

Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme in Karnataka: Implementation and Challenges

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Abstract- Presently this Article analyzes the implementation, role, and achievements of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme in Karnataka. It analyzes in detail the historical background, objectives, goals, operations, functions, progress, achievements and challenges of the implementation of this scheme in Karnataka. Besides, the progress of the district wise project is also collected in detail.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Unskilled Labor, Wages, Employment, Poverty, Progress, Programmes, Development.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGA IN KARNATAKA

MGNREGA is a medicine for alleviating poverty and unemployment in India. A majority demanded that the right to employment should be included in the list of fundamental rights and given constitutional protection even after independence. So this act is one such important act which brought right to work. The main concern of this act is employment for working hands, all-round development of villages, scientific utilization of human resources and thereby development. Under this Act, the scheme is to provide minimum 100 days employment to the unskilled adult members of the family in rural areas to provide livelihood security in the rural families. MGNREGA has been implemented since 2005 as a central scheme by the Government of India with 100% grant. The Karnataka Forest Department has initiated programs under this scheme to create more employment opportunities for the workers. Activities such as plantations, construction of roadside plantations, block plantations; soil and water conservation works, border

ditch construction, agro forestry etc. are implemented through this scheme. Regional, Wildlife and Social Forest Departments will implement the scheme in coordination with other schemes of the department.

In this regard, the Government of Karnataka has published the terms of the Scheme under the name “Rashtriya Gramin Udyog Garantee Yojana-Karnataka” in the Karnataka Gazette dated 08-02-2007. By 2008, the scheme was implemented in a phased manner to cover all the rural districts of the entire state. In the first phase in Karnataka, 32 taluks of 5 districts were selected based on the index of Dr. Nanjundappa's report. They are- Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Chitradurga and Davangere districts were implemented from April 04, 2006. In the second phase, it was extended from April 04, 2007 in Belgaum, Bellary, Chikkamagaluru, Shimoga, Hassan and Kodagu districts of the state. At present, the said Act has been implemented from April 04, 2008 for the rest of the districts of the state

At present this Act is applicable to every Gram Panchayat in Karnataka. Today Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme-Karnataka has been implemented. By 2008, it was implemented statewide in a phased manner to cover all rural districts of the entire state. At present, the state of Karnataka has taken keen interest in the implementation of this scheme along with the creation of jobs. The award for the year 2008-09 to the two districts that have achieved achievements in implementation of MGNREGA was presented by the Prime Minister in New Delhi on 02-02-2010. Those districts are Belgaum and Gulbarga districts. The phase-wise districts covered under MGNREGA in Karnataka are provided in Table-1

Table –1 Details of Districts in Karnataka where MGNREGA has been implemented in a phased manner

Si.no	Phase	details of district wise
1	I: 2006	1 Bidar, 2 Chitradurga, 3 Davanagere, 4 Gulbarga, 5 Raichur.
2	II: 2007	1 Bellary, 2 Hassan, 3 Chikmagalur, 4 Belagavi, 5 Shimoga, 6 Kodagu.
3	III: 2008	1 Chamarajanagar, 2 Mandya, 3 Koppala, 4 Udupi, 5 Tumkur, 6 Haveri, 7 Bangalore rural, 8 Bijapur, 9 Kolar, 10 Uttara Kannada, 11 Bagalkot, 12 Gadag, 13 Mysore, 14 Dakshina Kannada, 15 Dharwad, 16 Bangalore, 17 Ramnagar, 18 Chikkaballapur.

Source: Karnataka Economic Survey – 2022

As noted in the above table-4.1, the details of the districts in Karnataka which have implemented MGNREGA in a phased manner can be seen. During the implementation of this scheme, it was implemented in a phased manner to cover all the rural districts of the entire state. This project is being implemented in three phases. They are – first stage, second stage, and third stage. As mentioned in this table, in the first phase, 5 districts were implemented from April 01, 2006, in the second phase 6 districts were implemented from April 01, 2007 and the remaining districts (18) were implemented in the third phase from April 01, 2008.

Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme in Karnataka.

The state of Karnataka is a state with diverse culture and languages as well as political, economic and social systems. It reflects the prevailing system at the state level in many ways. Karnataka state is still a rural agrarian economy. Rural development is made possible by the improvement of agricultural production and related economic activities, availability of natural and economic resources and their development. Rural development programs focus on providing quality of life to rural people by providing housing, drinking water, sanitation, roads and connectivity and employment opportunities.

