

Economic and Social Assessment of Wage Employment Programs in Manipur

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Abstract: Poverty is complex and multi-dimensional in nature. It is reflected in multiple deprivations like inadequate resources required for a minimum livelihood, lack of access to skill development, education & health and other facilities Ravallion, (2004). The marginal farmers, landless labourers and casual worker households are the worst sufferers of these deprivations. The present study is an enquiry in to the real implications of MGNREGA in few a selected districts regarding the attainment of goals viz; economic and social enhancement of beneficiaries, the importance and the timely requirement of the program and to decide the connection of the beneficiaries. Results of the study showed that MGNREGA at village level is success when considering about the social and economic impact of this Wage Employment Programmes. Assessment of the MGNREGA Programme on providing greater employment and income opportunities to rural workers and assets created has been mostly of durable nature. More employment days need to be provided to workers in the Villages. It was also suggested that the stipulated number of days working should not be provided but even then it is found that the incidence of rural poverty in Manipur has not declined.

Keywords: Development, Assessment, MGNREGA, Opportunities, Poverty, livelihood.

I. Introduction

At the time of India's independence, the socio-economic scenario was characterized by a primarily rural economy with feudal structure. There was widespread poverty, miserable literacy rate, geographically and culturally isolated population, a rigid social structure and extremely poor transport and communication system. The state leaders and policymakers during the initial years of development planning were also not adequately acclimatized to development activities. In view of the impediment to social and economic development, the Pivot of the planning process had been pivoted on the strategic goal of 'economic development with social justice' (Datta 2002). Thus, the planning process in India, over the years, underscored the development of backward areas and disadvantaged population groups. The wage employment programmes provide vision based perspective planning support to the poor. Sustainable poverty reduction in the underdeveloped regions can come about only if other sectors of the economy grow rapidly. It is imperative, therefore, to ensure that the growth process is inclusive and pro-poor (Dev 2004). Agricultural growth still holds the key to Poverty Alleviation in the Indian context. There is considerable scope for increasing various programmes through expansion of irrigation, better land and water management practices, asset creation, infrastructure support, etc. (Ahluwalia 2007). The planning of works under the MGNREGA would be undertaken keeping this in mind. A large number of rural facilities have been built under various programmes over successive plan periods. However, they have degenerated either due to their initial faulty design and construction, or lack of maintenance. Therefore, a specific proportion of allocations under MGNREGA would be used for the maintenance of assets. PRIs would play a major role in the planning, implementation and monitoring of wage employment programmes and allocations under the MGNREGA would be routed through them. A rational criterion would have to be evolved for distribution of funds between the three tiers of the PRIs to ensure balanced development of Villages, Blocks and Districts.

1.1. Wage Employment Programme In Manipur

Manipur lives in villages the rural population constitute about 74.89 percent of the total population enhancement in the quality of the life of the economically weaker sections of the society has been one of the basic objectives of development planning of the state. In order to achieve this goal a number of programme viz, MGNREGA (Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), SGSY (Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), IAY (Indira Awas Yojana), PMGY (Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana), PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Shadak Yojana) etc. have been implemented in the state. These programmes ensure minimum wage to rural workers and enable them to acquired assets and income through self-employment ventures. Hans (1996) revealed that Panchayat Raj Institutions were intended to ensure peoples participation and improving living conditions of the people which are neglected. The village level institutions could not come into their own

