

Participation of Scheduled Castes in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Haryana: A Case Study of Villages of District Rohtak

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Abstract

This paper analyses the participation of Scheduled caste Households in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Haryana. The study is based on primary as well as secondary data collected from the sample villages of District Rohtak of Haryana and other various sources of district administration and state authorities and some institutes working on MGNREG scheme. The overall participation of Scheduled Castes in MGNREGS in Haryana is higher in comparison to national average. The analysis of sample villages also corroborate this fact.

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) formerly known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was a paradigm shifting employment generation programme in Indian economic history. All other employment programmes starting before MGNREGS were quite different from it with respect to their strategy to achieve the goal and the philosophy behind their implementation. For the first time in history right to work was given a legal framework under this programme. Since the caste classification of Indian society also defines the economic classification to a very significant level so the programme is oriented to make social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment during lean season (**Ashok Pankaj**). The scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and the poor women across caste lines constitute the economic vulnerable section of our society. The Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute a major part of land less agricultural labour so they are most expected to take benefits of this scheme. There has been made a

provision regarding women worker that at least one third share of the employment generated is mandatory to be given to women workers (**NAREGA-2005**). There was no provision of reservation for Scheduled castes and the Scheduled tribes in employment opportunities generated through MGNREGS even then their participation is much expected more than their percentage in population of India. Of the workers, the percentage of Scheduled castes workers has consistently been about 20% and Scheduled tribe workers has been about 17% (**Press Information Bureau Govt. of India, Ministry of Rural Development**). The women workers constitute about 52% of the total work opportunities. There is spatial variation in participation of scheduled castes workers in MGNREGS throughout India.

In the state of Haryana the participation of Scheduled caste workers is 48.76% (**Ministry of Rural Development Govt. of India**)

Objective of the study

- The objective of study is to find out the fact that the caste classification in Haryana also defines need for employment of a particular section of soci

Methodology

The data collected for the study pertain to state of Haryana, District Rohtak. One village was selected from each five Development Blocks of district Rohtak viz. Rohtak, Sampla, Meham, Kalanaur and Lakhan-Majara. From each village a sample of 60 to 70 beneficiaries of the scheme was taken in accordance with the strength of beneficiaries in each village. The total number of beneficiaries is 330 which is sample size in the study. The percentage of participation in MGNREGS of a particular caste has been taken as a measurement of participation. All the villages have been selected on basis of the programme running there.

The Analysis of Data

The Category wise number of Beneficiaries of MGNREGS

Villages and Blocks	Respondents caste			Total
	Gen.	SC	OBC	
Jasia (Rohtak)	4	62	1	67
Chandi (Lakhan Majara)	4	57	2	63
Kahnaur (Kalanaur)	0	64	6	70
Kishan Garh (Meham)	2	37	29	68
Kharawar (Sampla)	8	48	6	62
Total	18	268	44	330

Source: Primary Data.

TABLE 1

Caste wise classification of beneficiaries of MGNREGS in sample villages (%age)

Villages and Blocks		Respondents Caste			Total
		General	SC	OBC	
Jasia (Rotahtak)	Count	4	62	1	67
	% within Village of Haryana	6.0%	92.5%	1.5%	100.0 %
	% within Respondents caste	22.2%	23.1%	2.3%	20.3%
	% of Total	1.2%	18.8%	0.3%	20.3%
Chandi (Lakhan Majara)	Count	4	57	2	63
	% within Village of Haryana	6.3%	90.5%	3.2%	100.0 %
	% within Respondents caste	22.2%	21.3%	4.5%	19.1%
	% of Total	1.2%	17.3%	0.6%	19.1%
Kahnaur	Count	0	64	6	70

