

Impact of MGNREGS on Tribal Livelihoods in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh**Mr.Y.Janaki Ramudu¹****Prof. Ch.Appa Rao²****Abstract**

The data pertaining to employment and income condition of the respondents during 2014-2015 indicates that the respondents are able to receive higher proportion of employment and income through MGNREGS works executed in the study area. Majority of the respondents stated that after the implementation of the MGNREGS works the extent of migration is reduced and the number of working days is increased. After the implementation of MGNREGS works, there is a significant increase in the consumption of alcohol (41.9%) by the respondents in G.L.Puram whereas the expenditure on education (63.9%) has enormously increased in Seethampeta sample. A major proportion of the respondents feel that the MGNREGS should try to create rural assets and provide them a way to earn their livelihood instead of just making them unskilled wage earners. Activities like horticulture or fisheries through digging up ponds or de-silting ponds can be explored.

Introduction

During the last sixty six years, since Independence, Government of India has been experimenting with various programmes to bring rural poor into the main frame of national economy. All those programmes and policies have not borne the expected fruit of the planners. In their effort to frame the most suitable programme to benefit the rural poor, previous programmes have been removed and new programmes with new orientation have been put in force. There has been a continuous search for the most beneficial programme which can bring these rural poor households. After the opening the doors of Indian economy to the world by way of liberalization and globalization there was rapid growth. But this rapid growth has not percolated to include the rural poor into the main stream. Therefore, the focus now has been shifted from macro-economic policies to micro economic policies. A provision of new openings for the skilled and unskilled persons is sought through Self-Employment Programmes; Wage Employment Programmes; Public Distribution System (PDS), Nutrition Programmes and Social Security Programmes. In light of the outcomes of all these programmes yet another programme is devised to tackle the main issue of rural poor and control the rural outmigration which is causing untold problems and

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unplanned urbanisation in India. The panacea for this is found in the programme called National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

J.M. Keynes a well known Economist who saved the world economy from the great depression during 1930's, directed the Governments to employ labourers in large numbers for "digging the wells and filling them up", so that effective aggregate demand for goods and services would be boosted up and thereby industries be revived and employment generated. Perhaps this principle caught the attention of the Economist Prime Minister and he introduced National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Parliament in August 2005 and it is renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in October 2009. The MGNREGA is a national law which ensures a right to work for all households in rural areas. Under this Act every household has to be provided 100 days and recently the Government has enhanced to 150 days of wage employment in a financial year and creation of durable community assets. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is now in its eleventh year and claims that the scheme is the worlds' largest ever financial inclusion scheme. The unique character of the Act lies in the remarkable opportunities it opens up to transform the development scenario in India. There is a provision for social audit by the local people on the works under taken under the MGNREGS. Perhaps for the first time transparency and accountability could be seen in a Government Programme.

There are a number of studies dealing with various aspects of the MGNREGS, including its process, procedures and impacts. A review of the studies suggests that the scheme has the potential to provide a 'big push' in India's 'regions of distress' and thereby has created a sense of hope amongst the rural poor. In addition to creating livelihood opportunities for the rural poor, the MGNREGS can also play an active role in respect of rapid response to crises and disaster, particularly at the local level. Realisation of these potentials, however, depends largely on creating awareness of employment as an entitlement increasing lean-season wages in rural areas, arresting forced migration and benefiting the marginalised people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Furthermore, while much has been said and written about the social audits and their contribution to transparency, empowerment and good governance, the ground these audits have covered is much less than has been advertised, and they have ignored many important aspects of the scheme's implementation that are critical for achieving efficiency. But the constraints to, and requirements for, successful implementation of the MGNREGS, as indicated in existing studies, are much more general in nature rather than condition-specific. The requirements at the Government level may vary depending on the socio-economic, political and other institutional set-up, coupled with agro-climatic and geophysical conditions, and the performance of the scheme may vary accordingly across the States. Furthermore, even within the same State, requirements may differ across social

