

**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National
Rural Employment Guarantee Act
(MGNREGA) on Individual and
Community Assets Creation and their
Sustainability in Selected Villages of
Prakasam District of
Andhra Pradesh**

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B.Sc. (Home Science)

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOME SCIENCE
(DEPARTMENT OF HOME SCIENCE EXTENSION AND
COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT)**



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Andhra Pradesh

BY

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**THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
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DECLARATION

I, **K.KEERTHI**, hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Individual And Community Assets Creation And Their Sustainability in Selected Villages of Prakasam District OF Andhra Pradesh**” submitted to the **Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University** for the degree of **Master Of Science in Home Science** is the result of original research work done by me. I also declare that no material contained in the thesis has been published earlier in any manner.

Place : Hyderabad

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I. D. No. HHM/2012-016

Date :

CERTIFICATE

Ms. K.KEERTHI has satisfactorily prosecuted the course of research and that thesis entitled “**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Individual And Community Assets Creation And Their Sustainability in Selected Villages of Prakasam District Of Andhra Pradesh**” submitted is the result of original research work and is of sufficiently high standard to warrant its presentation to the examination. I also certify that neither the thesis nor its part thereof has been previously submitted by her for a degree of any university.

Date:

Chairperson

(Dr. (Mrs.) T. SARAH KAMALA)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Individual And Community Assets Creation And Their Sustainability in Selected Villages of Prakasam District Of Andhra Pradesh**” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of ‘**Master of Science in Home Science**’ of the Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad is a record of the bonafide original research work carried out by **Ms. K.KEERTHI** under our guidance and supervision. The subject of the thesis has been approved by the student’s Advisory Committee.

No part of the thesis has been submitted by the student for any other degree or diploma. The published part and all assistance received during the course of investigations have been duly acknowledged by the author of the thesis.

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Dedicated to my mother

Smt. Kobaku Malleswari

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

%	:	Per cent
ANGRAU	:	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University
CSRE	:	Crash Scheme for Rural Employment
DPAP	:	Drought prone Area Program
EAS	:	Employment Assurance Scheme
ICRISAT	:	International Crop Research Institute of Semi Arid Trop
IHD	:	Institute of Human Development
IRDP	:	Integrated Rural Development Programme
JCA	:	Jalapala Cheruv Agraharam
JRY	:	Jawahar Rozgar Yojna
MEGS	:	Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme
MGNREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NREP	:	National Rural Employment Program
ODI	:	Overseas Development Institute
PMD	:	Pamidipadu
RLEGP	:	Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme
SGRY	:	Sampoorna Gram Rogar Yojana
SGSY	:	Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana

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ABSTRACT

The concept of employment and wages are as old as mankind in India. Once Lord Buddha said that men works to satisfy the primary or basic urges of hunger, thirst, and sex, as well as host of secondary wants and desires created by a commercial civilization. Employment wage complements rural India the right of work should, therefore, be assured to all, as a pre-requisite for the good life. It is the duty of the state to uphold justice, and provide for the material and spiritual welfare of its subjects and give structure and discipline to life. Wage employment is monetary compensation paid by an employer to an employee in exchange for work done. Payment may be calculated as a fixed amount for each task completed, or at an hourly or daily rate, or based on an easily measured quantity of work done.

The government of India, therefore, placed increasing emphasis on taking up schemes for providing additional employment opportunities and various special schemes of employment generation right from 1960s. The Government of India created a historic act, by enacting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the largest employment generating programme in the world, ensuring the right to work in a country with a population of over one billion.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated the Scheme called Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which has come into force with effect from 2nd February 2006 during the first phase of implementation, in the rural areas with good objectives.

Ex-post-facto research design was selected for the study with sample of 120 respondents 60 from each village were selected randomly. Stratified random sampling procedure was adopted in the selection of the respondents at two villages Two ICRISAT adopted villages were purposively selected where the said programme was launched in 2009 under the research scheme entitled Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA).

Lowest percentages of MGNREGA beneficiaries were observed as young in both the villages. In JCA majority were middle aged (48.3%), while majority (65%) were adults in PMD. Majority were illiterate in both the villages. However, heterogeneity among the remaining respondents could be observed, as the educational status ranged from primary to graduation and above categories.

Most of the respondents of JCA belongs to backward caste, followed by forward and scheduled castes. Majority had category 1 type of house in both the villages, followed by category 2. Least percentage was found in category 3&4. It can be concluded that in both the villages, respondents were possessing packa houses, which is one of the indications of development. Nuclear families were more common in both the villages. Extended families also existed to a considerable extent. Majority in both the villages were small in size, followed by medium and large.

Half of the respondents in both the villages were small farmers. Less than one third of them were medium famers. However there were large farmers also, butless in number. It

could be concluded that MGNREGA beneficiaries comprise of all categories of farmers, but mostly small, followed by medium. Majority of the respondents in JCA had agriculture (56.7%), followed by farm labour (20%) and nonfarm works (18.3%) as occupation. Caste occupations and livestock were very less. In PMD, there were more agriculturists (81.7%). Farm labourers and nonfarm workers were less compared to JCA. With regard to family income, most of them were belonging to medium income group (43.3% & 50%), followed by low (33.3% & 30.0%) in JCA and PMD respectively. Compared to PMD, there were more respondents in very low income group (15%) and less in high income group (8.3%) in JCA.

The total working days above 300 days, ranging from 85-96% in a year, could be noted from the above table. Out of this, 20 to 27% was MGNREGA while remaining general. As majority of the respondents were agriculturists, the general working days could be attributed to farming activities. The range of this was between 65- 68%. The contribution MGNREGA work period was 73- 100 days, was almost fulfilling the norms of MGNREGA. Compared to JCA, PMD has almost 28 days less, because for the past two years no works were carried during 2010-12, due to some fraud in payments. The respondents reported at the time of investigation, that the issue got resolved. Lean period could be considered as low in both the villages. The lean period has reduced after the introduction of MGNREGA could be interpreted from the data.

The respondents had four major liabilities, viz., loans from nationalized banks, cooperative banks, SHG and also from local money lenders, which means that both institutional and non-institutional lending had increased after participation in MGNREGA. Liabilities, in general has enhanced after participation in MGNREGA. Availing credit facility from banks has increased from 10.0 to 43.3 % in JCA and it is still higher in PMD from 15 to 60.0 %. Next to this was SHG, which was increased to almost 30% in both the villages.

Use of mechanical labour for certain operations. The respondents reported that they utilized it when it was impossible for human labour. The intervention occurred whenever and wherever necessary. Most of the farmers were small, followed by medium. In spite of that some substantial amount was spent during the five years of study on land development. MGNREGA has acted as an initiative and also motivator to make maximum use of available land for cultivation. Developed land has thus become the created asset because of participation in MGNREGA. PMD was observed to be spent more than JCA. Probably there were more medium and large farmers compared to JCA. Per capita investment might be claimed as Rs. 0.5 and 0.7 lakhs in JCA and PMD respectively.

The earnings were diverted for procurement of materials is evident from the data. The respondents attained varied benefits. House, the basic amenity of life was attended. Live stock like buffalos, enrich the diet as well as provide additional income. Electrical and electronic goods reduce drudgery. Transport vehicles saves time as well as facilitate comfort. Some amount was spent on payment of educational fee. High expenditure, almost 50% more could be concluded in JCA compared to PMD, because of purchase of electronic and electrical goods.

Community works taken under MGNREGA programme. The sustainability of assets created through MGNREGA. Accessing information was achieved to the maximum, followed by leadership, communication and decision making in JCA. In case of PMD accessing information was followed by leadership, communication and decision making. The attribute of accessing information was achieved in both the villages.

There were more middle and adult farmers than young farmers among the respondents. The programme may concentrate on covering of young beneficiaries. Most of the respondents were small farmers; hence as the land holding was small the family income was also less. Though work participation ranged between 73-100 wage employment days of total employment days of 300-350 days, the wage per day on piece rate was Rs. 60/-. Hence it could not influence the dependent variable to a significant extent. Policy and institutional factors had negative weak relationship with all the three dependent variables, as half of the policy and institutional factors were not observed properly.

On the whole a nonlinear relationship was existing. There may be some more variables other than what were studied. Such variables need to be identified and addressed through the programme.

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

I give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life to Swaraj (i.e. self-rule/freedom) for the hungry and spiritually starving millions and destiny? In other words, will it lead?’



The concept of employment and wages are as old as mankind in India. Once Lord Buddha said that men works to satisfy the primary or basic urges of hunger, thirst, and sex, as well as host of secondary wants and desires created by a commercial civilization. So work is essential for happy living, as it ultimately results in satisfaction of basic needs. Even Mahatma Gandhiji’s talisman advocates self rule or freedom of the individual to earn for the satisfaction of physical as well as spiritual. Employment wage complements rural India the right of work should, therefore, be assured to all, as a pre-requisite for the good life. It is the duty of the state to uphold justice, and provide for the material and spiritual welfare of its subjects and give structure and discipline to life.

When disasters such as droughts and floods frighten the survival of the poor, public authorities often provide them with a minimum income through employment and wage employment. The incident of such disasters was so common even in pre independence era and recurring that the Britishers made a famine code in 1890. The need to create additional earnings should be the primary consideration, while appropriateness and value of the capital assets is secondary.

India is a nation with over 300 million poor people and out of this 75 per cent of these poor were living in the rural areas. Agricultural wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non-agricultural activities, constitute the bulk of the

rural poor. Such a high incidence of poverty is a matter of concern for India and poverty eradication has been one of the major objectives of the development planning process. Alleviation of rural poverty has been one of the primary and immediate objectives of planned development in India. Ever since the inception of planning in India with its Five Year Plans, the policies and the programmes have been designed and redesigned with this aim. It was realised that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself.

Employment

Employment contributes labor and/or expertise to an endeavor of an employer and is usually hired to perform specific duties which are packaged into a job. An Employee is a person who is hired to provide services to a company on a regular basis in exchange for compensation and who does not provide these services as part of an independent business.

Wage Employment

Wage employment is monetary compensation (or remuneration) paid by an employer to an employee in exchange for work done. Payment may be calculated as a fixed amount for each task completed (a task wage or piece rate), or at an hourly or daily rate, or based on an easily measured quantity of work done.

Wage Employment Programs in India

The concept and role of public works has changed considerably in the post independence period. Indian planners started looking at these programs both as a means of employment creation and capital formation. The government of India, therefore, placed increasing emphasis on taking up schemes for providing additional employment opportunities and various special schemes of employment generation right from 1960s. During second Five Year Plan, employment to the rural man power primarily during the lean seasons was emphasized, creation of additional employment in the traditional hand industries and wage employment in development works in third Five Year Plan. The basic assumption in all such programs has been better utilization of unemployed or

underemployed manpower in the rural areas till employment potential is augmented on a permanent basis over a period of years. These programs are being continued since then in one form or the other. However, there is one very significant difference i.e., the programs initiated during third to fifth Five Year Plans were ad hoc in nature and since the sixth five year plan, rural works programs have been given an important place in the overall strategy of poverty alleviation.

An overview of employment generation programmes in India demonstrates the conceptual changes in employment generation programmes.

Programme	Concept
The Rural Manpower program (1960-1969)	Utilization of rural labor force. The resource constraints limited the scope of the scheme and only little over 20 percent of the originally envisaged outlay could be provided.
Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) (1971-74) – 1979	Labor-intensive works and creation of durable assets. The benefits both in terms of direct employment and assets creation were found to be too widely scattered and non-durable nature.
The Drought prone Area Program (DPAP) 1973	Mitigating the severity of scarcity conditions by organizing labor intensive and production oriented works to generate considerable employment
Food for Work Program (1977-78)	Augment the funds of state governments for maintenance of public works by utilizing available stocks of food grains for employment generation. Taking constraints into consideration revamped and renamed as National Rural Employment Program
National Rural Employment Program (NREP) (1980)	First wage employment program to have all India coverage three fold objectives of generation of additional gainful employment, creation of durable community assets and rising of nutritional standards of the rural poor
Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) (1989)	National Rural Employment Program and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee program were merged to

	form the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna programme to generate additional gainful employment through creation of rural economic infrastructure, community and social assets.
Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) (1993)	Initiated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas, was extended to all the rural blocks of the country for creation of durable community, social and economic assets for sustained employment during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work merged into MGNREGA
Sampoorna Gram Rogar Yojana (2001)	IRDP was restructured as Sampoorna Grama Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and launched in September 2001, merging Jawahar Gram Swaraj Yojana and EAS. For additional wage employment in all rural areas for food security and improve nutritional levels by creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure. A special component under SGRY provided food grains to calamity stricken states for undertaking relief activities.

Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS) an inspirational source for MGNREGA

Unlike the other wage employment programs of India placed above, the (MEGS) is a program launched by the provincial government of Maharashtra in early 1970s. It was one of the most researched and discussed programs both at the national and the international levels. Compared to the programs in other countries, the MEGS had been in existence for a long time- more than three decades. The organization like World Bank and International Labor Organization have organized studies to learn from the scheme's success, particularly its sustainability over time. The United Nation Development Program's Human development Report (1993) commends MEGS as one of the largest

public programs in the development world. The MEGS is an especially interesting example of a universal public works program for poverty alleviation because it guarantees employment at a defined wage- an unprecedented feature in a public works program. It is considered a model because of this underlying philosophy of guarantee and because of its approach towards fulfilling this guarantee. Braun (1995).

During the drought period 1970-73, the MEGS mainly operated as a relief program. Following the drought, the government continued it to use it as an antipoverty program. A law was enacted to this effect in 1979, which provides that every adult person in the rural areas will have a right to work, guarantee of employment to each adult above 18 years of age who is willing to do unskilled manual work on a piece-rate basis. NREGA, 2005 has drawn largely on this scheme, but for theoretically still MEGS stands as a universal program with no ceiling limit of work days, which the NREGA puts the ceiling of 100 days of work.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The Government of India created a historic act, by enacting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the largest employment generating programme in the world, ensuring the right to work in a country with a population of over one billion. The Government of India passed the NREGA 2005, (Central Act No. 42 of 2005). NREGA was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on October 2nd, 2009. MGNREGA is the first ever law, in the world that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. This Act gives legal guarantee of at least one hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled and manual work. The Act is applicable in the Districts notified by the Government of India, the implementation of the Act calls for the formulation of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by the State Governments.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated the Scheme called Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which has come into force with effect from

2nd February 2006 during the first phase of implementation, in the rural areas with the following objectives:

- (1) To provide livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing not less than 100 (one hundred) days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled and manual work.
- (2) To create durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of rural poor.

The act become effective at the state level in February 2006 in 200 districts, guaranteeing employment up to 100 days a year to poor rural households on demand. By March 2008, MGNREGA was expanded to cover all rural districts in the country.

Significantly, MGNREGA is a rights-based programme, unlike earlier employment schemes. The rights of MGNREGA works include employment on demand, minimum wages, gender parity of wages, and payment of wages within 15 days, as well as the provision of basic worksite facilities, among others. There is a legal guarantee of 100 days employment in a financial year to a registered household. That the government is legally bound to provide employment within 15 days of the application for work by a job seeker; in case of delay or failure provide employment to the job seeker, there is provision of unemployment allowance. A person seeking such employment is to be registered with the Gram Panchayat (village administration council); after due verification, the household is to be provided a job card.

The key processes in the implementation of MGNREGA are the adult members of rural households submit their name, age and address with photo to the Gram Panchayat, which in turn registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card which contains the details of adult member enrolled and his/her photo. Registered person can submit an application for work in writing (for at least fourteen days of continuous work) either to Panchayat or to Programme Officer, who will accept the valid application and issue dated receipt of application, letter-providing work will be sent to the applicant and displayed at Panchayat office. The employment will be provided within a radius of 5

kilometers and if it is above 5 kilometers extra wage will be paid. If employment under the scheme is not provided within fifteen days of receipt of the application, daily unemployment allowance will be paid to the applicant.

