

Family and Social Condition of the Beneficiaries of Mgnrega in Mahendergarh District, Haryana

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (Act) Scheme which is a collaborative partnership between the Centre Govt., the State Govt., the Panchayat and the local Community was launched in the State in 2006 in three phases to achieve the basic objective of the scheme i.e. to improve living standard in rural area by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The study revealed that many activities are being taken under MGNREGA to achieve the cent-percent employment in rural area. However during the survey, some shortcomings were noticed in implementation of the scheme for which suggestions/ recommendations have been given for making further improvement in the process of implementing the scheme.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Living Standard, Socio –economic status, Labour, Activities, Achieve.

Introduction

India is an agricultural country where, 72.2% of the population lives in rural areas. Though India has completed more than 65 years of independence but poverty in rural India continued to increase in absolute sense day by day. Almost every Five Year Plan (FYP) and many other poverty alleviation programs for the rural poor have come up with different income generation or employment guarantee scheme and their economically implementation are still remain a vital issue.

The “The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)” has been enacted to reinforce the commitment towards livelihood security in rural areas. The parliament passes the NREGA in the monsoon season on august 23, 2005. The Act was notified on 7th September 2005.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme a central sponsored wage employment scheme, aims to providing livelihood security to the rural poor. The MGNREGA was implemented in 200 districts; in the first phase, with effect from February 2, 2006 and extended, subsequently to additional 113 districts and 17 districts with effect from April 1st 2007 and May 15th 2007, respectively. The remaining districts were included under the Act with effect from April 1st 2008. The Act provides a legal guarantee of 100 days’ work in a financial year (1st April- 31st March) to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do ‘unskilled manual work at a statutory minimum wage rate (Eleventh five Year Plan, Vol. 3; 86).’

MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) implemented by the MORD (Ministry of rural Development), in the flagship programme of the government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of

households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is the first ever law internationally that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment and its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development. The process outcomes include strengthening grassroots processes of democracy and infusing transparency and accountability in governance.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Rural Guarantee Scheme is the 1st tangible commitment to the poor. The scheme aims at providing employment as a source of income by ensuring their dignity. Thus it was considered a unique scheme, which provides them right to work, enshrined in the constitution under directive principles of the state policy. In this sense the scheme was supposed to be the most unique scheme after independence as it provides employment to every rural household in financial year.

A very vital thing that the NREGA is not only providing legal guarantee of work but also protecting and according the Right to Live of core of Indians standing on social margins. The idea of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is not a new idea. It is based on Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS), and many other wage employment schemes. NREGS ranks among the most powerful initiatives ever undertaken for rural transformation of rural livelihoods in India.

Objectives :-

- 1) To study the utility of MNREGA.
- 2) To study the impact of MNREGA on beneficiaries.
- 3) To study the family and social condition of the beneficiaries of MNREGA.

Review of Literature

Dey, and Bedi (2010) studied the functioning of the NREGS between February 2006 and July 2009 in Birubham district, West Bengal. Their study reveals that in order to serve as an effective “employer of last resort”, the programme should provide more job days during lean season and wages should be paid in a timely manner. This study shows that, in Birubham, there is universal awareness about the NREGS, job card have been made available to all those who have applied and NREGS related information is well maintained and relatively accessible. But there are long delays in wage payments during 11 the first year of the programme, since then, the payment lag has declined and it is now in the range of 20 days.

Nayak, Behera, and Mishra (2008) conducted their study in 2 districts of Orissa mainly Mayurbhanj and Balasore. NREGA programme was first introduced in 200 most backward districts of the country. During the first phase itself, Mayurbhanj was selected along with other 18 backward districts of the state including KBK districts. The next phase, five more districts of Orissa were included under the scheme including Balasore. Mayurbhanj completed 3 years of NREGA implementation while Balasore has completed two. Both the districts are reported to have achieved certain goals and failed in others. This study shows that the state as a whole as well as the two sample districts are well in certain physical and financial parameters like provision of employment to those who demand jobs and maintenance of wage and non-wage ratio. However their performance in certain other important parameters like utilization of funds and creation of demand for jobs is not very encouraging. While the target is to guarantee 100 days

of employment to each household, not many households have achieved this target. According to this report well thought out effort is necessary to address these problems of NREGA in the state.