groups because of the variations in their entitlement to productive resources, socio-cultural practices and institutional norms and provisions. The studies conducted by Krushna Ranaware, et al 2015; Diego Maiorano and Chakradhar Buddha's 2014; Srinivasa Rao Didde and P.Muthaiyan 2013; Smita Nayak 2013; Lalit Mohan Nayak, et. al 2012; Eswarappa Kasi 2011; Nagangoud,S.P and Uliveppa H.H 2010; Viswanathan S 2010; Gopal, 2009; Yasmeen S 2009; Mehrotra, 2008; Jha et al., 2008; Ambasta et al., 2008; Lalit Mathur 2008; Anish Vanaik 2008; Pradeep Baisakh 2008; Reetika Khera 2008; Uma Chaturavedi 2008; Abhay Singh 2008; Biswas, 2007; Lalit Mathur 2007; Mihir Shah 2007; Bhatia and Drèze 2006.

In this context, it is necessary to assess the impacts of the MGNREGS on the Tribal communities of India in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular when we consider the MGNREGS itself as a development institution in a caste-ridden rural society with a Tribal fringe. Therefore, an assessment of the impacts of the MGNREGS on the Tribal communities can largely facilitate reforms of the development institutions in their favour. Examining the impact of the scheme on the Tribal communities across the States and the role of institutions in this regard remains by and large ignored. Although it is necessary to understand as to how the programme has affected the socio-economic and livelihood conditions of the rural people in general and the Tribal communities who are below poverty line in particular, it is also vital to assess the processes and procedures of the implementation of the MGNREGS in the country. Needless to say, the success of the programme largely depends upon the processes of its implementation.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the Study are:

- ✓ To analyse the socio-economic and demographic features of the sample respondents in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.
- ✓ To examine the impact of the MGNREGS on income, consumption, assets and migration among the sample beneficiaries.
- ✓ To suggest policy interventions for improving the functioning and performance of MGNREGS in interior rural areas.

Methodology

The present Study selected Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts for intensive Study purposively. The rationale for selecting these particular districts was occupied Tribal population particularly Tribal mandals. For implementing MGNREGS in these areas politicians, administrators, field staff at grass root level and people have put in hard work and concerted effort made in this regard. As such it is

found an apt target to study these districts to find out what has made this programme a great success. For in depth research, the Study covered two Tribal mandals, one Tribal Mandal from each district and to analyse the impact of the MGNREGS programme. From each of the two mandals, five villages were selected. In Srikakulam district, Seethampeta Mandal and G.L.Puram Mandal from Vizianagaram district was selected for intensive Study. Five villages were selected from Seethampeta Mandal viz., Goidi, Peddarama, Sambam, Pedduru and Valagadda. The other Mandal selected was G.L.Puram from where the five sample villages are P.Amitu, Elevenpeta, Diguvamanda, Duddukalla and Pedakarja. The study were covered 50 sample respondents from each sample village with the help of the stratified random sampling technique to give due representation to different strata of the society. Thus, 500 sample respondents have been selected from ten (10) sample villages. Information was collected through a specially designed schedule from all the sample respondents in the study area. The reference period of the study is 2018-19.

Socio - Economic Features of the Sample Respondents

To have a proper understanding of the sample respondents who are actively participating in the programme MGNREGS, a thorough study of important demographic indicators like age and gender composition are taken into account, and other different aspects like caste, literacy, housing, occupational structure, landholding pattern and type of family are examined. These details are presented in Table 1.

Age Group

Sample of 250 respondents from each of the Seethampeta and G.L Puram mandals were selected. Distribution of this sample according to their age group gives a better understanding on the motives and aspirations of the respondents who are involved in the MGNREGS. The age structure of the sample respondents between the two sample mandals show slight differences. About 59 per cent of the sample respondents fall under the age group of 40 years in Seethampeta while in the G.L. Puram constitutes 50 per cent. In the age group of 41-50 years, the sample respondents reported more in G.L. Puram (34%) compared to Seethampeta (24%). This is reverse in the age group of 51-60 years. The table shows that 31 per cent of the sample respondents in Seethampeta were found in the age group of below 30 years while only 19 per cent of the same are found in the G.L. Puram. In the age group 31-60 years, the sample constitutes are significantly lower in Seethampeta (66%) compared to G.L. Puram (79%).

