



Role of Women In Mgnrega In Kaithal District Of Haryana India


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ABSTRACT

Poverty and unemployment remain the main issue in India. These issues are mostly found in rural areas. The Government of India has been formulating various programs for rural growth and poverty eradication. One such programmed is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), a successful program in promoting gender equality, empowering women, and creating long-lasting infrastructure in rural areas providing employment. The study was conducted in the Kaithal district of Haryana covering a sample of 100 beneficiaries. The collected data has been analyzed using simple frequency and percentage analysis, descriptive analysis, and correlation analysis. The results have revealed that the program was successful in empowering the women of the district.

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INTRODUCTION

Since our independence, poverty and unemployment remain unsolved problems to this date. There is rural suffering in India and the rural people lack basic facilities like access to drinking water, medical aid, and nutrition. Unemployment remains an everlasting problem, even though there is a profuse human resource in the country. Such human resource is under-utilized and is under-developed. Such human resources, if directed towards the development of our country can make a huge change for our nation. The Government of India has been formulating various programs for rural growth since 80 percent of the Indian poor live in rural areas. One such program is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) which has been a successful program in promoting gender equality, empowering women, and creating long-lasting infrastructure in rural areas by providing employment. The program was implemented firstly in the year 2006 and has managed to sustain and be successful despite many political changes.

CONCEPT OF MGNREGA AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

The empowerment of women has become a very important issue in today's socio-economic environment. Rural women are still hesitant to make decisions and lack Confidence feels in themselves. They are always Depend on the male members of their family and do not speak out in public. The provisions of MGNREGA such as equal wages for men and women and 33.33 percent reservation for women laborers' show that the act supports women's empowerment. Many studies



have proven that MGNREGA has been successful in empowering women across many states in India. The provision of the act which supports women empowerment is:-

- The act requires 1/3rd of the laborers' engaged in a particular area to be women laborers'.
- The 100 days of employment are guaranteed even to women and equal wages are provided to both men and women.
- The act requires a local vigilance and monitoring committee to be formed consisting of members from the locality or nearest village, in which SC/STs women are also represented.
- Importance is given to women for participation in social audits. Single women and old women are required to be given work within 5 km of their residence as per the act.
- The act provides support for child-care at work and has also mentioned the provisions of facilities at the worksite which should be convenient.
- Single women are also considered as household and work are given to them which help the divorced and widowed women to be self-reliant and independent.
- Individual bank/post office accounts must be opened by the women to whom their wages will be credited. This gives them control over their earnings.

LITERATURE REVIEW

MGNREGA has been a very important Government scheme for research. Many studies have been conducted on the program to bring out how well the program has been implemented across India and the extent of its success in alleviating the status of the rural poor. The following literature reviews will give a broad view of MGNREGA.

Kant and Ashbin (2013) study the participation of women in MGNREGA across various states in India, focusing even on some districts of Uttar Pradesh. It was experimental that many states had employed more than 33.33% women under the program, which was commendable. Also, there was a high level of satisfaction among the women beneficiaries since they received equal wages as their male counterparts. The study concluded that the program had brought economic independence to women, which had led to their social, economic empowerment.

Vinita Arora, Kulshreshtha, and Upadhyay (2013) examine the significance of MNREGS on empowering women in the Rohtak district of Haryana. The study was based on primary data collected from 250 respondents and was analyzed using simple percentage analysis. The results indicated that MNREGS had a significant benefit for the women. Further, the program had succeeded in rising the employment level of rural women by provided that income to them and increased their purchasing power and confidence.

Lavanya and Mahima (2013) have studied focused on analyzing the empowerment of rural women through MGNREGA with special references to Palakkad. The findings of the study revealed that women are benefited individually because they can earn independently spend some money for their own hands, contribute to their family expenditure. The study concluded that MGNREGA economically empowering women and laying the basis for greater independence and self-esteem. It has become a beacon of light in the empowerment of rural women and contributed substantially to the increased living and economic conditions.

