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Rural Development & Person-Days Employment Generating Program: It's Activity & Effectiveness in West Bengal

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Abstract

Scenario of rural India has unification in its nature; fostering development is the current feature. People, who are residing rural areas, have restricted infrastructural facilities so far as modern society is concerned. So, rural development is the ultimate way to improve the rural society, thereby, society at large.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development are two sides of the same coin, maintaining relationship since inception. Three fourth of our country's population is rural having a larger concentration of people below the poverty line. State intervention for advancement of rural people was relied upon for developmental aspects including employment generation. It was realised that until and unless steps are initiated to ameliorate the difficult conditions of rural poor, the gains of Independence would remain only in black and white. However, the person-days employment generation program under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) would be the just system for a big country like India and its vast orientations are essential at present context.

The parameters, Household Demanding Employment and Household Provided Employment of the total enrolled households were emphasized upon, for the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 till Sept. 2016 for the present sequel. According to registering households under the scheme of the MGNREGA the person-days employment generating program and its implications in the rural areas of all the districts of West Bengal is unique in nature, propagating rural development and societal benefit among the rural people.

Key Words: Employment, Generate, Household, People, Provide, Rural, Society.

Introduction: Rural development has always posed a challenge to the planners, implementers and the prospective beneficiaries. For last 70 years, the subject have been toying with the idea of "Gram Swarajaya" or a self-reliant rural India, expecting success with utmost sincerity and concern. Experimentation with different trial and error methods,

implementation of policies, programs were vividly relied upon. Constitutional Amendments and its implementation on time also proceeds development at large in rural areas, but complexity of its issuable needs, reasonable gestation periods, mandates generating program points out the existence of Panchayati Raj which enrol real start of development at rural areas.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development both are related to each other, since inception. The three fourth of the country's population are rural based and have a larger concentration of people below poverty line. State intervention for developments of rural masses were relied upon, various cycles of poverty was always high on the agenda of planners and policy makers. It was realised that until and unless steps are initiated to ameliorate the difficult conditions of rural poor, the gains of independence would remain only in black and white. However, the policy makers and planners realized the limitations of the system for a big country like India and its vast orientations.

There are many researchers who focused on the Panchayati Raj system and rural development as a prime subject and its effectiveness in the long run, but the current matter, especially on person day's promoting employment and household demanding employment are the main nomenclature which was highlighted by few, of which Dr. Shalini Rajneesh narrated that the overall scheme for transfer of funds from Central to State Govt and gross revenue thereof is also mentioned in the Panchayati raj system along with rural Rural Development, in a very rigid arrangement and focus system for rural India, in her book *Rural Development Through Democratic Decentralization*.

Dr. Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee narrated in her article "Job Cards Under The Decree of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): A Special Reference to West Bengal, published in *GIIRJ*, Vol5, (8) Aug 2017, the program of the same and its very effective regarding job cards distribution and house hold survey district wise, in rural West Bengal, is self speaking in its nature. The intricacies of the same prove its meaningful applications and exploration for enhancement to ensure a healthy and developing rural scenario, where people are provided and motivated to work better, incentive is according to the Act and the programs are very effective, auspicious in rural areas of West Bengal.

Nevertheless, the present sequel under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) highlighted the exact rural situation of West Bengal. Person-days generating program is a bold step taken by the Government through Panchayati raj system and rural developmental process. The parameters Household Demanding Employment and Household Providing Employment of the total enrolled household were emphasized upon for the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 till Sept. 2016.

Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution enables Panchayat to play a substantial role in the local self-government. The Panchayati Raj leading to changes in rural power structure as well as the equation between the officials and non-officials within the panchayati raj set-up.

The mandatory provisions of 73rd amendments of constitution pointed out panchayati raj and its nomenclature are hereunder—

- 2-3 tier structure of Panchayat
- Direct Elections
- Reservation for weaker sections,
- Fixed tenure
- State Finance Commission
- State Election Commission and
- District Planning Committees formation.

The indirect or optional provisions are declared by the 73rd Amendments mention herein that—

- Direct Election of Gram Parisad Chairperson
- Role and scope of Gram Sabha
- Powers and functions of each tier
- Financial Devolutions
- Maintenance and Audit of Accounts
- Composition & functions of DPC
- Reservation to Aghyakshas posts - Gram Parisad, Taluk Parisad and Zila Parisad level by rotation.

