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Role of gram-panchayath and water user cooperative society (WUCS) in utilization of MGNREGA scheme in Malaprabha command area

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Abstract

Irrigation being lifeline of agriculture, its development and meticulous management is the need of hour. The concept of involvement of farmers in management of the irrigation system has been accepted as a policy of the Government of India and has been included in the National Water Policy adopted in 1987. In accordance with the model act eight State Governments, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka; Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have enacted new acts. Water Users' Association and local bodies such as municipalities and Gram-Panchayats should particularly be involved in the operation, maintenance and management of water infrastructures/facilities at appropriate levels progressively, with a view to eventually transfer the management of such facilities to the user groups/ local bodies". In this study MGNREGA scheme used effectively for irrigation canal management. The scheme was utilized MGNREGA fund for the silt removal, cleaning weeds, bush and waste material and obstacle in canals. The Gram-Panchayath members and WUCS jointly worked for the scheme in the study area. Water and Land Management institute has taken up initiation and awareness of MGNREGA Scheme for utilization of fund for cleaning of canals in Malaprabha command area. PIM also plays a major role in the irrigation management. All WUCS join hand for the success of the implementation of scheme. Main objectives of the study are; 1) To assess the physical and financial progress of the scheme, 2) To assess the socio-economic characteristic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries. 3) To document the number of WUCS benefitted by the MGNREGA.

To identify the constraints in implementation of MGNREGA scheme. WALMI, Dharwad has taken initiation of giving information and instructions to WUCS for proper utilization of fund. The details were collected from the Dharwad district. Secondary data has been collected from the concerned Department officials and MGNREGA cell in ZP and Department and published sources. The sub canals were silted up and cleaned on an average length of 3-5 kms per WUCS under this scheme. This study has taken to show the success of MGNREGA and WUCS are main pillars of public domain used for the management of canals under irrigation system and to achieve the goal of proper water management and to ensure the water to reach the tail end farmer's field.

Keywords: Gram-Panchayath, MGNREGA, WALMI, PIM, WUCS

Introduction

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) was notified on September 7, 2005. It was started in the first phase in 200 Districts from February 2nd 2006 and then gradually extended to entire country with effect from April 1, 2008. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched. It is centrally sponsored right based programme, which legally ensures 100 days employment guarantee to rural job card holder/wage seekers. It also provides to take steps for economic development in rural areas and ensures Social Justice. MGNREGA is being implemented in the state in phased manner since 2006-07. Karnataka state considered on top priority regarding implementation of the act along with creation of assets.

The objective of MGNREGA is mainly to creation of durable assets and securing livelihood of rural households which can be facilitated through Convergence of MGNREGA works with

schemes available with Panchayaths and other line departments. These resources are not restricted to availability of funds.

Water management in India, challenges and solution:

Since 1985, Ministry of Water Resources has been inspiring farmers "participation in water distribution and management of tertiary system in the projects covered under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. The concept of involvement of farmers in management of the irrigation system has been accepted as a policy of the Government of India and has been included in the National Water Policy adopted in 1987. Provisions made in the National Water Policy of 1987 were as under: "Efforts should be made to involve farmers progressively in various aspects of management of irrigation systems, particularly in water distribution and collection of water rates. Assistance of voluntary agencies should be enlisted in educating the farmers in efficient water-use and water management." Karnataka Promulgated an Ordinance on 7th June 2000 for amendment of the existing Karnataka Irrigation Act 1957. Recognising the need for sound legal framework for PIM in the country, the Ministry brought out a model act to be adopted by the State Legislatures for enacting new irrigation acts/amending the existing irrigation acts for facilitating PIM. In accordance with the model act eight State Governments, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka; Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have enacted new acts.

MGNREGA scheme was initiated in 2005 in India, as a flagship programme of Government of India. The employment was given to the unemployed, labours of rural and urban people. The wage rate per day was given as Rs. 300 /- per person/day. The scheme was utilized for the employment generation in rural and urban sector.

Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Dharwad has taken up the work of desiltation of canals, jungle clearance and bunding activities through giving information to the officials of WUCS and Gram Panchayath. WALMI, Dharwad has taken up the initiation for convergence of MGNREGA scheme into NRM and Agriculture/ Horticulture, components for reconstruction lining, main canal, Sub canal in the command area of respective villages. CEO, ZP of district and PDO, Gram Panchayath was also involved in the implementation of scheme.