because of inadequate devolution of responsibilities and resources in the absence of a well-equipped planning mechanism at decentralized level capable of formulating a single integrated rural development plan with professional competence enlisting people's participation and safeguarding the interests of weaker sections. Mahendra and Galab (1999) highlighted the village level institutions could not come into their own because of inadequate devolution of responsibilities and resources in the absence of a well equipped planning mechanism at decentralized level capable of formulating a single integrated rural development plan with professional competence enlisting peoples participation and safeguarding the interests of weaker sections. The rural wage employment generation programmes generally suffered from inadequate allocation of resources. The allocations meant for Employment Assurance Scheme were thinly spread across a large number of villages. The evaluation of EAS by the Planning Commission (2000) reveals that EAS could cover only about 5% of the target beneficiaries. Although the scheme was observed as demand-driven it was inconsistent with the fact that only 5% of the daily wage earners in rural India demanded work. GOI, (2005), Ministry of Rural Development reveals that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) Operational Guidelines, New Delhi the need to create durable assets and improve livelihood security and the common target groups of certain development programmes with MGNREGA, the Ministry has developed and disseminated convergence guidelines. Datta (2002) imply The development strategy in India, as has already been mentioned, is tuned to poverty alleviation in such a way that reduction in poverty is supposed to be the outcome of increase in income accruing to the poor from the general growth process and from the direct income generation programmes complementing the general growth process. However, India's attempts to reduce income poverty have yielded mixed results as causes of poverty have not always been related to "lack of adequate income" but also to factors outside income or purchasing power. These factors included problems related to institutions, social norms and perceptions, governance and delivery of always been related to "lack of adequate income" but also to factors outside income or purchasing power. These factors included problems related to institutions, social norms and perceptions, governance and delivery of public services which led to difficulties in the realization of basic capabilities by the poor and the disadvantaged and eventually incapacitated these disadvantaged sections to enhance their purchasing power. Dreze, Jean (2009) assured that the NREGA gives a legal guarantee of employment in rural areas to anyone who is willing to do casual manual labour at the statutory minimum wages. Any adult who applies for work under the Act is entitled to being employed on local public works within 15 days. From the review of literature, it is revealed that the overall quality of life of people views and feed-back of the people involve to take decisions about the activities that directly concerned their locality and lives. Naturally, Panchayats should allow and help the rural poor to participate in the development activities directly. The various studies, examine the performance of poverty alleviation programmes, especially, wage employment programmes in Manipur and to suggest suitable policy measures.

1.2. Progress And Achievements Of The Five Year Plan In Manipur

With the launching of the first five year plan in 1951 for India, the process of planned Economic Development also started in Manipur. The first five year plan of the state was launched with a total outlay of Rs. 1.55 crores only. The outlay for the first three five year plans for Manipur was only Rs. 20.68 crores. The third five year plan period beginning from the 1st April, 1966 and ending on 31st March 1969 are known as the period of plan holiday or Annual Plan. During this period, three annual plans were prepared with investment of Rs. 10.14 crores. Fourth Five Year Plan began on 1st April 1969 and lasted till 31st March 1974 with an investment of Rs. 30.25 crores. During the 4th five year plan period the process of most of the economic development in Manipur has been initiated. The fifth five year plan of the State started on 1st April, 1974. This plan was to continue till 31st March, 1979 but was terminated a year in advance by March, 1978. The sixth five year plan beginning on the 1st April, 1980 covered the five year plan period of 1980-1985. The size of the sixth five year plan was quite big as compared to the previous plans with an allocation of Rs.240 crores and that of the seventh plan was again found to be bigger by about 1.79 times of the sixth plan with Rs. 430 crores spreading over the period 1985-1990. There are two (2) annual plans such as 1990-1991 and 1991-1992 between the intervening periods of the 7th and the 8th plans. The 8th plan with an allocation of Rs. 979 crores was launched during the period 1992-1997. The Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan covered the period from 1997-1998 to 2001-2002 and 2002- 2003 to 2006-2007 respectively with an outlay of Rs.2426.69 crores and Rs. 2804.00 crores (SIRD, 2010).

II. Research design and Methodology

2.1. Research problem

Presently, Manipur as many other developing States, is encountered with the socio-economic problems arising mainly due to unemployment and poverty. Even though many anti-poverty programs were implemented to solve this problem even a single does not achieve its targets. Therefore, the design of MGNREGA was essentially on the Community Development approach and launched by the Central Government to solve the

above problem, but the criticism of this newly introduced program also questionable. Therefore, to assess the successfulness of the program, this study was carried out under the following specific objectives.

