

AN ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGP PROGRESS IN SANGLI DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract

Sangli district is the part of south-western Maharashtra. It is one of the developing districts and agriculture is backbone of the district economy. The rural mass of the district is heavily depends on the agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood sources. The majority of the district area is frequently suffers from the drought conditions. The eastern part of the district is often facing the issue of water scarcity and water shortage for both agriculture and domestic uses purpose. The significant industrial development of the district is only observed in western and central part of the district. The MGNREGP is the anti poverty weapon which provides 100 days guaranteed employment to the unskilled rural workforce. In fact MGNREGP is main livelihood source of the rural people in the drought hit area of the Sangli district. Through the MGNREGP, there are several works completed in the district and in progress. The community development works, traditional water bodies renovation work, social forestry, farm roads, farm ponds, rural connectivity, and environmental resources conservation works are either completed or being in progress since last decade. Under this backdrop, the present research study has examined the progress of MGNREGP in Sangli district based on block level secondary data. The study has covered the three year period. The physical and financial progress of the MGNREGP has assessed and attempts are made to examine the trends therein. The study is analytical in nature and it has arrived at conclusion that MGNREGP has significantly grown up in the district during the period under consideration and it has providing employment to rural unskilled workforce. It is also revealed from the study that the out of total 21.08 lakh rural population of the Sangli district, 5.44 lakh people (i.e 25.80 percent) are engaged in MGNREGP. However, at present the active numbers of workers are seen only 0.67 lakh. The proportion of SC workers is also seen significant in total MGNREGP workforce. Thus programme is not only playing significant role in rural development of Sangli district but in upliftment of the weaker segment of the society.

Key Words: MGNREGP, Rural Employment, Progress of MGNREGP, Rural Development

1. Introduction

Various anti poverty and employment generation programmes were introduced by the union government since last six decades. In 2006, central government launched The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) which provided 100 days guaranteed employment to the rural unskilled labours. It was mainly initiated to enhance the rural livelihood sources through the provision of employment within the village to the unskilled rural workforce. Nagaraj, N., et.al (2016)¹

The Sangli district is the part of south-western Maharashtra. A significant area of the Sangli district falls under the plain topographic conditions, with medium black fertile soils. The district comes under the in semi-rainfall and rain shadow zone. The rainfall increases from eastern part to western part of District. The development of agriculture is not much impressive but it is appreciable because of high rainfall in western part and river basin of the district has having fertile soils which helping in agriculture development of the district. The eastern and northern part of district's particularly Jath, Kavathe Mahankal, Khanapur, Atpadi and Kadegaon and tehsils are often suffers from the drought conditions throughout the year from last three decades and the same tehsils are have less than 550 mm rainfall in rainy season. The average rainfall drought affected tehsils is 498.6 mm with 79 average days of the season. Patil C. (2007)². The district has highest temperature in a summer season with average temperature 34 °c. Through the MGNREGP, several social and economical changes are taking place in all over the country. The rural economy is getting good shape and size through this programme. Kumar A. (2015)³

The study region Sangli district is having mixed type of geographical conditions. Out of ten tehsils only three tehsils are falls under non drought hit area. In other words seven tehsils of the Sangli district are falls under the drought prone areas. There are total 735 villages and ten tehsils in the Sangli district. There are total 519258 workers registered under the MGNREGA up to May 2021, out of which 70208 workers

taken job cards in the district. At present 6688 workers are working in the district. (MGNREGA, Sangli district June 2022)⁴. The work of the MGNREGA is being progressed in the 55 villages of the district. Under this backdrop, the study has covered the three year period i.e 2018-19 to 2020-21. The physical and financial progress of the MGNREGP has assessed and attempts are made to examine the trends therein.

Research Gap: There is absence of particular Sangli district MGNREGP assessment study. Majority of the studies are macro level and micro analysis (district level analysis) of the MGNREGP is missing. This research gap has filled up with the present investigation.

2. Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the present investigation are as below.

1. To assess the progress of MGNREGP in Sangli district
2. To examine the present condition of the MGNREGP in Sangli district

