

MGNREGA: 100 days Employment Guarantee in Bundelkhand (M.P.)?

Surendra Singh

**Research Scholar, Department of Economics,
Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow**

Abstract

MGNREGA has a flagship programme of UPA government which is given 100 days job assurance in rural areas for unskilled persons. It also creating social inclusion by given 33% jobs assurance for women. It is one of the important opportunities for women. Bundelkhand region of (M.P.) has a backward area and in this area MGNREGA had not provided 100 days job guarantee to who are willing to do jobs under this Scheme. Irregularities also found in implementation of MGNREGA in this area. Like Mustor roll was not prepared properly & wages inequalities between women and men. But another picture is that it's provided some amount of jobs for peoples in this area. In Bundelkhand region government data shown that jobs were provided under MGNREGA but social & individual researches could not found them. In many cases found that jobs were provided to real beneficiaries. And in some cases wages were not given after completing of work. Unemployment allowance which is another safe guard of this scheme not provided who want to jobs but unfortunately jobs were not provided within 15 days of jobs demanding.

Background

The architectural marvel was built on bank of Gomti River; thousands of workers were working beautiful arches to destroy them every evening. Workers were given a daily quota of cooked food and some cash. The year was 1784; entire Northern India was reeling under drought. The first “demand driven job guarantee scheme” was born. MGNREGA has a demand driven programme which was launched by government for creating new jobs in rural and remote areas in India. Purpose of the launching of MGNREGA programme purely creating unskilled jobs and given assurance to people who lived in rural areas because more than population lived in rural areas and increasing regularly and due to globalization jobs have not created for unskilled peoples. So according to the Article 21 right to Right to life parliament have been notified National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on 7th September 2005 and Act came into force on 2nd February 2006.

Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was notified on 7th September, 2005 to create a right-based framework for wage employment. The Act came into force on 2nd February 2006. The aim of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was to enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Before giving an account of the objectives, goals and features of this historical Act, it will be relevant to have a view of the rural scenario created by the political-economy of the LPG paradigm. It is true that the India shift towards market oriented economic reforms was motivated by the need of

accelerating growth in all sectors of economy but in actual terms the agriculture sector experienced stagnation and decline.

According to the government reports, the growth rate of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decelerate from 3.08 % per annum during 1980-1981 and 1990-1991 to 2.38% during 1992-93 to 2003-04. Similarly the growth rate of crop output declined from 3.19% rate of food grains output decelerated to an all period low of 1.16%. This was lower than the growth of population at 1.95% per annum. Thus, there was a decline in the per capita availability during the post reform period. This was happening in conjunction with two other significant trends of change in the rural society and economy:-

1. Increase in the proportion of agriculture labourers and
2. Increase in the proportion of the agriculture households.

According to the census of 2001, the proportion of agriculture labourers to agricultural workers increased from 37.8% in 1971 to 45.6% by 2001. In absolute terms, there was an increase from 47.5 million to 106.2 million. It is important to remember that there were 30% rural labour households in 1977-78 which got increased to nearly 40% in 1999-2000. In the meantime the proportion of agriculture households to total rural household had increased from 25.35 to 33.2%. The other worrying phenomenon has been the increasing number of the marginal households in rural India. The percentage of marginal households among the cultivators has increased from 66.6 in 1982 to 79.6% in 2003. This rapid growth of agriculture labourers was mainly because the increased workforce in India was unable to find the employment in non-agricultural sections in rural or urban areas (Bhalla, 2007). This declining trend of agricultural sector has been adversely affecting the poorer sections of all communities. But the crisis of survival was most aggregated for the landless labourers and marginal peasants who are mostly from SCs, STs and female headed households. As mentioned in every beginning of this essay, this crisis has been proved to be an accelerator of indebtedness, forced migration, suicides, family breakdown, rural unrests, social violence, and political radicalism (Government of India, 2008). So it should not come as a surprise that the main objective of the NREGA 2005 was to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood and resources base for the rural poorer. (www.righttofoodindia.org/data/up-campaign-for-rtf07nrega-review-tale-of-broken-promises.)