2.2. Objectives of the study

1. To examine the impact of the wage employment programmes on the beneficiaries in terms of changes in occupational status, income and employment.
2. To identify the financial support among the beneficiaries on this program.
3. To assess the comparative success of the program in terms of Poverty Alleviation.

2.3. Hypothesis of the study

- Ho₁. There is no significant relationship between Income of MGNREGA Beneficiaries and average number of working days.
- Ho₂. There is no significant relationship between number of employment days and change in economic conditions of beneficiaries.
- Ho₃. Beneficiaries are satisfied with the Poverty Alleviation Programmes which was implemented in the study areas.

2.4. Sample Size of the Study

Stratified random sampling method was used to select the respondents for the survey. The wage employment programmes was implemented in nine district of Manipur, namely Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Senapati, Tamenglong, Thoubal and Ukhrul. Out of nine district four district were randomly selected for the study namely Thoubal, Chandel, Imphal East & Imphal West and from four districts 4 villages are selected viz., Arong Nongmaikhong, Unapal, Haraorou Tangkham and Awang Khunou. From each villages 20 (twenty) beneficiaries were selected randomly. Therefore, the total sample size of the study was 80 respondents.

2.5. Data collection and Analysis

The study is descriptive in nature. It is based on Primary as well as Secondary data which are collected from beneficiaries, PRIs and local bodies. The primary data collected with the help of interview Schedule. The secondary data were collected from the Govt. Publications and reports, (published as well as unpublished) of all the agencies functioning at the district, State and Central levels. The data was processed in SPSS – 15 for analysis which is the most appropriate techniques and statistical techniques like percentage, chi-square test, correlation analysis and ANOVA was used for analysing the data.

2.6. Limitation of the Study

The level of literacy of the beneficiaries and the barrier of language, as the study will cover the four (4) districts where diverse languages are spoken, will be a difficult thing to collect primary data. There may be need for an interpreter in each area in order to communicate with the targeted respondents. So, there may be chances of misinterpretation of the information. Lack of proper cooperation from the side of PRIs and other implementing officials while seeking the required data and information for the study may also be a hurdle in this study

III. Results And Discussion

Table -1: Results Of The Correlation Matrix

Group Activities	Significant	Income of MGNREGA	Average number of days	Activities work
Income of MGNREGA	Pearson Correlation	1	.712(**)	.065
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.568
	N	80	80	80
Average number of days	Pearson Correlation	.712(**)	1	-.079
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.487
	N	80	80	80
Activities work	Pearson Correlation	.065	-.079	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.568	.487	.
	N	80	80	80

From the table 1 shows that Income of MGNREGA and Average number of days is highly correlated and significant at 0.01 levels (2-tailed). Hence, a null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. It is inferred that the beneficiaries of this programme are highly satisfactory with the numbers working days available with them.

TABLE -2: RESULTS OF THE ANOVA

Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F- Value
Between Groups	11.436	3	3.812	4.495
Within Groups	64.451	76	.848	
Total	75.888	79		

Tabulated value of F (.05, 3, 76) = 2.73

Decision no.1: The F value is greater than the critical value of F at 5% level. Hence we rejected null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between no. of working days and MGNREGA beneficiaries' income.

TABLE - 3: RESPONDENTS NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT DAYS

Employment no of days	Change in Economic Condition				Total
	Average	Poor	Good	Very good	
Nil	28 62.2%	0 .0%	14 31.1%	3 6.7%	45 100.0%
Up to 12 days	13 52.0%	1 4.0%	8 32.0%	3 12.0%	25 100.0%
13 to 15 days	1 16.7%	0 .0%	2 33.3%	3 50.0%	6 100.0%
16 to 18 days	2 50.0%	0 .0%	2 50.0%	0 .0%	4 100.0%
Total	44 55.0%	1 1.3%	26 32.5%	9 11.3%	80 100.0%

