGS. The primary data has been collected from the field through extensive field work, research tools like questionnaire, focused group discussion and interview were used to collect relevant information. The secondary sources like books, Magazines, journals, reports, relevant news were used to understand the issue. Also internet was used by the researcher to get information.

Objectives

1. To examine the policies and provisions of MGNREGA.
2. To study the implementation of MGNREGA.
3. To analyses the problems in MGNREGA.
4. To suggests some improvement.

Hypothesis

1. MGNREGA provides work opportunity in the villages.
2. It has ceased the labour migration.
3. Mechanical device is not used.
4. It has positively impact on the economic condition of the rural poor people.

Area of the Study

Balangir is one of the economically backward districts of western Odisha with a geographical area of 6569 square per kilometer. About 89 percent of the populations of the district live in rural areas and agriculture is their main occupation. Balangir district lies between North latitudes $21^{\circ} 4'$ and $20^{\circ} 9'$ and East longitudes $82^{\circ} 41'$ and $83^{\circ} 32'$. It is bounded on the north by Bargargh district, in the east by Suvarnapur district, in the south by Kalahandi district and in the west by Nawapara district. The district comprises three subdivision namely Bolangir, Patnagarh and Titilargh and 14 numbers of Block. According to 2011 census data, the total population of the district is about 1648574. The rural and urban populations are about 1182871 and 154323 respectively. The rural population constitutes 88.46 percent of the total population. (MWRGWB, Odisha). The Kuikeda Gram Panchayat is located in Saintala block of Balangir district in Odisha. The Gram Panchayat consists of three villages' i.s. Kamarlaga, Rengali, Sikapatrapali. The researcher conducted her research in these 3 villages of Kuikeda Gram Panchayat. The researcher had selected a sample of 60 job cards holders for her research. Poverty is a social- economic phenomenon in which a section of society is unable to fulfill their basic necessities of life. The minimum needs are food, clothing, housing, electricity, drinking water, education etc. Human being faces pains and miseries if it does not attain these above needs, those who fails to cater a certain minimum level of needs is considered as poor.

The problem of poverty and unemployment are considered as the biggest challenge for India. High poverty levels are synonymous with poor quality of life, deprivation, malnutrition, illiteracy and low human resources development. To reduce all these above problems from the Indian society, the Government of India had introduced various poverty alleviation programmes. The goal of Poverty Alleviation programme is to increase the income levels of an individual, household or group. The country can't claim her economic growth when some sections of the people are marginalized to the periphery of the society. The rapid economic growth process should accelerate the access to services like education and health services for all, especially the marginalized people.

The Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India can be categorized into five distinguish features, such as

- a. Wage Employment Programme.
- b. Self-Employment Programme.
- c. Food Security Programme.
- d. Social Security Programme.
- e. Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme.

Wage Employment Programme

Wage Employment Programmes are an important component of the anti-poverty strategy. It provides employment opportunities to the rural poor. It creates rural infrastructure which supports further economic activity in rural areas. The National Rural Landless Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are comes under the Wage Employment Programme of the Government.

Self-Employment Program

The main objective of this programme is to generate income through productive assets and skill endowment. Under this programme, the government gives loans and subsidy to the beneficiary to make them self-reliance. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) is the best example of self-employment programme. This programme was launched in 1979 by the Central Government. The main intention of this programme is to make unemployment youth for self reliance. It also attracts development of women and children in both rural and urban areas. To promote employment among the people, regular training and skill development programmes are organized to make this programme successful.

Food Security Programme

The Food for work Programmes was started in 2004 by the Central Government. It is centrally sponsored scheme mainly covered in eight notified drought areas affected states of India such as Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal and Odisha. The aim of this programme is to provide food grains to the affected States free of cost.

Social Security Programme

To fulfill the socialist principle of the Directive Principle of State Policies, the Government of India had introduced Social Security Programme in 1995. The National Social Assistance Programmes such as- National Old Age Pension (NOAP), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), and National

Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) are comes under this programme.

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme is initiated by the Central Government to cater basic necessities of life to the urban poor people. The aim of this programme is to provide food, education, housing and employment to the urban slum people. For this purpose the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation is established to monitor and implement this Programmes. During 8th five year plan, the Government had introduced the following schemes under Poverty Alleviation Programme, such as:

- i. Nehru Rojgar Yojana.
- ii. The Urban basic Services for Poor.
- iii. The Environment Improvement of Urban Slum.
- iv. Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme. (kumari, 2013)

POLICIES and Provisions of MGNREGA

In 2005, the Central Government formulated the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to fight against poverty and provides employment to the rural poor. It is considered as a “*silver bullet*” for eradicating rural poverty, unemployment and generating demand for productive labour force in villages.

