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Performance statistics of MGNREGA: A case study in Nagaon and Morigaon districts, Assam

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Abstract

This paper aims at investigating into performance statistics of MGNREGA in two districts of Assam. The aspects of the study will be undertaken to include the effect of MGNREGA on the Standard of living, consumption pattern, expenses on health care, expenses on education, savings and also the benefits received from the implementation of MGNREGA like creation of social and economic assets, employment generation and eradication of poverty of the MGNREGA participating households in both the districts.

Keywords: MGNREGA, performance statistics, social & economic assets

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme that was notified on 7 September, 2005. The Act came into force on 2nd February, 2006. It is the biggest employment providing programme ever started in a country for the development of its rural areas. The main objective of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to participate in unskilled manual work. The Act is an important step towards realization of the right to work and aims at arresting emigration of rural household in search of employment simultaneously enhancing people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas.

The first phase of NREGA was started on February 2, 2006 in 200 districts of the country including seven districts of Assam. In the year 2007, the second phase of NREGA had started where five districts of Assam were also included. The third phase started on April 1, 2008 where remaining 15 districts of Assam came under the purview of the Act. Hence, at present all the districts of Assam are implementing the scheme of MGNREGA. On March 31, 2013 Assam completed seventh year of MGNREGA implementation.

NREGA through its diversified programmes on human development helps to ensure food security for all. It is the realization of Gandhi's dream to make India self-sufficient. The scheme has now been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Gandhiji taught us how unskilled manual labour can be made use of for the betterment of society.

MGNREGA has emerged as a very prominent area of interest among the academicians of the country and the world and a lot of studies have been taken up to explore analysis and discuss the various facts of the activities and its stages of implementations. The scheme had raised high expectations even before inception particularly for its potential to protect rural households from poverty and hunger, reduce rural-urban migration, as well as being instrumental in creating useful assets in rural areas.

The present work is carried out in the lines of (Sissal, Sharma 2014) ^[2], (Bora, Bordoloi 2014) ^[1], (De, Bhattacharyya 2013) ^[3] and Report (2008) for MRD prepared by Centre for Science and Environment

2. Objectives

Objectives of the study under taken go as

- a. Account on standard of living, consumption pattern, health, education and saving

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- b. Account on creation of social and economic assets, employment generation, eradication of poverty

3. Source of Data

The study has been carried out in Nagaon and Morigaon districts of Assam. Data used under this study is primary. Primary data are collected through well-structured questionnaire. There are 18 blocks in Nagaon district, out of 18 blocks a sample of 20%, which account for 4 blocks being chosen as the area of drawing sample. From each of chosen block, 20% GP has been selected randomly which account for 10 GPs. After being selected randomly, 20% households (having Job card) has been selected randomly from the villages within the selected GPs, which account for 1172 households

In Morigaon district there are 5 blocks, out of 5 blocks a sample of 20%, which account for 1(one) block is being chosen as the area of drawing sample. From the chosen block 20% GP, which account for 5 GPs are being selected randomly and selected 20% households (having Job card) randomly from the villages within the selected GP, which account for 1108 households.

4. Methodology

The effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, expanses on health care, expanses on education, savings and the benefits received from implementation of the MGNREGA like creation of social and economic assets, employment generation, eradication of poverty have been empirically examined. Descriptive, Graphic details have been used in the study.

5. Results and Analysis

5.1 Effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the Surveyed Households:

The impact of MGNREGA on the standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education

expenses and saving of the beneficiary families of the surveyed households is presented in tabular form in Table 5.1.1. These are expressed in percentage (Relative frequency). The standard of living of 56.57% of the MGNREGA participating households in Nagaon has improved as a result of the implementation of the scheme while 38.57% of households believe that their standard of living remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A small percentage of households (4.86%) reported that their standard of living has deteriorated during the study period. In Morigaon district 61.19% respondents stated that their standard of living has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while 34.39% of households believe that their standard of living remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A small percentage of households (4.42%) reported that their standard of living has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of standard of living of household in Morigaon district is high compared to Nagaon district.

