

Progress Of Participation In Mgnregs In Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh from 2014-15 to 2021-22. It assesses trends in registered workers, job card issuances, active participation, and employment outcomes, while also examining 100-day employment achievements. Findings indicate stable participation rates and fluctuations in employment, with recommendations including awareness campaigns, simplified procedures, and targeting marginalized groups to enhance participation.

Keywords: MGNREGS, registered workers, active workers, families completed 100 days.

PROGRESS OF PARTICIPATION IN MGNREGS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been a pivotal social welfare program in India, designed to alleviate rural poverty and unemployment. It guarantees 100 days of wage employment to every household in rural areas, ensuring their economic security and livelihood. Andhra Pradesh, a prominent state in southern India, has actively participated in this program over the years, contributing to its considerable success in addressing rural joblessness. This research study delves into the extensive dataset from 2014-15 to 2021-22, examining the dynamics of MGNREGS participation in Andhra Pradesh.

The MGNREGS, launched in 2005, has been instrumental in enhancing the living conditions of the rural population in India. It aims to empower rural households by providing them with employment opportunities that are not only sustainable but also enable them to contribute to the development of their communities. Andhra Pradesh, known for its agrarian economy and socio-economic diversity, provides a compelling backdrop for this research. It has been a significant beneficiary of MGNREGS, with thousands of households relying on the program for their livelihood and economic stability.

This study focuses on several key aspects of MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh, such as the trends in registered workers, the cumulative issuance of job cards, active worker participation, and the overall employment generated during the period 2014-15 to 2021-22. It also sheds light on the achievements of households that completed 100 days of employment under the scheme, offering insights into the extent of economic security MGNREGS has provided to the state's rural population. Furthermore, the study provides a comparative analysis of Andhra Pradesh's performance at the national level, emphasizing the state's position in the broader context of the program's implementation across India.

Despite the widespread implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh, critical questions remain regarding the scheme's effectiveness, the patterns of participation, and the extent of its impact on rural livelihoods. Understanding the fluctuating trends in the registration of workers, issuance of job cards, and active participation in MGNREGS over the period from 2014-15 to 2021-22 is essential. This study aims to identify any disparities or changes in participation that might reveal shortcomings or successes in program implementation. Investigating the extent to which households in Andhra Pradesh have been able to complete the stipulated 100 days of employment under MGNREGS is a crucial indicator of the scheme's effectiveness. This study will assess whether the program has fulfilled its objective of providing a safety net

for vulnerable rural households. Offering a national-level comparative analysis, this study will contextualize Andhra Pradesh's performance within the larger framework of MGNREGS implementation across India. This will help identify unique challenges or exemplary practices in the state. By addressing these issues, the research seeks to provide insights that can inform policy decisions and program adjustments, potentially enhancing MGNREGS's ability to address rural unemployment, poverty, and economic security in Andhra Pradesh and other similar regions. In an era marked by dynamic changes in socio-economic conditions, an in-depth analysis of MGNREGS participation in Andhra Pradesh is crucial for policy-makers, researchers, and development practitioners. This research paper seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the scheme's progress, helping stakeholders make informed decisions to further improve the lives of rural communities and strengthen the foundations of inclusive development in the state.

Review of Literature

Raghav Gaiha and Raghendra Jha (2012) analyzed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme's performance. According to government statistics, the scheme's results have been disappointing and have deteriorated over time. The study used official data to evaluate the scheme based on various criteria, such as the average employment days per household, households completing 100 days of employment, expenditure against available funds, and work completion. The first two criteria showed disappointing results, with a decline in the average employment days per household. Expenditure consistently exceeded available funds, particularly since 2010-11, while work completion fell short.

Bharat Bhatti (2012) conducted a study in Jharkhand, India, exploring wage payments under NREGS using the Aadhar-enabled system. The research found that most sampled NREGS women preferred the Aadhar system for its ease and speed compared to traditional bank or post office methods. The study also noted job status issues and suggested adopting the Andhra Pradesh model for long-

term wage payments under MGNREGS, using local biometrics with post offices as business correspondents.

Grace Carswell and Geert De Neve (2013) conducted a study in Tamil Nadu State, focusing on the MGNREGS program. Their research found that the program benefits rural women and the rural poor in terms of income and quality of life, attributing this to the program's policies promoting women's participation.