Salient features of the Act are

- *Right based Framework*- for adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work have the right to demand employment.
- *Time bound Guarantee*- 15 days for provision of employment provided by Gram Panchayat, if it fails unemployment allowance will be given to the labourer.
- *Guaranteed Employment*- 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year per household, depending on is need.
- *Labour Intensive Works*- 60:40 wage and materials ratio for permissible works at the Gram Panchayat. Contractors or machinery are not permitted. Wages will be paid through bank account or post office account of the labourer.
- Gram Sabha recommends works. The principles role of the Panchayat Raj Institutions is to planning, monitoring and implementation of MGNREGA.
- Creche, drinking water, first aid and shade provided at work sites.
- Priority shall be given to women empowerment. At least 1/3rd of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and request to work under MGNREGA.
- To bring transparency and accountability, social audit by the Gram Sabha is compulsory. Grievance Redressal Mechanism is also to be set up.
- *Funding*- 90% fund by the Central Government and 10% by the State Government.(Nanda, 2015)

Implementation of MGNREGA

At the Central level, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the Nodal Ministry for the implementation of MGNREGA. Under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Rural Development, a Central Employment Guarantee Council or Central Council has been set up. It is the primary responsibility

of the Central council to giving advice the central Government about the NREGA scheme related issues, and for evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the scheme. It is presence Annual Reports in the parliament with regard to the implementation of the MGNREGA.

Under section XII of MNREGA, every State set up a State Employment Guarantee Council. The State Employment Guarantee Council shall advice State Government on the implementation of the MNREGA scheme. It also recommended the Central Government regarding the proposed work for the State under MGNREGA. The state council will prepare an Annual report on the implementation of the MGNREGA in the state to be presented to the state legislature.

District Panchayat is responsible for finalizing the district plans and the labour budget and for monitoring and supervising the Employment Guarantee scheme in the district. District Programme Coordinate is responsible for the successful working of this scheme. He is designates by the State Government, who is either the chief Executive officer of the District Panchayat, or the District Collector, or any other District level officer. The entire responsibility of the Scheme at the District level takes by the District Programme Coordinator.

At the Block level or an intermediate level, the Block Panchayat is responsible for the consolidation of the plans of Panchayat for MGNREGA. It supervises the schemes undertaken at the village level. The Programme Officer acts as a coordinator for MGNREGSA at the Block level. The chief responsibility of the Programme Officer is to ensure that each applicant of BPL category gets employment within 15 days.

At the village level, Gram Panchayat is the key body which implements MGNREGA at the grass-root level. The Panchayat helps in planning the scheme of to be taking up under MGNREGA. It receives applications for registration from the BPL card holders. It verifies the registered applications. It monitors the of Job cards done through the Gram Sevaka. It maintains records of number of days of jobs given to the BPL holders. (MGNREGA, 2005)

Interviewed with the Sarpanch

According to the Sarpanch the programme was extremely successful in this Panchayat area. He gave the list of work carried out during his period. The Gram Sabha meets at least twice in a year which to discuss about the different work result and find out different opinion from the people. There is a quorum (at least 1/10) of the total number of people should be attain the Gram Sabha meeting. The Gram Sabha meeting is held on National holidays such as 15th August, 26th January and 2nd October. There is a social audit to check the details of the work in a year. The Sarpanch said that the minimum wages for the worker was 200 rupees which could be extended to the efficiency of the worker.

Interviewed with the Gram Sathi

To make the MGNREGA activities more vibrant, the Government of Odisha launched the Gram Sathi scheme. The researcher knew that under this scheme two persons in each village are recruited to assist the implementation of MGNREGA especially organize cardholders, to start a job, write muster rolls, check measurement, payment of laboures etc. Gram Sathi are responsible for making coordination between the Sarpanch and the labourers. But during survey the

researcher knew that Gram Sathi in this Panchayat were not trained and failed to aware the people about the policies.

Interviewed with the Workers

During the interview with the workers, the researcher got some information about their caste, age, educational qualification, religion, occupation and other various information related to the implementation of MGNREGA Programme and collected them through questionnaire method.

Table 1 Age Grouping of the Respondents

Age of the workers	Numbers of the workers	Percentage
Old age (45 years above)	14	23.33%= 23%
Middle age (30-45 years)	39	65%
Young age (19-30 years)	07	11.6%= 12%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source- Survey Data

The above table shows that the age group of different worker and the number of worker involved in the respective work. From the above table it is clear that out of 60 respondents the old age group constitutes 23%, the middle age group constitutes 65% and the young age group constitutes 12%.