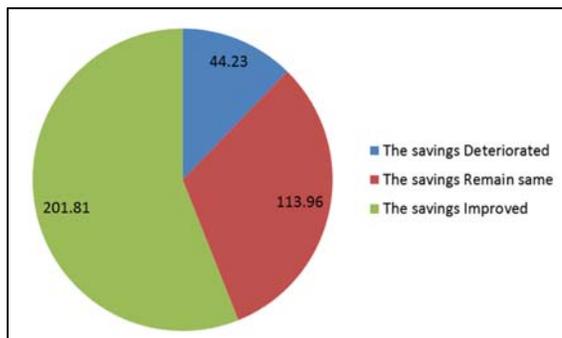
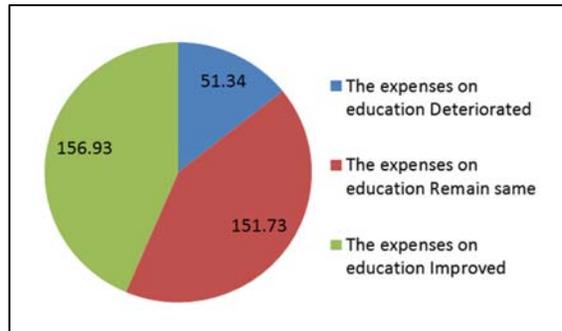
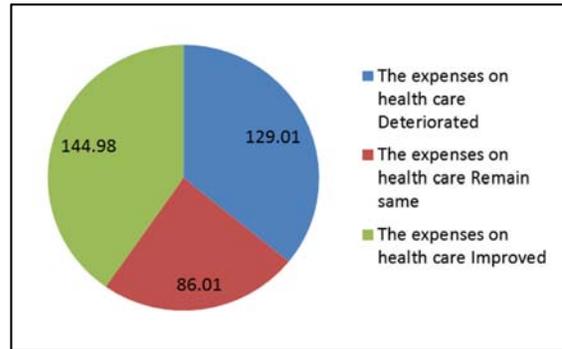
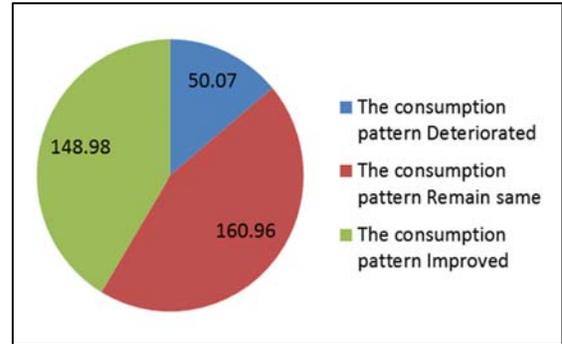
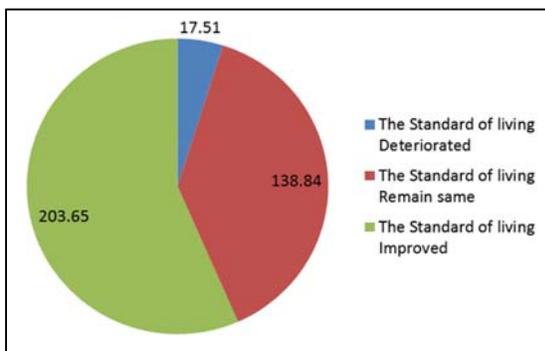
The effect of MGNREGA on the consumption pattern of the households has been assessed. 41.38% (Table 5.1.1) of the total surveyed MGNREGA participating households in Nagaon district stated that their consumption has improved during the study period, however, 44.71% of the total households stated that their consumption pattern remain unchanged and 13.91% of household reported that their consumption pattern has deteriorated. In Morigaon district 26.26% respondents stated that their consumption pattern has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while 58.03% of households believe that their consumption pattern remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of households (15.70%) reported that their consumption pattern has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of consumption pattern of household in Nagaon district is quite high compared to Morigaon district.