Bhutan (2013) the observation analyses the effect of MGNREGA on the ladies beneficiaries in Rural Bangalore, Karnataka. In the interview, the beneficiaries opined that there have been bad worksite facilities, delays in the price of wages, and postponement to problem task cards. They have a look at recommends a boom in employment days and bringing professional paintings to MGNREGA. Further, the writer located that using regionally for the paintings might lessen migration and be useful

to the ladies.

Xavier and Mari (2014) have examine attempt to compare the effect of MGNREGA on the socio-financial empowerment of ladies in Kalakkanmoi panchayat of Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu. They have a look at unearths that the MGNREGA will increase earnings and expenditure of the families in comparison over the pre MGNREGA duration and the scheme extensively complements the social and financial decision-making energy to ladies with inside the men-ruled rural society. Hence the scheme guarantees the progressed popularity of residing of the prone bad, extra in particular amongst ladies.

Saharia (2014) evaluations the economic empowerment of women due to MGNREGA from the following angles. Employment opportunity, women as income earner wage parity, control rights of women in earning from MGNREGA, monetary inclusion, bargaining power. The author concludes that some "Gender- Neutral Measures" along with the boom in participation of women in planning and social audits of MGNREGA, implementation of better worksite facilities, a proper payment of wages, planning of works in phases, speedy criticism redressal, etc., will encourage girls to name for added work under MGNREGA.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of this Research paper are:

- To examine the overall performance of MGNREGA in the study area.
- To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the Economic empowerment of women.

METHODOLOGY

The data for the study has been collected from Two villages of Kaithal district in Haryana namely Chandana and titram. From each Village, 50 respondents have been selected based on purposive sampling and the sample size is 100. The primary data of the study is collected using Questionnaires. The secondary data have also been collected from the official websites of MGNREGA), various research papers, books, and other published sources. The data is analyzed using statistical tools such as simple frequency and percentage analysis, column -chart, descriptive statistics.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGA IN KAITHAL DISTRICT

Kaithal came into existence in 1989 as a Haryana district. Kaithal district is located in the northwest of the state. Its north-west border is connected with the state of Punjab, it is connected to Kurukshetra in the north, Jind in the south and Karnal in the east, currently Kaithal is spread over 2317 Sq. Kaithal District is having 277 Gram Panchayats(277 Villages) covering 7 blocks. Kaithal District has 4 Tehsils and 3 Sub Teshil with 277 revenue villages.

Table 1: Percentage of number of person days by category wise in Kaithal district

Year	Person days Generated so far [In Lakhs]	SCs	Other	Women
2016-17	3.2	1.7(53.12)	1.4(43.75)	1.5(46.85)
2017-18	2.9	1.5(51.72)	1.3(44.82)	1.6(55.17)
2018-19	3.2	1.7(53.12)	1.4(43.75)	1.9(59.37)
2019-20	4.2	2.2(52.38)	1.9(45.23)	2.6(61.90)

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Note: Figures in the parentheses denotes percentages and data in lakh person-days.

In the financial years 2016-17 and 2019-20, the number of person-days generated was 3.2 lakh and 4.2 lakh respectively, out of which 1.5 lakh and 2.6 lakh person days were generated for women. The



status of MGNREGA in the Kaithal district from 2016 to 2020 has been shown in the above table. Women person-days out of a total percentage of women participants are 61.90 in 2019-20. If we compare this data with 2016-17 then we come to know that women workers' participation in MGNREGA has been increased within these 4 years. As in 2016-17 percentage of women participants was 46.85%. Now it has risen up to 61.90%. From the overall data, we can observe that rural women have started more participating in MGNREGA. The percentage of employment provided to women is increasing in all four years. It is shown in the table.

