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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF DECLARATION OF INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING ON SHARE PRICE AND RETURN: EVIDENCE FROM TEHRAN STOCK EXCHANGE <i>MANSOUR GARKAZ</i>	1
2.	ODE TO THE FABRIC OF DESERT: THE SANCTUARY WAY <i>DR. ASHA ALEXANDER</i>	5
3.	CASH DIVENDS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPACT ON THE SHARE PRICES OF LISTED COMPANIES IN COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE IN SRI LANKA <i>SKANTHAVARATHAR RAMESH</i>	11
4.	THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO ACHIEVE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES IN NORTHERN THAILAND <i>DR. RATTANAN PONGWIRITTHON & SURACHAI UTAMA-ANG</i>	16
5.	FUNDS GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT IN ONDO STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NIGERIA <i>DR. FELIX OLURANKINSE</i>	22
6.	DEMOGRAPHICAL ANTECEDENTS IN DECISIONAL AUTONOMY OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF LAHORE, PAKISTAN <i>NOREEN ZAHRA & KASHIF MAHMOOD</i>	27
7.	IMPACT OF INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF LISTED COMPANIES IN TEHRAN STOCK EXCHANGE <i>MANSOUR GARKAZ</i>	32
8.	HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY CSR WITH MARKETING USP – CASE STUDY OF TAJ HOTELS & IHM-A <i>DR. S. P. RATH, DR. SHIVSHANKAR K. MISHRA, SATISH JAYARAM & CHEF LEEVIN JOHNSON</i>	35
9.	HOUSING IN RURAL INDIA: AN OVERVIEW OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN KARNATAKA <i>DR. VILAS M. KADROLKAR & DR. NAGARAJ M. MUGGUR</i>	44
10.	TRENDS AND GROWTH OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN INDIA DURING 2001-12 <i>DR. MANOJ DOLLI</i>	51
11.	FINANCES OF SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION OF ANDHRA UNIVERSITY, VISAKHAPATNAM: AN APPRAISAL <i>DR. G. VENKATACHALAM & DR. P. MOHAN REDDY</i>	57
12.	THE IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON THE LIVING CONDITION OF RURAL POOR IN RURAL ECONOMY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GULBARGA DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA STATE <i>ANIL KUMAR. B. KOTE & DR. P. M. HONNAKERI</i>	62
13.	CONCERNS OF FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA AMIDST ECONOMIC CRISIS <i>DR. ZEBA SHEEREEN</i>	66
14.	ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GREEN BANKING <i>DR. SARITA BAHL</i>	70
15.	A STUDY OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU <i>R. RETHINA BAI & DR. G. RADHA KRISHNAN</i>	75
16.	THE EFFECT OF PARENTAL INTERVENTION ON THE FAMILY PROBLEMS OF LATE ADOLESCENTS <i>DR. KALYANI KENNETH & SEENA P.C</i>	83
17.	EFFECT OF INDEX FUTURE TRADING AND EXPIRATION DAY ON SPOT MARKET VOLATILITY: A CASE STUDY OF S&P CNX NIFTY <i>DR. BAL KRISHAN & DR. REKHA GUPTA</i>	86
18.	COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PER SHRE RATIO OF SOME SELECTED INDIAN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS <i>DR. SHIPRA GUPTA</i>	89
19.	CONSUMPTION PATTERN OF CONVENIENCE GOODS: A STUDY WITH RURAL CONSUMERS <i>V. SYLVIYA JOHNSI BAI</i>	97
20.	MOTIVATORS AND MOTIVATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN RURAL AREAS <i>DR. M. JAYASUDHA</i>	100
21.	HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN RELATION TO ITS PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY IN TWO DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL <i>CHITTARANJAN DAS</i>	103
22.	A STUDY ON PUBLIC ATTITUDE AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS POVERTY ALLEVIATION <i>L. VIJAY & M. GANDHI</i>	109
23.	DETERMINENTS OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT: A STUDY IN VISAKHAPATANAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH <i>DR. D. NARAYANA RAO</i>	112
24.	AN ECONOMETRIC FRAMEWORK OF POLYTHENE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATIVES IN TAMIL NADU <i>GANDHIMATHY B</i>	117
25.	THEORITICAL PERSPECTIVES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: AN OVERVIEW <i>RAIS AHMAD QAZI & MOHD YASIN WANI</i>	122
26.	FDI INFLOWS IN INDIA TRENDS AND PATTERNS <i>SIRAJ-UL-HASSAN RESHI</i>	127
27.	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND PREGNENCY COMPLICATIONS <i>ARCHANA KESARWANI</i>	135
28.	A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF MGNREGS USING MARSHALLIAN FRAMEWORK <i>MOUMITA BAGCHI</i>	143
29.	A STUDY ON SMALL RUMINANTS AS A SOURCE OF INCOME AMONG THE FARMERS OF PALLIPATTI PANCHAYAT <i>M. ELAGOVAN</i>	147
30.	INSURANCE LEADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS ON EMOTIONAL MANAGEMENT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT <i>DILJOT SOIN</i>	150
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK	154

