Perception of beneficiaries for efficacy of MGNREGA: a micro level analysis from Kalahandi district of Odisha, India
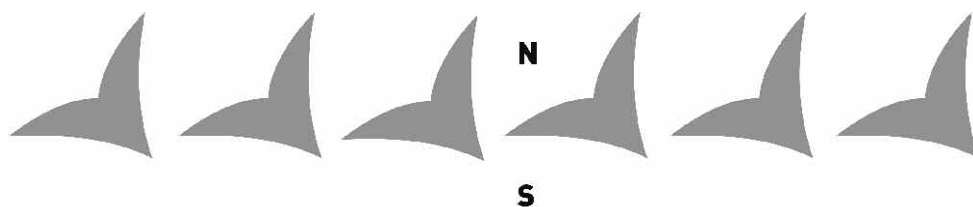
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Perception of beneficiaries for efficacy of MGNREGA:
a micro level analysis from Kalahandi district of Odisha, India

Highlights:

1. The study is about the largest social security programme in the world.

2. It covers one the poorest regions of the world i.e. Kalahandi district of Odisha.

3. The studied program (MGNREGA) is the largest employment generation programme in the world.

4. The research has developed a composite index from qualitative primary data.

5. Authors analyzed the issue from the demand side of a social security program.

Abstract: The present study tries to examine the impact of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) on socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kalahandi district of Odisha, India by using both primary and secondary data.Secondary data are collected from official website of MGNREGA during the period from 2012-2013 to 2018-2019. Primary data collected through semi-structured questionnaire from two blocks of the district, namely Golamunda and Narla with the total sample size of 300 households. In selecting the sample households, a proportionate sampling along with simple random sampling technique has been used. For analysis of the study, a five-point Likert scale has been used to measure the perception of sample respondents on the improvement of socio-economic conditions after implementation of MGNREGA. Besides, composite index has been used to capture the combined perceptions of all the sample respondents. The study found that less than 10 % of the target household got employment of 100 days during the study period. Besides, the result of composite index (0,16) regarding the perception of MGNREGA beneficiaries on different socio-economic parameters gives an impressive that MGNREGA is less effective in the improvement of socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. Thus, it can be concluded that the MGNREGA has not been effective in improving the socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kalahandi district of Odisha.

Keywords: MGNREGA, socio-economic status, MGNREGA beneficiaries, Kalahandi.

Percepción de la eficacia del MGNREGA por sus beneficiarios:
análisis a nivel micro en el distrito de Kalahandi (Odisha, India)

Ideas clave:

1. El estudio trata sobre el programa de seguridad social más grande del mundo.

2. Cubre una de las regiones más pobres del mundo, es decir, el distrito de Odisha en Kalahandi.

3. El programa estudiado (MGNREGA) es el programa de generación de empleo más grande del mundo.

4. La investigación ha desarrollado un índice compuesto a partir de datos primarios cualitativos.

5. Los autores analizaron el tema desde el lado de la demanda de un programa de seguridad social.

Resumen: El presente estudio trata de examinar el impacto del programa MGNREGA (*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act*) en el nivel socioeconómico de sus beneficiarios del distrito de Kalahandi (Odisha, India), utilizando datos primarios y secundarios. Los datos secundarios se recopilan delaweb oficial del programa MGNREGA desde el año 2012-2013 al 2018-2019. Los datos primarios se recopilaron a través de un cuestionario semiestructurado pasado en dos bloques del distrito (Golamunda y Narla), con un tamaño de muestra total de 300 hogares. Estos se seleccionaron mediante un muestreo proporcional junto con una técnica de muestreo aleatorio simple. Para el análisis se utilizó una escala Likert de cinco puntos con la que medir la percepción de los encuestados de la muestra sobre la mejora de las condiciones socioeconómicas después de la implementación del programa MGNREGA. Además, el índice compuesto se ha utilizado para capturar las percepciones combinadas de todos los encuestados. El estudio encontró que menos del 10 % de los hogares encuestados consiguió empleo durante los 100 días que duró nuestro estudio de programa. Además, el resultado del índice compuesto (0,16) con respecto a la percepción de los beneficiarios de MGNREGA sobre diferentes parámetros socioeconómicos, permite apuntar que el programa MGNREGA es relativamente poco efectivo.

Palabras clave: MGNREGA, estatus socioeconómico, beneficiarios de MGNREGA, Kalahandi.

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1. *Introduction*

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a right-based, demand-driven and employment guarantee programme. MGNREGA was implemented by Government of India in the rural areas of the country in 2006. It marked a paradigm shift from the erstwhile employment programmes with its rights-based approach (Pamecha and Sharma, 2015).The programmeaims at providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every adult members of rural household who are willing to do unskilled manual work. It not only provides wage employment but also puts emphasis on inclusive growth, creation of durable assets, protecting environment, empowering rural women and reducing rural-urban migration (ibid).