Gender – Wise Composition

Between the two samples, female work participation of the sample respondents is higher at 37.6 per cent in Seethampeta compared to G.L. Puram (29.2%). Correspondingly this means the male respondents are more (70.8%) in case of G.L. Puram when compared to Seethampeta (62.4%). This aspect lies in

correspondence with the prevailing lower female participation rate in the sample mandals.

Caste - Group

The total respondents represents from one ethnic group, viz., Scheduled Tribes are covered in two Tribal mandals. Among the two mandals, the respondents belonging to Jatapu is accounted for 60 per cent and 40 per cent of Savaras in Seethampeta while these figures are 80 and 20 per cent in G.L.Puram.

Literacy Levels

Education has been considered as a very important factor in rural development, particularly to bring in socio- economic transformation in the very interior rural and Tribal areas. The selected sample areas consist of a major part of rural villages in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts. In this context, the levels of education of the sample respondents become very important in implementation of the Government programmes. Across the respondents, illiterates are found to be very high among the sample respondents in Seethampeta (78.5%) compared with G.L. Puram (59.2%).

Type of House

Housing is one of the basic needs of every human being. The data relating to housing conditions of the sample respondents provides a very positive picture. The existing conditions of the respondents in the study area reveal those efforts of ongoing hectic Government housing programmes. It is found that a higher proportion of the respondents (36%) are living in pucca houses in Seethampeta, while it is 27.2 per cent in G.L. Puram. It is also found that out of 500 respondents only (29.8%) households are having kutchha houses, (38.6%) are having semi-pucca houses and (31.6%) having pucca houses.

Occupational Structure

Across the respondents of the two sample mandals, the number of cultivators is found slightly more in Seethampeta when compared to G.L. Puram. More than 90 per cent of the sample respondents were working as labour in both the sample mandals. On the whole, about (91.2%) of them are working as labour and only 7.8 per cent of them are cultivators. As the MGNREGS programme is designed to provide higher number of working days to the rural land less labour, the existing occupational structure of the respondents lies in correspondence with the MGNREGS objectives.

Number of Workers per Household

Across the sample mandals the numbers of households having below two workers is low (58.8%) in Seethampeta and it is 62.4 per cent in G.L. Puram. However, the number of households having 3-4 workers is found to be marginally more in Seethampeta (40%) whereas it is 37.6 per cent in G.L. Puram. A major proportion (60.6 %) of the households is having less than two workers and also observed that (38.8%) per cent of the households are having the number of workers in between 3 - 4. The pattern of number of workers per household reveals that due to the

existence of higher number of nuclear families, the number of workers per household recorded is very low.

Family Size

It is observed that 62.4 per cent of respondents from Seethampeta are having the family size of 1-4, 25.6 per cent of them 5-6 members, and only 12 per cent are having more than 6 members. The corresponding figures for G.L. Puram are 66.4, 26.4 and only 7.2 per cent respectively. It reveals that the average family size of the sample respondents is arrived at 5.1 in Seethampeta and it is 4.5 in G.L. Puram. There is marginally difference in size of the family either in the two sample mandals. The low average family size of the respondents may be due to the prevalence of nuclear family system in the study area.

Landholding Pattern

The analysis clearly shows that people with no or very little landholdings are only involved in the MGNREGS. Out of the total respondents (22%) have less than one acre of land in the study area. The sample respondents with 1 to 2 acres land comprises of (21%) and respondents with more than two acres of land recorded (27.6%) in the total respondents. The landholding composition of the sample respondents reveals that even among the landholders, most of them are having less than one acre, and almost all of them come under the category of marginal farmers.

