



“Growth Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Haryana”

Ankita Monga

Assistant Professor

Department of Commerce

Government College for Women

Sirsa (Haryana)

Abstract

The development of any nation is impossible without the development of its rural economy. The government needs to make strong economic policies and implementing strategies for the economic betterment of people living in rural India. Government of India passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on 25th August 2005 and renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October 2009. The aim of the act was to protect the rural people from the poverty and unemployment and improve the standard of living of the rural people the MGNREGA essentially guarantees employment for the unemployed in rural areas for a minimum of 100 days in a year. The present study analyze the progress of MGNRGEA in the Haryana state from 2018-19 to 2022-23. The study found that progress of MGNREGA is not satisfactory because of less number of active workers in the scheme and less participation by Gram Panchayats in providing employment to the rural workers. The study also provides some suggestions to make the scheme more fruitful and valuable.

Keywords: India, MGNREGA, Gram Panchayat, Haryana and Employment.

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 or MNREGA is an Indian labor law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. The Indian Parliament passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on 23rd August 2005. MGNREGA essentially guarantees employment for the unemployed in rural areas for a minimum of 100 days in a year (Panda & Umdor, 2011).

MGNREGA was implemented in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2006 and extended subsequently, to 113 and 17 districts with effect from April 1st 2007 and May 15th 2007, respectively. The remaining districts were included under the Act with effect from April 1st, 2008. Currently, the Act is under implementation in 644 districts of the country with substantial rural population.

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGA) was launched in state of Haryana from 2nd February 2006. Sirsa and Mahendergarh districts were covered in the first phase, whereas Ambala and Mewat (Nuh) districts were covered in the 2nd phase and the remaining districts were covered in 3rd phase from 1st April, 2008 respectively.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the most progressive legislations enacted since independence (Sahoo, 2014). The MGNREGA focuses on works like minor irrigation, drought proofing, water conservation, flood control, rural connectivity, land development and any other work notified by the central government in consultation with the state government. The MGNREGA provides legal guarantee to work, marks a paradigm shift from all earlier wage employment programs in India (Kabita & Bordoloi, 2014). MGNREGA does not guarantee a regular job rather it only guarantees minimum 100 days of work at an assured minimum wage to enable the unemployed workers earn a minimum supplementary income to overcome deprivation or distress migration (Reddy et al., 2014).

Review of Literature

Chahal & Kumar (2021) attempted to overview the impact of MGNREGA on employment generation in rural Haryana. The study revealed that MGNREGA played a very significant role in employment generation in rural Haryana. The authors concluded that the scheme not only provided security for food but also supported rural development.

Siddappa (2021) analyzed the progress of MGNREGA in Karnataka state from 2016-17 to 2020-21 respectively and found that progress of MGNREGA Scheme is not satisfactory, because of less Job Cards and less active workers. The author also found that the number of households who have completed 100 days of works and number of completed works have decreased.

Bhatia et al. (2020) analyzed income and employment generation of rural women in Haryana through MGNREGA. Authors came up with the findings that the scheme not only provided employment, but also has wide influence on increasing the wage earning of the rural women. Overall it was found that MGNREGA has positive impact on empowerment and employment pattern of women in recent years. The authors concluded that the scheme was very helpful in rural women empowerment and increased socio economic status in the long run.

Roshni Pandey (2017) analyzed the role of MGNREGA scheme in rural development of India. The study found that that the role of the MGNREGA on overall poverty reduction and development of rural India is visible. The study

suggested that gram panchayats have to supervise the implementation of the scheme and the ministry needs to take decisive steps to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

Sahoo (2014) studied the impact of MGNREGA on women empowerment in Nelia village of Tangi-Choudwar block of Cuttack district in Odisha. It was found out that participation of women in MGNREGA was 35-40 percent over a period of five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13 respectively. Further it was found out that overall impact of MGNREGA on women's lives has been quite positive by enhancing economic independence, self-confidence and greater role in decision making in household.

Kabita & Bordoloi (2014) highlighted the impact of the MGNREGA program on the Female worker in Sonitpur district of Assam. Authors reported that female workers were significantly benefitted by the scheme in increasing the social empowerment, income gains; more say in intra household decision making etc.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand briefly about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
2. To analyze the progress of MGNREGA Scheme in state of Haryana.

