



Economic Impact of MGNREGA on Scheduled tribes- -A Case Study of Rajouri District of J&K state.

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Abstract

The socio-economic status of any country depends upon its economy. Indian economy is a rural agrarian economy where more than 70% of its population resides in villages. After independence GoI initiated a good number of programmes for rural developments mention may be made up of

Small Farmer Development Programmes, Drought Area Development Programmes and Food for Work Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme and Assurance on Employment etc. Undoubtedly, government of India has been implemented many government planning to eradicate poverty such as Swaran Jayanti Swarojagar Yojana (SGSY), Drought Prove Area Programme (DPAP), Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP), High Yield Variety Programme (HYVP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). In this concern NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house.

Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, Feb, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 645 districts of the country. Scheduled tribes are in the last ladder of the development so an attempt has been made through this paper to find out the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic status of Scheduled tribes in Rajouri district of J&K state.

Keywords: *Government of India (GoI), Scheduled Tribes, Economic, Development, MGNREGA.*

1. Introduction:

Scheduled tribes are in the last ladder of development, various development authorities and government of India launched various development programmes and kept special provision for their socio-economic development. In Rajouri district of J&K state the Gujjar & Bakerwal resides and constitute 36.2% of the total



population. Major chunk of this tribe is leading semi nomadic life with their herd of goat and sheep. Through this research work an attempt has been made to find out the economic impact of MGNREGA programme on Gujjar & Bakerwal community. As very less research work has been carried out pertaining to evaluation and assessment of development programmes on scheduled tribes. This paper will provide a roadmap to researchers and policymakers to frame new policies after getting evaluation of this paper.

1.1 An overview of Scheduled tribes:

India is the second largest country after South Africa having large number of scheduled tribe population which constitutes 8.6% of the total population (census 2011). There are 533 tribes in India. In Jammu & Kashmir twelve tribes have been declared as scheduled tribes who were enumerated officially for the first time during the census 2001 recording the population of 1,105,979 [(1,493,299) census 2011]. The scheduled tribes account for 11.9 per cent of the total population of the state and 1.3 per cent of the tribal population of the country. Most of these tribes in our state reside in Ladakh region of the state. However, Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes are mostly concentrated in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua of the Jammu province and in the districts of Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kulgam and Kupwara of Kashmir valley. However, in district Rajouri there inhabit only two scheduled tribes i.e. Gujjar and Bakerwals out of 12 tribes of the J&K state. As per 2011 Census the total population of Gujjar & Bakerwal tribes is 232815 which constitute 36.2% of the total population of the district.

1.2 An overview of MGNREGA Programme

In the state of Jammu & Kashmir, the act was extended partially in May, 2007, to be implemented in a phased manner from February 2, 2006 onwards. In phase-I it was introduced in 200 districts of the country including 3 districts of Jammu and Kashmir namely Kupwara, Poonch and erstwhile Doda. It was implemented in additional 130 districts of the country in Phase-II in 2007 including undivided districts of Anantnag & Jammu. The programme was then extended to all other remaining districts of the state from April 1, 2008 in Phase III. In the same year i.e. in 2008-09 MGNREGA has been implemented in District Rajouri also.

2. Objectives of the study:-

The broad classified objectives of our study are as follows:

1. To find out the economic impact of MGNREGA on scheduled tribes.
2. To identify the major constraints faced by the scheduled tribes in getting MGNREGA work.
3. To make few suggestions and alternate strategies for better improvement in their way of life.



3. Methodology:-

The research is based on both primary as well as secondary data. For collection of primary data the researchers interviewed 70 households of the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes. The study has been conducted in two blocks of district Rajouri i.e. Budhal block and Kalakote block out of total blocks as these blocks has highest concentration of scheduled tribes. i.e. 56.6% in Budhal & 47% in Kalakote block out of the total population of blocks. Besides, the secondary sources include various News papers, Journals, J&K economic surveys etc.

4. Analysis and Discussion:-

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the researcher has studied two parameters of the scheduled tribe beneficiaries employment and income.

4.1 Impact of MGNREGA on employment: The impact of MGNREGA programme on employment generation has been find out by getting information on additional mandays generated by the sample beneficiaries in the study area and are shown in the table 1.

Table: 1 Total and average mandays generated by the beneficiaries from MGNREGA

Block	No. of beneficiaries provided with employment	Total mandays generated from MGNREGA	Average mandays
Budhal	40	1640	41
Kalakote	30	1050	35
Total	70	2690	38

Source: Field Survey

It has been observed from the above table that the scheduled tribe beneficiaries got only 1650 mandays employment in Budhal block and 1050 mandays in Kalakote block. It has also been found that on an average 41 mandays employment has been generated by each scheduled tribe beneficiaries in Budhal block and 35 mandays has been generated in Rajouri block. Overall only 38 average mandays employment has been obtained by the sample beneficiaries from MGNREGA which is much less than the promised 100 days of employment through MGNREGA programme.



Table: 2 Proportion of additional mandays employment from MGNREGA sources to total mandays available for work to the sample beneficiary households

Block	No. of beneficiaries	Total mandays Available for work before MGNREGA	Mandays worked in MGNREGA	Total mandays Available for work after MGNREGA	% mandays from MGNREGA
Budhal	40	3320	1640	4960	33%
Kalakote	30	2610	1050	3660	28%
Total	70	5930	2690	8620	32%

Source: Field Survey

The above table evinces that the sample beneficiaries used to earn 5930 mandays employment before MGNREGA programme and after the programme they got 2690 additional mandays employment adding a total of 8620 mandays employment. The data in the table further reveals that MGNREGA programme contribution in the generation of employment was only up to 32% out of the total mandays employment available in the study area. At block level it was confined to only 28% in Kalakote block and 33% in Budhal block out of the total mandays available for work.

