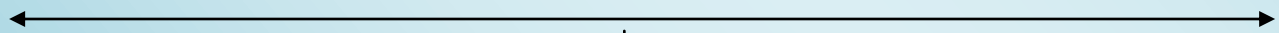


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## IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN KURNOOL DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The MGNREGA, with its guarantee of 100 days of unskilled work for every household, has been envisaged as a gender sensitive scheme. It allows for crèche facilities on work sites, insists that one-third of the participants are women, and wages do not discriminate between the male and female. However, a gender analysis of the programme is necessary to make rural assets generation an inclusive process and address the crises underlying an increasing feminization of poverty in India. The paper analyses the field survey data relating to the impact of MGNREGS on income, personal savings, employment opportunities, cash availability in the hand, household debts etc.*

**KEYWORDS:** MGNREGA, 100 Days, Kurnool, Work

### **INTRODUCTION**

Kurnool District, which is located in the Rayalaseema region, is the biggest and driest of all the drought prone districts of A.P. In this district it is clearly estimated that the droughts visits at least thrice in a decade. The Irrigation Commission and other Central Commissions have been identified the whole district as drought prone. A single dry crop i.e. ground nut is raised under rain fed conditions in most parts of the district. Agriculture is the main source of economy of the district. The work force engaged in agriculture is more than three fourth's of the total work force. The demand for labour in agriculture sector is highly uncertain and seasonal. This is leading to migration of labour in a large scale to the nearest cities. The drought conditions are creating an ecological imbalance and converting the district into a desert. Drought prone areas are more vulnerable to denude the forests and exhaust the natural resources like water, soil, minerals etc. By result the rivers and other streams dry up. Consequently the underground water levels vanish and the area under irrigation is declined. The instant result is the decrease in agriculture production. This is leading to food problem. All these uneven conditions are making the lives of agricultural labourer and farmers rigorous and not bearing. As a result the district has witnessed a number of farmers' suicides.

Keeping all the above facts in view the Government of India has decided to implement the ambitious MGNREGS in this district in the Second phase. In spite of many other schemes under taken for the betterment of rural poor, it is the only programme that has mobilized the rural folk involvement. In this chapter an attempt is made to evaluate the progress and performance of MGNREGS in Kurnool District.

## GENDER WISE PARTICIPATION IN MGNREGS

In MGNREGS works both men and women take equal part in the works. But women participation rate is higher than men at state level as well as district level. This is because women are not getting high wages in outside works when compared to MGNREGS works. The table 3.8 gives the gender wise participation of labourers in the programme in Kurnool District.

**Table-1**  
**Gender Wise Work and Wage Earnings under MGNREGS Scheme in Kurnool District**

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Male registered	827202	827202	827202	827202	827202	827202	827202	827202
Female registered	738050	738050	738050	738050	738050	738050	738050	738050
Male working	241726	340344	304997	324282	248588	275285	252928	191551
<b>% Male Working</b>	<b>49.97</b>	<b>48.56</b>	<b>47.89</b>	<b>47.61</b>	<b>47.25</b>	<b>47.24</b>	<b>46.64</b>	<b>46.60</b>
Female working	242024	360488	331901	356826	277570	307492	289371	219486
<b>%Female Working</b>	<b>50.03</b>	<b>51.44</b>	<b>52.11</b>	<b>52.39</b>	<b>52.75</b>	<b>52.76</b>	<b>53.36</b>	<b>53.40</b>
Male wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	6293.93	7838.37	10267.41	7893.88	7977.25	7744.85	6458.56	4273.34
<b>% Male Wage</b>	<b>49.26</b>	<b>47.06</b>	<b>46.44</b>	<b>45.78</b>	<b>45.47</b>	<b>45.64</b>	<b>45.28</b>	<b>45.00</b>
Female wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	6484.1	8818.28	11841.83	9347.71	9565.21	9222.84	7803.61	5223.79
<b>% Female Wage</b>	<b>50.74</b>	<b>52.94</b>	<b>53.56</b>	<b>54.22</b>	<b>54.53</b>	<b>54.36</b>	<b>54.72</b>	<b>55.00</b>
Male average	88.9	88.13	88.32	92.28	96.02	105.48	109.9	119.66
Female average	88.08	87.25	87.62	91.28	94.39	101.41	104.58	113.32

Source: DWAMA Office, Kurnool

It is evident from table 1 that the number male and female registered under MGNREGS in Kurnool district is constant during eight years of study. The actual number of males and females working under the programme is not evenly distributed over the years. However, the per cent of women working under the programme in the district is gradually increasing year by year. On the other hand the per cent of male working under the programme is showing downward trends in the district. It means men are not more inclined to work under the programme. It can be attributed for low wage earnings under the programme. As such men were going for other works to earn more money. The wage amount allotted to men and women in the district is also unevenly distributed. As the women workers under the scheme is high, so the per cent of wages of female is higher than males.