Dreze (2007) looks at the corruption in rural employment programs in Orissa and how this has continued in a NREGS as well. However, he believes that there is tremendous potential of NREGA in the survey areas. Where work was available, it was generally found that workers earned close to (and sometimes more than) the statutory minimum wage of Rs 70 per day, and that wages were paid within 15 days or so. This is an unprecedented opportunity for the rural poor, and there was evident appreciation of it among casual labourers and other disadvantaged sections of the population. There is the hope among workers that NREGA would enable them to avoid long-distance seasonal migration. Further, there is plenty of scope for productive NREGA works in this area, whether it is in the field of water conservation, rural connectivity, regeneration of forest land, or improvement of private agricultural land.

Mathur (2007) thinks that a system of regular and continuous flow of authoritative information is essential. There is room for the government to take up concurrent evaluations, more effective monitoring, time-series studies, and focused reports on critical aspects like minimum wages, muster rolls. To improve implementation, the government needs to solve problems, modify policy directives, and issue operational guidelines for the district, block and village levels. The government must take the lead, be proactive, mobilize institutions and groups, and use the media effectively. NREGS involves several lakh government officials, panchayat functionaries, elected representatives, NGOs and community groups. They play a critical role but had little preparation for the challenge. NREGS in fact is a program of national importance which has been marginalized. While the ministry of rural development is the nodal ministry at the centre, every relevant department and agency requires being involved.

Mathur (2009) states that in social audit undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, it was found that in certain villages, some people stated that they had not been paid for the work done. When comparisons were made of the payments as per the pass-book with the payment as per the job card, it was discovered that the job card did not contain the inner pages that record the work done by each person; the job card itself was incomplete. Earlier, several officials, Field and Technical Assistants and Mates admitted to irregularities and about Rs. 50,000 were returned

3. THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF MNREGA.

Sample beneficiaries

Samples of 400 beneficiaries were selected from 5 blocks and 16 villages from each block. The block – wise selections of villages and beneficiaries for the year 2021-22, are given in the table below:-

Table

Sr no	Name of block	No. of villages	No of beneficiary
1	Mahendargarh	16	80
2	Narnaul	16	80
3	Ateli	16	80
4	Satnali	16	80
5	Kanina	16	80
	Total	80	400

The above table shows that five districts were selected. In each district two blocks were selected and in each blocks two villages were selected. In each selected villages twenty beneficiaries were surveyed. The block wise selections of village and beneficiaries for the year 2022-23. Samples of four hundred beneficiaries were selected from five blocks and sixteen villages from each block.

