



International Journal of Allied Practice, Research and Review

Website: www.ijaprr.com (ISSN 2350-1294)

A case study of women participation in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNERGA) in Kashmir

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Abstract - In Kashmir, the Gram Sabhas are not properly functioning because of internal security reasons. Although the Gram Sabhas have started functioning again after revival of peace in the valley, the women participation in these institutions is very negligible. Since decisions related to the implementation of NREGA works are supposed to take place in gram sabhas, it is significant that most women should take part in gram sabha elections for that there is an immediate need of internal security and social protection for them.

There are various factors which encourage the women worker's participation under this scheme include nature of work, which do not need skilled worker, the limited hours of work, availability of work locally, reduction of migration of male member, substantial jump in the wage rate etc. Participation of women in MGNREGA is very low in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

KEYWORDS: MGNERGA; Wages; Employment

I. Introduction

The basic aim of MGNREGA was to generate as much as possible labour days both in lean and non-lean seasons so that the seasonal impact on the earning could be minimized. But this provision was also amended by a notification on Nov11, 2009 giving room to material intensive projects by the consequence of this the labour days will get decreased and also gave a room & eroded the powers granted to Panchayats under the Act and allowed material contractors to get a foot in the door and also opened the door of corruption.

Living in the current inflationary situation to meet both ends meet has become so difficult even for most of the middle class individuals. So by fixing wages are comparatively lower than the prevailing market rates is also loophole of the Act. MGNREGA which gives 100 days of guaranteed employment is not only violating the Minimum Wages Act came up with a notification issued on Jan1,2009 has bought out the unbridled discretionary powers conferred on the Center by Sec6(1) of the act to fix wages lower than minimum wages. As per available data available from the primary data collected and also from the Ministry of Employment Labour, Government of India in Jammu and Kashmir State notified minimum wages are Rs110 (100 +10) in which 100 stands for the minimum

wages and 10 is state contribution for MGNREGA workers, but if we look on political stability and geographical condition still a worker has to confine with hundred ten rupees wage. It is unjustified when other persons can earn more than doing unorganized/ agricultural labour then why to turn out to MGNREGA.

II. Review of Literature

After independence various studies have been done on various rural development programmes in India. Jandu (2008) carried out a research in four states namely Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Survey data shows that women workers are more confident about their roles as contributors to family expenditure and their work decisions and it gives them space in public sphere. Ramesh & Kumar (2009) in their study also found that MGNREGA holds the powerful prospect of bringing major changes in the lives of women. MGNREGA is playing a substantial role in empowering women economically and laying the basis for greater independence and self-esteem. It has become a beacon of light in the empowerment of the rural women, and contributed substantially for the increased living and economic conditions. Pankaj & Tankha (2010) examines the empowerment effects of MGNREGA through field survey in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. The study shows that a woman worker's earnings from MGNREGA constituted 14 percent of the total annual income of the household on average across the four sample districts in 2008-09. This study also shows an increased participation of women in gram sabha meetings. Panda & Umdor (2011) conducted a field study on the impact of MGNREGA in Assam. In their sample villages, namely Barpeta, Jorhat, Karimganj, Morigaon and Tinsukia they found that on an average only 42 percent said that MGNREGA had helped to uplift women. . There has been no change in the status of women in four sample districts except Tinsukia.

III. Objectives of the study

The present research aims to assess the impact analysis of MGNREGA on Jammu and Kashmir state, with the following objectives:

1. To assess the extent of additional employment generation through MGNREGA to the rural poor.
2. To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the rural upliftment in the study area.
3. To make suggestions for strengthening the implementation strategy of MGNREGA.

