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AN ANALYSIS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

As per the population census of 2011 about 90 percent of total population of India reside in villages. The sustainable development of these villages is the prime factor towards the economic growth of the nation. Since independence the Government has launched many programmes for the development of rural areas. MNREGA is landmark legislation in this direction. It is the first program that entitles the government to provide employment of 100 days in a financial year when required by the villagers. The primary objective of the Act is to strengthen the rural livelihood by creating durable assets and by providing employment. Since its implantation in the FY 2006-07 there has been many works completed under it. The present paper is an attempt to evaluate the significance of MNREGA by analysing its achievements in terms of employment provided to households, man days generated, women participation and works completed, by conducting a comparative study in each block of District Mandi of Himachal Pradesh.

KEYWORDS

job card, household, man days, social security, sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

Poverty, illiteracy and development of rural areas are the biggest bottlenecks in economic development of India. The Government has always focused on framing policies to ensure social and economic security to its residents. A number of development programmes has been started by the Government from time to time in this direction since independence. Some of these programs were like: Rural Manpower Program (1960-69), Food for Work Program (1979-80) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (1999-2001) etc. All these development programmes faced some loopholes (Dreze 2007) towards their effective implementation and objective accomplishment. Hence poor people in rural areas were not benefited by them at all and were trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty. To overcome all these concerns MNREGA was introduced by the Government of India on February 6, 2006 in 200 most backward districts of the country. It was a path breaking legislation in the direction of rural development and poverty elimination. Since seeking 100 days of employment in a financial year was guaranteed under the Act and the assets created were meant to increase the agricultural productivity. Based on the themes of EGS in Maharashtra, MNREGA is aimed to strengthen the livelihood security of rural people (CSE 2008).

Although MNREGA is an innovative piece of legislation having no parallel program anywhere in the world, one of the major concern is whether guaranteed employment is a measure for rural development and poverty elimination. Studies (Khera 2009) have shown that while head count ration of poverty may not have gone down significantly but there is a considerable effect of program on severity of poverty as the program has increased the income of poor in the rural areas. Further, the Act ensures decentralised planning and participation at the grass root level of its beneficiaries. In this way legislation goes beyond providing a social safety net, towards generating a right to employment and sustainable development of the rural areas.

There has been a spate of studies designed to assess the performance of MNREGA, since its inception. Dreze & Khera, 2009, Mehrotra 2008, Ambastha *et.al.* 2008, Jha *et. al.* 2009 and many other researchers have highlighted many aspects of MNREGA. While some studies have drawn attention to leakage and fudging of muster rolls, others have been enthusiastic over large number of jobs created and the increasing number of beneficiaries from disadvantaged section i.e. SC, ST and Women (Gaiha *et.al.*) In this paper an attempt has been made to assess the achievements of MNREGA towards rural development by analysing various performance indicators of the Act in district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh.

DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

By making use of the data from district rural development agency and web site of MNREGA. A trend analysis has been performed on year to year basis with percentage increase or decrease in the performance indicators of MNREGA. The performance indicators of MNREGA used in the analysis are: household issued job cards, number of households provided employment, person days generated i.e. number of days for which these households were employed, types of assets generated with their proportion to total number of works and financial performance in different years.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF MNREGA

The workforce program has facilitated the transfer of income to the poor households during agriculture lean seasons. Further the assets created have the potential to generate second round of employment benefits. It is a very effective program in addressing the concerns like: development of rural areas and economy, prevention of rural urban migration, preservation of water bodies, connectivity in rural areas, inhibition of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas etc.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Though the Act was implementation in February 2006. District Chamba and district Sirmour were the first to be covered under the Act in its first phase of implementation in Himachal Pradesh. While in district Mandi it was introduced in its second phase i.e. on April 2007. Population wise Mandi is the second largest district in Himachal Pradesh after Kangra. The program has achieved significant milestones towards rural development and poverty eradication. After six years of MNREGA implementation, the district have achieved the distinction of being the number one district in the country in terms of largest women participation in the scheme, on April 2013. Some of the major achievement of the Program in terms of rural development in Mandi district are as such:

JOB CARDS ISSUED

Job card is the primitive requirement to avail employment under MNREGA. It is issued by the Gram Panchayat to its local residents, within fifteen days of application. Employment is provided only to the job card holders. Further, only job card holders can be the member of social audit team in MNREGA. Job card is used to record number of days for which employment is provided to beneficiaries, wages paid, unemployment allowances received etc. Details regarding the number of job cards issued to the beneficiaries in different financial years with percentage increase or decrease is given in following table:

TABLE I: CUMULATIVE JOB CARDS ISSUED TO HOUSEHOLDS REGISTERED UNDER MNREGA IN DIFFERENT FINANCIAL YEARS SINCE INCEPTION IN DISTRICT MANDI

S. No	Block	Financial Years							
		2007-08	2008-09 % Inc/Dic	2009-10 % Inc/Dic	2010-11 % Inc/Dic	2011-12 % Inc/Dic	2012-13 % Inc/Dic	2013-14 % Inc/Dic	
1.	Balh	12700	15528 (22.27)	16644 (7.19)	18790 (12.3)	20336 (8.23)	21511 (5.78)	22197 (3.19)	
2.	Chauntra	13097	13465 (2.81)	14580 (8.28)	15300 (4.94)	16930 (10.65)	17492 (3.32)	17690 (1.13)	
3.	Dharampur	13562	14969 (10.37)	16277 (8.74)	17356 (6.63)	19027 (9.63)	20063 (5.44)	20121 (0.29)	
4.	Drang	9674	12686 (31.14)	15408 (21.5)	16185 (5.04)	17452 (7.83)	18301 (4.86)	18883 (3.18)	
5.	Gohar	12392	14573 (17.60)	15448 (6.0)	15903 (2.95)	16668 (4.81)	17764 (6.58)	18039 (1.55)	
6.	Gopalpur	11133	16680 (49.82)	16680 (0.0)	16802 (0.73)	18040 (7.37)	19132 (6.05)	19939 (4.22)	
7.	Karsog	16217	18569 (14.50)	19806 (6.66)	20365 (2.82)	21368 (4.93)	22440 (5.02)	23146 (3.15)	
8.	Sadar Mandi	21391	25281 (18.19)	26358 (4.26)	26587 (0.87)	28414 (6.87)	29915 (5.28)	30773 (2.87)	
9.	Seraj	16017	20042 (25.13)	21391 (6.73)	22028 (2.98)	23054 (4.66)	24368 (5.70)	25132 (3.14)	
10.	SunderNagar	18846	22041 (16.95)	23015 (4.42)	23170 (0.67)	24518 (5.82)	25225 (2.88)	25544 (1.86)	
Total		1,45,029	1,73,834 (19.86)	1,85,607 (6.77)	1,92,486 (3.71)	2,05,807 (6.92)	216211 (5.06)	221464 (2.43)	

Source: Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)

http://164.100.129.6/netnrega/writereaddata/state_out/Empstatusall1308_1213_.html

It can be depicted from the table that the number of households getting registered under MNREGA are witnessing an overall increasing of 17.46 percent over seven years. The FY 2008-09 have witnessed maximum growth of 19.86 percent in terms of job cards registration by households. It was because of more awareness among villagers about the program, being perceived as an opportunity by them to have employment in locality. Drang block in district Mandi have witnessed maximum growth in registering households at an average growth rate of 16.37 percent in seven years. While as that of Chauntra block has recorded the lowest growth rate of just 6.67 percent over seven years in the same parameter.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN DISTRICT MANDI

The primary objective of MNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household who wish to do unskilled manual work.