Table 5.1.1: Effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the Surveyed Households

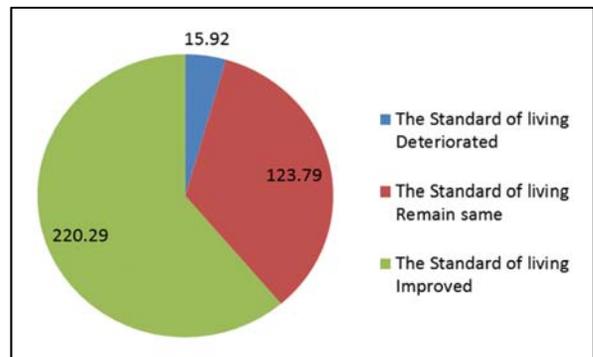
NREGA has an effect on		Nagaon			Morigaon		
		Count	Relative Frequency	% Relative Frequency	Count	Relative frequency	% Relative frequency
The Standard of living	Deteriorated	57	0.0486	4.86	49	0.0442	4.42
	Remain same	452	0.3857	38.57	381	0.3439	34.39
	Improved	663	0.5657	56.57	678	0.6119	61.19
Total		1172			1108		100
The consumption pattern	Deteriorated	163	0.1391	13.91	174	0.1570	15.70
	Remain same	524	0.4471	44.71	643	0.5803	58.03
	Improved	485	0.4138	41.38	291	0.2626	26.26
Total		1172			1108		100
The expenses on health care	Deteriorated	420	0.3584	35.84	393	0.3547	35.47
	Remain same	280	0.2389	23.89	338	0.3051	30.51
	Improved	472	0.4027	40.27	377	0.3403	34.03
Total		1172			1108		100
The expenses on education	Deteriorated	158	0.1348	13.48	158	0.1426	14.26
	Remain same	492	0.4198	41.98	467	0.4215	42.15
	Improved	522	0.4454	44.54	483	0.4359	43.59
Total		1172			1108		100
The savings	Deteriorated	144	0.1229	12.29	217	0.1958	19.58
	Remain same	371	0.3166	31.66	276	0.2491	24.91
	Improved	657	0.5606	56.06	615	0.5551	55.51
Total		1172			1108		100

