

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MNREG ACT -WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KRISHNARAJANAGAR TALUK OF MYSORE DISTRICT

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Abstract: The World Bank suggested that empowerment of women should be a key aspect of social development programmes. Empowerment of women is one of the most powerful routes for women to achieve their potential and advance their rights. Empowerment is the most frequently used term in development dialogue today. It is also the most nebulous and widely interpreted concept. An attempt is made in this article to explain about the concepts of empowerment of women and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). And it also study the how women empower through the MNREG Programme in study area.

Key words: Empowerment of women, MNREGP,

Abbreviations: MNREGP- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, KR Nagar-Krishnaraja Nagar.

Introduction: Women are empowered, empowerment has multiple, interrelated and interdependent dimensions economic, social, cultural and political. It can be understood in relation to resources, perceptions. Women of today are not like the early days. Now, they are always ready to come forward and want more economic independence, their own identity, achievements, equal status in the society and greater freedom. And Government of India has implemented Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Programme (MNREGP) to them so that proper attention should be given to their economic independence through this employment programme. MNREGP have been emerged as a powerful instrument in order to alleviate poverty and for the empowerment of women in the rural economy.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the concept of women empowerment and MNREGP.
2. To analyse the role of MNREGP in women empowerment in study region.

Methodology: The study is undertaken in rural area of Krishnarajanagar Taluk in Mysore District of Karnataka State. Both primary and secondary data have been used. Primary data is enumerated from a field survey in study region. 50 samples have been collected for the study in mentioned study region. The data were analyzed using statistical measures like averages, percentages, bar diagram and pie charts to compare the socioeconomic status of women before and after joining to MNREGP. Secondary data is collected from District and Taluk Statistical Office, Mysore Zilla panchayath, Websites of Ministry of Rural Development GOI and other internet sources.

Concept of Women Empowerment: The term 'women empowerment' has become popular in the development field since 1980s. women development is central to human development. Targeted action

aimed at empowering the women and righting the gender inequalities in the social and economic share, as well as in terms of social and political rights, must be taken alongside effort to en-gender the development process. The extent of women empowerment in the country is largely determined by three factors economic, social and political identity.

About MNREGP: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified on 7 September, 2005 and came into force from 2 February, 2006. It is the world's biggest employment guarantee programme and aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial Year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Its primary objective is to augment wage employment and strengthen natural resource management. Job cards are issued to all the workers seeking employment under MGNREG scheme and unemployment allowance is paid, if work is not assigned within 15 days. Under the MGNREGS, use of machineries which replaces human labour is minimized, wage rates for both men and women are the same and one-third of the beneficiaries should be women. It also provides equal opportunities to SCs, STs and other weaker sections of the society. Considering all these aspects, it was decided to carry out an economic analysis of this programme to assess its success in achieving the objectives in the Mysore district of Karnataka.

A Case Study:

Brief Background of Study Area: Krishnarajanagara is a town in Mysore district in Indian state of Karnataka. It was founded between 1925 and 1930 as a new town, when a flood by river Kaveri damaged the nearby old town called Yedatore. The town was shifted to a place 3 miles south and at a higher elevation, now called Krishnarajanagara. It was

named after Krishnaraja Wodeyar; the maharaja of Mysore. It is also called as K.R.Nagar. The total population of K.R.Nagar taluk is 252657 in which men consistent 126539 and women consistent 126118 most of the women are involved in economic activities and among the for my study 50 women workers were interviewed and information has been collected.

Progress of MNREGP in Study Area: An analysis of MGNREG programme has been made in the Mysore district of Karnataka during the year 2009-10. The women participation among total registered workers in MGNREGS has been found significant at 47.8 per cent.