Table 1
Socio-Economic Features of Sample Respondents in the Study Area

S. No.	Characteristics	Seethampeta		G.L. Puram		Grand Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age-Group							
1	Below 30	78	31.2	45	18.0	123	24.6
2	31-40	70	28.0	80	32.0	150	30.0
3	41-50	61	24.4	86	34.5	147	29.5
4	51-60	34	13.6	33	13.0	67	13.3
5	61 and above	7	2.8	6	2.5	13	2.7
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Gender							
1	Male	156	62.4	177	70.8	333	66.6
2	Female	94	37.6	73	29.2	167	33.4
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Caste							
1	Jatapu	150	60.0	200	80.0	350	70.0
2	Savara	100	40.0	50	20.0	150	30.0
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Literacy Status							
1	Illiterate	196	78.5	148	59.2	344	68.9
2	Primary Education	25	10.0	54	21.6	79	15.8
3	Secondary Education	14	5.5	26	10.4	40	8.0
4	Intermediate	11	4.5	16	6.4	27	5.5
5	Higher Education	4	1.5	6	2.4	10	2.0
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Type of House							
1	Kutchu	101	40.4	48	19.2	149	29.8
2	Semi Pucca	59	23.6	134	53.6	193	38.6
3	Pucca	90	36.0	68	27.2	158	31.6
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Occupation							
1	Cultivation	23	9.2	16	6.4	39	7.8
2	Labour	227	90.8	229	91.6	456	91.2
3	Business	0	0.0	2	0.8	2	0.4
4	Others	0	0.0	3	1.2	3	0.6
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
No of workers							
1	Below 2	147	58.8	156	62.4	303	60.6
2	3 - 4	100	40.0	94	37.6	194	38.8
3	Above 5	3	1.2	0	0.0	3	0.6
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
Family size							
1	1 to 4	156	62.4	166	66.4	322	64.4
2	5 to 6	64	25.6	66	26.4	130	26.0
3	> 6	30	12.0	18	7.2	48	9.6
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500
	Average family size	5.1		4.5		4.8	
Land (in acres)							
1	<1	63	25.2	45	18.0	108	21.6
2	1 - 2	45	18.0	62	24.8	107	21.4
3	>2	40	16.0	98	39.2	138	27.6
4	No land	102	40.8	45	18.0	147	29.4
	Total	250	250	100.0	250	100.0	500

Source: Field Survey

Impact of MGNREGS on Sample Respondents

An attempt is made to present the changes in the employment and income levels, consumption pattern, assets, livestock and outstanding loans among the sample respondents in Seethampeta and G.L. Puram mandals.

Employment and Income Levels of the Sample Respondents

The views of the sample respondents are extracted about different aspects of MGNREGS on the employment and income levels of the sample respondents in the study area. An investigation is made to estimate the levels of employment and income during 2014-15 MGNREGS works are effectively executed in the study area. The details on these aspects are presented in Table 2

The average number of working days of a worker during the study period is arrived at 253 days. Among these recorded 253 working days, a higher proportion is contributed through MGNREGS works 128 days.

The average per worker annual income is estimated at Rs. 27,781 during 2014-15. Among the different sources of income, the highest proportion is contributed through the MGNREGS works (54.20%). The respondents received annual income from their own farm accounted for 18.20 per cent, 14.10 per cent of income through non-agriculture labour works and the remaining (13.5%) of total income is received from the source of attending to agriculture labour works.

Across the sample mandals, the number of working days marginally higher in case of respondents belonging to Seethampeta sample (255 working days), compared with G.L. Puram sample (251 working days). During 2014-15, a higher of working days (135 days) emerged out of MGNREGS works in the areas of Seethampeta sample compared with G.L. Puram sample (121 days). Among other sources, their own farm works more number of working days in case of G.L. Puram (58 days) compared with Seethampeta (52 days). Similarly, the number of working days covered under non-agriculture labour and agriculture works are higher in case of G.L. Puram when compared to Seethampeta. This analysis shows that in the study area MGNREGS emerged as a source of providing high employment and income.