MNREGA and Gender

MNREGA is a highly gender sensitive scheme. It is mandatory that at least one third of the workers should be women. The share of women at the national level is 40%. It is again necessary to provide various facilities at the worksite like drinking water and baby sitters. The provision of baby sitters will free the women of all the worries of taking care of their little kids. The provision is women friendly in another way that this will spare the elder siblings from rearing the younger ones. Women are more attracted towards the scheme because the wage level for women labours are less than that of the male counter parts in the market. While a male labour gets Rs 100 per day on an average during harvest seasons and Rs 70-80 during the lean season, a

women labourer gets about Rs 50 during harvest season and Rs 30-40 during lean season. It is undisputed that the scheme has the potential to mobilize women in large numbers and groups (which was earlier difficult.) This presents an opportunity to the government to form productive self help from the unskilled labour to the skilled labour through the convergence of the entire scheme should materialize as an offshoot of the MGNREGA. Such social change and upward mobility is the final aim of any poverty alleviation programme.

Review of literature

On this Scheme (MGNREGA) extensive researches had been conducted so in this paper we are using two dimension review of literature which is Wages, Employment.

Wage: - Many research works have done on wage system in MGNREGA scheme like (Anindita et.al 2010), (Anish Vanaik et.al 2008), (CAG 2008), (Siddhartha et al 2008), (NCAER 2009), (Kidambi somya). MGNREGA has a demand driven Scheme so under this scheme part of funds 60% expended on wages but due to irregularities in some cases work has been completed but wages have not been given to beneficiaries. Payments of wages through bank are another safe guard of this scheme but due to corruption and irregularities wage has been not received by beneficiaries.

Employment:- Employment and unemployment allowance have important part of MGNREGA scheme, this scheme given an assurance to rural people 100 days employment on nearer at home but unfortunately works were not provided within 15days its provision under NREGA Act to provide unemployment allowance on this theme many research works have been done like (Chandrashekhar et. al 2005), (Dreze Jeans 2006), (Baisakh pradeep 2007), (K.S. Gopal 2008), (CAG 2008), (Sharma Ria 2008), (Patil Amitendu), (NAC member 2010), (Parshuram Rai 2010), (CEFS 2009), (Bela Bhatia 2006), (Jhal et. Al 2012), (N.Krishan ji 2012), (Union minister statement on April 26, 2012), (Datta puja et. at 2012), (Tiwari rakesh et. at 2011), (Chowdhury subhanil 2011), (Hirway indira and Neha shah 2011), literature on employment in MGNREGA clear cut shown that till 2010 in Bundelkhand region apart of M.P. which is backward area of Utter Pradesh in some Gram Panchayats no single person of ST beneficial under MGNREGA but MGNREGA official data saying employment were given to peoples And some serious irregularities also found under MGNREGA in Bundelkhand like Gram Pradhan which is important part of implementation of this scheme did not know about MGNREGA scheme. (Parshuram Rai 2010). Social audit one of the major safe guard of this scheme purely failed in implementation in some cases due to heavy corruption involvement should not implemented properly. Unemployment allowance is another important safeguard but it is a state matter so in Madhya Pradesh especially in Bundelkhand region. In many cases unemployment was not given to beneficiaries.

Objectives

1. To examine 100 days Employment provided to workers in Bundelkhand region (M.P.)
2. To examine that MGNREGA given 33% jobs for Women's in Bundelkhand Region (M.P.)

Research Methodology: - Research methodology is a way of systematically solving the problem (C.R. Kothari). Here research problem is “MGNREGA: 100 days Employment Guarantee in Bundelkhand Region (M.P.)?” To find out the solution of any research problem it is very important to collect data of a relevant period and data collected should be up to date. Thus, the period chooses by me for this research will be confined 2008-2013. For this purpose we have using secondary data which is collected various Magazines Articles published on MGNREGA and data also collected from NREGA official website. In this research work I also used percentage and ratio method for calculation of data.

Study Area

For this research work we are taking part of Bundelkhand region which comes under Madhya Pradesh. Bundelkhand region is located between 23°20' and 26°20' N latitude and 78°20' and 81°40'E longitude. Administratively the region comprises of six districts Madhya Pradesh viz., Chhatrapur, Tikamgarh, Damoh, Datia, Panna, Sagar. The Bundelkhand region is complex, diverse, rained, risky, under-invested, vulnerable, socio-economically heterogeneous, ethnically unique, agrarian and backward relative to other regions. Population of Bundelkhand region of M.P. is 86, 52.178 and male population is 45, 62,824, female population 40, 89,354. Population growth in Bundelkhand region is approximately 18.47% and average literacy ratio is 69.24%, male literacy ration is 79.26% and female literacy ration is 58.07% (census 2011).

