



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2016; 2(12): 148-151
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 22-10-2016
Accepted: 23-11-2016

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People's participation in MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

As per the provisions of the MGNREGA, the State of Andhra Pradesh prepared its own guidelines for the implementation of the scheme. All 22 rural districts in the state were covered by the scheme in a phased manner. Under the scheme any adult persons of a household may apply for the registration of works. In case if the registered person is not provided employment within fifteen days, he will get unemployment allowance. Under the scheme seven major works were identified. For the implementation of these works separate Rural Standard Scheduled Rates will be prepared. Under the scheme about 50 percent of the works shall be allotted to Gram Panchayat. There is a Provision for equal wages for both men and women. For proper vigilance and monitoring of works separate mechanism was introduced. For the transparency of scheme the concept of 'Social Audit' was introduced. The percentage of Households benefited by the scheme in the state is increasing year by year. The present paper makes caste wise analysis of the participation of rural mass in the MGNREGS. Besides, the paper examines the gender wise, disabled wise and SHG wise participation of people in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Keywords: MGNREGS, gram panchayat, social audit, job card

Introduction

Under the MGNREGA there is a provision for the registration of households for demanding work. Any adult person of a household may on behalf of the members of the household apply to the Gram Panchayat, in the jurisdiction of which they reside, for registration of their household for issuance of a Job Card. Individual/ Group of wage-seekers having Job Cards shall give individual or group application as the case may be, on a plain paper or in a printed form. Advance application giving details of the specific period of employment sought in the year may also be submitted. Same person/ group can submit multiple applications provided that the corresponding periods for which employment is sought do not overlap.

The Panchayat Secretary will accept the applications for work. The applications will be valid if the wage employment sought by a household is at least for fourteen days and the aggregate employment provided to the household is not more than hundred days. List of all such applications shall be maintained in the 'Applications for Work Register'.

The Gram Panchayat direct the applicant or group of applicants in writing, to work in any ongoing work or by starting a new work, within fifteen days of receiving applications seeking work or from the date of work being sought in case of advance application, whichever is later. He/She shall make necessary entries in the 'Applications for Work Register'.

Disabled persons may be provided wage-employment by entrusting suitable works in the form of services that are identified as integral to the programme. If it is not possible to provide work within the Gram Panchayat area the Gram Panchayat Secretary shall forward the applications for work to the Programme Officer. The Programme Officer shall coordinate with other Gram Panchayats within the Mandal and issue letter of employment to the applicant in the Gram Panchayat where work is available, by marking a copy to both the Panchayat Secretaries concerned and the Mandal Parishad Development Officer.

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Expansion of MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

The implementation of NREGA calls for the formulation of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by the State Governments. The Scheme so formulated is to provide for the minimum features specified in Schedule I of the Act and may prescribe conditions, which are without prejudice to the conditions specified in Schedule II of the Act. Accordingly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated the rules

and regulations for the implementation of the Scheme on 28th January 2006 to provide not less than one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas covered under the Scheme and whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to the conditions stipulated in the Act and notified in the Scheme. Table 1 gives the phase wise expansion of the programme in the state.

Table 1: Phase wise Coverage of Districts under MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Phases	Month and Year	Districts Covered
1	Phase-I	February 2006	Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahaboob Nagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy, Vijayanagaram, Warangal
2	Phase-II	May 2007	East Godavari, Kurnool, Guntur, Nellore, Prakasam and Srikakulam
3	Phase-III	April 2008	Krishna, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The table 1 shows that during the first phase the MGNREGS was launched in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, out of which all nine districts are from Telangana region of the state. In Rayalaseema region 3 districts and in coastal Andhra only one district was covered. The fundamental reason for the inclusion of large number of districts in Telangana and Rayalaseema region is that these districts are not well developed, when compared to other coastal districts of the state. During the second phase the scheme extended to 6 districts of the state, in which 5 districts are from coastal Andhra and one from Rayalaseema region. In the last phase 3 districts of coastal Andhra were covered under the scheme. In all 22 out of 23 districts were covered by the scheme. As this scheme is intended to provide employment

for the rural poor, the district of Hyderabad is not covered under this scheme.

