



“ROLE OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME: A STUDY OF BANACHIWADI VILLAGE IN RADHANAGARI TEHSIL OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT”

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is one such scheme. It is a landmark in the history of social welfare scheme that is trying to admiration the dignity of labor besides economic security that aims to guarantee the 'right to work' in rural areas. MGNREGS provides at least 100 days of guaranteed earnings employment in a financial year to each household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled physical work. MGNREGS programme covers 644 districts all above India through 247643 Grampanchayats covering 13.3 crores households and to supply work to 29 crores workers registered across India. The expenditure for this project during 2013-2014 was Rupees 26665 crores that provided on an average of 46 days work per household which is 50 percent less to that of 100 days of guaranteed employment. An effort is made in this paper to study the efficacy of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in Banachiwadi Villegge in Radhanagari Tehsil of Kolhapur District of Maharashtra where a large proportion in engaged in agriculture. With this as a base of research study the current paper focuses on the role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Rural Employment: A Study Banachiwadi Villegge in Radhanagari Tehsil of Kolhapur District in Maharashtra State. A field survey with a sample study of beneficiaries as respondents from 50 BPL households in Banachiwadi villages. The result of the study revealed that the programme has brought the change in the lives of the beneficiaries.

Keywords: *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes, poverty, welfare programme, wage employment.*

Introduction

provide employment to the rural people has all the time been a challenge for any Indian government at central or at state level. Since independence India has been suffering from chronic poverty and unemployment problems, especially in the rural areas. As per Lakdawala methodology for financial year 1999 - 2000, 26.10% population of India (260.25 million people) was considered as below the poverty line. As per Tendulkar methodology for financial year 2011-12, 21.9% population of India (269.3 million people) was considered as below the poverty line. Out of 269.3 million people

living below the poverty line (as per Tendulkar method, 2011-12) a staggering 216.5 million people were from rural India (Planning Commission). India has been growing at rapid pace since the mid-1980s, but even with the growth the government has not been capable to curb the chronic poverty problem. Unemployment, in long term, not only elevate poverty but it also creates a tough situation for an person Unemployment can increase a person's debt, stress level, dissatisfaction and frustration, which in long term can affect the individual, his family and society at large. According to an NCAER (2015) report, farmers holding small farms were

the major participant in MGNREGA, around 42% of MGNREGA participants own farms that restricted 1 hectare land or less. In this situation MGNREGA can be a income generating option for such farmers and for those millions of people living in rural areas looking for employment In Radhanagari Tehsil agriculture solely depends on monsoon. So villagers have no job when there is no agricultural work. penetrating for short period job in villages is very hard and therefore a lot of times they earn nothing. Thus, during this period MGNREGS is happiness for them. Radhanagari tehsil is a hilly region with agriculture as the main occupation of the people and 10.8 % of the households living below poverty line. 'Radhanagari' Tehsil is the countenance of present rural India shimmering poor and remote socio-economic conditions. Using this secondary and primary data by the researcher

Objectives of study:

1. To Find Which scheme of MGNREGS have been implemented by villages chosen as sample in the study area.
2. To study how many families have been benefited from MGNREGS Scheme in the villages selected for present study.
- 3 To study the impact of the MGNREGS on the rural society and on its environment.

Research Methodology and source of Data collection:

here research is based on the reference work from books, research journals, news papers, and websites. Secondary data is referred from District Census handbook. Primary data through field survey is collected by conducting interview of the officials from associated offices and questionnaire method has been used for 50 sample BPL households in the selected

Table 1. Profile of sample village and selection of Households under MGNREGS (Year 2021-22)

S. N.	Name of the Sample Village	Distance from Tehsil H.Q and District H. Q. in Km by road	Total No. of HH	Total Pop.	Total no. of HH living below poverty Line	No. of Sample HH selected	Total pop. of the BPL sample H.H.
1	Banachiwadi	2/79	334	1566	59	50	251

village of Banachiwadi in Radhanagari tehsil.

Study Area:

Radhanagari is a hilly region of Sahyadri mountain range with average altitude of 728 meters above sea level to the western part of Kolhapur District in Maharashtra State. The tehsil has a geographical area of 887.05 sq.km, and agriculture as the major occupation of the people. It has an average elevation of 563 Meters (Altitude). It encompass a 114 villages sustaining a population of 150368 include rural population is 199713 and urban population is missing and number of households are 42000 as per Oct.2017.

Economic aspects:

Agriculture is the major occupation of the people in Radhanagari tehsil which is experienced by many in a conventional way. Therefore yield is low and so farmers' income is less. There are 42000 families in the tehsil of which 13545 families (10.8 per cent) are living below poverty line (Oct.2017). Additional the conditions are worsen as income opportunity are few due to distance, as well as convenience and availability in terms of public transport which is relatively less between employment generating cities like Kolhapur, Pune and Mumbai. Much of the employment is seasonal resulting in lesser economic standards and poverty situation. Hence Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has provided rotten season source of livelihood to the rural people. One village namely Banachiwadi is selected as sample villages of Radhanagari Panchayat Union Block for the nearby paper. 59 households with a sample of 251 beneficiaries of MGNREGS as respondents were undertaken for study (Table 1)

			(2011 Census)	(2011 Census)	(17.66%) 1996-97 BPL Survey	(85 %)	
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Source of Information: Grampanchayat and Aanganwadi Office (Year 2021-22)

Abbreviations: No.: Number, HH: Households, Pop.: Population, Tot: Total, H.Q.: Head Quarter, Km: kilometer. Table 1 shows number of households living below Poverty line at 59 (17.66%) in

Banachiwadi village. A sample of 50 BPL households living below poverty line was selected from Radhanagari villages having a population 251 respectively

Table 2. Wage received per day in MGNREGS (Year 2021-22)