Among the two categories of mandals, the income pattern coincides with the employment pattern. Hence, similar trends relating to employment are being reflected on their income pattern. Hence, in the study area MGNREGS emerged as a major source of income providing when compared to the other ongoing economic activities in the study area. This situation also highlights the need for further building up of

MGNREGS works in the interior Tribal areas for the economic prosperity of the people residing in the two regions.

Table 2
Pattern of Employment and Income during the Year
(April 2014 to March 2015)

Response	Seethampeta			G.L. Puram			Grand Total		
	No. of days	Income (Rs.)	%	No. of days	Income (Rs.)	%	No. of days	Income (Rs.)	%
Own farm	52	4830	16.6	58	5279	20.0	55	5055	18.2
Agricultural Labour	36	4680	16.1	28	2800	10.6	32	3740	13.5
Non-agricultural labour	32	3445	11.8	44	4412	16.7	38	3929	14.1
MGNREGS works	135	16200	55.6	121	13915	52.7	128	15058	54.2
Total Working Days	255	0	0.0	251	0	0.0	253	0	0.0
No Work	110	0	0.0	114	0	0.0	112	0	0.0
Total	365	29155	100.0	365	26406	100.0	365	27781	100.0

Source: Field Survey

The data pertaining to employment and income condition of the respondents during 2014-15 indicates that the respondents are able to receive higher proportion of employment and income through MGNREGS works executed in both the areas. Many of the selected sample respondents stated that after the implementation of the MGNREGS works the extent of migration is reduced and the number of working days is increased. Due to increase in the alternate employment opportunities in the study area, the agricultural wages are also increased considerably. All these consequential positive changes contributed through MGNREGS ultimately caused positive impact on the employment and income conditions of the selected sample respondents in the study area.

It has to be noted that on the average a worker remain unemployed for 112 days in a year. Of course, if we deduct festivals and other exigencies, the number of non-working days could be more than hundred in a year.

Impact of MGNREGS on Farm Assets and Household Durables

To ascertain the impact of MGNREGS on the asset formation of the sample respondents in the two sample mandals data were collected and the resultant statistics were presented in Table 3. The data is collected at two points of time one before and another after implementation of the MGNREGS in the study area.

The data reveals that there is a strong positive growth in the assets and household durables after the MGNREGS is implemented. Also a qualitative change of better is found in the housing conditions in both the sample areas. A detailed analysis of the table clearly shows that there is a remarkable difference in housing conditions in the two sample mandals. The sample respondents had reported 62 pucca houses before the MGNREGS while after the implementation of the same they had 101 pucca houses and it is increased by 63 per cent in Seethampeta. The growth of semi-pucca houses by 74 per cent and decline of kutcha houses by 42 per cent are a clear indication of the progress in Seethampeta sample area between the two periods. A similar trend is found in G.L. Puram sample area also eventhough the magnitudes are different. Here the pucca and semi-pucca houses increased by 100 and 185 per cent respectively while the kutcha houses declined by 67 per cent. One observation stands out in the table that of farm implements such as bullock carts and ploughs which remained static in Seethampeta sample and bullock carts increased by 21 per cent in G.L. Puram sample.

Coming to the household durables the highest percentage of growth was found Cell phones increased by 232 and 191 per cent in Seethampeta and G.L. Puram respectively. Next in order of growth are TVs, motor cycles and cycles in both the sample mandals. Almost all the durables (except cycles) the growth is found to be higher in Seethampeta sample compared with G.L. Puram sample. This can be construed as a positive sign since these durable products help the respondents to acquire better communication channels and bring them into the fold of information revolution. This will help better their living standards.

