A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MGNREGA ON BENEFICIARIES IN RUDRAPRAYAG DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND- INDIA

RAHUL BAHUGUNA, AKHILESH CHANDRA PANDEY, VISHAL SOODAN

Abstract— The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee act or (MGNREGA) was notified in India on September 2005 with a mandate to provide at least hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose members above the age of eighteen years volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The main focus of the act is to facilitate the social protection for the people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities and therefore contributing towards the overall development of the local people. The present study was attempted to figure out the impact of MGNREGA on overall economic and social development of beneficiaries in rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. The study was carried out in the disaster affected areas of rudraprayag with beneficiaries as respondents. The results found the MGNREGA has significantly improved their social and economic well being.

Keywords— Development, Economy, Infrastructure, Interventions Planning.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural India has seen numerous ups and downs since independence. Rural development has been a crucial issue for states with large number of rural population as various programmes were launched for the development of poor and marginal people living in rural areas. Role of rural areas in development of the country like India needs no proof as it is evident from the orientation of government policies that rural areas are acting as drive engines for growth of the country. The government in the recent past has framed numerous schemes and programmes for the development of rural areas of the country in order to tap the resources for betterment of rural masses. The employment scheme like MGNREGA holds special importance for hilly states like Uttarakhand which has faced great challenges in development process because of its tough hilly topography and geographical constraints. The development of hills of Uttarakhand remain a matter of concern to the policy makers as the people of the area face challenges like unemployment, poverty and migration. The introduction of wage programmes like MGNREGA in the area have helped to provide a thrust to the development process and can therefore be termed as a boon for the rural people due to its demand oriented approach which makes the authorities responsible and as well as accountable for providing employment to individuals.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The researchers across the globe have attempted to study the aspects related to rural development. In India, the concept of rural development has been elaborated by researchers by using MGNREGA as a subject. Thomas & Bhatia (2012) regarded MNREGA as an ambitious attempt to battle poverty by guaranteeing employment to those who demand work and capable in formation of capital in rural areas. Pamecha & Suman (2015) analysed the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on the life of beneficiaries of Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. The findings of their study revealed that the programme has changed the lives of the beneficiaries. Kharkwal & Kumar (2015) imposed that debts were found to increase along with asset possession though per capita saving declined. The value of socio-economic index indicated that in the initial years of implementation of the programme, about 36 per cent of the beneficiary households were in poor socio-economic strata which decreased to 12 per cent in 2013-14, while beneficiary households in good socio-economic strata increased significantly. Hajra & Hajara (2015) characterized rural indian economy by demand constrained as well as supply constrained economy. Karkhika (2015) depicted that MGNREGA plays a great role and has a positive impact on the rural development. Pandey et.al (2016) found that there are better opportunities to the development of rural areas by effectively implementing programmes in the coverage areas and selecting right beneficiaries for the programmes. Poonia (2012) highlighted that the NREGA has the potential to stimulate local development. Das (2016) reviewed the role of MGNREGA in rural employment and found that its role in inclusive growth of rural areas is significant. Ganiee(2014) in his study revealed that there is a necessity to carry out an in- depth review of rural development programmes. Negi (2015) concluded that works undertaken under MGNREGA are focused on land and water resources.

III. GNREGA & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Economic development can be defined as improvement in the standard of living of a country’s population and is also linked with overall growth of people. Economic development is all about transformation of an economy from a simple, low-income to a modern, high-income economy and is supported by improvement in well being of common people. MGNREGA has contributed in the overall growth of Indian economy by transforming the rural employment pattern and ensuring employment to the people of rural areas. The MGNREGA has also assisted in sustained development of the country by improving the economic well being in the rural areas.

The Figure 1 above highlights the different works which are undertaken under MGNREGA in the hill district of Rudraprayag of Uttarakhand state. The works range from rural connectivity to watershed management related activities. The district development has actively taken the works and provided employment of 100 days to the beneficiaries. The employment status under the programme for the state is listed in table 1 below.

Table 1: Employment Generation under MGNREGA in Uttarakhand (Year 2015-16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Cumulative no. of HH issued Job Cards</th>
<th>Cumulative no. of HH demanded employment</th>
<th>Cumulative no. of HH provided employment</th>
<th>Cumulative no. of HH Working under MGNREGA</th>
<th>Cumulative Person days generated</th>
<th>Cumulative No. of HH completed 100 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 CHAMOLI</td>
<td>83244</td>
<td>61982</td>
<td>59771</td>
<td>5127</td>
<td>2938686</td>
<td>2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 CHAMPAWAT</td>
<td>42933</td>
<td>21116</td>
<td>19521</td>
<td>4577</td>
<td>898991</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 TEHRI GARHWAL</td>
<td>160782</td>
<td>117073</td>
<td>107262</td>
<td>25336</td>
<td>4021735</td>
<td>2962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Phase 1</td>
<td>286959</td>
<td>200171</td>
<td>186554</td>
<td>35840</td>
<td>7859412</td>
<td>6044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phase 2

| 4 HARIDWAR | 140692 | 25525 | 22216 | 7317 | 1102785 | 1585 |
| 5 UDAM SINGH NAGAR | 89670 | 32422 | 28614 | 10520 | 1206583 | 1757 |
| Total Phase 2 | 230362 | 57947 | 50830 | 17837 | 2309368 | 3342 |