Implementation and supervision of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to create employment in rural areas is the responsibility of the Rural Development Commission. The main objective of the project is to improve the lives of poor people by providing at least 100 days of local employment opportunities to adults in rural areas in a financial year for poverty alleviation in rural areas through wage employment works. Programs such as employment, food security, construction of long-lasting assets, etc. are carried out through MGNREGA involving the poor in rural areas.

Mahatma Gandhi's Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a centrally awarded scheme, is being implemented in all districts with 100 days employment guarantee scheme for every family along with livelihood security of rural people. To create fixed quality and durable assets by providing voluntary unskilled manual labor of every family A in every financial year, to strengthen the livelihood base resources of the poor, to strengthen Panchayat Raj institutions through active participation of all in the society Grants are provided by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 90:10 and wages And the ratio of materials will be maintained in the ratio of 60:40. The wage portion is fully borne by the Government of India (i.e. labor), where the material portion is to be borne by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. For all works undertaken by all Gram Panchayats and all other implementing agencies, the per unit cost including wages of skilled and semi-skilled labor should not exceed 40 per cent at the district level, i.e. the district should be treated as a unit.

The proportion of persons employed by MGNREGA to the total demand in Karnataka was 84.26%, almost equal to the national average (84.75%). During the year 2020-21, Rs.4292.38 crores have been released against the grant availability of Rs.4874.35 crores, out of which Rs.3978.09 crores have been spent till the end of November 2020 and 1091 lakh man days have been generated. In the current year, employment has been provided to 26.41 lakh families against the target of providing employment to 29.42 lakh families. 11.16 lakh works have been taken up, 2.49 lakh works have been completed and remaining 8.67 lakh works are in progress.

The details of the release and expenditure of the Central and State Governments for the year 2021-22 for the implementation of MGNREGA up to the end of December can be observed in the table-2 below.

Table – 2 Details of grants from Central and State Governments for implementation of MGNREGA (as on 2021-22) (in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No	Details	Grant Finance
1	Central Govt	489632.40
2	State Govt	35192.94
3	Initial Capital	20022.15
Total State		544847.40
Expenditure (as in MIS)		524825.25

Source: Government of Karnataka (2022), Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Annual Report-2021-22.

Progress / Achievements of MGNREGA in Karnataka. The labor budget under MGNREGA has generated 1440.00 lakh jobs in the financial year 2021-22. Out of which 1371.3 lakh days have been created. Through this employment has been provided to 31.93 lakh families. The progress achieved is given in Table-4.3. The table below shows the performance of MGNREGA s in Karnataka (2017-18 to 2021-22) with drivers such as- approved labor budget, working days, SC, ST and women in total working days; Average days of employment provided per household; Average wage rate per person per day; Total Number of Households Completed Employment; Total families and individuals employed; And specially abled persons who have worked can be observed to be working under this scheme.

Table-3 shows the details of the progress of MGNREGA in Karnataka (2017-18 to 2021-22). In

2017-18, the approved labor budget allocated a total amount of Rs.1000 lakh, which increased to Rs.1465 lakh in 2020-21, followed by a sharp decrease of Rs.1440 lakh in 2021-22.

Under this scheme, in 2017-18, the working days were 857 lakhs, which has increased significantly to 1481 lakhs in 2020-21, which can be seen to be 1371 lakhs working days in 2021-22. Scheduled Caste (SC) communities accounted for 16.6 per cent of the total working days under the scheme in 2017-18, which has increased significantly to 16.8 per cent in 2021-22. Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities accounted for 9.3 per cent of the total working days under the scheme in 2017-18, followed by a substantial increase of 10.6 per cent in 2021-22. And women also accounted for 47.1 per cent of the total working days under the scheme in 2017-18, which has increased significantly to 49.9 per cent in 2021-22.

Table –3 Status Details of MGNREGA s in Karnataka (2017-18 to 2021-22)

Sl.No	Details of Progress/Achievement	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Approved Labor Budget (in lakhs)	1000	1000	1200	1465	1440
2	Labor days to date (in lakhs)	857	1045	1119	1481	1371
3	SC in total working days (%)	16.6	15.5	16.3	17.2	16.8
4	Total Working Days ST (%)	9.3	9.6	10.4	10.5	10.6
5	Total Working Days of Women (%)	47.1	48.6	49.1	49.5	49.9
6	Average days of employment provided per family	45.1	49.6	50.00	49.1	42.9
7	Average rate of wages per person per day (Rs.)	235.73	246.81	245.53	270.83	284.15
8	Total number of families who completed 100 days of wage employment	29,985	2,11,411	1,87,336	2,39,732	68,765
9	Total families employed (in lakhs)	19.0	21.1	22.4	30.2	31.9
10	Total persons employed (in lakhs)	38.9	39.3	41.1	56.7	59.9
11	Employed differently abled	8244	9422	10649	20515	22265

Source: Government of Karnataka (2022), Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Annual Report-2021-22.