Table 3
Impact of MGNREGS on Farm Assets and Household Durables in the Study Area (in nos)

S. No	Assets	Seethampeta			G.L. Puram		
		Before	After	% Change	Before	After	% Change
Farm Assets							
1	Land (acres)	89	138	55.1	185	228	23.2
2	Type of House						
	Pucca	62	101	62.9	0	48	100.0

	Semi- Pucca	34	59	73.5	47	134	185.1
	Kutchra	154	90	-41.6	203	68	-66.5
3	Bullock Cart	15	15	0.0	14	17	21.4
4	Plough	25	25	0.0	22	22	0.0
Household Durables							
1	Cycle	35	58	65.7	25	43	72.0
2	Radio/Tape Recorder	35	38	8.6	15	15	0.0
3	T.V.	50	93	86.0	38	65	71.1
4	sewing machine	5	8	60.0	3	3	0.0
5	Scooter	0	0	0.0	2	2	0.0
6	Motor Cycle	8	14	75.0	4	7	75.0
7	Gold/ Silver	96	118	22.9	112	112	0.0
8	Cell Phones	41	136	231.7	23	67	191.3

Source: As ex ante

Impact of MGNREGS on Livestock Population

The positive impact of MGNREGS is also found in case of livestock population of the sample respondents in the two sample mandals. The statistical information regarding the livestock population of the sample respondents are presented in Table 4. A positive change can be noticed in the number of cows, sheep and goats, bullocks owned by the respondents of the two mandals during the study period. The value of changes in the livestock population is more particularly buffaloes (68%) and sheep & goat (64%) in Seethampeta while the value of buffaloes (27%) and cows (35%) are higher in G.L. Puram.

Table 4
Impact of MGNREGS on Livestock Population
in the Study Area (Value in Rs)

S. No	Livestock Population	Seethampeta			G.L. Puram		
		Before	After	% Change	Before	After	% Change
1	Buffaloes	363000	610250	68.1	183500	223000	21.5
2	Bullocks	286000	326000	14.0	124000	157000	26.6
3	Cows	652000	864200	32.5	618500	836000	35.2
4	Sheep & Goat	161500	265400	64.3	168000	256000	52.4

Source: As ex ante

Impact of MGNREGS on Outstanding Loans

Information relating to the outstanding loans from different sources is presented in Table 5. The loan repayment towards Co-operative Banks relatively higher proportion among the respondents in G.L. Puram sample declined by (52%) followed by commercial banks (37%), money lenders (35%) and friends and relatives (34%). While in the case of respondents belonging to Seethampeta, the outstanding debts friends and relatives declined by (57%) followed by commercial banks has come down by (33%), money lenders (33%), cooperative banks (29%) and regional rural banks (21%). This clearly reveals that the outstanding debts have significantly come down both institutional and non-institutional sources in the study area.

Table 5
Outstanding Loans of the Sample Respondents in the Study Area

Source	Seethampeta			G.L. Puram		
	Before	After	% change	Before	After	% change
Money Lenders	252800	165000	-34.7	268900	180000	-33.1
Regional Rural Banks	0	0	0.0	140000	110000	-21.4
Co-operative Banks	120000	58000	-51.7	220000	156000	-29.1
Commercial Banks	155000	98000	-36.8	196000	130800	-33.3
Friends & Relatives	85000	56000	-34.1	150000	65000	-56.7

Source: As ex ante

The analysis also shows that there is a net reduction in the outstanding debt towards different institutional sources. This reveals that the sample respondents are able to repay their outstanding debt during the financial year 2014-15, because of their effective participation in MGNREGS works. This indicates that their participation in the MGNREGS works is having positive impact on their outstanding debt patterns. Hence, there is a need for further promotion of MGNREGS works in the study area.

Impact of MGNREGS on Consumption Patterns

The data relating to the consumption pattern of the respondents before and after implementation of the MGNREGS across two mandals is presented in the Table 6. The impact of MGNREGS on the consumption pattern of the selected respondents is estimated. It is observed that, the consumption of food items like the quantities of cereals, vegetables and oil consumed by the respondents are increased after the execution of MGNREGS works in the study area. It can be observed that on the front of consumption of food items much positive change is found in the consumption of pulses, non-vegetarian and oils. Out of the eight food items, the consumption of five

items like sugar (53%), non-vegetarian (31%), cereals (14%), milk (18%) and tea & coffee (14%) have increased significantly after the implementation of MGNREGS among the sample respondents in G.L. Puram sample, but only the consumption of oil and vegetables is significantly increased by (18%) and (15%) respectively in Seethampeta sample.

