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Comparative study of MGNREGA between Kadapa and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA) was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living in rural India, whether or not they are below the poverty line and around one-third of the stipulated workforce is women. The NREGA is the first ever law internationally that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. The Act came into force on February 2, 2006 and was implemented in a phased manner. Now the NREGA was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2nd October 2009 by the government order of S.O. 1860 (E), dated 30th July, 2010. The main objectives of the study are to study the evolution of MGNREGA and to know the performance of caste-wise job cards of MGNREGA between Kadapa and Chittoor districts. The Present Study is mainly based on secondary sources. This secondary data is collected from various Government of India Reports, MGNREGA site, Books, Articles, and Journals etc. With this data is to be used with the appropriate statistical techniques such as Mean, Coefficient of Variation (C.V), t-test and Annually Compound Growth Rates (ACGR) have been used for the study purpose. The results of the study indicated that there is a significant growth in job cards of the categories of Kadapa and Chittoor districts during the period from 2006-07 to 2015-16 and there is no much variation among SC, ST job cards, but compared to the three groups, it is noted that there is more consistency in distribution of job cards in non SC/ST category.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Kadapa, Chittoor, ACGR.

Introduction

The Ministry of Rural Development, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage of Rs.120 per day. The original version of the act was passed with Rs.60 per day as the minimum wage that needs to be paid under NREGA. However, a lot of states in India already have wage regulations with minimum wages set at more than Rs.100 per day. MGNREGA minimum wage has since been changed to Rs.120 per day. This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or un-skilled work to people living in rural India, whether or not they are below the poverty line and around one-third of the stipulated workforce is women.

The NREGA has become a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic governance. NREGA is the first ever law internationally that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. The act came into force on February 2, 2006 and was implemented in a phased manner. In Phase I it was introduced in 200 of the most backward districts of the country. It was implemented in an additional 130 districts for the fiscal year 2007-2008 in Phase II. The Act was notified in the remaining rural districts of the country from April 1, 2008 in Phase III. Now the NREGA act was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2nd October 2009 by the government order of S.O. 1860 (E), dated 30th July, 2010.

The main objectives of the act are firstly, to provide work in accordance with the scheme not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household

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in rural areas. Secondly, facilitate productive assets of prescribed quality and durability through wage employment. Thirdly, to strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. Fourthly, proactively ensure social inclusion and finally, to strengthen Panchayat Raj Institutions.

The works undertaken through MGNREGA give priority to activities related to Water harvesting, groundwater recharge, drought-proofing, and flood protection. Its focus on eco-restoration and sustainable livelihoods will lead over time, to an increase in land productivity and aid the workers in moving from wage employment to sustainable employment. Almost 80% of works relate to soil and water conservation. MGNREGA works by their very nature place stress on increasing land productivity, recharging ground water and increasing water availability. Recent amendment of the Act was to permit MGNREGA works on individual land of small and marginal farmers who constitute 89% of the farming

community, in addition to the individual land of SC/ST/BPL/IAY/ land reform beneficiaries will augment the impact on agricultural productivity and household income.

Caste-Wise Job Card Performance of MGNREGA in Kadapa and Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh state has thirteen districts, among the thirteen districts there are 655 blocks, 12, 996 Gram Panchayats, 90.67 lakh job cards have been issued and 208.91 lakh workers are working under MGNREGA. It was launched on February 2, 2006 from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and initially covered 200 of the "poorest" districts of the country. Also, it can foster social and gender equality as Scheduled Castes (15 Percent), Scheduled Tribes (17 percent) and women's (50 percent) are covered under the scheme.

Table 1: Caste-wise Job Card trends of MGNREGA in Kadapa district during 2006-07 to 2015-16

Year/Job Cards	SC Job Cards	ST Job Cards	Non-SC/ST Job Cards	Total job cards
2006-07	110001(28.44)	15176(3.92)	261562(67.63)	386739(100.00)
2007-08	116746(26.31)	16878(3.80)	310191(69.89)	443815(100.00)
2008-09	124976(25.97)	18323(3.81)	337949(70.22)	481248(100.00)
2009-10	128799(25.51)	17918(3.55)	358196(70.94)	504913(100.00)
2010-11	127343(24.98)	16619(3.26)	365901(71.76)	509863(100.00)
2011-12	126085(25.11)	16678(3.32)	359332(71.57)	502095(100.00)
2012-13	144079(24.66)	19735(3.38)	420527(71.97)	584341(100.00)
2013-14	147611(24.54)	20388(3.39)	433584(72.07)	601583(100.00)
2014-15	149522(24.45)	20644(3.38)	441365(72.17)	611531(100.00)
2015-16 Upto Oct 10 th	150491(24.38)	20781(3.37)	446043(72.26)	617315(100.00)

Note: Figures in brackets represents percentage share of total job cards

Source: Compiled from www.mgnregaweb4.com

It could be noted that from Table 1 that caste-wise job cards have been taken in Kadapa district of MGNREGA during the period from 2006-07 to 2015-16. The total job cards were raised twice as much as in 2005-06 to 2015-16; i.e., from 3,86,739 job cards to 6,17,315 job cards respectively. The SC job cards were noted that 1,10,001 (28.44 percent) in

2006-07, it was rose to 1,50,491 (24.38 percent) in 2015-16. The ST Job cards were increased from 15,176 (3.92 percent) in 2006-07 to 20,781 (3.37 percent) in 2015-16 and the non SC/ST job cards were raised from 2,61,562 (67.63 percent) to 4,46,043 (72.26 percent) in the above period.

