

## 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

blocks *i.e.*, Ambikapur, Lundra and Surajpur were selected purposively. From the selected blocks, 10 villages namely; Rakeli, Darima, Nawanagar (Ambikapur), Lamgaon, Kot, Dorna (Lundra), Ajirama, Kalyanpur, Dwrikanagar and Jagatpur (Surajpur) were randomly selected for the study. From each selected village, 15 respondents were selected randomly for this study. In this way, 150 respondents (15 x 10 = 150) were selected for the study. Respondents were interviewed through personal interview. Prior to interview, respondents were taken into confidence by revealing the actual purpose of the study and full care was taken into consideration to develop good rapport with them. For the data collection, well designed and pre-tested interview scheduled were used. Collected data were analyzed by the help of various statistical tools *i.e.* frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, etc.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The main findings and discussion of the research are being presented theme wise below:

### Participation in MNREGA programme:

Distributions of the respondents according to their participation in MNREGA programme are presented in Table 1. The table shows that the majority (75.33%) of the respondents had participated in MNREGA programme; followed by 24.67 per cent of the respondents had not participated in MNREGA programme.

Regarding to involvement of family members in MNREGA programme, the findings are tabulated in Table 2. It shows that among participated respondents in MNREGA, majority (66.37%) had involvement in MNREGA with 2 to 3 family members, followed by 30.97 per cent of the respondents had involve with 1 member and only 2.66 per cent of the respondents had involved with more than 3 family members.

### Constraints and suggestions in MNREGA programme:

The information regarding constraints and suggestions were taken on the basis of multiple responses. Distributions of the respondents according to their constraints and suggestions in MNREGA programme are presented in Table 3. The data indicated that the 100.00 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that payment was not made quickly, followed by 20.35 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that payment was not in village, whereas 12.38 per cent of the respondents replied that works were not provided for hundred days as major constraints in MNREGA programme.

As regards to suggestion given by the respondents to overcome the constraints in MNREGA programme, majority of the respondents (94.69%) suggested that the payment should be paid quickly, followed by the other suggestion given by the respondents was payment to be made in village (22.13%), works should be available for hundred days (13.27%) and only 00.88 per cent were of the opinion that information should be available for employment in MNREGA programme. Bishnoi *et*

Participation in MNREGA	Frequency	Percentage
Not participated	37	24.67
Participated	113	75.33

Involvement in family members	Frequency	Percentage
Involvement with 1 members	35	30.97
Involvement with 2 to3 members	75	66.37
Involvement with more than 3 members	03	02.66

Particulars	Frequency*	Percentage
<b>Constraints</b>		
Payment not made quickly	113	100.00
Payment not made in village	23	20.35
Works not provided for the hundred days	14	12.38
<b>Suggestions</b>		
Payment should be made quickly	107	94.69
Payment should be made in village	25	22.12
Works should be available for hundred days	15	13.27
Information should be available for employment	01	00.88

\* Frequency based on multiple responses

al. (2011) and Roy *et al.* (2011) also found almost similar type of findings in their study which were related to MNREGA.

**Conclusion:**

From the above findings it can be concluded that majority of the respondents were participated in MNREGA programme. Out of them, majority 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 payment was not made quickly as their major constraints and suggested that payment should be paid quickly in the village.

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