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THE IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON THE LIVING CONDITION OF RURAL POOR IN RURAL ECONOMY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GULBARGA DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The main focus of this article is to examine the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the living condition of the rural poor in rural economy and the present study also tries to assess the working of MGNREGA in two villages Kawalaga and Kesarhattigi in Gulbarga district. Gulbarga district is one of the most rural regions in India and this has been identified by the Dr. Najundappa Committee by Government of Karnataka. So it is hoped that the study is suitable for to find out the, in what extent the MGNREGA Scheme has impact on the living condition of the rural poor in rural economy. Hence the performance of MGNREGA Scheme in Gulbarga district would be of considerable interest both to the planners and to administrators.

KEYWORDS

MGNREGS, Living Condition, Income, Employment, Rural Poor.

INTRODUCTION

In India, our rural masses lack the basic infrastructure facilities to sustain their life, rural India constitutes about 72 percent of the total population. Their small land holdings provide them with minimal yield to support their existence. The opportunities to be better standard of living in rural areas of our country are minimal. The strategy of rural development viz. improving the economic conditions of the individual rural poor and investments to develop overall economy of an area are being given increasing importance in our planning process. The objective are to solve the problems of unemployment, under employment and poverty which are the major factors hunting the Socio-economic development of the country in ordered to achieve the goals of growth with Social Justice. Several schemes have been taken up in the matter of rural development with a view to ensure Social Justice. But these programmes have neither reduced the poverty levels in a sustainable manner nor have they expanded the labour absorption capacity of the main stream economy in any significant scale. Attempts to reduce the income poverty in India since the 1970's followed two distinct approaches. While one approach considered privately owned asset based strategy aiming to increase incidence of self employment through schemes like IRDP, ITDP, TRYSEM, the other approach concentrated on wage-based strategy through providing employment to rural poor for creation of protective assets owned publicly. Schemes like NREP, RLEGP, JRY, EAS, fell under the second category. Both the asset based and employment based interventions were characterized by a large-scale leakage of resources in to the hands of individuals who managed a space for themselves between the source of funds and the intended recipients. To arrest the leakages and to improve the income level of the rural masses the parliament enacted an act No:42 of 2005, called the National Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which received the accent of the president on 5th September 2005. The Act came into force on February 2006 in 200 districts of rural areas of India and extended to another 100 districts in 2007 and it has further extended to all the districts of India in 2008. The prime goal of the scheme is providing 100 days of wage employment to those claim employment in the appropriate authority, in the absence of providing employment the act instructs the authority to provide unemployment allowances.

The MNREGA of 2005 covered 200 districts in the Phase I district and in 2006-2007 this was extended to cover 130 additional districts known as the Phase II districts. During 2006-2007 against the total available fund of Rs.12073.56 crore, Rs.8823.36 crore was utilized. The average fund utilization per district was Rs.44.12 crore. In 2006-2007 out of this Rs.8303.82 crores have been released up to 14th November 2007, out of this Rs.5365.99 crores have been released to the phase I districts and Rs.2937.92 crore have been released in the phase II covering 131 districts. During 2006-2007 2.12 crore households has demand for employment out of which 2.10 crore households were provided employment. During the year 90.51 crore man days of employment was provided under the programme. Average of 45.2 lakh man days of employment per-districts have been generated. Out of total 90.51 crore man days, the share of Scheduled Castes was 22.95 crore man days (25.36%) and Scheduled Tribes was 32.99 (36.45%) constituting a total of 55.94 crore man days for SC/STs which comes all outed for 62% as per the MNREGA Programme. The share of women man days should be 1/3 rd and the same has 36.79 crore man days which is about 41%. During 2007-2008 1.97 crore households have demanded employment and 1.88 crore households were provided with employment. A total 56.14 crore man days of employment has been generated under MNREGA Programme. Out of this share of the Scheduled Castes was 14.70 crore man days (26.18%) and Scheduled Tribes was 18.44 crore man days (32.84%) constituting of 33.14 crore man days, which is about 59.03 % total. The share of women is 26.61 crore person days which is allowed for 47.40 %. During the year 2008-2009 4.50 crore households have been provided employment. A total manin days 214.56 crore employment has been generated under the Programme. Out of this share of Scheduled Castes is 62.88 crore man days (29%) and Scheduled Tribes is 54.51 crore man days (25%) the share of women is 102.73 crore man days which consisting 48%. During the year 2009-2010 i.e upto August 2009 73.05 crore households have been provided employment and the total man in days 21.27 crore employment has been generated under the programme. Out of this share of Scheduled Castes is 21.27 crore person days (28.94%) and Scheduled Tribes is 17.63 crore person days (23.99%) the share of women is 38.22 crore man days allowed for 52.01 %.