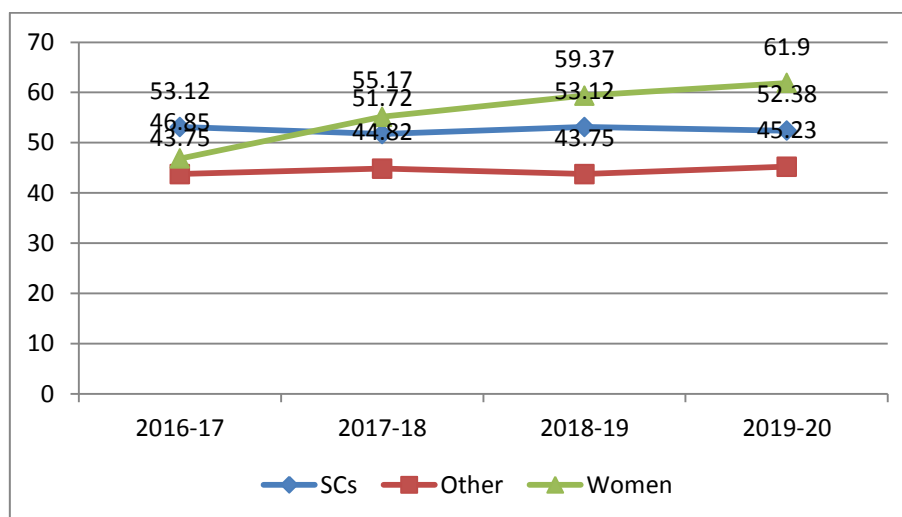


Figure 1: Percentage of number of person days by category wise in Kaithal district

Table 2: Shows Average wage rate per day per Person in Kaithal District

Year	Average wage rate per day per person(Rs.)
2016-17	259
2017-18	277
2018-19	281
2019-20	284

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The table 2 shows that In the case of Average wage rate per day per person indicates an increasing trend during each financial year. Average wage rate per day per person in 2016-17 Rs.259 and in 2019-20 it increased to Rs.284.

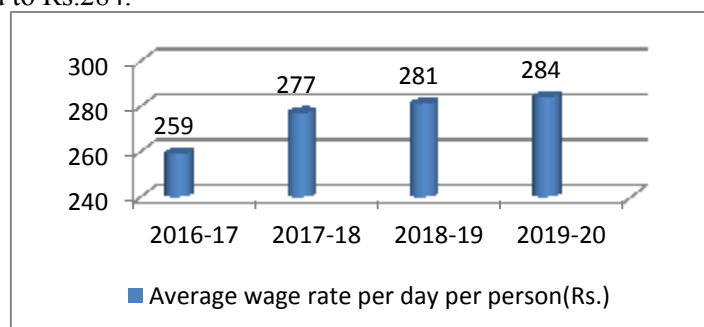


Figure 2: Average wage rate per day per Person in Kaithal District

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF BENEFICIARIES

The survey of beneficiaries was done through a questionnaire to find out the economic empowerment of women in the Kaithal district through the MGNREGA program. 50 % of the appropriate sample size of 100 was taken from each village out of a total of two villages in the Kaithal district.

Socio-economic variables in the study include; Income levels, savings, expenditure on various components, changes in control over economic resources the distribution of respondents from two villages and the distribution according to the total sample size are classified below.

Table 3 Socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries Kaithal district
N=100

		Count	Column N %
Marital Status	Married	77	77.0%
	Widow	23	23.0%
Caste	SC	80	80.0%
	ST	01	1.0%
	BC	19	19.0%
	General	01	1.0%
Household Occupation	Agriculture Work	0	0.0%
	Landless Laborer	100	100.0%
	Self Employed	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%
Age	18-35 Years	20	20.0%
	36-50 Years	62	62.0%
	Above 50 Year	18	14.0%
Ownership Status of House	Own House	100	100.0%
	Rented House	0	0.0%
	Provided by Employer	0	0.0%
	Other	0	0.0%
Education Level	Illiterate	68	68.0%
	Primary	24	24.0%
Economic Status of Household Category	Matric	08	8.0%
	Higher Sec. or Above	0	0.0%
	APL	32	32.0%
	BPL	68	68.0%
	No Ration Card	0	0.0%

Source: Primary Data Calculated by Researcher

An analysis of Kaithal district beneficiaries found that out of the total sample 100, the majority of the beneficiaries were married (77.0%), and the rest were widows (23.0%). According to caste analysis, the maximum was from the Scheduled Caste (80.0%) category and only a few respondents were from the ST (1.0%), BC (19.0%), and General (1.0%) category. It is interestingly seen in the household occupation category that all the respondents in the village were from the family of landless laborers (100.0%). The age-wise classification found that the maximum was in the age group of 36–50 years (62.0%), followed by those aged 18–35 years (20.0%) and above 50 years (18.0%). Frequency distribution in homeownership suggests that all respondents live in their own homes (100.0%). The education level of the respondents in the village was very low as most of the respondents were found to be illiterate (68.0%). And some respondents were found with education levels of primary (24.0%) and matriculation (8.0%). The economic status of the respondents' families found that the maximum was from the BPL (68.0%) category followed by the APL (32.0%) category.