## CASTE WISE BENEFICIARIES

The MGNREGS scheme aims at bringing economic equality by giving large share of access and opportunity to the disadvantaged and economically weaker sections of the society, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. Table 3.6 gives the details of Caste wise households benefited by this programme in Kurnool District since its implementation to 2014-15.

**Table-2****Caste Wise Participation and Wage Earning Analysis of MGNREGS in Kurnool District**

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
BC-No of regd. HHs	410581	410581	410581	410581	410581	410581	410581	410581
BC-No of working HHs	154446	190302	168349	172950	141860	168758	165599	127959
BC-Total wage(Rs in Lakhs)	7792.21	10282.72	13654.22	9317.55	9444.34	9956.7	8445.25	5291.19
BC-Days worked	8736088	11719689	15576372	10334016	10004999	9708357	7939516	4593857
SC-No of regd. HHs	175256	175256	175256	175256	175256	175256	175256	175256
SC-No of working HHs	74358	87645	79208	79096	69948	76760	75663	62251
SC-Total wage(Rs in Lakhs)	3449.95	4542.69	5942.64	4130.23	5309.38	4465.86	3760.43	2656.2
SC-Days worked	3864420.5	5173542.5	6743746	4490179.5	5597038	4333035	3535694	2300083
ST-No of regd. HHs	19050	19050	19050	19050	19050	19050	19050	19050
ST-No of working HHs	6387	6945	6302	6074	5493	5742	5626	4638
ST-Total wage(Rs in Lakhs)	274.74	316.31	478.26	364.59	483.63	360.37	298.52	192.21
ST-Days worked	316604	361722	524000.5	392084	524766	352725	279262	166479
Minorities-No of regd. HHs	37767	37767	37767	37767	37767	37767	37767	37767
Minorities-No of working HHs	8805	12835	12029	13635	11376	13024	12803	10813
Minorities-Total wage(Rs in Lakhs)	387.18	603.52	830.49	640.96	662.49	678.36	598.06	446.11
Minorities-Days worked	438929.5	694342.5	945806.5	709050	691897	667090	557570	388940
Others-No of regd. HHs	127872	127872	127872	127872	127872	127872	127872	127872
Others-No of working HHs	34043	36704	32604	37541	28695	33715	33812	28232
Others-Total wage(Rs in Lakhs)	1273.71	1558.68	2046.09	1711.21	1613.14	1781.6	1589.25	1143.41
Others-Days worked	1477181.5	1785841.5	2309191.5	1869920	1671101	1721268	1460066	973603

Source: DWAMA Office, Kurnool

The data in table 2 shows that the per cent of working households among backward classes never crossed at least 50 per cent among the registered households. The per cent of working BC households among the registered households ranges between 31.17 per cent in 2014-15 to 46.35 per cent in 2008-09. However, it is pertinent to note that the per cent of BC working households among total working households is higher than other social category households. During eight years of study more than half (ranges between 54.71 to 56.90 per cent) of working households under MGNREGS belong to backward class community in the district. The total number of days worked for BCs is gradually increased during first three years of study. But after that downward trends appearing in total days of BCs. The wage amount disbursed to BC households is higher than other social category candidates as their participation is high.

The next social group which has highest number of participants in MGNREGS programme in Kurnool district is Scheduled Castes. The percentage of working households among the registered SC households ranges between 35.52 per cent to 50.01 per cent. The number SC households working under MGNREGS in the district is highest (87645) in 2008-09 and lowest in 2014-15 (62251). The per cent of Scheduled Caste working households among total households ranges in between 25.76 per cent to 27.18 per cent. In 2009-10 financial year the SC total working days is highest (6743746) and lowest in 2014-15 (2300083) financial year. More or less same trends are visible in case of SC household wages.

