



SUSTAINABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS) ASSETS IN TRIPURA



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ABSTRACT

National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is a flagship programme of union government. A decade has been over of after implementing the scheme but still the existence of asset and sustainability of asset is question. The present study was conducted with the objective of verify the assets, know the user perception and find the return on investment. The study is reported that majority of assets created under the scheme is existing and the ghost is very meager. The quality of asset and uses of asset is also very good. More than half of beneficiaries reported that they were changed their cropping pattern. One third of beneficiaries were benefitted from double cropping. Majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the scheme. The state government has to focus on monitoring the scheme to ensure the existence and quality of assets.

KEYWORDS: MGNREGS, Employment guarantee scheme, Productivity, Sustainability, Impact of MGNREGS in Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted on 7th September 2005 with the objective of providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to the rural poor that they can expect to earn a living wage with dignity. MGNREGS is the largest public works employment project in the world. Since last three years (2013-2015) MGNREGS spent Rs. 1,14,531 crores on public works. It created much rural assets. Generally people perceived that the assets created under MGNREGS do not exist and quality of asset is also poor.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Considering the above issues the current study was done in the state of Tripura with following specific objectives.

- ♦ To verify and assess the productivity of works
- ♦ To bring out the beneficiary perception on assets created (water related).

- ♦ To identify the Return on Investment (RoI) for individual assets related to Agriculture.

To conduct this study Madhuban Gram Panchayat in Dukli block of West Tripura district and Khilpara Panchayat in Matabari block of Gomathi district has been selected based on top two Gram Panchayat's with highest wage expenditure from Management Information System data of financial year 2013-14. Over all 623 assets were verified in the field. The user perception is collected only for agriculture related works. Two user perceptions were collected for community assets and one user perception collected for individual assets and over all 607 user perception has been collected. The Return on Investment sample size is 545.

ASSET VERIFICATION

Among the verified works more than three fourth (87 percent) of works are individual works and remaining are community works. Half (51.5 percent) of



the works are land development works. One third of works were drought proofing works. The lists of sample works were given in table 1. The study covered total 623 assets

for verification, out of this 0.2 percent (one out of 623) of works identified as ghost works. The identified ghost work is individual asset land development work.

Table 1: Category of sample assets

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Land Development	321	51.5
Water Harvesting	40	6.4
Irrigation canal	7	1
Drought Proofing	202	32.4
Rural Connectivity	33	5.3
Other public works	20	3.2
Total	623	100

STATUS OF ASSETS

Among the verified assets 98 percent of assets are in good condition, one percent of assets are partially damaged, and rests of the one percent of the assets are fully damaged. Only six percent of community assets are fully damaged. Overall 14 percent of irrigation canal works are partially damaged. Water harvesting, rural connectivity and other public works are Cent percent in good condition.

CORRELATION OF STATUS OF ASSET

Correlation was computed to ascertain the relationship between the status of asset and selected

variables. It is revealed from the table 2 that out of six variables maintenance of asset (.811) is highly significant with one percent of probability and positively correlates with status of asset. Whereas types of asset (-.112), Expenditure (-.126), Person das (-.120) were highly significant with one percent level of probability but negatively correlates with status of assets. Category of asset and number of beneficiaries were non significant with status of asset.

Table 2 : Correlation of status of assets and select independent variables

S.No	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Category of asset	-.012
2	Type of asset	-.112**
3	Expenditure	-.126**
4	Maintenance of asset	.811**
5	Person days	-.120**
6	Number of Beneficiary	.031
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability		
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability		

MAINTENANCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

The positive finding of the study is 99 percent of the assets were maintained by the beneficiaries only one percent is not maintained by the beneficiary. More than three fourth of (84percent) of beneficiaries reported that

the quality of work is very good and nine percent of beneficiaries answered the quality of work is average. Remaining seven percent of beneficiaries reported the quality of work is low.

Table 3: Quality of assets

Quality	Frequency	Percent
Very good	508	84
Average	56	9
Low	43	7
Total	607	100

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR QUALITY OF ASSET

In multiple regression analysis seven independent variables were fitted to explain the variation in quality of assets. It is apparent from the table 4 that 78 percent variation in quality of works was explained by seven independent variables. The unexplained variation

of 22 percent may be due to factors not covered under this study. It was also observed out of seven independent variables namely types of asset, category of asset, awareness on MGNREGS had significant effect on quality of asset with one percent level of probability. People participation in selection of work is having significant effect on quality of work with five percent level of probability.

Table 4: Regression analysis of quality of asset with independent variables

S.No	Variables	B	Std. Error	T
1	Category of asset	.542	.141	3.849**
2	Types of asset	.256	.064	4.027**
3	Gender	.021	.007	2.980
4	Social group	-.047	.045	-1.038
5	Economic status	.059	.014	4.122
6	Awareness on MGNREGS	-.096	.104	.915**
7	Participation in selection of work	.087	.031	2.802*

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability
 * . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability
R2 =.078,F= 7.220

USEFULNESS OF WORKS

Among the interviewed beneficiaries 89 percent of beneficiaries reported the asset created was very useful to them followed by that nine percent and two percent of them reported the assets are somewhat useful and not useful respectively. Majority (69 percent) of them reported land development work is most useful for individual beneficiary and Second most useful work for individuals is rural connectivity (8 percent). Rural connectivity is most useful for the community. Second most useful work for the community is rural drinking water. Over all Land development and rural connectivity works were found to be very most useful work.

