

ROLE OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE GROWTH OF INDIAN ECONOMY AND THE IMPACT OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT ON MIGRATION

¹Dr.Sumanta Bhattacharya, ²Bhavneet Kaur Sachdev

Research Scholar at MAKAUT , Public-Foreign-Defence Policy Analyst¹ , Political Science hons (Calcutta University) Masters in Development studies²

sumanta.21394@gmail.com¹, bhavneet829@gmail.com²

ABSTRACT

India's economic growth is dependent on rural employment and rural economy , due to COVID-19 pandemic today India labour market is under stress . Lakh of migrant workers have returned back to their villages . Rural India , because of its poor employment facilitates and allowance , we are seeing a rapid rise in migration to urban India . Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is seen as the only hope for employment for the migrants where as the MGNREGA has been both a success and a failure ,it varies from state to state , with given the state with the responsibility to decide on the allowances , the really benefits of the scheme have not reached out to people . Corruption and irregularities have made it a failure , the low income of the farmers and other non agriculture activities are bring the villagers to live below poverty line , the farmers are leaving their farms and finding an alternative jobs . It is important that the scheme should be implemented without corruption and gram panchayat should be given the responsibility and new schemes should be initiated in consultation with the villagers and grass root participation followed by infrastructure growth which will uplift better jobs and allowances in rural India .

Keywords: Rural economy , rural employment , MGNREGA, agriculture , farmers , COVID-19

INTRODUCTION

Rural employment and economy are the nerve centre for strengthening the Indian economy . With decline in the employment rate we are experiencing a decline in the GDP particularly in the COVID time . Agriculture is till now regarded as the primary and pillar of economy growth , with more than 50 % of the workers are employed in that sector . The rural population are day by day migrating to the urban sector for better job and standard of living due to poor rural infrastructure and no employment or a minimal standard of income . The rate at which suicide is taking place among the farmers , because of land acquisition and very less income , there are no land rights, the service or middle men are coming and taking away the land of the farmers , construction are taking place in the rural areas , big factories are being formed which is effecting the agriculture group . Moreover because of lack of cold storage infrastructure in India 60 % of the food turn rotten which can't be sold , the farmers hence don't receive more as per the expectation from the farmers . People in the rural India are either working in agricultural or non -agricultural sector . People are employed in agricultural sector , horticulture industry, poultry , fishery culture and other work in the forest area . The excess use of natural resources have also resulted in lack of economy development . If the urban people come and capture land of poor rural farmers then its obvious that farmers will have no way to earn . With liberalization of economy and private sector entering most part of the economy , rural employment and economy has been badly affected , with no access to market place and poor road connectivity the farmers have to sell their product to middle men or intermediary who then sell the products as per their choice and provide them will less money in return , as farmer have no idea about the market prices followed by the post harvest period , the farmers have to wait for longer periods to receive their pay .Today 76 % of the farmers are leaving agriculture as an occupation and finding new ways to turn money in the rural area or living for urban sectors . Contract Farming has provided no benefit to the farmers , where the private sector have a major roe to people who are more considered about the economy benefit

instead of focusing on soil and land prevention , With such activities taking place the rural economy and rural employment will reduce .Over the years the government have launched many schemes to provide employment to the rural sector and empower them economically . Rural villages constitute a major part of the country , if there is an economy breakdown , it will automatically influence the urban areas and overall economy of the country we have experiencing it today in the form of lockdown.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this exploration , I have used a amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application –as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellants in a methodical and convenient way . Question were asked to the common youth , public policy Analyst , urban people ,farmers , rural women , migrant workers , interviews –consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group .

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH PAPER

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

- 1.A study on rural employment in India .
2. An understanding of MGNREGA and its benefits and the different schemes of the government for rural employment .
3. What are the loopholes and reason for the failure of MGNREGA .
4. What is the future of rural employment and economy in India .