IV. Methodology

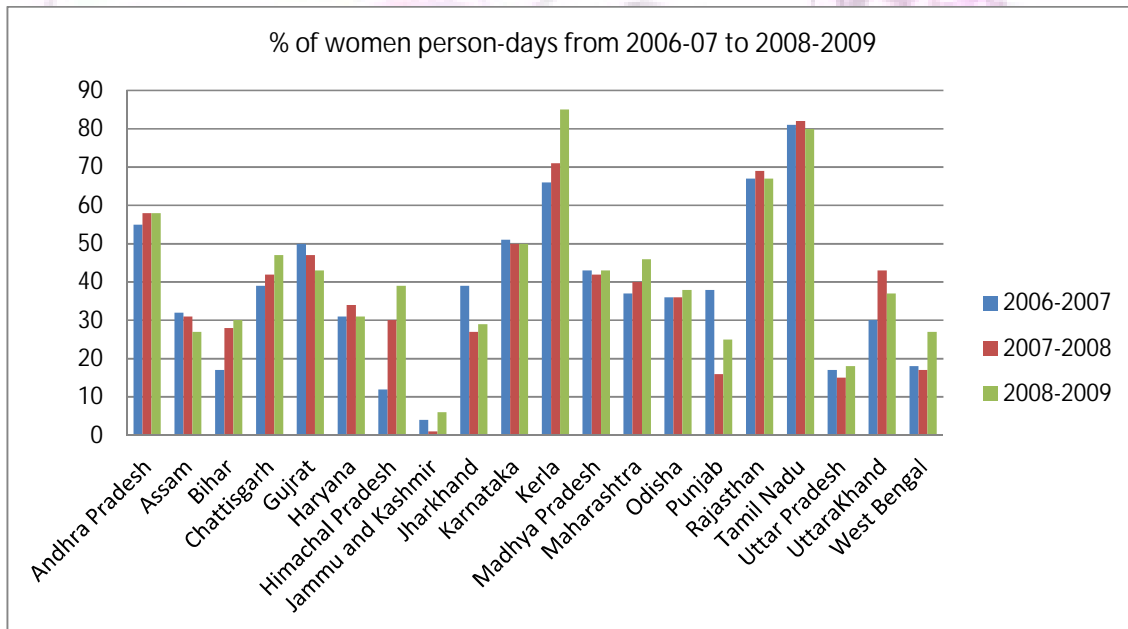
The study is based on primary data. The study is based on purposive sampling technique. The primary data's are collected through structured questionnaire, 100 beneficiaries form the total sample of the study. Simple statistical tools have been used to analyze the data.

V. Analysis

The socio-economic condition of the women's in the study area is shown in table in 1 and 2.

Table 1:-Percentage of women person-days from FY 2006-07 to FY 2011-2012

State	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Andhra Pradesh	55	58	58	58	57	58
Assam	32	31	27	28	27	25
Bihar	17	28	30	30	28	29
Chattisgarh	39	42	47	49	49	45
Gujrat	50	47	43	48	44	45
Haryana	31	34	31	35	36	36
Himachal Pradesh	12	30	39	46	48	60
Jammu and Kashmir	4	1	6	7	7	18
Jharkhand	39	27	29	34	33	31
Karnataka	51	50	50	37	46	46
Kerla	66	71	85	88	90	93
Madhya Pradesh	43	42	43	44	44	43
Maharashtra	37	40	46	40	46	46
Odisha	36	36	38	36	39	39
Punjab	38	16	25	26	34	43
Rajasthan	67	69	67	67	68	69
Tamil Nadu	81	82	80	83	83	74
Uttar Pradesh	17	15	18	22	21	17
UttaraKhand	30	43	37	40	40	45
West Bengal	18	17	27	33	34	32
All India	40	43	48	48	48	47



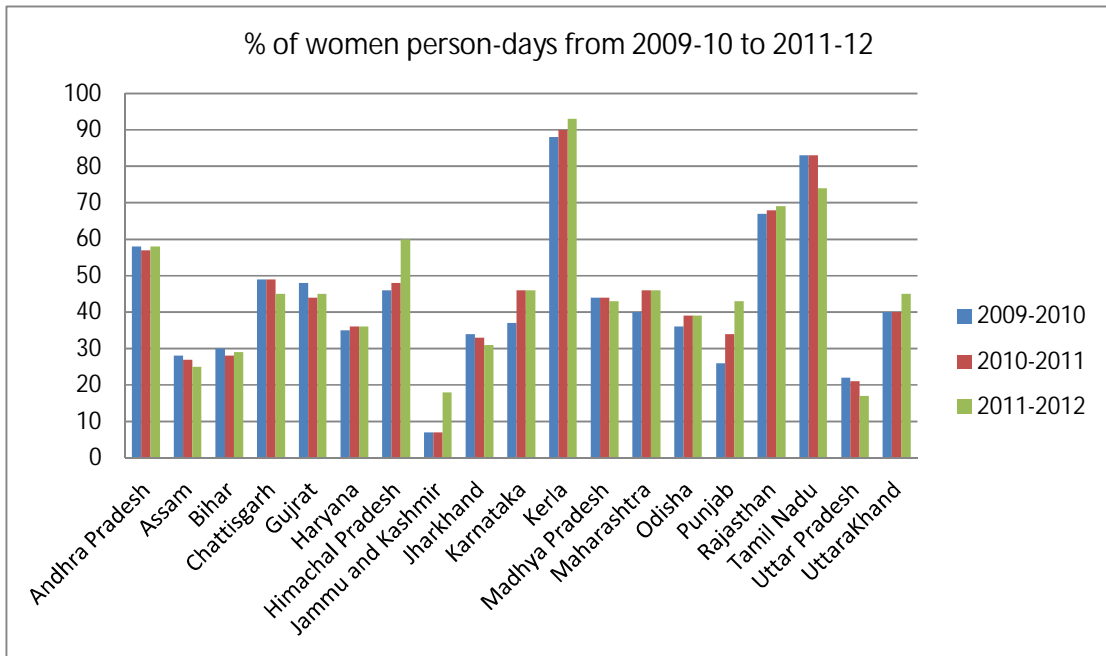


Table: 2-: Percentage of women's participation in Kashmir region in year 2006-07 to 2011-12.