Himanshu et al. (2015) argue that the decline in the performance of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Rajasthan is not solely due to a lack of demand. Instead, the authors attribute the decline to the supply-driven nature of the program, which has led to a "discouraged worker" syndrome. They suggest that strengthening the demand-based approach of NREGS could reduce the need for work rationing and that tracking NREGS outcomes at the village level, along with proper demand recording, could help detect discrimination within panchayats.

Anupam Sarkar and Jechonia Islary (2017) conducted a study in Jharkhand State to analyze rural workers' participation trends in the MGNREGS program. They observed an increase in the number of employment days per household but found that the proportion of female participants was below the required one-third threshold. The study also revealed that MGNREGS earnings made up 11 to 15 percent of beneficiaries' consumption expenditure. It highlighted issues such as low worker awareness and wage payment delays, recommending timely wage disbursement and adherence to project schedules as solutions.

Krishna Singh and Soumyendra Kishore Datta (2019) conducted a study to determine women's participation in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in West Bengal's Bankura and Birbhum districts. Their findings showed varying levels of participation, with Bankura District having higher female involvement than Birbhum District. Factors such as additional income sources,

family size, women's education, and religion were found to significantly influence women's participation in the scheme.

Objectives & Methodology

The primary objectives of the study are to analyze and assess the trends and patterns of registered workers, cumulative job card issuances, active worker participation, and employment generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh from 2014-15 to 2021-22. Additionally, the study aims to investigate the extent to which families in Andhra Pradesh have achieved 100 days of employment under MGNREGS over an eight-year period, while also providing comparative data at the national level. The study is based on the secondary data. Secondary data is collected from the Official website of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, i.e., <https://nrega.nic.in/>. The data is collected for a period of eight years, i.e., from 2014-15 to 2021-22. Growth rates and percentages are used to analyze the data.

Data Analysis

Registered Workers under the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Table-1 provides a comprehensive overview of the registered workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh for the years 2014-15 to 2021-22. The total number of workers registered under MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh remained relatively stable over the years, hovering around 121.15 to 121.25 lakhs. The data also provides the total number of workers in India, which helps put Andhra Pradesh's figures in perspective. It is evident that Andhra Pradesh consistently accounted for around 4.58 per cent to 4.67 per cent of the total MGNREGS workers in India. This signifies a relatively consistent contribution of the state to the national workforce under the program. The table highlights the growth rate in total persondays provided under MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh. The growth rate varies from -1.75 per cent to 1.70 per cent over the years. In 2016-17, there was a notable positive growth rate of 1.70 per

cent, indicating an increase in workdays provided through the scheme. Conversely, in 2017-18, there was a decline of -1.75 per cent. This fluctuation may reflect changing demands for rural employment or the state's administrative decisions.

The percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India is relatively stable throughout the period, ranging from 4.58 per cent to 4.67 per cent. This metric is essential as it indicates the state's contribution to the national utilization of persondays, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's consistent participation. It is important to note that while the number of registered workers in Andhra Pradesh did not show significant variations, the growth rate in total persondays fluctuated. This could be attributed to factors like changes in demand for rural employment, administrative policies, and resource allocation.

In summary, the table indicates that Andhra Pradesh has maintained a stable presence in the MGNREGS workforce, contributing around 4.58 per cent to 4.67 per cent of the national total. The state has experienced minor variations in the growth rate of persondays, but the overall participation in the program has been consistent.

Cumulative Number of Households Issued Job Cards under the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Table-2 provides data on the cumulative number of households issued job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh over an eight-year period, from 2014-15 to 2021-22. It also includes data on the total number of workers in Andhra Pradesh and India, as well as the growth rate in Andhra Pradesh and the percentage of Andhra Pradesh's workers in India. It is evident that there has been a consistent increase in the number of workers in both Andhra Pradesh and India over the years. In 2014-15, Andhra Pradesh had 8,282,158 workers, and this number increased to 9,560,295 in 2021-22. Similarly, the total number of workers in India increased from 121,980,547 in 2014-15 to 163,516,987 in 2021-22. Notably, the growth rate in Andhra Pradesh fluctuates from year to year. It

experienced a significant increase of 6.51 per cent in 2020-21, but in other years, the growth rate is relatively modest, varying between -2.03 per cent and 2.03 per cent. The 0.00 per cent growth rate in 2021-22 suggests that the number of workers in Andhra Pradesh remained constant in that year. This percentage slightly declined over the years, from 6.79 per cent in 2014-15 to 5.85 per cent in 2021-22. While Andhra Pradesh's share of workers in India is still substantial, it indicates that the state's contribution to the MGNREGS workforce in the country has decreased marginally.

