

THE IMPACT OF MNREGA ON RURAL- URBAN MIGRATION: INVESTIGATION OF KASHI VIDYAPEETH BLOCK, VARANASI

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ABSTRACT

Real estate and infrastructure development firms are facing a crucial crisis of labor throughout the country. Migrant Labor from Bihar and UP east constitute near about 50% of the unskilled workers employed in these sectors nationally, but increased government expenses on the rural part of the country has stopped rural migration. Credit goes to MNREGA, one of the ambitious schemes of UPA-1 Government. Diminish rural migration throughout the country has resulted in labor shortage and has increased 35-50% higher wage bills for real estate firms. Report also says that the 100 days assured work scheme MNREGA is also able to provide at least minimum means of life. Keeping the abovementioned aspects in view this research has tried to study the impact of MNREGA on rural-urban migration, and the how far the income pattern of the people in the surveyed region is able to meet the minimum requirement of living. To study the considered objectives, MNREGA labors of two villages namely Annatntpur and Allaudinpur of Kashividyaapeeth block in Varanasi district was surveyed through a structured questionnaire and inferences were drawn through percentage method in a tabulated form.

Key words: Rural, Labour, Migration, MNREGA, Life pattern

INTRODUCTION

Bihar's recent economic growth has shaped a strange problem for real estate and infrastructure firms in other parts of the country. Migrant labor from the state comprises around 50% of the unskilled workers engaged in different sectors countrywide, but increased government expenditure and private investment in the rural area has reduced rural-urban migration to fall in recent years, resulting in labor shortages and 35-50% higher wage bills for real estate firms.

There is a vast scarcity of workers and that is leading to higher cost of construction as well as project delays. For many years, Bihar and Eastern UP had trail the rest of the country in terms of rural growth while some other states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Delhi became hotspots for investments. But since the UPA-1's ambitious MNREGA program is introduced throughout the country it has increased the growth in rural area and in result has reduced rural to urban migration. The scene has changed now. In a family very few members are migrating to urban area in search of better opportunities. Rests are finding the work in the projects of MNREGA. Earlier entire family used to migrate in the city. The MNREGA program guarantees 100 days work at their villages in a year.

There is certainly a shortage of labor as employment levels in rural India have gone up. Economist Bibek Debroy said that the time rural economy in terms of development start growing it reduces rural-urban migration. MNREGA is one the import reason for it.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The cause of migration and the consequences of migration have widely been studied in India. At the national level, the questions on reasons for migration have been canvassed since 1981 census for the migrants by last residence. In 1981, between the rural-urban migrants, job was one of the most stated reasons (Sinha 1986). The economic motivations are one of the important causes for high rate of migration from rural to urban India and vice versa (Oberai, Prasad and Sardana, 1989). The female in India migrates as because of group migration (Skeldon, 1986).

Since the 1980s, the sex outlook has been included into migrations researches (Fawcett, Khoo and Smith, 1984; Chant, 1992). Male migrants are fast moving and underestimate female labors from migration angle (Singh 1984; Karlekar 1995). Singh (1984) criticized and contradict the argument that the ladies migration takes place due to social and cultural follow-up. The job scenario in the labor of rural area was researched and found that financial issue is one of the important causes of rural-urban migration (Sharma, 1986; Kasturi, 1990; Neetha, 2004; Chattopadhyay, 2005; Kaur, 2006). Singh, 1984; Basu, Basu and Ray, 1987 studied the job contribution rate among the south and north Indian labors and concluded that north Indian migrant labor participate less than south Indian migrant labors. By taking a large sample from Bihar, Kerala and UP, Oberai, Prasad and Sardana (1989) concluded that Christians and Scheduled Castes/Tribe migrates in higher rate than any

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To find out whether the NREGA Act (2005) is able to reduce the rural-urban migration.
2. To study whether the income pattern of the people in the surveyed region is able to meet the minimum requirements of living.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 1 The first step was to narrow down the sample where MNREGA is being implemented well and where there is a narration of anguish migration. The objectives were developed on the basis of the proper study gap in the surveyed literature. To survey the literature the various online and offline journal along with published government report and books were consulted.
- 2 After gathering the data from the government source of district and MNREGA about backwardness, agriculture productivity, income, migration, Anantpur and Allaudinpur villages of Kashvidyapeeth block of district Varanasi was chosen
- 3 Conducted a survey among the labors of the MNREGA in the region to study the considered objectives on a structured questionnaire at the villages.
- 4 Responses were tabulated and analyzed to draw the inference of the considered objectives by applying percentage methods.

