

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

■ V.G. Dhulgand and R.P. Kadam**ARTICLE CHRONICLE :****Received :**

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted purposively in Aurangabad, Nanded, Beed and Jalna district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2017-2018. From this four district eight tahsils were selected purposively. From each selected taluka two villages were selected purposively for the study. Fifteen beneficiaries of MGNREGA were selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus comprising total 240 beneficiaries were selected from Marathwada region for research study. It was found that, in participation of MGNREGA scheme major constraints relating to the financial constraints, situational constraints, technical constraints, administrative constraints and communication constraints were faced by the MGNREGA beneficiaries and MGNREGA beneficiaries suggested some important suggestions to overcome these constraints.

KEY WORDS :Constraints,
MGNREGA
beneficiaries,
Suggestions

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Poverty and unemployment are the twin problem faced by the developing countries. According to the planning commission of India nearly 29.8 per cent population is below poverty line (BPL). Policy makers in India have realized the need for generating employment opportunities on large scale to bring the teeming millions of population above poverty line (APL). While the labour force in India is increasing in numbers at every year. Majority of population (72.22%) live in rural areas and many of them suffer owing to seasonal unemployment, under employment and disguised unemployment (Source:

Planning Commission). In India, GDP and Unemployment rates are going hand in hand, causing fret for any democratic society. Unemployment and poverty are strongly related and hinder the economic growth and development of the country.

In India, these two problems are severe in rural areas, leaving it outside the growth path. Thus, Government of India aiming at balanced growth and to overcome above mentioned weaknesses of past employment programmes, passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 25 August 2005 in order to empower the rural labourers with right to get employment of 100 days per year per household during off-

Author for correspondence :

V.G. DhulgandDepartment of Extension
Education, Vasantnao Naik
Marathwada Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Parbhani
(M.S.) India
Email: vgdhulgand91@gmail.comSee end of the article for
authors' affiliations

season. In accordance, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been launched in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February, 2006, with effect from 1st April 2006 in 200 drought prone and backward districts in India. This was extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008. The NREGA coverage has been expanded from 330 districts to 619 districts of India beginning April, 2008. In Maharashtra the NREGA was implemented during the 2006 in 12 districts (Dhule, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Hingoli, Nanded, Amravati, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Bhandara, Gondhiya and Chjandrapur) of Maharashtra state. Thus, NREGA covered that entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred per cent urban population. This programme has been formulated by merging early formulated programmes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) of 2001 and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) of 2004. Again the Government of India on 2nd October, 2009 renamed its flagship rural job guarantee programme-National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted purposively in Aurangabad, Nanded, Beed and Jalna district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2017-2018. Selected district eight tahsils were selected purposively. From each selected taluka two villages were selected purposively for the study. Fifteen beneficiaries of MGNREGA were selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus comprising total 240 beneficiaries were selected from Marathwada region for research study. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage were used for the analysis of data.

Objective:

- Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- Suggestions given by the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to overcome the constraints.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summerized under following heads:

Constraints faced by the beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme:

Financial constraint:

It was observed from Table 1 that, 92.91 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that delay payment of wages and its rank I, 71.66 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that difficulty in withdrawal of payment from bank and its rank II and 64.58 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that confusing about wages and its rank III was reported as financial constraints.

Situational constraints:

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority (67.50%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that irregularity in attending gram sabha by beneficiaries and its rank I, 66.67 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that conflicts amongst beneficiaries while working and its rank II, 56.75 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that favoritisms in distribution of work at work site and its rank III and 48.75 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that non-co-operative attitude of local leader and its rank IV were the major constraints reported as situational constraints by beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme.

Technical constraints:

It was observed from Table 1 that, 81.25 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that lack of proper knowledge about procedure of apply for MGNREGA work and its rank I, 77.91 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that complaint book, registration book, instrument book is not open to see and its rank II, 77.08 per cent lack of technical guidance and its rank III and 70.00 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that difficulty in opening of bank account and its rank IV were the major constraints reported as technical constraints by beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme.

