

Imprints and Status of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Azamgarh District, Uttar Pradesh: A General Review

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Abstract—The study has done in Azamgarh district where the problem of unemployment, poverty, malnutrition and undernutrition is in very considerable amount to hurdle the development, but Mgnrega is the hope for the people to some extent that tackle the same by their muster roll. To know the representative coverage of the scheme the present study has done and collected the secondary sources of data from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to focused on the Expenditure level, Projects run under the scheme, Job Cards issued, Household provided employment and Person-days generated under the scheme for the financial year of 2018-19. In this study we found that the implementation pattern of Mgnrega is not in the favor of BPL (SC and ST) workers rather it serves their all ways to the others category of people caused by the fake job cards issued, faulty measures and involvement of the contractors, therefore, the finding has the implications, that there is a need to government has the responsibility to prohibit the all those who have done the fraud in this regards and provide transparency to the workers for their every bit of works as well as their payment.

Keywords: Job card, expenditure level, BPL workers, livelihood security, employment generation

INTRODUCTION

Mgnrega is the world biggest program initiated by India with budget outlet of 55,000 Crores according to financial of year of 2018-19 and provides the 100 days of work in all those parts of the country where before their implementation the people belongs from the locality was totally out of works. In this way, Mgnrega provides the employment of 100 days to achieve the sustainable goal in the form of poverty alleviation, reduce distress migration and as well as

employment generation which is set out by the United Nation.

Because, India is mainly an agricultural country in which the strength of rural unskilled labors is very high and majority of the rural poor depends mainly on the wages they earn through unskilled, casual, and manual labour. Its two third population is inhabitant in rural areas of which 28.3 per cent lives below the poverty line [1] and 58 per cent population primarily based on agriculture which is providing the means of livelihoods in rural areas and shared the 17.23 per cent of the India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product), the measures of Human Development Index (HDI)[1].

After the Independence, India gave the considerable amount of attention towards the rural electrification, connectivity, accessibility, transferability and rural reconstruction by formulating the various strategies, plans and programs. The emergence of Planning Commission in 1950s was the statutory initiative which gave a pioneer work in this direction for the development of rural areas and economic viability aimed as poverty reduction, employment generation and infrastructure development [2].

From the above aims and objectives, besides the agricultural development, the Government of India has launched various schemes and programs to meet the need of rural development, such as, Community Development Program (CDP; 1952), Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP; 1967-77), Marginal Farmer and Agricultural Labour Program (MFAL; 1969-70), National Social Assistance Program (NSAP; 1998) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY; 2000), Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA; 2000), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY; 2001) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY; 2004), , and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM; 2005) and so

on, but all the above mentioned programs is, however, have some deficiency in their enactment, enforcement and implementation caused by faulty measures, improper running, involvement of contractor and false muster roll etc. therefore, all these programs are not able to get the objectives set by the authorities [3].

To overcome these deficiencies and problems the Government of India has launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) a flagship program in 2005 by merging with Swarna Jayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana (SJGRY) and National Food for Work (NFW) for poverty reduction, employment generation and livelihood security across the country for casual, marginalized and vulnerable class of people who lived in rural areas to achieve the livelihood and makes rural life more or less similar to urban character and their sustainable development [4].

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a flagship legislation of the country that endeavors to uplift the lives of the poorest section of society living in rural areas with social and economic vulnerability. The Act seeks at augmenting livelihood security of rural households of the country by providing minimum 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members aged above 18 years are voluntarily seek to do unskilled manual work. The MGNREGA has emerged as world's largest employment programs and is very distinct from other wage employment programs, in its size, right based design and demand driven approach. MGNREGA has become dominant tool for endorsing inclusive growth through guaranteeing on social safeguard, livelihood security and democratic empowerment in rural India [4],[5].

STUDY AREA

Azamgarh is one of the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh. The latitudinal and longitudinal extension of district lies between the 25° 38' north to 26° 27' north latitude and 82° 40' east to 83° 52' east longitude [6] [7]. The study area like Azamgarh is economically backward where the level of development is not as good as compare to the other districts of the eastern up. The district has no permanent business to provide the livelihood condition as compare to nearby district of Mau that has a permanent power loom industry which provides a good amount of work for their people. Therefore, the large number of people is migrating to abroad basically in Gulf countries to earn the good amount of money and send to their family to

sustain the livelihood. As a result of this, the implementation of MGNREGA in Azamgarh district is some extent to provide the 100 days of job for the rural people to sustain their livelihood.

