

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)

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Abstract

District Rural Development Agency is a process of change, by which the efforts of the people themselves are united, those of government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions of communities in to the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national programme. The (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different anti poverty programme. were created in the year 1980 when the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was extended to all the blocks in the country. The DRDA is the principal organ at the district level to manage and oversee the implementation of different anti-poverty Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development. It is a supporting and facilitating organization which plays a very effective role as a catalyst in development process. In order to ensure that the fruits of economic reform are shared by all sections of societies five elements of social and economic infrastructure, critical to the quality of life in rural areas, were identified. These are Health, Education, Drinking Water, Housing and Roads. Thus the role of the DRDA is in terms of planning for effective implementation of anti-poverty programme coordinating with other agencies- Governmental, non-Governmental, technical and financial for successful programme implementation; enabling the community and the rural poor to participate in the decision making like Programmes and Policies NREP,RLEGP,PMEGP,PMRY,REGP, Mo MSME, KVIC, KVIBs, DICs, SHGs, NSIC, RGUMY, SFURTI, RISC, MGNREG Sch Administration, Andhra University.

Introduction

Poverty is significant issue in India, despite having one of the fastest-growing economies in the World, clocked at a growth. Milestones of the Indian Journey towards District Rural Development Agency established in 1980. It was created to implement the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) across India. And Administration Scheme was introduced from 1st April,1999 under which the salary and administrative expenses of DRDA are founded on 75:25 basis between Centre and State Governments.

The District Rural Development Agency - Velugu was established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a sensitive support structure of facilitate poverty reduction through social mobilization and improvement of livelihood of rural poor in Andhra Pradesh. The District Rural Development Agency is the primary agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of various rural development programs, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), essentially acting as the coordinating body to ensure MGNREGA Projects are effectively implemented across the district level by facilitating

resource allocation and monitoring progress, meaning the DRDA plays a crucial role in managing and executing MGNREGA initiatives within the states.

M.G.N.R.E.G. SCHEME:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA) is a social security scheme that attempts to provide employment and livelihood to rural laborers in the country. In an effort to make inclusive and overall development a reality, the NREGA was passed as a labour law and implemented across 200 districts in 2006. By 2008, it came to over the entire country. The scheme was designed to provide any adult who registers for rural employment a minimum job guarantee of 100 days each financial year. This includes non-skilled work, making it one-of-its-kind across the world. It was later renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The MGNREGA is an entitlement to work that every adult citizen holds. In case such employment is not provided within 15 days of registration the applicant becomes eligible for an unemployment allowance.

The implementation of MGNREGA was left to the Gram Panchayat s. According to Government sources, since the inception of the scheme, the Government of India has incurred a total expenditure of INR 289817.04 crore towards the scheme, thereby employing 68,26,921 workers on 2,61,942 worksites (data as of June, 2015). The minimum wages initially determined were INR 100 a day but later revised in keeping with the state labour employment conventions. As on October, 2024 there were 13.2 crore active workers in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and daily wage Rs. 300 per employee, in Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh Rs. 234, Assam 249, Bihar 245, In India highest wage state Haryana, Rs. 374.

The Narendra Modi Government has brought about initiatives and changes to MGNREGA that have improved the payment mechanism to tackle the issues pertaining to delayed of wages. The Mobile Monitoring System was introduced towards the end of 2014. This system makes way for real-time monitoring of the progress of projects that employ labour under the scheme. This also regulates attendance and work environment in these work sites. At the same time, the states were sanctioned INR 147 crore by the Centre to Strengthen the system of social audit used by the scheme. Social audit ensures transparency by allowing public scrutiny of all records and accounts. This was targeted at reducing corruption - one of the main challenges in successful implementation of MGNREGA through DRDA.

In 2015, PM Modi attempted to restrict the scope of MGNREGA and tried to retain the scheme in only about 200 districts, which were the poorest in the country. The attempt met with mass opposition and the PM received a letter from leading economists of the nation criticizing his move. The letter also urged the prime Minister to consider reforms to the scheme rather than running it ground. The Scheme is a well-defined security net for many families that would otherwise perish in abject poverty. What remains to be seen is whether the NDA Government

focuses on MGNREGA in its second year at the centre and enacts adequate reforms or the scheme languishes as a forgotten UPA initiative.

Considering the above, the investigator intended in the present study to make probe into “Administration of MGNREGA Scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh”.