In fact, the implementation of this scheme has already passed a decade (10 years) in all the rural districts of the country including Kalahandi district of Odisha. Kalahandi district is one of the backward regions of the state. The district is predominantly a rural base because 92,5 % people live in the rural areas. According to the state human development report 2004, the district is placed at 11th rank in the state on the basis of HDI parameter. "The district reported 62,71 % families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the BPL survey 1997" (District Human Development Report [DHDR], 2012:34). Moreover, agriculture is the main-stay for the people of

Kalahandi district because about 80 % people depend on it[1]. However, agricultural production and productivity in the district is frequently affected due tooccurrence of frequent droughts. The district has experienced a series of droughts during 1919-20, 1922-23, 1925-26, 1929-30, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1965-66, 1974-75 and 1985 (ibid).

As a consequence, the socio-economic condition of the people became gloomy. This situation has forced the rural people to migrate to different urban areas of the country in search of job opportunities to derive their livelihood. The flow of out-migration is still prevailing in the district. Under such circumstance, the implementation of guaranteed employment programme, MGNREGA, is a good step in the district. Since the operation of the programme has already completed a decade, it is pertinent to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme with regards to its underlying objectives. Thus, the present study is undertaken to assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kalahandi district.

2. MGNREGA in Odisha

Odisha is one of the poor states of India. It is located on the eastern part of the country along the Bay of Bengal. The state has thirty districts. As per 2011 census, the state is the 11th largest in term of population in the country. In the state, around 41 million of people live contributing 3,47 % to the total population of the country. Most of the people (83 %) are concentrated in rural areas while few people (17 %) are concentrated in urban areas (as per census, 2011). The state is witnessed with the incidence of high poverty. According to Tendulkar Committee Methodology, about 60,80 % of rural people lived below poverty line in the state in 2004-05 as against 41,80 % in India, which has reduced to 35,69 % in the state and 25,70 % in the country in 2011-2012 (Odisha Economic Survey, 2014-2015). In spite of reduction of mass poverty to some extent, the state is still facing the severity of poverty, which stands as an impediment for the development of its economy. Hence, there is a need of implementation of MGNREGA programme to further reduce the intensity of poverty.

1• Kalahandi Gazetteer, http://gopabandhuacademy.gov.in/?q=districts-gazetteers-kalahandi accessed on 28/11/2018.

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MGNREGA was implemented in Odisha in a phased manner just like in national level. In the first phase (February 2006), it was launched in 19 districts, then extended to 5 more districts in the second phase (April, 2007) and the remaining 6 districts were covered under the scheme in the last phase (April, 2008) as shown in Table 1. The Government of Odisha has been giving priority for effective and efficient implementation of MGNREGA. The scheme was made operational in the state in order to eradicate poverty, unemployment and distress migration. Keeping this in view, the state has been taking subsequent proactive steps in the implementation of the scheme. A model of social audit was introduced in the state to conduct the social audit by Gram Sabha at GP level regarding the planning for works to be taken up and funds utilisation of the scheme.

In order to arrest the embezzlement of MGNREGA funds, reduce the late wage payment and bring about transparency in the system, the state Government has rolled out an Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) across the state. The e-FMS is now extended to all districts after a pilot study was successfully implemented in Gajapati, Mayurbhanj and Ganjam districts. In this connection, Odisha is the first state in the country. Through this system, the wages are directly transferred to the concerned MGNREGA beneficiaries. Western parts of Odisha including Kalahandi district are considered as drought prone areas in the state. The incidence of migration is rampant in the drought-hit areas. The state Government has declared (on April 1, 2013) to provide an additional 50 days to the existing 100 days of employment (constituting 150 days) to the households in the drought affected areas in a financial year. Besides, the provision was made for extension of works under the scheme. In the extensive works, the job card holders will be provided works for construction of houses of Biju Pucca Gahar and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme and also for the construction of Anganwadi houses.

Table 1.
Coverage of MGNREGA in Odisha with different phases

Phase	Name of districts covered under MGNREGA	Nº of districts
First (2nd February, 2006)	Bolangir, Boudha, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, gajapati, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, kandhamal, koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Sundargarh	19
Second (1st April, 2007)	Bargarh, Anugul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur	05
Third (1st April, 2008)	Nayagarh, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Cuttack, Khorda	06
Total		30

Source: Retrieved from http://nrega.nic.in/MNREGA_Dist.pdf. (20/03/2017).