MGNREGA seeks the creation of durable and sustainable assets that are created by the community and also managed by it (Mehrotra, 2008). For creation of such assets using the guaranteed employment, the act has codified works- water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing (including afforestation and planting of trees), irrigation canals (including micro and minor irrigation works), provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes (formerly lower castes and indigenous peoples) or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms and the Indira Awas Yojna (the house-building programme of the Government of India), renovation of traditional water bodies (including de-silting of tanks), land development, flood control and protection works (including drainage in water-logged areas) and rural connectivity to provide all-weather access. Any other work which may be notified by the central government in consultation with the state government can also be considered.

Asset creation and sustainability

One of the most distinguishing features of MGNREGA programme is the creation of environmentally sound productive assets under the decentralized administration of panchayats. Generally, the village and intermediary panchayats manage the implementation activities, while coordination of activities is done at the district level. However, at every level, the concerned agencies and institutions are accountable to local people.

During 2007-2008, NREGA programme has created more than half a million productive assets, mostly water and soil conservation structures like the performance of MGNREGA programme in March 2008, as shared with the parliament by the Union Minister for Rural Development, showed, review an average of 42 days of employment during the year so far. Water conservation has been accorded top priority and accordingly 49 percent of works taken up relate to water conservation. Out of a total of 141.62 crore (1416 million) person days, the share of Scheduled Castes is 38.70 person days (27.3%)

and Scheduled Tribes 41.36 crore person days (29.2%), which together comes to a total of 56.53%. The share of women beneficiaries is 60.39 crore person days, which is 42.60% (Priya 2008).

MGNREGA promises a revolutionary demand-driven, people-centered development programme. Some of the provisions given under MGNREGA for the durability and maintenance of the MGNREGA assets, there by sustainability are

- Convergence of the MGNREGA funds with funds from other sources for the creation of durable assets
- The maintenance of assets created under the will be considered as permissible work under MGNREGA
- To ensure sustainable assets and holistic approach to planning, a project approach should be adopted towards defining a work.
- Funds available with PRIs from other sources can also be dovetailed with NREGA funds for the construction of durable community assets/works permissible under MGNREGA.

Empowerment is then the process of obtaining these basic opportunities for marginalized people, either directly by those people, or through the help of non-marginalized others who share their own access to these opportunities. It also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny those opportunities. Empowerment also includes encouraging, and developing the skills for, self-sufficiency, with a focus on eliminating the future need for charity or welfare in the individuals of the group. This process can be difficult to start and to implement effectively.

MGNREGA in Prakasam District

Of the 13 districts of A.P. (newly formed state), Prakasam is one of the districts where MGNREGA was implemented in 56 mandals of prakasam district. Since Janapala Cheruvu (J C Agraharam) of Bestawaripeta mandal and Pamidipadu of Korisapadu mandal are the two adopted villages of International Crop Research Institute of Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), with whom Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University had collaboration under student exchange programme, the present study on impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on individual and community

assets creation and their sustainability in selected villages of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, was carried out with the following objectives

Objectives

1. To study the profile characteristics of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme in selected villages of Prakasam district.
2. To assess the impact of MGNREGA on individual and community assets creation.
3. To evaluate the sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA in the selected villages.
4. To assess the extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA in the selected sample.
5. To suggest policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created in the communities.

Limitations of the study

1. The study was limited to only two villages of Prakasam district
2. Generalizations on the study could be restricted to the area where similar conditions exist but may not have wider applicability.
3. The findings of the study are based on expressed opinions, recall mechanism of the beneficiaries where the subjectivity might not have been completely overcome in spite of the best efforts of the investigator.

Presentation of the study

The study is presented in six chapters. The first chapter Introduction deals with in the need, specific objectives, the scope and limitations of the study. Review of literature is the second chapter which deals with the review of available and related studies in the field of MGNREGA on individual and community assets creation and their sustainability. The third chapter focuses on Materials and Methods used in the process of investigation. It includes the location of the study area, sampling procedure followed, variables selected for the study, procedure involved in construction of data collection tools, devices and methods used for data collection, statistical tools employed etc. The fourth chapter covers the Results of the investigation and the Discussion of the results respectively. The fifth chapter is Summary with the implications of the study. At the end, Literature cited and Appendices are presented.

REVIEW
OF
LITERATURE

Chapter II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature helps to acquire knowledge on the earlier studies undertaken by the researchers in the given field of study, as past studies pave way for future research endeavor. It helps to find out the available information, which is related to the objectives of the proposed research and assists in delineation of the problem area besides providing a basis for theoretical framework and for interpretation of the findings. Moreover, it facilitates to find out the gaps in selecting topic for research studies, fetching the available techniques to measure the factors under study, to compare the present results with that of the previous one and to understand the weakness of the previous research so that the repetition of similar mistakes can be avoided.

An attempt has been made in this chapter to present a brief review of literature related to the relevant variables selected for the study and furnished as follows.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) programme is providing not only employment to the rural poor but also creating sustainable and durable assets in the villages. The studies conducted on this programme are collected and compiled under following subheadings:

2.1. Profile characteristics of beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme

2.1.1. Age and caste of beneficiaries

2.1.2. Education and family size of beneficiaries

2.1.3. Landholding of beneficiaries

2.1.4. Family income of beneficiaries

2.1.5. Employment generated under rural development programme

2.2. Impact of MGNREGA on individual assets creation

2.2.1. Impact of MGNREGA on community assets creation

2.3. Sustainability of the individual assets created by MGNREGA

2.3.1. Sustainability of the community assets created by MGNREGA

2.4. Social empowerment through MGNREGA

2.5. Policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created in the communities

2.1. Profile characteristics of beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme

2.1.1. Age and caste of beneficiaries

Kumar and Haorei (2010) in their study of impact assessment of MGNREGA on rural migration reported that majority of the scheme's beneficiary respondents in Tamil Nadu were in the age group of 36-65 that is 58 percent and the rest 42 percent respondents were in the age group of 18-35.

Pattanaik (2009) in his study on NREGA in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab reported that, 25, 56 percent and 40.00 percent of the youth were in the age group of less than 30 years and 31-40 year respectively. Thus youth were largest beneficiaries of the scheme.

Rajanna and Ramesh (2009) in their study of NREGP-Facet of inclusive growth in Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh reported that 39 percent of the respondents are from the age of 30-40 years, 35 percent are from 20-30 years of age and rest of them is in the age group of 40-50 years. This shows that majority of the respondents are below 40 years of age.

Sankari and Murgan (2009) studied the impact of NREGA in Udangudi Panchayat union of Tamil Nadu and reported that 40 Percent of the beneficiary's belonged to the age group of 26 to 35 years.

Maulik (2009) reported in Barbanki district, Uttar Pradesh that, more than half of households who had registered for NREGA belonged to scheduled caste (56.85%), the share of other community and the tribes was 40.04 percent and 3.11 percent respectively.

Rajanna and Ramesh (2009) reported that in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. 51.60 percent of the NREGA respondents were from backward class communities, and 46.60 percent of respondents were from SC category and rests were from ST and other communities.

Jadhav (2008) concluded that there is no discrimination on caste or gender in providing work. However, there are instances, as observed in a field study from the Marathwada region in Maharashtra that the upper castes were favoured at the time of allocation of work by allowing them to work on soft soil worksites, while the lower castes were given hard soil ones.

Joseph and Easwaran (2006) studied Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Aizwal district of Mizoram and reported that majority of the respondents were aged between 40 and 60 years, followed by 30.77 percent falling below 40 years and 15.38 percent falling above 60 years. The mean age of members were found to be 48 years.

Shah (1989) concluded that the beneficiaries, scheduled caste persons formed 40.00 per cent, scheduled tribes 18.00 per cent and women 20 per cent. As high as 46.00 per cent of employment generated was for the landless workers.

2.1.2. Education and Family size of beneficiaries

Pattanaik (2009) reported that in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab, 50 percent of the NREGA beneficiaries are the illiterate and primary education persons, 20 percent had studied up to middle school and 25 percent had secondary school or educated higher.

Sankari and Murugan (2009) in their study on impact of MGNREGA in Udangudi Panchayat Union, Tamil Nadu, reported that out of 80 respondents, 39 respondents have studied at the primary level, 24 respondents at the secondary level and 17 respondents were illiterate.

Menon and Srilatha (2008); Menon (2008) proposed that the households as nuclear family are given importance as according to the operation guidelines of NREGA act.

Studies concluded that a majority of the respondents belonged to the illiterate category followed by primary and high school education (Padma, 1987; Panwar and Gupta, 1996; Bhople and Patki, 1998)

The family size in rural setup is decreasing (Reddy, 1990; Padmalatha, 1993; Reddy, 1996). 52% of the families had joint families.

2.1.3. Landholding size of beneficiaries

Gupta (2009) revealed that the recent learning from Bihar shows that social afforestation program undertaken by the State forest department is extremely successful in six participating districts not only from the point of developing wastelands but also from the point of view of providing gainful employment to the rural landless families.

Paul J. Ferraro (2002) identified that the more popular initiatives in conservation of ecosystem is the use of development interventions in the peripheral areas of endangered ecosystems.

Satyanarayana (2002) in a study on SGSY beneficiaries revealed that vast majority of beneficiaries were landless (62.86%) followed by medium farmers (17.14%) and small farmers comprised only 11.43 percent of beneficiaries.

Khodasker (2001) reported that the size of the average landholding is 1.3 acres and the family income of Rs 33,000. Annual expenditure is about Rs 16,443. Highest per capita income, consumption, expenditure was enjoyed by small farmers than the off farm laborers and farm laborers.

Dumanski and Pieri (2000) noted that the impact(s) of human interventions on the landscape for the major agro ecological zones of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate environments.

2.1.4. Family income of beneficiaries

Sankari and Murugan (2009) studied impact of NREGA in Udangudi Panchayat Union, Tamil Nadu. They reported that out of 80 respondents, nine respondents belonged the income group up to 15,000 (11.25%), 35 respondents households had income between Rs. 15,000-30,000 (43.75%), 25 respondents belonged the income group between 30,000-

45,000 (31.25%), and only 11 respondents had income between 45,000-60,000 (13.75%) respectively.

Mahapatra *et al.* (2008) observed that during 2006-07, NREGA created 9 million person days of employment.

The annual income level of the majority of the respondents was low (Rajini, 1989; Leena, 1993; Khodasker, 2001).

Chevai (2000) revealed that the average annual income of majority of TRYSEM beneficiaries (50.00%) was Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- while majority of the non-beneficiaries (67.92%) were having annual income of only upto 10,000.

Shah (1989) in his study on Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) revealed that, the target employment generation was 268.41 million man days and the achievement was 301.86 million man days.

2.1.5. Employment generated under rural development programme

Institute of Human Development (IHD) (2009) it is concluded that the provisions for basic safety, sanitation, and health at the worksite, and neglect of issues of childcare have emerged prominent as far as quality of employment is concerned. Concerns have also been raised about what kind of jobs are being created under the NREGS and to what extent the assets are pro-poor in nature.

Rodgers and Gerry (2009) reported that quality of employment is also linked to realization of substantive content of Right to Work.

Mahapatra *et al.* (2008) observe that during 2006-07, NREGA created 9 million person days of employment.

Shah (1989) in his study on RLEGP revealed that, the target employment generation was 268.41 million man days and the achievement was 301.86 million man days. Of the beneficiaries, scheduled caste persons formed 40.00 per cent, scheduled

tribes 18.00 per cent and women 20 per cent. As high as 46.00 per cent of employment generated was for the landless workers.

2.2. Impact of MGNREGA on individual assets creation

Institute of Human Development (IHD) (2009) as part of NREGS works the village Gram Sabha's have taken up development of lands, thereby ensuring that such land owners would be able to cultivate hitherto barren and uncultivable lands. This particular 'work' is more popular in the villages of Andhra Pradesh (such works accounted for over 20 per cent of total works in the state in 2009) as that enabled small and marginal cultivators to engage in crop cultivation, in several cases for the first time in their life and families who earned from NREGS works were able to invest in children's education, health, repayment of old debt, and for other such useful purposes.

IHD (2009a) revealed that the NREGA enabled women to make significant contribution to household earnings.

Sengupta (2007) addressed NREGA as one of the most successful programmes for poverty alleviation that ensures livelihood for the poor. Through NREGA voiceless groups have now started to assert themselves by seeking their rights. This is the dynamics of the situation that is pushing us towards a more inclusive economic development.

Sainath (2007) revealed that work is given according to the definition in the Act (i.e., per household), and this has created conditions for exclusion of single women, widows, and married sons from the scheme. Such instances have been recorded in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh work was being allotted to groups of 2–3 families as units, in order to ensure higher output and productivity and in such case single women were overlooked.

2.2.1. Impact of MGNREGA on community assets creation

Prabeena Kumar Bebarta (2013) studied on impact of MGNREGA in the lives of tribal People concluded that the tribal households in the Guajarati district have been

benefited from MGNREGA in many ways as it has increased their income resulting multiple impacts in their social and economic life.

Gupta and Alok Kumar (2009) revealed that the recent learning from Bihar shows that social afforestation program undertaken by the State forest department is extremely successful in six participating districts not only from the point of developing wastelands but also from the point of view of providing gainful employment to the rural landless families.

IHD (2009) revealed that the similar high demand for work was reported in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. And also points out that the maximum works undertaken in Andhra Pradesh were land development works (45 per cent), followed by conservation of water bodies and related works (28.9 per cent).and technical help is lacking at the field level in order to enhance the quality of works undertaken.

Agarwal (2008) regarding the creation of productive assets on a policy paper “NREGS : Problem and challenges”, study conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment in 2008, in 2006-2007 alone NREGA has created more than half a million productive assets, mostly water and soil conservation structures. Each of them has the potential to hard of poverty from villages.

Centre for Science and Environment (2008) concluded that one of the distinguishing features of NREGA programme is the creation of environmentally sound productive assets under the decentralized administration of panchayats (local councils). Generally, the village and intermediary panchayats (Sub-district/Block level) manage the implementation activities, while coordination of activities is done at the district level. However, at every level, the concerned agencies and institutions are accountable to the local people.

Hirway (2008) concluded that during 2007-2008, NREGA programme has created more than half a million productive assets, mostly water and soil conservation structures.

Dreze and Jean (2004) concluded that very high expectations are placed on the outcomes of the Act in terms of protecting rural households from poverty and hunger, reducing rural-urban migration, increasing opportunities of employment for rural women,

creating useful assets in rural areas, changing power equations in rural areas, and activating and empowering Panchayat Raj institutions.

2.3. Sustainability of the individual assets created by MGNREGA

NREGA is a valuable and valued opportunity for the rural poor, and particularly for women, to earn a living wage in a dignified manner”, (Dreze and Jean. *The Hindu*, 19th July 2008).

Social relations within a community are not gender-neutral; neither are the effects of redistribution of land. It has been argued that the use of household or community as a unit of analysis or development interventions, has often led to overlooking of social hierarchies and gender differences (Gurjeet and Shah, 1998; Moser and Moser, 2006). Here issues of security and empowerment tend to be simplified to raising issues with local people, without any fundamental change in relations of power and asset control both in the household and community.

NREGA implementation needs to learn from the earlier gender analysis of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in the state of Maharashtra – that employment and income opportunities represent important economic gains for women, but they do not automatically lead to a change in the gendered position of women (Krishnaraj *et al.* 2004).

2.3.1. Sustainability of the community assets created by MGNREGA

Gupta and Alok Kumar (2009) concluded that the recent learning from Bihar shows that social afforestation program undertaken by the State forest department is extremely successful in six participating districts not only from the point of developing wastelands but also from the point of view of providing gainful employment to the rural landless families.