Overall, the data in Table 2 illustrates the evolution of MGNREGS job card distribution in Andhra Pradesh. While the state has consistently increased the number of households issued job cards, the growth rate has varied, with 2020-21 showing a substantial increase. However, it is noteworthy that Andhra Pradesh's relative share of the national workforce has slightly diminished.

Active workers under the MGNREGS

Table-3 presents a comprehensive overview of the number of active workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the state of Andhra Pradesh, alongside the corresponding nationwide figures, spanning from the fiscal year 2014-15 to 2021-22. The primary observation to be made from this data is the consistency in the number of active MGNREGS workers in Andhra Pradesh over the seven-year period, hovering around 95.96 to 95.98 lakhs. This minimal fluctuation suggests that the scheme's reach and participation remained largely constant within the state during this period, despite some marginal variations. In contrast, the national total of MGNREGS workers in India saw a consistent upward trend over the same time frame, rising from 1426.66 lakhs in 2014-15 to 1432.62 lakhs in 2021-22. The growth rate in Andhra Pradesh, as calculated based on this data, exhibited minor fluctuations. Although there were moments of marginal increases (e.g., 1.75 per cent in 2016-17), these were often offset by periods of stagnation (e.g., 0.00 per cent in 2015-16, 2017-18, and 2018-19) or even declines (e.g., -0.02 per cent in 2020-21). Consequently, the

overall growth trend in Andhra Pradesh was relatively flat. Meanwhile, the percentage of Andhra Pradesh's workers in India steadily decreased over the years, from 6.61 per cent in 2014-15 to 6.70 per cent in 2021-22. The lack of significant growth in the number of active MGNREGS workers in Andhra Pradesh raises questions about the effectiveness and reach of the program within the state. It may indicate that the scheme's impact has plateaued in the region. The nationwide increase in MGNREGS workers over the same period reflects the program's broader expansion and relevance. This might be attributed to factors such as increased demand for rural employment, economic conditions, and policy initiatives at the national level. The declining percentage of Andhra Pradesh's workers in India is a significant observation. It implies that while MGNREGS participation in Andhra Pradesh remained static or showed marginal fluctuations, other states may have witnessed more dynamic growth, thereby reducing the state's relative contribution to the national workforce.

Employment availed under the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh

Table-4 provides a comprehensive overview of employment generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the state of Andhra Pradesh over the period of 2014-15 to 2021-22. The number of households availing employment under the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh has gradually increased from 3.3 million in 2014-15 to 4.7 million in 2020-21, showcasing a steady upward trend. Likewise, the number of individuals employed through this scheme in Andhra Pradesh has increased from 5.6 million to 7.9 million during the same period. It is important to note that in 2019-20, there was a notable dip in both households and persons employed, suggesting a temporary anomaly. The table presents the total persondays worked in Andhra Pradesh for each fiscal year. This metric is significant as it reflects the scale and duration of employment generated. Andhra Pradesh recorded a substantial growth in total persondays from 156.1 million in 2014-15 to 259.4 million in 2020-21. This represents an impressive 66.05 per cent growth over the seven-year period. This growth indicates the effectiveness

of the MGNREGS in providing a livelihood for rural households in Andhra Pradesh, contributing significantly to the state's rural job market.

The table also provides the total persondays worked at the national level. The percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays to the national total is noteworthy. Over the years, Andhra Pradesh consistently contributed between 6.66 per cent and 10.05 per cent of the total persondays worked in India under the MGNREGS. This data reflects Andhra Pradesh's substantial role in the national employment generation program. The growth rate in total persondays worked in Andhra Pradesh is a critical indicator of the state's performance under the MGNREGS. The growth rates fluctuated, with the highest growth rate recorded in 2020-21 at 29.53 per cent, and the lowest in 2019-20 at -18.79 per cent. These fluctuations may be attributed to various factors, including the demand for employment, local economic conditions, and administrative efficiency.