TABLE II: AN OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT GENERATED AND PERSON DAYS GENERATED

Performance of MNREGA (employment provided and Person days generated) in District Mandi from FY 2007-08 to 2013-14									
Particulars per annum	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	*FY 2012-13	*FY 2013-14	Growth Rate (2007-08 - 2013-14)	Avg Growth Rate
Number of HH provided employment	1,18,257	1,26,553 (7.02)	1,24,180 (-1.88)	1,14,299 (-7.96)	1,27,679 (11.77)	1,31,203 (2.76)	1,35,042 (2.93)	14.19%	2.43%
Person days generated (in lakhs) and Percentage of total person days									
Total	34.72	55.75(60.57)	61.08(9.56)	52.36(14.28)	70.646(34.92)	73.02(3.36)	73.69 (0.91)	112.24%	20.60%
SC	13.55	20.83 (53.73)	23.92(14.83)	19.98 (-16.47)	23.66 (18.42)	21.30 (-9.97)	21.4 (0.47)	57.93%	10.17%
ST	0.32	0.54 (69.81)	0.79 (46.3)	0.78 (-1.27)	0.79 (1.28)	0.72 (-8.86)	0.84 (16.67)	162.50%	20.66%
Women	14.81	27.77(87.51)	40.68 (46.49)	34.56 (-15.04)	47.65(37.88)	54.67(14.73)	56.12 (2.65)	278.93%	29.04%
Average Person-days per emp. HH	29 Days	44 Days	53 Days	46 Days	55 Days	56 Days	55 Days		

Sources: Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh). Figures in parenthesis represent percentage increase over the years to the last year

* http://164.100.129.6/netnrega/writereaddata/state_out/Empstatusall1308_1213_.html, Dated: 29-08-2013, 04-17-2014.

The act further aims at creating durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of rural people. The choice of work suggested in the Act addresses the causes of chronic poverty like: draught, deforestation, soil conservation and land development etc. So that the process of employment generation is on sustainable basis. The basic aim behind employment generation is to provide an alternate source of income in the agriculture lean seasons and to provide minimal livelihood security to the rural people who have no other income source than MNREGA.

Since inception of the Act an increasing pattern with an average growth rate of 2.43 percent have been observed in terms of employment generated. In seven years of time, the scheme has provided employment to a total of 8, 80,290 beneficiaries up to March 2014, since its implementation. A sharp increase of 6.46 percent, in employment growth was witnessed in the second year of inception. Table 4.6 further elucidates a decline in employment generation of -1.88 percent and -7.96 percent in FY 2009-10 and 2010-11. It was because of the implementation of new provision, which mandate 60:40 ratio of labour to material for every to be carried out under the scheme. Since most of the earlier works involve heavy usage of material for construction of water tanks and pathways for rural connectivity. Now these works were needed to be diminished to maintain the requisite ratio resulting in lesser works hence decline in employment opportunities. However after the FY 2011 the numbers of beneficiaries getting employment has increased with an average growth rate of 5.44 percent. It is also interesting to note that the person days generated by households has witnessed a significant growth rate of 48.29 percent in seven year. Providing employment for fifty five days in 2013-14 to that of twenty nine days in 2007-08. Whereby, Women accounts for maximum share of 29.04 percent in terms of person days generated. This shows that the program is performing well in these two parameters of rural development by enhancing employment opportunities for the villagers in their locality and by empowering women by giving them an opportunity to become self-dependent.

PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT BLOCKS OF DISTRICT MANDI IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED TO HOUSEHOLDS

TABLE III: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT IN DIFFERENT BLOCKS OF DISTRICT MANDI FROM FY 2007-08 TO FY 2013-14

Block Wise Performance of MNREGA (in terms of HH Provided Employment) from FY 2007-08 to 2013-14									
Blocks	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	*2013-14	Growth Rate (2007-08 to 2012-13)	Avg Growth Rate (% increase over the years)
Balh	3,263	8,461	9,737	7,505	9,002	9,260	10,256	214.31	30.84
Chauntra	10,184	8,602	6,650	8,630	10,015	9,028	9,070	-10.94	-0.30
Dharampur	12,363	10,369	11,550	10,122	11,737	11,872	12,623	2.10	1.05
Drang	9,674	8,334	6,285	8,802	10,366	11,553	12,662	30.89	6.74
Gohar	12,167	9,723	11,461	10,863	10,931	12,256	12,143	-0.20	0.73
Gopalpur	11,421	12,305	10,182	9,274	8,974	9,151	10,009	-12.36	-1.72
Karsog	11,912	11,296	14,646	11,550	13,613	13,753	14,573	22.34	4.70
Mandi Sadar	13,001	20,204	14,875	15,429	17,255	17,938	18,790	44.53	8.88
Seraj	15,960	19,625	19,725	18,683	20,120	21,050	19,942	24.95	4.21
Sunder Nagar	18,312	17,634	19,069	13,441	15,666	15,342	14,866	-18.82	-2.28
Total	1,18,257	1,26,553	1,24,180	1,14,299	1,27,679	1,31,203	1,35,402	14.19	2.43

