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SUCCINCT GLIMPSE OF MGNREGA IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a major step in the direction of providing security of employment to rural workers by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every year to every household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. The Act makes a historic step towards recognizing and ensuring work as a right of the people. The major aim of the scheme was to strength the rural society. The Govt. of India has contributed huge capital in this scheme and almost every year this amount has increased. After 9 years of its inception, this scheme has given the mixed results. As MGNREGA is started all over India, we can easily analyze both the positive and negative aspects of this scheme with this paper. In some parts it has made the people especially women self-dependent and increased the employment rate while in some parts a number of reports regarding the corrupt activities in MGNREGA, non-availability of work, biasness regarding distribution of work had come.

KEYWORDS

MGNREGA, employment guarantee, rural areas, expenditure, household.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. Increased participation of people in the rural development process, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit and inputs go a long way in providing the rural people with better prospects for economic development. Improvements in health, education, drinking water, energy supply, sanitation and housing coupled with attitudinal changes also facilitate their social development. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is the nodal agency for rural development in India. It coordinates implements and funds schemes which aim at ensuring that the fruits of economic development reach the villages and the common man. The Ministry has three Departments, viz. Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources and Department of Drinking Water Supply. A paradigm shift in the policy of rural development has also taken place in the sense that poor are treated as potential resources, forming an integral part of the development strategy and not as a burden.

Here, an attempt has been made to evaluate the physical and financial performance of MGNREGA for the year 2014-15 and since its inception in Himachal Pradesh and in District Mandi of Himachal Pradesh. The review of performance of MGNREGA is based on the data compiled from Annual Progress Reports of the Rural Development Department of State Government and District Rural Development Agency of Mandi district. It is important to evaluate the performance of MGNREGA at state level. Thus, prior to evaluate the performance of MGNREGA in Mandi district, a brief description at State level for the performance of MGNREGA has been made.

The progress of MGNREGA in Himachal Pradesh (since its inception) has been reflected in table 1.

TABLE 1: THE PROGRESS OF MGNREGA IN HIMACHAL PRADESH (SINCE INCEPTION)

Sr. No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	No. of households issued job cards (cumulative)	0.99	3.94	8.50	995	10.50	11.06	11.47	11.60	11.61
2.	No. of households provided employment (in Lakh)	0.64	2.71	4.46	4.97	4.44	5.05	5.15	5.39	4.53
3.	Total Mandays generated (in lakh)	29.90	97.53	205.28	284.94	219.46	270.13	262.10	282.50	190.80
4.	Mandays generated for women (in lakh) & per centage	15.19 53%	42.27 43%	84.80 41%	119.84 42%	89.48 41%	96.55 36%	92.64 35%	101.17 36%	67.46 35%
5.	Mandays generated for women (in lakhs) & per centage	3.66 12%	29.36 30%	80.09 39%	131.32 46%	105.90 48%	160.34 59%	159.06 61%	176.60 63%	116.46 61%
6.	No. of households completed 100 days of employment	16,815	13,842	50,193	48,283	22,052	48,043	40,416	55,439	21,576
7.	Average person days per households	47	36	46	57	49	54	51	52	42
8.	Total no. of works taken up	8,726	19,262	45,556	62,473	63,988	82,894	1,13,922	1,28,185	1,28,148
9.	No. of works in progress	4,722 (54)	7,496 (39)	23,275 (51)	35,899 (57)	34,409 (54)	40,618 (49)	46,765 (41)	50,356 (39)	42,514 (33)
10.	Central share (₹ in crore)	4,004	11,766	22,281	26,574	29,579	42,276	67,157	77,829	85,634
11.	Central share (₹ in crore)	45.23	125.96	410.11	375.47	656.18	311.38	361.30	477.97	355.43
	State share (₹ in crore)	2.85	13.51	33.25	53.11	56.11	45.70	48.92	47.92	38.90
	Total (₹ in crore)	48.08	139.47	443.36	428.58	712.29	357.08	410.22	525.89	394.33
12.	Total expenditure (₹ in crore)	39.40	125.66	327.77	545.07	535.74	527.95	507.98	578.49	410.07