In conclusion, the data in Table 4 demonstrates that Andhra Pradesh has consistently been a significant contributor to the MGNREGS, both in terms of the number of households and individuals employed and the total persondays worked. The program has been instrumental in providing rural employment and reducing poverty in the state. The growth rates in total persondays highlight the dynamism of the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh, even though there have been occasional fluctuations.

Number of families completed 100 days of employment

Table-5 presents a comprehensive overview of the number of families in Andhra Pradesh that completed 100 days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from 2014-15 to 2021-22, alongside corresponding national figures and key growth rates. The first point to note is the consistent increase in the number of families in Andhra Pradesh availing employment under the MGNREGS from 2014-15 to 2020-21. The highest number of families recorded was in 2018-19, with 867,428 households benefiting from this scheme. This surge is an indication of the program's positive

impact, emphasizing its importance in providing a safety net for rural families. Comparing Andhra Pradesh's performance with the national statistics, it's evident that the state contributes significantly to the total persondays generated in the country. In 2014-15, Andhra Pradesh accounted for 16.56 per cent of the total persondays at the national level. Although this percentage dropped in subsequent years, it remained well above 10 per cent throughout the period. This underscores the state's notable participation in the MGNREGS and its substantial contribution to the overall employment generation in India.

The growth rate in total persondays in Andhra Pradesh is another essential aspect. The most notable growth occurred in 2015-16, with a remarkable 53.30 per cent increase. This period of significant growth likely reflects increased awareness and participation in the MGNREGS scheme. However, in 2019-20, there was a substantial decline of -32.93 per cent in total persondays, indicating that the state faced challenges in maintaining the momentum in rural employment generation. This decline is a concerning trend and may warrant further investigation into the factors causing this setback. It's also interesting to note the changes in the percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India. This percentage witnessed fluctuations over the years. The highest percentage was recorded in 2017-18, at 21.60 per cent. However, it dropped to 7.93 per cent in 2021-22, reflecting a substantial decrease in the state's share of total persondays at the national level. This decline could be attributed to a combination of factors, including changes in the national allocation of funds and variations in the state's implementation of the program. In summary, the data presented in Table 5 demonstrates the dynamic nature of the MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh.

Conclusion

The study has examined the data on the registered workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh for the years 2014-15 to 2021-22. The number of registered workers in Andhra Pradesh remained relatively stable over this period, with a slight decrease in total persondays, and

the state consistently accounted for approximately 4.58 per cent to 4.67 per cent of India's total persondays under the MGNREGS, indicating a consistent participation rate in the national program. Further, the study has examined the cumulative number of households issued job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh for the years 2014-15 to 2021-22. Over this period, Andhra Pradesh witnessed a steady increase in the total number of workers participating in the program, with a noticeable growth rate ranging from - to 6.51 per cent, while consistently accounting for approximately 6.17 per cent to 7.01 per cent of the total workers in India. The study has also examined the data on active workers participating in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh for the years 2014-15 to 2021-22. Over this period, the total number of workers in Andhra Pradesh remained relatively stable, with a minor fluctuation, and the state consistently accounted for approximately 6.7 per cent of the total MGNREGS workers in India. The study has also focused on employment provided through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Andhra Pradesh over the years 2014-15 to 2021-22. During this period, the total persondays of employment in Andhra Pradesh showed fluctuations with a notable growth rate, and the state consistently contributed a significant percentage of India's total persondays under the MGNREGS. Finally, the study has explored the number of families in Andhra Pradesh that completed 100 days of employment under the MGNREGS program over a period of eight years, along with comparative data at the national level. It reveals that there was significant fluctuation in the number of families in Andhra Pradesh participating in the program, with a notable decline in recent years, while the percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India varied, indicating changes in the state's contribution to the national program.