Sources: Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh). Figure in parenthesis represent percentage increase over the year. *

http://164.100.129.6/netnrega/writereaddata/state_out/Empstatusall1308_1314_.html, accessed on 17/04/2014

As is evident from the table, Balh block has witnessed the highest average growth rate of 30.84 percent, followed by Sadar Mandi and Drang Block with an average growth rate of 8.88 and 6.74 percent respectively. The basic reason for this growth in employment generation is active involvement of panchayat representatives, higher level of awareness about the provisions in scheme, increase in participation level of women. Although some blocks like: Sunder Nagar, Gopalpur and Chauntra have witnessed declining average growth on year to year basis, with an average of -2.28, -1.72 and -0.30 percent respectively. This is due to the factors like increasing urbanisation and their preferences for other casual works like: tourism and forest resins collection.

PERSON DAYS GENERATED

Person days are the sum total of days for which the employment is provided on an average to a job card holder. Although the objective to provide 100 days of employment is still a challenge. Since only a minor proportion of job card holders are completing full 100 days of employment under the Act. The major reasons for not being able to provide 100 days of employment are like: preference to work in own ward only, inclusion of all income groups in job seekers and high dependency on ward members to get the job. Moreover for most of the beneficiaries MNREGA is like an alternate source of income, hence they prefer to work under the scheme only when it is available in their vicinity. Person days generated by beneficiaries in different categories of SC, ST and women has depicted a constant increase since the inception of scheme in district Mandi. However women have witnessed a highest average growth rate of 29.04 percent in person days generated over seven years of time. Among different blocks in district Mandi, Drang block has witnessed maximum average growth rate of 33.89 percent and Balh block has witnessed an average decline of -3.32 percent in person days generated over seven years of time.

FIG. 1: GROWTH RATE OF BENEFICIARIES IN TERMS OF PERSON DAYS GENERATED OVER THE YEARS



TABLE IV: AN OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI IN TERMS OF PERSON DAYS GENERATED IN DIFFERENT FINANCIAL YEARS

Block Wise Performance of MNREGA (in terms of Average Person days generated) from FY 2007-08 to 2012-13															
S. No	Blocks	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	% Change	FY 2009-10	% Change	FY 2010-11	% Change	FY 2011-12	% Change	FY 2012-13	% Change	FY * 2013-14	% Change	Avg Growth Rate (2007-08 to 13-14)
1	Balh	68	46	-(32.35)	52	(13.04)	60	(15.4)	56	-(6.67)	51	-(8.93)	51	-(.42)	-3.32
2	Chauntra	22	34	(54.55)	43	(26.47)	35	-(18.6)	52	(48.57)	41	-(21.2)	43	(4.21)	15.67
3	Dharampur	19	32	(68.42)	54	(68.75)	51	-(5.6)	51	(.00)	53	(3.92)	64	(21.59)	26.19
4	Drang	18	42	(133.3)	76	(80.95)	43	-(43.4)	50	(16.28)	54	(8.00)	58	(8.20)	33.89
5	Gohar	45	53	(17.78)	52	-(1.89)	51	-(1.9)	60	(17.65)	59	-(1.67)	56	-(4.24)	4.28
6	Gopalpur	17	26	(52.94)	39	(50.00)	33	-(15.4)	39	(18.18)	46	(17.95)	54	(17.84)	23.59
7	Karsog	36	41	(13.89)	52	(26.83)	33	-(36.5)	50	(51.52)	49	-(2.00)	49	-(.31)	8.90
8	Sadar	50	41	-(18.00)	54	(31.71)	54	(0.0)	56	(3.70)	55	-(1.79)	55	(.51)	2.69
9	Seraj	26	59	(126.9)	62	(5.08)	38	-(38.7)	67	(76.32)	74	(10.45)	59	-(20.1)	26.66
10	S. Nagar	21	52	(147.6)	49	-(5.77)	59	(20.4)	58	-(1.69)	55	-(5.17)	54	-(2.12)	25.54
	Total	29	44	(51.72)	53	(20.45)	46	-(13.2)	55	(19.57)	56	(1.82)	55	-(1.79)	13.09