3. Review of literature

Several research studies have been carried out by many researchers and research institutions with regards to effectiveness of MGNREGA. Some of them are as follows. According to Pankaj (2008),the average days of employment provided per households under NREGS is low in both Bihar and Jharkhand states;still it has generated positive impacts on the livelihood conditions of the beneficiaries.The study also concluded that the beneficiaries have spent their earnings mostly on food and daily consumption items apart from meeting the expenditure on healthcare, education, and repayment of loans and the purchase of household durable assets.Further, the scheme has helped them to reduce their indebtedness.

Nair, Sreedharan and Anup (2009) argued that the beneficiaries in the study region considered NREGA income as substantial supportive income because it supplements to the other sources of income. A study was conducted by Banerjee and Saha (2010) in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha states. The study found that the farmers (NREGA beneficiaries) earned an additional income through NREGA programme. Out of these earnings, a proportion was spent in agriculture for the purchase of chemical fertilizers, seeds and other inputs apart from meeting their consumption expenditure. As a consequence, the agricultural production increased in the study areas.

Moreover, with the implementation of the programme, household income of the beneficiaries augmented because of increasing in employment and wage rate. This resulted in improvement of livelihoods of the beneficiaries in the study regions. In 2009, Khera and Nayak focused to examine the socio-economic effect of NREGA on women workers in six north Indian states. They found that out of total sample workers, 32 % of workers were women in the study areas. Further, the study revealed that two-third of female respondents reported that they have faced less hunger as a result of NREGA employment. Nearly 70 % of female workers have kept their own wages earned through the scheme. These earnings are used by them for their food expenditures, medical treatment, child's education and repayment of debts. Thus, the study concluded that MGNREGA programme has played a significant role in improving the socio-economic status of women workers in the study regions.

Dutta, Murgai, Ravallion, and Walle (2012) have tried to examine the performance of MGNREGA in meeting the demand for works by the households. They have used household level data from National Sample Survey 2009-2010 in all states. It is found from that 45 % of rural households across the states wanted works under the scheme. Among them, 56 % of households got work (demand rate) and the remaining 44 % wanted work but did not get it (rationing rate). In this respect, it is starkly seen that rationing rate varied from 15 % to 80 % across the states.

However, only three states had below 20 %. This clearly indicates that there is excess demand for works under the scheme resulting in increasing the unmet-demand. As a result, the households could not get work according to their willingness. Therefore, it can be said that the MGNREGA programme has failed to provide sufficient works to the rural households. Singh (2013) stated that MGNREGA has a significant impact on the economic condition of MGNREGA workers by providing them job opportunities, rising wage rate, creating assets and bringing economic independence specially the woman workers. It is also found that the workers are dissatisfiedwith the economic benefits received from the scheme because the number of days of employment provided is insufficient and late payment is made.

Goswami and Dutta (2014) carried out a study in Assam with a sample size of 168 households. They have tried to assess the impact of MGNREGA programme on the standard of living of the beneficiaries by taking the socio-economic parameters such as children's school education, household assets creation, livestock assets creation and savings. The study revealed that MGNREGA could not contribute substantially toward improving the standard of living of the beneficiary households.

Mishra, Viswanathan, and Bhattarai (2014) made a study to assess the impact of MGNREGA on income, assets and food security in 10 villages of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra states carrying a sample size of 891 households. The study analysed the perception of respondents regarding socio-economic parameters in order to assessthe impact of MGNREGA programme. For assessing economic impact of the programme, household income, improvement of overall economic conditions, children's educational expenses, agricultural expenses, purchasing food grains, saving and payment of debt haven been taken as economic parameters. Similarly, increase in social status, equal status for male and female, unique identity created in the society, women of the house started working outside and good image for getting loan have been taken as social parameters for assessing social impact of the programme.

The finding of the study reveals that MGNREGA programme has helped in increasing household income and improvement of overall economic conditions of the

beneficiaries. It has also helped to meet the expenses on children's education and purchase of food grains. Moreover, the increase in additional income earned through the programme has resulted in improvement of their social status and participation of woman in the public works.

Carswell and Neve (2014) conducted a study in Tamil Nadu by taking 109 sample households and tried toassess the effect of MGNREGA on livelihood of rural households. The study reveals that the implementation of MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu has been successful. The success is reflected in term of providing average person-days, participation of women in the scheme, reduction of corruption through making payment directly in bank accounts, enhancement of women empowerment and strengthening bargaining power of rural workers. The MGNREGA has helped to improve the livelihood condition of theworkers who work under the scheme and also theother workers who do agricultural works. The agricultural workers have been benefited with the increase in agricultural wages due to the positive effect of the scheme. Besides, the scheme has helped to enhance the bargaining power of the rural workers, especially the low-caste workers, whose dependency on high-caste employers has reduced through implementation of the scheme. Thus, the study concluded that the scheme has positive impact on the livelihood condition of the rural households in the study area.