OBJECTIVES

The study set out the imprints and status of the Mgnrega in the district with the objectives of to find out the socio-economic status of Mgnrega in the district; examine the nature of implementation pattern of the scheme in the district; and analyses the level of expenditure in the district.

METHODS

The study has concerned with the selection of sample district. As for as the methodology is concerned with the help of simple random sampling the district has been selected which consists of 22 community development blocks, 1,870-gram panchayats and 4,133 villages for which the scheme has implemented. But the whole district has been coming under the main sampling in which the major emphasis has given to SC and ST population (BPL) which constitutes about 25.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively. The collected data has summarized into table and then figured out with the help of MS excel software. Besides this, the mathematical techniques such as percentage and average were also applied to finalize the data.

Database

The present study is primarily based on secondary sources of data which are collected from the national website www.nrega.nic.in, state website www.nrega.up.gov, district website and district Vikash Bhawan. Secondary data has also collected from the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), government of India for the period of 2018-19.

Mgnrega at a Glance

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a flagship program of the country that endeavors to uplift the lives of poorest section of society in rural areas for social & economic vulnerability to seeks and augmenting livelihood security of rural household by providing 100 days of wage employment within the radius of 5 kilometers of rural household whose adult members aged above 18 years are willing to do unskilled manual labor at statutory minimum wage rate in every financial year within 15 days [8]-[10].

The act was first proposed in 1991 by P.V. Narasimha Rao. In 2006, it was finally accepted in the parliament and commenced implementation in 625 districts of India. Based on this pilot experience, NREGA was scoped up to cover all the districts of India from 1 April 2008. The government as the largest and most ambitious social security hails the statute and public works program in the world. In its World Development Report 2014, the World Bank termed it a “stellar example of rural development” [11].

Mgnrega in Azamgarh District

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was established in February, 2005 in India to covered 22 districts of Uttar Pradesh under its first phase including Azamgarh. The scheme employed the people in the district to provide the 100 days of wage employment for rural households whose adult volunteer members having aged above 18 years are willing to do unskilled manual and casual labour. The enactment of the act in Azamgarh had covered the all 22 blocks development, 1,871 Panchayats, 4,101 villages including the total number of 4.36 lacs job cards, 5.06 lacs workers of which 2.34 lacs active job cards and 2.55 lacs active workers respectively; and constitutes the 38.7 per cent SC and 0.24 per cent ST workers to the total active workers in financial year 2018-19 [12].

The imprints and status of Mgnrega in Azamgarh is the remarkable features which deals the overall view of the scheme and their implementation and mainly focused on the expenditure, project launched, job cards issued, household provided employment and person days generated. Thus, the study is seeking out the existing situation of scheme implemented in the district. The following discussion given the actual way of scheme-

Expenditure Level of Scheme in Azamgarh District

Expenditure define the expenses on a particular thing which is to be used for the purpose of daily needs on various ways like expenditure on education, food, cloths, household gadgets, shelter and so on. Likewise, table 1 illustrated that the government of India has provided the total expenditure level on Mgnrega was 15837.82 lakhs in Azamgarh district out of which 10,770.05 (68.00 per cent) lakhs expended on labour followed by 4,637.28 lakhs on materials which are used at work site and 430.04 (2.71 per cent, Table 1) lakhs for the admin who organize, run and administered the work done by workers under the scheme.

It is obvious from fig.1 that the highest amount of 68.00 per cent money has been expended on labor supply followed by 29.50 per cent on material available at work site and 2.71 per cent expended on admin people those who are manage the work done by workers under the guidance of Mgnrega in the district. Thus, the study area has shown the positive measure for the labor by providing the highest amount of expenditure as well.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Distribution of Expenditure at various level in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

S. No.	Mgnrega Expenditure			
	1	2	3	4
Types of Expenditure	Total Exp.	Labour Exp.	Material Exp.	Admin Exp.
Expenditure (in lakhs)	15837.82	10770.05	4673.28	430.04
Expenditure(inper cent)	100	68.00	29.50	2.71

Source-MoRD, Mgnrega, Retrieved-2019.