Table 2 Caste of the Respondents

Category of the workers	Numbers of the workers	Percentage
Scheduled castes	34	56.66%=57%
Scheduled tribes	16	26.66%=27%
Other backward caste	10	16.56%=16%
General	00	00
TOTAL	60	100%

Source – Survey Data

The above table shows that out of 60 households, 57% of the household belongs to Scheduled Castes, 27% household belongs to the scheduled tribe, and 16% of household belongs to the other backward caste.

Table 3 Educational Grouping of the Respondents

Educational Grouping Of the workers	Number of workers	Percentage
College Educated Group	00	00.00%=00
Secondary Educated Group	02	03.33%=03%
Primary educated Group	15	25.00%=25%
Illiterate Group	43	71.66%=72%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source- Survey Data

The above table shows that the educational qualification of the respondents. Educational qualification of the respondents are grouped into the four groups such as the primary educated group groups, secondary educated groups and college educated groups and illiterate group. The respondents who are studied from class 1 to 7th comes under the primary educated group, those who are studied up to 8th to 12th comes under the secondary educated group and those who are 12th to above comes under the college educated group. But those who have not attending school education they are considered as the illiterate people.

From the table it is found that the secondary educated group constitute 3% of the total respondents, the primary educated group constitute 25% but 72% of the respondents are belongs to the illiterate categories.

Table 4 Religion of the Respondents

Name of the Religion	Number of the workers	Percentage
Hindu	52	86.6%=87%
Muslim	00	00
Christian	08	13.00%=13%
TOTAL	60	100

Source-Survey Data

The above data show that the workers of the MGNREGA belong to different religion. 87% of MGNREGA belongs to Hindu community and only 13% belongs to Christian community. There is no Muslim community person working under the MGNREGS.

Table 5 Gender Group of the Respondents

Gender group	Number	Percentage
Male	43	71.6%= 72%
Female	17	28.3%=28%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source- Survey Data

This above table found that the male member constitutes 43 members which have 72% and female group constitute only 17 members which have 28% of the total respondents.

Table 6 Sources of Information

Sources of information	Numbers of the workers	Percentage
Panchayat	28	46.66%=47%
Media-Radio+TV+ News papers	15	25%
Govt. functionaries	05	08.33%=8%
Friends	12	20.00%=20%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source- Survey Data

The above table shows the sources from which the job card holder people get the information about MGNREGA. This survey data explains that 20% of the workers got information from their friends, 47% of the workers got information from the Panchayat office, 25% of the workers got the information from the media like television, radio and newspapers.

Table 7 Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation of the Respondents	Number of work	Percentage
Agricultural labour	36	60%
Non-agricultural labour	24	40%
Total	60	100%

Source-Survey Data

The above table shows that the occupation of the respondents is divided into two categories such as agricultural and non-agricultural labour. It had found that out of total respondents 60% people are depending upon agriculture and only 40% people are depending upon non agricultural work such as Goat farm, hen farm, cow shed etc.

Table 8 Regular Payment

Response	Number of Worker	Percentage
Yes	53	88%
No	07	12%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source-Survey Data

The above table shows that out of 60 respondents, 12% of respondents claimed that they did not get payment regularly. They receive their payment after 2 or 3 months.

Table 9 Mode of Payment

Mode of payment	Number of worker	Percentage
Bank	60	100%
Post office	00	00
By hand to hand	00	00
TOTAL	60	100%

Source- Survey Data

Out of total respondent, all respondents received their payment through bank.

Table 10 Work within 5km Distance

Response	Number of Worker	Percentage
Yes	13	21.6%= 22%
No	47	78%
TOTAL	60	100%

Source-Survey Data

According to MGNREGA scheme a worker should get work within 5km distance of his/her resident. But 78% worker claimed that the worksite was too much far away from their home and they did not get any extra wages for it and 22% workers agree that they got their work within 5km in their Panchayat.

Analysis of the Data

The Kuikeda Gram Panchayat is comes under Saintala Block of Balangir District. Among the 60 household of the MGNREGS workers, middle age group (65%) people were highly participating or working under MGNREGS as compared to the young (12%) and old age (23%) group people. The young age groups of people were not encouragingly participating under this scheme. The researcher found that around 57% of the households were belonging to Scheduled Caste community, 27% and 16% peoples were Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Caste respectively. Likewise 86% % households were belonging to Hindu religion and 13% were Christians. The literacy of the workers is not so interesting because around 72% people were illiterate. Women empowerment is also a feature of the MGNREGA scheme. But out of the total respondents the male member constituted 43 members which had 72% and female group constituted 17 members which had 28% of the total respondents. The sample was found to have been predominated by the male group. The researcher knew that some people have no interest in the MGNREGS work.