In case of consumption of non-food items, much change is noticed in the consumption patterns of the sample respondents belong to the two mandals. It is found that, after the MGNREGS works implementation significant increase in the consumption of alcohol by the sample respondents in the study area. In the G.L. Puram sample, it is increased by 42 per cent and it is 33 per cent in Seethampeta sample. Similarly, the sample respondent's expenditure on education is considerably higher (64%) in Seethampeta sample and 22 per cent in G.L. Puram sample.

The change in the consumption pattern observed after the implementation of MGNREGS in the study area revealed that there is significantly increase in the consumption of non-food items particularly expenditure on entertainment and alcohol, reveal that a large number of sample respondents are spending a major proportion of their earning on the unproductive aspects like ceremonies/ functions, smoking and alcohol. This suggest for emphasizing need for educate and aware the people in the interior, rural and Tribal areas not to spend much portion of their earning on unproductive aspects.

Table 6
Impact of MGNREGS of Consumption Patterns of
Sample Respondents (Value in Rs.)

S. No	Items	Seethampeta		% change	G.L. Puram		% change
		Before	After		Before	After	
Food Items (per week)							
1	Cereals	9450	10640	12.6	8120	9240	13.8
2	Pulses	5680	6876	21.1	5400	6535	21.0
3	Milk (liters)	2235	2620	17.2	2050	2415	17.8
4	Tea/Coffee	4574	5160	12.8	4370	5000	14.4
5	Su gar	2680	3253	21.4	2040	3130	53.4
6	Vegetables	20250	23300	15.1	11584	12566	8.5
7	Non-vegetarian	3050	3670	20.3	1300	1700	30.8
8	Oil	7366	8654	17.5	6758	7365	9.0
Non-food Items (per annum)							
1	Cloth	151048	163780	8.4	140600	152630	8.6
2	Cosmetics	25110	28260	12.5	25540	28065	9.9
3	Entertainment	85650	102460	19.6	65560	74150	13.1
4	Education	125370	205440	63.9	105470	128520	21.9

5	Healthcare	230500	242700	5.3	221080	224650	1.61
6	Ceremonies/ Functions	698590	922800	32.1	792780	890370	12.3
7	Firewood/Fuel	250330	263510	5.3	120460	132350	9.9
8	Smoking	170340	185200	8.7	160540	183310	14.2
9	Alcohol	245300	326500	33.1	187000	265300	41.9

Source: As ex ante

Conclusion

To sum up, the socio-economic and demographic analysis of the sample respondents reveal that a higher proportion of respondents and their family members registered in the work wise effective age group. The analysis shows that in the study area MGNREGS emerged as a source of providing high employment and income. Due to increase in the alternate employment opportunities in the study area, the agricultural wages are also increased considerably. All these consequential positive changes contributed through MGNREGS ultimately caused positive impact on the employment and income conditions of the selected sample respondents in both the sample mandals the study area.

- ❖ The findings of the study suggest that the MGNREGS has immense potential for initiating the socio-economic development of the Tribal communities. The study shows, a majority of Scheduled Tribe respondents perceived that the MGNREGS had led to more employment generation in the interior rural areas and hence stopped the migration of the people in search of jobs. Therefore, delivering the potential benefits to the target groups requires significant institutional reforms at all levels. This will help to bring in the transparency and accountability that are important for efficient utilisation of the resources for the maximum benefit of these communities. For this micro level execution is needed to find out problems involved in implementation of the scheme in Tribal areas.
- ❖ Female work participation rates in the study area are observed to be very low. Male work participation and the resultant incomes are being spent on alcohol, smoking, etc. As such for the welfare of the family/household female work participation needs to be raised in the interior Tribal areas.
- ❖ Finally, the study suggests that the majority of the works is pro-agriculture and primarily benefit small and marginal farmers in the study area. The respondents feel that the MGNREGS should try to create rural assets and provide them a way to earn their livelihood instead of just making them unskilled wage earners. Activities like horticulture or fisheries through digging up ponds or de-silting ponds can be explored.

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