

71. Democratization of MGNREGA: An Inclusive Gender Sensitive Modus Operandi for Sustainable Development

¹Dr. S. Sudhakar Babu & Dara Ashok Kumar

Abstract:

On 2nd Feb. 2016 MGNREGA has completed a decade of its service from its inception, what started as an experiment for providing an alternative work for rural poor has subsequently become an act which was dubbed as one of the biggest rural employment schemes in the world has come a long way. Even the communists cannot refute this sort of a model as this will drive the policy problems, for e.g. from its inception, there is a debate whether to confine MGNREGA to poor states/districts, even there is a lot of difference between the wage distribution among the different states. If they are ought to be issues, the good it has done is that, it has transformed the rural economy to a greater extent especially when it is really difficult for the rural poor to get sufficient benefits out of the agricultural practices, this scheme has certainly helped them to get some timely help from the government. Particularly, during the time of draught when rural poor tend to migrate at some far flung places by leaving their brood back at their village, which is now is squared up by this MGNREGA.

These disparities are clearly addressed by MGNREGA as it provides various other kinds of works to woman that she can be able to perform within the inclusive norms of its Democratization. How MGNREGA facilitates a gender inclusive sustainable development and enhances to be a modus operandi will be exclusively dealt in the full paper.

Introduction:

Multiparty system has proved that stability of democracy cannot be breached in fact this would provide choice to people and no party can become an authoritative nor a fascist and will able to provide the a right to question if, the promise that are made under oath of the development if they have not met, time again governments changed for good, by the time the independence is achieved whatever left of richest country to notion in the world were sapped by everyone to lurch of poverty, it has run again with begging blows to quench the hunger of 280 million, by the time it well into decades of independence first it has never checked the growth of population nor there was a plan to check has doubled its population, the five year planning that came to force was supposed to put plan in place, what is done is too little and that's nowhere to meet this growing population, alas there is no rigid encumbrance from the political parties to meet the set targets and it is always next government to carry the cart, while in so, to be in power it has to secure bare minimum majority to be in power, to be there the votes of poor only spick in their votary, for the first time after Nehru's legacy, the competition among the political has no other means to provide the some means to millions of rural poor, that is when these Roti, Kapada and Makhan has become kind of words were tying replace the vernal gods of Hindu most loved gods as Brahma, Vishnu and the Shiva and followed by slogans such as Garibi Hatao.

Each new government is trying to outnumber the previous government schemes the effects are mini chaos and by the end of fiscal year 01, there are more than 250 of them which no one is sure of which are to be carried from past, but why and for whom these intended are for is purely a political gambit, though some of them may be state specific whichever the virtue by opening the economy and bring the required policy changes was brought in number of poor who are living below poverty line, having government put the stubble change of preventing the deaths related to hungry, since more than 80% Indian lives on rural side, the only option...

agriculture being semi-tropical country whatever work they could get in is by being farm labor is mostly seasonal, although economy is growing, but it is not able to contain migration on rural front since most labor depended on rain depended agricultural harvesting, some previous experiments to provide employment didn't have desired effects, there could be number of reason behind those attempt which I am not going into, but the rural employment in the changing dynamics of economic growth is not really percolating to bottom and it has become challenge, whoever came with novel idea providing minimum employment for millions of rural poor is by biggest idea and really changed the way government is proving is a top hit for social change by substituting with minimum guaranteed income.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 NREGA was later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act MGNREGA. In India many social schemes came and gone without a trace, some schemes are such no had fare idea what these schemes are and who are target beneficiaries and in some cases even the location where it has been implemented also raised many question, there are fads, slurry comments, such as like doling out money to ruling party grass root level workers and it is even true the impending dynamics that come with the scheme are still find answers, but if one were to look it is by far biggest rural employment program that has never been attempted in the world. Having come exist and still be around even after a decade, it is not time to discuss the have and have-nots of this program, but how it has changed the life of rural population and more specific to gender sensitive issues with the means of democracy, although under the constitution every one of either sex carry equal rights, typical in India is women is always carried secondary status although it is proven time and again that they are no way inferior to their counterparts, but for ages Indian women is more often looks after households which includes looking after children and other miscellaneous works like cattle grazing, this is because the man always been looked from the point of bread winner, times since bygone, now increasingly women taking more challenges than confined to meager role, slowly they are taking up leadership role and even government is trying push them in the governance process by amending provision where 50% all the seats should be reserved for them in the local bodies and Panchayats. This paper will discuss the on gender sensitive issue with the grove of the Democratization of MGNREGA before arriving there.

WOMEN AND MGNREGA:

Jandu (2008) carried out a research in four states namely Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Survey data shows that women workers are more confident about their roles as contributors to family expenditure and their work decisions and it gives them space in public sphere. Most of the respondents felt that the act is very important for them. The study found positive impact of the MGNREGA on migration patterns.

Panda et.al (2009) through their study found that this act empowered rural tribal women in Sikkim and Meghalaya by enhancing their confidence level and by ensuring some degree of financial independence. They mentioned that in the traditional institution like Durbars women are not allowed to have political representation. But mandatory involvement of women in PRI institution has given boos to women empowerment in the state. Around 94 percent of the women workers in Sikkim and 38 percent in Meghalaya felt that they have been able to access health facilities better after working in NREGA.

