

## Kurushetra Vol. 59 No. 2 December 2010

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGS ON RURAL MIGRATION

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*Migration has stopped in five panchayats with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 panchayats considered for the present research work.*

This article assesses the impact of the MGNREGS on rural migration in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu. The district which has received award from the government of India along with other three districts namely, Sivagangai, Cuddalore, and Tirunelveli in Tamilnadu for their best implementation of MGNREGS.

#### Methodology

The study is exploratory in nature. It is based on primary data collected from the MGNREGS beneficiaries with the help of interview schedule.

Apart from canvassing with the help of interview structured, relevant field level data/information was collected through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with the Scheme's beneficiaries.

#### Sampling

For the selection of the blocks all the 14 blocks in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, were first grouped by the researcher into three groups as More Developed Group (MDG), Moderately Develop Group (MRDG) and Less Develop Group (LDG) using four Composite Development



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Indicators (CDI) namely, urbanization, rural literacy rate, rural non-agricultural employment and area cultivated more than once in a year to capture different blocks in development perspectives in the district.

Then one block from each group has been selected randomly.

For the selection of the gram panchayats the highest two village panchayats who has issued job cards, the middle two village panchayats who has issued job cards and the least two village panchayats who has issued job cards on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 were selected. Then 5 percentage of the total beneficiary households who have received Job Card not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 from each selected panchayats were selected randomly and interviewed with the pre-tested interview schedule.

So, the survey carried out from December 2009 – February 2010 covered 846 beneficiary households from 18 Gram Panchayats, three Development Blocks and one District for the present research work.

#### Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Sub-section 1 of Section 3 of the MGNREGA 2005 states that, 'Save as otherwise provided, the State Government shall, in such rural area in the State as may be notified by the Central Government, provide to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work not less than one hundred days of such work in a financial year in accordance with the Scheme made under this Act'. Data reveals that women beneficiaries are more than men because 558 respondents were women beneficiaries of the total sample of 846 respondents.

Majority of the Scheme's beneficiary respondents comes under the age group of 36-65 because 489 respondents (58%) under this age group and the rest 357 respondents (42%) comes under the age group of 18-35 of the total 846 respondents with no respondents who are above 65 years old.

#### Impact of the Scheme on rural migration

Results of the study reveal that in Natham Block (MDG) there is a mixed result on the impact of the scheme on migration. Migration still persist in Sendurai and Seithur panchayats because in these two panchayats 79.1% of the respondents and 66.6% of the respondents respectively who migrated before the implementation of the scheme still migrates, even after the implementation of the scheme for various reasons – as the beneficiaries has merely received 25 – 30 days of employment under the scheme in every financial year in spite of the 100 days of employment guarantee under scheme. In Avichipatti panchayats 70.5% of the respondents and 69.6% of the respondents in Kuttupatti panchayats still migrate after the implementation of the scheme for work within the Block with a reason unlike the above two panchayats. Here, the beneficiaries after working for 100 days of employment under the scheme at the stretched except Sundays, they migrate within the Block for work. But in Pannurpatti 80% of the respondents and 81.2% of the respondents in Boothagudi migrates for work within the Block before the implementation of the scheme and cent percent of these respondents who migrates earlier has stopped migration after the implementation of the scheme for reasons like, 25% of the respondents in Pannurpatti and 15.3% of the respondents in Boothagudi prefer to work in their own native under MGNREGS though wage is less, and 75% of the respondents in Pannurpatti and 84.6 % of the respondents in Boothagudi gave the reason that, MGNREGS is enough for getting extra employment.

In Nilakottai Block (MRDG) the impact of the scheme is very little when we consider the entire six sample panchayats. Because in three panchayats namely, Pachamalayankottai, Jambuthuraiyakkottai and Sivanagapuram panchayats the percentage of respondents who migrates before and after the implementation of the scheme is 72%, 60% and 57.5% respectively

and in Noothalapuram cent percent of the respondents never migrated to other place for work. So there is no impact of the scheme in these four panchayats. Except in S.Mettupatti, 72.2% of the respondents migrates to Kerala (other state) and 66.6% of the respondents in Nakkalathu panchayats migrates to Pollachi (other district) before the implementation of the scheme and they have stopped migration completely after the implementation of the programme for reasons like, 25%of the respondents in S.Mettupatti and 15.3% in Nakkalathu panchayat prefer to work in their own native under MGNREGS though wage is less, and 75% of the respondents in S.Mettupatti and 84.6% in Nakkalathu Panchayats gives the reason that, MGNREGS is enough for getting extra employment.

Impact of the scheme on migration in Reddiarchatram Block (LDG) is experienced in Adaloor Panchayat with 80% of the respondents who used to migrate before the implementation of the scheme within the block has completely stopped migration after the implementation of the programme for reasons like, prefer to work in their own native under MGNREGS though wage is less (68.7%) and MGNREGS is enough for getting extra employment (31.2%). But in rest of the five sample panchayats in Reddiarchatram Block there is no impact of the scheme on migration because in Annumandarayankottal cent percent of the respondents and in Dharmathupatti Panchayat majority of the respondents (83.6%) have never migrated before and after the implementation of the scheme, 71.2% of the respondents in Silvarpatti Panchayats, 71.5% of the respondents in G.Nadupatti Panchayats and 76% of the respondents in Silvarpatti Panchayat who used to migrate before the implementation of the scheme still migrates as earlier.

At the overall level, of the total 846 sample respondents for the present research, 333

respondents (39.3%) have never migrated before and after the implementation of the programme, and 513 respondents (60.6%) have migrated for work, of which only 66 respondents (12.8%) have stopped after the implementation of the scheme and the rest 447 respondents (87.1%) still migrate for work.

Conclusion

Migration has stopped in five panchayats with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 panchayats considered for the present research work. Migration has stopped in five panchayats with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 panchayats considered for the present research work.

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