

Role of MGNREGA in Creating Social Assets - With Special Reference To Tamil Nadu

Indumathi .C

MBA, Department of Management Studies
Bharath Institute of Science and Technology,
Selaiyur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 073
Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research

ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act was passed in the year 2005. The primary objective of this program was providing guaranteed employment to at least one member of every landless household up to 100 days in a year and creating durable assets for strengthening infrastructure so as to meet the growing requirements of the rural economy. MNREGA is meant for WE & OUR groups. WE is work or creating productive (agricultural) assets for OUR (optimum users of resources) own usage. Among other things eight priorities are mentioned in the Act to create productive agriculture assets only. They include water conservation and harvesting, irrigation canals, land development, rural connectivity etc. This study aims to analyse the extent to which such community assets have been created at the all India level and also with special reference to Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Social Assets, MNREGA, Development, Rural Population

1. INTRODUCTION

The creation of social assets was an important objective of this program. The program was responsible for the creation of a wide variety of social assets which could be expected to help raising the levels of the rural population. Central assistance was provided to the states on the basis of proportion of the rural poor in a state to the total rural poor in the country. Of the total allocation at the state level, six percent of the total resources were earmarked for housing under Indira Awaas Yojana which were allotted to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe and freed bonded labour. In addition 20% were earmarked for Million Wells Scheme. The objective was to provide open wells free of cost to poor scheduled tribe and scheduled caste small and marginal farmers, the amounts are also utilized for other programs like minor irrigation, tank irrigation, water harvesting structures and also for development of lands.

As per Schedule 1 of the Act, the focus of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme shall be on the following works:

Water Conservation and Water harvesting

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The primary objective of the Act is increasing wage employment. The secondary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address the causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and thus encourage sustainable development.

In Nagaon district of Assam micro and small irrigation development works under MGNREGS result in steady increase in single cropping pattern to double cropping pattern with increase in irrigation and other facilities. Earlier in this district farmers used to sell their products to the local merchants and get minimal prices. Now more farmers are willing to sell their produces in the procurement centers due to improved rural connectivity under through MGNREG Schemes.

In Chhattisgarh the land belonging to the tribals in village Jyhalma, gram panchayat Bordla was of undulating nature. The land development department and MGNREGA has helped in levelling such lands. This has helped in rendering the land fit for agricultural practices, thereby increasing the productivity of land and income of the tribal population. The assets are created mostly by the marginalized sections of the society. Check dams also provided water to wells which had dried to be recharged.

Ratanpur village of Porbander district in Gujarat had defunct mines which have been converted into water tanks through convergence. This has resulted in increase in income of the farmers as the flood waters have been channelized, harvested and used for irrigation purpose during lean season and weak monsoon period.

Land development activities, development of water bodies, forestry and road connectivity were the works carried out in Andhra Pradesh. In Bihar most of the works taken up were construction of roads and water conservation.

Small water bodies are the main water resource in rural areas. The small water bodies have been utilized for various purposes like drinking water, bathing, washing clothes, cattle use and also to irrigate their lands. MNREGA has spent around 45 percent of the allotted amount for desilting and deep digging of small water bodies and got them rejuvenated.

3. AREA OF STUDY

The state of Tamil Nadu has been taken as area under study. The functioning of MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu state and the implementation of the scheme in rural areas of the state is analysed based on official data available.

4. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to the rural areas in which MNREGA has been implemented in the state of Tamil Nadu for which official data is available. This study is based on secondary data from various official sources.

5. OBJECTIVES

To analyse the nature of social assets created under MNREGA at All India Level .
To study the nature of social assets created under MNREGA in Tamil Nadu

6. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study has been conducted based on secondary data. The secondary source of data include Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu, Magazines, Bulletins, Journals and Government portals. Simple statistical tools used to analyse data.