Objective of MGNREG Scheme:

The objective of MGNREG is to compensate the beneficiary for the foregone wage employment and thereby monetize the hitherto unaccounted skilled wage component of the construction of houses under JAY or such other State or Central Government Scheme within the ambit of MGNREGA, so that the durable assets are built up under this scheme; and quality of the houses is improved, enhancing the quality of life of rural people. Under this scheme the beneficiary shall have a job card as per the norms of the scheme. The work shall be undertaken by the beneficiary here-self/himself, unless the beneficiary is physically handicapped or of the age of more than 60 years, unable to do physical work herself/himself. The total of unskilled person days required for construction of a house of at least 20Sqm. As per IAY guidelines is fixed at 95 person days for north - east and hilly region; and 90 person days for other areas. The wages for these person days in lieu of foregone wage employment by the beneficiaries can be paid under MGNREGA over and above the unit cost fixed by the statutory agencies. The stage of house shall be recorded in a prescribed register and the payment of unskilled wage shall be made as per the person days indicates in the guidelines of MGNREGA. As per MGNREGA Scheme, workers are entitled to receive delay compensation at a rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day for the duration of the delay beyond the sixteenth day of the closure of the Muster Roll. Regarding building materials which can be taken up for field trials are mud blocks, reinforced mud blocks, clay bricks, hollow bricks, cement inter locking tiles, metal pipes etc., in production of which sufficient number of unskilled labour is required and can be produced locally with locally available material.

MGNREG Activities:

The main objectives of the Scheme are confined to the rural economic development especially economic enlistment of downtrodden people. The Gram Panchayat s have to follow the scheme guidelines scrupulously.

1. Receiving applications for registration
2. Receiving application for work
3. Issuing dated receipts for application for work
4. Allotting work within fifteen days of submitting the application Or from the date when work is sought in the case of an Advance application, irrespective of the implementing agency.
5. Conducting periodically surveys to access demands for and Quantum of work.

6. Identification and planning of works, developing shelf of projects, Ratification and prioritization of prioritization of projects as Decided by the Gram Sabha.
7. Maintaining accounts and providing utilization certificates in Formats prescribed by State/Central Government.
8. Awareness generation and social mobilization.
9. Monitoring implementation at the village level.
10. Organize Rose gar Divas at least once a month.
11. Support in the formation of Labour Groups.
12. Send monthly report on complaints received and disposed to Programme Officer.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MGNREG:

After the Independence, Five-Year Planning is basically designed for agriculture and industrial development. Major projects like Bhakranagal, Nagarjunasagar, Srisailam, Damodar and Hiracud were undertaken and successfully completed. Crore together soiled land in the country is undertaken for agriculture. Similarly, many major industrial projects like Bhilai, Raurkela, Durgapur, Visakhapatnam, Bokharo and Bhadravathi, have also been constructed and still running successfully. Government provided huge employment not only in agriculture Sector but also in industrial and other allied sectors, but core of the people are still suffering below poverty line due to lack of employment. This may be because of major reason for heavy population, while in the case of China our neighbouring country succeeded the problems by providing self-employment schemes. Considering this fact, Government of India had examined the poverty problem by means of deep discussion in the Parliament, reports from various commissions and committees. To eradicate the poverty, the MGNRG Act, 1991 has been approved by the Parliament under the leadership of P.V. Narsimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. The MGNREGA has helped the poor of the country. Narendra Modi supported the objectives of MGNREGA by adding some more policies for the benefit of below poverty line people. It is not out of place to mention here that there is dire need to examine how far this prestigious scheme is functioning in the country. To ascertain the results of this scheme, the researcher has examined various Publications, Seminar Papers and Research Reports.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

The primary object of the Indian Constitution is to protect the Socioeconomic interests of the people. It is aware of the fact that there exists socioeconomic disparity in India. The highest percentage of people is living in the Rural as well Tribal areas suffering with extreme poverty. After Independence, Government of India has appointed various Committees and Commissions to suggest remedies to eradicate the poverty especially in the rural and remote sensing tribal areas. Government of India after taking various suggestions of various statutory agencies introduced the MGNREG Act (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee) in 2005.

According to the norms of this scheme the people living in rural and tribal areas should provide compulsory employment for one hundred days. The act also provides that the beneficiaries should be provided minimum facilities at the work place and the payment should be made for the work done by the beneficiaries on weekly or fortnightly.

This is an important intervention to have made, for we can see from the histories of different parts of the world that the relationship between the movements in poverty and inequality is not unique. In particular, we find from the Indian experience that there are instances in which a public policy focused on the reduction of inequality may not result in the elimination of poverty. Essentially, inequality can be reduced by taxing the rich; a form of "living down", but poverty can be permanently eliminated only by raising the incomes of the poor, a form of 'leveling up'.

This study may be conducted on the sample of Gram Panchayat personnel in relation to successful implementation of MGNREG Scheme through DRDA in State.

An investigation into the study of problems of beneficiaries in relation to their socioeconomic problems may be conducted.

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