Data Analysis

During 2008 to Feb.2013 in Bundelkhand region (M.P.) MGNREGA play tremendous role it's provided approximately 39.63% jobs for women's (Table 1). STs in this region received more jobs comparatively from SCs; STs have higher jobs person days in 20012-13 which was 29% and in 2010-11. SCs in 2011-12 are lower person days which were 14.58% and in 2012-13 higher which was 19.91%. In table one important thing is shown is that number of person days in STs is greater than to STs Peoples. That is shown better awareness about MGNREGA in STs because in this area STs Population is less comparatively to SCs population (Census 2001) So it's shown opposite picture about employment generation and awareness this scheme. During this period STs have more beneficiaries from STs (col.5). In this table another picture seen about women empowerment during this period in Bundelkhand region MGNREGA provided more jobs comparatively provision under the NREGA Act.

Table1: Person days Generated during (2008-Feb.13) in Bundelkhand region (M.P)

Year	Total jobs provided	SCs	% of Jobs for SCs	STs	% jobs for STs	Women	% of jobs provide for women's
1	2	3	4 (3*100/2)	5	6 (6*100/2)	7	8 (7*100/2)
2008-09	18765684	2854060	15.20	4505981	24.01	6596116	35.14
2009-10	14773575	2682148	18.15	4321339	29.25	5567778	37.67
2010-11	19695862	3014784	15.30	2720010	13.81	7076905	35.93
2011-12	19134790	2791436	14.58	4016057	20.98	7083050	37.01
2012-Feb.13	6670888	1328447	19.91	1935023	29.00	3507046	52.57

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

Table 2: Employment status under MGNREGA in Bundelkhand region (M.P.) during 2008- Feb.13
(Hh=No. of households)

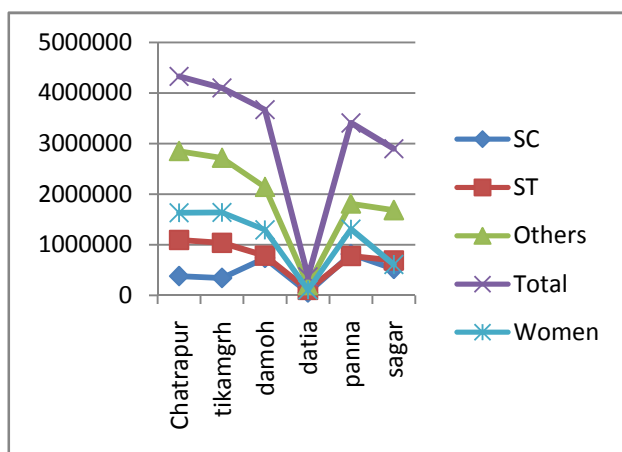
Years	Jobs Card Issues (Hh)	Jobs Demanded (Hh)	Jobs Provided (Hh)	100 days completed (Hh)	% of completed 100 days (5*100/4) (HHh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
2008-09	1387419	577694	572138	17087	2.98
2009-10	1524771	409046	406739	17911	4.40
2010-11	1538480	461791	360693	31606	8.76
2011-12	1548369	431699	118386	33263	7.73
2012- Feb.13	1285797	303095	295701	8628	2.91

Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

During this period between 2008 -2013 data clear cut shown about employment status in this area, data shown 100 days employment completion percentage is very low comparatively to jobs provided. In the year 2008-09 percentage of 100 days completion of jobs is 2.98 which are very low and higher percentage was 2010-11 (Table 2). In 2010-11 no .of households issued job cards was 1538480 but no. of jobs demanded only 461791 that was around 30% which was very low, cause of this thing is that many people did not do difference between MGNREGA job card and Ration card that thing we find out at the time of literature review (Pursuram Rai 2010). But another picture was that no of households provided jobs out of no of households demanded jobs is around 79.40% due to this gap another problem arisen is that unemployment allowance, unemployment allowance has important safeguard of this scheme but unemployment allowance has a state matter so in Bundelkhand region government did not given unemployment allowance to the workers those who are demanded jobs but government did not provided (Pursuram Rai 2010.). And more important thing 100 days employment was about households those who are working in MGNREGA have not been completed 100 days; it's shown failure of MGNREGA in this region because MGNREGA legally bounded 100 days employment.