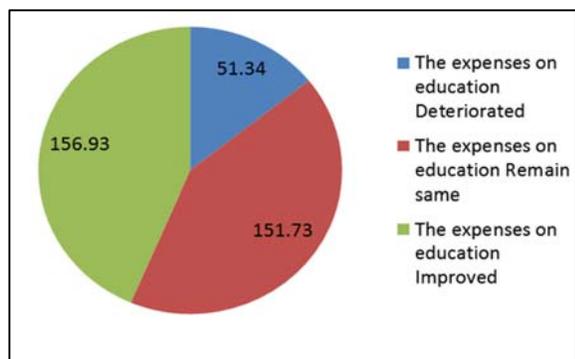
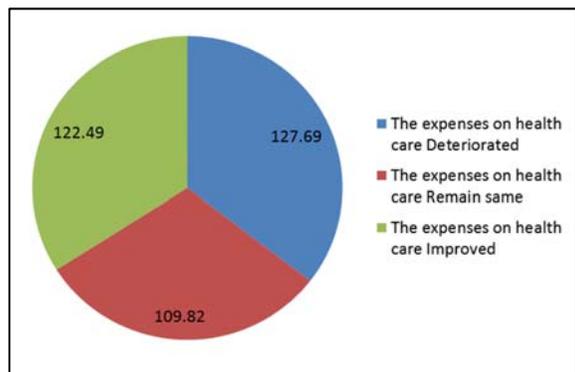
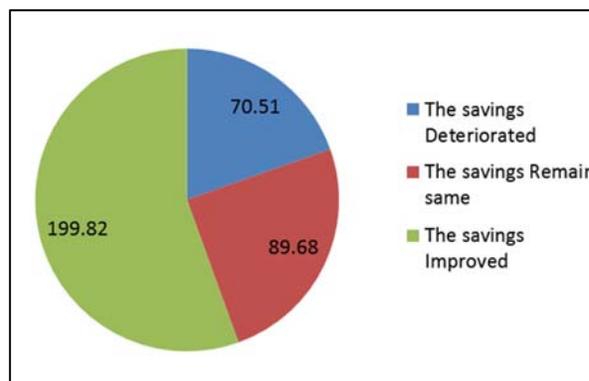
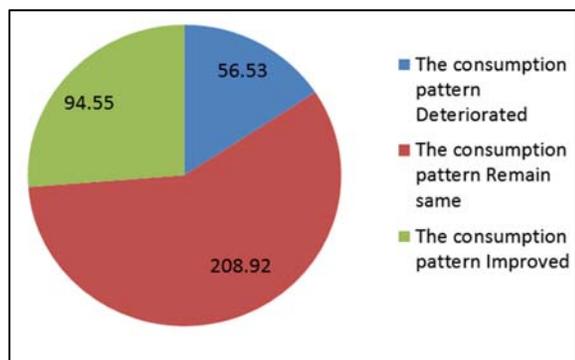
The effect of MGNREGA on the health care expenses of the households has been assessed. 40.27%(Table 5.1.1) of total surveyed household in Nagaon district stated that their health care expenses has improved while 23.89% of total households believe that their health care expenses remain unchanged and 35.84% of households reported that their health care expenses has deteriorated during the study period. In Morigaon district 34.03% respondents stated that their health care expenses has improved while 30.51% of households believe that their health care expenses remains unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of households (35.47%) reported that their health care expenses have deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of health care expenses of households in Nagaon district is quite high compared to Morigaon district. The expenses on education 44.54%(Table 5.1.1) of the MGNREGA participating households in Nagaon has improved as a result of the implementation of the scheme while 41.98% of households believe that their education expenses remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of households (13.48%) reported that their education expenses have deteriorated during the study period. However, in Morigaon district 43.59% of the MGNREGA respondents think that their education expenditure has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while, 42.15% of respondent stated that their education expenses have remain unchanged and a small percentage (14.26) of households believe that the education expenditure has decreased in spite of their participation in MGNREGA. The improvement of education expenses of households in both the districts is almost same. The opinion of the respondent’s families with regard to the effect of MGNREGA on the savings of the households is examined here. 50.06%(Table 5.1.1) of total surveyed household in Nagaon district stated that their savings has improved while 31.66% of total households believe that their savings remain unchanged and 12.29% of households reported that their savings has deteriorated during the study period. In Morigaon district 55.51% respondents stated that savings has improved while 24.91% of households believe that their savings remains unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of households (19.58%) reported that their savings has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of savings of households in Morigaon district is quite high compared to Nagaon district. The Effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the surveyed households in both the districts has been exhibited through pie diagrams.

Nagaon District



Morigaon District





5.2 Effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the Surveyed Households belongs to BPL and APL

The impact of MGNREGA on the standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the beneficiary families of the surveyed households belongs to BPL and APL is presented in tabular form in Table 5.2.1. These are expressed in percentage (Relative frequency). In the entire survey area the standard of living of 54.13% of the MGNREGA participating BPL households has improved as a result of the implementation of the scheme while 40.84% of BPL households believe that their standard of living remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A small percentage of BPL households (5.03%) reported that their standard of living has deteriorated during the study period. However, 68.77% (Table:5.2.1) APL respondents stated that their standard of living has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while 27.40% of APL households believe that their standard of living remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A small percentage of

Table: 5.2.1: Effect of MGNREGA on standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and saving of the Surveyed Households belongs to BPL and APL