TABLE – 4 : RESULTS OF THE CHI-SQUARE TEST

	Value	Degree of freedom	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.007	9	.122
Likelihood Ratio	11.559	9	.239
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.050	1	.081
No. of Valid Cases	80		

Chi-Square test was also applied to find whether there is no significant relationship between the no. of working days of MGNREGA and change in economic conditions of Beneficiaries .The calculated value chi-square test is 14.007 which is less than table value of 16.919 at 5% level of significance. Since the calculated value is less than the table value, it is inferred that there is significance relationship between which number of employment days and Change in Economic Condition. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table- 5: Respondents Level Of Satisfaction

Level of Satisfaction	Change in Economic Condition				Total
	Average	Poor	Good	Very good	
Average	27 56.3%	1 2.1%	14 29.2%	6 12.5%	48 100.0%
Satisfactory	13 50.0%	0 .0%	11 42.3%	2 7.7%	26 100.0%
unsatisfactory	1 100.0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	0 .0%	1 100.0%
Excellent	3 60.0%	0 .0%	1 20.0%	1 20.0%	5 100.0%
Total	44 55.0%	1 1.3%	26 32.5%	9 11.3%	80 100.0%

TABLE – 6: RESULT OF CHI-SQUARE TEST

	Value	Degree of freedom	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.500	9	.941
Likelihood Ratio	4.170	9	.900
Linear-by-Linear Association	.006	1	.938
No. of Valid Cases	80		

Chi-Square test was applied to find whether Beneficiaries are satisfied with the Poverty Alleviation Programmes which was implemented in the study areas. The calculated value of chi-square test is 3.50 which is less than table value of 16.91 at 5% level of significance. Since the calculated value is less than the table value it is

inferred that there is significance relationship between the benefit received and economic status of beneficiaries. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Graph show activities of work with income of MGNREGA.

TABLE – 7 : RESULTS OF THE ANOVA TEST

Groups	Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of freedom	Mean Square	F-ratio
Satisfied with the benefit received	Between Groups	14.437	3	4.812	3.659
	Within Groups	99.950	76	1.315	
	Total	114.388	79		
Need of Community	Between Groups	4.450	3	1.483	.887
	Within Groups	127.100	76	1.672	
	Total	131.550	79		

Tabulated Value of F (.05, 3, 76) = 2.73

Decision no.1: The F value is greater than the critical value of F at 5% level. Hence we accept the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a benefit from programmes.

Decision no. 2: The F value is smaller than the critical value of F at 5% level. Hence we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a no significant need in the community.

IV. Conclusion

The MGNREGA has enabled the beneficiaries to make better use of their economic and has increased social benefit. The Impact of the Wage Employment Programs has been more restricted. In the earlier years before MGNREGA Programme was not adapted to the needs of the local population. It was found that the beneficiaries have not received the full benefits of the schemes on account of defective implementation of the programmes. This means that the beneficiaries do not get the full amount of money to which they are entitled and hence are unable to take full benefit of the scheme. In general there is a lack of work culture and motivation on the part of government staff. The required follow up and monitoring of the implementation process is not done and as a result the beneficiaries do not get proper guidance. The performance of rural employment guarantee indeed is a significant development in Indian polity. MGNREGA programs assessed here are tasked with capacity building, physical conservation and income enhancement. The study focused upon the programs which are of strategic importance for State Institute of Rural Development sector, for reducing rural poverty through a combined approach of socio-economic development. With regard to sustainability of wage income and employment under MGNREGA, it was found that once the road and building works completed, the villagers are not getting any regular wage works other than agriculture works. The average days employed per beneficiary in a year were found to be 32 days. The average size of the beneficiary households is five. The programme is generation of employment on a sustainable basis and the income accrued will supplement the beneficiary income, which in turn improve his living standards. The assessment as well as other evaluations of wage Employment Programs show that it is an extremely successful approach and has a sound poverty reducing potential but that there has been much more emphasis on physical works and livelihood development. The Wage programs are a very successful example of combining conservation and pro poor development of the targets community and impact on poverty reduction.

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