

Women Participation In MGNREGA: A Case Study Of Tengakhat Block In Dibrugarh District Of Assam

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Abstract: Men and women are equally important for a better economy. In India, Basically women are exploited by men. But now a days, the government of India has taken various steps to reduce inequality between men and women. In India, The unemployment problem has become a serious issue for people of India which leads to increase poverty. So the government of India has taken various schemes to provide employment to rural people of India. MGNREGA is one of a wage employment scheme for rural people which a legal guarantee to provide 100 days work in every year who are willing to do a satisfactory minimum wage rate. The act provide equal wage rate both men and women. The paper attempts to study the women participation under MGNREGA in the study area. Both primary and secondary data have been collected for this study. 100 respondents have been collected from the study area as sample respondents. The study also tries to study the impact of income from MGNREGA and other factor influenced on the household consumption expenditure. To satisfy this objective the regression analysis has been done.

Keywords: MGNREGA, women, employment, development, income, consumption, respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Exploitation of women is a severe issue in India. If women want to become independent by getting opportunity to work, their dependency on others low down and they able to make decisions regarding their own lives. In India, mainly men are engaged in working sector. Women are always exploited. But now a days it has changed that women are 33 percent reserved for job. In terms of employment opportunity women are always facing employment problem in our society. So in order to reduce the problem government introduced a scheme MGNREGA which aim to provide 100 days work in every year who are willing to do a satisfactory minimum wage rate. The guidelines of the Act aim to ensure that women have equal right to participate in the work as like men in terms of decent working conditions, representation of the decisions making bodies and equal payment of wages. The Act introduced on September 5, 2005 and was notified on September 7, 2005. According to the Act the minimum wage cannot be less than Rs. 60. The provision for employment 100 days of work was anticipated because the agriculture season is only supposed to last around 6-7 months and have no alternative source of income for the unskilled workers in the remaining months of the year. The MGNREGA has emerged as world's one of the largest employment guarantee scheme and is very distinct from other wage employment schemes.

It has become dominant tool for inclusive growth through guaranteeing of social security, livelihood security and democratic empowerment in rural India. In February 2006, The Act was firstly introduced in 200 districts in India which are the most backward districts of India. But in the next year, the act was extended further to 130 more districts. The Act decided to provide wages through bank or post office in October 2008. The Act got soon named after Mahatma Gandhi (on 2nd October 2009) to prepare the Act more accessible to the masses and thus, it became Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are:

- To study the socio economic profile of the sample respondents.
- To study the women participation under MGNREGA in the study area.
- To study whether income from MGNREGA and other factors significantly influenced on the household consumption expenditure.

Research Methodology

Data collection: Both primary and secondary data have been collected for the present study. Dibrugarh district has been randomly selected as the sample district. It has been selected 1 block namely Tengakhat block from the sample district on the basis of highest populated blocks of Dibrugarh district. In the third phase 2 GPs have been selected purposively from the block and lastly 4 villages have been selected randomly as the sample villages. 100 households have been selected from all the four villages. 25 women respondents have been selected from each sample village. Well designed interview schedule was formulated for the study. The secondary data have been collected through journals, books, websites etc.

Tool used: The collected data are analyzed by using techniques like percentage, average, compound annual growth rate and presented tables and diagrams. To understand whether MGNREGA has significantly influenced on the household consumption expenditure in a multi-variate framework. Multiple linear regression model has been applied. In this study household consumption expenditure is taken as the dependent variable and independent variables are taken as categorical and continuous variable.

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ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Socio Economic Profile of the Respondents