Year	Total persons	No. of Women's	% of Women's
2006-2007	1229690	49187	4
2007-2008	1622560	16226	1
2008-2009	2116430	126986	6
2009-2010	2938056	205664	7
2010-2011	4916867	344180	7
2011-2012	20910314	3763856	18

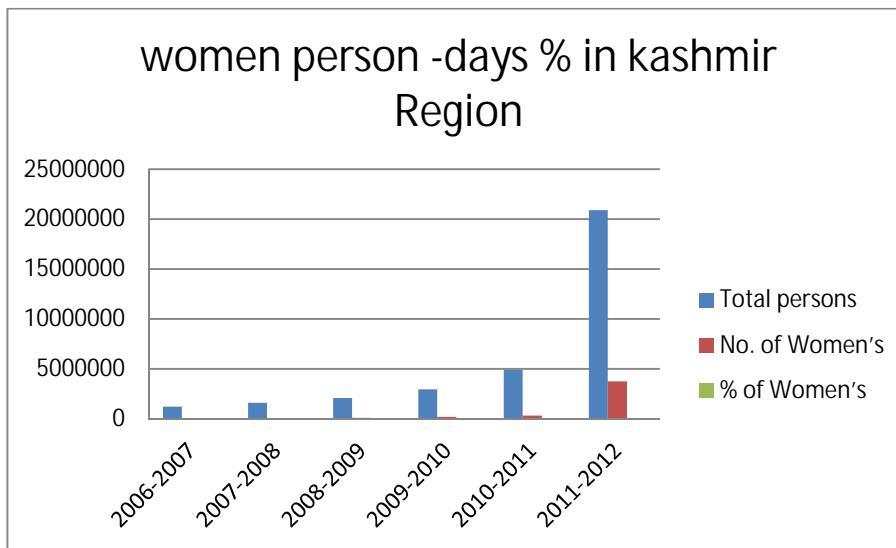
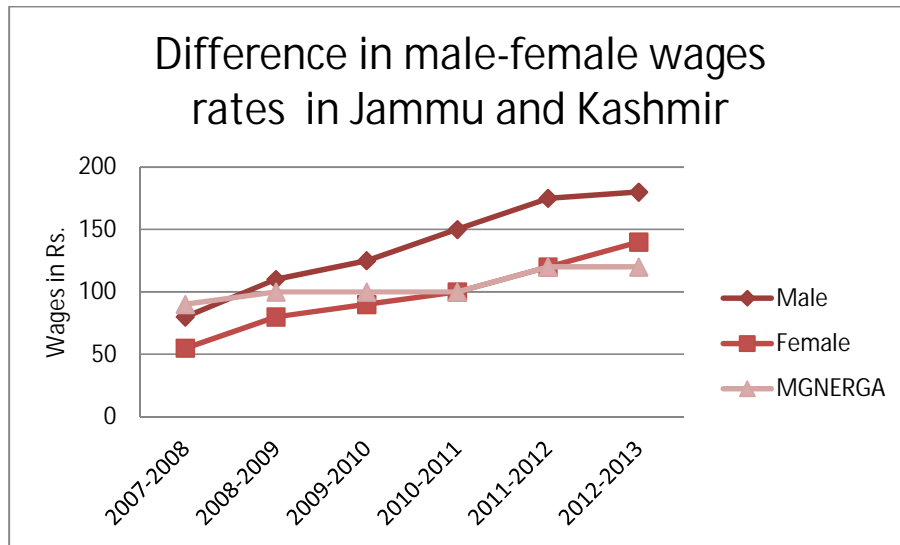


Table: 3:-Difference in Male-Female wages rates in MGNREGA across Jammu And Kashmir

Year	Male	Female	MGNERGA
2007-2008	80	55	90
2008-2009	110	80	100
2009-2010	125	90	100
2010-2011	150	100	100
2011-2012	175	120	120
2012-2013	180	140	120



VI. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the primary data it can be concluded that Role of women's in MGNREGA is still in a distant dream of achieving (33% reservation) for what it was meant i.e every hand have equal chance for working and there is no difference in wages for each person (male/female) with special reference to that of Kashmir have the lowest % of women's participation.

VII. Suggestions

1. The policy should not be homogeneous for the whole nation, but we have to apply a promotional scheme for women's participation, women's education for their wages.
2. In every block level their needs a women's cell for their medical, and prevent for corruption in women's right.

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