PARTICIPATION IN SELECTION OF WORK

The calculated chi square vale is higher that the tabulated value at five percent level of significant thus a null hypothesis. “There is no association between participation in selection of beneficiary and usefulness of asset is rejected”. It means there is significant association between participation in selection of work and usefulness of asset.

Awareness of beneficiary on selection process:-

Overall 94 percent of the beneficiaries are aware on MGNREGS planning process of works and six percent of people are unaware on MGNREGS planning of the works. Further 89 percent of people were participated in NREGS work selection process and remaining 11 percent of the people were not participated in selection process. Among the aware people 94 percent of them were participated in

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND LAND VALUE

In Tripura state among the sample beneficiary land out of 1065.1 acres of land 629.8 acres of land has been developed and it is about 59 percent. The interviewed beneficiaries reported that, on average 183 percent of land value has been increased i.e. on an average in Tripura Rs. 611661 worth value land has been increased to Rs.1121698/- through MGNREGS land development activities.

PRODUCTIVITY

More than half (60 percent) of beneficiaries reported that they were changed their cropping pattern. One third (36 percent) of beneficiaries were benefitted from double cropping. Only 5.5 percent of beneficiaries have got increase in production through the NREGS asset created. One out of five beneficiaries agriculture yield has increased. More than half (57 percent) of beneficiaries agriculture income has been increased. More than half (56 percent) of beneficiaries reported an increase in the family income through MGNREGS assets. About 42 percent of beneficiaries were reported they were able to have three meals in a day. The important use of the MGNREGS is land value has increased for 87 percent of beneficiaries.

SATISFACTION ON MGNRES

Among the interviewed beneficiary Majority (94 percent) of the beneficiaries were completely satisfied with the way of implementation of scheme. Followed by that five percent of beneficiaries were partly satisfied and only one percent of beneficiaries were dissatisfied with scheme implementation. Majority of the beneficiaries were



completely satisfied it shows the effort of the government in scheme implementation. The partly satisfied and dissatisfied beneficiary's percent is very less and it is

acceptable. The reason for dissatisfaction was the wage was not provided on stipulated time and the wage rate is meager.

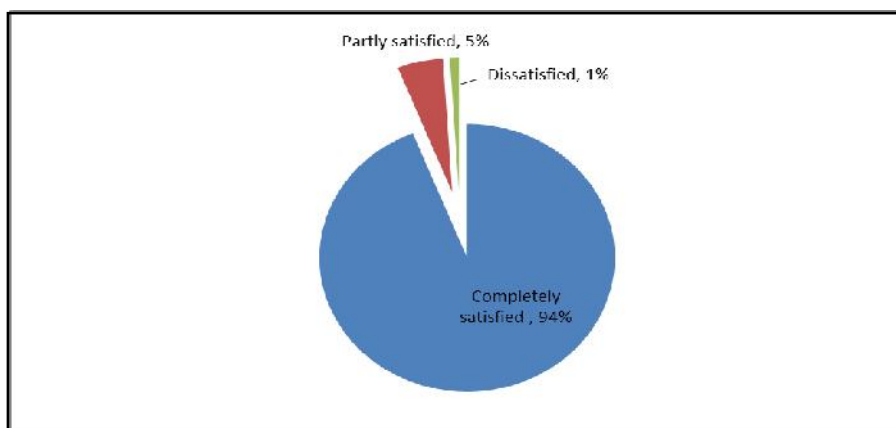


Figure 1 : Satisfaction of beneficiaries

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ The identified ghost work was individual works rather than community works, to address this issue, Gram Sabha should ensure that all completed works (cent percent) should be authenticated by the beneficiary in a public hearing/meeting.
- ✓ The gram panchayat (GP) has to send the work completion report to the individual beneficiary and the copy should be maintained by GP with the signature of beneficiary.
- ✓ The work site board should be ensured and additionally the list of assets created under MGNREGS should be disseminated through the Sign board in public places of every GP from time to time.
- ✓ Social Audit practices are not effective and not carried out to this date. The states need to ensure that each asset created should pass through the social audit exercise. Wherever ghost works are listed, respective district can take a special initiate or drive to identify these works by doing special social audits and recover the complete money spent on such unverifiable works.

CONCLUSION

The asset mentioned in MIS and records physically existed in field. The qualities of assets were found very good and the uses of the assets are also found to be very good. Most of the assets were in good condition. The beneficiaries were felt that the land development and rural connectivity works were very much useful for the beneficiaries. The state can concentrate on initiating the convergence through various line departments. The government should take necessary steps to ensure the existence of assets and improve the quality of assets.

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