The average days of employment provided per family under this scheme was 45.1 per cent average days in 2017-18, which increased by 50 per cent average days in 2019-20, and then declined sharply to 42.9 per cent average days in 2021-22. It can be seen from the above

table that the average wage rate per person per day under MGNREGA was Rs.235.73 average wage in 2017-18, then it increased significantly to Rs.284.15 in 2021-22.

The total number of households completing 100 days of wage employment under MGNREGA was 29,985 in 2017-18, then it increased to a total of 2,39,732 lakh households in 2020-21 and it decreased sharply by 68,765 households in 2021-22.

Under MGNREGA, the total number of employed families was 19 lakhs in 2017-18, which has increased positively to 31.9 lakhs in 2021-22. In 2017-18, the

total number of persons employed was 38.9 lakh, which has increased sharply to 59.9 lakh in 2021-22. And in 2017-18, the total number of people with special ability worked under this scheme was 8244, which later increased significantly to 22265 in 2021-22, we can know with the help of the above table (Table-3).

Table-4 Financial Progress Profile of MGNREGA (2016-17 to 2021-22) (in Rs. Lakhs)

Si. No	Financial Year	Initial Charge	Total Issued Advances Including	Other Receipts	Total Available Grants	Expenditure Finance (as in MIS)	Outstanding financing	Growth Rate of Outstanding Finance (%)
1	2016-17	10101.97	307417.34	3528.36	321047.67	309233.70	11813.97	-
2	2017-18	11810.43	301109.24	2305.00	315224.67	305981.49	9243.18	-1.81
3	2018-19	9243.17	379468.00	1741.00	390452.17	366533.00	23919.17	23.86
4	2019-20	23691.40	449430.84	1619.27	474741.51	455398.10	19343.41	21.59
5	2020-21	24994.18	586999.29	12389.53	624383.00	561819.73	62563.27	31.52
6	2021-22	20022.15	4008926.40	00.00	4028948.55	524825.25	3504123.3	545.27
7	Average	16643.88	1005558.52	3597.19	1025799.60	420631.88	16643.88	
8	Compound Average Growth Rate (%)	20.79	53.56	-	53.04	14.32	20.79	

Source: Government of Karnataka (2022), Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Annual Report (2016-17 to 2021-22)

In 2016-17, the total release of funds for financial development of MGNREGA in Karnataka was Rs.307417.34 lakh, which has increased significantly to Rs.4008926.4 lakh in 2021-22 (given in Table). In total, the grant money available for the implementation of MGNREGA was Rs.321047.67 lakhs allocated in 2016-17, which decreased sharply to Rs.315224.67 lakhs in 2017-18, and subsequently increased significantly to Rs.4028948.55 lakhs in 2021-22. The financial outlay for the implementation of MGNREGA was Rs.309233.70 lakh in 2016-17, which decreased to Rs.305981.49 lakh in 2017-18, then it increased significantly to Rs.366533.00 lakh in 2018-19, and then it increased significantly to Rs.561819.73 lakh in 2020-21. Later it will be 2021 According to the figure in the above table, it can be known that there has been a sharp decrease to Rs.524825.25 lakhs in 2022. The average growth rate of total grant money available for implementation of MGNREGA was -1.81 per cent in 2016-17, a change of 23.86 per cent in 2018-19, followed by a change of 31.52 per cent in 2020-21.

CONCLUSION

Presently this chapter has descriptively analyzed the implementation, role, achievements and challenges of MGNREGA in Karnataka. Under the Rural Development Commission in Karnataka, OUs will be implemented to create employment in rural areas. This scheme is being implemented to eradicate poverty in rural areas through wage employment works. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the lives of the poor by providing at least one hundred days of local employment in a financial year to rural adults willing to do unskilled physical work. Programs such as employment food security, construction of long-lasting assets to engage the poor in rural areas and provide wages to agricultural laborers are undertaken by MGNREGA. Apart from this, other things that the project is said to promote are that it helps in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural urban migration and promoting social equality as can be learned in this present research article.

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