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1 shows the status of the registration cast wise in both the villages, i.e., Anantpur and Allaudinpur. In Anantpur 316 families are registered. Out of it 127 families are SC, and 189

Table 1 The status of registration in the program cast wise

Village Name	Registers		SC		ST		Other		Man	Women
	Family	Individual	Family	Individual	Family	Individual	Family	Individual		
ANANTPUR	316	421	127	239	0	0	189	182	336	85
ALLAUDDINPUR	131	165	1	1	0	0	130	164	162	3
Total	447	576	128	240	0	0	319	346	498	88

Source: <http://nregalndc.nic.in>

other cast. Oberai, Prasad and Sardana (1989); Oberai, and Singh, 1983, also advocated that the urban to rural migration takes place if the employment opportunities are available. Comprehensive data also said that the work participation rates of migrants in the largest cities is higher than non-migrant as per 1971 census data and urban to rural migration in search of employment was nil (Singh, 1984).

A study of urban-rural migration has broadly not been covered and opportunities prevailing specially due to MNREGA in Varanasi region have not been studied so far. Finding the gap in the study below given objectives was prepared.

families are other cast. Total individual registered in the village are 421. 336 are man and 85 are women.

In Allaudinpur village total families registered in the program are 131. Out of it, 1 belongs to SC category and rest 130 belongs to other category. Out of the registered 165 house hold, 162 are Man and 88 are women.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The findings of the considered objective are given below.

- A. Outcome of Objective 1; MNREGA is able to reduce the rural-urban migration.**

The first objective of the study was to find the reduction in rural urban migration due to MNREGA. To study this, a structured questionnaire consisting of 12 questions was

Table 2. MNREGA Awareness

Village Responses	Anantapur		Allaudinpur	
	No. of respondents	% of the total households	No. of respondents	% of the total households
Are you aware of MNREGA? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	297	93.4	118	90.1
No	19	6	13	9.9
Total	316	99.4	131	100
If MNREGA gives regular work - will it be useful? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	313	98.4	128	99.1
No	1	0.3	3	0.9
Total	314	98.7	131	100
Is MNREGA paying timely? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	208	65.4	85	64.8
No	108	34	46	35.1
Total	316	99.4	131	100
Does MNREGA give regular and timely work 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	213	67	86	65.6
No	103	32.4	43	32.8
Total	316	99.4	129	98.4
Can MNREGA be made more useful? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	286	89.9	115	87.7
No	30	9.4	16	12.3
Total	316	99.4	131	100
Are you satisfied from the opportunities from MNREGA? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	271	87.1	111	84.7
No	40	12.8	20	15.3
Total	311	99.9	131	100
Did you migrate last year? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	5	1.3	4	3.1
No	307	96.5	127	96.9
Total	312	98.1	131	100
Does people moved to their villages due to MNREGA? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	178	55.4	82	62.5
No	138	43.6	49	37.5
Total	316	100	131	100
If MNREGA work, will you migrate? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	3	0.9	5	3.81
No	312	98.1	125	95.4
Total	315	99.1	130	98.8
Do you want to continue with MNREGA 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	300	94.9	121	92.3
No	16	5.1	10	7.7
Total	316	100	131	100
Do you have any other plan of income other than MNREGA? 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	16	5.1	10	7.7
No	300	94.9	121	92.3
Total	316	100	131	100

formulated on certain parameters and was studied on both the considered villages i.e., Anantpur and Allaudinpur. The result was analyzed using percentage method as mentioned in table 2. Table 2 represents number of respondents, and percentage of total house hold answered the considered questions in Yes and No.

Above table indicates the responses of the respondents from two villages namely Annantpur and Allaudinpur. 316 respondents from Annantpur village and 131 respondents from Allaudinpur village have given the response on 12 parameters. The 93.4 % respondents of village Anantpur and 90.1 % respondents of village Allaudinpur have shown their awareness towards MNREGA program. Though they are working in the scheme but they are not aware of the name of the scheme. 65.4 % workers of the scheme from Anantpur said that they are receiving the timely payment while 64.8 % workers accepted that they are receiving timely payment in Allaudinpur. 98.4 % labors of Annantpur and 99.1 % labors of Allaudinpur agreed that they are getting regular work in the scheme. 87.1 % labors of Annantpur and the 84.7% labors of Allaudinpur are satisfied from the work given in the MNREGA. When the question related to their migration in previous year was asked then the response in the Annantpur was 1.3% migration and 3.1 % migration in Allaudinpur. When asked informally that why so less migration in previous year? They answered either the workers were living at the villages or have migrated in past 5 years. When the question related to the migration in their respected villages were asked 55.4 % respondents in Annantpur and 62.5 % respondents in Allaudinpur said that they have migrated in their village due to the opportunities of MNREGA.