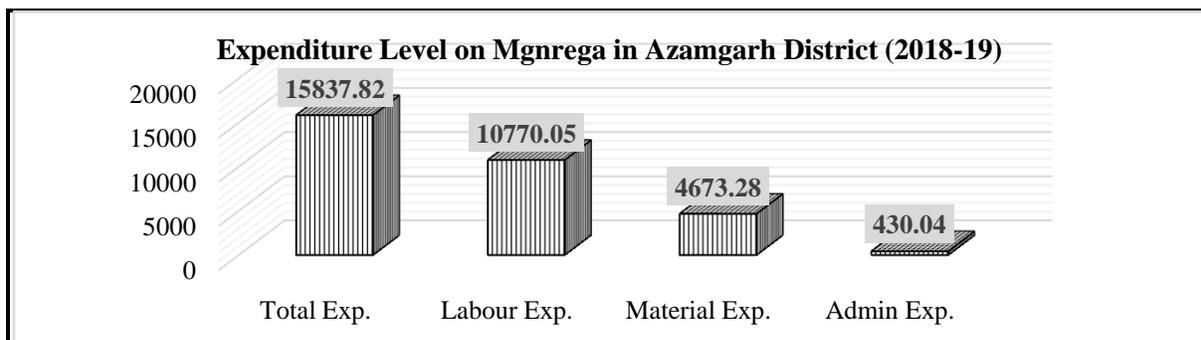


Fig. 1. Projects Initiated Under Mgnrega in the District

Table 2. Projects initiative in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

S. No.	Projects Initiative		
	1	2	3
Project's Category	Sanctioned	Completed	In Progress
Project in Number	3,981	20,177	22,749

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2019).

The government of India with the help of village panchayats has initiated the projects of Mgnrega in the district at various way. Ministry of rural development has been sanctioned the total 3,981 projects in the district in which including the all works provided to the worker under the provision of Mgnrega act. As for the completion of projects is concerned, there are total 20, 177 projects in the district which have already been completed in which including rural infrastructure, drought proofing, flood control, land development, micro irrigation works, playground, renovation of traditional water body, rural connectivity, rural sanitation, works on individual land and others; whereas, 22,749 projects which are still in progress in the district according to financial year of 2018-19.

Thus, it can be seen from the table 2 that the number of work which are in progress under the scheme is highest, meaning thereby, the local body and ministry provided the positive hope amongst the mind of people to join the scheme with great enthusiasm and get the good amount of money for their better livelihood in the district.

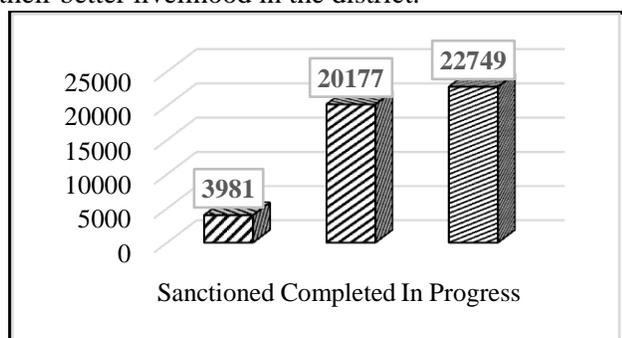
**Fig. 2. Project Iintiated under Mgnreg in Azamgarh (2018-19)**

Figure 2 reveals that, the number of projects categorized by sanctioned, completed and in progress under the act created by the ministry of rural development, government of India. It is identified from the fig2 that, the number of sanctioned project (3,981) is very low as compare to the projects which are in progress which is constitutes about 22,749, but

as for as the completed projects has considered is consist of 20,177 in the district (Table; 2).