The main focus of this article is to examine the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the living condition of the rural poor in rural economy and the present study also tries to assess the working of MGNREGA in two villages Kawalaga and Kesarhattigi in Gulbarga district. Gulbarga district is one of the most rural regions in India and this has been identified by the Dr. Najundappa Committee by Government of Karnataka. So it is hoped that the study is suitable for to find out the, in what extent the MGNREGA Scheme has impact on the living condition of the rural poor in rural economy. Hence the performance of MGNREGA Scheme in Gulbarga district would be of considerable interest both to the planners and to administrators.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present paper aims at assess the impact of MGNREGA on the living condition of rural poor in rural economy a case study of two villages namely Kusnooru and Kandhal in Gulbarga district of Karnataka State for this purpose following objectives have been outlined.

1. To find out the impact of MGNREGA on the living condition of the rural poor in Kusnooru and Kandhal village
2. To identify the socio-economic condition of the sample respondent households under MGNREGA.

3. To analyze the extent of additional employment generation through MGNREGA to the rural poor
4. To assess the changes in the income levels of the job seekers/rural poor through MGNREGA.
5. To examine the socio economic conditions of rural poor after the implementation of MGNREGA in selected villages.

Evaluation of MGNREGA scheme in Gulbarga block, for the purpose of the present study, two gram panchayats from Gulbarga block are selected on the basis of simple random sampling method. For the purpose of the evaluation of MGNREGA scheme in Gulbarga Block, 40 households were selected from different categories on the basis of simple random sampling method.

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME AND ITS PROVISIONS

Has been launched on February 2nd 2006 in 200 districts of the Country. The scheme is different from the earlier wage employment programmes in different ways as they follow in below:-

- Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat.
- The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card. The Job Card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under NREGA and is free of cost.
- The Job Card should be issued within 15 days of application.
- A Job Card holder may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration for which work is sought. The minimum days of employment have to be at least fourteen.
- The Gram Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment, against which the guarantee of providing employment within 15 days operates
- Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work, if it is not then daily unemployment allowance as per the Act, has to be paid liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the States.
- Work should ordinarily be provided within 5 km radius of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10% are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses
- Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the State, unless the Centre notices a wage rate which will not be less than ₹60 (US\$1.34) per day. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.
- Wages are to be paid according to piece rate or daily rate. Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case.
- At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided
- The shelf of projects for a village will be recommended by the gram sabha and approved by the zilla panchayat.
- At least 50% of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution
- Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed
- The Central Govt. bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi skilled workers
- Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha
- Grievance redressal mechanisms have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process
- All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny

TYPE OF WORKS UNDER THE SCHEME

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
- Drought proofing (Afforestation and tree plantation)
- Irrigation canals
- Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST/beneficiaries under Indira Aawas Yojana*
- Renovation of traditional water bodies
- Desilting of tanks
- Land development
- Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas
- Rural connectivity to provide all weather access
- Other works notified by the Central/State Government

ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

An analysis of the respondent households in two selected gram panchayat namely Kusunooru gram panchayat 20 respondents and Kandhal gram panchayat 20 respondents has been picked up. Reversed 40-60 years to be the pre-dominant group of the 40 respondent, 32% were found to be aged of 26 to 40 years, 48% to be aged 40 to 60 years and 12% to be aged 21 to 25 years 8% aged over 60 years as respondents indicates the need for employment even for those over 60 years and the poor framework of MGNREGA which has not set any age limit for considering to be eligible for the scheme.

The analysis of gender classification of the respondents revealed that 70% of the respondents to male and remaining 30% to be female.

The study revealed that out of 40 respondents 40% are SCs 10% are STs, 30% are OBC and 20% are OCs in all the four panchayats. It is thus clear that MGNREGA has been strictly applied to rural categories people especially in the rural areas like Gulbarga district.

Landholding particulars of the households in two panchayat are shown in table-3. Table shows that 50% of farmers own less than 2.5 acres of land. Due to this rural households have not been getting sufficient income from agriculture and so they may be depending on employment generation programmes like MGNREGA.

Number of days worked under MGNREGA it's observed from the table that out of 40 respondents from two panchayats 50 of the respondents in Kusunooru. 50% in Kandhal had worked less than 78 days during 2009-2010.