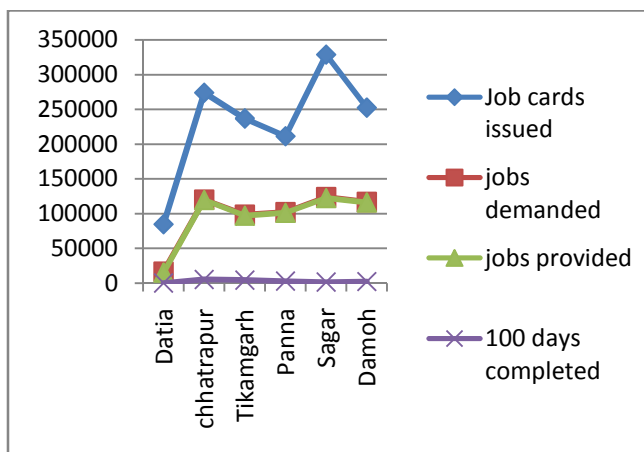
(Fig.1)

Person Days Generated during 2008-09



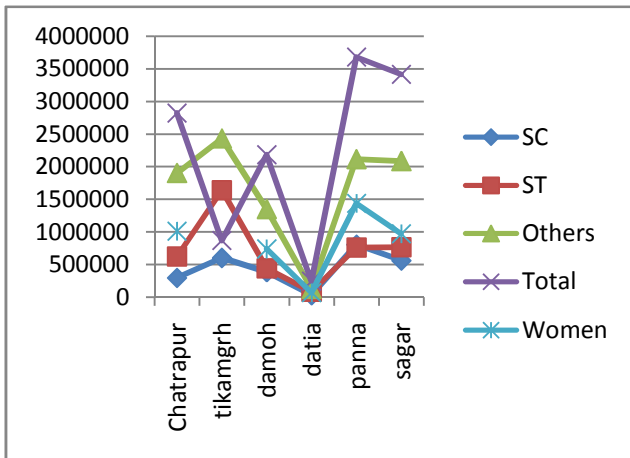
(Fig.2)

Employment Status during 2008-9



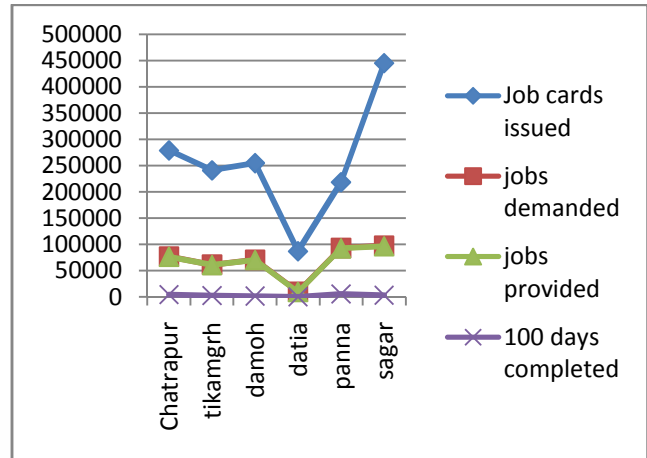
(Fig.3)

Person Days Generated during 2009-10



(Fig.4)