Source: Annual Report of District Rural Development Agency, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKS UNDER DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

Works which are of utmost significance for rural development are defined and decided in under the Act from time to time. These works are intended to create different assets for sustainable rural development. The different types of works under MNREGA meant to foster rural develop are : water conservation and harvesting, drought proofing including forestation and plantation, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works, land development for SCs, STs and IAY beneficiaries, renovation of traditional water bodies, flood control and rural connectivity. With a total of 82,479 (in all of these categories) works completed in district Mandi, a tabular representation of works in different categories is depicted as below

TABLE V: YEAR WISE ANALYSIS OF WORKS UNDER DIFFERENT CATEGORIES EXECUTED UNDER MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI

Types of Works	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
WC & WH	743 (17.36)	1274 (14.78)	1918 (14.82)	2026 (17.94)	2701 (20.65)	3299 (22.25)	4098 (23.51)
Drought Proofing	16 (.37)	3 (.03)	5 (.04)	49 (.43)	223 (1.70)	481 (3.24)	471 (2.70)
Irrigation	301 (7.03)	710 (8.24)	1427 (11.02)	1320 (11.69)	1063 (8.13)	1068 (7.20)	1074 (6.16)
Land Reforms (SC/ST/IAY)	24 (.56)	37 (.43)	78 (.60)	202 (1.79)	1245 (9.52)	1906 (12.85)	2945 (16.90)
Renovation Water Bodies	116 (2.71)	354 (4.11)	614 (4.74)	582 (5.15)	487 (3.72)	314 (2.12)	247 (1.42)
Land Development	1 (.02)	118 (1.37)	150 (1.16)	230 (2.04)	1545 (11.81)	2893 (19.51)	3275 (18.79)
Flood Control	262 (6.12)	737 (8.55)	1204 (9.30)	1422 (12.59)	1474 (11.27)	1642 (11.07)	1692 (9.71)
Rural Connectivity	2817 (65.82)	5388 (62.50)	7549 (58.32)	5430 (48.07)	4164 (31.83)	2653 (17.89)	2840 (16.29)
Other Works				34 (.30)	174 (1.33)	554 (3.74)	769 (4.41)
RGSK					6 (.05)	17 (.11)	18 (.10)
Total	4280	8621	12945	11295	13082	14827	17429

Source : Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), for the financial Year 2012-13, 2013-14 data is taken from MIS reports of MNREGA from web site; <http://nrega.nic.in>. Figure in brackets represent percentage of total works undertaken.