Research Gap

Various researches have been made by researchers regarding MGNREGA throughout the country, but very few researches have been conducted by the researchers on progress analysis of MGNREGA scheme in Haryana using five years' data from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Growth Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Haryana

Table 1: Highlights of MNREGA in Haryana as on 14.01.2023

Total No. of Districts, Blocks and Grama Panchayats	
Total No. of Districts	22
Total No. of Blocks	142
Total No. of Gram Panchayats	6,264
Job cards issued to workers	
Total No. of Job Cards issued (in Lakhs)	12.51
Total No. of Workers (in Lakhs)	21.89
Total No. of Active Job Cards (in Lakhs)	6.2
Total No. of Active Workers (in Lakhs)	9.27
Percentage of SC/ST Active Workers	
SC worker against active workers [%]	46.33
ST worker against active workers [%]	0

Source: <https://nregastrep.nic.in/>

Table 1 exhibits the highlights of MANREGA scheme in Haryana. From the table, it is clear that there are 6.2 lakhs active job cards which are 49.50 percent of total job cards (12.51 lakhs) issued to workers in Haryana. It is also

exhibited that there are only 9.27 lakhs active workers out of total 21.89 workers registered in Haryana. Out of total active workers, there are 46.33 percent SC workers.

Table 2: Progress of MNREGA in Haryana

Progress	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Approved Labour Budget[In Lakhs]	100	100	185	141	125
Persondays Generated so far[In Lakhs]	77.9	91.19	179.62	146.39	73.84
% of Total LB	77.9	91.19	97.09	103.83	59.07
% as per Proportionate LB					59.09
SC persondays % as of total persondays	45.58	42.14	36.54	42.67	51.89
ST persondays % as of total persondays	0.01	0	0	0	0
Women Persondays out of Total (%)	50.05	50.59	48.8	52.61	59.28
Average days of employment provided per Household	33.73	35.37	39.31	36.26	27.73
Average Wage rate per day per person(Rs.)	281.27	286.37	308.29	312.75	327.52
Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	3,789	4,831	14,077	11,041	1,918
Total Households Worked[In Lakhs]	2.31	2.58	4.57	4.04	2.66
Total Individuals Worked[In Lakhs]	3.27	3.64	6.51	5.7	3.75
Differently abled persons worked	464	514	724	587	504

Source: <https://nregastrep.nic.in/>

Table 2 shows the data highlighting the progress of MGNREGA scheme in Haryana as on 14th January 2023. From the table, it is shown that the approved labour budget was rupees 100 lakhs in the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. In the year 2020-21, the approved labour budget got increased to 185 lakhs (85 percent). The budget amount decreased to 141 lakhs in the year 2021-22 which is 23.78 percent decline in comparison to 2019-20. The budget amount further decreased in the year 2022-23 by 16 lakhs (11.34 percent) which is a matter of concern for the state and requires further discussion in detail as to why the budget has been decreased.

From the table it is also seen that persondays generated so far. In the year 2018-19, the persondays were 77.9 lakhs which increased to 91.19 lakhs in the year 2019-20 i.e. an increase of 13.29 lakhs persondays. In the year 2020-21 the persondays increased to 179.62 lakhs which is more than 88.43 lakhs more than in comparison to 2019-20. In the year 2021-22, the persondays have decreased to 146.39 lakhs from 179.62 lakh which is 33.23 lakhs (18.50 percent)

and the same case is seen in the year 2022-23, where the persondays have decreased to 73.84 lakhs from 146.39 lakhs which is 72.5 lakhs (49.6 percent) which is a matter of great concern. The average Labour budget from 2018-19 to 2022-23 was 59.09%.

The SC persondays as percentage of total persondays was 45.58 percent in the year 2018-19 which got decreased in the year 2019-20 and came at 42.14 percent. The SC persondays further decreased to 36.54 percent in the year 2020-21 and increased to 51.89% in the year 2022-23.