Employment Status during 2009-10

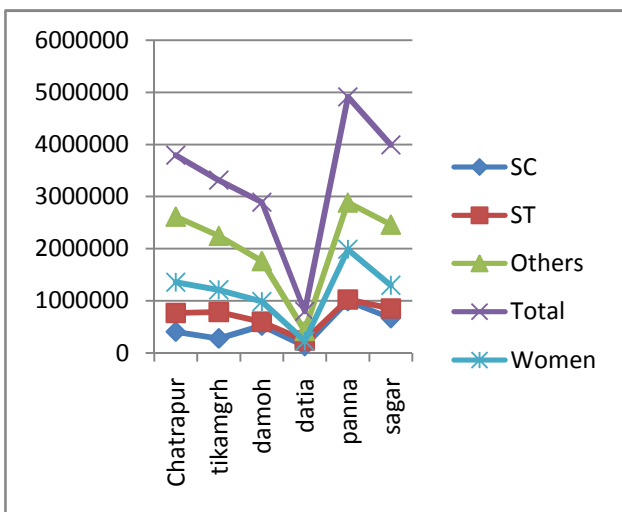


Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

MGNREGA has a job guarantee scheme it's secure 100 days employment in a year to people who are willing to do jobs in this scheme but unfortunately in Bundelkhand region (M.P.) it is not fulfill his provisions which is notified in Nrega Act (see Fig. 2&4). Another 2 fig. shown person days generated under MGNREGA scheme fig. 2 clearly shows gap between no. households issued jobs cards and no. of households completed 100 days employment during 2008-09. There is clear cut shown implementation picture of MGNREGA. Same picture showing in year 2009-10. Sky blue and purple line which in fig. 2&4 shows clearly showing gaps between jobs card issued and 100 days completed. Fig. 1&3 shows person days generated in both fig. one important thing is that these years MGNREGA provided higher jobs to the women's from 33%.

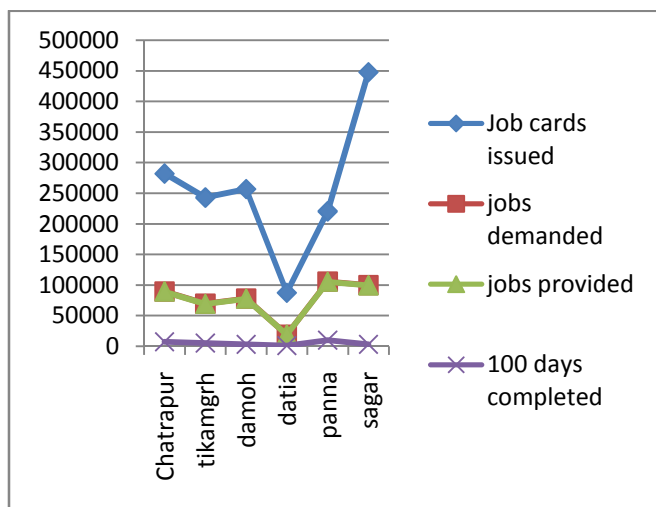
(Fig.5)

Person Days Generated during 2010-11

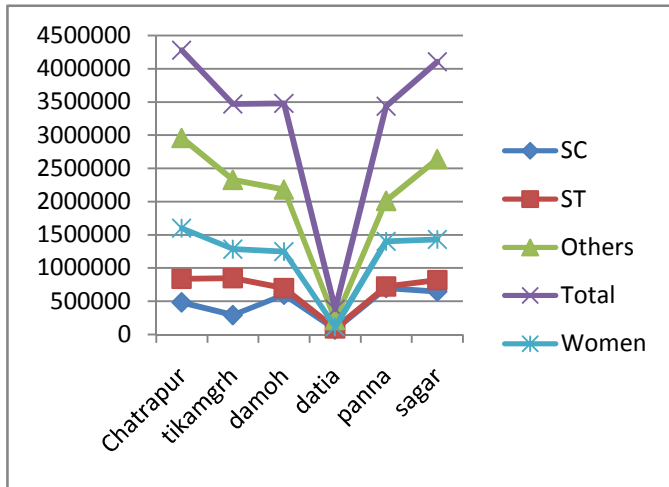


(Fig.6)