NREGA has an effect on		BPL			APL			Total		
		Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency	Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency	Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency
The standard of living	Deteriorated	78	0.0503	5.03	28	0.0384	3.84	106	0.0465	4.65
	Remain same	633	0.4084	40.84	200	0.2740	27.40	833	0.3654	36.54
	Improved	839	0.5413	54.13	502	0.6877	68.77	1341	0.5882	58.82
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
The consumption pattern	Deteriorated	231	0.1490	14.90	106	0.1452	14.52	337	0.1478	14.78
	Remain same	777	0.5013	50.13	390	0.5342	53.42	1167	0.5118	51.18
	Improved	542	0.3497	34.97	234	0.3205	32.05	776	0.3404	34.04
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
The expenses on health care	Deteriorated	577	0.3723	37.23	236	0.3233	32.33	813	0.3566	35.66
	Remain same	398	0.2568	25.68	220	0.3014	30.14	618	0.2711	27.11
	Improved	575	0.3710	37.10	274	0.3753	37.53	849	0.3724	37.24
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
The expenses on education	Deteriorated	227	0.1465	14.65	89	0.1219	12.19	316	0.1386	13.86
	Remain same	656	0.4232	42.32	303	0.4151	41.51	959	0.4206	42.06
	Improved	667	0.4303	43.03	338	0.4630	46.30	1005	0.4408	44.08
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
The expenses on savings	Deteriorated	250	0.1613	16.13	111	0.1521	15.21	361	0.1583	15.83
	Remain same	423	0.2729	27.29	224	0.3068	30.68	647	0.2838	28.38
	Improved	877	0.5658	56.58	395	0.5411	54.11	1272	0.5579	55.79
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100

APL households (3.84%) reported that their standard of living has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of standard of living of APL households in the entire survey area is high compared to BPL households.

The effect of MGNREGA on the consumption pattern of the households belongs to BPL and APL has been assessed. 34.97% (Table 5.2.1) of the total surveyed area MGNREGA participating BPL households stated that their consumption has improved during the study period, however, 50.13% of the total BPL households stated that their consumption pattern remain unchanged and 14.90% of BPL household reported that their consumption pattern has deteriorated. In the entire survey area 32.05% APL respondents stated that their consumption pattern has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while 53.42% of APL households believe that their consumption pattern remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of APL households (14.52%) reported that their consumption pattern has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of consumption pattern of BPL households in the entire survey area is slightly high compared to APL households.

The effect of MGNREGA on the health care expenses of the BPL and APL households has been assessed. 37.10% (Table 5.2.1) of total surveyed BPL household in the entire survey area stated that their health care expenses has improved while 25.68% of total BPL households believe that their health care expenses remain unchanged and 37.23% of BPL households reported that their health care expenses has deteriorated during the study period. In the entire survey area 37.53% APL respondents stated that their health care expenses have improved while 30.14% of APL households believe that their health care expenses remains unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of APL households (32.33%) reported that their health care expenses have deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of health care expenses of BPL households is almost same to APL households.

The expenses on education 43.03% (Table 5.2.1) of the MGNREGA participating BPL households in the entire survey area has improved as a result of the implementation of the scheme while 42.23% of BPL households believe that

their education expenses remain unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of BPL households

(14.65%) reported that their education expenses have deteriorated during the study period. However, 46.30% of APL respondents think that their education expenditure has improved due to the participation in MGNREGA works while, 41.51% of APL respondent stated that their education expenses have remain unchanged and a small percentage (12.19) of APL households believe that the education expenditure has decreased in spite of their participation in MGNREGA. The improvement of education expenses of APL households is high compared to BPL households.

The opinion of the respondent’s families (BPL and APL) with regard to the effect of MGNREGA on the savings of the households is examined here. 56.58%(Table 5.2.1) of total surveyed BPL household in Nagaon and Morigaon districts (combined) stated that their savings has improved while 27.29% of BPL households believe that their savings remain unchanged and 16.13% of BPL households reported that their savings has deteriorated during the study period. However 54.11% APL respondents stated that savings has improved while 30.68% of APL households believe that their savings remains unchanged in spite of the implementation of the program. A percentage of APL households (15.21%) reported that their savings has deteriorated during the study period. The improvement of savings of BPL households is high compared to APL.

