

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# Benefits and constraints realized by beneficiaries of MGNREGA

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**SUMMARY :** The present study was carried in Kavant and Chhotaudepur Taluka of Chhotaudepur district in Gujarat state during 2014-2015 to know the benefits and constrains of MGNREGA beneficiaries. 100 MGNREGA beneficiaries both male and female were selected randomly. Data were collected using a pre-tested interview schedule. Beneficiaries were requested to express the benefits and constraints realized by MGNREGA which were collected, analysed and ranked. It revealed that out of nine benefits expressed by respondents, major benefits were; enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas, uplift of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and reduction in migration which were based on per cent, ranked first, second and third, respectively. With regards to constraints, three most important were; employment of hundred days is too less in present situation, lack of medical facilities near the work site and unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job.

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**KEY WORDS :**

MGNREGA, Benefits, Constraints

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Government of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 has renamed the NREGA as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). A total of 615 districts in the country were covered under MGNREGA till 2010-2011. The basic objective of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household creating rural asset for the sustainable development of an agricultural and natural resource-based economy. Participation in this programme

makes beneficiaries to realize some benefits. Identification of such benefits can help boosting up the implementation and effective utilization of scheme. However, they are finding some difficulty to get this benefits which are also important to identify and take corrective measures for successful implementation of programme.

## RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in Chhotaudepur district of Gujarat state. Chhotaudepur district comprises of six talukas out of which, two talukas viz., Chhotaudepur

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and Kavant were selected for the study. From each selected taluka, five villages were randomly selected. Ten beneficiaries were randomly selected as respondents from each selected village. Thus, the sample size consisted of 100 respondents. Data were collected with the help of pre-tested structured interview schedule. The collected data were analysed through frequency and per cent based on which rank was given.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

### Benefits realized by MGNREGA beneficiaries :

There might be many benefits realized by the MNREGA beneficiaries in MNREGA. Identification of such benefits can help in boosting up the implementation and effective utilization of the scheme. Data presented in Table 1 represents the benefits of MGNREGA which were collected from beneficiaries, analysed using per cent and frequency based on which it was ranked.

Data presented in Table 1 depicted that the

enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas (94 %) was most important benefit realized by beneficiaries which ranked first followed by uplift of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (85 %) and reduction in migration (80 %) which was based on frequency and per cent ranked second and third, respectively.

Economic empowerment of women indicated by 75 per cent of respondents whereas 74 per cent of respondent gave nearly equal importance to benefit of good education to children due to increase in income which were ranked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Other important benefits realized by beneficiaries were: improvement in standard of living (70 %), creation of durable village assets like road, canal, pond and well etc. (65 %), protection from discrimination and exploitation (58 %) and increase in transparency and accountability due to social audit (45 %) which ranked sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth, respectively.

Thus, livelihood security in rural areas and uplift of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes were most important benefit realized by beneficiaries. However, increase in transparency and accountability due to social audit was least important benefit realized by beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Benefits	Number	Per cent	Rank
1.	Enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas	94	94.00	I
2.	Uplift of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes	85	85.00	II
3.	Reduction in migration	80	80.00	III
4.	Economic empowerment of women	75	75.00	IV
5.	Good education to children due to increase in income	74	74.00	V
6.	Improvement in standard of living	70	70.00	VI
7.	Creation of durable village assets like road, canal, ponds and wells etc.	65	65.00	VII
8.	Protection from discrimination and exploitation	58	58.00	VIII
9.	Increase in transparency and accountability due to social audit	45	45.00	IX

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
1.	Employment of hundred days (per household per year ) is too less in the present situation	90	90.00	I
2.	Lack of medical facilities near the work site	88	88.00	II
3.	Unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job	83	83.00	III
4.	Continuous work is not provided	80	80.00	IV
5.	Same wage rate is given for all kinds of work	75	75.00	V
6.	Delay in issuing job card	73	73.00	VI
7.	No shade during rest period	65	65.00	VII
8.	Wages are not provided according to MGNREGA act	61	61.00	VIII
9.	Low wage rate	39	39.00	IX
10.	Employment for 100 days is not always available according to the act	34	34.00	X

**Constraints faced by MGNREGA beneficiaries :**

Though beneficiaries of MGNREGA are working at its best and beneficiaries get benefits, there are still many constraints on the path of beneficiaries. Identification of such constraints is necessary for continuous improvement according beneficiaries point of view. Based on this view study was undertaken to identify such constraints. Beneficiaries were requested to express their constraints; frequency and percentage for each constraint were calculated. The data in this regard are presented in Table 2.

The perusal of data in Table 2 revealed that most important constraint faced by beneficiaries in availing the benefits of MGNREGA was employment of hundred days (per household per year) which was ranked first (90 %) followed by lack of medical facilities near the work site (88 %) and unemployment allowance is not provided in case of delay in job which were ranked second and third, respectively.

Moreover, they expressed that continuous work is not provided (80 %), same wage rate is given for all kinds of work (75 %), delay in issuing job card (73 %) and no shade during rest period (65 %) which were ranked fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.

It was also noticeable that wages are not provided according to MGNREGA act (61 %), low wage rate (39 %) and employment for 100 days is not always available according to the act (34 %) were also important constraints that ranked eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Badodiya *et al.* (2012); Kyatanagoudar (2011); Patel (1995); Ramjiyani (2013); Sarkar *et al.* (2011) and Satynarayana (2002).

**Conclusion:**

From above discussion it can be concluded that important benefit realized by beneficiaries from MGNREGA was enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas, uplift of the scheduled castes and scheduled

tribes and reduction in migration. Increase in transparency and accountability due to social audit was found least important among beneficiaries.

Through the constraints analysis, it can be conclude that employment of hundred days (per household per year) is too less in the present situation was most important constraint faced by beneficiaries in availing the benefits from MGNREGA.

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