



An Analytical Study of Performance of MGNREGA on Schedule Tribes of Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

This research paper aims to study and analyze the performance of MGNREGA Act 2005 on the socio-economic status of the ST of Raigarh districts. The MGNREGA Act guarantee 100 days of employment to rural households. According to this scheme, every state government bodies prepare a separate scheme which guarantees employment to rural people to improve their living standard. If we compare it with law then, MGNREGA in real sense belongs to the people, of the people, from the people. The main objective of this scheme is “to provide work to every hand and to provide price to every work”.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Socio-Economic Status, Raigarh, Schedule Tribes

Introduction

India is a huge country which has many diversities. Since the ancient times, it has been the workplace of various religions, communities, cultures, races, castes and tribes. All these places have played an important role in the formation of social order and organization and have given them a unique form. The caste system, tribe, village system, varna system, the principles of karma and reincarnation and the ritual system are the main basis of Indian society.

In Chhattisgarh the population of ST is 78.23 in lakhs which is 30.60% of the total population of Chhattisgarh. The Oraon population in Chhattisgarh is around 7,48,789. In Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh Oraon tribe is one of the most important tribe. The people of this tribe call themselves ‘kurukh’ i.e.human. In many regions of India, they are called as ‘dhangar’ i.e. hill people. Ethnically, elements of the Dravidian race of southern India are found in them.

In my research , importance has been given to improve the living standard of Schedule Tribes. To analyse their employment level, their living conditions etc.

The Schedule Tribes with high standard of living has sources of income generation so they are not affected by this problem. But to improve the economic condition of the people with middle and low standard the contribution of MGNREGA is necessary. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 was notified on September 7, 2005, with the stated goal of offering 100 days of guaranteed pay employment every fiscal year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual labour.

The MGNREGA, as the acronym goes, and the resultant scheme, aim primarily at ensuring livelihood security to the rural households through guaranteed wage employment. It aims to alleviate or mitigate rural poverty, in contrast to earlier programs that created jobs and reduced poverty. Other objectives include inclusive growth, openness, decentralized development, and civil society involvement in rural and broader societal development. to develop demand-based local level community assets and to enact policies that will empower the most marginalized groups of the population, especially women without intermediaries so as to fill in critical infrastructure gap in the rural area.

Raigarh district has 9 blocks- Raigarh, Pusaur, Sarangarh, Baramkela, Gharghoda, Tamnar, Dharamjaigarh, Kharsiya, Lailunga. MGNREGA work is going on continuously in all tehsils.

Objectives

- A. To examine and evaluate the contribution of MGNREGA in the economic improvement of Scheduled Tribes of Raigarh districts.
- B. To analyze the process of job card registration, its issues and management of schedule tribes of Raigarh district.
- C. To study the impact of MGNREGA on the employment status of the ST population of Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.

Review of literature

Very few studies have been done regarding the contribution of MNREGA in the economic improvement of the Oraon-Scheduled Tribes. From time to time, many researchers and social scientists have studied on different topics.

Salian, Prasanna V(2014) studied that the awareness on the basic provisions of the Act among the beneficiaries is lacking. The study noted that the impact of MGNREGA on changes in household income, changes in food consumption, food intake and impact on distress migration were high which means MGNREGA has proved to be reaching the needy and impacting the poor particularly STs and SCs.

Sharma, Asha (2014) studied that MGNREGA has impact on the income, expenditure pattern, savings, migration, assets creation in the village, assets creation on the private lands of SCs and STs, status of women and social relationships. MGNREGA has brought positive impacts to the beneficiaries by increasing household income, education, monthly expenditure etc. It has also brought positive impacts to the beneficiaries in terms of employment opportunities, living standard of the people, increasing purchasing power and also providing economic safety.

Jhajharia, Mool Chand(2015) studied that NREGA has proved to be a weapon for improving the livelihood of the villagers by providing promising job, reducing gender inequality, the SC and ST people are also given job, timely payment of the MGNREGA beneficiaries. Also the Self Help Group members are also involved in order to improve people's awareness about NREGS.

Sharma, Suneyana(2016) evaluates the performance of MGNREGA on the basis of four dimensions including employment generation, empowerment of marginalised communities, sustainable asset generation and efficiency of implementing agencies. The result that has been observed in the first dimension is there is a constant rise in percentage of job-card holders under MGNREGA. The 2nd dimension of empowerment of marginalised communities has revealed that the marginalised communities of SC and ST women have risen over the years.