Blocks –wise Social Status of sampled beneficiaries of MGNREGS

Table

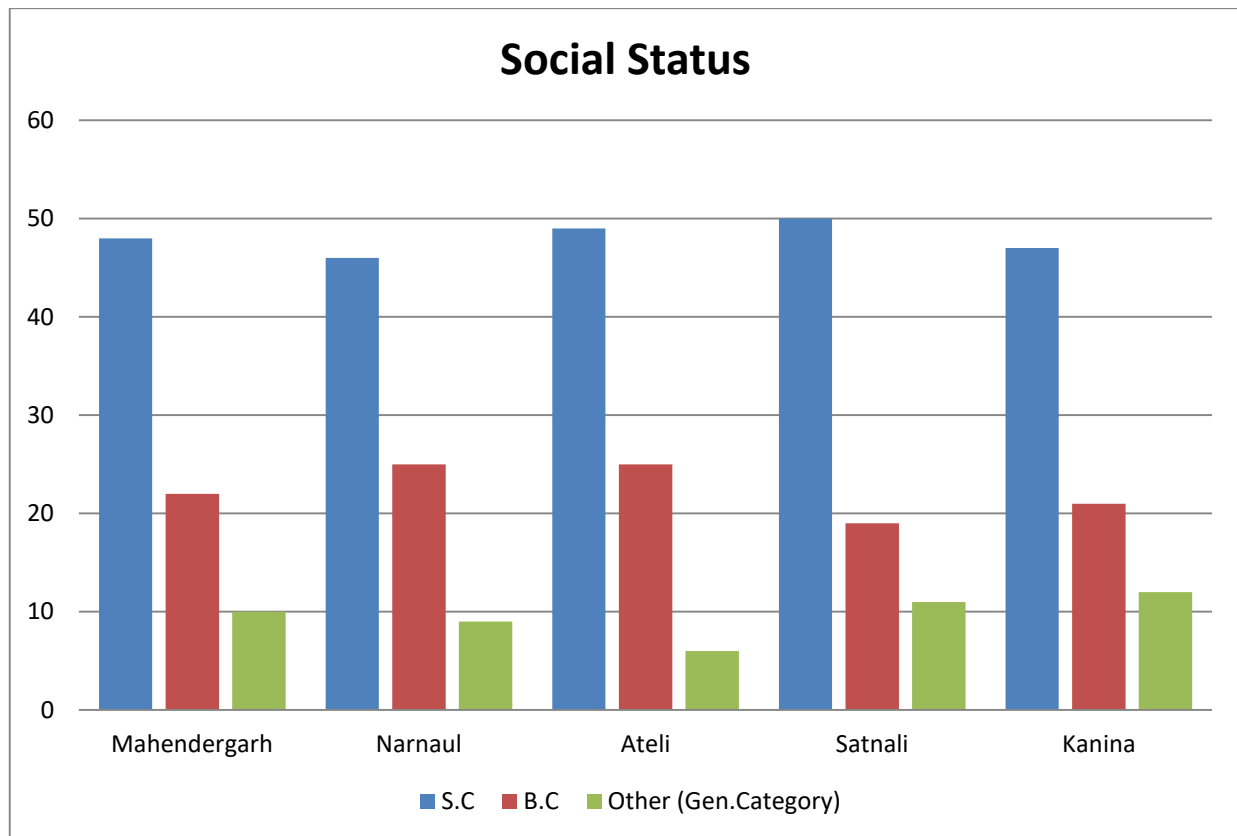
Sr .No	Blocks	S.C	B.C	Other(General Category)	Total
1.	Mahendergarh	48	22	10	80
2.	Narnaul	46	25	9	80
3.	Ateli	49	25	6	80
4.	Satnali	50	19	11	80
5.	Kanina	47	21	12	80
	Total	240	112	48	400

Source: Survey Data

The table shows that category wise worked in MGNREGS in blocks level. There are 48 persons was S.C, 48 persons was B.C and only 10 candidates was belong to general category out of 80 sample survey in Mahendergarh block. There are 46 persons was S.C, 25 persons was B.C and only 9 candidates was belong to general category out of 80 sample survey in Narnaul block. There are 49 persons was S.C,25 persons was B.C and only 6 candidates was belong to general category out of 80 sample survey in Ateli block. There are 50 persons was S.C, 19 persons was B.C and only 11 candidates was belong to general category out of 80 sample survey in Satnali block. And There are 47 persons was S.C, 21 persons was B.C and only 12 candidates was belong to general category out of 80 sample survey in Kanina block. Table revealed that the Scheduled caste families got more benefit/employment (60%) followed by backward class families (28%) whereas only 12% sampled beneficiaries represent the remaining general category.