LITERATURE REVIEW

India's economy is predominantly rural in character , as per the reports even in 1991 , 74 % of the people lived in rural sector and two third were employed in the agriculture and other related activities living in 5,80 ,000 villages . Agriculture contributes 29 % to the GDP ,Agricultural development is considered prerequisite for rural development , foundation for national development and economy The role of agriculture in economic growth has been recognized and talked about since the time of Physiocrats and they can surplus the value the agriculture sector , The India rural economy is based on agricultural and non agricultural , the agricultural subsector comprises of farming and federated profitable activities which includes crop husbandry , dairying , forestry , animal husbandry , poultry . The non agricultural subsector would include profitable activities like business , fabrication , and services like Industry here means cottage and village industries , handloom , Khadi , Handicrafts etc . Business means microenterprises , small shops , petty traders trading of goods and services would include transport, money lending , input supply, communication and retail of farm and non agricultural goods . The main collaborators of the rural zone incorporate farmers, agricultural labourers and non-agricultural labourers, merchants , money leaders, artisans , banking , transport , weavers and many more. In the rural areas there are economic zones such as Forest which are valuable source of renewable resources providing vital life support system , with growing population demand for forest produce has also increased progressively .Forest products are used for industrial purpose, furniture and also a source of medicine .Water a vital element for realizing the full potential for the agriculture sector Indian has vast water resources .On the other side fishery culture is playing an important role in rural economy After China , India is the highest producer of fish , the sector has helped in generating employment and foreign exchange . India has a maritime coastline of 12,700Km and a coastline of 7000Km .The Agriculture sector amounts to 18 to 20 % of the total exports . India is also the

largest producer of many items like milk , cotton , bananas , pulses and second largest of fruits , vegetables , sugarcane , wheat , rice , groundnut and leading producer of livestock , horticulture , poultry and fishery . The horticulture industry has developed over the years and provided employment to 42 % of the population . The other agricultural sector has enhanced the overall rural economy still we see so many people migrating to the urban sector for better job and lifestyle . Even though there are so many options in the rural sector what we lack behind is allowance which they earn is not enough to sustain a month properly , you can't satisfy all your needs with that salary , However it also depends upon the owing of the land , as the land reform system in India has not improved over the years .

FINDING

The Mahatma Gandhi National rural Employment Guarantee was a schemes introduced by the administration , it was passed in September , 2005 to provide employment and social security to the rural people . It is implemented in all districts apart from places where there is 100 % urban living . The main objective of MGNREG is to provide 100 days of jobs to every household worker in a financial year who are volunteers for unskilled labour , within 15 days of registration MGNREG provides the job to the household , if it is unable to go so it provides unemployed pay to the family for the time being . It also aims to create durable assets in rural India , and minimize the migration rate from rural to urban India . It came into from 2006 , where the central government is in charge of allowance outlay and 75% of the resource expenditure and the rest 25 % responsibility is taken by the state . The gram panchayat is responsible for the implementation of MGBREG . In the past 7 year we have seen a rise in NREGA cards which amounts to 83 Lakh from April .

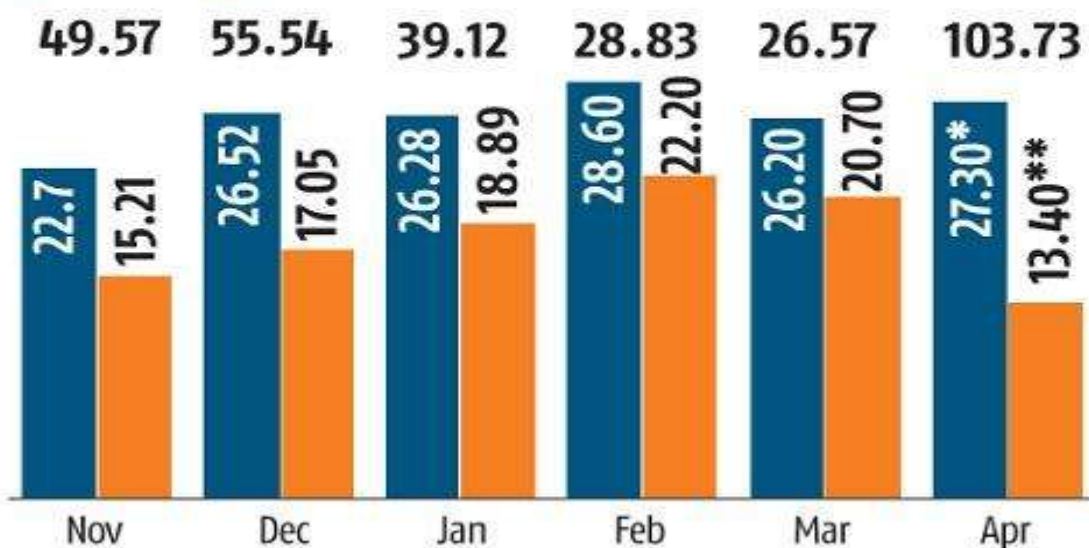


During this lockdown million of migrants had to return back to their home states , who steadily applied for Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee schemes for job . From April to August 2020 , 83 Lakh additional household or 1.6 crore people joined the NREGA labour force which by getting join card , the