7. STUDY REPORT

Since the inception of this scheme the performance regarding community asset creation and development programs is mentioned below:

TABLE 1 PERFORMANCE OF THE MAHATMA GANDHI NREGA (NATIONAL OVERVIEW)

	FY(2006-07) 200 Districts	FY (2007-08) 330 Districts	FY(2008-09) 615 Districts	FY(2009-10) 619 Districts	FY(2010-11) 626 Districts	FY(2011-12) 626 Districts	FY(2012-13) 632 Districts	FY(2013-14)
Total Works taken up(in lakhs)	8.35	17.88	27.75	46.17	50.99	80.77	106.51	111.64
Works completed	3.87	8.22	12.14	22.59	25.90	27.56	25.60	11.17
Works Break up								
Water Conservation	4.51 (54%)	8.73 (49%)	12.79 (46%)	23.43 (51%)	24.26 (48%)	48.81 (60%)	49.26 (46%)	45.41 (41%)
Provision of Irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST & IAY Beneficiaries	0.81 (10%)	2.63 (15%)	5.67 (20%)	7.73 (17%)	9.15 (18%)	9.16 (11%)	11.81 (11%)	12.62 (11%)
Rural Connectivity	1.80 (21%)	3.08 (17%)	5.03 (18%)	7.64 (17%)	9.31 (18%)	13.86 (17%)	13.04 (12%)	12.62 (11%)
Land Development	0.89 (11%)	2.88 (16%)	3.98 (15%)	6.38 (14%)	7.04 (14%)	6.32 (8%)	6.58 (6%)	5.78 (5%)
Any Other Activity	0.34 (4%)	0.56 (3%)	0.28 (1%)	0.18 (2%)	1.06 (2%)	2.31 (3%)	9.87 (9%)	9.65 (9%)

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

From the above table we understand the nature of activity taken up under this scheme. The number of districts in which this scheme has increased from 2006 and correspondingly the number of works taken up has also increased from 8.35 lakhs to 111.64 lakhs. The above table also indicates that the performance of the scheme in the 2011-12 has been exceptionally good. If similar steps have been taken by the government administrators in the consecutive years better performance could have been recorded by the scheme.

Table 2 Social Assets Created in Tamil Nadu under Mnrega FY 2013-14

	Taken Up	Completed
Rural Connectivity	17573	4252
Flood Control and Protection	192	30
Water Conservation and Water Harvesting	17400	3401
Drought Proofing	1118	9
Micro Irrigation Works	10259	2677
Works on Individual Lands	351	34
Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	2176	210
Land Development	7269	1052
Coastal Areas	39	0
Rural Drinking Water	195	140
Fisheries	256	5
Rural Sanitation	30627	14762
Total Works Taken Up	149832	
Total Works Completed		40517
%ge of Works Completed		27.04%

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

In the above table latest details (2014-15) regarding performance of MNREGA in Tamil Nadu is given. Types of works taken up and completed for development in rural economy and the number of works taken up and completed are also mentioned. Out of the total of 149832 works taken up, 40517 works have been completed so far. From the table we understand that only 27.04% of the total works taken up under this scheme has been completed.

Table 3 Top Four Performing States FY 2013-14

States	%ge of Work Completed
Chattisgarh	30.17%
West Bengal	30.55%
Tamil Nadu	27.04%
Jharkand	27.06%

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

The above table gives information about the top four states at the All India level in terms of performance regarding percentage of work completed. Tamil Nadu is ranked third with 27.04% of work completed. Chattisgarh and West Bengal hold the first and second positions with 30.1% and 30.55% respectively. We also understand from the above table that Tamil Nadu is the only southern state to be one of the top ranking states at the All India level regarding percentage of work completed.

8. FINDINGS

- Most important activities which constitute 74-80 per cent of the funds are earmarked for creation of assets.
- 50% slippage in the execution of works undertaken has been found
- Slow performance in the top four states indirectly throw light on the poor performance in other states
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of works taken up at the All India level
- Only 27.04% of the total works taken up in Tamil Nadu have been completed

9. SUGGESTIONS

- To develop models for creating productive assets to improve agriculture scenario
- Implementation of the scheme should be done more effectively
- If the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled conservation of water bodies will be proper and easier
- If small water bodies are maintained properly under this scheme it will help to improve rural development
- Proper implementation of the scheme will also bring about empowerment of rural women in the near future

10. CONCLUSION

The purpose of the scheme is social economic inclusion of rural population in the stream of economic development. Special efforts have been taken to empower rural women and conservation of water bodies. Based on available data the success of the scheme is not up to the expectations of the people. So it is the duty of the government administrators to take necessary steps to implement the programme for the overall development of the economy and bring about equality between the rural and urban areas.

11. REFERENCES

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