

AWARENESS ABOUT MGNREGA: A STUDY DONE AT GADAG DISTRICT

***Sowmya. R**

****Dr. A. JayakumarShetty**

* Research Scholar, Department of Studies and Research in Economics, Tumkur University

** Associate Professor, Department of Studies and Research in Economics, SDM (Autonomous) College, Ujjire

Abstract:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was passed by the Parliament of India with the major aim of providing employment to the rural poor for ensuring sustainable rural development in India. The panchayats in rural area are given the authority to create employment to the rural population, thereby it is the responsibility of the panchayats to create awareness about the provisions of MGNREGA among the rural poor. The present study is an attempt to know the level of awareness of rural population in Gadag district about the provisions of MGNREGA. The primary data is collected through questionnaire which are analyzed to know whether the people of five different blocks of Gadag district are aware of the provisions of the act or not. The study has revealed that most of the people are not aware of the provisions of MGNREGA and hence necessary actions have to be taken by the authorities to create awareness about the provisions of the act.

Keywords: Awareness, Provisions, MGNREGA, Authorities

INTRODUCTION

The MGNREGA was passed by the Indian Parliament on August 23, 2005 during the monsoon session. The president of India gave his assent for the MGNREGA on September 5, 2005 and it was notified on September 7, 2005. In the first phase, the act was implemented in 200 most backward districts of India. Later on its coverage was extended to another 130 districts in the second phase. On April 1, 2008 the act was implemented in all the districts of India. The MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by promising hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. (Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India).

Being the first tangible commitment to the poor MGNREGA is considered as the unique scheme of Government of India. It enshrines the right to work of the people defined under the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV, Article 39 (a) and Article 41, Constitution of India). Thus MGNREGA is making a difference to the lives of the rural poor by providing them the employment. MGNREGA is one of the few experiments in the world to provide alternative source of livelihood and is very significant for various reasons like reducing migration, growth in education and healthcare spending.

The popular perception about MGNREGA is that it is a wage-employment platform. Other perceptions related with it are labor problem, delays in wage-payments and constraining processes. Certainly this is not a promising picture. Indeed, at present there are many challenges in guaranteeing smooth implementation of MGNREGA and many reforms are needed in its current design and procedures. However, this is one side of the coin. The other side of the coin presents a more positive picture. Ground level experience demonstrates that Gram Panchayats and communities can certainly use it for strengthening their livelihoods and thereby enhance the quality of their lives.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Poverty and Unemployment are the main characteristics of the developing countries like India. For the eradication of poverty and reduction of the unemployment in the nation, the Government has taken necessary steps like implementing new programs for the development of the nation. One such program introduced by the Government of India is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The main objective of MGNREGA is creation of employment in rural areas for both men and women. Understanding the level of awareness about the provisions of MGNREGA by the people is essential to measure the success of the act. Hence a small study is done to know the level of awareness of people about MGNREGA in Gadag district of Karnataka.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the importance of MGNREGA in Gadag district.
2. To analyze the level of awareness of people about the provisions of MGNREGA in Gadag district.
3. To suggest measures for creating awareness about MGNREGA in Gadag district.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is an analytical study done in the five taluks of Gadag district of Karnataka. The primary data required for the study was collected through questionnaire from 400 samples of respondents from Gadag district. The sample distribution from each taluk is shown in the below table. The secondary data was collected through journals, books and websites. The collected data were analyzed using the appropriate statistical techniques.

Sl. No.	Name of the taluk	Sample Size
1	Mundargi	80
2	Nargund	80
3	Shirahatti	80
4	Gadag	80
5	Ron	80
	Total	400

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

With the major aim of enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas, MGNREGA has helped in the upliftment of socio-economic conditions of rural poor in Gadag district. Gadag has a good focus on the agriculture sector with the net sown area of 86% and agriculture is its highest employment generator with 40% of SSI engaged in this sector lending itself as Agro-investment region. Since agriculture is a seasonal occupation, there is a need to provide employment to farmers throughout the year which is done by MGNREGA. The table below shows the employment provided by MGNREGA in Gadag district for the financial year 2019-2020.

Table 1: Employment Provided in Gadag district for Financial Year 2019 - 2020

Block	Employment Generated during 2019-2020		Employment Generated during 2018-2019		Percentage Change in Employment Generated (%)
	House Hold Employed	Person days of work Generated	House Hold Employed	Person days of work Generated	
Gadag	14414	542759	10433	392534	38.16
Mundaragi	12945	458478	12639	717394	2.42
Naragund	3786	88118	3713	105496	1.97

Ron	18994	603917	16001	737311	18.71
Shirahatti	16410	501263	16568	705294	-0.95
Total	66549	2194535	59354	2658029	12.12

Table 1 shows percentage change in employment generated through MGNREGA in Gadag district. During 2018-19, 59354 households were employed with 2658029 person days of work and during 2019-20, it increased to 66549 households employed with 2194535 person days of work. This indicates that there is an increase of 12.12% of work generated from 2018-19 to 2019-20 which is a sign of improvement. It shows that MGNREGA is helping the rural poor to increase their standard of living through employment creation.