Graph of Blocks –wise Social Status of sampled beneficiaries of MGNREGS is as under

The graph shows that the category wise registered employed in MGNREGS. The blue colour shows that the SC category, the red colour shows that the BC category and the green colour shows that the general category. In this diagram the SC category highest in all categories. The SC category employed persons was maximum in compare to other category in all blocks of mahendergarh districts.



Source: Survey Data

AWARENESS ABOUT THE MGNREGS

The Centre Government and State Government awarded the people about the programme through the advertisement on electronic and print media, published through shine board, by conducting the small training programmes and through the community and panchayat members.

Source of awareness about this scheme among 400 selected beneficiaries is as under:-

Table

Sr. No.	Block	Awareness about the scheme		Source of awareness			Total
		Aware	Not Aware	Community Member	Mass media	Gram Panchayat	
1.	Mahendergarh	80	-	14	7	59	80
2.	Narnaul	80	-	12	5	63	80
3.	Ateli	80	-	9	8	63	80
4.	Satnali	80	-	13	4	63	80
5.	Kanina	80	-	11	6	63	80

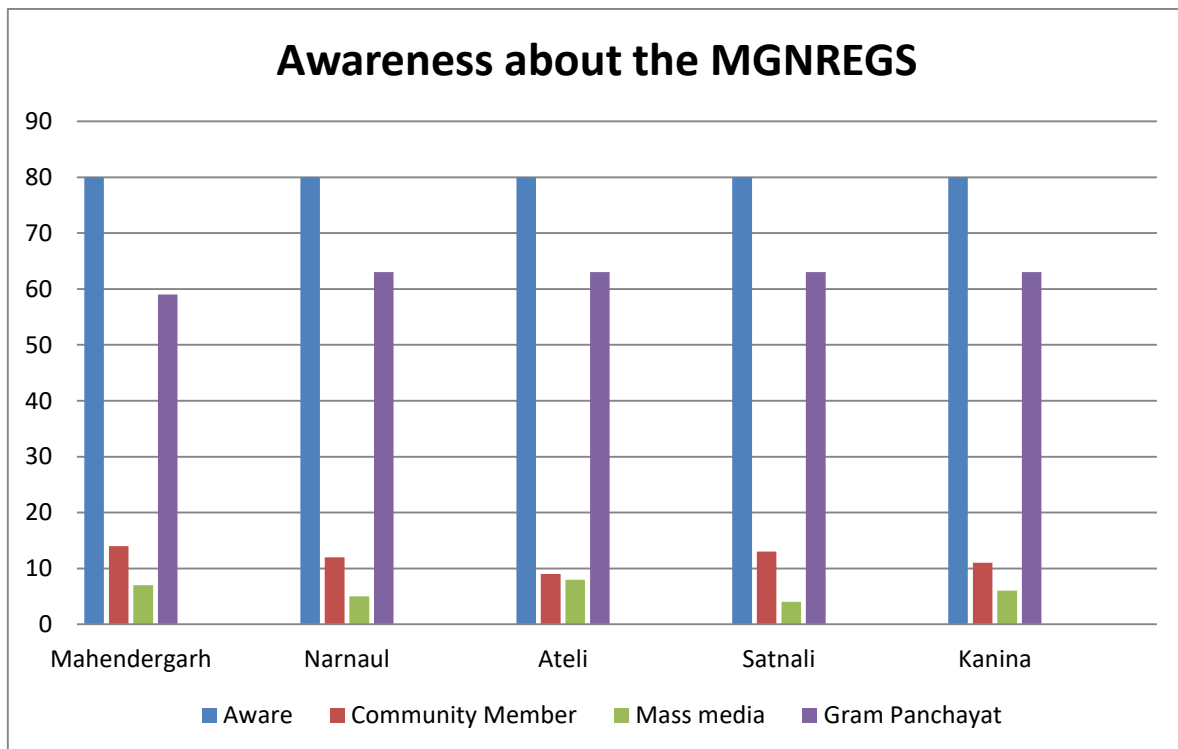
	Total	400	-	59	30	311	400

Table shows that all the beneficiaries were well aware about the scheme by means of various source of awareness. Out of 400 beneficiaries. 14.75% beneficiaries were got aware about the scheme by community members 7.5% were awarded through Mass media and the remaining 77.75% beneficiaries got awarded about the scheme by Gram Panchayat.