Shanthi (2017) had studied the economic status of tribal population of Tamil Nadu on the basis of socio-economic, cultural, religious and ecological factors. This paper studied the quality of life of the people and also their living conditions. The study also concluded that people who live below poverty line have very poor economic conditions. Thus the study suggested ways to improve their living standards by improving their income.

Hembrom (2017) focuses on understanding the implementation procedures of MGNREGs and its impact on change in the livelihood pattern of tribals. It has been concluded that MGNREGA generates employment to the tribal people, provide a source of livelihood to them, reduce poverty, generate income and make village self sustained.

Naskar, Kishor (2018) studied the performance of MGNREGA in respect of job card, person days, 100 days of guaranteed employment, SC/ST participation and women participation decreased over time. The study also concluded that in the village economy MGNREGA is able to generate employment and income of the people. Therefore, the living standard of the people working under MGNREGA has also improved.

Thangamayan (2019) studied the main points of MGNREGA implemented to improve the conditions of the people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. To study their socio-economic conditions in the Madurai district of Tamil Nadu.

Research Methodology

Keeping in view the objectivity of my research, the proposed methodology will be analytical in nature. The study area is Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh. It will be based on secondary sources of data, official reports from census and websites.

General introduction of the research area-

In the state of Chhattisgarh, the city of Raigarh serves as the administrative center for the Raigarh District. Because of its historical cultural activity, it is referred to as the cultural capital of Chhattisgarh. A native authority rather than the British managed the princely state of Raigarh. As the first state to join the Indian Union, Raigarh then split off to form a separate district within Madhya Pradesh State.

Madan Singh is renowned for founding Raigarh state. Although Madan Singh was a "Samant" of King of Sambalpur State and the state of Raigarh was a part of Sambalpur State, Madan Singh created a distinct Raigarh State from Sambalpur State. However, it is still unclear how Madan Singh came to rule over Raigarh. Madan Singh is originally from the little Maharashtrian village of Bairagarh in the Chanda District. Takhat Singh, Beth Singh, Dilip Singh, and Jujhar Singh succeeded him. Devnath Singh, Ghanshyam Singh, Bhupdev Singh, and Chakradhar Singh then succeeded them one at a time. The final ruler of the independent Raigarh State was Chakradhar Singh Maharaj.

Raigarh district, in Bilaspur Revenue Division, is situated in the easternmost part of Chhattisgarh State. It is bounded by Surguja and Jashpur districts in the north, Orissa in the east, Mahasamund district in the south and Korba and Janjgir-Champa districts in the West. Topographically, the district varies from the lofty forest clad plateau of Pandrapat and Khuria in the north to the treeless, dusty plains of Raigarh and Sarangarh in the south. Raigarh is known for 'Dhokra Casting' or 'Bell Metal Casting' and for two types of silk namely Tasar Silk and Mulberry Silk.

Raigarh has a total area of 6836.35 sq km. It has total 9 tehsils, 410 patwari halka, 1445 villages. Raigarh has 6 revenue divisions, 774 Gram Panchayat.

Govt. of Chhattisgarh and MGNREGA

Chhattisgarh govt. has claimed that 41% of the total families who got 100 days of employment under MGNREGA in the country are from Chhattisgarh. According to the official data released by the Government, in the month of April, May and June a total of 1,83,32,109 mandays of employment was generated by MGNREGA.

In the current financial year, CG ranks second in terms of employment generation against the target given for employment generation. "A total of 66% of the target for the year has been achieved within the first quarter", said a senior IAS officer posted with the panchayat and Rural Development Department.

Statistics show that most-affected districts have performed better in providing employment to people in rural areas. The top five districts providing maximum employment against the target in the state are from Bastar division. A total of 10 districts of the state have completed more than 70% of the work under the sanctioned labor budget for the year. Most affected Narayanpur district is at the forefront of providing employment against the target in the state and 84% of the target has been achieved.

Nine other districts have also completed more than 70% work including Sukma 78%, Bijapur 77%, Bastar 74%, Kondagaon and Raigarh 73% each, Kanker and Dantewada 72% each, Korba and Gariyaband 71% each. The remaining 18 districts have also created more than 60% employment. Despite the lockdown due to Covid-19, work under MGNREGA was started to provide employment to a large number of villagers.

These MGNREGA works have played an important role in supporting the rural economy under the adverse circumstances. “We are also demanding to increase the man-days from 100 to 200 and I have written three times to the centre in this regard,” said Panchayat and Rural Development Minister, TS Singhdeo.