Table 2: Works done under MGNREGA in Gadag district during the financial year 2019 - 2020

Block	Completed	In-prog./Suspended Work	Approved not in progress	Proposed not yet approved
Gadag	819	4590	3491	900
Mundaragi	643	6279	3375	946
Naragund	279	1852	1920	1169
Ron	877	7634	7191	1067
Shirahatti	1334	4697	4094	974
Total	3952	25052	20071	5056

The total number of works done under MGNREGA in Gadag district during the financial year 2019-20 is shown in table 2. As per the Department of Rural Development, Government of India, 2019-20, 3952 MGNREGA works were completed, 25052 works are in progress, 20071 works are approved but not in progress and 5056 works are proposed but not approved in Gadag district. It shows that MGNREGA is creating more works in Gadag district which is helping in the creation of asset and the improvement of socio economic standards of rural poor in Gadag district.

Awareness of Respondents about the Provisions of MGNREGA

MGNREGA has various provisions offered to the beneficiaries like number of working guaranteed, extra 10% wage for working outside 5 KM radius of the village, awareness about unemployment allowance under MGNREGA, awareness about worksite facilities of MGNREGA, Availability of worksite facilities of MGNREGA and Awareness about grievance redressal process under MGNREGA. The analysis of the opinion of respondents regarding the provisions of MGNREGA is explained in table 3 to table 7.

Table 3: Number of Working Days Guaranteed under MGNREGA

Sl. No.	Number of Working Days Guaranteed	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	100 days	52	63	66	72	55	308	77
2	More than 100 days	5	6	5	3	8	27	6.75
3	Less than 100 days	23	11	9	5	17	65	16.25
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100

Table 3 shows the awareness of respondents about the number of working days guaranteed under MGNREGA. According to the opinion of respondents 77% are aware that 100 working days are guaranteed under MGNREGA, 6.75% of the respondents said that more than 100 working days are guaranteed under MGNREGA and 16.25% of the respondents said that less than 100 working days are guaranteed under MGNREGA. It indicates that majority of the respondents are aware that 100 working days are guaranteed under MGNREGA

Table 4: Awareness of respondents about extra 10% wage for working outside 5 KM radius of the village under MGNREGA

Sl. No.	Awareness of Respondents	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Aware	24	13	32	29	22	120	30
2	Not Aware	56	67	48	51	58	280	70
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100

The awareness of respondents about extra 10% wage for working outside 5 KM radius of the village is shown in table 4. There are only 30% of the respondents who know about the extra 10% wage for working outside 5 KM radius of the village and majority of the respondents i.e., 70% of the respondents are not aware about the extra 10% wage for working outside 5 KM radius of the village and hence the authorized people should inform about the provisions of MGNREGA to the people.

Table 5: Awareness of respondents about the unemployment allowance under MGNREGA

Sl. No.	Awareness of Respondents	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Aware	39	34	21	47	38	179	44.75
2	Not Aware	41	46	59	33	42	221	55.25
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100
If aware, Are the respondents getting the unemployment allowance								
Sl. No.	Receiving Unemployment Allowance	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Receiving	33	25	19	36	34	147	82.12
2	Not Receiving	6	9	2	11	4	32	17.88
	Total	39	34	21	47	38	179	100

If Not Aware, Have the respondents asked for unemployment allowance								
Sl. No.	Asked for Unemployment Allowance	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Asked	19	29	37	29	28	142	64.25
2	Not Asked	22	17	22	4	14	79	35.75
	Total	41	46	59	33	42	221	100

Table 5 depicts the details regarding the awareness of respondents about the unemployment allowance under MGNREGA. It shows that (179) 44.75% of the respondents are aware of the unemployment allowance paid under MGNREGA, out of this 179 respondents 82.12% are receiving the unemployment allowance and the remaining 17.88% are not receiving the unemployment allowance. There are (221) 55.25% of the respondents who are not aware about the unemployment allowance paid under MGNREGA, out of this 221 respondents 64.25% have asked for the unemployment allowances and the remaining 35.75% have not asked for the unemployment allowances. This analysis shows that majority of the respondents are not aware of the provision of unemployment allowance under MGNREGA, the concerned authorities should conduct awareness programmes for the people to know about the provisions of MGNREGA.