The women persondays out of total persondays were also increased up to 59.28 percent in comparison to 50.05 percent in the year 2018-19. The average wage rate per day per person has increased from 281.27 rupees in the year 2018-19 to 327.52 rupees in the year 2022-23.

Regarding the total number of households completed 100 days of wage payment, it is highlighted in the table that in the year 2018-19 total 3,789 household completed 100 days and it increased to 4,831 households in the year 2019-20. In the year 2020-21, the households completed 100 days of wage payment were increased by 9,446 households from 4,831 households to 14,077 households i.e 191.38 percent increase. In the year 2022-23, the number decreased to 1,918 households from 11,041 houses in the year 2021-22 which is 82.62 percent decrease.

Table 3: Number of Works Taken-up, Ongoing and Completed under MNREGA in Haryana

Progress	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of GPs with NIL exp	2,047	1,331	500	508	1,885
Total No. of Works Takenup (New+Spill Over)[In Lakhs]	0.26	0.29	0.43	0.42	0.28
Number of Ongoing Works[In Lakhs]	0.11	0.13	0.22	0.16	0.22
Number of Completed Works	15,132	15,920	21,429	25,738	5,227
% of NRM Expenditure(Public + Individual)	57.81	61.36	52.04	64.07	74.16
% of Category B Works	46.45	20.76	34.42	27.63	28.92
% of Expenditure on Agriculture & Agriculture Allied Works	59.58	60.71	56.45	63.56	69.83

Source: <https://nregastrep.nic.in/>

The table number 3 expresses the number of Gram Panchayats with nil expenditure from 2018-19 to 2022-23. The data shows that there was 2,047 Gram Panchayats which did not incur any expenditure on MGNREGA scheme which is quite alarming as there is total 6,264 Gram Panchayat in Haryana. It means that around 33 percent of total Gram Panchayats are not giving any employment to its rural people. The number of Gram Panchayats with nil expenditure was 1,331 in the year 2019-20 which is a good improvement. There was only 500 and 508 Gram Panchayat in the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 with nil expenditure. In the year 2022-23, the number of Gram Panchayats with nil expenditure in MGNREGA scheme was 1,885.

Likewise, in the year 2018-19, the number of works taken up including new work and spill over work was 0.26 lakhs and it increased by 0.03 lakhs which means 0.29 lakhs works were taken up in the year 2019-20. In the year 2020-21, there was an increase in the works taken up from 0.29 lakh to 0.43 lakhs i.e. 0.14 lakh (48.27 percent). In the year 2022-23, the works were decreased by 0.14 lakh (33 percent) from 0.42 lakhs (2021-22) to 0.28 lakh (2022-23). Gradually the works taken up have increased in the year 2022-23.

When discussing about number of ongoing works, there were 0.11 lakhs works on going in the year 2018-19 which increased to 0.13 lakhs in 2019-20 and further increased to 0.22 lakhs in 2020-21. There was a decrease in ongoing works the year 2021-22 when it decreased to 0.16 lakhs which is 27.22 percent in comparison to previous year. In the year 2022-23, the ongoing works again increased to 0.22 lakhs. Except 2021-22 the rate of growth in ongoing works was gradual.

Regarding number of completed works, in the year 2018-19, 15,132 works were completed and it increased to 15,920 works in the year 2019-20. There was an increase in the completed works in the year 2020-21 from 15,920 works to 21,429 works in the year 2021-22. The number of works show a huge decline in the year 2022-23 which is decreased to 5227 works.

Table 4: Financial Progress of MGNREGA in Haryana

Progress	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total center Release[In Lakhs]	35625.15	34526.69	77666.71	66003.58	29298.89
Total Availability[In Lakhs]	40281.99	37582.34	83154.97	72132.52	39744.89
Percentage Utilization	91.33	103.02	96.52	98.15	91.36
Total Exp(Rs. in Lakhs.)	36,788.4	38,716.43	80,262.25	70,798.87	36,309.37
Wages(Rs. In Lakhs)	22,464.22	26,572.96	54,907.44	45,423.03	24,661.39
Wages (%)	55.76	70.70	66.03	62.97	62.04
Material and skilled Wages(Rs. In Lakhs)	13,045.23	10,984.03	24,028.97	24,238.96	10,661.66
Material(%)	36.74	29.25	30.44	34.8	30.18
Total Adm Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs.)	1,278.95	1,159.44	1,325.83	1,136.88	986.32
Admin Exp(%)	3.48	2.99	1.65	1.61	2.72
Average Cost Per Day Per Person(In Rs.)	369.72	346.67	406.69	407.35	432.09
% of Total Expenditure through EFMS	99.71	99.65	99.85	99.82	99.95
% payments generated within 15 days	89.26	95.44	99.57	99.85	95.67