Mehrotra and Santosh (2008) NREGA seeks the creation of durable and sustainable assets that are created by the community and also managed by it. For creation of such assets using the guaranteed employment, the act has codified the following types of works:

- o Water conservation and water harvesting
- o Drought proofing (including afforestation and planting of trees)
- o Irrigation canals (including micro and minor irrigation works)
- o Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (formerly lower castes and indigenous peoples) or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms and the Indira Awas Yojna (the house-building programme of the Government of India).
- o Renovation of traditional water bodies (including de-silting of tanks)
- o Land development
- o Flood control and protection works (including drainage in water-logged areas)
- o Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access
- o Any other work which may be notified by the central government in consultation with the state government.

Shah et al. (2008) revealed that it may be noted that the emphasis on creation of public productive assets under NREGA, such as land development, water conservation and water harvesting structures, drought proofing, irrigation facilities etc has significant bearing on development of smallholder productive assets land, livestock, tree covers, irrigation works all related to use in agriculture. Rural connectivity plays a pivotal role in enhancing access to basic services to health, education, communication and in improving economic wellbeing of women and men located in remote rural areas.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (2006) reported that NREGA is also visualized as a social protection and poverty reduction strategy, especially for its transfer benefits as well as stabilization benefits. It is argued that as a social protection and poverty reduction programme it aims to establish a 'social floor' for labour with redistributive and asset creation objectives.

Patel, (2006) concluded that the major exception seems to be in the case of Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS), where the works, with a central thrust on drought proofing, had focused mainly on creation of irrigation infrastructure. The land owning class thus became direct beneficiaries and important stake holders in the

process of creation of such assets. Presence of social movements also helped keeping the contractors away. The outcome, therefore, turned out to be more effective.

Bhattarai, *et al.*, (2002) since a large proportion of the NREGS-work is focused on land and water resources development, assets created through such activities are likely to have significant forward linkages within the local economies. Among these, the most important, at least in the short run, is increased access to irrigation. A number of studies have highlighted the pivotal role that irrigation plays in promoting growth in agriculture and poverty reduction.

2.4. Social empowerment through MGNREGA

Reddy *et al.* (2010) studied on National Rural Employment Guarantee as Social Protection and concluded that the MGNREGA has been much appreciated as a social protection program as it has the potential to reach out to the most —needy|| economic and social groups of the country.

Panda *et al* (2009) through their study found that this act empowered rural tribal women in Sikkim and Meghalaya by enhancing their confidence level and by ensuring some degree of financial independence. Around 94 percent of the women workers in Sikkim and 38 percent in Meghalaya felt that they have been able to access health facilities better after working in NREGS. There has been an improvement in school enrolment and reduction in the school dropout rate after the the NREGS.

Pankaj, Ashok and Tankha (2009) concluded that non-discriminatory wages; assured minimum wages which are more than market wages for women; the dignity that comes with the work since it is seen as working for the government rather than for a landlord or contractor; employment at the doorstep; and certain women-specific facilitation like the *kudumbashree* in Kerala, female mate in Rajasthan, SHGs in Andhra Pradesh are seen as factors that contributed to higher participation of women in NREGA.

Pankaj *et al.* (2009) suggested that by giving the landless a stake in the public asset management process, they would benefit, not only from the wage component of the

scheme in the construction phase, but also from claiming a proper share of the value of the assets in the future.

Pankaj (2008) revealed that NREGS is envisaged as providing minimum livelihood security to rural households rather than reducing rural poverty or attaining other developmental objectives.

2.5. Policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created in the communities

Drèze *et al.* 2009 reported that fudging of muster rolls has proved to constitute one such problem. Fake names have been listed as attending the works, whereby wages are paid and end up falling in wrong hands. In addressing the problem of corruption, the Central government has promoted payment of wages through Banks or Post Offices in favor of by hand to limit the chances of corruption.

IHD (2009) reported that the share of NREGS income in household income would improve significantly in Gaya and Ranchi, with increased person-days of NREGS employment. Concerns have also been raised about what kind of jobs are being created under the NREGS and to what extent the assets are pro-poor in nature. Provisions for basic safety, sanitation, and health at the worksite, and neglect of issues of childcare have emerged prominent as far as quality of employment is concerned.

Drèze *et al.* (2009) revealed that the states where corruption has showed least significance has been Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

A field study made in the state of Orissa has showed that illiteracy and lack of knowledge among the villagers on how Banks operate has caused hesitation to open Bank account (Vanaik, 2008).

Mohanani (1997) reported that there was no proper monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes.

MATERIALS
AND
METHODS

Chapter III

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This chapter deals with the research design, sampling procedure, variables and their measurement, tools of data collection, statistical tests used and analytical procedures followed to interpret the data. The details of the methodology followed in the present investigation are presented under the following heads.

3.1 Research design

3.2 Locale of the study

3.3 Selection of sample

3.4 Operationalisation of variables

3.5 Data collection tools and techniques

3.6 Statistical tests used for data analysis

3.1. Research Design

The research design adopted for this study was Ex-post-facto since the phenomenon had already occurred. According to the Kerlinger (1964), Ex-post facto research is a systematic empirical enquiry in which the scientists do not have direct control of the independent variables, because their manifestation have already occurred or because they are inherently not manipulable. Hence this design was considered appropriate for the study.

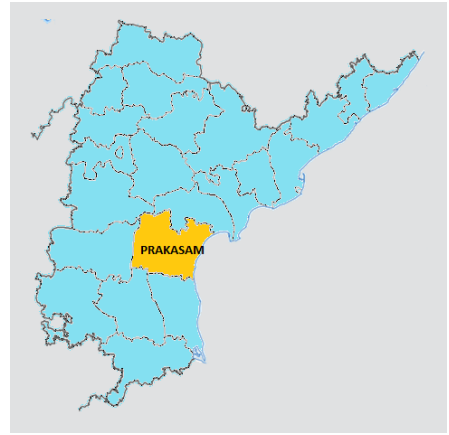
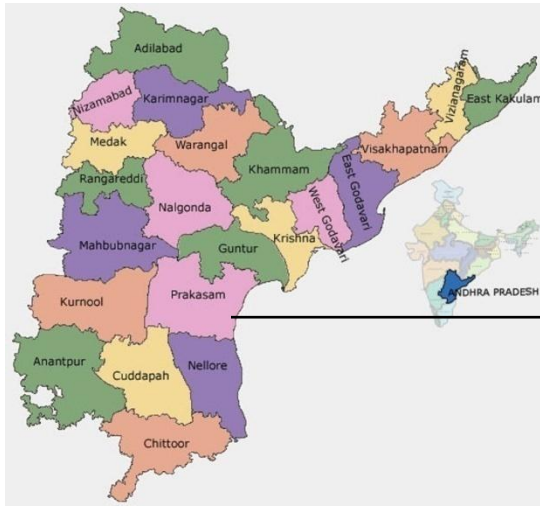
3.2 Locale of the study

The locale of the study was purposive, as ICRISAT with whom the present study was collaborated, had MGNREGA as one of the activities in different districts of Andhra

Pradesh. They launched a programme in 2009 entitled Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) under Research Programme on Markets, Institutions and Policies (RR-MIP). Tracking the changes in rural poverty is one of the objectives of the programme. Hence MGNREGA is on their agenda. Accordingly, the sample was selected from two villages of Prakasam district viz., Jalapala Cheruvu Agraharam (JCA) and Pamidipadu (PMD) of Bestavaripeta and Korisapadu Mandals respectively.

3.3 Selection of sample

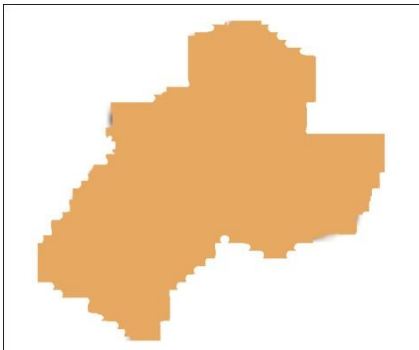
Initially, the list of beneficiaries of MGNREGA from the financial year 2008-09 was obtained from respective Grama Panchayats. Out of this 60 respondents from each village were selected randomly thus a total of 120 respondents were selected. Stratified random sampling procedure was adopted in the selection of the respondents at two villages as shown in figure 3.1.



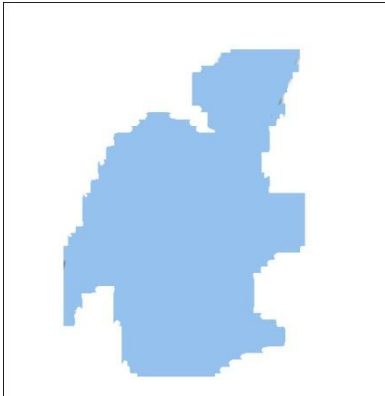
Andhra Pradesh



Prakasam District



Korisapadu Mandal



Bestavaripeta Mandal

Figure 3.1. Location of the selected villages for the study

3.4 Operationalisation of variables

Through literature survey and discussions with experts in the field of MGNREGA were carried out to identify independent and dependent variables for the study. Variables along with empirical measurements and their operational definitions are presented here under.

3.4.1 Variables and empirical measurements

The dependent and independent variables selected for the study are presented in the following table (3.1)

Table 3.1 Variables and empirical measurement

S. No	Variables	Empirical Measurement
A.	Independent variables	
1.	Age	Schedule was developed based on Socio- Economic Status scale developed by Venkataramaiah (1983), revised in (1990).
2.	Education	Schedule was developed
3.	Caste	Schedule was developed
4.	Type of house	Schedule was developed
5.	Type of family	Schedule was developed
6.	Size of family	Schedule was developed
7.	Size of land holding	Schedule was developed
8.	Occupation	Schedule was developed

9.	Family Income	Schedule was developed
10.	Work Participation	Schedule was developed
11.	Liabilities	Schedule was developed
12.	Nature and type of intervention	Schedule was developed
13.	Policy and institutional factors	Checklist was developed
B.	Dependent variables	
1	Assets - Individual assets Community assets	Schedule was developed
2	Sustainability of assets	Schedule was developed
3	Social Empowerment	Schedule was developed based on Empowerment Sustenance Index developed by Preethi (2011)

3.4.2 Operational definitions of variables

3.4.2.1 Age

Age was operationalised as the number of years completed by the respondent at the time of interview. Based on the age, the respondents were grouped as young, middle aged and adult beneficiaries. Result was tabulated as shown below.

S. No	Age Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	(18- 35 years)		
2	(36- 50 years)		
3	(above 50 years)		

3.4.2.2 Education

The variable education was operationalised as the number of years of formal education acquired by the respondent at the time of the study. The category of educational status were tabulated as shown below.

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Illiterate		
2	Primary		
3	Upper primary		
4	High school		
5	Intermediate		
6	Graduate and above		

3.4.2.3 Caste

The caste of the respondent was operationalised as the caste one has by birth. The respondents were categorized as shown below

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Schedule Caste		
2	Scheduled Tribe		
3	Backward Caste		
4	Forward Caste		

3.4.2.4 Type of House

This was operationalized as the belongingness of the dwelling of the respondent i.e whether own or rented and the type of construction. Information was collected accordingly and results were tabulated as indicated below.

Belongingness	Type of construction							
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4	
	JCA	PMD	JCA	PMD	JCA	PMD	JCA	PMD
Own house								
Rented house								

Category 1 - Strong walls with RCC roof,

Category 2 - Strong walls and other type of roof,

Category 3 - Mud walls with thatched roof,

Category 4 - Mud walls with other roofs.

3.4.2.5 Type of family

Traditionally family is basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group, whether dwelling together or not. In the present study type of family was operationalized as a group of people who share a blood bond living together in one house either respondent's family, i.e., husband, wife and their children (nuclear) or respondents family along with parents and brothers families (joint family) or respondents family with parents and in-laws family (extended). The obtained data was thus categorized and presented as indicated below.

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Nuclear family		
2	Joint family		
3	Extended joint family		

3.4.2.6 Size of family

The family size of the respondent was operationalised as a number of persons living together in one house.

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Small family		
2	Medium family		
3	Large family		

3.4.2.7 Farm size

The extent of land in hectares owned by the family, whether cultivable or non-cultivable was operationalized as farm size. Based on the farm size, the respondents were categorized as shown below.

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Small (0.01-2.5acres)		
2	Medium (Above 2.5 - 7 acres)		
3	Large: (above 7 acres)		

3.4.2.8 Occupation

It is the livelihood undertaken by individuals to earn money to meet the monetary needs of the family. The respondents were classified as under.

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD

		JCA	PMD
1	Agriculture		
2	Livestock		
3	Farm labour		
4	Caste occupation		
5	Nonfarm work		

3.4.2.9 Family income

Family income was operationalised as the income received in rupees from farm including animal husbandry and on-farm sources such as labour, wage employment, caste occupation, entrepreneurship, etc. Respondents were categorized as detailed below

S. No	Category	Status	
		%	
		JCA	PMD
1	Very low		
2	Low		
3	Medium		
4	High		
5	Very high		

3.4.2.10 Work Participation

It was operationalised as the total wage days worked in an year, including MGNREGA. Data was obtained and classified into general wage days and MGNREGA wage days. Lean period was identified by deducting total wage days from 365. Empirical data was presented as shown below.

Village	Work participation days (frequency & percentage)

	Total year		General Work		NREGA Work		Lean period	
	fre	%	fre	%	fre	%	fre	%
JCA								
PMD								

3.4.2.11 Liabilities

A claim against the asset or legal obligations of a person arising out of past or current transactions or actions was the operational definition of liabilities. Accordingly data was collected and tabulated.

S. No	Category	Status	
		JCA	PMD
1	Bank loan		
2	Cooperative		
3	SHG loan		
4	Local Money lenders		

3.4.2.12 Nature and type of interventions

This variable was operationalised as the succeeding and supporting activities under taken by the respondents on their own, whether farm or nonfarm, after participation in MGNREGA activity.

Intervention of work					
		JCA		PMD	
Work	Type of intervention	No of respondent	%	No of respondent	%

3.4.2.13 Policy and institutional factors

The policy and institutional factors was operationalised as the modus-operandi designed by GOI to adhere for the effective implementation of MGNREGA activities. A checklist was prepared to collect the data whether it was adhered or not. A score of one and zero was assigned for yes and no respectively. Thus 18 was maximum score of each respondent.

S. No	Policy issue	JCA %	PMD %

3.4.3 Individual Asset creation

It refers to the creation of assets that the respondent secured in terms of wage employment, land development and purchase of materials due to participation in MGNREGA works. The unit of measurement was amount of money earned or spent on the intervention. The mean scores were presented as detailed below.

	Wage employment	Land development	Material procurement	Total
JCA				

PMD				
------------	--	--	--	--

3.4.4 Community asset creation

Creation of community assets that strengthen the livelihood resource base of rural areas is one of the key objectives of MGNREGA. In the present study also it was operationalised as the activities undertaken to develop the resource to enhance the livelihood of the community. The data was descriptively narrated as it were collected through focus group discussion.

3.4.5 Sustainability of assets

In general terms, sustainability is the endurance of systems and processes. Since the MGNREGA activities focus on farm activities, the variable was operationalised in the present study as the status of continuity of farming after MGNREGA. The data obtained was subjected to paired t test to compute the significance of sustainability.

3.4.6 Social empowerment

Social empowerment is generally understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships. In the context of MGNREGA, the variable in the present study was defined as the possession of the respondents on attributes like leadership, communication, decision making and accessing information.

An interview schedule on two point continuum yes or no, was developed on four major attributes, suitable modifying the empowerment sustenance index developed by Preethi (2011). The attribute of leadership consists of 12 statements, thus the maximum score was 12. Similarly, communication skills on 8 statements, decision making skills 9 statements and accessing information 3 statements and maximum scores were 8, 9 and 3 respectively. The respondents were interviewed whether they possess the attribute or not to

find out the social empowerment after participation in MGNREGA. The index value was computed and presented.

S. No	Attribute	Mean		Index	
		JCA	PMD	JCA	PMD
1	Leadership skills				
2	Communication skills				
3	Decision making skills				
4	Accessing information skills				

3.5. Data collection tools and techniques

3.5.1 Development of schedules

Interview schedules were developed for collection of data profile characteristics like age, education, caste, type of house, type of family, size of family, size of land holding, occupation and family income of respondents.