The other or general social category households occupies third place with regard to the participation in MGNREGS in Kurnool district. The per cent of households participating among registered general households ranges in between 22.08 per cent to 28.70 per cent. Their share among total working households ranges in between 10.92 per cent to 12.24 per cent. The total days worked by others gradually increased during first three years of study and thereafter they are unevenly distributed. The wages paid to other category of households' ranges in between Rs. 1143.41 lakhs to Rs. 2046.09 lakhs.

Among the minorities the working households among registered households ranges in between 22.08 per cent in 2014-15 to 29.36 per cent in 2010-2011. The per cent of working minority households among total working households is gradually increasing except 2012-13 and 2013-14. The total wages disbursed to minorities over the years is erratically distributed. The total number days worked by minorities increased during first 3 years of study and gradually declined thereafter.

The share of Scheduled Tribe working households among total working is comparatively low among various social categories in the district. The share of ST households never crossed 3 per cent of total working households in the district. The share of ST households among total working households is gradually decreasing except 2011-12. Only 24.35 per cent of registered ST households participated in MGNREGS works in the district and it is highest i.e. 36.46 per cent in 2008-09. The total of ST households is highest (524766) in 2011-12 and lowest in (166479) in 2014-15.

### **SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS) PARTICIPATION IN NREGP**

Self Help Groups which have primarily the poor households as their members should be able to fully access NREGP as the Scheme provides them opportunity to secure investment to move towards livelihoods security. The SHGs and the Federations of the SHGs play a key role in implementation of the NREGP both as beneficiaries under the Scheme and also as the service providers to the wage seekers.

In order to facilitate the SHGs and their federations to access the Scheme the Government of Andhra Pradesh has clearly articulated their role in the implementation of NREGP, Sub Para 5 of Para 6 of the Scheme mentions that the Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) will be responsible to mobilize and build capacities of the wage seekers through the Village Organization (VOs) and SHGs to access their rights and entitlements provided under the Scheme in addition to providing assistance to the Programme Officer in handling Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities relating to the Scheme.

The SHGs and their federations have demonstrated commendable drive and initiative in enabling their members to file applications for issuance of Job Cards. This could happen thanks to the intensive facilitation and training support provided by the DRDAs. This is to be seen as the beginning of many more processes that have to be facilitated to enable the SHGs to access their rights and entitlements provided under the Scheme.

The NREGP has also clearly defined the role of the Chief Executive Officer of Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) who shall ensure the involvement of DRDAs in mobilization and capacity building of the wage seeking families through the SHGs of women and their federations at the Village, Mandal and District Programme Coordinators to carry out the above activities.

The Government is very keen that the SHGs should not miss this opportunity to derive individual as well as collective benefits from the Scheme. Hence concerted efforts shall be made towards this end.

**Table-3****Participation of SHG Members in MGNREGS in Kurnool District**

S. No.	Year	Regd. SHG members	SHG Working	% SHGs Working
1	2007-08	31,087	15,329	49.31
2	2008-09	31,087	17,408	56.00
3	2009-10	31,087	15,543	50.00
4	2010-11	31,087	15,957	51.33
5	2011-12	31,087	14,561	46.84
6	2012-13	31,087	15,871	51.05
7	2013-14	31,087	15,427	49.63
8	2014-15	31,087	13,095	42.12

Source: DWAMA Office, Kurnool

Table 3 reveals that the number of registered Self help Group members (SHGs) in Kurnool district is constant during the 8 years of study. The per cent of working SHG members in MGNREGS never crossed 56 per cent. In 2014-15 only 42.12 per cent of registered SHG members took part in SHG works.

**IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON INCOME**

The impact of the MGNREGS on income as reported sample respondents was presented in table 4.

**Table - 4****Impact of MGNREGS on Income**

S. No.	Item	No of Respondents	Per cent
1	Increased	27	15.00
2	Marginally Increased	101	56.11
3	Status Quo	23	12.78
4	No Response	29	16.11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Data

Table 4 reveals that income of sample women respondent households' income increased due to the implementation of MGNREGS in the study area as reported by 128 respondents constituting 71 per cent of total sample. Only 12.78 per cent of respondents expressed that there is no change in their family income levels. Nearly 16.11 per cent of respondents have not shown any interest to respond.