A study conducted by Kharkwal and Kumar (2015) in Uttarakhand shows that they have used socio-economic indicators with three point Likert scales so as to assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. The study found that MGNREGA has positive impact on socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries though improvement in the level of income, food security, dwelling house conditions, assets possession, annual per capita food and non-food expenditure, per capita expenditure on health and education, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

A study carried out by Pamecha and Sharma (2015) is based on primary data carrying 200 sample households in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. The study found that after intervention of MGNREGA, the level of annual income has increased up to Rs.25.000 in the district as reported by 86 % sample respondents. Similarly, merely 11,5 % of respondents revealed that their annual income has increased more than Rs.25.000. The study concluded that the programme has positive impact on the improvement of the level of income in the study area.

Rao and Kumar (2015) conducted a study in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh by taking 530 sample households. They found that the increase in the level of income,

saving and expenditure was moderate after implementation of MGNREGS. Besides, there was no change in the expenditure towards fuel/electricity, clothing and food. Thus, the scheme has no significant impact on the improvement of the socio-economic status of the sample households in the study area.According to Reddy and Khan (2015), MGNREGA programme has brought about many positive changes in the improvement of the livelihood of the rural poor people in Dharward district of Karnataka state.

From the above review of literature, a vacuum was found that the rare research studies have been done in Kalahandi district of Odisha in connection with the effectiveness of MGNREGA on socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries.

4. Objective and research methodology

The study is carried out to examine the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kalahandi district of Odisha. The dependency of people on agriculture is about 80 % in the district. Since the agriculture is dependent on monsoon in the district, it is frequently affected by scanty rain fall. As a result, crops failure occurs and thereby agricultural production is reduced. It affectsthe livelihood of people. Moreover, the people sit idle at home once the harvesting is over. This is due to lack of job opportunities in the villages. That is why economic status of the people is affected. On the contrary, MGNREGA programme has the potential to improve socio-economic condition of beneficiaries by providing the guaranteed wage employment to the households in the rural areas. Since the programme was implemented in Kalahandi district in 2006 and it has already crossed a decade of its operation, it is imperative to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme in improving the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.

The present study has used both primary and secondary data. The relevant secondary data are collected from Ministry of Rural Development exclusively from the official website of MGNREGA. Secondary data for the period ofseven years have been used in the study during the financial yearsfrom 2012-2013 to 2018-2019. To analyse these data, simple statistical tools like average, percentage and average growth rate have been employed. On the other hand, primary data are collected through a self-administered semi open questionnaire, which was specifically developed for this study.

Primary data are collected through a semi-structured questionnaire, which was specifically developed for this study.

4.1. Sampling technique

The study is carried out with the sample size of 300 households from Kalahandi district of Odisha. Odisha has thirty districts of which Kalahandi district has been selected as a sample district (study area). This isbecause of the fact that Kalahandi district is one of KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) regions of the state. The KBK regions are popularly well known as the under-developed regions not just in the state but in the country (Figure 1). The district is facing acute poverty, crop failure due to scanty rain fall, insufficient irrigation facilities, lack of non-agricultural occupations etc. As a result, the rural poor people of the district are forced to migrate to different urban areas of the country in search of job opportunities to derive their livelihood. The issue of labour migration is prominent in the district. It is still prevailing even after MGNREGA programme came into effect in the district. This scenario has strongly motivated the researcher to select Kalahandi district as a study area. Kalahandi has 13 blocks of which two blocks namely Golamunda and Narla have been selected as sample blocks. The total numbers of blocks of the Kalahandi district are divided into two groups i.e. block with state border and block without state border. By using simple random sampling technique, Golamunda block is selected from the blocks sharing state border and Narla block is selected from the blocks sharing without state border. This is because of the fact that the household residing in a block having border with other state may have the possibility of inter-state migration to seek job.

The total numbers of households in the sample villages are 1.201 out of which households from Golamunda block are 756 (63 %) and from Narla block are 445 (37 %). Thus, in order to have a proper representation of the blocks, a proportionate sampling technique along with simple random sampling technique has been used to select the households. Therefore, from Golamunda block 188 households (63 % of the total sample size 300) and from Narla block 122 households (37 % of the total sample size 300) are selected.