A check list was developed to identify the status of observation of policy and institutional factors in implementation of MGNREGA.

Through an interview schedule, and focus group discussion information with regard to individual asset creation, community asset creation and sustainability were collected.

Schedule was developed based to measure the social empowerment based on Empowerment Sustenance Index developed by Preethi (2011).



Plate 3.1. Personal interaction with respondent



Plate 3.2. Focus group discussion

3.5.2 Establishing necessary rapport

Establishing rapport with NREGA beneficiaries was very important task. In the first few days of investigation informal contacts were made with the personal and local

leaders. This helped the researcher to receive their cooperation in giving valid and reliable information.

3.5.3 Method of data collection

Data was collected through personal interviews. Focused group discussions were held to collect information on policy and institutional factors, community assets and suggestions for effective implementation of the programme.

3.6. Statistical tests used for data analysis

The following statistical tools were used to analyze the data collected, after converting raw scores into Z scores.

Table 3.2 Operationalisation of variables

S. No	Objective	Variables	Measurement tool	Analysis pattern
1	To study the profile characteristics of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme in selected villages of Prakasam district.	1. Age 2. Education 3. Caste 4. Type of house 5. Type of family 6. Size of land holding 7. Occupation 8. Family income 9. Work participation 10. Liabilities 11. Nature and type of intervention 12. Policy and institutional factors	Interview schedule	Percentage

2	To assess the impact of MGNREGA on individual and community assets creation.	Individual and community assets	Interview schedule	Percentage and Correlation
3	To evaluate the sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA in the selected villages.	Sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA	Interview schedule	Paired t test
4	To assess the extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA in the selected sample.	Extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA	Interview schedule	Index values
5	To suggest policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created in the communities.	Policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created	Check list	Percentage

3.6.1 Frequency

Frequency was used to know the distribution pattern of the respondents according to the variables.

3.6.2 Percentage

Percentage were used for standardization of size by calculating the number of individuals that would be in a given category if the total number of cases were 100.

3.6.3 Index

An index was obtained for all respondents on the indicators of empowerment sustenance by the formula

Empowerment sustenance index = (the obtained score of the respondents on the
Indicators / Maximum possible score for the
Indicators) * 100

3.6.4 Two sample t-test

To measure the significance of difference in mean score of respondents between before MGNREGA and after MGNREGA farming.

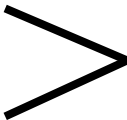
3.6.5 Correlation

Correlation was drawn between profile characteristics and the dependent variables to find out the relation between profile characteristics and dependent variables.

Conceptual frame work of the study

Independent variables

- Age
- Education
- Caste
- Type of house
- Type of family
- Size of family
- Size of land holding
- Occupation
- Family income
- Work participation
- Liabilities
- Nature and type of intervention
- Policy and institutional factors



Dependent variables

- Assets-
 - Individual assets
 - Community assets
- Sustainability of assets
- Social empowerment

Figure 3.2. Conceptual frame work of the study

RESULTS
AND
DISCUSSION

Chapter IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals with the findings of the study, which was conducted with ex post facto research design to study the impact of MGNREGA on individual and community asset creation in two villages of Prakasam district, A.P. The two villages were J.C. Agraharam (JCA) and Pamidipadu (PMD). Data was collected regarding independent and dependent variables and subjected to statistical analysis. The results, thus obtained from two villages were presented under following heads.

4.1 Profile characteristics of respondents

This section deals with the findings and discussions regarding profile of the respondents in terms of their age, education, caste, type of house, type of family, size of family, size of land holding, occupation, family income, work participation, liabilities, nature and type of intervention undertaken and observance of policy and institutional factors of respondents.

4.2 Assessment of MGNREGA on individual and community asset creation

It deals with the individual assets created due to participation in MGNREGA like land development, wage employment, and materials procured for personal comfort and community assets that enhanced village livelihood.

4.3 Sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA

The status of continuity of assets created after participation in MGNREGA is presented under this head.

4.4 Assessment of extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA

It deals with the social empowerment attained by the respondents due to participation in MGNREGA activities.

4.5 Policy recommendations for the sustainability of assets

Keeping in view the empirical evidences, policy recommendations are suggested in this section.

4.1. Profile of MGNREGA respondents

The general profile included age of the respondents, education qualification, caste, type of house, family type and size, land holding size, occupation and family income of the respondents.

4.1.1 Age

Age was operationalized as the number of years completed by the respondent at the time of interview. Based on the age, the respondents were grouped as young, middle aged and adult beneficiaries. Results are tabulated as shown below.

Table 4.1.1. Age categorization of respondents in two villages

n1= 60, n2=60

Category	Respondents			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Young (18- 35 years)	8	13.3	4	6.7
Middle (36- 50 years)	29	48.3	17	28.3
Adult (above 50 years)	23	38.3	39	65.0

n1=JCA, n2= PMD

The common feature in both the villages was, a lowest percentage of MGNREGA beneficiaries were young. In JCA majority were middle aged (48.3%), while majority (65%) were adults in PMD. Similar results were reported by Joseph and Eswaran (2006). They studied Integrated Rural Development Program in Aizwal district of Mijoram and reported that majority of the respondents were aged between 40 and 60 years, followed by 30.77 % falling below 40 years and 15.38 %t falling above 60 years. Though above

18years is said to be the eligible age for MGNREGA beneficiaries, people might be actively involving after thirty six years. Either perusing higher education or search of some other occupation which may have more monetary returns were seems to be the reasons. The data was diagrammatically represented in figure 4.1.

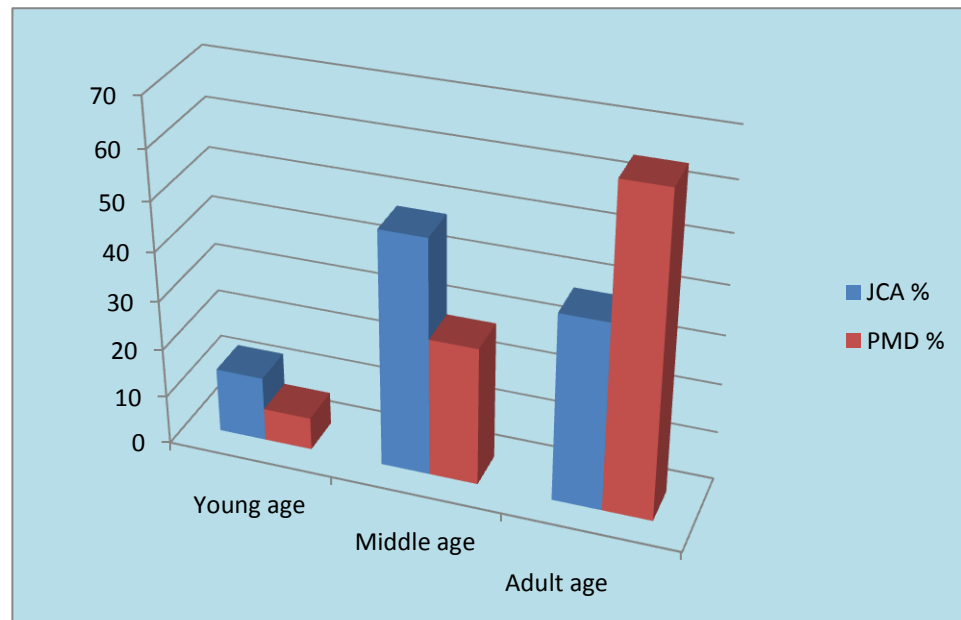


Figure 4.1. Age categorization of respondents

It was also observed from the data that male were more than female. The policy norms envisage 1/3rd of the beneficiaries should be female. In the present study more than 90% were male beneficiaries.

4.1.2 Educational status

The educational status of respondent was operationalized as the formal education undergone. The data accordingly collected revealed the following results as shown in table (4.1.2)

Table 4.1.2. Educational status of the respondents in two villages

n1= 60, n2=60

Category	Respondents			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Illiterate	30	50.0	28	46.7
Primary	6	10.0	15	25.0
Upper primary	6	10.0	8	13.3
High school	14	23.3	4	6.7
Intermediate	2	3.3	2	3.3
Graduate and above	1	1.7	3	5.0

n1=JCA, n2= PMD

A majority were illiterate in both the villages. However, heterogeneity among the remaining respondents could be observed, as the educational status ranged from primary to graduation and above categories. At times of team or collective action, heterogeneity may be a constraint. But sometimes come to rescue, especially when reading and understanding the information or literature solving the problems and making decisions. This status is in accordance with Pattanaik (2009), who reported educational status of beneficiaries of Hoshiarpur, Punjab as 50% illiterate and primary educated, 20% upto middle school and 25% secondary or higher educated. Pictorial representation is below.

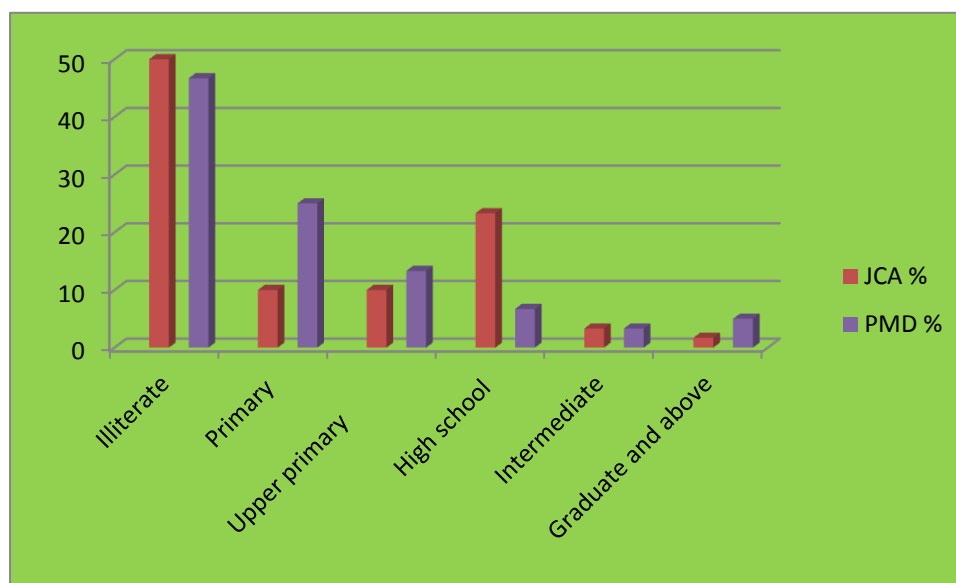


Figure 4.2. Educational status of the respondents

4.1.3 Caste

Caste was operationally defined as the one attained by birth. The data is presented in the following table (4.1.3)

Table 4.1.3. Caste composition of respondents in two villages

n₁= 60, n₂= 60

Category	Respondents			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Schedule Caste	17	28.3	6	10.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0	3	5.0
Backward Caste	24	40.0	17	28.3
Forward Caste	19	31.7	34	56.7

n₁=JCA, n₂= PMD

Most of the respondents of JCA belongs to backward caste, followed by forward and scheduled castes. Situation was different in Pamidipadu, as forward caste was higher than backward caste, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. The dominant caste groups of the villages were the majority MGNREG beneficiaries. Jadhav (2008) observed in a field study from the Marathwada region in Maharashtra that the upper castes were favoured at the time of allocation of work by allowing them to work on soft soil worksites, while the lower castes were given hard soil ones. But here in the present study no such domination was found.

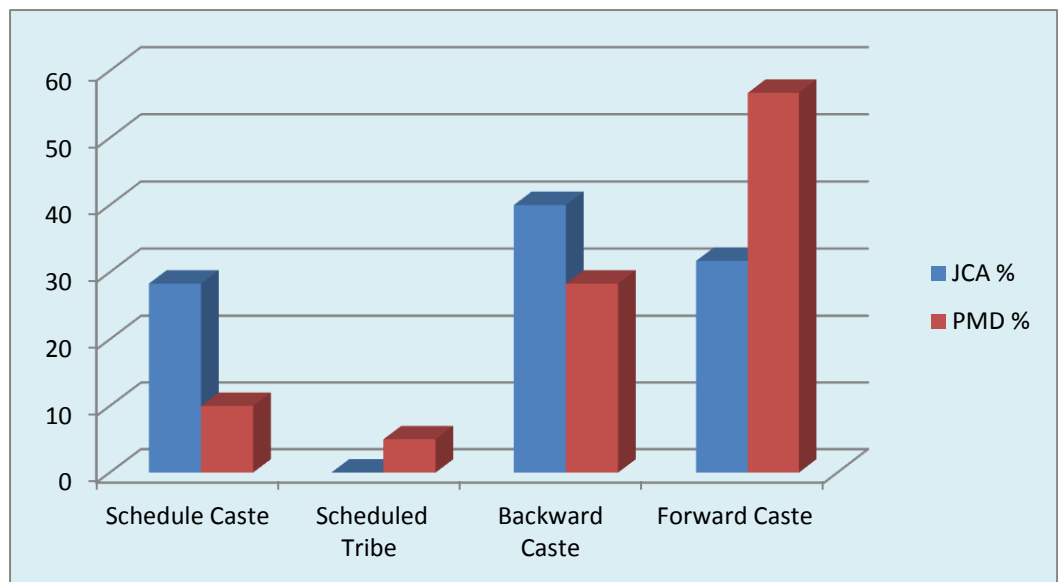


Figure 4.3. Caste composition of respondents

4.1.4 Type of house

This was operationalized as the belongingness of the dwelling of the respondent i.e whether own or rented and the type of construction. Information was collected accordingly and results were computed. Data revealed that almost all of them possess own house with a variation of nature of housing, which was presented in the following table.

Table 4.1.4 Housing condition of respondents in two villages

n₁= 60, n₂= 60

Village	Respondents' status			
	%			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 1	Category 2
JCA	70.0	23.3	5.0	1.7
PMD	56.7	36.7	5.0	3.3

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

Category 1 - Strong walls with RCC roof,

Category 2 - Strong walls and other type of roof,

Category 3 - Mud walls with thatched roof,

Category 4 - Mud walls with other roofs.

The nature of houses was found based on the category of construction as mentioned above. Majority had category 1 type of house in both the villages, followed by category 2. Least percentage was found in category 3&4. It can be concluded that in both the villages, respondents were possessing pakka houses, which is one of the indications of development.

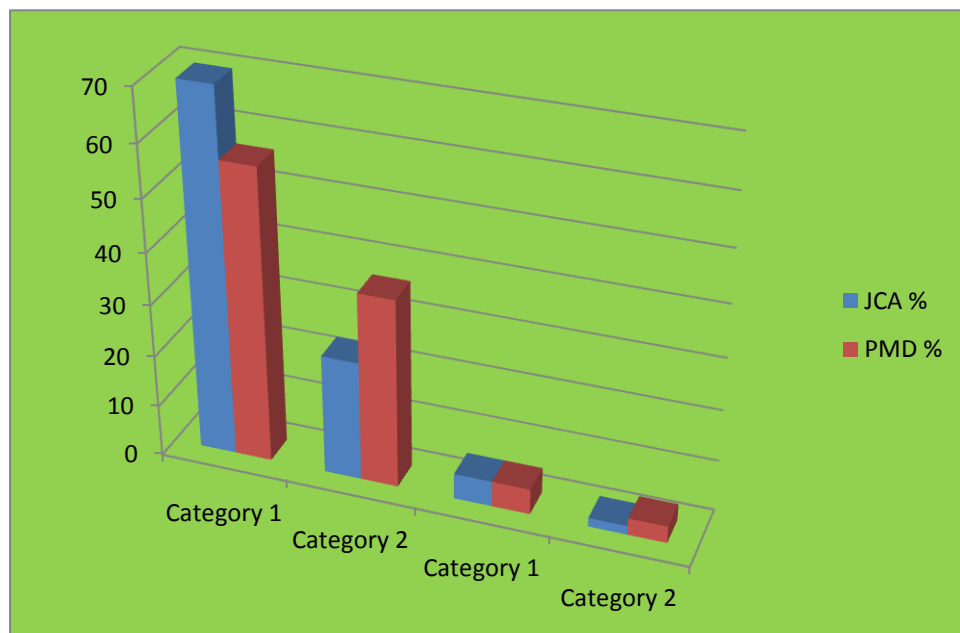


Figure 4.4 Housing conditions of the respondents

4.1.5 Type of families

Type of family was operationalized as a group of people who share a blood bond living together in one house either respondent's family, i.e., husband, wife and their children (nuclear) or respondents family along with parents and brothers families (joint family) or respondents family with parents and in-laws family (extended).The data is presented in the table (4.1.5)

Table 4.1.5. Type of families in two villages

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Type	Respondents status			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Nuclear family	42	70.0	40	66.7
Joint family	3	5.0	0	0.0
Extended joint family	15	25.0	20	33.3

n₁=JCA, n₂=PMD

Nuclear families were more common in both the villages. Extended families also existed to a considerable extent. Menon (2008) reported that the households as nuclear family are given importance according to the operation guidelines of MGNREGA act.