5.3 Benefits of the people from the implementation of MGNREGA

The benefits received by the people from MGNREGA in terms of economic and social assets creation, eradication of poverty and employment generation is examined on the basis of data generated through field survey. The respondent view’s on the fulfillment of the objective of MGNREGA to create economic and social assets, generate employment, eradicate poverty in the surveyed households is presented in tabular form in Table 5.2.1. These are expressed in percentage (Relative frequency).

Table: 5.3.1: Benefits received from implementation of MGNREGA

Benefits received from implementation of NREGA		Nagaon			Morigaon			Total		
		Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency	Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency	Count	Relative frequency	% of relative frequency
Creation of Social and Economic assets	No	182	0.1553	15.53	95	0.0857	8.57	277	0.1215	12.15
	Yes	990	0.8447	84.47	1013	0.9143	91.43	2003	0.8785	87.85
Total		1172		100	1108		100	2280		100
Employment Generation	No	159	0.1357	13.57	80	0.0722	7.22	239	0.1048	10.48
	Yes	1013	0.8643	86.43	1028	0.9278	92.78	2041	0.8952	89.52
Total		1172		100	1108		100	2280		100
Eradication of poverty	No	608	0.5188	51.88	422	0.3809	38.09	1030	0.4518	45.18
	Yes	564	0.4812	48.12	686	0.6191	61.91	1250	0.5482	54.82
Total		1172		100	1108		100	2280		100

It has been observed that 84.47 % (Table: 5.3.1) respondents in Nagaon district think that the MGNREGA is able to create Social and Economic assets while 15.53% respondents feel that it cannot create Social and Economic assets. In Morigaon district 91.43% respondents think that

MGNREGA is able to create Social and Economic assets, however only a few (8.57%) respondents feel that it cannot create Social and Economic assets. In the entire survey area 87.85% respondents have opined that MGNREGA can create Social and Economic assets while only 12.15%

respondents feel that it cannot create Social and Economic assets.

One of the basic objectives of MGNREGA is that, it has to provide 100 days of unskilled manual work to the households registered under the scheme. In the present study, it has been observed that 86.43% (Table: 5.3.1) of surveyed household of Nagaon district think that the scheme is able to fulfill the objective of employment generation in the rural areas while only 13.57% respondents give negative opinion. However, in Morigaon district 92.78% respondents think that the scheme is able to generate employment and only a few (7.22%) respondents feel

that it cannot generate employment in the rural areas. In the entire survey area 89.52% respondents have opined that MGNREGA can generate employment while only 10.48% respondents feel that it cannot generate employment.

The respondent view's on the fulfillment of the objective of MGNREGA to eradicate poverty in rural area is presented in Table: 5.3.1. It has been observed that 48.12% of the respondents in Nagaon district think that the MGNREGA is able to eradicate poverty while 51.88% respondents feel that it cannot eradicate poverty. However 61.91% of the surveyed households in Morigaon district also believe that it can eradicate poverty in rural area while 38.09% respondents feel that it cannot eradicate poverty. In the entire survey area 54.82% respondents have opined that MGNREGA can eradicate rural poverty. 45.18% respondents feel that it cannot eradicate rural poverty as the adequate number of people is not getting job opportunity and the wage rate is not sufficient.

5.4 Benefits of the households belongs to BPL and APL from implementation of MGNREGA

The benefits received by the people belongs to BPL and APL from MGNREGA in terms of economic and social assets creation, eradication of poverty and employment generation is examined on the basis of data generated through field survey. The respondent view's on the fulfillment of the objective of MGNREGA to create economic and social assets, generate employment, eradicate poverty in the surveyed BPL and APL households is presented in tabular form in Table 5.4.1. These are expressed in percentage (Relative frequency).