Table 6: Awareness of respondents about worksite facilities of MGNREGA

Sl. No.	Awareness of Respondents	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Aware	56	69	63	71	64	323	80.75
2	Not Aware	24	11	17	9	16	77	19.25
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100

Table 6 shows the opinion of respondents regarding the awareness about worksite facilities of MGNREGA. The responses have revealed that 80.75% of the respondents are aware of the worksite facilities of MGNREGA and 19.25% are not aware of the worksite facilities of MGNREGA. This indicates that majority of the respondents are aware of the worksite facilities of MGNREGA as they are explained to them in the meetings of MGNREGA.

Table 7: Respondents opinion of the availability of worksite facilities of MGNREGA

Sl. No.	Availability of Facilities	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Available	47	43	52	57	48	247	61.75
2	Not Available	33	37	28	23	32	153	38.25
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100

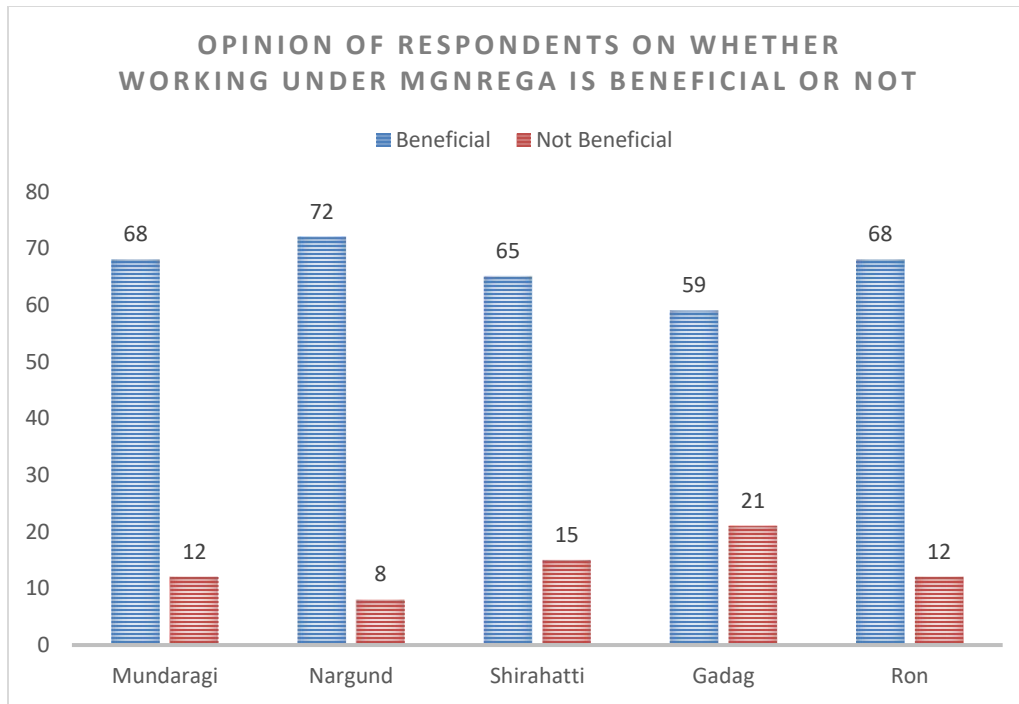
The opinion of respondents about the availability of worksite facilities on MGNREGA is shown in table 7. As per the collected data 61.75% of the respondents said that worksite facilities of MGNREGA are available for them and 38.25% of the respondents said that worksite facilities are not available to them. Hence the authorities should concentrate on the equitable distribution of worksite facilities to all without any discrimination.

Table 8: Awareness of respondents about grievance redressal process under MGNREGA

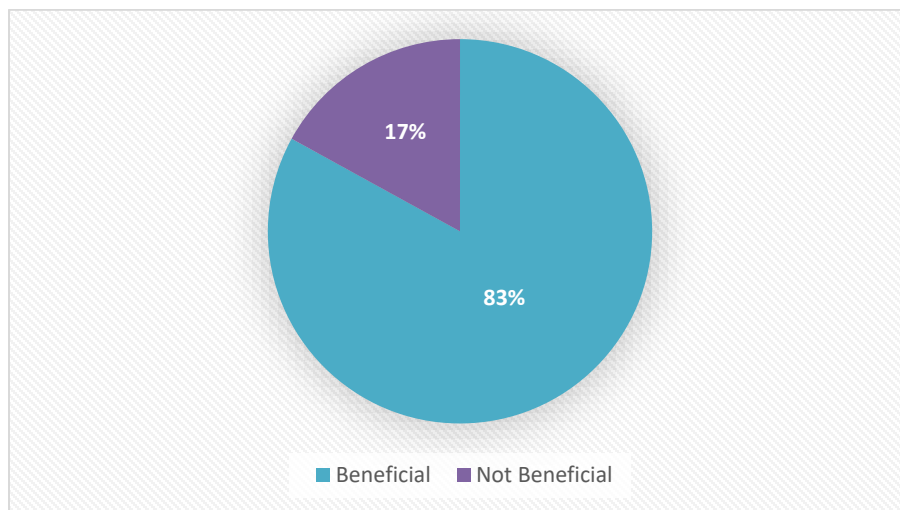
Sl. No.	Awareness of Respondents	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Aware	38	44	39	46	47	214	53.5
2	Not Aware	42	36	41	34	33	186	46.5
	Total	80	80	80	80	80	400	100