To improve participation in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), it is essential to launch extensive awareness campaigns, simplify the

application process, and provide information in local languages. Leveraging mobile apps and internet platforms for registration can enhance accessibility, while ensuring transparent systems, conducting social audits, and offering capacity-building programs can build trust and skill levels among rural workers. Diversifying job options, guaranteeing timely payments, and accommodating flexible work hours can make NREGS more appealing. Focusing on women's participation, targeting marginalized groups, and creating feedback mechanisms promote inclusivity. Local decision-making, continuous program assessment, and collaboration with NGOs strengthen NREGS's effectiveness and reach, ultimately increasing participation and benefiting vulnerable households.

Table - 1 REGISTERED WORKERS UNDER THE MGNREGS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Figures in Lakhs

Year	Total workers in Andhra Pradesh	Total workers in India	Growth rate in total persondays in Andhra Pradesh	Percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India
2014-15	121.25	2648.55	-	4.58
2015-16	121.25	2646.74	0.00	4.58
2016-17	123.31	2641.18	1.70	4.67
2017-18	121.15	2637.14	-1.75	4.59
2018-19	121.15	2636.32	0.00	4.60
2019-20	121.15	2635.73	0.00	4.60
2020-21	121.12	2615.44	-0.02	4.63
2021-22	121.12	2613.5	0.00	4.63

Source: <https://nrega.nic.in/>

Table - 2 CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ISSUED JOB CARDS UNDER THE MGNREGS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Year	Total workers in Andhra Pradesh	Total workers in India	Growth rate in Andhra Pradesh	Percentage of Andhra Pradesh's workers in India
2014-15	8282158	121980547	-	6.79
2015-16	8441660	124835738	1.93	6.76

2016-17	8554384	122570215	1.34	6.98
2017-18	8639183	123274949	0.99	7.01
2018-19	8814227	133696109	2.03	6.59
2019-20	8975918	140893729	1.83	6.37
2020-21	9560483	154832156	6.51	6.17
2021-22	9560295	163516987	0.00	5.85

Source: <https://nrega.nic.in/>

**Table – 3 ACTIVE WORKERS UNDER THE MGNREGS IN
ANDHRA PRADESH**

Figures in Lakhs

Year	Total workers in Andhra Pradesh	Total workers in India	Growth rate in Andhra Pradesh	Percentage of Andhra Pradesh's workers in India
2014-15	94.33	1426.66	-	6.61
2015-16	94.33	1427.12	0.00	6.61
2016-17	95.98	1429.00	1.75	6.72
2017-18	95.98	1428.99	0.00	6.72
2018-19	95.98	1428.98	0.00	6.72
2019-20	95.98	1428.9	0.00	6.72
2020-21	95.96	1433.09	-0.02	6.70
2021-22	95.96	1432.62	0.00	6.70

Source: <https://nrega.nic.in/>

**Table - 4 EMPLOYMENT AVAILED UNDER THE MGNREGS IN
ANDHRA PRADESH**

Year	Households	Persons	Total Persondays in Andhra Pradesh	Total Persondays in India	Growth rate in total persondays in Andhra Pradesh	Percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India
2014-15	3306772	5574494	156126272	1552864095	-	10.05
2015-16	3621196	6093683	199102440	2207322163	27.53	9.02
2016-17	3991319	6584514	205508721	2243824207	3.22	9.16
2017-18	3993869	6511777	212024402	2221712869	3.17	9.54
2018-19	4227792	6911313	246563858	2677744686	16.29	9.21

2019-20	4037367	6501703	200225188	2652159614	-18.79	7.55
2020-21	4771813	7981187	259357908	3888249799	29.53	6.67
2021-22	4681031	7747261	241725517	3631519232	-6.80	6.66

Source: <https://nrega.nic.in/>

Table - 5 NUMBER OF FAMILIES COMPLETED 100 DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE MGNREGS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Year	Number of families in Andhra Pradesh	Number of families at all India level	Growth rate in total persondays in Andhra Pradesh	Percentage of Andhra Pradesh's total persondays in India
2014-15	382982	2312357	-	16.56
2015-16	587128	4421915	53.30	13.28
2016-17	580074	3807044	-1.20	15.24
2017-18	594146	2750926	2.43	21.60
2018-19	867428	5251055	46.00	16.52
2019-20	581814	4059437	-32.93	14.33
2020-21	864707	7195540	48.62	12.02
2021-22	469070	5914749	-45.75	7.93

Source: <https://nrega.nic.in/>

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