Modes of convergence

There are basically three modes of convergence:

- Labour work under MGNREGS, Material component under departmental programmes
- Each work divided into two parts-one part under MGNREGS, another under departmental programmes
- Entire work has been implemented by Line Department under MGNREGA, either before or after the departmental work (Pre / Post Convergence).

Around 4500 numbers of Water User Cooperative Societies (WUCS) have been started in Karnataka and among them 2500 WUCs are functioning. The WUCS are the main structure in Command area for smooth functioning of irrigation system. The irrigation beneficiaries collectively formed the WUCS which are functioning under the cooperative society act 1965.

The implementation of scheme there are many institutions effort and responsibility are responsible for the success of the scheme among them following are organization and responsibilities are as follows;

Wucs

- To strengthening of WUCS come under particular command area.
- CEO and president of WUCS, voluntarily list out the number of unemployed people of the village and should involve them in system.
- Every eligible member should register and create job cards in respective Gram Panchayaths.
- Labour should involve and mentioned in the work tender.
- There should make 25 people group should be made for easy management by one person, men or woman who has capable of managing the people for drinking water, medical treatments, shade providing hut activities.
- All beneficiaries should involve in jungle clearance and desiltation
- MGNREGA should restrict to rural and urban area canals, WUCs have to use the yearly grant issued by the CADA.

Gram Panchayath

- Gram Panchayaths should take the initiation regarding preparation, of estimates and action plan for processing the tender activity.
- Nigam should make estimation of tender, action plan under this technical convergence for MGNREGA tender, Gram Panchayath should look after the rules and regulations made by Nigam Engineer.
- Estimate the man-days creation under the work based on the tender need and form of work
- Demand should be crated based on estimation of tender based on work and register to make Job card.

WALMI

- Follow up of preparations of irrigation canal network for efficient use of water through PIM activities form WUCS.
- Field level work for PIM, giving training to stakeholders and members of WUCS regarding scheme project implementation and management
- For programme implementation, contact with CEO, ZP of respective district and order and give office order to be given to concerned authority.

Objectives of the study

- To assess the physical and financial progress of the scheme.
- To assess the impact MGNREGA on socio economic characteristic of beneficiaries
- To document the number of WUCS utilized the MGNREGA fund in study area
- To identify the constraints in implementation of MGNREGA scheme.

Methodology

The details were collected from one taluk each in Dharwad district in scheme implemented area. The secondary data has been collected from the concerned Department officials and MGNREGA cell in ZP and Department and published website sources.

WUCS started the work on NRM and agri and allied activities and water related works for the cleaning and construction of channel and lining of sub canal and renovation of minor canal for community. MGNREGA scheme was implemented in village Malaprabha command area for the irrigation activity and renovation of canal.

Table 1: Permission of work under NRM/Irrigation components under MGNREGA, 2005 act

Sl. No.	Works under MGNREGA	Category	NRM / Non NRM	Agri & allied	NRM Sub categories	Water related / Sub category
1	Construction of feeder canal for community	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
2	Construction of distribution canals	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
3	Construction of minor canals	A		Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
4	Construction of sub minor canal	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
5	Construction of water courses for community	B		Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
6	Lining of feeder canal for community	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
7	Lining of distributary canal for community			Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
8	Lining of minor canal for community	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
9	Lining of sub-minor canal for community	A		Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
10	Lining of water courses canal for community	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
11	Renovation of feeder canal for community			Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
12	Renovation of distributary canal for community	A	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
13	Renovation of minor canal for community	A		Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
14	Repair and maintenance of sub minor canal for community	D	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
15	Repair and maintenance of water course canal for community	D	NRM	Agri/allied	Irr	Water/Irr
16	Drainage of chaur or waterlogged areas land for individuals	B	Drainage	Agri/allied	Irr	Drainage
17	Reclamation of community waterlogged land	A	Drainage	Agri/allied	Irr	Drainage

Source: Ministry of Rural Development, MGNREGA, 2005, Govt. of India

Employment opportunity

MGNREGA scheme was implemented in Karnataka created employment opportunity for men, women and youths in the rural area. The scheme also makes provision for irrigation NRM Agriculture/allied related work for the development activities. The scheme started its implication of income, employment generation activity in rural area. The beneficiaries like WUCS utilized the fund for irrigation, canal clean, silt clearance, jungle clean and renovation of canals in command area. The distributor, canal, sub canal, drainage, reclamation of waterlogged area, feeder channel clean activities improved by utilization of

MGNREGA scheme under NRM components, irrigation activity.