Table 2: Caste-wise Job Cards trends of MGNREGA in Chittoor district during 2006-07 to 2015-16

Year/Job Cards	SC Job Cards	ST Job Cards	Non-SC/ST Job Cards	Total Job Cards
2006-07	153639(29.57)	33040(6.36)	332821(64.07)	519500(100.00)
2007-08	163981(27.80)	37140(6.30)	388813(65.91)	589934(100.00)
2008-09	169258(27.34)	38415(6.21)	411325(66.45)	618998(100.00)
2009-10	166585(27.65)	36719(6.09)	399260(66.26)	602564(100.00)
2010-11	167009(27.80)	34044(5.67)	399709(66.53)	600762(100.00)
2011-12	166068(27.38)	34774(5.73)	405721(66.89)	606563(100.00)
2012-13	185832(26.94)	39849(5.78)	464002(67.28)	689683(100.00)
2013-14	188535(26.80)	40437(5.75)	474602(67.46)	703574(100.00)
2014-15	190502(26.57)	40963(5.71)	485438(67.71)	716903(100.00)
2015-16 Upto Oct 10 th	191224(26.51)	41184(5.71)	489027(67.79)	721435(100.00)

Note: Figures in brackets represents percentage share to total job cards

Source: Compiled from www.mgnregaweb4.com

Table 2 clearly shows that caste-wise job cards in Chittoor district of MGNREGA during the period from 2006-07 to 2015-16. It clearly indicating that the total job cards were raised from 5,19,500 to 7,21,435 during the periods from 2006-07 to 2015-06 respectively. In 2006-07 the SC job cards were 1,53,639 (29.57 percent) and in 2015-16 these job

cards were 1,21,224 (26.51 percent). The ST job cards were noted that 33,040 (6.36 percent) in 2006-07, it was rose to 41,184 (5.71 percent) in 2015-16 and the non SC/ST job cards were raised 3,32,821 (64.04 percent) to 4,89,027 (67.79 percent) during the same period.

Results

Table 3: Caste-wise job cards analysis of MGNREGA in Kadapa and Chittoor districts

Job Cards	Kadapa			Chittoor		
	CGR	Mean	CV	CGR	Mean	CV
SCJob Cards	3.52 (9.21)*	132565	920.10	2.38(3.01)*	74263	1297.38
STJob Cards	3.12 (4.55)*	18314	922.76	1.95 (6.86)*	37657	1260.63
Non-SC/STJob Cards	5.59(8.91)*	373465	607.76	3.83 (7.00)*	425072	833.62
Total Job Cards	4.96 (9.21)*	524344	675.86	3.31 (6.82)*	636992	949.661

Note: Figures in brackets represents t-calculated value

*indicating at 0.05% level of significance

Source: Computed from Table 1 and Table 2

Table 3 represents the results of the caste-wise job cards of MGNREGA in Kadapa and Chittoor districts. Compound Growth Rates (CGR), Mean and Coefficient of Variation (CV) are computed for SC, ST and non SC/ST Job cards during the period from 2006-07 to 2015-16. Among the two districts, Kadapa district have shown higher growth rate (4.96 percent) of total job cards than Chittoor district growth rate (3.31 percent). In Kadapa district the non SC/ST Job cards have registered higher growth rate of 5.59 percent followed by SC job cards 3.52 percent and ST Job cards 3.12 percent. In Chittoor district the non SC/ST Job cards have registered higher growth rate of 3.83 percent followed by SC job cards 2.38 percent and ST Job cards 1.95 percent. The growth rates of all categories in Chittoor and Kadapa districts are significant at 5% level, indicating that there is a significant growth in job cards of the categories during the period from 2006-07 to 2015-16.

Conclusion

It could be concluded that, the SC job cards and ST job cards of MGNREGA were annually increasing in terms of numbers but compared to the percentage shares, the SC and ST job cards were gradually decreasing in the two districts of Kadapa and Chittoor during the period of 2006-07 to 2015-16. The non SC/ST job cards were also increasing marginally in terms of numbers and percentage shares in the two districts of Kadapa and Chittoor during the same period. From the results of the growth rates of all categories in Chittoor and Kadapa districts were increasing small rate of percentages. The Coefficient of Variation (C.V) of the above two districts were concluded that there is no much variation among SC, ST job cards, but compared to the three groups, it is noted that there is more consistency in distribution of job cards in non SC/ST category.

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