

## **Economic Empowerment of Women in Rural Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Scheme in Karnataka**

**Dr. Komala**

Assistant Professor in Economics, Sri Jagadguru Renukacharaya College of Law, Bangalore

### **ABSTRACT**

*Economic sanctuary is one among the chief components of humanity in the globe. Economic safety needs employment and a guaranteed source of basic income adequate for meeting one's elementary needs. Today the biggest challenges before the world are poverty, unemployment and pollution. These problems differ from that which prevails in developed nations. In India, the most serious problem is unemployment. The unemployment problem is also associated with disguised employment. The most important component of the unemployment in India is women who necessity to empower to improve their socio-economic conditions.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

*"Only through empowerment of women the nation becomes strong. We have to start dreaming today about the success of our nation. We are born with such capacity and we will fulfil it." - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.*

The MGNREGA was passed by the Indian Parliament on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005 during monsoon session. The president of India gave his assent for the MGNREGA on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and it was notified on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005. In the first phase, the act was implemented in 200 most backward districts of India. Later on its coverage was extended to another 130 districts in the second phase. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 the act was implemented in all the districts of India.

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

According to Oxford dictionary two denotations for the word "Empowerment", as "to capitalize legally or officially with, to approve or permit, and to progress or bequeath control to a conclusion or for a determination". It factually means "flattering influential". The greatest noticeable feature of the span is "Empowerment" that it covers inside it the term 'Power'. The power is the regulator over capitals and regulator of philosophy. Therefore the procedure of acquisition controller over character, over philosophy and the possessions which regulate command may be named as "Empowerment".

### **GOALS OF THE ACT**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was also enacted with some aim and goals. The goals are as follows

- To provide social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities to them.
- To provide livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity.
- To have efficient drought-proofing and flood management services in rural India.
- Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged people, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedules Tribes (STs), through the processes of a Rights-based legislation.
- Deepening equality at the grass-roots by consolidation Panchayat Raj institutions.

## SALIENT LANDSCAPES OF THE ACT

The noticeable features of the Act are as trails:

- All mature members of a rural domestic who would come forward to do inexpert and manual work have the correct to request employment.
- The members of such household/unskilled manual workers needs to apply for registration at Gram Panchayat
- Afterward confirmation, the Gram Panchayat will subject a Job Card with a photo of all adult memberships of the domestic willing to work under the programme.
- The Job Card must continue in the keeping of the family.
- Job Card container can apply for effort to the Gram Panchayat which will issue him/her a dated receiving of the work request

## NEED FOR THE STUDY

The calculation extensively focuses on investigative whether MGNREGA has made fruitful inroads into the influence of rural women's in India. National Federation of Indian Women (NIFW) being an organization working on women's issues believes that such a perspective of examining MGNREGA would be of extreme importance for equity- based empowerment. Therefore, this valuation study trusts that such a viewpoint would allow MGNREGA in the rural regions to develop more real and receptive and even might re-orient anywhere needed particularly in the circumstance of women's authorization in the long run.

The study tries to assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic authorization of females in Karnataka. It additionally examines numerous risk related with the women throughout the employed time of MGNREGA. The research study treasures that the MGNREGA upsurges income and spending of the families associated ended the pre MGNREGA dated and the arrangement knowingly improves the social and monetary decision-making control to females in the men conquered rural civilization. Hence the arrangement safeguards improved average of living of the susceptible poor, more precisely among females. It also discoveries that deprived worksite facility, hot weather condition and lessening of freedom time have put them abundant into difficulty during the employed hours of MGNREGA.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Poverty and unemployment are the main characteristics of the developing countries like India. For the eradication of poverty and reduction of the unemployment in the nation, the government has taken necessary steps like implementing new programs for the development of the nation. One such program introduced by the Government of India is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The main objective of the MGNREGA is the creation of employment in rural areas for both men and women. The act is reaching the beneficiaries through Grama Panchayats i.e., the Grass root level of the Governance. Thus, it is important to identify the role of the act in the empowerment of people in rural India. Hence a micro level study was undertaken in Karnataka to know the effectiveness of MGNREGA in the economic empowerment of women.

This study humbly undertakes to lay the ground work for an understanding on the pattern of MGNREGA in rural and their impact on the Women Empowerment. It also establishes institutional grounds on women empowerment

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the growth rate of women's participation under MGNREGA.
2. To study the extent to which MGNREGA is successful in achieving women empowerment.
3. To compare the extent of economic empowerment of women between developed and less developed districts of Karnataka through MGNREGA.

# SAMPLING DESIGN

A random sampling design was used to collect the data using a questionnaire method. The researcher also discussed the issues with the rural people to make inferences on the programme and views of the people. For the present study MGNREGA in Karnataka is chosen where the developed and less developed area. The primary survey was conducted in 340 beneficiaries to analyze the rate of women empowerment and with the help of interview schedule that contain all relevant queries.

# DATA SOURCES

The study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from 340 beneficiaries by using interview schedule method. For collecting primary data, the questionnaire was prepared in such a way that the respondents were able to understand clearly and stretch their sentiments freely and honestly. The meeting schedule method had been pre verified and authenticated so as to accuracy and liability.

