

Evaluation of MGNREGA after The pandemic of COVID 19

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Abstract

MGNREGA program is one of the most ambitious program of the government through which rural workers are provided with minimum hundred days job in a year. This is in normal days quite effectively implemented by the local authorities but with change in scenario due to COVID-19 this program has suffered a big jolt. Things got stopped for 3 to 4 months and after that it is resumed at a very slow pace; it has aggravated the situation because people are seeking assistance have increased considerably. During this small period several workers who were working in the other parts of the nation have come back under this pandemic to their native place and now they are also seeking job in their nearby areas which they are finding difficult to get. MGNREGA is the only source that can provide them the interim relief but those who are getting the job under MGNREGA are also complaining about its operations. In this research an intensive study of 200 MGNREGA labours who have been done. To know the implications an effort was made to evaluate the execution of MGNREGA after this covid-19; this research has been done.

Key Words: *MGNREGA program, COVID-19, job, implications*

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian labour law that guarantees 100 days employment to every rural labour. In the year 2005 this act was passed to ensure right to work. Generally unskilled manual and physical work is provided under MGNREGA. Earlier it was named as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). It is one of the biggest social welfare and security program in the world. Durable community assets like as roads, canals, ponds, wells etc. are constructed under MGNREGA. Such work is provided within an area of 5 kilometers from the residence of desirous applicant. It is assured that minimum wage is provided to the workers working under MGNREGA. Efforts are also made to provide the work within 15 days of application. In case no job is provided unemployment

allowance is provided. Corona Virus has badly affected this program; during lockdown many people lost job and even after unlock there is extreme job scarcity.

Review of literature

Gajendra Singh Meena (2020) Under the pandemic of covid-19 role of MGNREGA was studied very critically to understand its role in the employment generation for the migrant workers in the state of Rajasthan. For that purpose an intensive study was conducted at Sangrampur village of Tonk district. It was found that nearly 10% of the migrant workers could find job under MGNREGA which is very low and insignificant. In fact the provision of providing hundred days employment to one member of the family is insufficient under the pandemic situations where most of the family members have lost jobs.

Workers who were gauged in production or construction work; the wages are not being paid daily under MGNREGA even in covid-19 situation where people are in extreme need of money. The lockdown has broken their all financial strength and they have consumed almost all of their small savings.

Damini Nath (2020) the lockdown was imposed by the central government to control the COVID-19 from mid of March 2020 to June 2020. During this lock down period most of the construction works being done under MGNREGA program was stopped, labour was displaced, people lost their job and seven states in India officially stopped the complete work under lockdown in this situation. When the process of unlocking started gradually; the lost job daily need to be compensated by providing additional job days. Lot of labours have migrated so it is the desirable that Indian welfare government allocate additional budget for the MGNREGA program to provide short term employment to these displaced labour.

Harsh N (2020) MANREGA program was initiated in 2007 with 200 districts of India later on it was extended to the whole rural India. It was envisaged to provide regular guaranteed employment to the rural workers in their nearby areas at least for 100 days. This would be helpful to alleviate the property and it will also contribute in the infrastructure development of the nation. Under the current COVID situation this scheme can be very fruitful, it may help in

restoring the normalcy in economy and can provide the cash to the needy rural workers who is badly affected due to lock down. Such program shows that our government was well prepared for any unprecedented situation or mishap.

Gayathri (2020) After the arrival of Corona virus, the awareness related to the health has increased considerably. People have become more conscious and taking safety measures. They also expect from the government to spend more on health and hygiene. Even under MGNREGA program very soon it will develop as a new normal that MGNREGA workers will be employed not just in construction of infrastructure but also in sanitization and other related health services

Sudha Narayan (2020) MGNREGA can be very effective tool in this economic emergency. Through MGNREGA active rural employment in different areas of public interest can be provided. MGNREGA provides employment at justifiable and transparent terms so it is very appreciated by the labours; even the differently abled persons also get some task to perform.

Objectives

To study the wage distribution in MGNREGA after COVID 19 from beneficiary's view point.