Rural development has been characterised by centralised planning with emphasis on macro-level targets to grass root levels, which felt needs of the people residing in rural areas. Programs related to rehabilitations, explored in time span, need based fulfilment never reached its goal. It always plays a democratic decentralization so far as rural advancement is concerned.

The situations prevailing with the concerned matter, continuing the fact that rural development and its effectiveness always pushed into jeopardising conditions. In 2005, implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was an ushering step taken by the Govt. of India to strengthen rural development as a whole; various programs were taken for rural India and rural people at large.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): An Act which came into force on the 5th September 2005 as The national Rural Employment Guarantee Act, no 42 of 2005 to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment, in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and for matters connected therewith or incidentals thereto.

In the “Preliminary” of the Act it is mentioned:

1. This Act may be called as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005.
2. It extends to the whole of India except The State of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. It shall come into force on such date the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different States or different areas in a State and any reference in a any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference coming into force of that provision in such State or, as the case may be in such area , provided that this Act may be applicable to the whole of the territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of enactment of this Act.

The Act mentioned in Chapter II, Section 3, Sub-Sections 1-4 about Rural Employment Guarantee in rural areas to the households are narrating hereunder—

- Save as otherwise provided, the State Government shall, in such rural area in the State as may be notified by the Central Government, provide to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work not less than one hundred days of such work in a financial year in accordance with the Scheme made under this Act.
- Every person who has done the work given to him under the Scheme shall be entitled to receive wages at the wage rate for each day of work.
- Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done.
- The Central Government or The State Government may, within the limits of its economic capacity and development make provisions for securing work to every adult member of a household under a Scheme for any period or beyond the period guaranteed under sub-section (1), as may be expedient.

Table: 1

Person-days Employment Generating Program under 2015-16 & 2016-17 up to September 2016

Name of the District	Total Rural Household as per Survey in Lac	Household Demanding Employment (Lac)		Household Provided Employment (Lac)	
		2015-16 Sept.2016	2015-16 Sept.2016	2015-16 Sept.2016	2015-16 Sept.2016
Alipurduar	00.00	00.00	01.43	00.00	01.25
Bankura	07.01	02.26	02.98	01.87	02.79
Birbhum	07.15	03.24	03.96	02.72	03.35
Burdwan	10.72	05.30	06.08	04.30	05.39
Cooch Behar	05.96	02.70	03.20	01.89	02.33
Dakshin Dinajpur	03.39	00.68	00.71	00.11	00.50
Darjeeling GHC	01.15	00.43	00.34	00.29	00.24
Hoogly	07.81	03.76	04.58	03.16	04.05

Howrah	03.91	00.60	00.89	00.52	00.81
Jalpaiguri	06.25	02.47	02.03	02.15	01.83
Malda	07.34	00.79	01.91	00.60	01.51
Murshidabad	12.86	00.99	03.07	00.54	01.95
Nadia	08.83	03.08	03.12	02.51	02.68
North 24 Pgs	09.93	01.02	02.35	00.78	02.06
Paschim Mdp.	11.43	03.70	04.33	03.18	03.85
Purulia	04.96	01.20	01.50	00.84	01.20
Purba Mdp.	09.89	01.78	02.45	01.47	02.13
Siliguri MP	01.21	00.21	00.29	00.16	00.23
South 24 Pgs.	12.98	02.82	03.45	02.38	02.79
Total	138.13	37.82	49.61	30.12	41.59

The above Table depicts person day's employment generating program under 2015-16 and 2016-17 till September 2016. The total no of Households registered under this program denotes 138.13 lacs as per survey report.

The household demanding employment in the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17 points out 37.82 and 49.61 respectively (total in lacs.)

The households provided with employment are a very effective matter, so far as employment generating program is concerned. The survey records of 2015-16 and 2016-17 exhibit 30.12 lacs and 41.59 lacs in total, respectively.

Therefore, the Table 1 exhibit progressive approach regarding person-days-generating program during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the selected parameters of household demanding employment and household provided employment.