Source: Rural Development Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh

It is evident from table 1 that, in the year 2006-07, a total of 29.90 lakh person days have generated to rural household, which increased to 97.53 lakh during the year 2007-08. It was in increasing order till 2009-10. In the year 2010-11 it decreased to 219.46 lakh person days, however, in the year 2009-10, 284.94 lakh person days were generated. From the year 2010-11 to 2014-15, it was found in decreasing order and 190.80 lakh person days have generated in the year 2014-15. Data as depicted in table 1 reflects that, in the year 2006-07, 16,815 households have completed 100 days employment under MGNREGA and 21,576 households have completed 100 days of employment in the year 2014-15. Central as well as State share was found in increasing order from the year 2006-07 to 2014-15. Further, the works taken up under MGNREGA were also found in increasing order from the year 2006-07 to 2014-15. Detail of funds and expenditure under the programme in Mandi district w.e.f. 2007-08 to 2014-15 has been shown in table no. 2.

TABLE 2: DETAIL OF FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE IN MANDI DISTRICT (₹ in Lakh)

Year	Opening balance	Funds received from Centre + State	Interest/Misc. Receipt	Total funds available	Funds utilized	Closing balance
2007-08	0.00	4567.51	114.72	4682.30	4272.52	409.71
2008-09	409.71	15894.62	75.88	16380.21	9056.73	7323.48
2009-10	7323.48	6210.44	75.71	13609.63	12562.82	1046.81
2010-11	1046.81	16172.00	1600.28	18819.09	13867.03	4952.06
2011-12	4952.06	10050.00	202.16	15204.22	13527.90	1676.32
2012-13	1676.33	12162.00	293.48	14231.80	13103.47	1128.33
2013-14	1128.33	13203.00	194.56	14525.89	14170.92	354.97
2014-15	354.97	10149.00	73.59	10577.56	10368.04	209.52

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Mandi, H.P.

Data as shown in table 2 reveals that in the year 2007-08, Center and state share was ₹ 4567.51 lakh, total available fund was ₹ 4682.30 lakh in the same year and ₹ 4272.52 lakh of funds was utilized, however, closing balance was ₹ 409.71 in the year 2007-08. In the year 2008-09 opening balance was ₹ 409.71 lakh and closing balance was ₹ 7323.71 lakh. Above table reveals that, maximum fund including centre and state i.e. ₹ 16172.00 lakh was found in the year 2010-11 and minimum fund i.e. ₹ 4567.51 lakh was found in the year 2007-08. In the end of 2014-15, opening balance was ₹ 354.97 lakh. However, ₹ 10149.00 lakh was the share of centre and state out of which ₹ 10368.04 lakh has been utilized in various works and the closing balance was ₹ 209.52 lakh.

PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF MGNREGA

The physical and financial progress of MGNREGA in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2014-15 has been reflected in table 3.

TABLE 3: PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS UNDER MGNREGA DURING THE YEAR 2014-15 (UPTO 23-6-2015)