Table 8 shows the opinion of respondents regarding their awareness about the grievance redressal process of MGNREGA. There are 53.5% of the respondents who are aware of the grievance redressal process of MGNREGA and 46.5% of the respondents are not aware of the grievance redressal process. It indicates that even though more numbers of respondents are aware of the grievance redressal process of MGNREGA, still many are not aware of it and so the concerned authorities should explain the process of grievance handling to the workers clearly.

Graph 1: Respondents opinion on whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial



Graph 2: Respondents opinion on whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial or not in Gadag district



The respondents’ opinion on whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial or not in the five blocks of Gadag district namely Mundaragi, Nargund, Shirahatti, Gadag and Ron is shown in the graph 1. The opinion of respondents on whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial or not in Gadag district is shown in the graph 2. As per the obtained data 83% of the respondents opine that working under MGNREGA is beneficial and 17% of the respondents opine that working

under MGNREGA is not beneficial for them in Gadag district. Here majority of the respondents said that working under MGNREGA is beneficial as they are able to meet their day to day expenses with the money earned from MGNREGA works.

Table 9: Reasons for whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial or not

If Beneficial, Reasons								
Sl. No.	Reasons for Benefits	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	Better Wage	57	61	52	49	65	284	85.54
2	Worksite Facilities	42	41	39	41	38	201	60.54
3	Less Heavy Work	47	39	33	29	41	189	56.93
4	Worksite near Home	48	51	59	47	39	244	73.49
5	Regular Work	12	21	23	14	19	89	26.81
6	Employment During Lean Period	27	32	33	29	35	156	46.99
If Not Beneficial, Reasons								
Sl. No.	Reasons for Not Benefits	Number of respondents					Total Number of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
		Mundaragi	Nargund	Shirahatti	Gadag	Ron		
1	No other work is available	8	5	8	14	6	39	57.35
2	Family Problem	5	6	9	12	4	36	52.94
3	Worksite is near home	10	6	12	8	9	45	66.18
4	Works are easy	11	4	10	16	7	48	70.59
5	Any other	5	2	4	9	4	24	35.29

Table 9 shows the opinion of respondents on whether working under MGNREGA is beneficial or not. According to the obtained responses majority of the respondents i.e., 85.54% said that working under MGNREGA is beneficial as it yields better wages to the workers and 70.59% of the respondents said that working under MGNREGA is not beneficial as the works are easy which yields less amount of work and lower amount of job security to the workers.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is proving to be the best option for the economic upliftment of rural population in India. Gadag, being an agricultural district of Karnataka needs additional employment opportunities that are created by MGNREGA. The people of Gadag district are utilizing the benefits of MGNREGA for the development of their socio-economic conditions. The analysis of the level of awareness of respondents about the provisions of MGNREGA in Gadag district has revealed that 100 person days of working are provided to the households through which the people are able to meet their basic needs. It was also identified that the government has to take measures to make the people aware about the various provisions of MGNREGA like the availability of unemployment allowance, worksite facilities, equitable distribution of worksite facilities to all, process of grievance handling etc. Thus it can be said that with the implementation of policies for creating adequate awareness about MGNREGA, the government can meet the objective of enhancing the sustainable livelihood of the rural population in Gadag district.

References:

- MGNREGA (2019). Period Wise Employment Provided For Financial Year 2019 – 2020. Retrieved from https://mnregaweb2.nic.in/netnrega/homestciti.aspx?state_code=15&state_name=KARNATAKA Accessed on 20th September 2019.
- MGNREGA (2019). Works under MGNREGA during Financial Year 2019 – 2020. Retrieved from https://mnregaweb2.nic.in/netnrega/state_html/pmsr.aspx?lflag=local&state_code=15&state_name=KARNATAKA&page=D&district_code=1514&district_name=GADAG&fin_year=2019-2020&finyear=2019-2020&Digest=DHXCiKL+YQHfh6ETEc1j+A. Accessed on 20th September 2019.
- Vikaspedia (2019). Overview of MGNREGA. Retrieved from <http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/rural-employment-related-1/mgnrega/rural-employment-related>. Accessed on 18th September 2019.