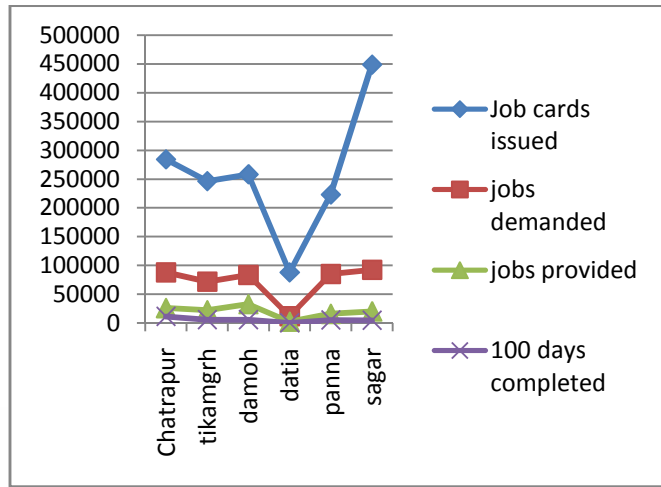
Employment Status during 2010-11



(Fig.7)
Person Days Generated during 2011-12



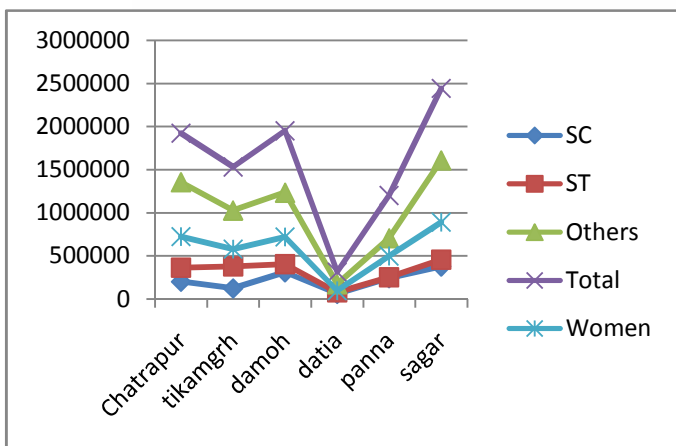
(Fig.8)
Employment Status during 2011-12



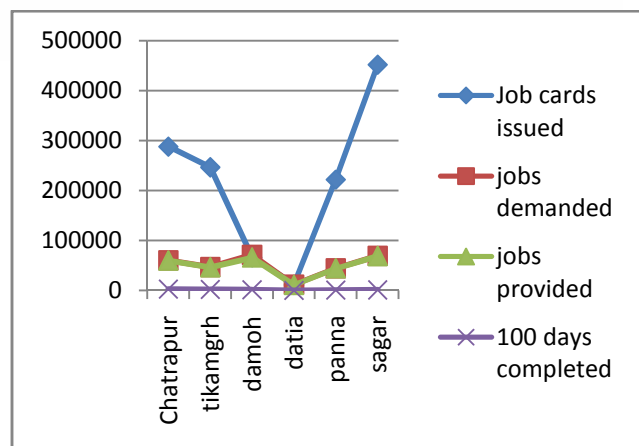
Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

During the period 2010-11&2011-12 same picture shown in Datia number of households jobs card issued was higher but no. of households completed 100 days employment is very less (fig.6 & 8) it's clearly shown failure of MGNREGA in that years. Gaps between jobs provided and 100 days completed is also seen in fig. 6&8 green line shows no. of households provided jobs and purple line shows no. of households completed 100 days employment under this scheme.

(Fig.9)
Person Days Generated during 2012-Feb.13



(Fig.10)
Employment Status during 2012-Feb.13



Source:-www.nrega.nic.in

In Sagar district number of women person days generated is higher comparatively other districts and in Datia number of women's person days is very lower comparatively other districts. (Fig.9). In Sagar district number of households issued jobs cards is higher and Chhatterpur number jobs cards issued is less (see sky line in fig.10) but number of households completed 100 days is very less so in the matter of 100 days completion of jobs under this scheme during 2008-feb 2013 is lower it's clearly shown failure of this scheme.

Findings

1. MGNREGA in Bundelkhand region (M.P.) not provided 100 days security to workers.
2. During the period 2008- Feb.2013 MGNREGA created social inclusion and given approximately 39.63% jobs for women's which is higher from secure in NREGA Act.

Discussion

Number of poverty alleviation schemes has been put in rural part of India since independence MGNREGA one of them but important thing is that it's provided 100 days legal jobs guarantee in rural part of India for who is willing to do unskilled manual work under this scheme. Since implemented year in Bundelkhand region many irregularities were founded in implementation of this scheme like Muster roll has not been prepared properly. Unawareness about this scheme another bigger issue under this Scheme because many rural peoples who are necessary want to do jobs nearer to living place was not aware from this scheme (parsuram rai 2010). After getting job card peoples did not define difference between MGNREGA job card and Ration Card. There is major problem found them in literature. Government reports on this scheme shows jobs were provided for rural peoples who want to jobs but individual research shown opposite picture. A social survey was conducted in Bundelkhand region in 2010 by Parsuram rai and others (Centre for Environment and Food Security). They found that in Bundelkhand many peoples of SCs and STs are not paid any amount in this scheme. And they also found serious irregularities in implementation. Peoples who are working since 2006 they are only 4-10 days employment provided under this scheme. And contradictory found between government reports & individual researches in this area. Government reports on MGNREGA shows that employment was provided those who are demanded in this scheme but individual researches were not found.