Table – 2

Column Diagram Depicts Total No of Rural Household, Total Household Demanding Employment & Total Household Provided Employment (Lac) in Rural Areas of West Bengal

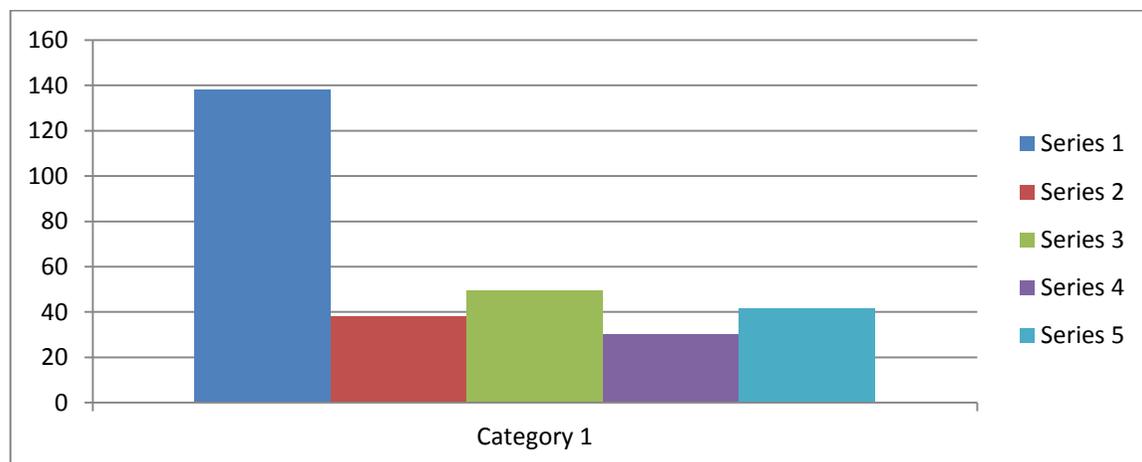


Table 2 provide exact data of person-days employment generating program.

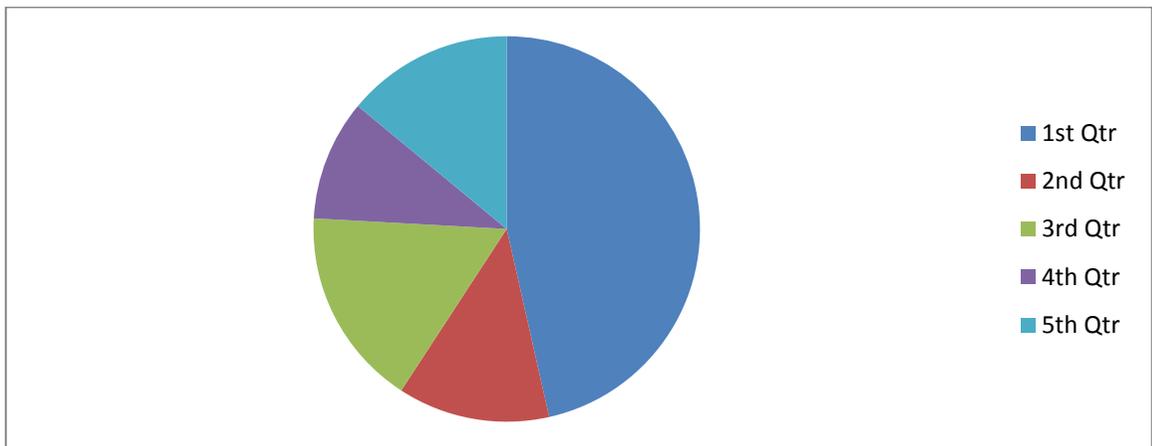
- ✚ Series 1 points out category 1 scale, the value of total number of rural households as per survey during the specified years 2015-16 & 2016-17 till September 2017 is 138.13 lacs.
- ✚ Series 2 depicts Household Demanding Employment in the year of 2015-16 till September 2016 categories the scale 2 that is 37.82 lacs.
- ✚ Series 3 follows the same as series 2, scale 2 for the year of 2016-17 till September 2017 is 49.61.
- ✚ Series 4 categorise scale 4 Household Provided Employment in the year of 2015-16 till 2016 which is 30.12 lacs.
- ✚ Series 5, scale 5 denotes same, according to the scale 4 Household Provided Employment in the year of 2016-17 till September 2017 is 49.51 lacs.