Female Participation in MGNREGS

An important objective of MGNREGA has been to encourage women’s effective participation, both as workers and as administrators. For instance, according to MGNREGA guidelines, at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the programme. Further, since employment is provided within 5 km radius of the village, it has the potential to bolster women’s participation. The table 2 provides some insights into the implementation of the scheme in terms of providing equitable and easy access to work to rural women.

Table 2: Gender Wise Work and Wage Earning Analysis in Andhra Pradesh

Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Male registered	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221	9131221
Female registered	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124	8497124
Male working	544824	1768368	2656286	2883591	3033634	2457396	2762897	2787000	2583426
% Male Working	47.73	48.14	48.37	48.04	47.70	46.85	47.02	46.69	46.12
Female working	596689	1904793	2834858	3118667	3325893	2787911	3113323	3182313	3018626
%Female Working	52.27	51.86	51.63	51.96	52.30	53.15	52.98	53.31	53.88
Male wage (Rs.In Lakhs)	10113.51	36725.57	45305.51	84493.27	80683.21	82148.14	90705.55	89407.71	83722.53
% Male Wage	43.71	44.33	44.55	44.80	45.24	44.22	43.86	43.41	42.73
Female wage (Rs.In Lakhs)	13026.11	46117.75	56397.48	104125.2	97661.38	103624.67	116103.96	116546.16	112212.8
% Female Wage	56.29	55.67	55.45	55.20	54.76	55.78	56.14	56.59	57.27
Male average	81.15	79.72	82.3	89.35	97.3	99.18	108.03	114.53	129.05
Female average	78.97	79.09	80.62	87.23	94.79	95.35	102.67	108.11	122.07

Source: www.nrega.ap.gov.in

It is evident from table 2 that the number male and female registered under MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh is constant during nine years of study. The actual number of males working under the programme gradually increased during first five years of the study and last two years of study. The percentage of men working under the scheme ranges between 46.12 per cent to 48.14 per cent. The number of female working under MGNREGS in the state is gradually increasing except 2011-12 and 2014-15. The percentage of women participation under the scheme is highest i.e. 53.31 per cent in 2013-2014 and lowest i.e. 51.63 per cent in

2008-2009. The share of women wages to men wages is higher as their number is high under the scheme. The average wage for male is higher than female wage during 9 years of study of the programme in the state.

Caste Wise Work and Wage Analysis

Social category wise the number of workers working under MGNREGS the total number of days worked by each social category workers and the wages they received is presented in the table 3.

Table 3: Caste Community Work & Wage Analysis under MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
BC-No of regd HHs	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446	3701446
BC-No of working HHs	376627	1124883	1512471	1583043	1589821	1358517	1570269	1643157	1578813
% of BC- working HHs	10.18	30.39	40.86	42.77	42.95	36.70	42.42	44.39	42.65
BC-Total wage (Rs in Lakhs)	11145.42	39623.54	50499.78	94433.35	77155.28	79073.05	100785.62	102161.1	93746.79
BC-Days worked	13907055	48631414	62194056	108073223	82591345	83907854	98334296	95043853	76467631
SC-No of regd HHs	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665	2052665
SC-No of working HHs	208468	630536	837613	850374	859699	777592	846031	875701	832947
% of SC- working HHs	10.16	30.72	40.81	41.43	41.88	37.88	41.22	42.66	40.58
SC-Total wage (Rs in Lakhs)	6240.22	21392.64	25699.7	43547.47	36084.99	47951.45	46851.57	46869.69	43579.26
SC-Days worked	8089410.5	26533262	31733232	50374954	38795466	49846063	44925180	42120869	35371500
ST-No of regd HHs	716801	716801	716801	716801	716801	716801	716801	716801	716801
ST-No of working HHs	55229	188245	288019	332153	329528	301936	316298	322823	321597
% of ST- working HHs	7.70	26.26	40.18	46.34	45.97	42.12	44.13	45.04	44.87
ST-Total wage (Rs in Lakhs)	1312.96	6845.38	8792.05	23220.63	21734.24	29035.67	25132.45	23722.15	24494.43
ST-Days worked	1660784	8138929	10296051	24099468	20537969	28052572	22273693	19616515	17876621
Minorities-No of regd HHs	124902	124902	124902	124902	124902	124902	124902	124902	124902
Minorities-No of working HHs	7286	23933	35156	35221	37847	33746	38474	42694	40760
% of Minorities-working HHs	5.83	19.16	28.15	28.20	30.30	27.02	30.80	34.18	32.63
Minorities-Total wage (Rs in Lakhs)	236.03	957.66	1371.03	2146.6	1709.69	1849.5	2004.45	2151.67	2014.61
Minorities-Days worked	285982.5	1142999	1625641.5	2428586.5	1849079	1906668	1908898	1915996	1629970
Others-No of regd HHs	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555	1809555
Others-No of working HHs	154411	450706	578344	552380	546795	434056	517742	566372	559987
% of Others-working HHs	8.53	24.91	31.96	30.53	30.22	23.99	28.61	31.30	30.95
Others-Total wage (Rs in Lakhs)	4846.96	15191.61	17009.17	27648.75	22634.05	21802.85	27683.68	29685.62	30300.94
Others-Days worked	6027483	18786002	20789918	31615154	24328380	22670284	26633070	26527459	24526111