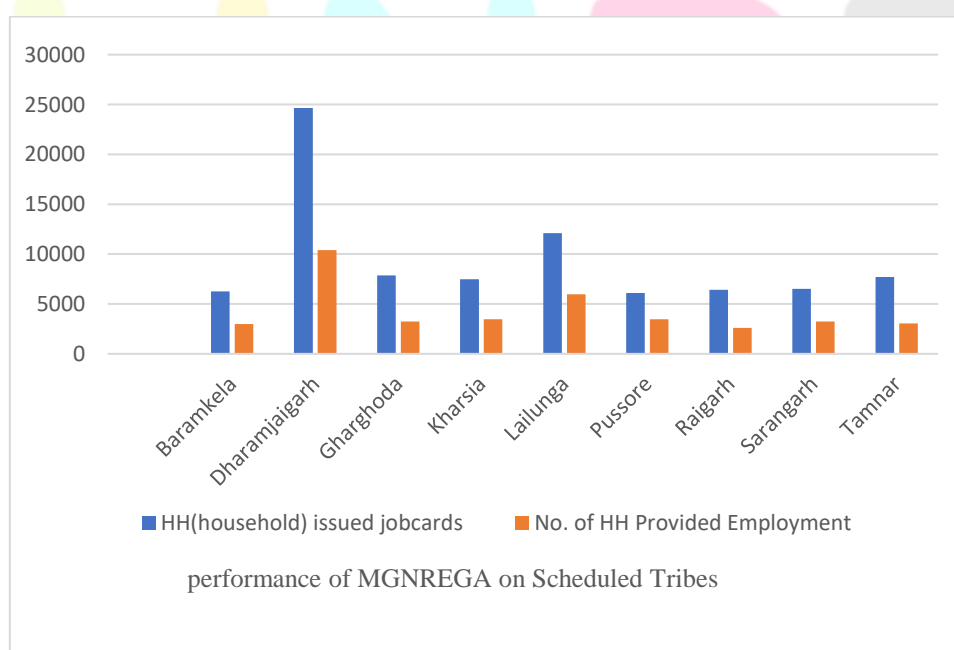
Amidst the ongoing lockdown for prevention and protection of corona virus infection, following all the safety measures, MGNREGA works are being conducted on a large scale under Raigarh district due to which the concern for employment and livelihood of the people has been removed. As per the guidelines provided by the Govt., beneficiaries oriented and community works are being done under MGNREGA scheme in all villages. Collector Nilesh Kumar Mahadev Kshirsagar said that social distance is being fully followed during MGNREGA works in lockdown.

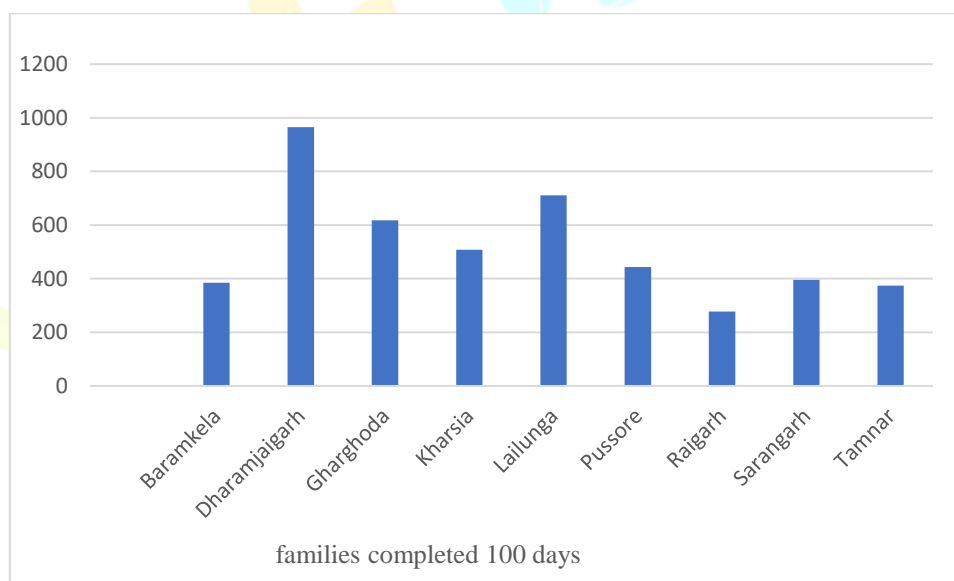
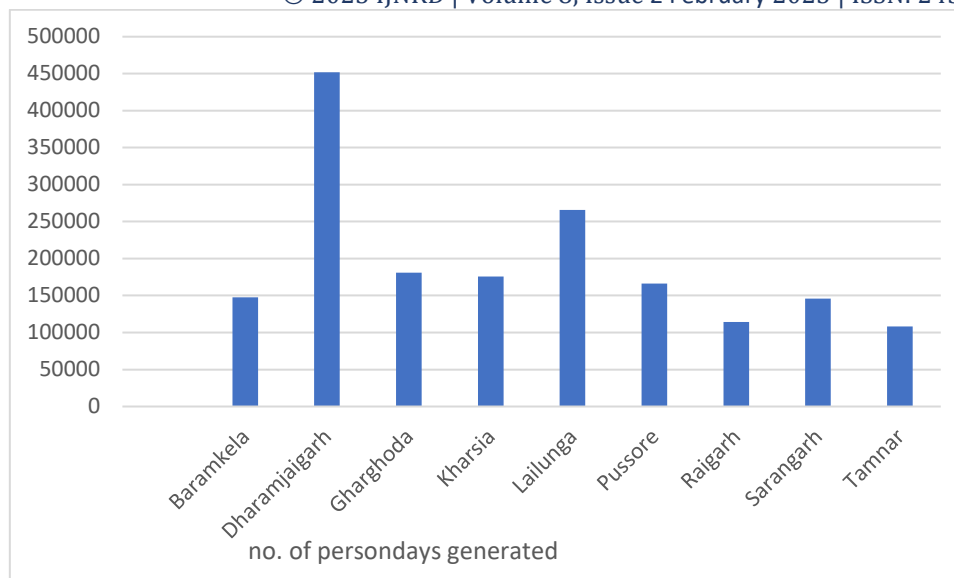
Sufficient quantity of work has been approved in the district so that adequate quantity of work can be made available to the workers. Secretaries and employment assistants have been directed to wear masks and use sanitizers during the work at the local level. Zip CEO KS Mandavi said that during the lockdown in the district, MGNREGA works are being operated using masks and sanitizers at the work place following social distance giving priority to beneficiary oriented works, water conservation and community works are also being done.