It was found out that the Gram Panchayat is the major effective source of awareness among the people.

Graph of Awareness about the MGNREGS

The graph shows that awareness about the MGNREGA in Mahendergarh district in block level. The blue colour shows that the aware the MGNREGA, The red colour shows that the community member of the MGNREGA, The green colour shows that the mass media and the purple colour shows that the Gram panchayat level. The sources of awareness are community member, mass media and gram panchayat level. The gram panchayat is main source of aware in MGNREGS. This is shown in the graph given in the below.



Source: Survey Data

Type of Labour

Under the scheme only unskilled manual work is provided and skilled work include in material cost is as under.

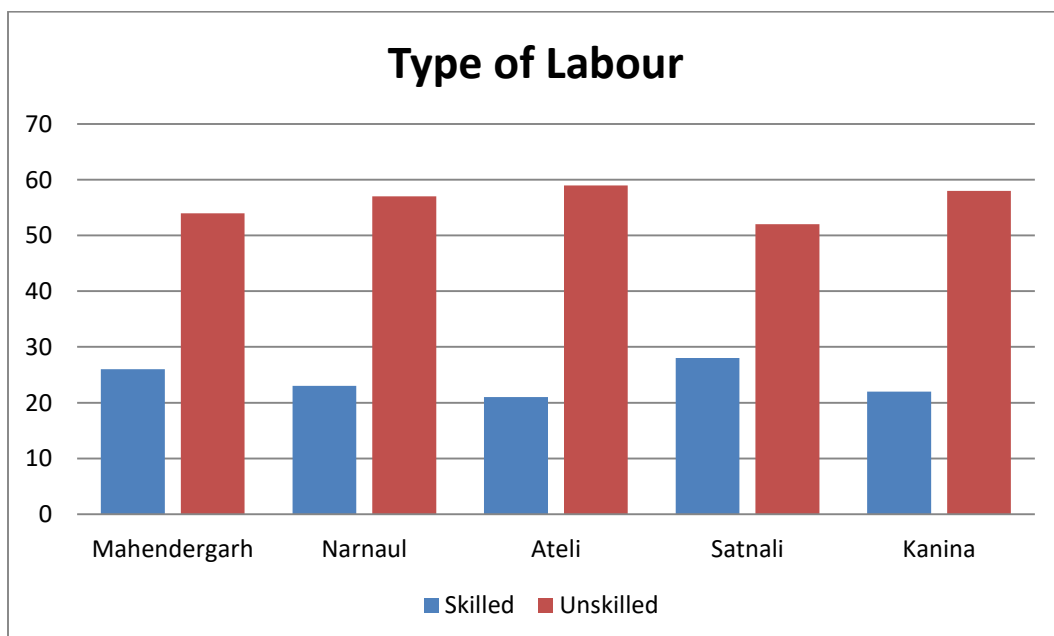
Table

Sr. No	Block	Skilled	Unskilled	Total
1.	Mahendergarh	26	54	80
2.	Narnaul	23	57	80
3.	Ateli	21	59	80
4.	Satnali	28	52	80
5.	Kanina	22	58	80
	Total	120	280	400

The table shows that the types of labour are worked in MGNREGS. In the study the researcher divided into two part skilled and unskilled labour. The data given in the table shows that 30% beneficiaries were skilled labour and 70% were unskilled labour and after analysis of above data we can also that more employment was provided under this scheme to the unskilled labour rather than to the skilled labour. In the Mahendergarh block there are 54 persons are Unskilled and only 26 Persons are skilled labour employed in MGNREGS out of 80 sample surveys. In the Narnaul block there are 57 persons are Unskilled and only 23 Persons are skilled labour employed in MGNREGS out of 80 sample surveys. In the Ateli block there are 59 persons are Unskilled and only 21 Persons are skilled labour employed in MGNREGS out of 80 sample surveys. In the Satnali block there are 52 persons are Unskilled and only 28 Persons are skilled labour employed in MGNREGS out of 80 sample surveys. And in the Kanina block there are 58 persons are Unskilled and only 22 Persons are skilled labour employed in MGNREGS out of 80 sample surveys.