Secondary data such as profile of Karnataka, population data, mapping of MGNREGA covering area, number of beneficiaries, number of Job card issued, number registered toward jobs, number employment created, number of people completed 100 days have been collected from Grama panchayat, Zila panchayat, and Indian Institute Social and Economic center, Bangalore and various libraries, various websites and Social and Economic Journals and articles.

**Table-1: Details of Respondents Income**

Districts	Statistics	Income of the respondent		Total
		Before	After	
	Mean	3647.65	5972.48	9553.69
Less developed	N	149	149	149
	S.D	2392.62	2438.98	4650.68
	Mean	5499.47	8439.79	13615.18
Developed	N	191	191	191
	S.D	3003.84	5499.17	5836.29
	Mean	4687.94	7358.52	11835.29
Total	N	340	340	340
	S.D	2898.82	4587.95	5710.22

Source: primary survey 2016

Table 1 shows the earnings of the respondents before and after joining the scheme. In developed district before joining the scheme, per capital earnings of the respondents earned was Rs. 5499.47. After adopting the scheme per capital income of the respondents earned is Rs. 8439.79. In less developed district before joining the scheme per capital income of the respondent earned was Rs. 3647.65. After adopting the scheme per capital income of the respondents earned is Rs. 5972.48. This shows that there is a change between developed and less developed district respondents income.

The table indicates that there is difference between before and after joining the scheme of the respondent's income. On this basis researcher has found that women are empowered by joining MGNREGA.

**Table-2: Details of Respondent Expenditure Before and After Joining the MGNREGA**

		Before joining Women contribution		Total	After joining Women contribution		Total
Districts	Statistics	Food	Non- food		Food	Non-food	
Less developed	Mean N	317.44	547.38	885.63	900.00	5763.89	6241.07
	S. D	149	149	149	149	149	149
		320.36	905.06	1014.33	563.83	11372.48	7524.50
Developed	Mean N	330.10	786.96	1199.26	942.93	5123.14	5877.59
	S. D	191	191	191	191	191	191
		354.92	1697.52	1843.04	595.72	7579.41	5438.83

<b>Total</b>	<b>Mean N S. D</b>	324.55 340 339.77	681.97 340 1409.55	1061.82 340 1541.84	924.11 340 581.50	5403.94 340 9421.42	6036.88 340 6428.85
--------------	------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------

Source: Primary Survey 2016

Table 2 shows the respondents average expenditure before and after joining the MGNREGA. In developed district, Rs. 330.1 of the respondent's total expenditure on food, Rs. 786.96 of the respondent's expenditure on non-food before joining the scheme, Rs. 1199.26 of was the respondent's expenditure on food and non-food before joining the scheme. In less developed district, Rs. 317.44 of the respondent's expenditure on food before joining the scheme, Rs. 547.63 of the respondent's expenditure on non-food before joining the scheme. Totally Rs. 885.63 of the respondent's expenditure on food and non-food before joining the scheme.

In the same manner after joining the scheme, in developed district, Rs. 942.93 of respondent's expenditure on food after joining the scheme, and Rs. 5123.14 of respondent's expenditure on non-food after joining the scheme. Finally, Rs. 5877.59 of respondent's expenditure on food and non-food after joining the scheme. In less developed district Rs. 900.00 of respondent's expenditure on food and Rs. 5763.89 of respondent's expenditure on non-food. Totally, Rs. 6241.07 of respondent's expenditure on food and non-food expenditure.

The table 2 clearly gives the picture of depicts that after joining the scheme, respondent's expenditure on food and non-food changed significantly or substantially. Thus, respondents are empowered by joining MGNREGA.

**Table-3: Details of Respondents Before Saving**

Districts	Statistics	Savings Before Joining							Total
		Banks	Post Office	LIC	Chit Funds	SHGs	Jewelry	Others	
Less developed	Mean N	662.08	.00	1.34	32.88	164.09	659.06	557.04	2282.55
	S.D	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
		706.76	.00	11.54	195.71	162.33	1159.97	647.57	2580.44
Developed	Mean N	776.17	5.26	.52	37.89	176.96	535.26	630.68	2217.01
	S.D	191	190	190	190	191	190	189	191
		981.49	72.54	7.25	183.54	203.50	922.82	709.81	2132.49
Total	Mean	726.17	2.94	.88	35.69	171.32	589.67	598.22	2245.73
	N S.D	340	339	339	339	340	339	338	340
		872.47	54.31	9.37	188.72	186.43	1033.99	683.06	2335.99

Source: Primary Survey 2016

Table 3 shows the respondent's average savings in different area before joining the MGNREGA. In developed district, 776.17 of the respondents saved the amount in Banks, 5.26 of the respondents saved the amount in Post office, 0.52 of the respondents saved the amount in LIC, 37.89 of the respondents saved the amount in chit funds, 176.96 of the respondents saved the amount in SHGs, 535.26 of the respondents saved the amount in Jewellery, 630.68 of the respondents saved the amount in others. Respondents saved the total amount of Rs. 2217.01 of before joining the scheme in developed district. In less developed district, 662.08 of the respondents saved the amount in banks, 0.00 of the respondents saved the amount in post office, 1.34 of the respondents saved the amount in LIC, 164.09 of the respondents saved the amount in SHGs, 659.06 of the respondents saved the amount in Jewellery, 557.04 of the respondents saved the amount in others. Respondents saved the total amount of Rs.2282.55 before joining the scheme in less developed district.