Conclusion

MGNREGA has a part of series of rural development programmes which were implemented in rural areas since independence but one significant difference is between MGNREGA and other rural development programmes is that it's bounded 100 days employment to a single rural households in a financial year who are willing to do unskilled manual works under this scheme. MGNREGA has given job assurance to peoples and it created social inclusion because it gave 33% jobs Assurance for women. In Bundelkhand which is backward area of Madhya Pradesh MGNREGA not given 100 days job securities to those who are willing to do job under this scheme? (See Table no.2). In Bundelkhand region many people unaware about MGNREGA scheme they did not know about this scheme. In some areas of Bundelkhand like in

Datia District very less jobs have been provided to Women under this scheme. At the time of review of literature in implementation many irregularities were founded under this scheme like Mustor roll which is important record about MGNREGA. Physical progress reports were not prepared properly. (Parsuram Rai 2010) at the working site of MGNREGA. Officer who is appointed for prepared Mustor roll it makes Kachha Mustor roll and then after its make Pukka Mustor roll at office. There are serious irregularities in implementations of this scheme. One another thing is founded that is unemployment allowance, unemployment allowance has a matter of State government; in CAG report (2008) found that many states were not paid unemployment allowance to beneficiaries. Poverty ratio of Bundelkhand region apart of Madhya Pradesh is higher comparatively other part of State so this scheme is more important for these peoples. MGNREGA has gender sensitive so we are looked about women employment in this area during study period according to the NREGA official website its create social inclusion and given approximately 39.63% jobs for women's there is single achievement of this scheme in my research work. In this research work contradictory were founded between government reports and individual researches. It's seen my data which is collected from NREGA official site, data clear cut shown about employment status. On the basis of this MGNREGA has not been provided 100 days security in this area. It is clearly breach NREGA Act provision which is noted down that 100 days security for workers.

References

- Adhikari, Anindita and Kartika Bhatia (2010), 'NREGA Wage Payments: Can We Bank on the Banks?' Economic & Political Weekly, 45(01):30-37.
- Comptroller and Auditor General (2007), 'Performance Audit of Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA)', Draft Report, New Delhi.
- Siddhartha and Anish Vanaik (2008), 'CAG Report on NREGA: Fact and Fiction', Economic & Political Weekly.
- Bhatti, Bharat (2012), 'Aadhar-Enabled Payments for NREGA Workers' Economic & Political Weekly, XLVII (49):16-19.
- Jha, Raghendra and Raghav Gaiha, (2012), 'NREGS: Interpreting the Official Statistics', Economic & Political Weekly, XLVII (40):18-22.
- Bhatia, Bela and Jean Dreze, (2006), 'Employment Guarantee in Jharkhand:Ground Realities', Economic & Political Weekly.
- Tiwari, Rakesh et. al. (2011), 'MNREGA for Environmental Service Enhancement and Vulnerability Reduction:Rapid Appraisal in Chitradurga District,Kharnatka', Economic & Political Weekly, XLVI(20):39-47.
- Vanaik, Anish and Siddarth (2008), 'Bank Payments: End of Corruption in NREGA?', Economic & Political Weekly.
- Drèze, Jean (1990), 'Poverty in India and the IRDP Delusion'; Economic and Political Weekly, Volume 26, No 29 Sept.

All India Report on Evaluation of NREGA: A Survey of Twenty Districts (2009), Institute of Applied Manpower Research Plot No. 25, Sector A-7, Narela, Delhi.

Government of U.P, Department of rural development. Annual Progress Report of Programmes/Schemes (2006-07).

The National Advisory Council Experiment Reviewed work(s): Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 43, No. 15 (Apr. 12 - 18, 2008), p. 7.

Minutes of Workshop on Inter-sectoral convergence with NREGS for Enhancing Productivity in selected pilot districts, October 13, 2009, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh.

Rai, parsuram (2010), 'Dalits of Bundelkhand Living with Hunger and Dying of NREGA Mafia', Centre for Environment and Food Security.

www.nrega.nic.in

www.censusindia.gov.in