scheme included 14.36 crore people , Now once you get a job card that doesn't mean you have got the job . The stipulation for untrained work under NREGS has been rapidly incrementing over the years between the remunerative slowdown , it has been estimated that from 1st April to 10th September , 2020 , 5.97 crore household availed NREGS which has been the highest ever since the launch of the scheme .According to the government more than 67 Lakh migrants have returned back to 116 districts and in order to encourage employment , the government launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan in the 6 states Bihar , Rajasthan , Uttar Pradesh , Madhya Pradesh , Odisha and Jharkhand this schemes was launched in June 2020 as most of the migrants from their state . The states with highest demand for job cards were Uttar Pradesh which amounts to 21 Lakh people , Bihar 11 Lakh and in the 3rd position was West Bengal which witnessed 6.8 lakh new jobs. West Bengal saw 20 Lakh migrants returning homes however the west Bengal was not included as part of Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan . The unprecedented stipulation in NREGA across India has led to the utilization of 67 % of the entire fiscal allocation .

HOUSEHOLDS DEMANDING WORK UNDER MGNREGA (in mn)

■ 2020-21 ■ 2019-20

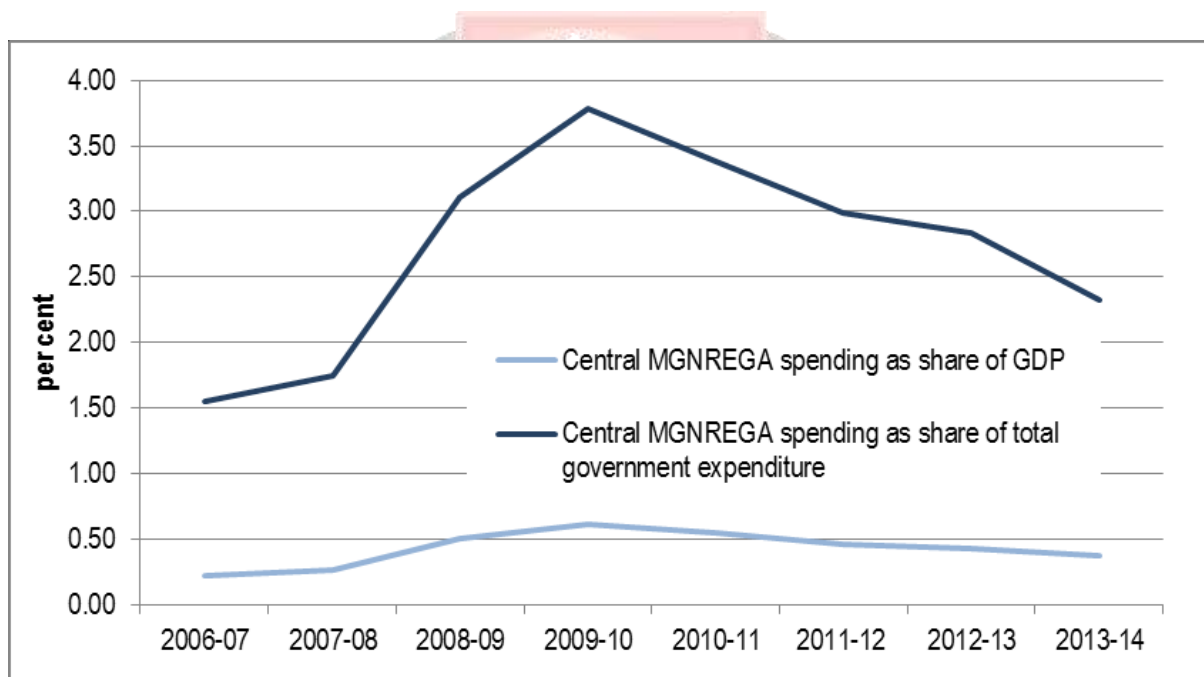


*April 2021; **April 2020

Source: MGNREGA website

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a law where a person in the rural area if applied for a job has to be given a 100 day of work in local area within 15 days of registration and if not able to provide a job , they have to be pay the worker unemployed allowances and it was in April , 2008 that National Rural Employment Guarantee act was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It is social security scheme . Today the wages and salary under the MGNREGA is decided by the state and it varies from state to state for instance it is 163 in Bihar and 500 in Kerala . The work here includes planting of it , maintaining the check dam thee are small tanks basically created in reservoirs , building ponds , water observation tends in hilly areas to reduce soil erosion , building toilets , restoration of irrigation ponds , construction of Anagawadi , construction of roads , all kind of public work is under MGNREGA .