The awareness level of the Panchayat area was also not very encouraging. Villagers had knowledge about the MGNREGS. But the awareness of the workers was very low such as how to apply for job card, awareness about minimum wages and

demand for work was reportedly very low. Around 47% of the villagers claimed that they get information about MGNREGS from Gram Panchayat office which indicates that Gram Panchayat officials are playing a significant role in spreading information of MGNREGS by the help of Sarpanch, VLW (Village Level Workers) etc. About 25% get information from Media such as News Paper, Radio and TV.

The occupation of the respondents is divided into two categories such as agricultural and non-agricultural labour. It had found that out of total respondents 60% people are depending upon agriculture and only 40% people are depending upon non agricultural work such as Goat farm, hen farm, cow shed etc. Most of the workers of this area were also working in Ordnance Factory Badmal (OFBL) as contractual labour. Some people also migrates to cities like Hyderabad, Raipur, Gujarat and Tata to work there as “Dadan Sarmik”.

Researcher knew that each and every MGNREGA’s worker have Bank account and they received their wages through SBI bank. The daily wages of the workers are 200 rupees per day. But the data from the field reflected that there was huge irregularity in payment of wages. While only 88% of the beneficiaries claimed that they received their wages within a month, the rest 12% claimed that there is no certainty in getting wages. But they received it mostly after 2 or 3 months. Out of 100% respondents, all respondents received their payment through bank. The MGNREGA guideline also provides that work should be operate within 5 km. but when the researcher asked them, they said that the work site was too much far away from their villages and they don’t get any extra wages for it. Some work also operated within 5 km.

According to MGNREGS guidelines, it is mandatory to have basic facilities such as drinking water, first-aid kits, shades, period of rest and also crèche facility. But during field work the researcher observed that except drinking water no other facilities were arranged near the worksite. Even some respondents claimed that in some cases drinking water was also not available.

Suggestions

- The important step for the proper eradication of the poverty in the society is to create awareness among the people. The leader, concerned Government employees, NGOs of the society should organize various programme, drama and awareness programs to spread awareness among the people.
- To prevent lack of attendance in the distribution of job awareness should be created among the people regarding the programme.
- The researcher found the less participation of women in MGNREGA in Kuikeda Gram Panchayat. Both Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat can be associated in making the women conscious about the scheme.
- It has been found there has been lack of timely payment of wages as how a day’s payment of wages through bank has been made mandatory the beneficiaries should be trained about the operation in bank so far as the account are consent.
- Social audit is mechanism to check corruption in MGNREGA. The researcher found its inadequacy. The Government officials to do it from time to time, who will

not only check corruption but will also, make people conscious.

- It is also necessary that Gender discrimination must be prohibited. Then this scheme gets the proper justice. The standard of women in the society will increase.
- Social Audit should carry out by the Gram Sabha in regular interval.

Reference

1. Bandopadhyay, D. & Mukherjee, A. (Eds.). (2004) *New Issues in Panchayati Raj, Task Force on Panchayati Raj*. New Delhi: Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.
2. Bhatt, G.D. (1979). *Emerging Leadership Pattern in Rural India- An Empirical Study*. New Delhi: Asish Publishing House.
3. Chhetri, H. (2008). *Panchayat Raj System and Development Planning- The Case of Sikkim*. New Delhi: Rawat Publications.
4. Giri, V. M. (2008). *Role of Panchayati Raj Institution in 60 years of Independent- vision of the future*. New Delhi: Kanishka publishers.
5. Joshi, R.P., Narwani, G.S. (2002). *Panchayat Raj in India- Emerging Trends Across the States*. Jaipur: Rawat Publication.
6. Kumari, L. (2013) Poverty Eradication in India: A study of National Policies and Programme. *International Refereed Research Journal*. Vol.-4, no.-2, p:68.
7. Mathur, L. (2007). Employment Guarantee: Progress so far. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol.-42, no.-52, pp: 17-20.
8. Mishra, P. (2012). Has NREGA Reduced Poverty in Odisha? *Odisha diary*. Vol.-23, no.-3, pp: 89-93.
9. MWRCGWB, Odisha
10. Nanda, B. (2015), *Panchayati Raj*. Cuttack: A.K. Mishra publishers' pvt.ltd. pp. 236-238.
11. Sagar, V. (1995). Public Intervention for Poverty Alleviation in Harsha Agro-climate Environment care of Rajasthan. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Vol.- 30, no.-41/42.
12. Sen. B & Charan, M. (2012). *Economic development and poverty in India*. New Delhi: New Century Publication. p: 153. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA)-Operational Guidelines 2008: 3rd edition: pp: 2-3. Ministry of Rural Development: Government of India

How to cite this article:

Sumitra Nial., 2019, Mgnrega in Poverty Alleviation: A Study of Kuikeda Gram Panchayat in Balangir District. *Int J Recent Sci Res*. 10(03), pp. 31314-31319. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2019.1003.3235>