Total	(Kalanaur)	% within Village of Haryana	0.0%	91.4%	8.6%	100.0%
		% within Respondents caste	0.0%	23.9%	13.6%	21.2%
		% of Total	0.0%	19.4%	1.8%	21.2%
		Count	2	37	29	68
	Kishan Garh (Meham)	% within Village of Haryana	2.9%	54.4%	42.6%	100.0%
		% within Respondents caste	11.1%	13.8%	65.9%	20.6%
		% of Total	0.6%	11.2%	8.8%	20.6%
		Count	8	48	6	62
	Kharawar (Sampla)	% within Village of haryana	12.9%	77.4%	9.7%	100.0%
		% within Respondents caste	44.4%	17.9%	13.6%	18.8%
		% of Total	2.4%	14.5%	1.8%	18.8%
		Count	18	268	44	330
	% within Village of haryana	5.5%	81.2%	13.3%	100.0%	
	% within Respondents caste	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	5.5%	81.2%	13.3%	100.0%	

Source: Primary Data

Table 2

The table 1 shows the number of respondents in different Blocks according to caste-category. The total number of respondents in the sample is 330. The Table 2 shows the percentage analysis of the different castes village-wise in each development block. In village Jasia (Block Rohtak) out of total 67 respondents 4 belong to General Castes, their percentage participation is 6.0%, 62 belong to Scheduled caste and their participation is 92.5%. Only one respondent belong to Backward-caste and participation of BC'S comes out to be 1.5%. the totalpopulation of the village is 4255 (Census Abstract2011) out of which the population of Scheduled Castes is 1760. In village Chandi (Block Lakhan Majara) the participation of general castes is 6.3%, scheduled castes participation is 90.5% and the participation of backward castes is 3.2%. The total

population of the village is 3532 (Census Abstract 2011) out of which the population of scheduled castes is 2425. In Kahnaur (Block Kalanaur) the participation of general castes is 0.0% and that of Scheduled Castes is 91.4% the participation of Backward Castes is 8.6%. The 0.0% participation of general castes in Kahnaur village does mean that there is no general category population in Kahnaur village. The population of this village is 5748 persons in 2011 (**Primary Census Abstract 2011**). The total number of scheduled caste population in Kahnaur village is 3704 and the rest of the population belongs to general and back-ward castes. In village Kishangarh (Block Meham) the participation of general caste beneficiaries is 2.9% and participation of scheduled Castes beneficiaries is 54.4%. the participation of Backward Castes is 42.6% due to the concentration of backward castes in this village. Due to this fact the number of Backward Castes participants has come up to a significant level of 42.6%. The population of the village is 5048 (**Primary Census Abstract 2011**). The population of Scheduled Castes in this village is 1228. In the village Khaward (Block Sampla) the participation of general castes beneficiaries is 12.9% and the participation of scheduled caste is 77.4%. The participation of Backward Castes beneficiaries comes out to be 9.7%. The population of the village is 5327 (**Primary Census Abstract 2011**). The population of Scheduled castes is 1524. Out of 330 total beneficiaries the total participation of general category beneficiaries is 5.5% and that of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries is 81.2%. The participants belonging to backward castes have their participation 13.3%. In this way we see that in each village as well as in whole sample of 330 respondents that the participation of Scheduled Castes is drastically highest and participation of Backward-Castes and General Castes is mild and insignificant.

Findings of the Study

- In Haryana, the percentage of participation of Scheduled Castes in MGNREG scheme is more than that of national percentage of Scheduled castes' participation in the scheme.
- The higher percentage of participation of Scheduled Castes is not due to the strength of their population in the village but due to their vulnerability to unemployment.
- The problem of lean season unemployment is severe among Scheduled Castes in comparison to other castes.

- The higher percentage of Scheduled Castes in participation of MGNREGS reflect the economically weak condition of the scheduled castes who are much prone to problem of unemployment.
- The present scenario of MGNREGS corroborate the fact that the caste classification of population is also defines the economic classification of the population.

Suggestions

- The MGNREGS is a programme which is oriented to fill the gaps of unemployment days of the rural poor. The programme makes a provision of 100 days employment to the rural poor who demand work as and when they are without work particularly in the lean agricultural seasons. Due to the majority of small agricultural holdings the gaps of unemployment days have become larger so the number of employment days in the scheme should be increased.
- Because the scheduled castes and the women are much prone to unemployment, there should be some special drives particularly meant for these two vulnerable sections of society.
- There should be larger budget allocation and the prompt implementation of the programme.
- The economic condition of landless agricultural labour is very poor and they have to struggle for making a decent livelihood so the special provision should be made to include the landless agricultural in this programme.

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