

Original Research Article

Suggestions of the Beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Thane and Palghar districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra state with the objectives to find out the suggestions of the beneficiaries about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The sample was comprised of randomly selected 300 beneficiaries of MGNREGA from 30 villages in six tahsils from two districts, which was personally interviewed with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The suggestions of the Beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act majority (93.33 per cent) the beneficiaries suggested that ‘timely payment of wages’ be done and ‘Payment of wages should be according to kind of works’ (92.33 per cent), ‘Extent the limit of 100 days employment guarantee’ (91.66 per cent) was the another major suggestion made by the beneficiaries other important suggestion were ‘Additional wages for long distance work site’ (89.00 per cent).

Keywords

Suggestions and
Beneficiaries

Introduction

Poverty is the root cause of all social evils. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the flagship programme of the Indian Government that directly touches the lives of the rural poor. The Act was enacted on 25 August, 2005 and it came in to force on February 2, 2006. MGNREGA is the scheme which can definitely improve the economic and social condition of beneficiaries, if implemented properly. The Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment. For last several decades, the Indian villages have been suffering from poverty, lack of quality health services, poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities of

education. The rural economy mainly depends on agriculture. The villagers have no job when there is no agricultural work. Searching for short period job in villages is very difficult and therefore, many times they earn nothing. MGNREGA marked a paradigm shift from the other employment programmes with its right based approach. Government is legally accountable for providing employment of hundred days to those who demand it. This programme not only provides employment, but also focuses on inclusive growth, as it conserves natural resources and creates productive assets. By protecting the environment and reducing rural-urban migration, this programme has transformed the face of the rural India. Thus, MGNREGA is bliss for them. Unemployment continues to be major

problem faced by the country, according to the planning commission India's day to day unemployment rate is increased with increasing population and similarly poverty is also increased. A substantial reduction in poverty can be achieved, if there is determined effort at the distribution of income and consumption in favour of the rural poor. To achieve this it is necessary that employment opportunities in the rural economy are significantly increased.

Since long time so many programmes arranged to reduced the employment and poverty. In the history of rural development or employment generation programme in India revealed that none of the programme succeeded to employ and empower the rural people at a desirable level, as most of them were supply driven. That time beneficiaries of the programme were solely decided by the Government stakeholders and local political functionaries. To overcome unemployment situation among the rural poor central government started MGNREGA in which one of the major goal is to provide employment to rural people and it work like demand driven rather than 'supply driven. However, the beneficiaries may face a number of constraints which might cause difficulty in getting the benefit of MGNREGA.

These constraints needs to be examined and minimised. And to overcome that constraints suggestion of beneficiaries while receiving the benefits of MGNREGA Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken with the specific objectives to ascertain Suggestion of beneficiaries to overcome the constraints faced by the beneficiaries of MGNREGA

Materials and Methods

A multistage sampling technique was used for the selection of districts, tahsils and

villages. At the first stage, two leading district Palghar and Thane were selected. In the second stage, three tahsils were selected from the each district. Dahanu, Vikramgad, Wada from Palghar district and Shahapur, Murbad. Bhiwandi from Thane district were selected on the basis of maximum number of beneficiaries under MGNREGA.

Five village from each tahsils were selected and from each village ten beneficiaries selected to constitute a sample size of 300 beneficiaries on the basis of maximum number of beneficiaries under MGNREG.

Results and Discussion

It is noticed from above table 1. that Majority(93.33 per cent)the beneficiaries suggested that 'timely payment of wages' be done and 'Payment of wages should be according to kind of works' (92.33 per cent), 'Extent the limit of 100 days employment guarantee' (91.66 per cent) was the another major suggestion made by the beneficiaries other important suggestion were 'Additional wages for long distance work site'(89.00 per cent), 'Payment of wages in cash' (61.66 per cent), 'timely allotment of work' (60.00 per cent), 'Provision of necessary work site facilities' (56.00 per cent) and 'Fulfillment of at least 100 days employment guarantee' (44.00 per cent)reported by the beneficiaries of MGNREGA.

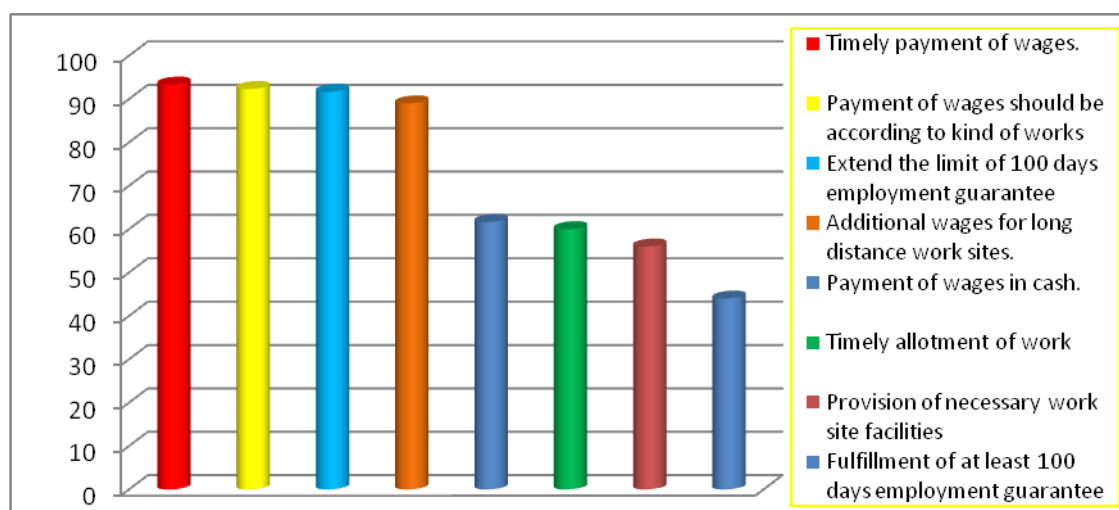
While availing benefit of MGNREGA the beneficiaries faced some constraints and accordingly they suggested some solution to overcome these constraints.

The major suggestion given by the beneficiaries were timely payment of wages be done, payment of wages should be according to kind of works and extent the limit of 100 days employment guarantee.

Table.1 Suggestions of the beneficiaries

SI. No.	Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Timely payment of wages.	280	93.33
2	Payment of wages should be according to kind of works	277	92.33
3	Extend the limit of 100 days employment guarantee	275	91.66
4	Additional wages for long distance work sites.	267	89.00
5	Payment of wages in cash.	185	61.66
6	Timely allotment of work	180	60.00
7	Provision of necessary work site facilities	168	56.00
8	Fulfilment of at least 100 days employment guarantee	132	44.00

Fig.1



The concern agency and policymakers should consider these suggestions given by the beneficiaries and some modifications be made in the MGNREGA so as to given real benefits to the beneficiaries and make this scheme successful.

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