3. Review of Literature

Raghuraman (2009)⁵ has observed that 50 per cent of the households that registered under MGNREGP scheme actually got employment and 45 percent of average number of days each household got employment. The performance across the states varied widely and there was a scope for improving the implementation of the scheme in few states. Ramesh and Kumar (2009)⁶ in their study on MGNREGP in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh revealed that, the monthly average income of the family was increased after the introduction of NREGP along with increase in the expenditure. But, monthly savings of the workers did not improve considerably mainly because major part of the income earned from the Act was often being used for the payment of past debts. Raghav Gaiha et al., (2018)⁷ stated that, if wage rate of NREGA exceed the wage rate of agriculture, it would lead to attracting the rural poor people. He had given a best example that when wage rate of EGS of Maharashtra was increased in 1988, it was crowded out the poor from EGS work and EGS budget went up at very high level. Roy (2000)⁸ revealed the impact of MGNREGP in Tripura, where in NREGS was a means of livelihood to labourers in rural areas. The NREGA regenerated self-belief amongst the poor that they could earn money for their families. Field study showed that 10.00 per cent of women participating in MGNREGS subscribed towards LIC policies/ recurring deposits. Majority of women reported that MGNREGS enabled them to be health cautious. Anandharaja Kumar and Sriwell Haorei (2019)⁹ found that, migration had stopped in five panchayata with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 panchayats considered for the research work. If 100 days employment were provided in the 5 Panchayats where the beneficiaries have received merely 25-30 days of employment in a financial year the scheme would have an impact, either in the form of totally arresting migration or reducing the number of days of migration. Pankaj and Tankha (2016)¹⁰ has studied the impact of MGNREGA on empowerment of women workers in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. His study revealed that 14 percent of the annual income was from the women workers on average across the samples in 2016-2017. The study also indicated more participation of women in gram sabha meetings.

4. Research Methodology

The present study in analytical type of research in which researcher has gathered the facts and figures from secondary data sources. The collected data has analyzed through statistical tools like simple growth rate and variance.

5. Discussion

5.1 Present Scenario of MGNREGP

It is clear from the table 1 that there are total 10 blocks (tehsils) and 717 Grampanchyats in the Sangli district. The total 2.18 lakh job cards are issued up to March 2021. As per the record there are total 5.44 lakh workers working under MGNREGP in Sangli district. However, the total numbers of active job cards are significantly less that is found to just 0.48 lakh. The total number of active workers found to 0.68 lakh.

Table No.1
Scenario of MGNREGP in Sangli District

Particulars	2022
Total No. of Blocks	10
Total No. of GPs	717
Total No. of Job Card Issued (In Lakhs)	2.18
Total No. of Workers (In Lakhs)	5.44
Total No. of Active Job Cards (In Lakhs)	0.48

Total No. of Active Workers (In Lakhs)	0.68
% of SC Workers Against Active Workers	7.56
% of ST Workers Against Active Workers	0.19

Source: Sangli District, MGNREGP, Progress Report 2021⁴

It is also noticed from the data that the proportion of SC workers against active workers is around 7.56 percent whereas; the proportion of ST workers against active workers is just 0.19 percent. It means that the out of total 21.08 lakh rural population of the Sangli district, 5.44 lakh people (i.e 25.80 percent) are engaged in MGNREGP. The proportion of SC workers is also seen significant in total MGNREGP workforce.

5.2 Progress of MGNREGP in Sangli District

Table 2 has thrown light on the trend and variations in allocation of fund under MGNREGP in Sangli district

Table No. 2
Trend and Variations in Allocation of Fund under MGNREGP in Sangli District