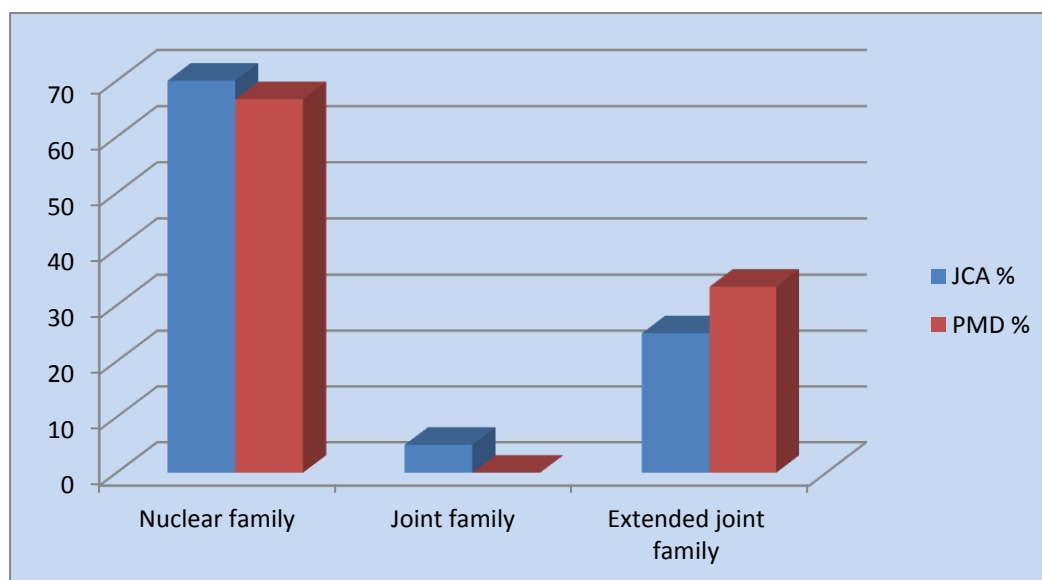


Figure 4.5. Type of families of the respondents

4.1.6 Size of families

The family size of the respondent was operationalised as a number of persons living together in one house. The family with three members was small four to six was medium and above six was large. Hence data was collected to find out the total number of family members. Result is presented in below table (4.1.6)

Table 4.1.6. Size of families in two villages

$n_1 = 60, n_2 = 60$

Category	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Small family	41	68.3	44	73.3
Medium family	17	28.3	14	23.3
Large family	2	3.3	2	3.3

$n_1 = \text{JCA}, n_2 = \text{PMD}$

Majority in both the villages were small in size, followed by medium and large. Being nuclear families more in number, naturally majority of the families were small. Though there were extend families, large families were less; but medium families were at considerable extent. This was because only adults were living, while youngsters were out in search of some other livelihood in nearby towns. Similar findings were reported by Reddy (1990) and Padmalatha (1993). The family size in rural setup is decreasing in their findings.

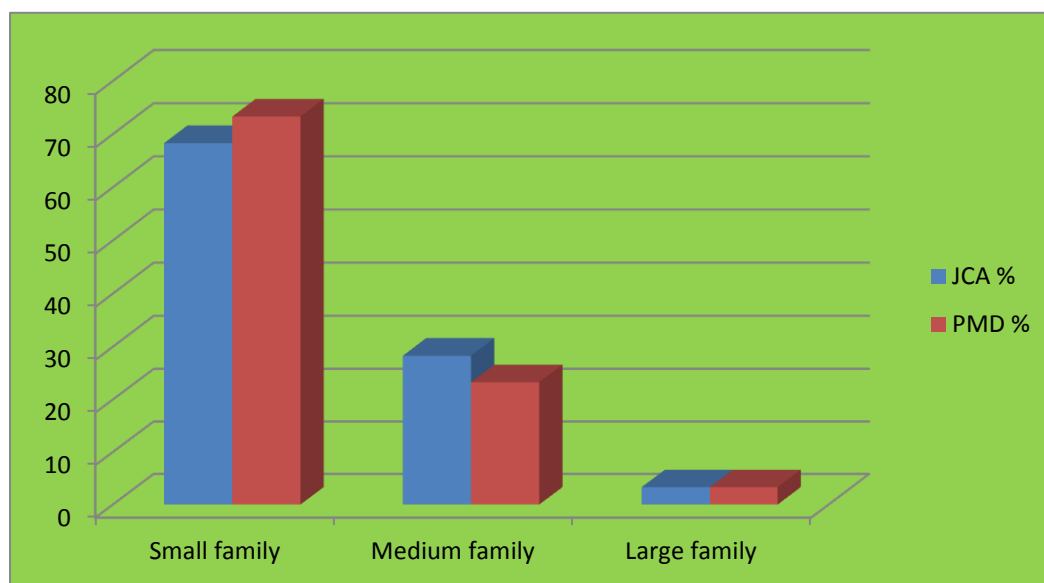


Figure 4.6. Size of families of the respondents

4.1.7 Farm size

The extent of land in hectares owned by the family, whether cultivable or non-cultivable was operationalized as farm size. Based on the farm size, the respondents were categorized as shown in 4.1.7.

Table 4.1.7. Farm size of respondents

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Category	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Small (0.01-2.5acres)	34	56.7	30	50.0
Medium (above 2.5 - 7 acres)	16	26.7	19	31.7
Large (above 7 acres)	10	16.6	11	18.3

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

Table 4.1.7 shows the land owned by the respondents' family for cultivation. Half of the respondents in both the villages were small farmers. Less than one third of them were medium farmers. However there were large farmers also, but less in number. It could be concluded that MGNREGA beneficiaries comprise of all categories of farmers, but mostly small, followed by small. Highest per capita income, consumption, expenditure was enjoyed by small farmers than the off farm laborers and farm laborers was reported by Khodasker (2001).

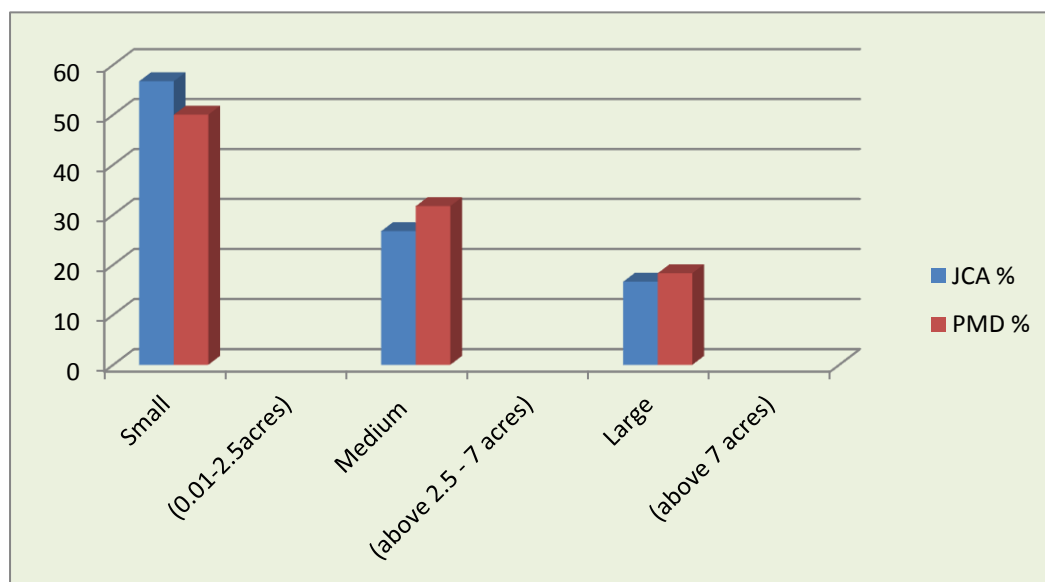


Figure 4.7. Farm sizes of the respondents

4.1.8 Occupation

It was the livelihood undertaken by individuals to earn money to meet the monetary needs of the family. The respondents were classified as under. Data on occupation in both the villages is presented below.

Table 4.1.8. Occupation of the respondents in two villages

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Occupation	Status%			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Agriculture	34	56.7	49	81.7

Livestock	1	1.7	1	1.7
Farm labour	12	20.0	5	8.3
Caste occupation	2	3.3	1	1.7
Nonfarm work	11	18.3	4	6.7

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

A majority of the respondents in JCA had agriculture (56.7%), followed by farm labour (20%) and nonfarm works (18.3%) as occupation. Caste occupations and livestock were very less. In PMD, there were more agriculturists (81.7%). Farm labourers and nonfarm workers were less compared to JCA. It could be concluded that MGNREGA beneficiaries were mostly agriculturists, followed by farm labourers and non-farm workers. Those who have livestock and caste occupation as occupations were not participating in MGNREGA.

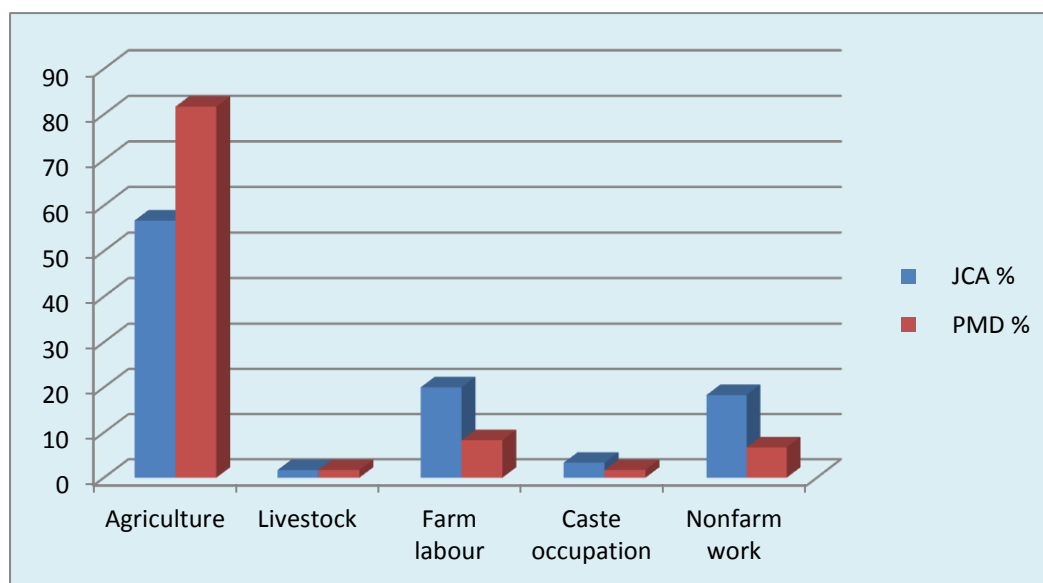


Figure 4.8. Occupation of the respondents

4.1.9 Family Income

Family income was operationalised as the income received in rupees from farm and allied activities and on-farm sources such as labour, wage employment, caste occupation, entrepreneurship, etc. Based on the family income the respondents were classified into categories following categories as presented in table 4.1.9

Table 4.1.9. Income categorization of respondents in two villages**n₁= 60, n₂= 60**

Category	Respondents			
	JCA		PMD	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Very low (below Rs 60,000)	9	15.0	5	8.3
Low (>Rs. 60,00- 1,00,000)	20	33.3	18	30.0
Medium (>Rs. 1,00,000 – 2,00,000)	26	43.3	30	50.0
High (>Rs. 2,00,001-4,00,000)	5	8.3	7	11.7
Very high (> Rs.4,00,000)	0	0	0	0

n₁ = JCA, n₂ =PMD

With regard to family income, the results revealed uniform distribution of the respondents in both villages. Most of them were belonging to medium income group (43.3% & 50%), followed by low (33.3% & 30.0%) in JCA and PMD respectively. Compared to PMD, there were more respondents in very low income group (15%) and less in high income group (8.3%) in JCA. It is to be specifically noted that none of the respondents were very high, confirming that MGNREGA is for the poor for their poverty alleviation. The annual income level of the majority of the respondents was reported low by Khodasker (2001). Sankari and Murugan (2009) studied impact of MGNREGA in Udangudi Panchayat Union, Tamil Nadu and reported that out of 80 respondents, nine respondents belonged to the income group up to 15,000 (11.25%), 35 respondents households had income between Rs. 15,000-30,000 (43.75%), 25 respondents belonged the income group between 30,000-45,000 (31.25%), and only 11 respondents had income between 45,000-60,000 (13.75%) respectively. The present results were in accordance with it.

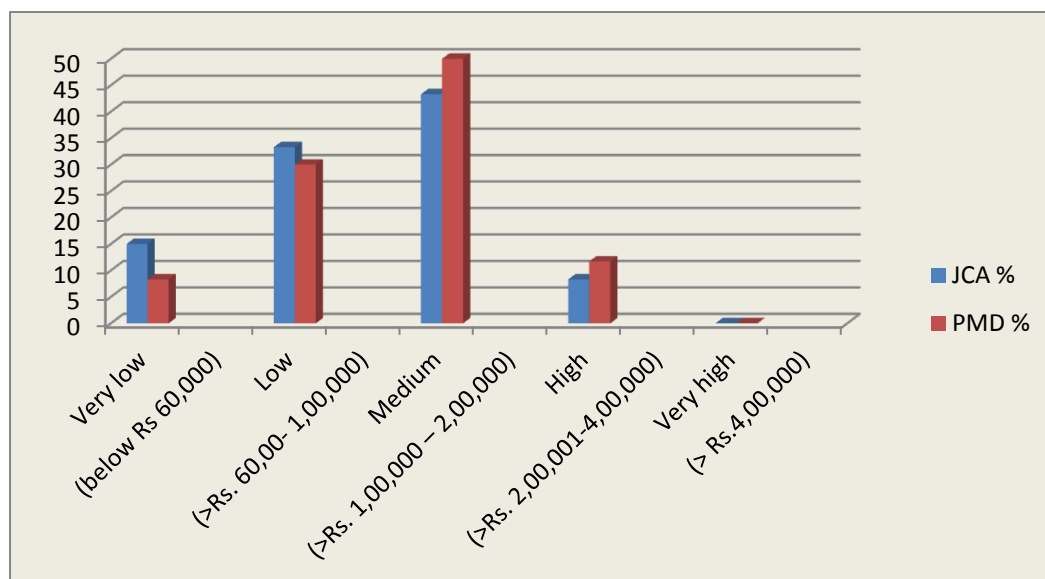


Figure 4.9. Income categorization of the respondents

4.1.10 Work participation

It was operationalised as the total wage days worked in one year, including MGNREGA. Data for five years from 2008 to 2012 was obtained and computed the average mean score. The wage days were categorized as general wage days and MGNREGA wage days. Lean period was identified by deducting total wage days from 365. Based on the data, the general works days, MGNAREGA works days and lean period were derived and presented in table 4.1.10.