Table: 3 Comparison of income before & after MGNREGA

Total number of beneficiaries	70
Sum total of annual mandays available for work before MGNREGA	5930
Average	85
Sum total of annual mandays available for work after MGNREGA	8620
Average	123
P-value of ANNOVA test	0.0701523
Result	Not significant

Source: SPSS



The test statistics from the table reveals that no matter the employment(in mandays) has been raised after the programme but the results are not significant which does not mean that there is no impact of MGNREGA on employment in study blocks but depicts that the impact of the programme on employment is not so high.

4.2 Impact of MGNREGA on income

Attempt has also been made to find out the impact of the MGNREGA programme on income of the scheduled tribe beneficiaries and has been shown in table-4.

Table:4 Proportion of additional income from MGNREGA sources to total income of the worker households

Block	No. of beneficiaries	Total gross income from other sources	Income from MGNREGA	Total annual income	% of Income from MGNREGA
Budhal	40	760000	220000	980000	22.4%
Kalakote	30	750000	180000	930000	19.4%
Total	70	1510000	400000	1910000	21%

Source: Field Survey

Total gross income of the selected beneficiaries from the MGNREGA has enhanced the annual gross income of the family. The additional income to the tune of Rs.220000 is generated in case of selected beneficiary household of Budhal block & Rs.180000 of Rajouri block respectively. The quantum of additional income to total income was only 22.4% in block Budhal & 19.4% in Rajouri block. It can be analysed from the data that though the income of scheduled tribe beneficiaries has been increased after MGNREGA programme but it was not increased upto the desired level as out of the total annual income only 21% of income from MGNREGA programme.

Comparison of income before & after MGNREGA

To know the impact of MGNREGA on income scenario of beneficiary households an attempt has been made to compare annual income before & after adoption of the programme. To find out whether the differences in the income before & after MGNREGA in both Budhal & Kalakote blocks is significant or not, we conducted ANOVA test.



Table: 5 comparison of income(before &after)

Total number of beneficiaries	70
Sum total of annual incomes before MGNREGA	1510000
Average	21572
Sum total of annual incomes after MGNREGA	1910000
Average	27285
P-value	0.081435
Result	Not significant

Source: SPSS

The test statistics from the table reveals that no matter the income has been raised after the programme but the results are not significant which does not mean that there is no impact of MGNREGA on income in study area but depicts that the impact of the programme on income is not so high.

5. Problem faced by scheduled tribe beneficiaries

After having interview and detailed discussion with the sample beneficiaries the researchers came to know that scheduled tribe beneficiaries are facing lot of problems which are mentioned as under:

1. Unfair selection of works & workers.
2. Less wage rates.
3. Delay in payments/wages.
4. Payment to fictitious workers.
5. Less days of employment.
6. Lack of awareness.
7. Prevalence of Corruption in getting work.
8. Dated receipt not given to applicants.
9. Work not provided within 15 days.
10. Unemployment allowance not paid.
11. Poor participation of Gram Sabhas.



Apart from above hindrances the researchers also found some of the major reasons of backwardness of scheduled tribes in the study area which are as follows:

1. **Migration:** The scheduled tribes (Gujjar & Bakerwal) of Rajouri district practice seasonal migration with their flock of sheep, goat, buffalo & horses in upper reaches of pir panjal range of Himalaya during summer and back to original place in the beginning of winter. Due to their nomadic nature they fail to provide proper education and other facilities to their children and also do not able to get employment opportunities.

2. **Poor health facilities:** Most of the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes inhabited near forests and upper reaches where no mobile dispensary or primary health centre available to them.

At the time of serious illness or emergency of the Scheduled Tribes they have to depend on God mercy or traditional way of treating illness as they have no access to health services.

3. **Poor availability of Education:** It has been observed that children are hardly sent to the schools. They are engaged in rearing of cattle. As per their needs there is poor availability of education facilities for the children due to which child faces extremely difficulty to cope with the school curriculum because of non-availability of teachers and study materials, long distance, ill timing of schools, negative attitude of both parents and teachers and low or negligible female literacy rates and so on.

4. **Lack of awareness and consciousness:** There is no doubt that state and central governments implemented several schemes and programmes for upliftment of alleviation of scheduled tribes, but could not change the conditions of the poor because of their unawareness and consciousness about the various development schemes and programmes.

5. **Conclusion and suggestions**

The scheduled tribe population of Rajouri district is 232815 which comprise 36.2% of the total population of the district (Census 2011). Although several anti poverty programmes and tribal development programmes have been launched by the government since 1951 but broader parameters of socio-economic development of scheduled tribes i.e. education, health, employment and poverty almost remained unsolved. Under MGNREGA provision of 100 days employment to every rural household was made and an unemployed allowance of 15 days but unfortunately at ground level it did not happened so due to unfair practices at implementation level. Although the MGNREGA programme increased the income and employment mandays of the respondents in the study area but not upto the required or promised level of 100 days employment. So in this connection there is a need to reframe the strategies keeping in view the socio economic grievances of tribal people i.e. education, health care, poverty and employment



issues. Strong supervision must be needed to control unfair practices at implementation level of MGNREGA programme and timely fair social audit should be conducted.

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