Graph of skilled and unskilled labour in blocks wise:

The graph of skilled and unskilled labour in Mahendergarh districts in block level. The blue colour shows that skilled labour and the red colour shows that unskilled labour. There are around more than 80 per cent are unskilled labour in employed in MGNREGS. This is shows in the graph given the below.



Source: Survey Data

Approved Labour Budget and Person day generated.

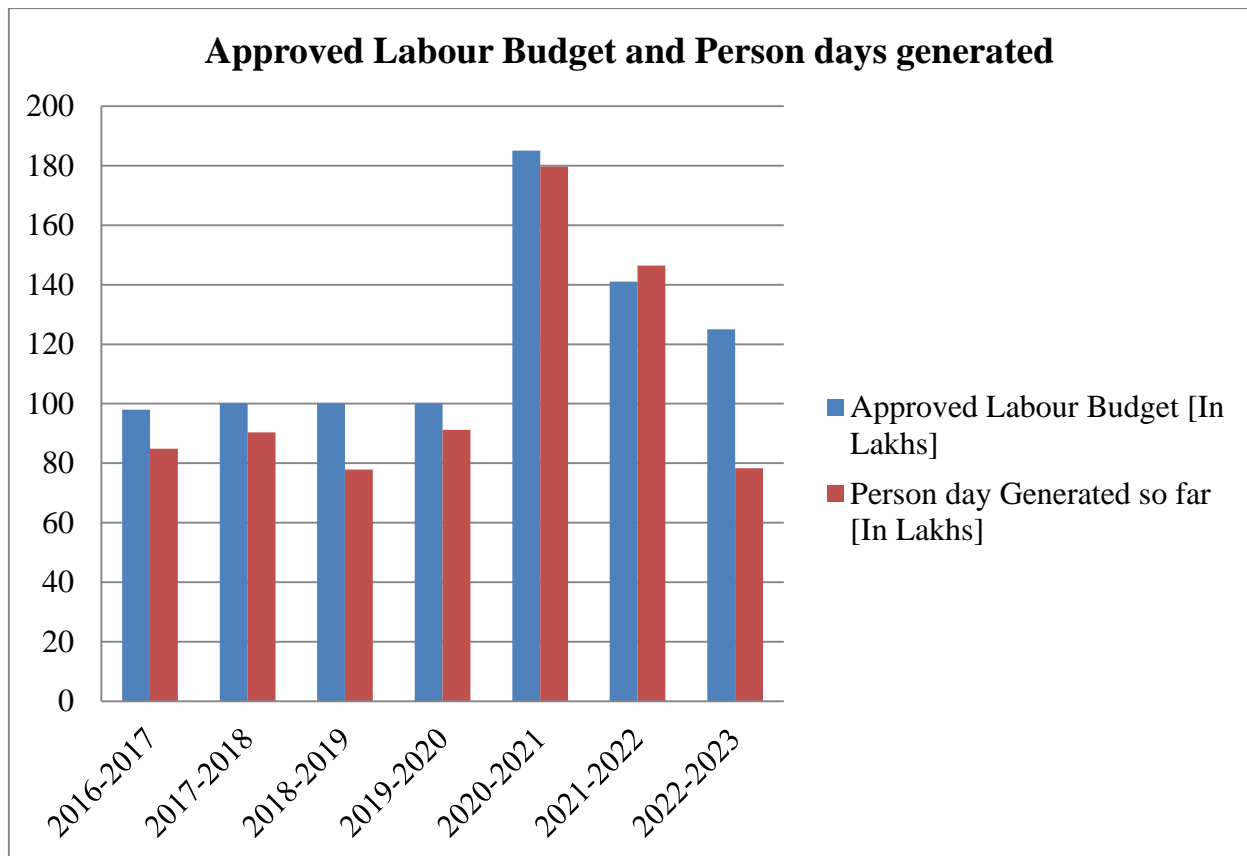
Table Approved Labour Budget and person day generated