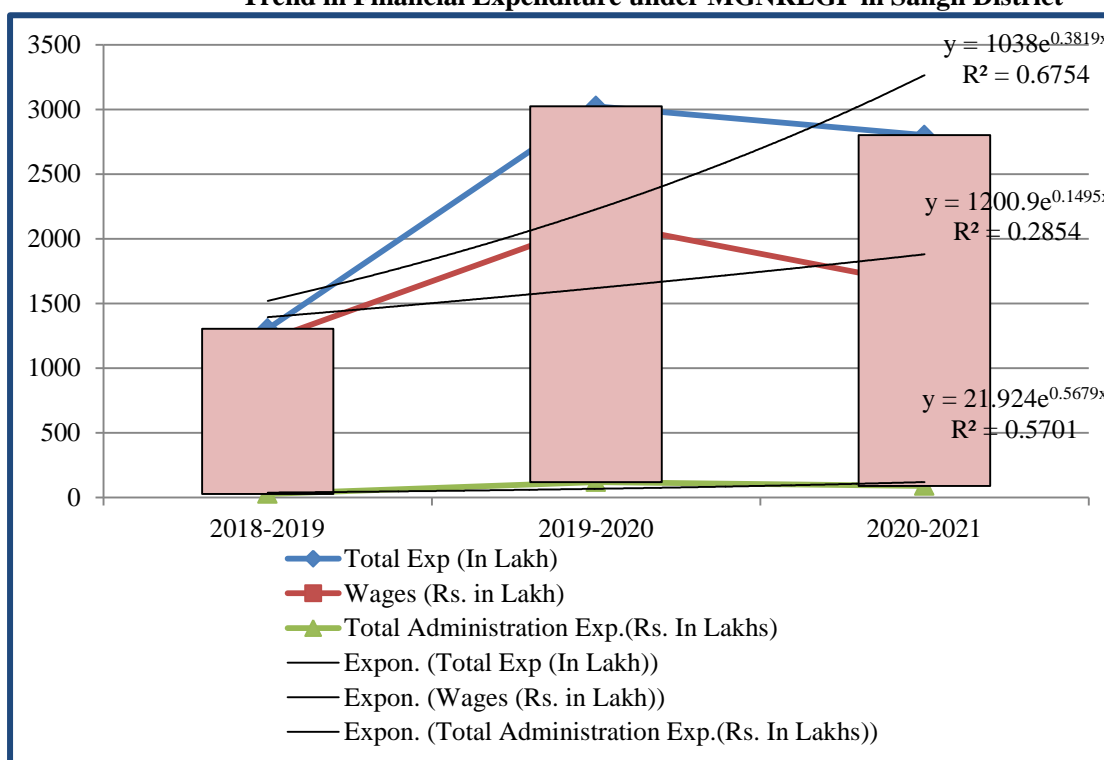
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Trend in 2020-21 over 2018-19 (in %)	Variance (%)
I. Progress					
Approved Labour Budget (In Lakhs)	4.59	9.17	5.97	30.07	35.72
Person days of Central Liability so far (In Lakhs)	0.74	8.37	6.39	763.51	76.63
Percentage of Total Liability	16.11	94.85	110.44	585.54	68.52
% As per Proportionate LB	53.7	0	0	-100.00	173.21
SC Person days % As of Total Person days	5.06	6.9	8.5	67.98	25.24
ST Person days % As of Total Person days	0.03	0.14	0.18	500.00	66.58
Women Person days out of Total (%)	33.39	39.11	39.71	18.93	9.33
Average Days of Employment Provided per Household	16.33	37.12	33.4	104.53	38.29
Average Wage Rate Per Day Per Person (Rs.)	288.61	245.87	253.19	-12.27	8.71
Total No. of Households Completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	1200	1559	835	-30.42	30.22
Total Households Worked (In Lakh)	0.05	0.23	0.2	300.00	60.27
Total Individuals Worked (In lakh)	0.06	0.38	0.31	416.67	67.29
Differently Abled Persons Worked	4	47	44	1000.00	75.81
II. Works Progress					
No. of GP with Nil Exp.	395	13	36	-90.89	144.74
Total No. of Works Taken Up (New+ Spill Over) (In Lakh)	0.13	0.16	0.18	38.46	16.06
No. of Ongoing Works (In Lakhs)	0.1	0.13	0.16	60.00	23.08
No. of Completed Works	382	2412	2545	566.23	68.12
% of NRM exp. In MWC Blocks	0	61.66	65.13		86.70
% category B Work	72.43	75.43	80.58	11.25	5.41
% of Expenditure on Agriculture & Agriculture Allied Works	50.18	45.86	49.63	-1.10	4.84
III. Financial Progress					

Total Exp (In Lakh)	1305.19	3024.65	2801.31	114.63	39.33
Wages (Rs. in Lakh)	1216.5	2128	1640.42	34.85	27.45
Material and Skilled wages (Rs. In Lakhs)	59.6	776.03	1070.28	1695.77	81.82
Material (%)	17.85	26.72	39.48	121.18	38.81
Total Administration Exp.(Rs. In Lakhs)	29.1	120.63	90.6	211.34	58.24
Administration Exp.(%)	8.92	3.99	3.23	-63.79	57.42
Average Cost per Day per Person (In Rs.)	295.53	299.08	346.1	17.11	9.00
% of Total Expenditure through EFMS	99.87	99.86	99.98	0.11	0.07

Source: Sangli District, MGNREGP, Progress Report 2021⁴

Figure 2

Trend in Financial Expenditure under MGNREGP in Sangli District



The following major observations are drawn based on table 2 and Figure 1

1. The approved labor budget under MGNREGP experienced notable changes during the period from 2018-19 to 2020-21. Initially, the budget was 4.59 lakh in 2018-19. It then saw a significant increase, peaking at 9.17 lakh in 2019-20, before settling at 5.97 lakh in 2020-21. This overall growth amounted to a 30.07 percent increase from 2018-19 to 2020-21. This fluctuation indicates an initial boost in the budget allocation, due to increased demand for employment under the scheme. The person-days of central liability, which represents the number of days work was provided under the scheme, saw an exponential growth. Starting at 0.74 lakh in 2018-19, it surged to 8.37 lakh in 2019-20. This dramatic increase may reflect a heightened response to rural employment needs during that year. However, this figure slightly decreased to 6.39 lakh in 2020-21. Despite this drop, the overall increase from 2018-19 to 2020-21 was a substantial 763.51 percent. This pattern suggests a robust expansion in employment provision, followed by a period of adjustment. The percentage of total liability, rise sharply from 16.11 % in 2018-19 to 94.85 % in 2019-20. It further increased to 110.44 % in 2020-21, representing a 585.54 percent growth over the three years. This upward trend is an indicator of improvement in budget utilization efficiency. The percentage of total liability as per the proportionate labor budget saw a dynamic change. It was 53.7 % in 2018-19 but dropped to zero by 2019-20 and remained at zero in 2020-21, indicating a 100 percent decline. The complete drop to zero suggests a fundamental change in how labor budget allocation and utilization were assessed or reported.