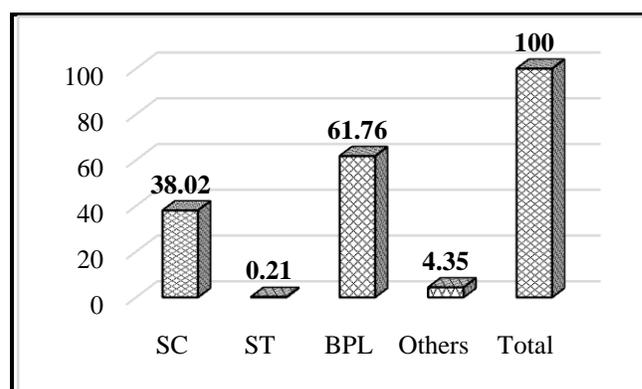
Job Cards Issued Under Mgnrega in the District

A Job Cars is an entitlement card issued to rural household whose adult member demand employment under the Mgnrega and shown willingness to do casual manual labour. The job cardshave issued to the workers within fifteen days ofapplication in written form after the proper verification of applicants by block and panchayat offices. Table 3. depicts the cast wise issued of job cards under the scheme in Azamgarh. As for as the table3. is concerned, there are total 4,05,900 job cards have been issued in financial year 2018-19, out of which the highest number of 2,50,700 job cards have issued for other cast rather than SC, ST and BPL which are the needy beneficiaries in the district. The people who belongs from the ST caste have received a very low number of 843 job cards under the scheme caused by their substantial decrease of population.

Table 3. Cast-Wise Job Cards Issued under Mgnrega in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

S. No.	Category of Workers	Job Cards Issued	
		In Number	In Percentage
1	SC	1,54,357	38.02
2	ST	843	00.21
3	BPL	17,645	61.76
4	Others	2,50,700	04.35
Total		4,05,900	100.00

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2018)

**Fig.3. Cast-wise Percentatge of Job Crads Issued Azamgarh District (2018-19)**

Whereas, the number of workers belongs to SC category is constituted about 2,50,700 job cards have issued followed by BPL category of workers have issued about 17,645 job cards under the scheme in

Azamgarh district for the same financial year. Figure 3 shows the caste wise percentage of job cards issued under Mgnrega. As for the fig 3 is concerned 61.76 per cent job cards issued to other category of workers followed by 38.02 per cent to SC workers, 4.35 per cent to other workers and 0.21 per cent to SC workers in Azamgarh. Thus, the table and fig shows the flexible pattern of job cards issued by the workers at different caste where the lowest percentage of 0.21 per cent of ST workers is only because, the category of general workers group who have not eligible for the work under the scheme are still getting payment through fake cards issued by village Pradhan who has the authority to do so at their own way.

Household Provided Employment Under Mgnrega in the District

As per the act of Mgnrega every households has provided 100 days of employment whose adult members have aged above 18 years and are willing to do unskilled manual casual labour in every financial year since 2016; but Congress in its manifesto released on Tuesday promised 150 days of guaranteed work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) a far away from the actual numbers on ground which do not even meet the current threshold of 100 days of employment.

Table 4. Category wise Provided Household Employment in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

Household Provided Employment					
S. No.	1	2	3	4	5
Category of Workers	SC	ST	BPL	Other	Total
Emp. in Number	58,505	335	5,208	96,151	4,36,359
Emp. in Per cent	13.41	0.08	1.15	22.05	

Source-Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2018)

Thus, in Azamgarh district, table4 depicts that, there were total 4,36,359 household provided employment by ministry of rural development, government of India, out of which the highest number of 96,151 household provided employment for the category of other workers, while the lowest number of 335 household provided employment to the ST category workers in the district followed by 5, 208 days employment to BPL category and 58,505 days employment for SC category of workers.

It is obvious from fig 4 that, out of the household provided employment, the highest amount of 22.05 per cent is concentrated for other category of workers, whereas, the category of ST workers have only provided 0.08 per cent of household employment; and in between these the BPL workers have constituted about 1.15 per cent followed by 13.41 per cent for the category of SC workers in the district.