However MGNREGA has generated serious monetary drain on India's assets. The real benefit of the yojana don't reach the targeted groups, or there exist irregularity. It is the state who decide the amount of the wages and also about the power of the Panchayat as per article 234G of the Indian constitution which is actual a big loophole where the Gram Panchayat has very less power in regulating MGNREGA. So now the government have come with new programs to provide employment to the people like Jan Dan Yojana, Skill India Program Garib Kalyan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. the government has further introduced the National Electronic Fund Management System for the MGNREGA so that the money reaches to the people and there is no delay, as soon as the Gram Panchayat state an order the money will reach to the labour in 48 hours. and aadhar card is linked chance of corruption is less. Panchayat level officer have been trained and given the responsibility to use National Electronic system, since the registration details have been registered to the panchayat and it is the responsibility of the panchayat to open bank accounts or post office accounts of the labourers. Therefore it main sense to install it. Social Audit by CA&G, it is way of measuring, reporting, implementing and improving an organization social and ethnical performance, narrow gaps between vision, ground and reality. Grievance Redressal Mechanism by state, and State Quality Monitor (SQM) -government officially at district level supervisory the utilization of funds under the schemes these are the measures taken to tackle irregularities in the implementation of the scheme.



WAY FORWARD

Rural economy is integral to the overall development of economy in India. The biggest spam in the rural economy is rural employment, you have job available in the agricultural and non agricultural sector but the salary and allowances are very less that it can provide necessary items for a month. MGNREGA where today the wages is decided by the state and the wages vary from state to another. We need to increase the wage of employment and equal amount school be brought in every state, due to corruption funds are not received by the people and they cannot get the benefit of the scheme, the government under Modi Sarkar has launched new schemes as part of MGNEGA which can help to over come the problem and Loopholes in the MGNREGA scheme. We need to introduce new jobs and employment scheme as the migration rate is amplifying with each

passing day due to poor allowances , due to lack of cold storage half of the food turns out to be rotten , which results in food wastage and also the farmers don't receive money . We need to construction cold storage in every part of the country and double the income of the farmer so that migration can be reduced , CCTV camera and special National level websites should be introduced using Artificial intelligences where no kind of mistake or misuse of data can take place , the money reaches the required person . The decision of salary and allowance for the workers should be given to the Gram Panchayat as they are in charge of registration and they have better knowledge about the requirements of the villages than state government , moreover we should involve grassroot people and asking them about their needs and collaborate and bring in new schemes for employment generation with an increase in salary .

CONCLUSION

With each passing year we are seeing an increase in the rate of farmers suicide , and a rapid migration into the urban sectors with 76 % of the farmers have left farming , even with the rise in horticulture industry ,fishery and Poultry culture . The rural economy and employment is reducing , with private sector taking control over many regions, due to poor land reformation in India and corruption , the land for cultivation is being taken away for development purpose . MGNREGA has been a failure in many parts in provided 100 days of employment to its people , and funds have not reached the people due to irregularly in the system and COVID -19 has put double pressure for jobs as the migrants workers have returned to the villages . Rural employment requires new policies and measures to uphold the over all economy of an underdeveloped country .

REFERENCE

1. Roshni Pandey , 2017 , November ,MGNREGA and its role in rural development , Vol 7 , issue 11 , International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication .
2. A.P Arya , S.Meghana , A.S Ambily , 2017 , January , Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and women empowerment with reference to Kerala. ResearchGate .
3. Rahul Bahuguna, Dr . Akhilesh Chandra Pande , Vishal Soodan, 2016 , Novemeber , A study on Socio-Economic impact of MGNERGA on beneficiaries in rudeaprayag district of Uttarakhand India .
4. Girish Kumar Agrawal , 2019 , October , Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act : Design Failure , Implementation Failure or Both ,SAGE Journal .
5. ET Bureau , 2020 , October , Rural Employment falls , employment rate in urban India stays slow .
6. Subrata Dutta , 2019 , February , Rural Unemployment in Gujarat and West Bengal , South Asia Research 39(1) pp 1-22.
7. Atrayee Saha , 2019 , January , Rural Employment Generation in India : A critical View from Rajasthan , South Asia Research .
8. Venkatesh P , 2013 , September , Recent Trends in Rural Employment and wages in India :Has the Growth Benefitted the Agricultural Labours , Conference : Agricultural Economics Research Review .
9. Kumar A , Kumar S , Singh K . D , Shivjee , 2011, Rural Employment Diversification in India : Trends , Determinants and Implication on Poverty , Agricultural Economics Research Review , Vol 24 , pp-361-372 .
10. Andrew D.Foster , Creating Good Employment Opportunities for the rural sector , ADB .
11. Bhatt V , Chandrasekhar S , Sharma A , 2020 , October, Regional Patterns and Determinants of commuting Between Rural and Urban India , SpringerLink

12. Employment U-turn : Rural India is India's main employer , understanding the rural economy – A new Series by CPR

