



Constraints in Implementation of the MGNREGS by Different Stakeholders in Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

In India, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is one of the major rural development programmes. Which it provides guaranteed employment to the rural households for 100 days in a year. This paper has attempted to find out the constraints faced by the MGNREGS beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh. The important constraints faced by the beneficiaries were delay in wage payment, delay process in post office and non availability of regular works in Andhra Pradesh. Hectic process of post office is the major administration problem in Anantapur district which was delay in wage payment (81.67%) was occurring. In Mahabubnagar also delay in wage payment (100%) regarded as the main administration problem. In Srikakulam district 83.67% of stakeholders stated that delay in wage (83.67%) payment as the main administration constraint. Overall 89.44% of stakeholders indicated delayed in wage payment as the main administration constraint followed by hectic process of post office (83.33%).

Key words : Constraints, Implementation, MGNREGS, Post office, Stakeholders, Wagepayment.

In Andhra Pradesh, MGNREGS Scheme was first launched in Anantapur district on February 2nd, 2006 with the objective of providing every rural household a guarantee of at least 100 days of employment during a financial year by providing unskilled manual work in rural areas to those members of the rural household, who volunteer to do such work. The Act also promises for the creation of durable assets and livelihood resources for the poor through the works undertaken in this program. Another meritorious aspect of this programme is to provide timely payments and also to ensure that the right beneficiary receives the wage payments. This programme is aimed at the development of degraded cultivable land belonging to SC, ST families, small and marginal farmers.

Land levelling, silt application, clearance of bushes, deep ploughing etc. are some of the land development works being taken up in the villages. Afforestation is one of the important interventions under APREGS; and was found to be the most useful in terms of creation of wage employment and regenerate forest area resources in the long run. Construction of roads (i.e., rural connectivity program) for uncovered SC/ST habitations under APREGS is also given due priority. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has promoted dry

land horticulture and growing of trees (fodder, fuel, timber and fruit trees) on bunds and periphery of agriculture fields in order to generate additional income.

The year wise progress is also heartening since its inception. In 2010-11 total number of Job cards issued were 1,25,97,952 lakhs, total expenditure was ₹ 5,47,312.92, total number of person days generated was 33,95,76,671, average wage rate per day per person was ₹ 97.22, total number of households completed 100 days of wage employment 9,68,532 (www.nrega.ap.nic.in).

Despite several achievements, several weaknesses also remain. The most important have to do with the quality of assets created. The Government has not paid adequate attention to strengthening the process of people's planning and implementation of works. The immense potential of MGNREGS for transforming rural livelihoods thus remains completely unrealized. It is known that, under the MGNREGS, the Union Government provides 90 per cent funds for the works and remaining 10 per cent is the State's matching share. However, various State Governments are finding it difficult or rather impossible to take optimum benefit of the MGNREGS because of its limitations in meeting the State's share from the meager district plans.

Table 1. Constraints in implementation of the scheme by different stakeholders.