Nevertheless it proves that, since the Series 1 is depicting high value for registering households as per the MGNREGA program. While series 2 and series 3 depicting Household Demanding Employment in the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17 till September 2017 respectively, shows 11.79% demand of person-days employment generation in 2017 till September is more than the year of 2015-16 till September 2016.

The series4 and series 5 pointed out Household Provided Employment in the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17 till September 2017, which depicted 11.47% employment provided to the employment seekers. Thus, the person-days generating program in the framework of rural development, the table 2, column diagram shows the current fact, where person-days employment generating program, its demanding and providing factor shows 11.79% to 11.47% respectively, proves 0.32 % demand of employment is required more till September 2017. Thereby, demand of employment is higher than its providing factor.

**Table-3
Pie Diagram**

The Pie Chart Depicts Total No of Rural Household, Total Household Demanding Employment & Total Household Provided Employment (Lac) in Rural Areas of West Bengal



- ✚ 1st Qtr > Introduces Total Rural House hold as per House hold Survey. (in Lac).
- ✚ 2nd Qtr > Coin out no of Household Demanding Employment 2015-16 (in Lac).
- ✚ 3rd Qtr > Point out Household Demanding Employment 2016-17 till Sept 2017 (in Lac).
- ✚ 4th Qtr > Exhibit Household Provided Employment 2015-16 till Sept. 2016 (in Lac).
- ✚ 5thQtr > Exhibit Household Provided Employment 2016-17 till Sept. 2017 (in Lac).

The above Pie Diagram points out that in 1st qtr the total number of rural household as per household survey records is 138.13 lac.

The 2nd qtr and 3rd qtr exhibit total number of households demanding employment for the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17 that is 37.82% and 49.61% in lacs respectively. So, demand in 2016-17 supersedes the previous year 2015-16.

In case of 4th qtr and 5th qtr countdown factor indicates total no of employment provided to the rural households registered under the MGNREGA program in the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17, which is 30.12% and 49.51% in lacs respectively. Thus, employment has been provided more in the year of 2016-17 than the earlier year 2015-16.

Nevertheless it proves that, since the 1st qtr is depicting high value for registering household as per the MGNREGA program but the 2nd qtr demanding employment and 4th qtr provided employment in the year of 2015-16 is not maintaining equilibrium in providing person-days employment generating program, 7.7% in lacs, varies in case of maintaining demand and providing of employment to the employment seekers. Similarly 3rd qtr and 5th qtr denotes demand and providing of employment to the job seekers that is 0.1% in lacs for the year of 2016-17 which categorically proves maintaining of equilibrium. As such the pie chart proves that all districts should deserve to demand person-days employment generating program for fulfilling the requirement purpose to support rural households, who have registered themselves under the process of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Conclusion: Person-days employment generating program is a very important aspect for fostering rural development in entire India. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and its program thereof, is very effective regarding employment demanding and employment provided to the households as per survey district wise, in rural West Bengal, is very meaningful in its nature. The intricacies of the same prove its meaningful applications and exploration for enhancement to ensure a healthy and developing rural scenario, where people are motivated to work; with better incentive according to the Act.

Recognition of households in rural areas and providing employment to the people who demand employment for person-days employment generating program is very effective in West Bengal. The district wise application for rural household demanding employment and household provided employment assured person-days employment generating program ensuring employment to the unskilled labourers for enhancing maintenance of livelihood sustenance.

The Column Diagram and Pie Chart proves each and every possible correctness as per district wise household registering for employment demanding factor and employment provided to the job seekers in rural West Bengal. The households demanding employment in the year of 2015-16 and 2016-17 is high as per registering households. In case of provided employment as per 2015-16 and 2016-17 indicates less as per requirement of employment under MGNREGA.

Thereby, traversing through the pre – narrations, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and its programs on person-days employment generating and provided employment to the job seekers are very effective and auspicious in rural areas of West Bengal. The program provides employment to the unskilled wage seekers who are in need and deserve to demand an employment. According to registering households under the scheme of the MGNREGA the person-days employment generating program and its implications in the rural areas of West Bengal is unique in nature, fostering rural development and social equity for the people at large.

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