To study the social development done by MGNREGA after COVID 19.

Hypothesis

H1 Proper wages are provided in MGNREGA after COVID 19.

H2 Proper social development is done by MGNREGA after COVID 19.

Research Analysis

50-50 workers were randomly selected from the villages of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur and Jalore district. Their opinion related to MGNREGA during covid-19 was collected with the help of a structured questionnaire on four major areas these were related to sufficient wage, timely payment, social wealth creation and social security.

As per table 1 these 200 respondents' opinion reflects merely 11% felt that sufficient wages are provided after covid-19 in MGNREGA program while 52.50% were somewhat agree with the adequacy of wages being provided under MGNREGA program after covid-19. 27.50% are not

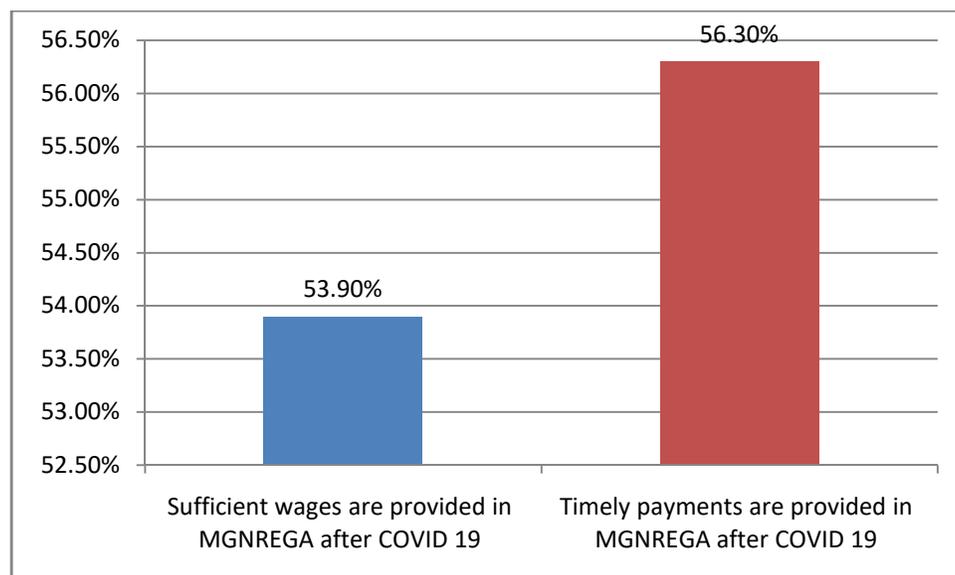
satisfied with the amount of wages. Chart 1 reflects the overall score for the sufficiency of wages after covid-19 in MGNREGA program was just 53.90% which is quite moderate.

As far as the payment under MANREGA program is considered the opinion of beneficiaries reflect that 11.50% find the wages are paid timely while 59.50% were somewhat satisfied with timely payment of wages. 29% respondents were dissatisfied with the excessive time being taken in payment of wages under MGNREGA program after covid-19. The overall score for the timely wage payments under MGNREGA program was just 56.30% which is again quite moderate and need to be improved.

Table 1: Wages Provided in MGNREGA after COVID 19

Particular	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Absolutely disagree	Total
Weight	5	4	3	2	1	
Sufficient wage	0	22	113	47	18	200
Score	0	88	339	94	18	539
Timely payment	5	18	119	51	7	200
Score	25	72	357	102	7	563

Chart 1: Wages Provided in MGNREGA after COVID 19



To understand whether the overall score for the proper wages provided in MGNREGA after covid-19 is significant T test was done. It shows the significance value is 0.93 which is more than 0.05 hence it can be inferred that proper wages are not significantly provided in MGNREGA after covid-19 and the first hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2: T Test for Wages Provided in MGNREGA after COVID 19