Figure 1.
Map of the location of (a) India in the World, (b) Odisha in India, (c) Kalahandi district in Odisha and (d) Golamunda and Narla blocks in Kalahandi district
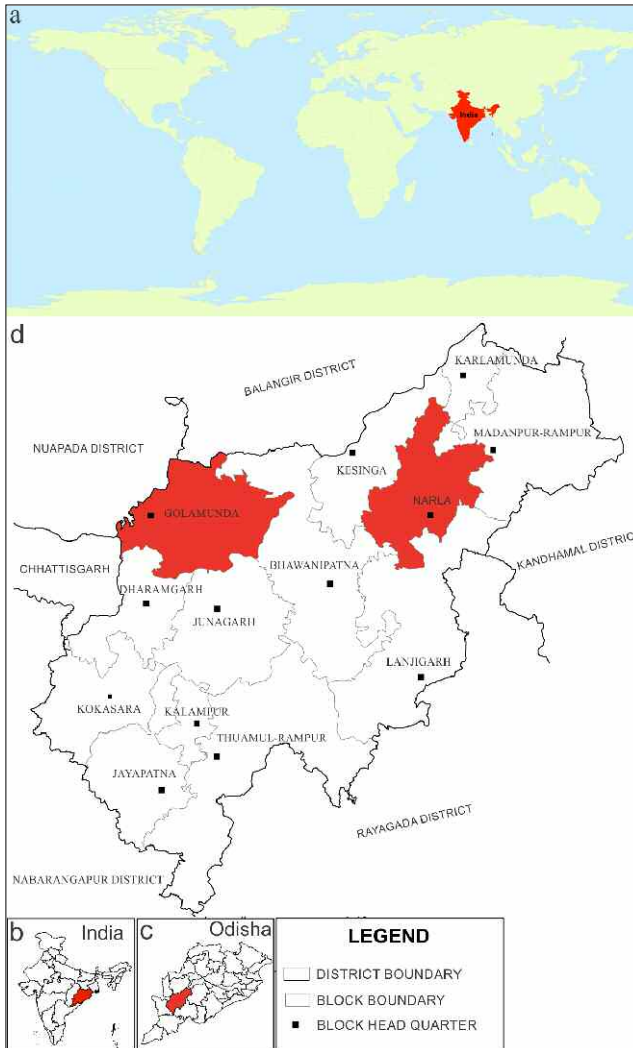
Source: Map (a) is Author's creation using ArcGIS software, rest of the maps are modified after taking from the initial source Odisha Geo-Portal (www.gisodisha.nic.in, accessed on 01/12/2019).
Note: The physical boundaries of the regions are indicative and have no locus-standi in any dispute.

4.2. Tools for data analysis

To analyse the data, the following research tool has been employed in the present study. In order to measure the perception of sample respondents on the improvement of socio-economic conditions after implementation of MGNREGA, a Likert scale is used. The degree of responses to which they agree or disagree on various socio-economic indicators are assigned in an order of five points Likert scale. These response scales are 1 = fully disagree, 2 = partially disagree, 3 = partially agree, 4 = agree and 5 = fully agree. In the present study, the entire 300 sample respondents are surveyed on 19 socio-economic indicators. To find out the Scale Index (hereafter, SI) from each Likert scale, total actual value of responses is divided by total maximum value of responses. The total actual value of responses (TAV) is calculated by

$$TAV_i = \Sigma F_j.W_i$$

i=1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and j = 1, 2, 3,......19 (indicators)

Where F = Number of responses given by the sample respondents;

$W_1=1$ (for fully disagree)

$W_2=2$ (for partially disagree)

$W_3=3$ (for partially agree)

$W_4=4$ (for agree) and

$W_5=5$ (for fully agree);

Similarly, total maximum value of responses (henceforth, TMV) is calculated by

$$TMV_i = N.I.W_i$$

i=1, 2, 3, 4, 5; N= total number of sample respondents (300)

I= Total number of indicators (19)

Thus, SI is calculated by the following formula

$$SI_i = \frac{TAV_i}{TMV_i}$$

$$= \frac{\Sigma F_j.W_i}{N.I.W_i}$$

$$= \frac{\text{Actual value of responses}}{\text{Maximum value of responses}}$$

Where SI_1= scale index of fully disagree

SI_2= scale index of partially disagree

SI_3= scale index of partially agree

SI_4= scale index of agree

SI_5= scale index of fully agree

A single weighted index (i.e. composite index, CI) which takes into consideration all the individual indices, is constructed from the SIs'. It is used to capture the combined responses or perceptions of all the sample respondents regarding the impact of MGNREGA on the improvement of all socio-economic variables. The construction of composite index, is driven by the construction of Sen's index, where weights are assigned to each individual indices according to decreasing order (Sen, 2002), i.e the index of fully agree is assigned with a weight of 5, weight of 4 for index of agree, weight of 3 for index f partially agree, weight of 2 for index of partially disagree and weight of 1 for index of fully disagree. Thus, Composite Index (hereafter, CI) is calculated by

$$CI= \frac{\Sigma\, Sli.Wi}{\Sigma\, Wi}$$

The value of the CI will vary from "0" to "1", where "0" implies perception of the sample respondents for complete ineffectiveness and "1" represents complete effectiveness of MGNREGA in improving the socio-economic status.