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MGNREGA:

Women empowerment means when women are economically as well as socially empowered. Economic empowerment is measured by the ability to control financial resources in the family, earning income on their own, and being self-reliant. Social empowerment means when women are respected in society, have freedom for their own decisions, ability to take household decisions, and are independent.

Economic Empowerment of women Control over economic resources: one of the main dimensions of women's empowerment is their control over economic resources. The women who have total control of their economic resources are taken as more empowered than others. In the present study, various indicators used to measure their control over economic resources are their control over their own earning, control over their saving, control over household daily expenditure, control household valuable asset, control Sale and purchase of land /house and Repayment of loan.

Impact of MGNREGA on change in the control over the economic resources

After MGNREGA, control over various economic resources has become additional beneficial to the respondents than the husband of the beneficiaries. It can be seen in the examining table below that prior to MGNREGA only husband (43 %) had maximum control over earnings but now both husband and respondents (76%) remain in control over earnings. Control over savings is now in the hands of the husband and respondents (76%), prior to MGNREGA it is controlled by the husband (43 %). Prior to MGNREGA, the control of daily household expenses was controlled by the respondents (24 %) but now it is controlled by the husband and beneficiary (76 %). Prior to MGNREGA, maximum control over household valuable assets was exercised by the husband (43 %) but now it is controlled by the husband and beneficiary (76 %). Prior to MNREGA, control over the sale and purchase of land/house was controlled by the husband and wife (33%) but now it is controlled by the husband and beneficiary (42 %). Prior to MNREGA, the control repayment of the loan was controlled by the husband and wife (33 %) but now it is controlled by the husband and beneficiary (42 %).

	Respondent		Husband		Both husband and wife		Others	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Control over earning before MGNREGA	24	24	43	43	33	33	00	00
Control over earning after MGNREGA	24	24	00	00	76	76	00	00
Control over saving before MGNREGA	24	24	43	43	33	33	00	00
Control over saving after MGNREGA	24	24	00	00	76	76	00	00
Daily household expenditure before MGNREGA	24	24	43	43	33	33	00	00
Daily household expenditure after MGNREGA	24	24	00	00	76	76	00	00
Own and control household valuable asset before MGNREGA	24	24	43	43	33	33	00	00

Own and control household valuable asset after MGNREGA	24	24	00	00	76	76	00	00
Sale and purchase of land /house before MGNREGA	08	08	09	09	33	33	50	50
Sale and purchase of land /house after MGNREGA	08	08	00	00	42	42	50	50
Repayment of loan before MGNREGA	08	08	09	09	33	33	50	50
Repayment of loan after MGNREGA	08	08	00	00	42	42	50	50

CONCLUSION

We conclude it can be no doubt said that the MGNREGA scheme has played an important role in the livelihood of the rural people by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The secondary data analysis we can observe that rural women have started more participating in MGNREGA. The percentage of employment provided to women is increasing in all four years. MGNREGA has come as a ray of hope for rural families as the primary focus of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security in women. It has a positive impact on the participation and income of the women beneficiaries. The prospects of the MGNREGA for rural development and women empowerment are quite bright provided it is properly executed. The present study analyses how this Scheme is beneficial for the empowerment of women in Kaithal. The study conducted among MGNREGA workers in the Kaithal district shows that this scheme is highly beneficial to poor women. Through this program, they can get better control over their own earning, control over their saving, control over household daily expenditure, control household valuable assets, control Sale and purchase of land /house, and started taking control of Repayment of loans..

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