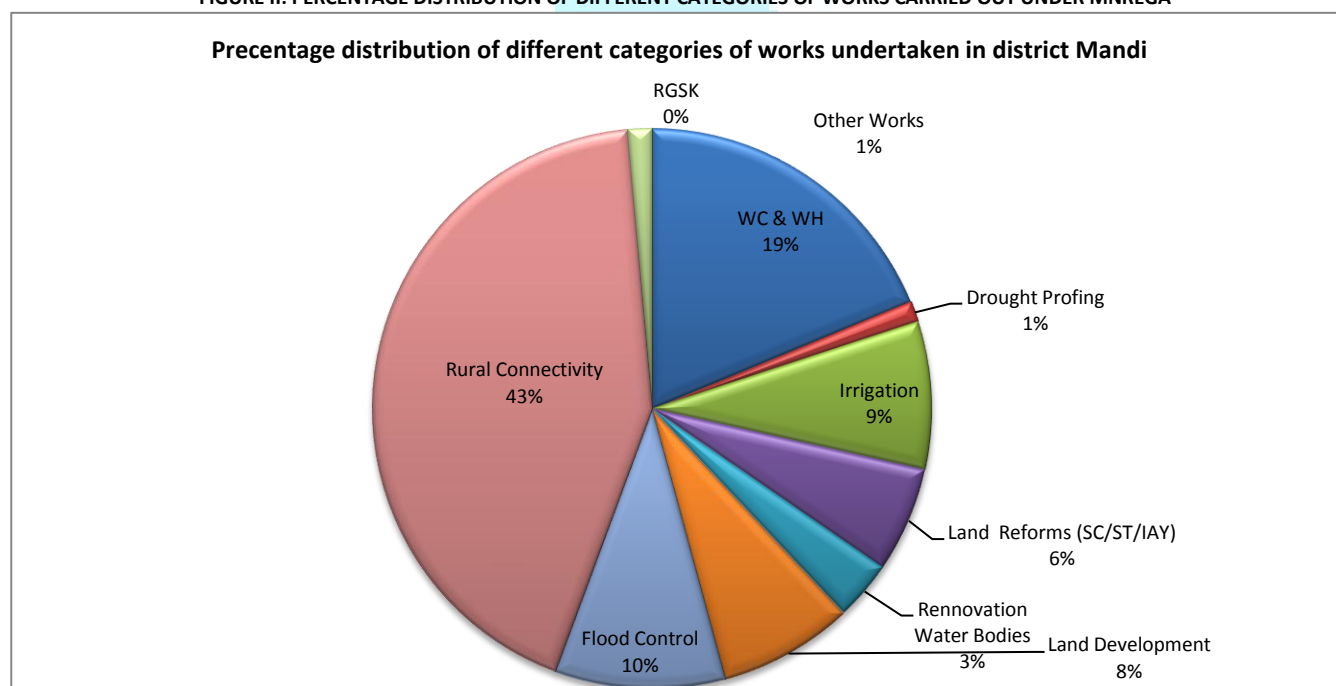
FIGURE II: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER MNREGA

Table exhibit spatial as well as temporal variation in different types of works carried out under the scheme with their proportionate percentage to the total works. It reveals that the works related to the rural connectivity constitute to more than or about 43 percent of the total number of works in the district. This is attributed to the fact that most of the rural areas in district Mandi are located in the far flung areas and rural connectivity is a major issue for the development of these areas. While as that of in the last two years that is in 2012-13 and 2013-14 the works related to water conservation and water harvesting constitute about 23 percent of the total works undertaken and comprise maximum share of the total works undertaken under the Act. Further, the works related to land development has witnessed a remarkable growth in proportion to total works undertaken, constituting 18.79 percent of total works undertaken in the FY 2013-14. Second largest in proportion of the total works undertaken after water conservation and water harvesting. MNREGA being based upon the theme of Employment Guarantee Scheme (CSE 2008) in Maharashtra require more of the works related to land development and water conservation to utilise its maximum potential. Hence it can be concluded that these works are contributing to a major extent towards rural development.

WORKS COMPLETION RATE**TABLE VI: YEAR WISE DETAILS OF TOTAL WORKS EXECUTED UNDER MNREGA IN DIFFERENT FINANCIAL YEARS IN DISTRICT MANDI**

Financial Years	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
No of works undertaken	4280	8621 (101.43)	12945 (50.16)	11295 (-12.75)	13082 (15.82)	1482 (7.43)	17429 (17.55)
No of works completed	1177	3914 (232.54)	6669 (70.39)	5030 (-24.58)	6471 (28.65)	7681 (18.70)	8737 (13.75)
Percentage of works Completed to works undertaken	27.50%	45.40%	51.52%	44.53%	49.46%	51.80%	50.13%

Source: Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), web site of MNREGA <http://nrega.nic.in>