S.No.	Constraint	Opinion of the respondents in							
		Anantapur		Mahabubnagar		Srikakulam		Overall	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Social problems									
1	Very exhaustive manual labour	17 (28.33)	43 (71.67)	29 (48.33)	31 (51.67)	17 (28.33)	43 (71.67)	21 (35)	39 (65)
2	No special provisions for old age persons	11 (18.33)	49 (81.67)	13 (21.67)	47 (78.33)	11 (18.33)	49 (81.67)	11.67 (19.44)	48.33 (80.56)
Economical problems									
1	Agricultural labour became costlier	23 (38.33)	37 (61.67)	42 (70.00)	18 (30.00)	23 (38.33)	37 (61.67)	29.33 (48.89)	30.67 (51.11)
2	Non availability of regular work	21 (35.00)	39 (65.00)	40 (66.67)	20 (33.33)	32 (53.33)	28 (46.67)	31.00 (51.67)	29.00 (48.33)
3	No provision for skilled or semi skilled works	41 (68.33)	19 (31.67)	33 (55.00)	27 (45.00)	25 (41.67)	35 (58.33)	33.00 (55.00)	27.00 (45.00)
Political problems									
1	Corruption	38 (63.33)	22 (36.67)	46 (76.67)	14 (23.33)	41 (68.33)	19 (31.67)	41.67 (69.44)	18.33 (30.56)
2	Political disturbance	36 (60)	24 (40)	43 (71.67)	17 (28.33)	29 (43.33)	31 (51.67)	36.00 (60.00)	24.00 (40.00)
Administration problems									
1	Delay in wage payment	49 (81.67)	11 (18.33)	60 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	52 (83.67)	8 (13.33)	53.67 (89.44)	6.33 (10.56)
2	Hectic process of post office	50 (83.33)	10 (16.67)	51 (85.00)	8 (13.33)	49 (81.67)	11 (18.33)	50.00 (83.33)	9.67 (16.11)
3	Non availability of work site facilities	29 (48.33)	31 (51.67)	31 (51.67)	29 (48.33)	26 (43.33)	34 (56.67)	28.67 (47.78)	31.33 (52.22)
4	Non availability of unemployment allowances	48 (80.00)	12 (20.00)	43 (71.67)	17 (28.33)	40 (66.67)	20 (33.33)	43.67 (72.78)	16.33 (27.22)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total respondents

Table 2. Garrett's ranking for prioritization of factors responsible for problems experienced by beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Anantapur district.

S.No.	Constraint	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Delay in wage payment	4786	79.77	I
2	Delayed process of post office	4400	73.33	II
3	Non availability of regular work	4030	67.17	III
4	Agricultural labour became costlier	3482	58.03	IV
5	Corruption	3240	54.00	V
6	Non availability of unemployment allowances	3010	50.17	VI
7	Political disturbances	2565	42.75	VII
8	Non availability of work site facilities	2565	42.75	VIII
9	Very exhaustive manual labour	2388	39.80	IX
10	No special provisions for old age persons	1912	31.87	X
11	No provision for skilled or semi skilled works	1866	31.10	XI

Table 3. Garrett's ranking of prioritization of factors responsible for problems experienced by beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Mahabubnagar district.

S.No.	Constraint	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Delay in wage payment	4793	79.88	I
2	Delayed process of post office	4401	73.35	II
3	Non availability of regular work	3970	66.17	III
4	Corruption	3557	59.28	IV
5	Agricultural labour became costlier	3245	54.08	V
6	Political disturbances	3026	50.43	VI
7	Non availability of work site facilities	2650	44.17	VII
8	No provision for skilled or semi skilled works	2433	40.55	VIII
9	Very exhaustive manual labour	2001	33.35	IX
10	No special provisions for old age persons	1912	31.87	X
11	Non availability of unemployment allowances	1866	31.10	XI

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For this study Andhra Pradesh was purposively selected. Andhra Pradesh was geographically classified into three regions i.e. Coastal Andhra, Telangana, and Rayalaseema. One district from each region namely Anantapuram, Mahabubnagar and Srikakulam, three mandals from each district and from each mandal two villages were selected based on highest expenditure incurred and total works completed under MGNREGS Programme. From three districts 180 beneficiaries were selected randomly. Garrett's ranking technique was adopted to analyze and to rank the views of the beneficiary. The order of merit thus given by the beneficiary for each statement

under each head was converted into ranks by using the following formula.

Garrett's formula for converting ranks into per cent was given by (Garrett and Woodworth, 1971).

$$\text{Percent position} = \frac{100 * (R_{ij} - 0.50)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for the i^{th} statement by j^{th} respondent

N_j = Number of statements ranked by j^{th} respondent

The per cent position of each rank thus obtained was converted into scores by referring to

Table 4. Garrett's ranking of prioritization of factors responsible for problems experienced by beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Srikakulam.