Total wages received under works during 2009-2010 in two panchayats out of 85 respondents, 42% received an amount of less than Rs 6500, 54% reviled between Rs.6500 to 8000 and 15% received between Rs 8500 to 11500 and only 8% received above Rs.1200 from MGNREGA wages during 2009-2010.

The extent of migration after MGNREGA Scheme it is shown in table number 4% of the respondents opine that there has been a decrease in migration since the launch of MGNREGA. 32% opine that there has been no change and 3% opine that migration has increase even with the introduction of MGNREGA. 63% stating that migration to have decreased with MGNREGA implementation is a good indicator of development for these Gram Panchayats.

MGNREGA workers as per the study findings in selected villages have helped in food security management as stated by 22% of the respondents. An analysis by Kusunooru Gram Panchayat to have a highest proportion of respondents 68% perceive MGNREGA to have helped particularly in food security management. 17% of the respondents perceive that MGNREGA in no way to have helped in food security management while 15% are not sure about food security management.

The Main Findings of the study in brief are:-

- Employment has been generated on a massive scale. The average job card holder in Gulbarga has already been employed for nearly 28 days since 20010 compared with just about 2 days for the same period in 2009.

- Minimum wage Rs. 80 for men and Rs.70 per women RE BEING PAID.
- Wages are paid within a week and there were few complaints of delay in wage payments. .
- Gender classification of the respondents revealed that 70% of the respondents to male and other 30% to be female.
- MGNREGA is a life line for the rural poor.
- The large proportion of the respondents 62% unaware of the MGNREGA in two villages.

SUGGESTIONS

- There are more landless poor in Gulbarga district who totally depend on farm work and other seasonal, manual labourers, the number of days are to be increased from 100 to at least 150 days. So that the labour can make out their livelihood.
- Participation of women should be increased with the men for raising the income of the family.
- Genuine labourers who richly deserve work should be enrolled there by providing work to all the needy families without any political interference.
- An evaluation of MGNREGA annually would help in releasing the programme effectively.
- Gulbarga district is one the more rural district of Karnataka state and is actually in need of proper implementation of MGNREGA.
- Most of the people would prefer not to migrate men and women both. Therefore, if MNREGA can be used to curb rural urban migration migration then it will be yet another benefit from this act.

CONCLUSION

This paper looks at the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in India that was launched in the year 2005 as a social security measure aimed at providing employment security to the poor in villages. The MGNREGA was also meant to use this labour to construct rural infrastructure that is clearly wanting in India. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guarantees 100 days of work to all households. This analysis looks at the direct and the indirect effects that the NREGP has on employment generation and poverty reduction in a local. For this, a micro level survey in a specific village was undertaken to highlight the impact of the MGNREGP on the living condition of the rural poor in rural areas. This survey covered a poor agricultural village with 40 households. The survey recorded income and expenditure levels by type of household (large, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour.

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TABLES

TABLE - 1: AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF SAMPLE BENEFICIARIES

Gram Panchayat	21-25	40-60	60	Total
Kusunoor	06	15	03	24
Kandhal	04	10	02	16
Total	10	25	05	40

Source: Field survey

TABLE - 2: GENDER WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Gram Panchayat	Male	Female	Total
Kusunoor	14	06	20
Kandhal	14	06	20
Total	28	12	40

Source: Field survey

TABLE-3: LAND HOLDING PARTICULARS OF THE MGNREGA SAMPLE RESPONDENTS (IN ACRES)

Gram Panchayat	<2.5 acres		2.5 to 5.00 acres		5-10 acres		>10 acres	
	I	UI	I	UI	I	UI	I	UI
Kusunoor	02	06	00	05	00	01	00	00
Kandhal	01	02	02	03	01	02	00	01
Total	03	08	02	08	01	03	00	01

Source: Field survey

TABLE - 4: NO OF WORKED DURING 2009-2010

Gram Panchayat	No of days worked				
	< 75 days	76-90 days	90-100 days	>100 days	Total
Kusunoor	05	04	05	03	17
Kandhal	10	06	04	03	23
Total	15	10	09	06	40

Source: Field survey

TABLE - 5: RESPONDENTS PERCEPTION OF MIGRATION TO CITIES

Gram Panchayat	Decreased	Increased	Remained Same	Total
Kusunoor	12	02	04	18
Kandhal	08	08	06	22
Total	20	10	10	40

Source: Field survey

TABLE - 6: MGNREGA AND FOOD SECURITY

Gram Panchayat	Yes fully	Yea partially	No	Can't say	Total
Kusunoor	05	08	05	02	20
Kandhal	03	10	04	03	20
Total	08	18	09	05	40

Source: Field survey

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