2. The proportion of SC person-days increased from 5.06 % in 2018-19 to 8.5 % in 2020-21, marking a 67.98 % growth. Similarly, ST person-days increase from 0.03 % to 0.18 %, indicating a remarkable 500 percent rise. Women's involvement showed a moderate change, with their person-days percentage rises from 33.39 % to 39.71 %, reflecting an 18.93 % increase. The average days of employment per household is more than doubled, i.e. 16.33 days in 2018-19 to 33.4 days in 2020-21, signifying a 104.53 % increase. On the other hand, the average daily wage per person decline from Rs. 288.61 in 2018-19 to Rs. 253.19 in 2020-21. The number of households completing 100 days of wage employment is dropped from 1200 in 2018-19 to 835 in 2020-21, representing a 30.42 % decline. The total households engaged in MGNREGP rises from 0.05 lakh to 0.2 lakh, reflecting a 300 percent increase, while the total individuals involved increased from 0.06 lakh to 0.31 lakh, indicating a 416.67 percent rise. Differently-abled individuals participating in MGNREGP saw a remarkable spike from 4 to 44, marking a staggering 1000 % increase.
3. In terms of work progress within the Gram Panchayats (GPs) between 2018-19 and 2020-21, noted significant improvements. The number of GPs with nil expenditure dropped from 395 to 36, representing a reduction of 90.89 %. It indicates GP are now spending on MGNREGP. The total number of works undertaken increased from 0.13 lakh to 0.18 lakh, showing a growth of 38.46%. Moreover, the ongoing projects surged from 0.1 lakh to 0.16 lakh, marking a 60 % increase, while the project completion ration also increased. The completed projects witnessed an extraordinary rise from 382 to 2545, translating to a staggering 566.23 percent increase. The percentage of Natural Resource Management (NRM) expenditure was 0 in 2018-19, 61.66 % in 2019-20, and 65.13 % in 2020-21. Additionally, the B Category works, which aimed at enhancing land productivity, experienced positive growth from 72.43 % to 80.58 %. Despite all these positive trends, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of expenditure on agriculture and allied works, it was dropping from 50.18 % to 49.63 percent, indicating a decline of 1.10 percent in this area. Overall, these developments signify commendable progress in financial management, project execution, environmental sustainability efforts, and agricultural productivity within GP during the specified period.
4. Financially, there was a notable changes observed between 2018-19 and 2020-21. The total expenditure increases significantly from Rs.1305.19 lakh to Rs.2801.31 lakh, marking a substantial growth of 114.63%. Wage expenditure also increases; it was climbing from Rs.1216.5 lakh to Rs.1640.42 lakh, representing a 34.85 percent hike. However, the expenditure on materials and skilled wages showing a spike from Rs.59.6 lakh to Rs.1070.28 lakh, indicating a growth of 1695.77 percent. This growth was mirrored in the material expenditure percentage, which increases from 17.85 percent to 39.48 percent, marking a notable increase of 121.18 percent. The total administration expenditure increases from Rs.29.1 lakh to Rs.90.6 lakh, reflecting a growth of 211.34 percent, its percentage contribution to total expenditure decreased from 8.92 percent to 3.23 percent, marking a decline of 63.79 percent. Moreover, the average cost per day per person rises from Rs.95.53 to Rs.346.1, indicating a 17.11 % increase.
5. The maximum variance is observed to 173.21 percent in a proportion of LB while the minimum variance is observed in percentage of total expenditure through EFMS i.e 0.07 percent. The overall variance is moderate in administration expenditure, material expenditure, wage expenditure and total expenditure. It indicates smooth steady growth path of MGNREGP in Sangli district.

6. Conclusions

The present study has comprehensively presented the progress of MGNREGP in Sangli district. The programme is playing a very significant role in drought prone area of the district through employment as well as development activities. The trend analysis reveals the fact that there is positive growth in number of employed persons, expenditure on various heads etc. The overall impression reveals that there is significant progress of MGNREGP in Sangli district and it is playing crucial role in providing employment as well as livelihood sources to the rural mass. It is also helping in the upliftment of the weaker section and vulnerable groups of the society.

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