Particulars	Karnataka State	Mysore District	Krishnaraja Nagar Taluk
Employment provided to households (lakhs)	20.88	0.679	0.01921
Employment provided to workers (in lakh person days)			
Total	1049.67	32.14	0.81
SCs	191.83 (18.28)	6.55 (20.39)	0.21 (25.93)
STs	98.67 (9.40)	3.62 (11.25)	0.049 (6.05)
Others	759.17 (72.32)	21.97 (68.36)	0.55 (67.9)
Women	474.68 (45.22)	13.15 (40.93)	0.36 (44.44)

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

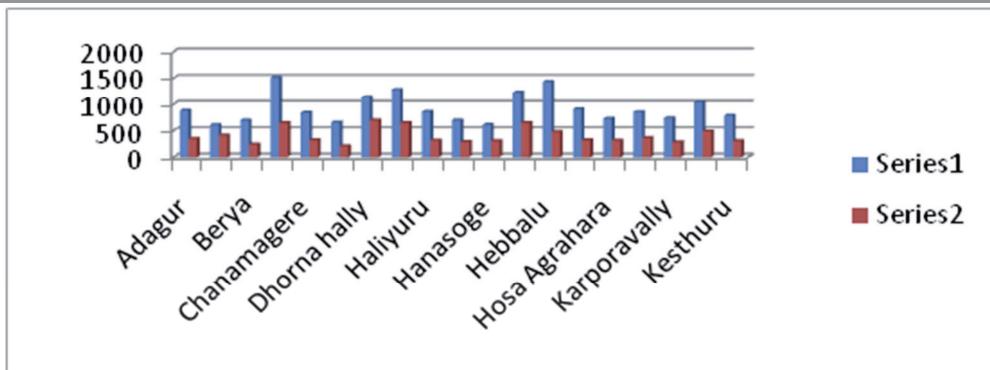
In above table explained that out of 1049.67 lakh workers of Karnataka state, women labourers are 474.68 lakh, which is 45.22 percent, which data states that more numbers of women labourers are involved in this programme. Similarly 0.81 lakh labourers

working in study region like KR Nagar Taluk, among them women labourers are 0.36 lakh that is 44.44 percent, which is higher participation of women than Mysore District region (40.93).

Details of Job Cards

Name of Grama Panchayath(Local Bodies)	Total No. of Job cards	Job Cards with Women Hand
Adagur	884	350
Ankanahally	611	410
Berya	698	240
Byadarahally	1517	650
Chanamagere	846	320
Chandhagalu	660	210
Dhorna hally	1140	700
Gandhanahally	1284	650
Haliyuru	861	315
Hampapura	699	288
Hanasoge	614	310
Haradhanahally	1230	650
Hebbalu	1437	475
Honnenahally	909	325
Hosa Agrahara	730	312
Hosa Kote	855	365
Karporavally	740	285
Keggere	1041	490
Kesthuru	787	310
Total	17543	7655

Source: MNREGP Manual, KR Nagar Taluk Office

**Socio-Economic Status of Women Educational Status**

Educational Level	No. of Women	Percentage of Women
Up to 4 th std	32	64
5 th to 7 th std	08	16
Illiterate	10	20
Total Samples	50	100

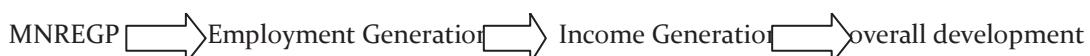
Above table explained that out of 50 women 32 members having 4th std education, which is 64 percent of total labourers. And 20 percent of women labourers are illiterate.

Income Condition

No. of Women Labourers	Percentage of Women labourers	Before joining to MNREGP(per head)	After joining to MNREGP(per head)
15	30	7000	13000
23	46	8500	15000
12	24	11000	16500
Total 50	100		

This table showed that income level of the women labourers before and after joining to the MNREG Programme. Definitely, these data confirmed that the income of women labourers is very much increased steadily. The annual income of the 46 percent of women labourers increased from 8500Rs to 15000. So

this is showed that the contribution of MNREGP to women empowerment is much more. Why this table is more important, because income variable leads to other socio-economic variables, like helps to provide good education, health, food, shelter, drinking water to their family dependence.



Conclusion: At present when we talk about 21st century, and women empowerment, we feel very embarrassing when we see women in a very pitiable condition in our society on the want to realize

women empowerment. Therefore, the Government concerned with the development of women considered empowerment of women through participation in MNREGP.

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