Source: ww.nrega.ap.gov.in

The data in table 3 shows that the number of registered households under different social categories is constant throughout nine years of the study. Among the working households percentage the BCs ranges between 10.18 per cent to 44.39 (2013-14) per cent. The percentage of working households among the registered Scheduled Caste households is lowest (10.16 per cent) in 2006-2007 and highest (42.66 per cent) in 2013-14. Among registered Scheduled Tribe household the highest percent (46.34) of household participated in MGNREGS in 2009-2010. The participation of registered minority households under MGNREGS ranges between 5.83 per cent (2006-07) to 34.18 per cent (2013-14). The other category household participation under MGNREGS is lowest (8.53 per cent) in 2006-07 and highest (31.96 per cent) in 2008-09.

The percentage of Backward Class working Households among total households is higher during 9 years of study in the state. The second place in this regard is occupied by Scheduled Caste households. The third and fourth places were occupied by others and Scheduled Tribes. The share of Minorities among total households participation never crossed 2 per cent.

Participation of SHG Women

There is a special data on the enrollment and participation of Self Help Groups (SHG) members in MGNREGS programme in the state. Table 4 gives the particulars of registered SHG members and working SHG members under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh state.

Table 4: SHG Participation in MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Year	Regd. SHG members	SHG Working	% of SHGs Working
2006-07	772752	108679	14.06
2007-08	772752	255659	33.08
2008-09	772752	338158	43.76
2009-10	772752	355408	45.99
2010-11	772752	362996	46.97
2011-12	772752	333730	43.19
2012-13	772752	354006	45.81
2013-14	772752	351502	45.49
2014-15	772752	336541	43.55

Source: www.nrega.ap.gov.in

It is clear from table 4 that the registered SHG members in the MGNREGS in the state are constant during the study period. The percentage of SHG women participating in the scheme showing gradual improvement during first five years of study. But after that it is erratically distributed. The highest and lowest per cent of SHG women participation in MGNREGS is registered in 2010-2011 and 2006-2007.

Participation of Physically Challenged

There are special provisions in MGNREGA for the participation to physically challenged persons. The concerned shall show such type of works which are suitable to their strength. Table 5 gives the particulars disabled participation in MGNREGS in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 5: Disable Participation in MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Year	Regd. Disabled members	Disabled Working	% of Disabled Working
2006-07	193987	10,504	5.41
2007-08	193987	30,542	15.74
2008-09	193987	43,547	22.45
2009-10	193987	46,078	23.75
2010-11	193987	46,514	23.98
2011-12	193987	50,818	26.20
2012-13	193987	71,493	36.85
2013-14	193987	77,406	39.90
2014-15	193987	75,181	38.76

Source: www.nrega.ap.gov.in

It is clear from table 5 that the number of registered disabled member under MGNREGS in the state is constant throughout nine years of study. The actual number of disabled working under the scheme is gradually increasing except in 2014-15. The percentage of disabled working under the scheme ranges between 5.41 per cent to 39.90 per cent.

Conclusion

The study outlines that the women participation in the MGNREGS is quite satisfactory compared to several other states of Indian Union. Among the total workers more than half of the workers are women. The caste wise analysis shows that more than 40 per cent of registered BC, SC and ST households participating in MGNREGS works from 2008-09 onwards. The participation SHG women are also showing upward trends from 2008-09 onwards. But the disabled participation in the works is limited.

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