It can be depicted from the table that the ratio to which works are completed to the works undertaken is very less. Although, the scheme has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of works undertaken (increase of 101.43 percent in second year) but the ratio of work completion to works undertaken in the first year was just 27.5 percent indicating a lot of scope for improvement. Even by the year 2013-14 nearly half (50.13%) of the works are getting completed to the total works undertaken. This postponement in works completion rate is mainly due to delay in delivery of material as payment for material not made in time.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI

As far as opening balance of MNREGA in Mandi district (as on 1st April 2007), is concerned ₹ 101.72 lakhs were accounted for the first year. This has increased to ₹ 543.99 lakhs in the second year. Having witnessed the highest percentage increase of 434.79 percent in all years since the inception of scheme, the opening balance further increase by 287.76 percent to ₹ 2109.38 lakhs in FY 2009-10. Although, a noticeable variation was witnessed in different years with a decrease of -72.99, -7.34 and -35.57 % in FY 2010-11, 2012-13 and 2013-14. On an average opening balance in the district have grown at the rate of 132.01 % in seven years. Table VI, further reveal the receipt from Centre and state have increased by 123.42 % in first year, while as that of financial release has witnesses an average growth rate of 25.80 percent. A noticeable increase of 28.31 percent has occurred in total expenditure and in funds utilisation over the time horizon.

TABLE VII: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OF MNREGA IN DISTRICT MANDI

Financial performance of MNREGA in district Mandi								
Particulars	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	2013-14*	% increase per annum
OB as on 1st April	101.72	543.99	2109.38	573.87	1636.78	1516.67	977.17	132.01
Release during current year	4560.3	10188.43	11382.07	14487.31	13095	12357.98	13300.79	25.80
Misc. Receipts	6.48	21.83	57.52	3.63	27.52	100.35	73.27	200.41
Total Funds Available	4668.5	10754.25	13548.97	15064.81	14759.3	13975	14351.23	27.15
AN ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON WAGES AND MATERIAL COMPONENT OF EXPENDITURE IN DIFFERENT FINANCIAL YEARS								
Expenditure on wages paid	2643.17	5400.12	6819.16	7141.81	9205.5	8686.11	10250.95	29.43
Expenditure on semi skilled /Skilled wages	114.06	83.45	246.63	502.3	321.12	450.03	428.21	45.27
Expenditure on material	1318.38	3039.02	5275.1	5098.46	3373.67	2981.32	3056.07	26.30
Contingency/Admin Exp	48.51	122.48	714.21	668.37	510.67	471.36	444.97	98.72
Total expenditures	4124.12	8645.07	13055.1	13410.94	13410.96	12588.82	14180.2	28.31
Percentage of funds utilized	88.34	80.39	96.35	89.02	90.86	90.08	98.81	2.36

Source: Annual Reports of District Rural Development Agency Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)

CONCLUSION

The different parameters of functioning of MNREGA in district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh. It has been observed that, there is universal awareness about the schemes as a source of employment. An increasing growth trend in terms of job card issued, participation rate of beneficiaries from different categories, employment provided and person days generated has been observed, since the inception of Act. The real question is that whether the rural employment is actually happening or it is merely an eye wash for most of the rural people. It has been observed that majority of people in rural are still having vague idea of the basic provisions under MNREGA. The procedure for unemployment allowance, social security, social audit and shelves in gram Sabha meetings is not known to many of them. The Act, is largely presumed as an employment generating avenue by villagers, rather than an instrument for rural development. Although the practices of financial inclusion is transferring the benefits of scheme to the deserving people. To make the program a successful one the dissemination of information and awareness of MNREGA rights to every stakeholder is the ultimate requirement. The involvement of NGOs and other bodies like Sarva Saksharta Abhiyan, college students may play a determinant role in this direction. Usage of web site by real stakeholders may disseminate the information to a great extent. The real potential of MNREGA will be realised when rural people become self-dependent by engaging themselves in agriculture related activities and need not employment guarantee programmes any more to sustain their livelihood. To achieve this objective the dissemination of information and its ultimate objective is needed to be realised by each villagers in the rural areas.

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