In the entire survey area it has been observed that 88.84% (Table: 5.4.1) BPL respondents think that MGNREGA can able to create Social and Economic assets, while only 11.16% BPL respondents feel that it cannot create Social and Economic assets. However 85.75% APL respondents believe that it can create Social and Economic assets and only a few percentages (14.25%) APL respondents feel that it cannot create Social and Economic assets.

In the present study, it has been observed that 90.65% (Table: 5.4.1) of surveyed BPL household of Nagaon and Morigaon districts(combined) think that the scheme is able to fulfill the objective of employment generation in the rural areas while only 9.35% respondents give negative opinion. However, 87.12% APL respondents think that the scheme is able to generate employment and only a few percentages of APL respondents (12.88%) feel that it cannot generate employment.

Table 5.4.1: Benefits of the households belongs to BPL and APL from implementation of MGNREGA

Benefits received from implementation of NREGA		BPL			APL			Total		
		Count	relative frequency	%of relative frequency	Count	relative frequency	%of relative frequency	Count	relative frequency	%relative frequency
Creation of Social and Economic assets	No	173	0.1116	11.16	104	0.1425	14.25	277	0.1215	12.15
	Yes	1377	0.8884	88.84	626	0.8575	85.75	2003	0.8785	87.85
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
Employment Generation	No	145	0.0935	9.35	94	0.1288	12.88	239	0.1048	10.48
	Yes	1405	0.9065	90.65	636	0.8712	87.12	2041	0.8952	89.52
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100
Eradication of poverty	No	671	0.4329	43.29	359	0.4918	49.18	1030	0.4518	45.18
	Yes	879	0.5671	56.71	371	0.5082	50.82	1250	0.5482	54.82
Total		1550		100	730		100	2280		100

The respondent view's on the fulfillment of the objective of MGNREGA to eradicate poverty in the surveyed area of BPL and APL households is presented in Table: 5.4.1. It has been observed that 56.71% of BPL respondents think that the MGNREGA is able to eradicate poverty while 43.29% BPL respondents feel that it cannot eradicate poverty. However 50.82% of the surveyed APL households also believe that it can eradicate poverty in rural area while 49.18% respondents feel that it cannot eradicate poverty.

6. Conclusion

The conclusions that may be drawn from the study go as follows:

- The implementation of MGNREGA in two surveyed districts has definitely impacted positively in terms of standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and savings.

- The improvement of standard of living of household in of MGNREGA participating households in Morigaon district (61.19%) is high compared to Nagaon district (56.57%).
- The improvement of consumption pattern of MGNREGA participating household in Nagaon district (41.38%) is quite high compared to Morigaon district (26.26%).
- The improvement of health care expenses of MGNREGA participating households in Nagaon district (40.27%) is quite high compared to Morigaon district (34.03%).
- The improvement of education expenses of MGNREGA participating households in both the districts (Nagaon: 44.54%, Morigaon: 43.59%) is almost same.

- The improvement of savings of MGNREGA participating households in Morigaon district (55.51%) is quite high compared to Nagaon district (50.06%).
- The MGNREGA has positively impacted on the improvement of standard of living, consumption pattern, health care expenses, education expenses and domestic savings of the MGNREGA participating BPL and APL households.
- Regarding the prospects; the study discloses that the MGNREGA has created Social and Economic assets in rural areas. The study found that 84.47% households in Nagaon district and 91.43% households in Morigaon district believe that the MGNREGA is able to create Social and Economic assets in their area. Further, 48.12% in Nagaon and 61.91% in Morigaon district believe that the MGNREGA is able to eradicate poverty in the rural area. Majority of the respondents in both districts think that the scheme is able to fulfill the objective of employment generation in their area.
- In the present study, it has been observed that majority of surveyed BPL and APL households of Nagaon and Morigaon districts(combined) think that the MGNREGA is able to fulfill the objectives of employment generation, eradication of poverty and creation of Social and Economic assets in the rural areas.

The implementation of MGNREGS in these two surveyed districts has definitely impacted positively in terms of different parameters of development.

7. Acknowledgement

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