Socio economic characteristics of women workers have an important for increasing the efficiency of women workers. In this study it was found that among 100 sample respondents majority of the respondents i.e. 72 percent belong to nuclear family system whereas the remaining 28 percent of the respondents belong to joint family system. Majority 81 percent respondents are having 1-5 members, followed by 17 percent of respondents who have 6-10 members and just 2 percent household have bigger family size household with >10 members. The age of the respondents is classified into below 30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years and above 50 years. Out of 100 respondents, majority 45 of the workers are in the age group of 41-50 years. It is evident that about 12 percent respondents are illiterate in the study area. The data reveal that most of the respondents are having their education up to M.E. level which is 40 percent. Majority of sample respondents are agricultural labors 42 percent followed by daily wage earner 33 percent. Out of 100 respondents 90 percent are married and rest of 10 percent of respondents are unmarried. It was found that 4 percent i.e 4 respondents are widow. It was found from the study that monthly family income of 59 percent of the households is in between Rs. 5001-10000 and followed by the households 31 percent who monthly earned income is above 10000. Majority of the households 62 percent have consumption expenditure in between 2000-5000, followed by 20 percent households whose consumption expenditure is between 5000-8000 per month and 8 percent of households whose consumption expenditure is above Rs. 8000.

Women Participation in MGNREGA

The MGNREGA provides 100 days of employment every year to each rural household. The Act mandates that at least one third of the workers should be women. The Act ensures certain worksite facilities to augment women workers participation. The Act also stipulates payment of equal wages to male and female workers. Wage earnings of workers are to be paid directly to the account either through bank or post office. There are also some facilities that the scheme aim to provide crèches for children, drinking water and shaded facilities in the workplace. In FY 2015-16, the women participation rate in MGNREGA has been 55 percent in India. 56 percent during the FY 2016-17, 53 percent in FY 2017-18 and 53 percent in FY2018-19 in India. So the following tables shows that the total person days, average person days, total income generated by the sample respondents during 2013-19.

Table 1

Total person days of employment generated under MGNREGA in the sample respondents during 2013-2019

Years	Total person days	Percentage of total person days
2013-14	1520	15.74
2014-15	1700	17.60
2015-16	1182	12.24
2016-17	2176	22.52
2017-18	1835	19.00
2018-19	1246	12.90
Total	9659	100
CAGR	-3.9	

Source: field survey

The table 1 indicates total person days generated among the sample respondents. It was found that the person days generated is the highest i.e. 2176 days (22.52%) during the year 2016-17, followed by 1835 days (19%) during the period 2017-18. It has been declined the Compound Annual Growth Rate by 3.9 percent during the study period.

Table 2

Average person days of employment in the sample respondents during 2013-2019

Years	No. of average person days
2013-14	15.20
2014-15	17.00
2015-16	11.82
2016-17	21.76
2017-18	18.35
2018-19	12.46
CAGR	-3.9

Source: field survey

It was found that average person days of employment among the sample respondents in the study area is the highest in the year 2016-17 which is 21.76 days and it continuously declined to 12.46 days in the year 2018-19. The Compound Annual Growth Rate has also declined by 3.9 percent. Thus the performance of MGNREGA in terms of employment generation of women in the study area is not satisfactory.

Table 3

Total income generated from MGNREGA in the sample respondents from 2013-19

Years	Total person days	Wage rate	Total income earned (In Rs.)	Average income earned (in Rs.)
2013-14	1520	152	231040	2310.40
2014-15	1700	167	283900	2839.00
2015-16	1182	179	211578	2115.78
2016-17	2176	182	396032	3960.32
2017-18	1835	183	335805	3358.05
2018-19	1246	183	228018	2280.18
Total	9659		1686373	
CAGR	-3.9		-0.26	

Source: field survey

It was found from table 3 that Compound Annual Growth Rate(CAGR) of total person days has declined by 3.9 percent .Total income earned in the study area is the highest in the year 2016-17 which is Rs. 396032 and it continuously declined to Rs. 228018 in the year 2018-19 and the CAGR has declined by 0.26 percent. The table also shows that the average income earned per year per household is the highest in the year 2016-17 which is Rs. 3960.32 and it declined to Rs. 2280.18 in the year 2018-19 respectively. Thus, it can be said that the performance of MGNREGA in terms of income generation in the study area among the respondents is not satisfactory. Impact of income from MGNREGA on Household consumption expenditureHousehold consumption expenditure may be influenced by several factors such as yearly income of the households, occupation, education, sex, income from MGNREGA, types of households and household size etc. The impact of income from MGNREGA on household consumption expenditure has been examined taking it with other factors for

which a multiple linear regression model is applied.

Model Specification:

The following multiple linear regression model is fitted to find the impact of income from MGNREGA on household consumption expenditure in a multi-variate framework.