S.No	Constraint	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Delay in wage payment	4764	79.40	I
2	Delayed process of post office	4386	73.10	II
3	Corruption	4028	67.13	III
4	Agricultural labour became costlier	3482	58.03	IV
5	Political disturbances	3240	54.00	V
6	Non availability of work site facilities	3010	50.17	VI
7	Non availability of unemployment Allowances	2565	42.75	VII
8	Non availability of regular work	2388	39.80	VIII
9	Very exhaustive manual labour	1912	31.87	IX
10	No special provisions for old age persons	1866	31.10	X
11	No provision for skilled or semi skilled works	1420	23.67	XI

Table 5. Garrett's ranking of prioritization of factors responsible for problems experienced by beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Overall districts.

S.No	Constraint	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Delay in wage payment	14343	79.68	I
2	Delayed process of post office	13187	73.26	II
3	Corruption	10825	60.14	III
4	Non availability of regular work	10388	57.71	IV
5	Agricultural labour became costlier	10209	56.72	V
6	Political disturbances	8831	49.06	VI
7	Non availability of work site facilities	8225	45.69	VII
8	Non availability of unemployment Allowances	7441	41.34	VIII
9	Very exhaustive manual labour	6301	35.01	IX
10	No special provisions for old age persons	5690	31.61	X
11	No provision for skilled or semi skilled works	5152	28.62	XI

the table given by Garrett. Then, for each statement, the scores of individual beneficiaries were added together and divided by the total number of beneficiaries. The mean scores for all the statements were arranged in an ascending order, ranks were assigned and the important statements identified.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identification of constraints in implementation of MGNREGS

Constraints in implementation of MGNREGS faced by different stakeholders were categorised in to four types viz., social problem, economical problem, political problem and administration problem.

In Anantpur district 28.33% stakeholders opined that very exhaustive manual labour as the major social problem where as in Mahabubnagar (48.33%) and in Srikakulam (28.33%), while in overall situation 35% stakeholders considered it as the main social problem. Only 11.67% of respondents considered no special provision for old age persons.

Among different economic problems in Anantpur district, 68.33% of respondents regarded no provision for skilled or semi skilled work as the major economic constraint, where as in Mahabubnagar, majority of stakeholders (70%) reported costlier agricultural labour as the major economic constraint. In Srikakulam district 53.33%

stakeholders considered non availability of regular work as the main economic constraint. Overall, majority of respondents (55%) regarded unavailability of provision for skilled or semiskilled work as the main economic constraint.

Majority of the respondents of all the three districts i.e. Anantapur (63.33%), Mahabubnagar (76.67%) and Srikakulam district (68.33%) considered corruption as the main political problem. Overall, 69.44% of respondents considered corruption as the main political problem.

Hectic process of post office regarded as the major administrative problem in Anantapur district (83.33%) followed by delay in wage payment (81.67%). In Mahabubnagar delay in wage payment (100%) regarded as the main administrative problem. In Srikakulam district also 83.67% of stakeholders regarded delayed payment as the main administrative constraint. Overall 89.44% of stakeholders regarded delayed payment as the main administrative constraint followed by hectic process of post office (83.33%) (Maulick, 2009)

Factors responsible for problems experienced by beneficiaries of MGNREGS was presented in Table 2,3, 4 and 5 of Anantapur district, Mahabubnagar, Srikakulam and Andhra Pradesh. It is seen from the Tables that "Delay in wage

payment" ranked first, followed by "Delay process in Post Office" "Non availability of regular work" and "Agricultural labour became costlier". The other problems, namely "Corruption", "Non availability of unemployment allowances" "Political disturbance", "Non availability of work site facilities", "Very exhaustive manual labour", "No special provisions for old age persons" and "No provision for skilled or semi skilled works" ranked fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh positions respectively in Anantapur district, , Mahabubnagar district, Srikakulam district and Andhra Pradesh and there it findings are in tune with Adhikari Anindita and Bhatia Kartika (2010).

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