5. Results and discussion

5.1. Analysis of secondary data

Since the operation of the MGNREGA programme in Kalahandi district has been completed a decade and more, it is imperative to examine its progress.The present study focuses the overall performance of the scheme in the district during the financial year from 2012-13 to 2018-19 (as shown in Table 2). The average days of employment provided per household is between 28.53 and 42.08 which arequite less than the prescribe 100 daysemployment under the scheme. Similarly, the average wage rate per person per day was Rs.125.95 in 2012-2013, which consistently increased over the periods and reached to Rs.200,79 in 2015-2016 and then declined to Rs.173,97 in 216-2017. Thereafter, the trend started rising till 2018-2019. This implies that the average wage rate under the scheme has been rising continuously in the district over the periods except the financial year 2015-2016.

Table 2.
Progress of MGNREGA in Kalahandi district (2012-13 to 2016-17)

S.L No	Particulars	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
1	Average days of employment per HH	35,01	42,08	34,38	38,44	30,54	30,63	28,53
2	Average wage rate per day per person (in Rs.)	125,95	142,87	163,96	200,79	173,97	175,94	181,93
3	HHs completed 100 days of work	3695	8461	2034	6092	653	1302	976
4	Total HHs worked	74.599	84.918	64.877	93.089	87.106	103.545	99.958
5	% of HHs completed 100 days of works	4,95	9,96	3,14	6,54	0,75	1,25	0,97
6	Total individual worked (in Lakhs)	1,37	1,47	1,13	1,64	1,55	1,77	1,49
7	Total number of works taken up (in Lakhs)	0,12	0,15	0,15	0,28	0,31	0,41	0,41
8	Total number of works completed	3235	3645	599	4624	13679	18153	14691
9	% of works completed	26,96	24,30	3,99	16,51	44,13	44,28	36,59
10	Total funds available (in Lakhs)	5.784,18	6.546,67	4.867,45	7.996,96	7.949,11	8.221,14	8.335,86
11	Total expenditure in (in Lakhs)	5.253,51	6.366,25	4.730,17	7.861,30	7.972,88	8.312,54	8.431,13
12	% of utilisation of funds	90,83	97,24	97,18	98,30	100,30	101,11	101,14
13	% of payment generated within 15 days	82,02	65,99	32,42	53,24	51,66	90,43	99,86

Source: Ministry of Rural Development (www.nrega.ac.in); HHs- Households.

The programme mandates that the registered rural households are entitled to get at least 100 days of employment in a financial year. But, in this regard, it is found that less than 10 % of households have got 100 days of employment in the district during the financial year from 2012-2013 to 2018-2019. This implies that 100 days of employment provided to the rural households in the district is not impressive at all. Similarly, below 45 % of the works under the scheme has been completed over the financial years. This implies that the progress of the scheme is not satisfactory in the district. Moreover, the total expenditure made under the scheme has been persistently increasing over the financial years from 2012-2013 to 2018-2019 except 2014-2015.

The expenditure was Rs.5.253,51 lakh in 2012-2013, which increased to Rs.8.431,13 lakh in 2018-2019.

As regards the percentage utilisation of funds under the scheme, it has been rising progressively over the periods. In 2012-2013, the fund utilised was 90,83 %, which escalated to 101,14 % in 2018-2019. As per the provision of the scheme, the wages are to be disbursed to the workers on weekly basis but not more than 15 days in any case. In this connection, the present study found that 82,02 % of payment was made within 15 days in the district in 2012-2013. After that it fluctuated with the range between 32,42 % to 65,99 % during the financial year from 2013-2014 to 2016-2017. During these periods, the workers were discouraged to work under the scheme because of late payment. However, in the next two financial years i.e. 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, the percentage of payment generated within 15 days was increased significantly to 90,43 and 99,86 respectively. This induces the workers to work under the scheme. From the above discussion it can be said that the overall performance of the scheme is not satisfactory in Kalahandi district. This is mainly due to improper implementation of the programme and lack of awareness among the beneficiaries.