When in both the villages about the rural-urban migration was asked in future, 0.9 % in Annantpur and 3.81 % in Allaudinpur said that if MNREGA gives work in their villages they will migrate to urban area. These responses have come as the villagers have some other plan of income in their mind. Consequently it can be said that by and large in surveyed region the rural-urban migration rate has dropped down at very high rate.

A. Outcome of Objective 2; Income pattern of the labors is able to meet the minimum requirements of living.

The second objective of the study was whether the income pattern of the people in the surveyed region is able to meet the minimum requirements of living. To study the considered objective mainly 5 variables were selected and were studied in both the Anantpur and Allaudinpur villages as shown in table 3. The responses of the starting four variables were collected in yes and no while the fifth variable was studied on 4 alternatives. Percentage method was used to draw the result.

When a question about MNREGA gives good wages was asked to the labors of both the villages, 9.7 % Anantpur respondents agreed while the 10.6 % respondent of Allaudinpur agreed. When the question related to satisfaction from MNREGA earning was asked to the respondents than

Table 3. MNREGA Assesment

Village Responses	Anantapur		Allaudinpur	
	No. of respondents	% of the total households	No. of respondents	% of the total households
Does MNREGA give good wages 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	31	9.7	14	10.6
No	285	89.6	117	89.3
Total	316	99.4	131	100
Are you satisfied from the earning of MNREGA 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	43	14	22	16.8
No	272	86.	109	83.2
Total	315	99.4	131	100
Are you able to maintain your minimum requirement of your living through earning 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	265	83.8	103	78.6
No	51	16.1	28	21.4
Total	316	99.4	131	100
Are you comfortable in terms of minimum living in your village than urban area 1=yes, 2=no				
Yes	254	80.4	99	75.5
No	62	19.6	32	24.5
Total	316	99.4	131	100
Why are you comfortable in your village 1=yes, 2=no				
Other earning	3	9	2	1.5
Family Support	84	26	25	19
Less Expenses	103	32.5	32	24.4
Personal house and free eatables	72	54.9	126	39.8
Total	316	100	131	100

Ananatpur respondents have shown their satisfaction by agreeing with 22% while the 16.8% respondents of Allaudinpur agreed. 83.8 % respondents of Ananatpur and 78.6 % respondents of Allaudinpur are able to maintain minimum requirement of their living. 80.4 % labors of Anantpur and 75.5 % labors of Allaudinpur are comfortable in terms of minimum living in their villages than urban areas. For comfort in villages, 32.5% Anantpur labors and 24.4% Allaudinpur labors have given the credit to less expense in villages while 39.8% Ananatpur and 54.9% Allaudinpur labors have given the credit to personal house and free eatables.

Hence it can be said that by and large surveyed labors in their villages are comfortable and are able to meet the minimum requirements of living.

CONCLUSION

The MNREGA program has huge latent to improve the distance between city and rustic India and direct to rustic progress in the form of basic infrastructure like roads, in terms of agricultural productivity from irrigation works, and it provides a stable income for the workers, their income graph would be greatly better with the MNREGA strengthening their earnings in the 100 days between farming time. The primary aim of the Act is to provide benefit for the segment of the population that does not produce the minimum earnings. The migration is

just a positive secondary impact of the Act. This paper simply tried to find the status of urban-rural migration in the Kashi Vidyapeeth block of district Varanasi. The results drawn indicate that MNREGA should be implemented with priority as because there are enormous secondary benefits from the Act which could really have a positive impact on economic development.

The Anantpur and Allaudinpur villages of District Varanasi and implementation of MNREGA perhaps is the example where urban to rural migration took place in past at unimaginable level and is also able to meet the minimum requirement of living. This is that place where scarcity and starvation is present at an inconceivable stage and populace still pass away of starvation in this area. This effort can be a role model for the authorities to find the discrepancies in their work and to take all corrective measures to make MNREGA a successful effort to develop rural region and to improve the labors means of living. It should be used as a model in other regions to help and realize the potential of this Act.

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