## IMPACT ON SAVINGS

With the introduction of MGNREG Scheme the rural households got employment in major part of the year. The increased employment opportunities will increase income of the families and which in turn motivate them for savings. The impact of the scheme on savings of sample households is given in table 5.

**Table – 5**

### Impact of MGNREGS on Personal Savings

S. No.	Item	No of Respondents	Per cent
1	Increased	88	48.89
2	Marginally Increased	49	27.22
3	Status Quo	40	22.22
4	No Response	3	1.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Data

As per table 5 more than three-fourth (76.11 %) of the sample respondents reported that there is some improvement in the personal savings due to employment created by MGNREGS. Among them nearly 27.22 per cent of the respondents observed marginal improvement in their personal savings in the study area. Around 48.89 per cent reported significant change. About 22.22 per cent of the respondents stated that there is no change in their personal savings. Nearly 1.67 per cent of the respondents have not framed any opinion on the personal savings in their households.

## IMPACT ON THE GENERATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The MGNREG programme provides new avenues for employment opportunities to working population. The employment which was generated through MGNREG scheme is known as direct employment. The opinions of sample respondents on the generation of employment man days through MGNREGS are presented in table 6.

**Table – 6**

### Impact of MGNREGS on Employment opportunities

S. No.	Item	No of Respondents	Per cent
1	Increased	100	55.56
2	Marginally Increased	39	21.67
3	Status Quo	37	20.56
4	No Response	4	2.22
<b>Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Data



It is clear from table 6 that nearly 77.23 per cent of respondents reported that the MGNREG programme have positive impact on the generation (Man Days) of employment opportunities in the study area. Of them 21.67 per cent reported marginal increase and 55.56 per cent reported significant increase. Around 20.56 per cent reported Status quo or no change. About 2.22 per cent have no opinion.

### IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON CASH AVAILABILITY

The women in rural India have little source of income. For their personal expenses they have to depend upon the male head of the family. Under the MGNREGS the wages of every worker are directly paid to worker. This gives scope for women to keep certain amount of money for their personal expenses. The impact of MGNREGS on the cash in the hands of sample women is given in table 7.

**Table – 7**  
**Impact of MGNREGS on Cash availability in the hands of the Respondents**

S. No.	Item	No of Respondents	Per cent
1	Increased	111	61.67
2	Marginally Increased	31	17.22
3	Status Quo	35	19.44
4	No Response	3	1.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Data

Table 7 reveals that as many as 78.99 per cent of the sample respondents declared that MGNREG programme has significant impact on availability of cash in the hands of respondents. Among them 17.22 per cent reported marginal increased and 61.67 per cent reported significant change. Nearly 19.44 per cent of respondents reported status quo on availability of cash in the hands due to MGNREG programme in the study area. Negligible percentage (1.67 %) of the respondents has no opinion on the increase on availability of cash in the hands of respondents.

### IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON CLEARING OF OLD DEBTS

The increased opportunities of employment are expected to improve the income levels of households and which turn is expected to reduce the debt burden of the respondents are presented in table 8.

**Table – 8**  
**Impact of MGNREGS on Clearing of Old Debts**

S. No.	Item	No of Respondents	Per cent
1	Increased	27	15.00
2	Marginally Increased	110	61.11
3	Status Quo	42	23.33
4	No Response	1	0.56
<b>Total</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>100.00)</b>

Source: Field Data

It is clear from table 8 that nearly 76 per cent of the respondents reported that the MGNREG Programme has positive impact in clearing old debts through creation of additional employment opportunities. Of them 61.11 per cent reported marginal increase and 15 per cent reported significant change. Status quo or no change was reported by 23.33 per cent of the respondents. About 0.56 per cent has no opinion.

## CONCLUSION

As per the present study nearly 76.11 per cent of the sample respondents reported that there is significant improvement in the personal savings due to employment provided by MGNREGS. It can be found that nearly 77.23 per cent of respondents reported that the MGNREG programme have positive impact on the generation (Man Days) of employment opportunities through MGNREGS. It is found that as many as 78.99 per cent of the sample respondents declared that MGNREG programme have positive impact on availability of cash in the hands of respondents. It is found that nearly 76 per cent of the respondents reported that the MGNREG Programme have positive impact in clearing old debts by way of getting additional income through additional employment opportunities.

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