Table 3.
Person-days generated under MGNREGA in Kalahandi

Years	Total (in Lakhs)	AGR	SC (%)	AGR (SC)	ST (%)	AGR (ST)	Women (%)	AGR (Women)
2012-2013	26,12	–	15,82	–	37,75	–	42,30	–
2013-2014	35,74	36,83	16,25	2,72	37,62	-0,34	40,19	-4,99
2014-2015	22,31	-37,58	17,28	6,34	35,99	-4,33	41,34	2,86
2015-2016	35,81	60,51	16,68	-3,47	36,94	2,64	41,24	-0,24
2016-2017	26,60	-25,72	16,68	0,00	35,16	-4,82	41,92	1,65
2017-2018	31,72	19,25	17,71	6,18	33,51	-4,69	41,59	-0,79
2018-2019	28,52	-10,09	16,83	-4,97	33,18	-0,98	38,38	-7,72

Source: Computed by the author. Note: AGR- Annual Growth Rate.

The Table 3 depicts that about 26.12 lakh persondays were created under the scheme in the district in 2012-2013. It has increased to 35.74 lakh persondays in the next financial year. In this way, the creation of persondays has been fluctuating in the

successive years. It is observed that the AGR of persondays was negative in 2014-2015, 2016-2017 and 2018-2019. But, the remaining other financial years starting from 2012-2013, it was positive. The negative growth rate indicates the fall in the personday's creation and positive growth rate indicates the rise in the personday's creation under the scheme.

With regards to SC workers, the percentage of participation was between 15,82 to 17,71 during 2012-2013 to 2018-2019. The AGR of participation of SC workers was negative in 2014-2015 and 2018-2019. This implies that the participation of SC workers was declined during these periods in the district. Similarly, the participation of ST workers was between 33-37 % during the same period. The AGR of participation of ST became negative in all the given years except 2015-2016. This connotes that the participation of ST workers in the scheme has been declining in the successive years in the district barring the said year. Moreover, the participation of women under the scheme was between 38-42 % in the district. It is above the normative 33 % as per the scheme. The annual growth rate of women participation shows negative over the given years except 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. This implies that the participation of women in the scheme was reduced in most of the financial years in the district.

5.2. Analysis of primary data
Perception of beneficiaries on MGNREGA

MGNREGA has the potential to bring positive changes in the social and economic status of the beneficiaries. The present study has taken some major socio-economic parameters to assess the perception of the beneficiaries on the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA. Most of these parameters are consistent with the parameters taken in the study conducted by Mishra, Viswanathan and Bhattarai (2014). But the few other variables are taken based on the problem of the study area.As shown in Table 4, it is clear that majority of respondents (54 %) perceived that they are partially agreed with the increase in income after implementation of MGNREGA. However, 34,67 % respondents agree with the increase in the level of income. The rise in the level of income is fully agreed by only 1 % respondent while fully disagreed by only 2 % respondents. This clearly indicates that more than half of the respondents (54 %) are partially agreed with the increase in the level of income after the implementation of the scheme.

Table 4.

Table 4.
Perception of beneficiaries on MGNREGA

Particulars	Fully agreed	Agreed	Partially agreed	Partially disagreed	Fully disagreed	Total
Income	3 (1,00)	104 (34,67)	162 (54,00)	25 (8,33)	6 (2,00)	300 (100)
Food and other Consumption items	4 (1,33)	83 (27,67)	189 (63,00)	22 (7,33)	2 (0,67)	300 (100)
Clothing	1 (0,33)	43 (14,33)	209 (69,67)	43 (14,33)	4 (1,33)	300 (100)
Health	0 (0,0)	39 (13,00)	195 (65,00)	59 (19,67)	7 (2,33)	300 (100)
Cooking Fuel	0 (0,0)	32 (10,67)	10 (3,33)	18 (6,00)	240 (80,00)	300 (100)
Education	2 (0,67)	44 (14,67)	122 (40,67)	46 (15,33)	86 (28,67)	300 (100)
Transport	9 (3,00)	105 (35,00)	125 (28,67)	50 (16,67)	11 (3,67)	300 (100)
Social/Religion Function	27 (9,00)	97 (32,33)	131 (43,67)	35 (11,67)	10 (3,33)	300 (100)
Loan Repayment	8 (2,67)	28 (9,33)	16 (5,33)	114 (38,00)	134 (44,67)	300 (100)
Electricity consumption	70 (23,33)	65 (21,67)	82 (27,33)	35 (11,67)	48 (16,0)	300 (100)
Agri. Equipment and seeds	2 (0,67)	44 (14,67)	62 (20,67)	140 (46,67)	52 (17,33)	300 (100)
Households Assets	1 (033)	41 (13,67)	122 (40,67)	109 (36,33)	27 (9,0)	300 (100)
Recreation	2 (0,67)	15 (5,00)	57 (19,00)	105 (35,00)	121 (40,33)	300 (100)
Maintenance of House	1 (1,64)	61 (20,33)	166 (55,00)	50 (16,67)	22 (7,00)	300 (100)
Purchase of Land/ Building	0 (0,0)	18 (6,00)	10 (3,3)	68 (22,67)	204 (68,00)	300 (100)
Savings	2 (0,67)	14 (4,67)	26 (8,67)	103 (34,33)	155 (51,67)	300 (100)
Exposure to mass media	1 (0,33)	28 (9,33)	56 (18,67)	103 (34,33)	112 (37,33)	300 (100)
Attending Gram Sabha meeting	61 (20,33)	63 (21,00)	152 (50,67)	18 (6,00)	6 (2,00)	300 (100)
Contact with govt. functionaries	33 (11,00)	111 (37,00)	96 (32,000	45 (15,00)	15 (5,00)	300 (100)
Scale Index (S.I)	0,04	0,18	0,32	0,20	0,22	
Weight (W)	5	4	3	2	1	
Composite Index (C.I)	0,16					