**Table-4: Details of Respondents After Saving**

Districts	Statistics	Savings After Joining							Total
		Banks	Post Office	LIC	Chit Funds	SHGs	Jewelry	Others	
	Mean	1305.70	.00	1.34	55.03	366.44	801.67	869.79	3423.82
Less developed	N	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
	S.D	1023.46	.00	11.54	245.82	340.43	1522.70	910.22	2513.46
Developed	Mean	1439.52	.00	.52	65.44	394.76	742.14	990.31	3786.38
	N	191	191	191	191	191	191	191	191
	S.D	1071.48	.00	7.23	240.25	422.21	1269.12	1041.72	2673.61
Total	Mean	1380.88	.00	.88	60.88	382.35	768.23	937.50	3627.50
	N	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340
	S.D	1051.28	.00	9.36	242.40	388.20	1384.15	986.66	2607.09

Source: Primary Survey 2016

Table 4 table shows the respondent's average savings in different districts after joining the MGNREGA. In developed district, 1439.52 of the respondents saved the amount in Banks, 0.00 of the respondents saved the amount in Post office, 0.52 of the

respondents saved the amount in LIC, 65.44 of the respondents saved the amount in chit funds, 394.76 of the respondents saved the amount in SHGs, 742.14 of the respondents saved the amount in Jewellery, 990.31 of the respondents saved the amount in others. Respondents saved the total amount of Rs. 3786.38 after joining the scheme in developed district. In less developed district, 1305.7 of the respondents saved the amount in banks,

0.00 of the respondents saved the amount in post office, 1.34 of the respondents saved the amount in LIC, 366.44 of the respondents saved the amount in SHGs, 801.67 of the respondents saved the amount in Jewellery, 869.79 of the respondents saved the amount in others. Respondents saved the total amount of Rs.3423.82 after joining the scheme in less developed district.

### Hypothesis 1

Existence of difference between Respondents Savings before and after Joining the MGNREGA.

### Null hypothesis H0

No difference exists between respondents savings in the before and after joining the MGNREGA.

### Alternative hypothesis H1

Difference exists a difference between respondents savings in the before and after joining the MGNREGA.

**Table-5: Paired T Test Sample Statistics**

Saving on an Average

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Savings Before joining Pair 1	2245.7353	340	2335.99594	126.687171
Savings After joining	3627.5000	340	2607.09005	141.38931

Source: Primary Survey 2016

**Table-6: Paired T Test Samples Correlations**

Paired Samples Correlations

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Savings Before joining Pari 1 and Savings After joining	340	.721	.000

Source: Primary Survey 2016

**Table-7: Paired T Test Samples Test**

		Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Savings Before  Savings After	-1381.76471	1864.01013	101.09014	-1580.60765	-1182.92176	-13.669	339	.000

Source: Primary Survey 2016

From Table 5, it can be seen that the average savings is 2245.7353 before and after joining the MGNREGA is 3627.5000. It is obvious that after the joining the MGNREGA scheme, respondents saving capacity has increased in developed and less developed district.

## FINDINGS

The study indicates that there is difference between before and after joining the scheme of the respondent's Income, Saving and Expenditure. On this basis researcher has found that women are empowered by joining MGNREGA.

## CONCLUSION

MGNREGA has been hailed as a forum initiative to eradicate poverty and generate the employment in the nation especially in the rural areas for unskilled labourers. MGNREGA has played a significant role in empowering the women's, by providing employment under the scheme. It has helped in the creation of assets by providing importance to agricultural activities and community works. It has benefitted in increasing the agricultural productivity and income. Thus, it can be said that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an unparalleled chance to build the basics of a social safety system in pastoral India to resuscitate community economies, endorse social fairness and authorize rural laborers in overall and females in particular.

## REFERENCE

1. Syed Ali (1998): Income and Employment generation through IRDP – An Analysis. *Kurukshetra*, 46(10): 5-8.
2. Trivedi. G (1963): Measurement analysis of socio-economic status in rural families. Ph.D. Thesis, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
3. Unterhaltar, Elaine (2001): "Gender, Education and Women's Power: Indian States and Civil Society Intersections in DPEP" *Institute of Education*, University of London, Compare, Vol.31, No.1.
4. Vaidyanathan (2005): "Employment Guarantee: Need for involvement of States, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (33): 3646-3648.
5. Vanitha S.M (2010): An economic analysis of MGNREGA programme in Mysore district of Karnataka. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis (Unpub.), Univ.
6. Venkata Reddy (1989): "Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: An observation", *Kurukshetra*. pp. 39-41.