Table 4.1.10. Work participation of respondents

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Village	Work participation days							
	Total working days		General works days		MGNREGA works days		Lean period	
	Mean score	%	Mean score	%	Mean score	%	Mean score	%
JCA	310.5	85.1	239.1	65.1	73.6	20.2	54.5	14.7
PMD	350.0	95.9	250.0	68.5	100.0	27.4	15	4.1

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

The total working days above 300 days, ranging from 85-96% in a year, could be noted from the above table. Out of this, 20 to 27% was MGNREGA while remaining general. As majority of the respondents were agriculturists, the general working days could be attributed to farming activities. The range of this was between 65- 68%. The contribution MGNREGA works period was 73- 100 days, was almost fulfilling the norms of MGNREGA. The mandate of the Act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Compared to JCA, PMD has almost 28 days less, because for the past two years no works were carried during 2010-12, due to some fraud in payments. The respondents reported at the time of investigation, that the issue got resolved.

Lean period could be considered as low in both the villages. The lean period has reduced after the introduction of MGNREGA could be interpreted from the data.

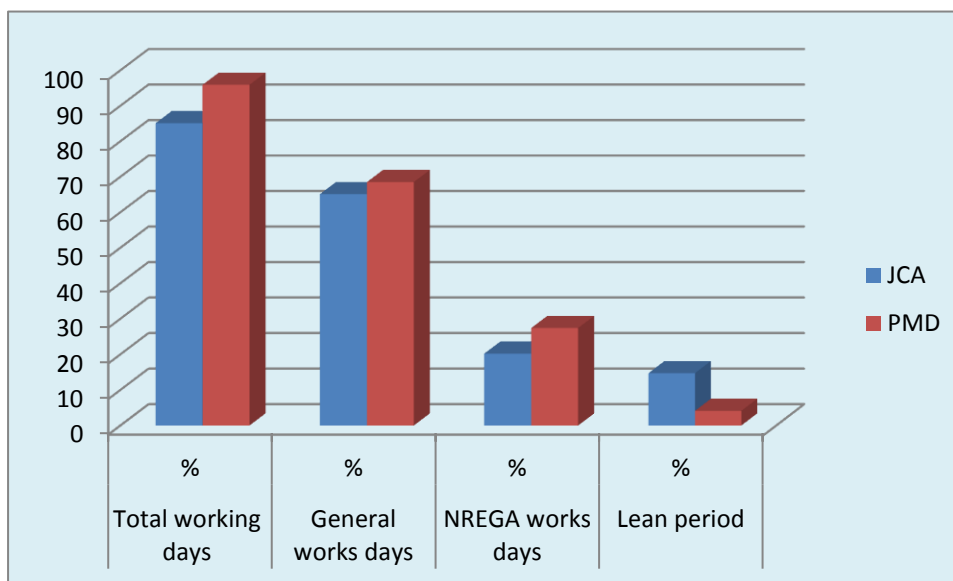


Figure 4.10. Work participation of the respondents

4.1.11 Liabilities

A claim against the asset or legal obligations of a person arising out of past or current transactions or actions was the operational definition of liabilities. Accordingly data was collected with regard to the number of respondents availed the facility of credit and tabulated.

Table 4.1.11. Liabilities of respondents before and after participation in MGNREGA in two villages

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Category	% Respondents before and after participation in MGNREGA			
	JCA		PMD	
	Before	After	Before	After
Bank loan	10.0	43.3	15.0	60.0
Cooperative loan	0	0	3.3	3.3
SHG loan	8.3	41.7	43.3	71.7
Local money lender	6.7	30.0	1.7	11.7

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

It was observed that the respondents had four major liabilities, viz., loans from nationalized banks, cooperative banks, SHG and also from local money lenders, which means that both institutional and non-institutional lending had increased after participation in MGNREGA. Liabilities, in general has enhanced after participation in MGNREGA. Availing credit facility from banks has increased from 10.0 to 43.3 % in JCA and it is still higher in PMD from 15 to 60.0 %. Next to this was SHG, which was increased to almost 30% in both the villages. In spite of these institutional facilities, lending from local money lender had also increased. This is an alarming situation as usually the rate of interest would be very high in local lending. One of the agenda of all poverty alleviation programmes is safe guarding rural poor from the clutches of local money lenders. This issue needs some attention of Governance.

4.1.12 Nature and type of interventions

This variable was operationalized as the succeeding and supporting activities under taken by the respondents on their own, whether farm or nonfarm, after participation in MGNREGA activity. As MGNREGA was in operation from 2008 onwards in both the villages, the data was reviewed since then and presented below in terms of the number of respondents undertaken the works and interventions.

Table 4.1.12. Intervention of work

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Work	Type of intervention	JCA		PMD	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Jungle cutting	Land levelling	14	23.3	13	21.7
	Cleaning	7	11.7	4	6.7
	Silting and cleaning	2	3.3	2	3.3
	Machinery	8	13.3	5	8.3
	Jungle cutting	4	6.7	8	13.3
Silting	Land levelling	6	10.0	6	10.0
	Cleaning	3	5.0	0	0.0
	Silting and cleaning	2	3.3	0	0.0
	Machinery	1	0.0	2	3.3
	Jungle cutting	1	1.7	5	8.3
Canal work	Land levelling	4	6.7	0	0.0
	Cleaning	4	6.7	2	3.3
	Silting and cleaning	2	3.3	0	0.0
	Machinery	0	0.0	6	10.0
	Jungle cutting	2	3.3	4	6.7
Farm pond	Land levelling	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Cleaning	0	0.0	1	1.7
	Silting and cleaning	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Machinery	0	0.0	2	3.3
	Jungle cutting	0	0.0	0	0.0

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

There were four works under MGNREGA, viz., jungle cutting, silting, canal works and farm pond in both villages. These four existing in the approved list of MGNREGA activities, under watershed related works. Under each of the work, certain interventions were carried out in succeeding years like land levelling, cleaning, silting and jungle cutting. The data also revealed use of mechanical labour for certain operations. The respondents reported that they utilized it when it was impossible for human labour. The intervention occurred whenever and wherever necessary. Mechanical interventions were also observed in both villages.

Field study of IHD (2009c) points out that the maximum works undertaken in Andhra Pradesh were land development works (45 per cent), followed by conservation of water bodies and related works (28.9 per cent). Paul J. Ferraro (2002) identified that the more popular initiatives in conservation of ecosystem is the use of development interventions in the peripheral areas of endangered ecosystems. Dumanski and Pieri (2000) noted that the impact(s) of human interventions on the landscape for the major agro ecological zones of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate environments.

Inadequate technical support for planning physical works (especially activities like de-silting tanks, bundling of agriculture fields, etc.) appears to be a major reason for poor quality of works completed. As part of MGNREGS works the village Gram Sabha's have taken up development of such lands, thereby ensuring that such land owners would be able to cultivate hitherto barren and uncultivable lands. This particular work is more popular in the villages of Andhra Pradesh (such works accounted for over 20 per cent of total works in the state in 2009) as that enabled small and marginal cultivators to engage in crop cultivation, in several cases for the first time in their life. Families who earned from MGNREGS works were able to invest in children's education, health, repayment of old debt, and for other such useful purposes.

4.1.13 Policy institutional factors

It was considered as the norms envisaged by MGNREGA to be adhered in implementation. Such norms were identified through literature survey and eighteen were

prepared as check list and obtained the answers yes or no. The results as shown in table 4.1.13

Table 4.1.13. Observance of policy institutional factors in implementation of MGNREGA

n₁= 60, n₂= 60

S.No	Policy issue	JCA %	PMD %
1	Submission of written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat	95.0	86.7
2	Verification for the issue of Job Card from the Gram Panchayat	98.3	81.7
3	Job Card issued within 15 days of application	11.7	6.7
4	Submission of written application to the Gram Panchayat for employment	100.0	100.0
5	Provided employment within 15 days.	16.7	10.0
6	Daily unemployment allowance as per the act is paid, when not provided within 15 days	20.0	25.0
7	Work provided within 5 km of radius from the village	91.7	95.0
8	Minimum wages was paid according to the Act 1948 for agricultural laborers	31.7	26.7
9	Piece rate wages were paid.	90.0	78.3
10	Wages paid through Bank / post	100.0	100.0
11	One-third beneficiaries were women	21.7	16.7
12	Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade were provided (any other facility other than the above may be specified)	15.0	11.7
13	Projects were identified as per the recommendation of	98.3	100.0

	Gram Sabha		
14	Gram Panchayats executed 50% of works	88.3	93.3
15	Works included water and soil conservation, a forestation and land development works	86.7	88.3
16	A 60:40 wage and material ration has to be maintained	23.3	20.0
17	No contractors and no machinery was entertained	91.7	93.3
18	Social Audit was to be done by the Gram Sabha	86.7	90.0

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

The data reveals that two factors item submission of written application to the Gram Panchayat for employment (item 4) and wage payment through Bank / post office (10) were being observed in both the villages. Another factor scored maximum was identification of projects as per the recommendation of grama sabha (item 13).

Job Card issued within 15 days of application (item 3), providing employment within 15 days(item 5), daily unemployment allowance as per the act is paid, when not provided within 15 days(item 8), one-third beneficiaries were women(item 11), providing work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water and shade (item 12) and maintenance of payment of 60:40 wage and material ration were the factors not being followed in both the villages with some exception of numbers.

The norms were drawn keeping I view the past experiences and constrains encountered in achieving the objective of providing rural employment. Almost 50% of the norms were neglected. If not controlled this may lead to process constraints, hindering the execution thereby, employment generation.

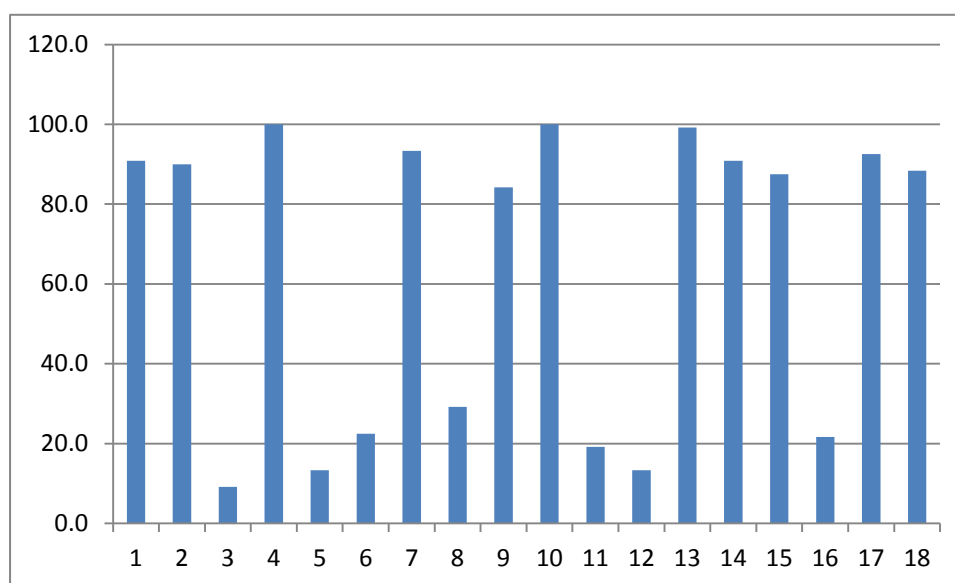


Figure 4.1.13. Observance of policy institutional factors

4.2 Assessment of impact of MGNREGA on individual and community asset creation

The impact of MGNREGA was computed by assessing the individual asset creation and community assets.

4.2.1 Individual asset creation

It was operationalized as creation of assets that the respondent secured in terms of wage employment, land development and purchase of materials due to participation in MGNREGA works. While wage employment was an earning, land development and purchase of materials were the indicative of purchasing capacity of the respondents.

4.2.1.1 Wage employment

Wage employment was amount earned for the work they worked under MGNREGA. The data obtained for five years, i.e., from 2008 to 2012 is depicted below in terms of mean scores of man days and amount paid is presented in table 4.2.1.

Table 4.2.1.1. Individual asset creation of the respondents-wage employment**n₁= 60, n₂= 60**

Village	Wage man days/amount									
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Days	Rs.	Days	Rs.	Days	Rs.	Days	Rs.	Days	Rs.
JCA	92.25	99.67	74.58	79.58	59.17	67.25	59.88	66.33	58.23	61.33
PMD	86.6	100.0	78.8	92.8	68.9	92.9	--	--	--	--

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD**4.2.1.2 Land development**

The respondents spent some amount to make the land cultivable after partnership in MGNREGA. The regarding was collected and mean expenditure is tabulated below.

Table 4.2.1.2. Amount spent on land development (Rs. In lakhs)**n₁= 60, n₂= 60**

Village	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
JCA	4.23	8.23	7.4	5.92	5.22	31.0
PMD	6.6	9.82	8.99	8.91	7.98	42.3

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

When observed in table 4.1.7, it is clear that most of the farmers were small, followed by medium. In spite of that some substantial amount was spent during the five years of study on land development. MGNREGA has acted as an initiative and also motivator to make maximum use of available land for cultivation. Developed land has thus become the created asset because of participation in MGNREGA. PMD was observed to be spent more than JAC. Probably there were more medium and large farmers compared to JAC. Per capita investment might be claimed as Rs. 0.5 and 0.7 lakhs in JAC and PMD respectively.

Shah(2008, that the emphasis on creation of public productive assets under MGNREGA, such as land development, water conservation and water harvesting structures, drought proofing, irrigation facilities etc has significant bearing on development of smallholder productive assets, land, livestock, tree covers, irrigation works all related to use in agriculture. The land owners have taken up development of barren and uncultivable lands is more popular in the villages of Andhra Pradesh (such works accounted for over 20 per cent of total works in the state in 2009) as that enabled small and marginal cultivators to engage in crop cultivation, in several cases for the first time in their life (IHD: 2009c). The present results were also in accordance with it.



Plate 4.1. Land development by MGNREGA in J C Agraharam

4.2.1.3 Material Procurement

Due to some returns from land and earnings from wage employment the purchasing capacity of the respondents increased, which they spent on purchase of certain items. The details are presented below.

Table 4.2.1.3. Amount spent by the respondents on material procurement (Rs. lakhs)

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

Village	House repairs	Livestock	Electrical and electronic goods	Transport vehicles	Payment of education fee	Total
JCA	1.47	1.55	5.47	0.05	0.24	8.78
PMD	1.46	0.6	0.81	1.81	0.17	4.99

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

The earnings were diverted for procurement of materials is evident from the data. The respondents attained varied benefits. House, the basic amenity of life was attended. Livestock like buffalos, enrich the diet as well as provide additional income. Electrical and electronic goods reduce drudgery. Transport vehicles saves time as well as facilitate comfort. Some amount was spent on payment of educational fee. High expenditure, almost 50% more could be concluded in JCA compared to PMD, because of purchase of electronic and electrical goods.

4.2.2 Community asset creation

In the present study also it was operationalised as the activities undertaken to develop the resource base of the village to enhance the livelihood of the community. The data was descriptively narrated.

4.2.2.1 Community asset creation in JCA

Community works taken under MGNREGA programme in JCA were de silting of village ponds, jungle cutting and canal works. Desilting of JCA, was done almost every year since the initiation of programme. The pond was 4km away from the village and it occupies 200 acres of land. At the time of investigation it was reported that for about 10 years there was no water. After taking up desilting and jungle cutting works, there is

increase in water level. Irepalle pond is another pond 4 km away from the village and it occupies about 25 acres of land. With jungle cutting, this water body was made. Another pond by name Sitaiahwas about 3 km from the village. Desilting and pond bundling activities saved the pond. Ooragunta and dapillegunta were very close to village, about one kilo meter. Desilting and jungle cutting activities activated ground water bodies of the village. Jungle cutting cleared the road of 40 KM joining JCA with other villages, viz., Pitikikavala, Kottapeta, Gantapuram and Kazzipuram. Otherwise it was problematic road to use two wheeler. Now auto rickshaws and heavy vehicles like tractors and trucks could be driven safely. Over all the infrastructure facilities increased.