Sudarshan (2009) reviews the place of MGNREGA within the border of social protection and gender concern. As examined by him, social protection was applicable mostly in organized sector until 1990s. Since the early 1990 public policy and public works in India tried to include women as a percentage of beneficiaries and have not paid much attention to gender sensitive design. But MGNREGA in its design has attempted some gender sensitivity. In Kerala there has

been some shift out of agriculture into MGNREGA, mainly with respect to female workers. The minimum wages paid under the MGNREGAS is far greater than agricultural wages. The good performance of MGNREGAS in Kerala is possible because of state government commitment and the managerial role of the Kudumbashree and area development supervisors. This study reveals that MGNREGS not only stimulate local development but also overcome the women's weak position in labour market.

MGNREGA:

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days minimum wage employment to rural households in India. Enacted in 2005, MGNREGA is a flagship programme now reaching over 50 million households across the country. It aims to promote improvements in grassroots democracy and facilitate transparency through community accountability mechanisms, e.g. the social audit forum where villages participate in the assessment of programme implementation. MGNREGA is part of the Government of India's broader commitment to inclusive growth, which aims to address both the economic and social underpinnings of poverty. For the first time in the history of India, there is an attempt to move beyond empowerment and recognize women as agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change (Planning Commission of India, 2008: 1, 4).

GENDER SENSITIVITY AND INDIA:

In general a long history of existing society should have matured the notion of sensitiveness among the people, while for the reasons unknown this gender sensitivity, if one were to look this long history of literature like Puranas or some of those ideological thinking of the time in the past, there is not much to take care of any specific note and they in the past never sounded such alarm bells, latter on when the this country opened for other to societies come and live among them, this has changed may be because of those societies may have more gender sensitive to vouch for, may not be purely obligated but the due the local customs of open society might have made bit of inconvenient for them to conjure the fact that those open society and when they profound.

CONCLUSION:

Having discussed the both the virtues of what is demarcation process gender sensitive and the MGNREGA, in India at least for the decade there about with economic conditions improving although this development has many shades in which some people who tend give a very a positive view, for there are some reservation like modus operandi of its function, though scale have tilted towards a positive, when we can see from the point of upliftment of people from below poverty line, these numbers are huge by when compared with past decades where schemes in most cases modus operandi of schemes either not accounted or been neglected by the people in authority, the standards which we talked about never maintained, that is when there is either enhancement economy nor intended productivity, on the rural front there both unskilled and uneducated labor and then you are struck on problem which are perennial and for them to provide an organized work is beyond the industry, means they are forced dependent on farm labors and that are many challenges to counter, then are to find some labor which most times or not manual in nature and forced to farm labors and depend on the agriculture, where more than 80% of rain fed and what if the rains fails, which anyway beyond scope of this paper, government has many challenges on them providing live hood for rural households, to transform rural livelihoods one has to create work one way of doing is to enhance infrastructure for rural agriculture a case which for it is neglected for long time one way is to bring the unproductive arid land to cultivatable land

and look beyond for creating some kind of work, which in turn to arrest the migration, though seasonal one and if the rains dint come time they are forced to stay long time away home and in most case are not the wages are below par, and no means to save earned money, in such case exploitation is rampart thus they have to face lot of hardships, which are plenty to encumber, to top it there is no guarantee they get paid even that meager payments and while they have compete with the local labor and at time they have to travel hundreds of miles and frequent shifting depending on the demand and that is where MGNREGA tying address the problem.

Finally, I feel this paper should not end without some suggestions for it more democratic and gender sensitive they are

- An attention should be paid to check the counter lifecycle process like is this program of 100 days in summer only and identify vulnerabilities.
- Recognizing the division of labour in the household and in intra-household and enhance the bargaining power of women in the household, maintain the flexible working hours through and the if the women is working in the same household ensure that of bank account should separate and it should be in the woman's name.
- The approach should be to made for supporting appropriate work for single women and that should ensures that they have equal access to days defined by MGNREGA program, also one should pay attention towards the different impacts of it will have on the structure and demography of the household, so that it will ensure access to MGNREGA program area thus women should get the benefits gained from this employment during that period.
- Promote the participation of women in community planning and the monitoring of MGNREGA works through community meetings and social audit processes. This can be better achieved through quotas for women's representation, flexible meeting times, awareness-raising about the importance of women's participation, and mechanisms to strengthen women's confidence to voice their opinions in community decision-making processes.

REFERENCES:

1. **Bagchee,** ARUNA (2005) 'Political and Administrative Realities of Employment Guarantee scheme', Economic and political weekly XL/42: 4531-37
2. **Bhaduri,** Amit (2005) Development with Dignity: A case For full Employment, Delhi: National Book Trust, India
3. **Chari,** Anurekha (2006) 'Guaranteed Employment and Gender Construction: Women's Mobilisation in Maharashtra', Economic and Political Weekly XLI/5141-48
4. **Chathukulam,** jos and Gireesan, K. (2007) 'Employment to the tribal communities under NREGS: A case form Wayanad, Kerala', Impact assessment study sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
5. **Dattar,** Chhaya (1987) Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme, Mumbai: Tata Institute of Social Scineces.
6. **Deshmukh** -Ranadive, Joy (2002). Space for Power. Women's Work and Family Strategies in South and South-east Asia. Noida (UP, India): Ranibow Publishers
7. **Dev,** Mahendra (2004) Public works Programmes in India,
8. <http://info.workdbanak.org/etools.docs/library/80083/SouthAsia/southasia/pdf/ppt/sesionllmahendra.pdf> (accessed on 2nd sep 2016)