Sr.no	Wage per day(in Rs)	No of respondents	Total No of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	70	03	03	06
2	80	05	05	10
3	90	11	11	22
4	100	22	22	44
5	More than 100	09	09	18
	Total	50	50	100.00

Source: Based of field work by researcher June 2022

Table 2 reveals 18 percent respondents have become more than 100 Rs per day and 44 percent respondents have income 100 Rs. 22, 10. and 6 percent respondents getting wage rating at 90 Rs, 80 Rs and 70 Rs respectively. So it is concluded that no fix wage getting to the sample respondents per day. The wage difference between fewer wages and more wages is above Rs 130

Structure of House: House structure of BPL Households selected as sample is specified in table 3. It is important to note that 3 (06 %) households in Banachiwadi are a Pucca houses. while all the 47 (94%) rest households are Kaccha houses. This reflects the low level of economic standards of these households

Table 3. Structure of House of BPL households in study area (Year 2017-18)

Settlement	Sample Households	Pucca houses	Kaccha houses
Banachiwadi	50	3(6 %)	47(94 %)

Source: Compiled and computed through survey by researcher (April 2018)

Table4. Status of land ownership of BPL HH in sample villages (Year 2021-22)

Settlement	Sample HH	Landless HH	< 1 acre	1-2 acre	> 2 acre
Banachiwadi	50	16	25	09	-

Source: Based of field work by researcher. (June 2022)

Table 4 depicts the type of landholding of the sample HH selected for current study. A total of 16 BPL HH from Banachiwadi respectively is landless while 25 HH have less than one acre, 09 HH with 1-2 acre and 0 HH with more than 2 acre of landholding. These small sizes of landholdings where people are dependent only on rainwater for cultivation therefore

are economically weak. therefore many HH are working as agricultural labour as noticed from Table 5 that people from 45 BPL HH are working as agricultural labour in Banachiwadi villege respectively even as 02 households are working as cultivators and 03 BPL households work as non-agricultural labour.

Table 5. No. of BPL Households engaged in Occupation (Year2021-22)

SN	Settlement	Agricultural labor	Cultivator	Non-agricultural labour
1	Banachiwadi	45	02	03

Source: Compiled and computed by researcher through field survey (June 2022)

Status of Beneficiaries under MGNREGS: It is important to note that at least one member from each BPL household was given Job Cards under MGNREGS (table 6)

Table 6. Number of Members receiving Job cards in BPL Households under MGNREGS

during the Year (Year 2011-12 to 2021-22)

SN	Settlement	Number of members receiving Job cards in BPL family	Total number of beneficiaries	
			Number of BPL HH	Total number of Beneficiaries from BPL HH
1	Banachiwadi	1	14	14
2		2	29	58
3		3	04	12
4		4	03	12
5		5	-	-
		Total	50	96

Source: Compiled and computed by researcher through field survey (June 2022)

8. Social impact: Seasonal unemployment and over population pressure are some of the push factors for outmigration or rural workers to urban areas. However provision of livelihood through MGNREGS has prevented outmigration of rural workers (table 6) from BPL households (27 and 25 from both villages) except one an

each household out migrating from both sample villages. Such poverty alleviation programmes has nonetheless helped the families to maintain their social ties strongly besides getting economic strength on one hand and on the other hand in reducing urban pressure by preventing push factor.

Table 7. Effect of MGNREGS in reducing migration from BPL HH: (Year 2011 -12 to 2021-22)

SN	Settlement	BPL Households	Total No of BPL HH
1	Banachiwadi	Out –migration	02
		Out Migration prevented	48
	Total HH		50

Source: Compiled and computed by researcher through field survey (June 2022)

Table 8. Caste- wise composition of population of beneficiaries under MGNREGS Year 2021-22

S.N.	Settlement	Caste						Total Number of beneficiaries
		Open	OBC	SC	ST	SBC	VJ(A)	
1	Banachiwadi	30	08	07	05	-	-	50

Compiled and computed by researcher through field survey (June 2022)

The data caste shows that caste wise allocation of the respondents. The percentage of the ST caste sample respondents account 10 % and Casts include Open, OBC, SC, and NT, account more than 50 % respondents.

Conclusion:

It is no hesitation that the MGNREGS has provided a livelihood to the people and has help to some extent to

boost their annual incomes on one hand and having some needed resources created in the form of wells to supply with drinking water sources for the villagers on the other hand. Construction of wells has been possible and facilitate only because of such helpful schemes provided by our government with essential financial arrangements. Moreover, it has also helped in preventing outmigration of rural

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working population which has helped to sustain the demographic equilibrium of the family as well as social well-being. Such schemes would definitely help in checking rural to urban migration and so in minimizing the resultant urban influx and urban problems. However the limitations to such schemes are in the form of getting the approvals for project proposals under MGNREGS well in proceed and the time taken for expenditure of such grants.

Suggestions:

Such poverty alleviation programmes should be a stable process providing year round employment to the people. This therefore calls for honest effort in the preparation of different project proposals with justification and focus on welfare of the underprivileged society. Such projects based on priority for a period of at least next 15 to 20 years should be put forth giving estimations of time period and total cost necessary. However it is significant to note that such programmes require to end at most basic and effort towards increasing socio-economic status of the society is essential. Concrete, concerted and sincere efforts in the direction of complete eradication of poverty forever (present as well as future) are indispensable. Introducing sustainable commercial agricultural practices, mixed farming, livestock activities supported by agro-processing units, marketing of agro-products and related industries in rural areas is the require for rural India. This is possible through collaborative effort by administrators, academicians, industrialists, marketing organizations, financial institutions and the local community to come together in developing such kind of closed network. This will support sustainability with more balanced regional development with judicious distribution of socio-economic property

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