The Employment generation activity provided in MGNREGA scheme helped the beneficiaries in support house income and socio-economic status of family. MGNREGA scheme benefitted interns of provided was 11,21,535 man-days in Dharwad district, Alnavar taluk was 45,060 man-days, Annigeri was 77,728 man-days, Dharwad was 2,41,318 man-days, Hubli was 1,48,862 man-days, Kalghatagi was 2,82,629 man days, Kundgol was 1,84,692 man days, Navalgund was 1,51,246 man days.

Table 2: Employment opportunity provided in MGNREGA scheme in Dharwad district

Sl. No.	Blocks	Employment Demand		Employment Offered		Employment Provided			No. of Families Completed 100 days	No. of Disabled beneficiary individuals
		Household	Persons	Household	Persons	Household	Persons	Total Person days		
1	Alnavar	1957	3519	1941	3454	1699	2918	45060	1	4
2	Annigeri	2770	5049	2676	4755	2415	4249	77728	1	14
3	Dharwad	10032	18671	9811	18002	8767	15648	241318	6	24
4	Hubli	4976	9679	4754	9021	4287	7992	148862	26	16
5	Kalghatgi	11301	23008	11117	22222	9661	18927	282629	7	44
6	Kundgol	7328	13596	7141	13027	6283	11236	184692	3	12
7	Navalgund	5914	11193	5784	10576	5035	9025	151246	1	31
	Total	44278	84715	43224	81057	38147	69995	1131535	45	0

Results

The results were depicted in Table.1 shows that physical and financial progress of Navalgund taluk. The scheme had benefitted the beneficiaries in terms of socio-economic

development. The physical and financial progress of the scheme improved during 2021-22. The employment generation activity also improved 26, 63,445 during 2021-22.

Table 1: The physical and financial progress of the scheme in Navalgund taluk during 2021-22

Sl. No.	Irrigation works	Physical work (No.)	Expenditure (In Lakhs)	Employment (Man days)
1	Construction of minor Canal for Community	122	84.22	318208
2	Construction of sub-minor Canal for Community	129	82.5	1012480
3	Lining of distributary Canal for Community	84	170.08	48720
4	Lining of minor Canal for Community	123	174.35	38262
5	Lining of sub-minor Canal for Community	75	112.12	315739
6	Renovation of minor Canal for Community	60	181.3	48591
7	Repair & Maint of distributary Canal for Community	76	77.94	35649
8	Repair & Maint of minor Canal for Community	29	53.58	258233
9	Repair & Maintenance of Feeder Canal for community	41	111.92	39302
10	Desilting	67	58.56	27858
11	Feeder Channel	56	36.41	85538
12	Lining of Water Courses/Field Channel	176	32.37	166715
13	Renovation of minor Canal for Community	36	17.87	52588
14	Renovation of sub-minor Canal for Community	12	45.32	105624
15	Repair & Maint of distributary Canal for Community	13	21.22	23155
16	Repair & Maint of minor Canal for Community	25	34.59	7340
17	Repair & Maint of sub-minor Canal for	24	6.36	8086
	Community			
18	Desilting	5	2.5	6752
19	Feeder Channel	4	0	12308
20	Lining of sub-minor Canal for Community	10	0	658
21	Lining of water courses Canal for Community	1	0	3906
22	Renovation of Feeder Canal for Community	8	0	15658
23	Renovation of minor Canal for Community	6	0	856
24	Renovation of sub-minor Canal for Community	1	0	12916
25	Desilting	2	0	8021
26	Feeder Channel	7	0	2370
27	Construction of Water Courses/Field Channel	7	0	0
28	Deepening and Repair of Flood Channels	10	0	290
29	Development of Waste Land	11	0	5220
30	Construction of Water Courses/Field Channel	26	0	2402
	TOTAL	1246	1303.21	26,63,445

Table 2: Details of physical and financial status of NRM practices under irrigation activity in Navalgund taluk during 2021-22