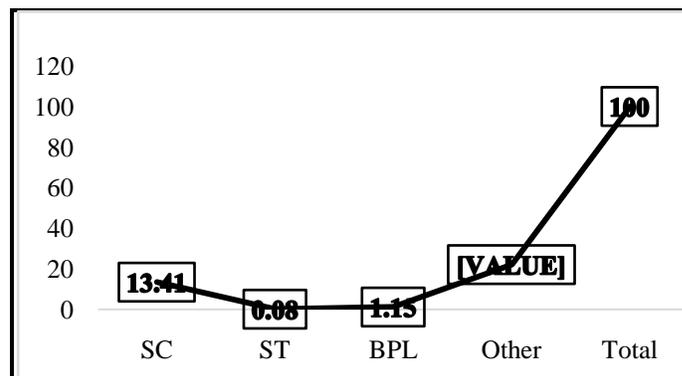


Fig. 4. Percentage of Household Provided Employment in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

Persons days Generated in the District

It means the number of days generated for the people or workers in terms of employment is known with person-days generated under Mgnrega. In Azamgarh district, the ministry of rural development has provided 5,07,611 person-days employment under Mgnrega. Out of the said figures, the highest number of person-days employment generated to other category of workers which consists of total figure of 37,65,803 followed by SC category to recorded as 22,62,648 and 2,08,273 generated person-days employment for BPL category of workers. Table 5 indicating the caste wise person-days employment generate with highest figure demarcated in other followed by SC and BPL category, while the lowest figure insists for ST workers of district.

Table 5. Cast-wise Person-days Generated Employment in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

Person-days Generated Employment				
S. No.	1	2	3	4
Category of Workers	SC	ST	BPL	Others
Employment in Numbers	22,62,648	10,666	2,08,273	37,65,803

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, 2018

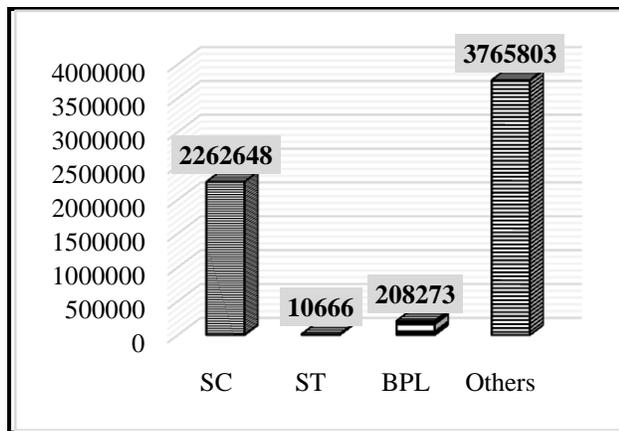


Fig. 5. Caste-wise Persondays Generated in Azamgarh District (2018-19)

Thus, Figure 5 highlighted the graphical representation of person-days generated where the maximum numbers of person-days have been generated in other caste, while Schedule Tribe caste identified by minimum numbers of person-days generated under the scheme followed by BPL category of workers in the district.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The whole study is concerned that, Mgnrega is the flagship program initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India aimed as poverty eradication, employment generation, reduce distress migration from rural areas and provides rural livelihood in India as well as in Azamgarh district; the act provided the 100 days employment for every household whose adult members are volunteer to unskilled manual and casual labour. From the above discussion it can be envisages that the nature and status of Mgnrega in Azamgarh district is showing the very flexible way in terms of expenditure, job cards issued, projects provided under the scheme, household provided employment and person-days generated across the district. The level of expenditure is mainly concentrated for labour who are available for works, showing the positive think of scheme. The number of job cards issued to beneficiaries is not much better because the highest job cards have issued to other category of workers owing to which the beneficiaries like SC, ST and BPL categories workers are not able to get required number of job cards.

Household provided employment and person-days generated under the scheme are also in the favor of category of other workers caused by fraud, faulty measures and issued of fake job cards, consequently,

the beneficiaries are far from the benefit and facilities of scheme basically provided for them, therefore, it is clear from the above discussion that, the nature and status of Mgnrega in Azamgarh is lagging behind.

In the eyes of above context, government should be need to (1) improve the implementation pattern of Mgnrega in the district; (2) provides the transparency and accountability to the beneficiaries whenever, they want to know information about their work; (3) eliminate the involvement of contractors, who are misleading the scheme and open the window of employment for the other caste of workers rather than SC, ST and BPL; (4) provides the maximum number of works to SC, ST and BPL category of workers; (5) enhance the awareness amongst the rural people through public hording, radio, newspaper and television in rural areas. Thus, all the suggestion has been demarcating the future orientation of the research that will be done the other researchers by going through this literature work. And government has intended to take their interest with their best regards for the complete implementation of the scheme, whatever, left out in the former implementation pattern.

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