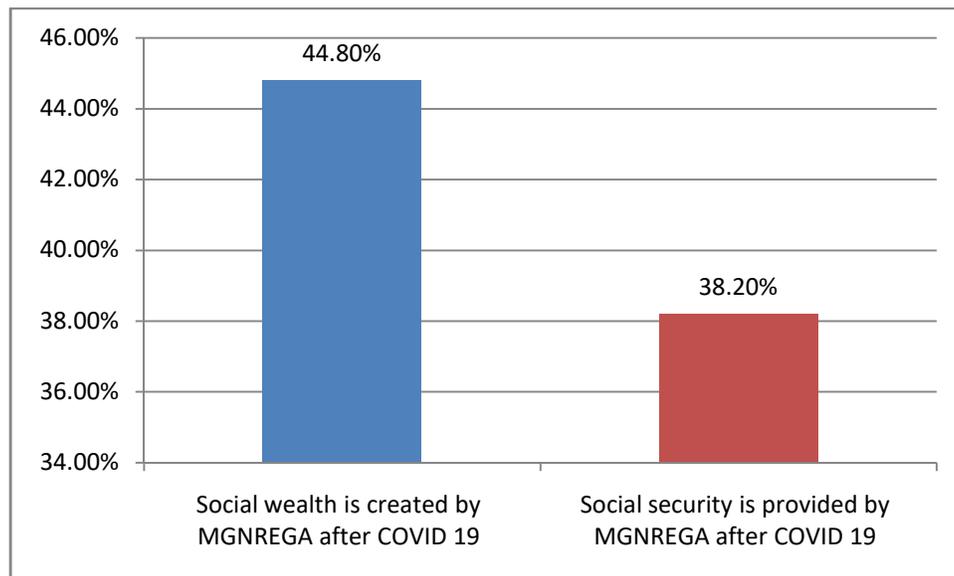
N	Mean	t	df	Sig
200	55.1	1.24	199	0.93

As per table 3 these 200 respondents' opinion reflects merely 12% felt that social wealth is created after covid-19 in MGNREGA program while 39% were somewhat agree with the social assets being created under MGNREGA program after covid-19. 55% are not satisfied with the social wealth creation. Chart 2 reflects the overall score for the social wealth creation after COVID-19 in MGNREGA program was just 44.80% which is quite moderate.

As far as social security under MGNREGA program is considered the opinion of beneficiaries reflect that just 4% find the social security while 26.50% were somewhat satisfied with social security. 69.50% respondents were dissatisfied with the social security being provided under MGNREGA program after covid-19. The overall score for the social security under MGNREGA program was just 38.20% which is again quite low and need to be improved.

Table 3: Social Development by MGNREGA after COVID 19

Particular	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Absolutely disagree	Total
Weight	5	4	3	2	1	
Social wealth creation	0	12	78	56	54	200
Score	0	48	234	112	54	448
Social security	0	8	53	52	87	200
Score	0	32	159	104	87	382

Chart 2: Social Development by MGNREGA after COVID 19

To understand whether the overall score for the proper social development done in MGNREGA after covid-19 is significant T test was done. It shows the significance value is 1.13 which is more than 0.05 hence it can be inferred that proper social development is not significantly done in MGNREGA after covid-19 and the second hypothesis is rejected.

Table 4: T Test for Social Development Done in MGNREGA after COVID 19

N	Mean	t	df	Sig
200	41.50	0.97	199	1.13

Suggestions on the basis of research

During COVID period MGNREGA program was stopped and people were not provided with the job. They felt extreme problem of survival as they had very little savings. After this COVID-19 pandemic the pace of program has become quite sluggish. Wage provided are even below the minimum wages rate that is quiet unjust besides that there is a big delay in payments that is causing problems in this adverse time. Government must intervene and look into the matter seriously to resolve and expedite the process.

As the construction work is delayed and social security through MANREGA program also got hampered so special supply should be provided of construction material without any interruption for the MGNREGA program so that community assets may be provided and security can be enhanced with the increase in job opportunities to the migrant labours in their vicinity. It is very much required in this situation when so many labour have been displaced and are facing livelihood problem. Allocation of budget is still insufficient for such a huge program which is being run at national level.

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