Sl. No.	Villages	Physical work (No.)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	Employment (Man days)
1	Alagwadi	130	158.44	56501
2	Belahara	35	47.42	134354
3	Belavatagi	32	43.89	19786
4	Gudisagar	150	124.84	652490
5	Gummagol	150	45.52	12200
6	Halakusugal	48	54.87	24663
7	Hebbal	97	36.26	108898
8	Javoor	74	82	33881
9	Kalawada	55	53.11	23708
10	Morab	147	215.1	72650
11	Nayakanur	59	43.73	391994
12	Shirkol	63	65.1	24211
13	Shirur	28	70.83	171197
14	Tadahal	67	71.56	51747
15	Tirlapur	49	151.8	851632
16	Yamanur	62	38.74	33533
	Total	1246	1303.21	26,63,445

Table 3: Amount sanctioned under MGNREGA in Navalgund taluk, Dharwad district

Sl. No.	Years	Sanction Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Total Amount paid since inception (Rs. in lakh)	Total Man days
1	2021-22	6458.23	3654.20	2663445
2	2020-21	2315.56	1842.01	654821
3	2019-20	456.52	445.60	124561

Results presented in Table 5 reveals that, MGNREGA scheme 53.34 beneficiaries under belonged to age group between 31 and 60 years and 13.33% belonged to the age group less than 30 years and 13.33% are above 60 years of age. The analysis of

education level of sample respondents revealed that 76.67% of beneficiaries studied between primary and PUC level. 13.33% were degree holders, rest of the 10.00% farmers were illiterate scheme implemented area.

The beneficiaries have participation of 13.33% in the Gram Panchayaths, 26.67% were associated with Water Users Cooperative Society (WUCs), 40.00% were associated with cooperative societies and 20.00% participated in other organizations without irrigation area.

46.67% of farmers under MGNREGA scheme belonged to nuclear families and 53.33% farmers were lived in joint families. In the study, male population was 60.00 whereas female population was 40.00% in study area.

The study area is dominated by small and medium families. It indicated 36.67% of families were small (less than 5 members), 43.33% were medium size family (6 and 7 members) and 20.00% families were large families (more than 7 members) in study area.

60.00% of farmers under MGNREGA scheme belonged to agriculture / allied activities and 13.33% beneficiaries were semiskilled labours. In the study, 6.67% were skilled labour, 6.67% beneficiaries whereas 3.33% was unemployed for >6 months in study area.

40.00% of farmer's monthly income was less than Rs.3000 under MGNREGA scheme and 26.67% beneficiary's monthly income was Rs.3001-Rs.5000. 20.00% beneficiary's monthly income was between Rs.5001-Rs.10, 000. 13.33% beneficiary's monthly income was more than Rs.10, 001 and above.

The impact of MGNREGA on socio economic characteristic of beneficiaries

Table 5: Impact of MGNREGA scheme on socio economic characteristic of beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Particulars	MGNREGA beneficiaries	
		Frequency	Percentage
Age			
1.	<30 Years	10	33.33
2.	31-40 Years	5	16.67
3.	41-50years	5	16.67
4.	51-60 Years	6	20.00
5.	>60 Years	4	13.33
	Total	30	100.00
Level of education			
1.	Illiterate	3	10.00
2.	Primary	5	16.67
3.	High School	12	40.00
4.	PUC	6	20.00
5.	Degree	4	13.33
	Total	30	100.00
Social Participation			
1.	Gram Panchayath Members	4	13.33
2.	Water Users Cooperatives Societies (WUCs)	8	26.67
3.	Co-Operatives	12	40.00
4.	Others	6	20.00
	Total	30	100.00
Family Type			
1.	Nuclear Family	14	46.67
2.	Joint Family	16	53.33
	Total	30	100.00
Sample Population			
1.	Male	18	60.00
2.	Female	12	40.00
	Total	30	100.00
Family Size			
1.	Small (<5 Members)	11	36.67
2.	Medium (6-7 Members)	13	43.33
3.	Large (>7 Members)	6	20.00
	Total	30	100.00
Occupation			
1.	Unskilled labour	3	10.00
2.	Skilled labour	2	6.67
3.	Semi-skilled labour	4	13.33
4.	Agriculture/livestock/NTFP	18	60.00
5.	Student	2	6.67
6.	Unemployed for more than 6 months	1	3.33
	Total	30	100.00
Expected monthly income			
1.	Less than Rs.3000	12	40.00
2.	Rs.3001- Rs.5000	8	26.67
3.	Rs.5001- Rs.10,000	6	20.00
4.	Rs.10,001 and above	4	13.33
	Total	30	100.00