4.2.2.2 Community asset creation in PMD

In PMD, MGNREGA was in operation from 2008. But, due to some political interference and misuse of field assets, no execution from 2011. However, desilting of two ponds popularly called as Vuricheruvulu (village ponds) which occupies ten and five acres respectively was done. The one very close to village, aided in increasing the groundwater level. Second pond is presently functional for agricultural and animal husbandary activities. Other ponds Gopasamudram of 35 acres wide, Kanakaiyagunta of 20 acres and kuntas like kateruvenkanna, sheshaiya occupying 20 acres were also for agriculture purpose. Yalamvarigunta and ravivarigunta of ten acres wide is used animals. In all these ponds desilting activities were undertaken.



Plate 4.2. Community asset -Pond in Pamidipadu



Plate 4.3 Community asset - pond bunds in Pamidipadu



Plate 4.4. Desilting of pond in J C Agraharam



Plate 4.5. Road clearance by jungle cutting in Pamidipadu

4.3 Sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA

Since the MGNREGA activities focus on farm activities, the variable was operationalized in the present study as the status of farming in terms of number of crops per year before and after MGNREGA.

Table 4.3.1 Sustainability of assets before and after MGNREGA

Village	Before MGNREGA	After MGNREGA
	Crops	Crops
JCA	56	78
PMD	63	81

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

To compute the significant difference, paired test was carried out

Testing of hypothesis

Null hypothesis

There will not be any significant difference in sustainability of assets before and after participation in MGNREGA.

Empirical hypothesis

There will be significant difference in sustainability of assets before and after participation in MGNREGA.

Table 4.3.2. Significance of sustainability of assets before and after MGNREGA

Village	Mean	S.D	't' value
JCA	23.56	02.46	4.434*
PMD	20.56	00.88	15.497*

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability

The t values are found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability, which means the difference is significant. This is proving the sustainability of assets created through MGNREGA. Hence null hypothesis is rejected and empirical hypothesis is accepted.

4.4 Assessment of extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA

Social empowerment was measured on four attributes vi., leadership skills, communication skills and decision making skills and accessing information skills, with a score of 12, 8, 9 and 3 respectively. The mean and index were computed and presented below

Table 4.4.1. Social empowerment of the respondents

n₁ = 60, n₂ = 60

S.No	Attribute	Maximum score	JCA		PMD	
			Mean	Index	Mean	Index
1	Leadership skills	12	10.7	88.9	11.2	93.3
2	Communication skills	8	7.4	92.9	7.3	91.3
3	Decision making skills	9	7.7	51.1	8.1	90.2
4	Accessing information skills	3	3.0	100	3.0	100

n₁ = JCA, n₂ = PMD

Accessing information was achieved to the maximum, followed by leadership, communication and decision making in JCA. In case of PMD accessing information was followed by leadership, communication and decision making. The attribute of accessing information was achieved in both the villages. It could be concluded that participation in MGNREGA motivated to develop skills, which empowers the individual for poverty alleviation.

Since the study was ex post facto and the variables already occurred, however at varied degree of enhancement, correlation between the independent and dependent variables was computed to study the relationship.

Testing of hypothesis

Null hypothesis

There will not be any significant relationship between variables due to participation in MGNREGA

Empirical hypothesis

There will be significant relationship between variables due to participation in MGNREGA.

Table 4.4.2. Correlation coefficient (r) values between selected profile characteristics and dependent variables

Profile character	Individual asset	Sustainability	Social empowerment
Age	-.185*	-.038	-.195*
Size of land holding	-.004	.100	.052
Family Income	.074	.160	.026
Work participation	.061	.158	.063
MGNREGA work participationsn	-.018	.100	-.163
Policy and institutional factors	-.027	-.012	-.026

*Significant at .05 level of probability

**Significant at .01 level of probability

The correlation coefficient r , is a number between -1 and 1 that indicates the strength of the linear relationship between two variables. When two things are correlated, it means that they vary together. Positive correlation means that high scores on one are associated with high scores on the other, and that low scores on one are associated with low scores on the other. Negative correlation, on the other hand, means that high scores on the first thing are associated with low scores on the second. Negative correlation also means that low scores on the first are associated with high scores on the second.

In the present study, the relationship of independent variables with dependent variables was computed. Based on the r values the following conclusions may be drawn.

- Very strong, negatively significant relation between age and individual asset creation and social empowerment at the 0.05 level of probability was existing. As age increases, the asset creation and social empowerment decreases. With sustainability, it has very weak negative relationship there were more middle and adult farmers than young farmers among the respondents. The programme may concentrate on covering of young beneficiaries.
- The independent variable land holding, family income and work participation also has weak relationship with individual asset creation and weak relationship with sustainability of assets and social empowerment. Most of the respondents were small farmers; hence as the land holding was small the family income was also less. Though work participation ranged between 73-100 wage employment days of total employment days of 300-350 days, the wage per day on piece rate was Rs. 60/-. Hence it could not influence the dependent variable to a significant extent.
- Policy and institutional factors had negative weak relationship with all the three dependent variables, as half of the policy and institutional factors were not observed properly.

On the whole a nonlinear relationship was existing. There may be some more variables other than what were studied. Such variables need to be identified and addressed through the programme.

Hence, null hypothesis was accepted, rejecting empirical hypothesis.

4.5 Policy recommendations for the sustainability of assets

NREGA is designed as a safety net to reduce migration by rural poor households in the lean period through a hundred days of guaranteed unskilled manual labour provided when demanded at minimum wage on works focused on water conservation, land development & drought proofing etc. Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of demand for employment and fund requirement should be made against the guidelines, results in effective implementation of the programme.

The Policy recommendations for the sustainability of assets based on the findings of the study are as follows.

1. Issuing of the Job cards within stipulated 15 days after submission of the application to the Gram Sabha, was not done properly. This has to be immensely improved, so that the farmers need not face difficulties. Checked against Job cards demanded and issued & employment provided and average turnout at work sites.
2. Providing employment within 15 days after registration, was also failed miserably. This has to be rectified and measures have to be taken to ensure that the applicants can be immediately provided with the employment.
3. Even though the daily unemployment allowance, but they were never paid in time, that is within 15 days after the application, which has resulted in hardship and ill feelings in the beneficiaries. This has to be curtailed.
4. The minimum wage was paid according to the Act 1948, which envisaged the payment of fixed Government wages, which were abnormally low, when compared to prevailing rates. Further, due to more farmers and payment of piece meal rate.
5. Participation of women beneficiaries was considerably very low in both the villages, which is against the one third ratio. More measurements should be taken to ensure that women's participation increase.
6. Due to lack of awareness and insufficient measures for providing special worksite facilities for women, such as crèche, drinking water, shade, other facilities needed

for women, particularly women with children. This may be a reason for less participation of women. This needs to be addressed immediately. Provision of adequate quality of work site facilities for women and men labourers has to be arranged.

7. The usual wage and material ratio i.e, 60:40 has been inadequate, and needs to be urgently addressed.
8. The submission of the written applications for employment to the Gram sabha and its verification was satisfactorily done in these villages, where study was undertaken.
9. All the works were provided within 5 km stipulated range and thus conformed with the norms of MGNREGA.
10. Piece rate of the wages was paid. This has a negative impact because for certain works like desilting, laying of roads, bundling of fields and water bodies, have given higher wages, viz, Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 for the outside works, which were available for them locally, whereas the labour under this scheme were paid only less i.e., around Rs. 60 on an average.
11. Most of the project works were identified by the recommendations of the Gram Sabha, which has also executed more than 50 percent of the works, as per the norms of the MGNREGA.
12. As per the agenda works for asset creation both for individual and community, which includes, soil conservation, Afforestation, land development, desilting etc., were executed.
13. No contractors were used nor any machinery was entertained. But in certain places machinery was used for certain works, which are recommended to be disused.
14. Social Audit was done by the Gram Sabha, as per the norms of MGNREGA. But certain malpractices were observed in Pamidipadu village, due to political

interference and field factories. Care has to be taken, in future, to avoid this and infuse greater transparency. Adequate audit and evaluation mechanisms has to be put in place with stringent measures to punish the culprits .Widespread institution of social audit and mobilisation of all community based organisations and institutions be encouraged for greater participation and owning the project .

15. Greater care need to be taken to reach the benefits of the programme to reach the intended beneficiaries rather than the rich, influenced and politically powerful.
16. Awareness levels on rights and entitlements, Social Audit and Right to Information need to be enhanced using the services of all the staff members during lean season through a campaign mode, any other methods like folk dance, street drama, radio etc.,

SUMMARY
AND
CONCLUSION

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Employment and wages concept was as old as mankind in India. Once Lord Buddha said that men works to satisfy the primary or basic urges of hunger, thirst, and sex, as well as host of secondary wants and desires created by a commercial civilization. Employment wage complements rural India the right of work should, therefore, be assured to all, as a pre-requisite for the good life. It is the duty of the state to uphold justice, and provide for the material and spiritual welfare of its subjects and give structure and discipline to life.

Employment contributes labor and/or expertise to an endeavor of an employer and is usually hired to perform specific duties which are packaged into a job. Wage employment is monetary compensation paid by an employer to an employee in exchange for work done. Payment may be calculated as a fixed amount for each task completed (a task wage or piece rate), or at an hourly or daily rate, or based on an easily measured quantity of work done.

The government of India, therefore, placed increasing emphasis on taking up schemes for providing additional employment opportunities and various special schemes of employment generation right from 1960s.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The Government of India created a historic act, by enacting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the largest employment generating programme in the world, ensuring the right to work in a country with a population of over one billion. The Government of India passed the NREGA 2005, (Central Act No. 42 of 2005). NREGA was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on October 2nd, 2009.

MGNREGA is the first ever law, in the world that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. This Act gives legal guarantee of at least one hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled and manual work. The Act is applicable in the Districts notified by the Government of India, the implementation of the Act calls for the formulation of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by the State Governments.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated the Scheme called Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which has come into force with effect from 2nd February 2006 during the first phase of implementation, in the rural areas with the following objectives:

- (1) To provide livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing not less than 100 (one hundred) days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled and manual work.
- (2) To create durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of rural poor.

The act become effective at the state level in February 2006 in 200 districts, guaranteeing employment up to 100 days a year to poor rural households on demand. By March 2008, NREGA was expanded to cover all rural districts in the country. The rights of NREGA works include employment on demand, minimum wages, gender parity of wages, and payment of wages within 15 days, as well as the provision of basic worksite facilities, among others.

There is a legal guarantee of 100 days employment in a financial year to a registered household. That the government is legally bound to provide employment within 15 days of the application for work by a job seeker; in case of delay or failure provide employment to the job seeker, there is provision of unemployment allowance. One of the most distinguishing features of NREGA programme is the creation of environmentally sound productive assets under the decentralized administration of panchayats. Generally, the

village and intermediary panchayats manage the implementation activities, while coordination of activities is done at the district level.

So the the present study on impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on individual and community assets creation and their sustainability in selected villages of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, was carried out with the following objectives

Objectives of the investigation

1. To study the profile characteristics of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme in selected villages of Prakasam district.
2. To assess the impact of MGNREGA on individual and community assets creation.
3. To evaluate the sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA in the selected villages.
4. To assess the extent of social empowerment created by MGNREGA in the selected sample.
5. To suggest policy recommendations for the sustainability of the assets created in the communities.

The locale of the study was purposive, as ICRISAT with whom the present study was collaborated, had MGNREGA as one of the activities in different districts of Andhra Pradesh. They launched a programme in 2009 entitled Village Dynamics in South Asia (VDSA) under Research Programme on Markets, Institutions and Policies (RR-MIP). Tracking the changes in rural poverty is one of the objectives of the programme. Hence MGNREGA is on their agenda. Accordingly, the sample was selected from two villages of Prakasam district viz., Jalapala Cheruvu Agraharam and Pamidipadu of Bestavaripeta and Korisapadu Mandals respectively. The Ex-post-facto research design was selected for the study with sample of 120 respondents 60 from each village were selected randomly. Stratified random sampling procedure was adopted in the selection of the respondents at two villages.

Major findings

Profile of MGNREGA respondents

Lowest percentages of MGNREGA beneficiaries were observed as young in both the villages. In JCA majority were middle aged (48.3%), while majority (65%) were adults in PMD. Similar results were reported by Joseph and Eswaran (2006), reported that majority of the respondents were aged between 40 and 60 years, followed by 30.77 % falling below 40 years and 15.38 %t falling above 60 years. Though above 18years is said to be the eligible age for MGNREGA beneficiaries, people might be actively involving after thirty six years. Either perusing higher education or search of some other occupation which may have more monetary returns were seems to be the reasons.

Majority were illiterate in both the villages. However, heterogeneity among the remaining respondents could be observed, as the educational status ranged from primary to graduation and above categories. At times of team or collective action, heterogeneity may be a constraint. But sometimes come to rescue, especially when reading and understanding the information or literature solving the problems and making decisions.

Most of the respondents of JCA belongs to backward caste, followed by forward and scheduled castes. Situation was different in Pamidipadu, as forward caste was higher than backward caste, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. The dominant caste groups of the villages were the majority MGNREG beneficiaries.

The nature of houses was found based on the category of construction as mentioned above. Majority had category 1 type of house in both the villages, followed by category 2. Least percentage was found in category 3&4. It can be concluded that in both the villages, respondents were possessing pakka houses, which is one of the indications of development.

Nuclear families were more common in both the villages. Extended families also existed to a considerable extent. Majority in both the villages were small in size, followed by medium and large. Being nuclear families more in number, naturally majority of the families were small. Though there were extend families, large families were less; but medium families were at considerable extent. This was because only adults were living, while youngsters were out in search of some other livelihood in nearby towns. Similar findings were reported by Reddy (1990) and Padmalatha (1993).The family size in rural setup is decreasing in their findings.

Half of the respondents in both the villages were small farmers. Less than one third of them were medium famers. However there were large farmers also, but less in number. It could be concluded that MGNREGA beneficiaries comprise of all categories of farmers, but mostly small, followed by small. Highest per capita income, consumption, expenditure was enjoyed by small farmers than the off farm laborers and farm laborers was reported by Khodasker (2001).

Majority of the respondents in JCA had agriculture (56.7%), followed by farm labour (20%) and nonfarm works (18.3%) as occupation. Caste occupations and livestock were very less. In PMD, there were more agriculturists (81.7%). Farm labourers and nonfarm workers were less compared to JCA. MGNREGA beneficiaries were mostly agriculturists, followed by farm labourers and non-farm workers. Those who have livestock and caste occupation as occupations were not participating in MGNREGA.

With regard to family income, most of them were belonging to medium income group (43.3% & 50%), followed by low (33.3% & 30.0%) in JCA and PMD respectively. Compared to PMD, there were more respondents in very low income group (15%) and less in high income group (8.3%) in JCA. It is to be specifically noted that none of the respondents were very high, confirming that MGNREGA is for the poor for their poverty alleviation. The annual income level of the majority of the respondents was reported low by Khodasker (2001).

The total working days above 300 days, ranging from 85-96% in a year, could be noted from the above table. Out of this, 20 to 27% was MGNREGA while remaining

general. As majority of the respondents were agriculturists, the general working days could be attributed to farming activities. The range of this was between 65- 68%. The contribution MGNREGA works period was 73- 100 days, was almost fulfilling the norms of MGNREGA. Compared to JCA, PMD has almost 28 days less, because for the past two years no works were carried during 2010-12, due to some fraud in payments. The respondents reported at the time of investigation, that the issue got resolved. Lean period could be considered as low in both the villages. The lean period has reduced after the introduction of MGNREGA could be interpreted from the data.