Administrative constraints:

It was observed from Table 1 that, 92.91 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non

availability of assured 100 days employment to every household and its rank I, 83.75 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that ignorance of unemployment payment facility and its rank II, 82.50 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non-availability of work site facilities and its rank III, 81.25 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that officers are not available in Gram Panchayat for registration and its rank IV, 78.33 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that

improper management for provision of work by extension workers and its rank V, 74.16 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non-co-operative attitude of Gram Sevak and its rank VI, 70.83 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that completed work and working site was not examined by the officer and its rank VII and 65.41 per cent non availability of supporting staff to beneficiaries and its rank VIII were major the major constraints reported as administrative constraint

Table 1 : Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of MGNREGA in participation of MGNREGA scheme

Sr. No.	Constraints	F	%	Rank
Financial constraints				
1.	Delay payment of wages	223	92.91	I
2.	Difficulty in withdrawal of payment from bank	172	71.66	II
3.	Confusing about wages	155	64.58	III
Situational constraints				
1.	Conflicts amongst beneficiaries while working	160	66.67	II
2.	Favoritisms in distribution of work at work site	135	56.75	II
3.	Non-co-operative attitude of local leaders	117	48.75	IV
4.	Irregularity in attending gram sabha by beneficiaries	162	67.50	I
Technical constraints				
1.	Lack of technical guidance	185	77.08	III
2.	Lack of proper knowledge about procedure of apply for MGNREGA work	195	81.25	I
3.	Difficulty in opening of bank account	168	70.00	IV
4.	Compliant book, registration book, Instrument book is not open to see	187	77.91	II
Administrative constraints				
1.	Non-availability of assured 100 days employment to every household	235	92.91	I
2.	Officers are not available in Gram Panchayat for registration	195	81.25	IV
3.	Improper management for provision of work by extension workers	188	78.33	V
4.	Non-availability of supporting staff to beneficiaries	157	65.41	VIII
5.	Ignorance of unemployment payment facility	201	83.75	II
6.	Non-co-operative attitude of Gram sevak	178	74.16	VI
7.	Non-availability of work site facilities	198	82.50	III
8.	Completed work and working site was not examined by the officer	170	70.83	VII
Communication constraints				
1.	Non-availability of literature on MGNREGA	169	70.41	I

Table 2: Suggestions given by the beneficiaries for overcoming the constraints in participation of MGNREGA scheme

Sr. No.	Suggestions	F	%	Rank
1.	Timely payment of wages	232	96.66	I
2.	Details information should be given regarding the job under the act	212	88.33	II
3.	Unbiasness towards beneficiaries while allotting work	195	81.25	IV
4.	Primary necessities such as drinking water, first aid medical facilities etc. should be provided timely and adequately at work place	205	85.11	III
5.	Proper implementation of the programme should be follow as per rules	192	80.00	V
6.	Employment should be made available as when need of the beneficiaries	180	75.00	VI
7.	MGNREGA workers for agricultural work	170	70.83	VII

by beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme.

Communication constraint:

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority (70.41%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non-availability of literature on MGNREGA and its rank I were major the major constraints reported as communication constraints by beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme.

Suggestions given by the beneficiaries for overcoming the constraints in participation of MGNREGA scheme :

It was observed that, majority (96.66%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that timely payment of wages which rank I, 88.33 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that details information should be given regarding the job under the act which rank II, 85.11 per cent primary necessities such as drinking water, first aid medical facilities etc should be provided timely and adequately at work place which rank III.

It was observed that, majority (81.25%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that unbiasedness towards beneficiaries while allotting work which rank IV, 80.00 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that implementing agencies should keep proper implementation of the programme should be follow as per rules which rank V, 75.00 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that employment should be made available as when need of the beneficiaries rank VI and 70.83 per cent of the beneficiaries were suggested that MGNREGA workers for agricultural work which rank VII. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Bhandari (2014); Bhosale (2014); Garg *et al.* (2012); Khalache and Gaikwad (2011); Khandave and Suryawanshi (2015) and Mankar *et al.* (2013 and 2014) and the results obtained were more or less similar to the present investigation.

Conclusion:

Majority (92.91%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that delay payment of wages was reported as financial constraints, 67.50 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that irregularity in attending gram sabha by beneficiaries reported as situational constraints,

81.25 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that lack of proper knowledge about procedure of apply for MGNREGA work reported as technical constraints, 92.91 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non availability of assured 100 days employment to every household reported as administrative constraint and 70.41 per cent of the MGNREGA beneficiaries reported that non-availability of literature on MGNREGA reported as communication constraints by beneficiaries in participation of MGNREGA scheme.

Majority (96.66%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were suggested that timely payment of wages.

Authors' affiliations :

R. P. Kadam, Department of Extension Education, Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (M.S.) India
Email: rpk.mkv@gmail.com

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