



## Research Article

# PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS OF MGNREGA PROGRAMME- STUDY IN KARNATAKA ON RURAL WOMEN

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**Abstract:** Women have been regarded as the nuclei and the builders of a nation. Most farmers in Indian economy are women i.e., about 70 per cent of farm work is performed by women. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a such unique government programme which directly aimed in providing employment to women and in achieving better standard of living. So, the efforts have been made in the study would help to know the deficiencies and remedial measures for further improvement in the programme. The study was conducted in two districts of Karnataka state viz., Chickballapur and Mandya during the year 2019-20. Fifty MGNREGA beneficiaries were randomly selected as sample for the study from five villages of each district making total respondents 100. The major constraints as opined by beneficiaries in the study were Employment days is too less in the present situation, delay in payment of wages and continuous work not provided. The main suggestions provided by the MGNREGA beneficiaries to increase the number of working days for beneficiaries and provision of medical facilities near the work site.

**Keywords:** Women, MGNREGA, Programme and Employment

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## Introduction

Indian women have travelled with the days for hundreds of years and have proved to the planet that the hand that rocks the cradle can rule. Pandit Nehru Says that, "when women move forward, the family moves, the village moves and the nation move". Thus, women have been regarded as the nuclei of a nation and the builders and moulder of its destiny. About 70 per cent of farm work is performed by women. Thus, it aptly justifies "most farmers in Indian economy are women". They are overwhelmingly engaged in agriculture both as main and marginal workers and have been playing a pivotal role since ancient times.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a such unique government programme which directly aimed to provide guarantee employment to the deserving people of the countryside. This programme provides a legal safeguard for getting employment. Hence this programme is quite different than the previous rural development programmes. Many studies have assessed the impact of MGNREGA in providing employment to women through whom they are empowered and in achieving better standard of living. So the efforts made in study would help to know the deficiencies prevailing in the programme and also to suggest remedial measures for further improvement [1].

## Material and Methods

The study was conducted purposively in two districts of Karnataka state viz., Chickballapur and Mandya, during the year 2019-20. From each district one taluk (hobli) was selected. From each of the selected hobli one gram panchayats were considered for the study. From each gram panchayat, five villages were selected by random method. Thus, totally 10 villages were considered for the study. Fifty MGNREGA beneficiaries selected from five villages of each district making total respondents 100. The research design adopted for the study was ex-post-facto design.

The collected data was analyzed using mean, frequency, standard deviation, Chi-square test, student "t" test and multiple regression analysis.

## Results and Discussion

The [Table-1] reveals that the constraints faced by MGNREGA women beneficiaries are enlisted and assigned ranks as employment days is too less in the present situation is ranked first followed by delay in payment of wages (rank II), continuous work not provided (rank III), same wage rate is provided for all kind of work (rank IV), delay in issue of job card (rank V), Same wage rate for both men and women (rank VI), low wage rate (rank VII), lack of getting employment or work within 15 days after submission of employment application form (rank VIII), lack of proper evaluation and monitoring of MGNREGA works by the concerned agency (rank IX) and lack of creche facilities for women workers (rank X).

The major constraints as opined by beneficiaries where employment days is too less in the present situation, delay in payment of wages and continuous work not provided. The reason may be no awareness, inadequate facilities at work place, lack of funds, delay in sanction of estimated amount, lack of staffs and a few schematic guidelines from higher authorities. Most of the problems are similar with the findings of Vanitha (2010) [2] and Jayanta Roy (2012) [3].

The [Table-2] gives a gist of the suggestions to overcome the problems as perceived by MGNREGA beneficiaries. The suggestions are ranked as increase of number of working days was ranked as first suggestion followed by provision of medical facilities near the work site (rank II), increased wage rate (rank III), timely payment of full wages (rank IV), provision of continuous work (rank V), different wages need to be given for different kind of work (rank VI), timely issuing of job cards (rank VII), more wage rate shall be given to men compared to women (rank VIII), job may be given to neighboring villagers also (rank IX) and provision of creche facilities for women workers (rank X).

Table-1 Problems or Constraints encountered by MGNREGA Beneficiaries (n=100)

SN	*Constraints	Response		Rank
		N	%	
1	Employment days is too less in the present situation	100	100	I
2	Delay in payment of wages	98	98	II
3	Continuous work not provided	96	96	III
4	Same wage rate is provided for all kind of work	93	93	IV
5	Delay in issue of job card	90	90	V
6	Same wage rate for both men and women	85	85	VI
7	Low wage rate	82	82	VII
8	Lack of getting employment or work within 15 days after submission of employment application form	76	76	VIII
9	Lack of proper evaluation and monitoring of MGNREGA works by the concerned agency	70	70	IX
10	Lack of creche facilities for women workers	66	66	X

Table-2 Suggestions to overcome problems as perceived by MGNREGA Beneficiaries (n=100)

SN	*Suggestions	Response		Rank
		N	%	
1	Increase of number of working days	100	100	I
2	Provision of medical facilities near the work site	95	95	II
3	Increased wage rate	90	90	III
4	Timely payment of full wages	86	86	IV
5	Provision of continuous work	82	82	V
6	Different wages need to be given for different kind of work	70	70	VI
7	Timely issuing of job cards	69	69	VII
8	More wage rate shall be given to men compared to women	65	65	VIII
9	Job may be given to neighboring villagers also	60	60	IX
10	Provision of creche facilities for women workers	55	55	X

### Conclusion

The suggestions provided by the MGNREGA beneficiaries help the respective authorities to take up remedial measures and formulate suitable options. Given due consideration to their suggestions, there is very possibility to increase of number of working days for beneficiaries and provision of medical facilities near the work site in achieving more useful and grand success of the MGNREGA programme. Most of the suggestions are in conformity with the findings of Harish (2010) and Vanitha (2010).

**Application of research:** Study of MGNREGA Programme in Karnataka on rural women

**Research Category:** Agricultural Extension

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**Cultivar / Variety / Breed name:** Nil

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared

**Ethical approval:** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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