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \beta_3 X_{3i} + \beta_4 X_{4i} + \beta_5 X_{5i} + \beta_6 X_{6i} + \mu$$

Where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ and β_1, \dots, β_6 are the regression coefficient.

Y_i = consumption expenditure of the households

X_1 = Total income of the households (excluding income from MGNREGA)

X_2 = Income from MGNREGA

X_3 = Education of the respondents

X_4 = Main occupation of the respondents

X_5 = Types of family

X_6 = Households size

μ = Disturbance term

Table 4

Description of explanatory variables of the regression model

Variables	Type	Definition	Value
Dependent variable		Consumption expenditure of the households refers to expenditure incurred by the households in a year	
Consumption expenditure of the households	Continuous variable		Rs.
Independent variables			
1. Yearly income of the households	Continuous variable	Income of the households refers to permanent income of the households in a year	Rs.
2. Income from MGNREGA	Continuous variable	Income from MGNREGA in a year	Rs.
3. Education	Dummy variable	Educational qualification of the respondents	0 if others 1 if above high school
4. Occupation	Dummy variable	Main occupation of the respondents	0 if non agriculture 1 if agriculture
5. Family type	Dummy variable	Type of family of the respondents	0 if nuclear 1 if joint
6. Household size	Continuous variable	Household size implies the total member of a particular household	

Table 5

Result and Discussion of the Regression Model

Variables	Unstandardized coefficients of B	t	VIF
Yearly income of the households	0.328*	8.206	1.562
Income from MGNREGA	0.048	3.837	1.312
Education	165.482	0.640	1.354
Occupation	-70.048	-0.247	1.069
Types of	-312.572	-1.120	1.636

Households			
Households size	734.806*	7.162	1.877

In the above table, * represents significant at 1 % level

$R^2 = 0.569$ and $F = 32.80$

Results indicate that coefficient of determination i.e. R^2 is .569 therefore 56.9 percent variations of total household expenditure is explained by the explanatory variables. Total yearly income of the household and household size have been established as the significant determinants of total consumption expenditure of the households. Yearly income of the households and household size, education and income from MGNREGA are positively related to consumption expenditure of the households. The regression coefficient of total income of the households and household size are significant at 1 percent level. The value of the coefficient implies an increase in household income by 1 rupee will bring 0.237 rupee increase of the consumption expenditure of the household. The positive and significant relationship between households size and consumption expenditure of the households indicates that an increase in household size by 1 person will bring 631.70 rupees increase of consumption expenditure of the households. Finally the result shows that income from MGNREGA does not significantly impact on consumption expenditure of the household.

CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is a scheme launched by the Government of India to increase the standard of living in the rural area by providing 100 days wage employment to the rural unskilled workers. The study conducted on women participation in MGNREGA in the study area. The Act aims to reduce inequality between Men and women. So the Act provides equal wage payment to both men and women. The study tried to analyze the women participation in MGNREGA in the study area. The study conducted among 100 women workers from the sample villages. It was found that the total person days and average person days generated is the highest i.e. 2176 days (22.52%) and 21.76 percent during the year 2016-17 but the Compound Annual Growth Rate declined by 3.9 percent during the study period. Total income earned in the study area is the highest in the year 2016-17 which is Rs. 396032 and the CAGR has declined by 0.26 percent. it can be said that the performance of MGNREGA in terms of income generation in the study area among the respondents is not satisfactory. The study also tried to find whether income from MGNREGA and other factors influenced on household consumption expenditure. the study found that Yearly income of the households and household size, education and income from MGNREGA are positively related to consumption expenditure of the households. The regression coefficient of total income of the households and household size are significant at 1 percent level. Finally the result shows that income from MGNREGA does not significantly impact on consumption expenditure of the household. Though all the efforts have been made to make the scheme successful and also to reduce poverty but still there are various problems which hinder the success of the scheme. The problems faced by the MGNREGA in the study area among the respondents are no timely employment, less person days generated, lack of worksite facilities, never got unemployment allowance, no social audit held etc. So the government focused to properly implement of this scheme and tries to increase the person days as well as facilities provide to

the workers.

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