Performance of MGNREGA

The table represents the performance of MGNREGA on Schedule Tribes for the year 2018-2022. The table depicts the average performance of all five years.

s.no.	block	HH(household) issued jobcards	no. of HH provided employment	no. of persondays generated	families completed 100 days
1)	Baramkela	6263.8	2982.6	147828	385.2
2)	Dharamjaigarh	24643.4	10411	451946.2	965.6
3)	Gharghoda	7877.8	3238.6	180770.8	617.4
4)	Kharsia	7473.2	3473	175938.6	507.4
5)	Lailunga	12090.6	5981.8	265810.4	710.8
6)	Pussore	6101.4	3451.4	166314	443
7)	Raigarh	6417.8	2608.6	114272.4	278
8)	Sarangarh	6511.2	3257	146090	395.75
9)	Tamnar	7707	3065.2	108427.4	374.25





In the above table and diagram the data mentioned are the number of blocks and its no. of House hold provided employment against the job card issued, the number of persondays generated and the number of families completed 100 days of employment. Highest number of job card issued in Dharamjaigarh block the five-year average is 24643.4, Number of household provided employment is 10411 the average of all five years, the number of persondays generated is highest in the same block i.e 451946.2 and families completed 100 days also has the highest number of families in the same block i.e 965.6. However the lowest in five year average for job card issued is 6101.4 in Pussore, the lowest number of household provided employment is 2608.6 in Raigarh, the lowest number of persondays is 108427.4 in Tamnar block and the lowest number of families completed 100 days is 278 in Raigarh block. However, the variation in number is affected by some extent by the Demographic differences and mostly due to socio-economic factors of that area.

The highest numbers in Dharamjaigarh block is due to the fact that people are more aware of the MGNREGA scheme and its provision.

Conclusion

MGNREGA is an attempt by the Govt. of India to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, to reduce poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people. It is through this scheme that people are getting jobs, their status are improved as well as their living conditions are also improved. The above study has been done to evaluate the performance of MGNREGA on Schedule Tribes of

Raigarh district. From the study it can be concluded that MGNREGA has helped the Schedule Tribes people to a large extent in order to improve their socio-economic conditions. It has helped in issuing job cards to people and to provide employment. In Dharamjaigarh block MGNREGA has a large effect on ST people due to which their standard of living has improved. Thus the overall study concluded that MGNREGA act as a blessing to the ST people of Raigarh district. But inspite of the successful working of MGNREGA in certain blocks, some blocks has not shown tremendous result which can be due to various factors like demographic, socio-economic. So, MGNREGA Act still needs to focus on creating awareness to the people about its provisions so that people are aware of it and also the act should focus more on its implementation process.

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