Results presented in Table 6 reveals that, MGNREGA scheme beneficiaries utilized the scheme for rejuvenation of canals, sub canals, and drainages, distributaries and jungle clean activities. around 43.50 Km length total under belonged to age group between 31 and 60 years and 13.33% belonged to the age group less than 30 years and 13.33% are above 60 years of age. The analysis of education level of sample respondents revealed that

76.67% of beneficiaries studied between primary and PUC level. 13.33% were degree holders, rest of the 10.00% farmers were illiterate scheme implemented area.

The number of WUCS utilized the MGNREGA scheme in study area

Table 6: Repair and cleaning of canals in irrigated area by MGNREGA in Navalgund taluk

Sl. No.	Villages	Repair and cleaning of Canals (Km)
1.	Alagwadi	3.5
2.	Gummagol	8
3.	Halakusugal	4.5
4.	Hebbal	6
5.	Kalawada	3.5
6.	Morab	4
7.	Shirkol	3
8.	Shirur	2
9.	Tadahal	2.5
10.	Tirlapur	3
11.	Yamanur	3.5
	Total	43.50
	Average	3.95

The constraints in implementation of MGNREGA scheme

The constraints faced by MGNREGA beneficiaries in study area are presented in Table beneficiaries faced many problems in study area for low wage rate, political problems, banking problems penalty etc. In Malaprabha command area the scheme was utilized efficiently for irrigation canal cleaning, micro irrigation structure constructions, Bunds, ponds, tank construction, sluices, check dam etc under NRM components.

The fund was released from MGNREGA directly utilized by ZP, TP and Gram panchayaths for rural development, Natural Resource Management, Agricultural, Horticultural activities.

The people and farmers, skilled and unskilled laboures and unemployed persons and local people will get employment opportunity from the scheme. Besides that, rural development activities like drinking water facility, farm road constructions activities also doing under the scheme.

The low rate wage was main problem faced around 73.33% beneficiaries facing problem in scheme followed by banking problems 46.67%, Administration not honouring local priorities 53.33%, Non-payment of unemployment allowance 53.33% and other problems also faced by beneficiaries as shown below.

Table 7: Constraints faced in Implementation of MGNREGA scheme

Sl. No.	MGNREGA beneficiaries problems /constraints	Frequency	Percentage
	Particulars		
1.	Ridiculously low wage rate	22	73.33
2.	Insufficient budget allocation to WUCS	12	40.00
3.	Regular payment delays to beneficiaries	10	33.33
4.	Workers penalized for administrative lapses	12	40.00
5.	The banking problems	14	46.67
6.	Faulty MIS data	12	40.00
7.	Non-payment of unemployment allowance	16	53.33
8.	Genuine job cards being deleted to \meet 100% DBT targets	12	40.00
9.	Too much centralization weakening local governance	14	46.67
10.	Administration not honouring local priorities	16	53.33

Conclusion and policy implication

In this study MGNREGA scheme was used effectively for irrigation canal management. The scheme was utilized MGNREGA fund for the silt uptake, cleaning weeds, bush and waste material and obstacle in canals. The Gram-Panchayath members and WUCS jointly worked for the scheme in the study area. Water and Land Management institute has taken up initiated and make awareness of MGNREGA scheme utilization to WUCS for utilization in cleaning of canals in Malaprabha command area. PIM also takes a major role in the irrigation management in all WUCS joins hand for the success of the implementation of scheme. The details were collected from Dharwad district in scheme implemented area. Secondary data will be collected from the concerned Department officials and MGNREGA cell in ZP of each district, Department and

published sources. The sub canals were silted up and cleaned up on an average of 3.95 Kms in study area per WUCS under this scheme. This study has taken to show the success of MGNREGA and WUCS are main pillars of public domain used the scheme for the management of canals under irrigation system and to achieve the goal of irrigation water from head region to tail end of the farmer's field. The MGNREGA scheme utilized for the cleaning and renovation of canals in the study area about 43.50 km of canal area was cleaned up and jungle cleared by WUCS.

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