A	Physical Progress	Chamba	Sirmaur	Kangra	Mandi	Bilaspur	Ha- mirpur	Kin- naur	Kullu	L & Spiti	Shimla	Solan	Una	Total	
1	Total No. of households issued job cards (since inception)	106102	78276	236316	221315	66892	83481	15662	89022	6283	118274	78795	62618	1163036	
2	Total No. of households demanded employment	66543	33980	90243	126532	24216	23217	9474	43251	3739	47203	16860	14160	499418	
3	Total No. of households provided employment	60250	30634	78345	117051	9.66	21029	8982	40842	3502	44122	13946	12190	452388	
4	Total Persondays generated (in lakh)	28.86	14.23	28.19	52.78	2.52	8.30	4.60	15.60	1.62	16.07	5.36	5.12	190.39	
5	Persondays generated by SC	5.67	4.70	7.09	13.91	26	2.60	1.80	4.58	0.11	4.67	1.86	2.04	51.55	
6	Percentage	20	33	25	26	0.29	31	39	29	7	29	35	40	27	
7	Persondays generated by ST	8.16	0.14	1.84	0.51	3	0.11	2.77	0.15	1.49	0.06	0.06	0.12	15.70	
8	Percentage	28	1	7	1	5.38	1	60	1	92	0	1	2	8	
9	Persondays generated by Women	14.08	5.24	20.05	38.74	56	6.14	3.13	8.62	1.11	8.14	2.37	3.21	116.21	
10	Per cartage	49	37	71	73	1472	74	68	55	69	51	44	63	61	
11	Households completed 100 days employment	4174	2451	2244	6427	8218	853	343	1027	196	821	682	843	21533	
12	Total No. of works undertaken	14004	7550	17287	25308	3323	5683	1747	12987	1361	12581	4147	2439	113312	
13	Total No. of works completed	3450	2037	5467	9553	40	2214	219	4239	154	3443	1376	1138	36613	
14	Percentage	25	27	32	38	4895	39	13	33	11	27	33	47	32	
15	Total No. of works in progress	10554	5513	11820	15755	77.60	3469	1528	8748	1207	9138	2771	1301	76699	
B Financial Progress (₹ in lakhs)															
1	Opening balance as on 1-4-2014	466.89	190.49	230.28	354.97	77.60	84.51	64.29	75.86	23.41	344.16	58.08	91.86	2062.40	
2	Funds released	6249.00	2926.00	6871.00	10149.00	2097.00	1735.00	760.00	2720.00	317.00	3171.00	1188.00	1219.00	39402.00	
3	Miscellaneous receipt	36.75	10.33	62.35	57.66	4.65	1.85	3.66	4.52	0.85	81.88	35.89	5.48	305.87	
4	Total availability	6752.64	3126.82	7163.63	10561.63	2179.25	1821.36	827.95	2800.38	341.26	3597.04	1281.97	1316.34	41770.27	
5	Total Expdt.	6543.27	3026.74	7070.20	10381.95	2119.84	1748.37	686.34	2772.88	251.14	3342.42	1242.12	1301.60	40486.87	
6	Per centage	97	97	99	98	97	96	83	99	74	93	97	99	97	
7	Expdt. Of unskilled wages	4790.73	2029.93	4091.37	7849.65	1565.16	1131.92	547.41	2158.15	200.89	2594.72	834.92	819.86	28614.71	
8	Expdt. On semi skilled & skilled wages	235.11	26.36	132.24	335.57	11.71	13.08	14.03	46.83	7.78	61.43	18.54	17.36	920.04	
9	Expdt. On material	1250.53	824.22	2437.10	1717.88	453.34	519.50	91.02	439.67	25.28	532.40	296.87	385.00	8972.81	
10	Tax	2.11	1.03	6.84	5.60	0.10	1.01	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.51	1.02	1.19	20.15	
11	Administrative Expdt	264.78	145.19	402.67	473.26	89.53	82.85	33.88	127.50	17.18	153.36	90.77	78.19	1959.16	

Source: Rural Development Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

It is evident from table 3 that, 11, 63, 036 number of households have issued job cards since inception and 4, 99, 418 number of households demanded employment under MGNREGA in the year 2014-15. 4,52,388 number of households were provided employment and 190.39 lakh person days were generated in the year 2014-15. Further 1,13,312 lakh works were completed in year 2014-15 and 21,533 households completed 100 days of employment. Table 4.2 shows that opening balance as on 1-4-2014 was 2062.40 lakh and 39402.00 lakh funds have been released, total available fund was 41770.27 lakh and total expenditure was 40486.87 lakh in the 2014-15. Kangra district was the largest one, where 2,36,316 lakh job cards were issued and district Lahul-Spiti was the smallest one where only 6,283 job cards were issued during the year 2014-15.

HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED 100 DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT

As mentioned earlier, MGNREGA aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed employment to rural household in a year. The success of this programme depends on the generation of employment opportunities in the rural area. Families who have completed 100 days of employment in Himachal Pradesh under MGNREGA have been shown in table 4.

TABLE 4: FAMILIES WHO HAVE COMPLETED 100 DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT IN H.P. FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Sr. No.	Name of Distt.	House hold Employed	Person days Generated
1.	Bilaspur	956	95937
2.	Chamba	3828	383817
3.	Hamirpur	682	68467
4.	Kangra	3020	302880
5.	Kinnaur	502	50688
6.	Kullu	627	62845
7.	Lahaul-Spiti	74	7450
8.	Mandi	6785	679201
9.	Shimla	835	84687
10.	Sirmour	1169	117768
11.	Solan	559	56307
12.	Una	1215	121527
	Grand Total	20252	2031574

Source: Rural Development Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh

Table 4 shows that, 20,252 families have completed 100 days of employment and 20,31,574 person days were generated under MGNREGA in Himachal Pradesh for the year 2015-16. Out of total 12 districts, the highest ratio of families who have completed 100 days of employment under MGNREGA for the year 2015-16 was found in District Mandi of Himachal Pradesh. Whereas, minimum ratio in this context was found in district Lahul Spiti. District Chamba ranks secondly in this context where 3,828 families have completed 100 days of employment and district Kangra ranks thirdly where 3,020 families have completed 100 days of employment under MGNREGA. Families who have completed 100 days of employment in Mandi District during the year 2015-16 have been shown in table 5

TABLE 5: FAMILIES WHO HAVE COMPLETED 100 DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT IN MANDI DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Sr. No.	Blocks	House Hold Employed	Person days Generated
1.	Balh	335	33576
2.	Chauotra	94	9423
3.	Dharampur	2102	210363
4.	Drang	622	62281
5.	Gohar	364	36416
6.	Gopalpur	291	29138
7.	Karsog	350	35027
8.	Mandi Sadar	1032	103287
9.	Seraj	1322	132367
10.	Sundernagar	272	27323
	Grand Total	6785	679201

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Mandi, H.P.

Table 5 shows that 6,785 families have completed 100 days of employment and 6,79,201 person days were generated under MGNREGA in Mandi District for the year 2015-16. Out of total 10 development Blocks, the highest ratio of families who have completed 100 days of employment under MGNREGA for the year 2015-16 was found in Dharampur Block whereas minimum ratio in this context was found in Chauotra Block. Seraj Block ranks secondly in this context where 1,322 families have completed 100 days of employment and Mandi Sadar Block ranks thirdly where 1,032 families have completed 100 days of employment under MGNREGA.

In India, Poverty alleviation programmes have been important rudiments of public policy to provide unskilled workers with short-term employment on public works. They provide income transfers to rural households during periods when they undergo on account of lack of opportunities of employment. In areas with high unemployment rates and under-employment, from these programmes transfer benefits prevent poverty from worsening, especially during lean seasons. Durable assets that these programmes generate have the potential to generate second-round employment benefits as requisite infrastructure is developed. India has a long history and knowledge in implementing wage employment programmes implemented by the state governments with the assistance of Central Government. These schemes are self-targeting and the objective is to provide enhanced livelihood security, particularly to those dependent on casual manual labour. Beginning with Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in 1989, the outreach of these programmes increased significantly, culminating in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which was implemented by the enactment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

CONCLUSION

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a major step in the direction of providing security of employment to rural workers by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every year to every household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. The Act makes a historic step towards recognizing and ensuring work as a right of the people. The major aim of the scheme was to strength the rural society. The Govt. of India has contributed huge capital in this scheme and almost every year this amount has increased. After 9 years of its inception, this scheme has given the mixed results. As MGNREGA is started all over India, we can easily analyze both the positive and negative aspects of this scheme with this paper. In some parts it has made the people especially women self-dependent and increased the employment rate while in some parts a number of reports regarding the corrupt activities in MGNREGA, non-availability of work, biasness regarding distribution of work had come.

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