year	Approved Labour Budget [In Lakhs]	Person day Generated so far [In Lakhs]
2016-2017	98	84.92
2017-2018	100	90.37
2018-2019	100	77.9
2019-2020	100	91.19
2020-2021	185	179.62
2021-2022	141	146.39
2022-2023	125	78.31

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The table shows that approved labour budget and person day generated so for in financial year 2016-2017 to 2022-2023. In the financial year 2016-2017 the approved labour budget 98 lakhs and person day generated so for 84.92 lakhs. In the financial year 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 the approved labour budget 100 lakhs was same in all financial year and person day generated so for 90.37 lakhs, 77.9 lakhs and 91.19 lakhs respectively. In the financial year 2020-2021 the approved labour budget was higher 185 lakhs and person day generated so for 179.62 lakhs. But these budgets are continuing decreased after this financial year. The approved budget 125 lakhs and the person day generated so for only 78.31 lakhs in financial year 2022-2023 **Graph of Approved Labour Budget and person days generated**

The graph shows that approved labour budget and person day generated so for in financial year 2016-2017 to 2022-2023. The blue line shows that approved labour budget and the red line shows that person day generated so for. In the financial year 2016-2017 the approved labour budget 98 lakhs and person day generated so for 84.92 lakhs and the approved budget 125 lakhs and the person day generated so for only 78.31 lakhs in financial year 2022-2023. This is shows in below graph.



Research Design;

In this research descriptive and diagnostic research design is used to described the impact of MNREGA on the rural area and its beneficiaries.

Research area:-

Present research is limited to mohinder garh district only.

Research universe:- Universe of the present research is beneficiaries in the mohinder garh district who has completed 100 day employment .

Sampling:- As mentioned in the research area and universe 10% of total beneficiaries of MNREGA who has worked 100 days selected as sample.

Data collection and analysis: To collect the data in primary source structured interview schedule, discussion, observation method is used. In secondary sources research articles, research paper, reports, blog, is used. Structured interview scheduled was used to collect primary data. data collected through interview schedule is analysed with help of SPSS.

Limitations: MGNREGA is implement in India only so finding and conclusion of the study will be limited to India only but researcher has limited the area for research to mohinder garh District only so conclusion and finding of the present study may not be applied to the other districts and states of the India.

Variables:-

MGNREGA, social condition, economical condition, utility of MGNREGA are the major variables/independent variables. Dependent variables are age, gender, income, profession, education, impact of MGNREGA are the dependent variables.

Importance of the study through the perspective of the social work:-

India is welfare state which has implemented the various schemes for the development of the weaker sections of the society. MGNREGA is one of the measures taken by Indian government for the reducing poverty in the rural area. 57% of the Indian population lives in rural area which is depended on the agriculture for its livelihood. If we thought on economic indicators we can understand the intensity of the poverty in the rural area mean agriculture has only 13.09 % share in the GDP of the India but 57% of the Indian population is dependent on agriculture. Indian rural area has many problems such as poverty, unemployment, low income, migration, lack of basic facilities. MGNREGA is an attempt to deal with all these problems and government is giving a large amount to MGNREGA for the rural development so it is important to understand the system of MGNREGA and its impact on the rural area.

Summary and conclusion

It will provide an answer to research questions of the all research gaps that would be identified and analyzed.

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