The respondents had four major liabilities, viz., loans from nationalized banks, cooperative banks, SHG and also from local money lenders, which means that both institutional and non-institutional lending had increased after participation in MGNREGA. Liabilities, in general has enhanced after participation in MGNREGA. Availing credit facility from banks has increased from 10.0 to 43.3 % in JCA and it is still higher in PMD from 15 to 60.0 %. Next to this was SHG, which was increased to almost 30% in both the villages. In spite of these institutional facilities, lending from local money lender had also increased. This is an alarming situation as usually the rate of interest would be very high in local lending.

There were four works under MGNREGA, viz., jungle cutting, silting, canal works and farm pond in both villages. These four existing in the approved list of MGNREGA activities, under watershed related works. Under each of the work, certain interventions were carried out in succeeding years like land leveling, cleaning, silting and jungle cutting. The data also revealed use of mechanical labour for certain operations. The respondents reported that they utilized it when it was impossible for human labour. The intervention occurred whenever and wherever necessary. Mechanical interventions were also observed in both villages. Inadequate technical support for planning physical works (especially activities like de-silting tanks, bundling of agriculture fields, etc.) appears to be a major reason for poor quality of works completed.

As part of MGNREGS works the village Gram Sabha's have taken up development of such lands, thereby ensuring that such land owners would be able to cultivate hitherto barren and uncultivable lands. This particular work is more popular in the villages of

Andhra Pradesh (such works accounted for over 20 per cent of total works in the state in 2009) as that enabled small and marginal cultivators to engage in crop cultivation, in several cases for the first time in their life. Families who earned from MGNREGS works were able to invest in children's education, health, repayment of old debt, and for other such useful purposes.

The data reveals that two factors item submission of written application to the Gram Panchayat for employment (item 4) and wage payment through Bank / post office (10) were being observed in both the villages. Another factor scored maximum was identification of projects as per the recommendation of grama sabha. Job Card issued within 15 days of application (item 3), providing employment within 15 days (item 5), daily unemployment allowance as per the act is paid, when not provided within 15 days (item 8), one-third beneficiaries were women (item 11), providing work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water and shade (item 12) and maintenance of payment of 60:40 wage and material ration were the factors not being followed in both the villages with some exception of numbers.

Impact of MGNREGA on individual and community asset creation

Most of the farmers were small, followed by medium. In spite of that some substantial amount was spent during the five years of study on land development. MGNREGA has acted as an initiative and also motivator to make maximum use of available land for cultivation. Developed land has thus become the created asset because of participation in MGNREGA. PMD was observed to be spent more than JAC. Probably there were more medium and large farmers compared to JAC. Per capita investment might be claimed as Rs. 0.5 and 0.7 lakhs in JAC and PMD respectively.

The earnings were diverted for procurement of materials is evident from the data. The respondents attained varied benefits. House, the basic amenity of life was attended. Livestock like buffalos, enrich the diet as well as provide additional income. Electrical and electronic goods reduce drudgery. Transport vehicles saves time as well as facilitate comfort. Some amount was spent on payment of educational fee. High expenditure, almost

50% more could be concluded in JCA compared to PMD, because of purchase of electronic and electrical goods.

Community works taken under MGNREGA programme in JCA were de silting of village ponds, jungle cutting and canal works. Desilting of JCA, was done almost every year since the initiation of programme. The pond was 4km away from the village and it occupies 200 acres of land. At the time of investigation it was reported that for about 10 years there was no water. After taking up desilting and jungle cutting works, there is increase in water level. Ierepalle pond is another pond 4 km away from the village and it occupies about 25 acres of land. With jungle cutting, this water body was made. Another pond by name Sitaiahwas about 3 km from the village. Disilting and pond bunding activities saved the pond. Ooragunta and dapillegunta were very close to village, about one kilo meter. Desilting and jungle cutting activities activated ground water bodies of the village.

Jungle cutting cleared the road of 40 KM joining JCA with other villages, viz., Pitikikavala, Kottapeta, Gantapuram and Kazzipuram. Otherwise it was problematic road to use two wheeler. Now auto rickshaws and heavy vehicles like tractors and trucks could be driven safely. Over all the infrastructure facilities increased.

In PMD, MGNREGA was in operation from 2008. But, due to some political interference and misuse of field assets, no execution from 2011. However, desilting of two ponds popularly called as Vuricheruvulu (village ponds) which occupies ten and five acres respectively was done. The one very close to village, aided in increasing the groundwater level. Second pond is presently functional for agricultural and animal husbandry activities. Other ponds Gopasamudram of 35 acres wide, Kanakaiyagunta of 20 acres and kuntas like kateruvenkanna, sheshaiya occupying 20 acres were also for agriculture purpose. Yalamvarigunta and ravivarigunta of ten acres wide is used animals. In all these ponds desilting activities were undertaken.

Sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA

When Sustainability of the assets created by MGNREGA observed the t values are found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability, which means the difference is significant. This is proving the sustainability of assets created through MGNREGA.

Social empowerment was measured on four attributes viz, leadership skills, communication skills and decision making skills and accessing information skills. Accessing information was achieved to the maximum, followed by leadership, communication and decision making in JCA. In case of PMD accessing information was followed by leadership, communication and decision making. The attribute of accessing information was achieved in both the villages. It could be concluded that participation in MGNREGA motivated to develop skills, which empowers the individual for poverty alleviation.

Social empowerment created by MGNREGA

In the present study, the relationship of independent variables with dependent variables was computed. Based on the r values the following conclusions may be drawn.

- Very strong, negatively significant relation between age and individual asset creation and social empowerment at the 0.05 level of probability was existing. As age increases, the asset creation and social empowerment decreases. With sustainability, it has very weak negative relationship. There are more middle and adult farmers than young farmers among the respondents. The programme may concentrate on covering of young beneficiaries.
- The independent variable land holding, family income and work participation also has weak relationship with individual asset creation and weak relationship with sustainability of assets and social empowerment. Most of the respondents were small farmers; hence as the land holding was small the family income was also less. Though work participation ranged between 73-100 wage employment days of total employment days of 300-350 days, the wage per day on piece rate was Rs. 60/-. Hence it could not influence the dependent variable to a significant extent.

- Policy and institutional factors had negative weak relationship with all the three dependent variables, as half of the policy and institutional factors were not observed properly.

On the whole a nonlinear relationship was existing. There may be some more variables other than what were studied. Such variables need to be identified and addressed through the programme.

Implications of the study

1. The study revealed that majority of the respondents in small and medium farmers involved in agriculture (56.7% and 817%), followed by farm labour (20%) and non- farm works (18.3%) as occupation. Traditional Caste occupations and livestock rearing were very less. Hence projects which help the farmers and agricultural labourers and agricultural allied occupations need to be strengthened to sustain agrarian families as there is greater threat for future generations as young generation is shifting to other jobs and avenues.

2. The contribution MGNREGA works period was 73- 100 person man days of employment, which is almost fulfilling the norms of MGNREGA. The mandate of the Act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Lean period could be considered as low in both the villages. The lean period has reduced after the introduction of MGNREGA but the wages they received was very low i.e Rs.60/- as a piece rate for the works they performed. There must be a mechanism to address this issue both policy makers, functionaries, PRI institutions and the beneficiaries need to come to one platform and discuss for sustainable livelihood with appropriate wage remuneration for the sustainable livelihoods.

3. Under the Community works taken up through MGNREGA programme, the sustainability of assets created were desilting of village ponds, jungle cutting and canal works. Desilting was done almost every year since the initiation of programme. Though

the intervention of MGNREGA created the community assets there need to be holistic and future oriented constructive planning for creation of durable community assets which are long term and promote planned development. Strategies to identify more popular initiatives in conservation of ecosystem and creating sustainable rural livelihoods through regeneration of the natural resource base i.e. augmenting productivity and supporting creation of durable assets should be initiated.

4. It was observed that the respondents had four major liabilities, viz., loans from nationalized banks, cooperative banks, SHG and also from local money lenders, which means that both institutional and non-institutional lending had increased after participation in MGNREGA. Liabilities, in general has enhanced after participation in MGNREGA. Availing credit facility from banks has increased from 10.0 to 43.3 % in JCA and it is still higher in PMD from 15 to 60.0 %. Next to this was SHG, which was increased to almost 30% in both the villages. This is mainly because of the increase in the participation and a vailment of SHG loans, which has further increased their dependence on the repayment of loans to the banks. Measures should be taken to create awareness on management and utilization loans, capacity building for proper utilization and repayments, economic interventions and empowerment of marginalized farmers has to be taken care

5. Social empowerment was measured on four attributes viz., leadership skills, communication skills and decision making skills and accessing information skills, with a score of 12, 8, 9 and 3 respectively. All the respondent beneficiaries need to be further empowered with social mobilization, leadership skills, communication skills and decision making skills and accessing information skills and other empowerment skills as majority are from marginalized communities.

Future Focus of Research:

1. This study was focused only in the Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh state of India. Hence a full-length study can be initiated in all districts or few states where this programme has been implemented.

2. Studies can be formulated to find out the relationship between profile characteristics of beneficiaries of MGNREGS and extent of economic, social and legal empowerment.
3. Studies can be formulated to compare processes and impact of the different poverty alleviation programmes and MGNREGA
4. A focus study can also be formulated to look after the “role contribution of these initiatives in ‘sustainable development as well as sustainability of these woman organizations.
5. Studies on socio - economic empowerment of women under National rural employment guarantee act (MGNREGA).

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APPENDICES

**IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT
GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA) ON INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY ASSETS
CREATION AND THEIR SUSTAINABILITY IN SELECTED VILLAGES OF
PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE
(For MGNREGA Beneficiary)

Village: **Jalapala Cheruvu Agraharam (JCA)**, Bestavaripeta Mandal,
Prakasam District.

Pamidipadu (PMD), Korisapadu Mandal, Prakasam District

Date:

Section - I

A. Primary information

1. Name of the respondent:

2. Address:

3. Gender: Male [] Female []

4. Caste: SC [] ST [] OC [] BC []

5. Age: (Put tick mark against appropriate column)

Young age(18- 35 years)	
(36- 50 years)	
(above 50 years)	

6. Education:

Illiterate	
Primary	
Upper primary	
High school	

Intermediate	
Graduate and above	

7. Type of house:

a. Belongingness: Own/ Rented (Put tick mark against appropriate column)

b. Nature of house: (Put tick mark against appropriate column)

- i. Strong walls with RCC roof
- ii. Strong walls and other type of roof
- iii. Mud walls with thatched roof
- iv. Mud walls with other roofs
- v. Others (Specify)

8. Type of Family:

- a) Nuclear family
- b) Joint family
- c) Extended joint family (parent of own/spouse living in the house)

9. Size of the family:

Small family (2-4)	
Medium family(5-7)	
Large family(above 7)	

10. Occupation (Put tick mark against appropriate column):

Farming	
Livestock rearing and care	
Farm labor	
Caste occupation	
Non-farm work	

11. Family income (Put tick mark against appropriate column):

- i. Very Low (below Rs 60000)
- ii. Low (Rs 600001-100000)

- iii. Low (Rs 100001-200000)
- iv. Medium (Rs 200001-400000)
- v. High (above Rs.400000)

B. MGNREGA PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. Work participation: (To be collected from 2008 to 2012)

Working days	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total in a year:					
General working					
MGNREGA work					

2. Liabilities: (Collect information before and after participation in MGNREGA)

Loan availed from	Before participation in MGNREGS	After participation in MGNREGS (collect year wise)
Bank loan		
Cooperative		
SHG loan		
Local Money lenders		

3. Nature and type of intervention: (Collect year wise information)

Year	Nature of work	Type of intervention
2008		
2009		

2010		
2011		
2012		

4. Policy and institutional factors: (check whether followed or not)

S. No	Policy issue	Whether followed		Remark
		Yes	No	
1	Submission of written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat			
2	Verification for the issue of Job Card from the Gram Panchayat			
3	Job Card issued within 15 days of application			
4	Submission of written application to the Gram Panchayat for employment			
5	Provided employment within 15 days.			
6	Daily unemployment allowance as per the act is paid, when not provided within 15 days			
7	Work provided within 5 km of radius from the village			
8	Minimum wages was paid according to the Act 1948 for agricultural laborers			
9	Piece rate wages were paid.			
10	Wages paid through Bank / post			
11	One-third beneficiaries were women			
12	Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade were provided			

	(any other facility other than the above may be specified)			
13	Projects were identified as per the recommendation of Gram Sabha			
14	Gram Panchayats executed 50% of works			
15	Works included water and soil conservation, a forestation and land development works			
6	A 60:40 wage and material ration has to be maintained			
17	No contractors and no machinery was entertained			
18	Social Audit was to be done by the Gram Sabha			

Section - II

A. ASSET CREATION- INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY

1. List the value of individual assets created from 2008 to 2012 in Rs.

Year	Wage employment	Land development	Material procurement	Any other (specify)	Total
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					

2. Check list for Community assets (collection of information through focus group discussion)

COMMUNITY ASSETS RELATED ISSUES

1. Nature and type of interventions that the community you have received from MGNREGS

<u>S. No</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of NREGA interventions in the village</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
	2012		
	2011		
	2010		
	2009		
	2008		

2. Which asset is used by large number of community members, pls. list them down?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

3. Which community asset created by MGNREGS is least used by you?

- a.
- b.
- c.

4. What is the frequency of usage of community asset created by MGNREGS?

S. No	Name of the asset	Very frequently	frequently	rarely	never used
1					
2					
3					

6. In what way your community assets had increased your benefits?

- a. Improved water holding capacity in farm land
- b. Increased market linkage
- c. Increased water availability to farm land
- d. Improved good infrastructure of the village
- e. Increased value of your land due to better access to water, road, etc.

E. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ASSETS CREATED IN THE COMMUNITIES.

1. In opinion of this group, what should be done to enhance sustainability of the community level assets under MGNREGS work activities ?

2. The MGNREGS work on which assets need to be further modified?

3. Which assets need to be further developed under MGNREGS?

4. How can the accessibility of community assets crusaded by MGNREGS be increased?

B. SUSTAINABILITY OF ASSETS

Utilization of land:

Activity	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No .of crops per year					
Variety of crops					

C. INFORMATION RELATED TO SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

What are the benefits that the household members have received (tangible and non-officials) after participating in MGNREGAs workshop. Pls. tick mark on appropriate issues.

1. Leadership skills

S. No	Statement	Yes	No
1	Able to raise voice confidently		
2	Able to encourage people participation for better decisions		
3	Able to talk with officials		
4	Able to talk to others for better decisions		
5	Participation in social meetings		
6	Able to participate in negotiations		

7	Participation in social audit		
8	Able to analyze complex events		
9	Co operation in family needs		
10	Helping in village development		
11	Participation in Gram Panchayat activities		
12	Co operation with Self Help Groups		

2. Communication skills

S. No	Statement	Yes	No
1	Able to communicate with bank and MNREGS officials and others in the Panchayats to clarify doubts with patience.		
2	Able to express willingness or unwillingness to the land lords to participate in the regular farm based labour activities confidently.		
3	Able to communicate boldly to demand equal and higher wages on par with MNREGS with farmers and others		
4	Able to demand equal wages on par with men as in MNREGS with local farming works		
5	Able to interpret others through observation of expressions		
6	Able to persuade and influence others about self-ideas		
7	Able to raise voice against caste discrimination		
8	Able to protest against gender discrimination		

3. Decision making skills

S. No	Statement	Yes	No
1	Able to use earnings for personal use		
2	Able to save for future		
3	Able to repay of loan		
4	Able to participate in training programmes for improving individual skills		
5	Able to purchase equipment		
6	Able send children to private or government schools		
7	Able to participate in Gram Panchayat and programme related activities		
8	Able to say no to child marriage		
9	Able to raise voice against domestic violence and dowry harassment		

4. Accessing information

S. No	Statement	Yes	No
1	Able to collect information related to bank transactions		
2.	Able to interact with Bank/ Post office/ Government officials		
3.	Wage collection through bank /government office		