Source: <https://nregastrep.nic.in/>

Table 4 highlights the financial progress of MGNREGA scheme in Haryana from 2018-19 to 2022-23. With regard to total availability of funds with the Gram Panchayats in Haryana, it was 40,281.99 lakhs in the year 2018-19 which decreased to 37,582.34 lakhs in the year 2019-20 i.e. decreased by 2699.65 lakhs which is around 0.067 percent.

In the year 2020-21, the fund availability increased to 83,154.97 lakhs from 37,582.34 lakhs which was in the year 2019-20. There was a decrease in the availability of funds in the year 2022-23 from rupees 725.52 lacks to 39,749 lakhs i.e. 32387.63 lakhs (44.9 percent).

When discussed about percentage of wages paid out of total funds available, it is exhibited that in the year 2018-19, it was 55.76 percent which increased to 70.70 percent in the year 2019-20. In the year 2020-21, the percentage of wages paid out of total funds was 66.03 percent which decreased in the year 2021-22 to 62.97 percent and further decreased to 62.04 percent in the year 2022-23. Similarly the percentage of payment made to material out of available of funds in the year 2018-19 was 36.74 percent which decreased to 28.25 percent in the year 2019-20. The percentage of material paid out of available funds in the year 2022-23 was 30.18 percent which was lower than previous year 2021-22 when it was 34.8 percent.

Likewise percentage of amount paid to administrative expenses out of total funds available in the year 2018-19 was 3.48 percent which got decreased to 2.99 percent in the year 2019-20. The administrative expense amount further decreased to 1.65 percent and 1.61 percent in the year 2020-21 and 2021-22. Suddenly there is an increase in the amount of administrative expenses in the year 2022-23 which rose up to 2.72 percent.

The table 4 also shows the data with reference to total expenses made by Gram Panchayats. In the year 2018-19, the Gram Panchayats spent 36,788.40 lakhs which increased to 38,716.43 lakhs in the year 2019-20 i.e. an increase by 1928.03 lakhs (0.05 percent). There was a sudden increase in the total expenditure in the year 202-21 when the expenditure rose up to 80,262.25 lakhs which is 4,115 lakhs more than the previous year 2019-20. From the table it is seen that there is a sudden downfall in the total expenditure in the year 2022-23 by rupees 34,489.50 from rupees 70,798.87 lakhs in the year 2021-22 to 36,309.32 lakhs in the year 2022-23.

When percentage of utilisation is concerned, the table 4 shows that in the year 2018-19, 91.33 percent funds were utilised which increased up to 103.02 percent in the year 2019-20 which is good indicator. In the year 2020-21, 96.52 percent funds were utilised which increased to 98.15 percent in the year 2021-22 and the percentage of utilisation decreased to 91.36 percent in the year 2022-23.

Conclusion

The present study analyzes the growth of MGNRGEA scheme in Haryana state from the year 2018-19 to 2022-23 respectively. From the available data, it was found that progress of MGNREGA is not satisfactory because of less number of active workers in the scheme and less participation by Gram Panchayats in providing employment to the rural workers. The data showed that 2,047 Gram Panchayats (33 percent of total Gram Panchayats) did not incur any expenditure on MGNREGA scheme which is quite alarming. The MGNREGA scheme is of great importance for the state as it provides employment opportunities to the unemployed people in rural areas. Low awareness among rural public about MGNREGA scheme, delay in making payment, available work site facilities are some of the reasons why there has been less participation from rural people in villages. The government needs to create awareness

amongst the Gram Panchayats to provide employment opportunities to rural people of villages. Competent governance can make the things better in the long run.

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