Phase 3

| 6 ALMORA | 102753 | 46306 | 40961 | 8859 | 1299079 | 852 |
| 7 BAGHESHWAR | 48690 | 25189 | 23560 | 7176 | 997358 | 1213 |
| 8 DEHRA DUN | 75280 | 27987 | 26064 | 6592 | 1375462 | 1936 |
| 9 NAINITAL | 51321 | 23339 | 21652 | 6484 | 978339 | 1515 |
| 10 PAURI GARHWAL | 118156 | 75015 | 69937 | 11811 | 2555005 | 927 |
| 11 PITHORAGARH | 91938 | 46031 | 44305 | 11690 | 1756762 | 1859 |
| 12 RUDRA PRAYAG | 52369 | 27594 | 26158 | 7698 | 1104035 | 1594 |
| 13 UTTAR KASHI | 82032 | 58986 | 55395 | 9263 | 2172741 | 660 |
| Total Phase 3 | 622399 | 330247 | 307432 | 69673 | 12238981 | 10556 |
| Total | 1133720 | 583865 | 544816 | 122550 | 3961800 | 2240776 |

Source: www.nrega.nic.in
IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The respondents selected for the study were beneficiaries of MGNREGA from Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. The total number of responses collected from beneficiaries was 177. In total, 247 respondents participated in the process of data collection from 3 blocks of Rudraprayag (Agustumuni-112, Jakholi-89 and Ukhimath- 46 ). Out of these 247 respondents, 193 completed the questionnaire with a response rate of 78.13%. Out of these 193 responses, 177 responses were found most appropriate and therefore selected for inclusion into the data. The sampling method adopted was non-probabilistic, that is convenience sampling method.

Data Collection and analysis

The primary data were collected through questionnaires & personal interview. A structured questionnaire was designed to find out responses for the impact of MGNREGA. The sources of secondary data included Internet, magazines, journals and books from various concerning libraries and official website of MGNREGA Uttarakhand. The classification of the data was done according to the attributes of the beneficiaries. Appropriate Statistical tools were used with the help of SPSS 21.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To examine the impact of MGNREGA on socio economic development of beneficiaries in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand.
2. To find out the bottlenecks in the implementation of MGNREGA.
3. To suggest strategies for effective implementation of MGNREGA in Uttarakhand.

Reliability of the Data

The reliability of the measurement instruments was evaluated using Cronbach’s Alpha (Table 2). Reliability analysis shows the value of Cronbach’s alpha as .744, which lies between the accepted range of .05 to .9. The construct reliability tests reported scores above .05 which suggests that the constructs of the study are reliable enough to proceed for analysis.

Table 2: Reliability of constructs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construct</th>
<th>Cronbach a</th>
<th>No. of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries’ Perception</td>
<td>0.744</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hypothesis statements and Data Analysis

H0: There is no significant relationship between overall well being of beneficiaries and employment opportunities.

Table 3: Hypothesis Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is no significant relationship between overall well being of beneficiaries and employment opportunities</td>
<td>133.049</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 depicts the analysis of data by using chi square tests. The rejection of hypothesis proved that there is a relationship between overall well being of a beneficiary and employment opportunities provided by MGNREGA. Hence, it can be said that employment opportunities provided by MGNREGA are contributing to the overall well being of beneficiaries.

H0: Capacity building has an insignificant relationship with the well being of beneficiaries.

Table 4: Hypothesis Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building has an insignificant relationship with the well being of beneficiaries</td>
<td>77.533</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

The second hypothesis stating the relationship between capacity building of beneficiaries and their well being was also rejected (Table 4). Rejection of hypothesis proves that capacity building by MGNREGA is contributing towards the overall well being of beneficiaries. As overall wellbeing is an indicator of socio-economic development, therefore it is clear from the hypothesis that MGNREGA is a significant factor of economic development of beneficiaries. Thus the rejection of hypothesis clearly reflects that MGNREGA plays an active role in development of rural areas by uplifting their socioeconomic status.

BOTTLENECKS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA

From the survey, it was found that the there exist several gaps which are creating hurdles in proper implementation of the programme. These gaps act as barriers in proper implementation of the scheme and thus restricts the outreach of the programme. The main bottlenecks are listed as:

- Lack of awareness amongst rural masses
- Improper coverage area of the programme
- Inability to identify right people as beneficiaries
- No performance assessment of employees working in MGNREGA
- Lack of coordination amongst different agencies and scarcity of funds
- Formulation and design of programme.
- Lack of work professionalism amongst MGNREGA employees.
- Perception of beneficiaries regarding transparency and judicious use of funds.

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CONCLUSION

It was found from the study results that MGNREGA had clear-cut objectives to provide job opportunities for rural masses. The objectives of the act is to maintain equality among the various groups of the society and to promote standard of living thereby contributing to economical improvement of the people of the rural areas. It was revealed from hypothesis testing that the programme has done a great job in improving the economies of rural areas by raising their socio-economic status. The study also revealed that there is a need to amend the structure of the programme by introducing more transparent and responsible system and to make it objective specific and goal oriented.

SUGGESTIONS

In order to make the programme more fruitful, following suggestions on the basis of study are given which are required to be implemented

- The quality of training programmes to the personnel employed in the MGNREGA should be enhanced so that the overall process, content and delivery of the schemes should be optimally delivered to the beneficiaries.
- The workforce should be more professional in their orientation. They should have a proper information about the profile of their work to attain the objective of development in the region.
- The involvement of local people should be considered in framing the development policies.
- There is a greater need of transparency in all the aspects of MGNREGA and it should be visible to all the stakeholders of the rural development organizations.
- Rural masses should be made more aware about latest schemes and programmes.

REFERENCES

[12] www.nrega.nic.in

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