



Constraints in people's participation in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in 10 adopted villages of three selected blocks of Surguja district of Chhattisgarh during 2010-11. Total of 150 respondents were randomly selected from the selected villages for the study. The present study was undertaken to assess the constraints in participation in MNREGA programme. The data collection was done by the use of pre-tested interview schedule and through personal interview. Data were analyzed with the help of suitable statistical analysis. The study showed that out of 150 respondents, 75.33 per cent had participated in MNREGA programme. Out of them majority (66.37%) of the respondents had involved with 2 to 3 family members in MNREGA programme for the employment. 100 per cent of the respondents had reported that payment was not made quickly, followed by 20.35 per cent said payment was not made in the village were the major constraints faced by them. To overcome the constraints in participation in MNREGA programme, the majority of the respondents (94.69%) suggested that payment should be paid quickly in the village.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) under the 'Ministry of Rural Development' strives for the enhancement of rural livelihood by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

In sync with the choices of the work suggested in the act, shelf of projects chosen primarily consists of areas that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis. The works happening in financial year 2009-2010 are flood control, rural connectivity, water conservation and water harvesting, renovation of traditional water bodies, drought proofing, irrigation canals, irrigation facilities to SC/ST, land development, etc.

Central government started Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 2006, in which one of the major goals is to empower the rural people. The works under MNREGA are 'demand driven' rather than supply

driven. Every adult member of the registered households under MNREGA may demand work when they are in need and the government is bound to provide hundred days of guaranteed wage employment to every household who so ever has been registered under the scheme. Central government is making large public expenditure under MNREGA. In the recent budget of 2009-10, an allocation of Rs. 39,100 crore has been made for MNREGA, which is an increase of 144 per cent over the 2008-09 budget (16,000 crore) (Roy and Singh, 2010). Under such circumstances, it became necessary to assess which types of the constraints occur in this programme. That's why a study was taken up to assess the constraints in MNREGA programme faced by the beneficiaries.

METHODS

This study was conducted in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, during the year 2011. Chhattisgarh state has 27 districts out of which Surguja and Surajpur districts were selected purposively because these districts have got highest fund for the ATMA programme. From these districts only three