Source: Compiled by researcher from primary Survey (May-August, 2016).
Note: The figures in the parentheses show percentage to the row total.

With regards to improvement of food and other consumption items, the perception of the respondents shows that around 63 % respondents are partially

agreed, 27,67 % are agreed, 1,33 % are fully agreed, but 0,67 % are fully disagreed. This implies that most of the respondents (63 %) are partially agreed with the improvement of food and other consumption items. Similarly, the perception of the respondents with respect to improvement of clothing reveals that 69,67 % respondents are partially agreed, 14,33 % are agreed, 0,33 % is fully agreed, but merely 1,33 % are fully disagreed. This makes it clear that majority of respondents are partially agreed with the improvement of clothing.

In case of improvement of health, most of the respondents (65 %) revealed their perception that they are partially agreed with it. In this regard, none of the respondents is fully agreed. But, around 19,67 % respondents are partially disagreed, 13 % are agreed and 2,33 % are fully disagreed with it. This indicates that MGNREGA has no satisfactory impact on the improvement of health of the beneficiaries. Similarly, the majority of respondentsperceived that they partially agree on the improvement of education (40,67 %), social/religion function (43,67 %), electricity consumption (27,33 %), household assets creation (40,67 %), maintenance of house (50 %) and attending Gram Sabha (50,67 %). But, relatively few percentage of respondents are agreed in this regard. Thus, it can be said that the impact of MGNREGA has not been satisfactory in the enhancement of education, social/religion function, electricity consumption, household assets creation, maintenance of house and attending Gram Sabha.

Moreover, most of the respondents perceived that they are fully disagreed regarding the improvement of cooking fuel (80 %), repayment of land (44,67 %), recreation (40,33 %), purchasing of land (68 %), saving (51,67 %) and exposure to mass media (37,33 %). Hence, the scheme has the least impact on the beneficiaries in this respect. However, the scheme has satisfactory effect on the beneficiaries in the context of improvement of transport (35 %) and contact with government functionaries (37 %). This is because the transport facilities have been improved due to development of the local roads connectivity through MGNREGA. Similarly, the contact of the beneficiaries with the government functionaries have enhanced when the scheme came into effect in the study area. This is so, because they will be able to claim for their grievances to the MGNREGA stakeholders like Sarapancha GRS, APO, PO, etc. In this way, the distance between them has minimized. As a result of which, the contact of the beneficiaries with the stakeholders have improved as compared to earlier (before MGNREGA). The composite index (0.16) shows that MGNREGA is less effective in the improvement of socio-economic status of the beneficiaries in the study area.

6. Conclusion and Policy suggestions

In fact, MGNREGA has the potential to improve the social and economic condition of its beneficiariesby providing at least 100 days of guarantee wage employment to the rural households in a financial year. However, in this context, the present study found that less than 10 percent of households have got 100 days of employment in Kalahandi district during the financial year from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017. This implies that 100 days of employment provided to the rural households in the district is not impressive at all. Thus, it can be said that MGNREGA programme has not been successful in providing 100 days of wage employment in Kalahandi district. This is mainly due to improper implementation of the programme in its mechanism and lack of awareness among the MGNREGA beneficiaries. Besides, the result of composite index (0.16) regardingthe perception of MGNREGA beneficiaries on different socio-economic parameters gives an impressive that MGNREGA is less effective in the improvement of socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. Thus, it can be concluded that the MGNREGA has not been effective in improving the socio-economic status of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kalahandi district of Odisha.

In Kalahandi district, MGNREGA programme has not been effective in improving the socio-economic status of its beneficiaries. Hence, in order to make the programme more effective the following policy prescriptions should be adopted:

(i) The failure of MGNREGA programme in the district is due to the lack of awareness among the beneficiaries. Therefore, emphasis should be given to make them aware of the rules and regulation of the programme so that they can claim for receiving 100 days of employment along with accidental benefits as well as unemployment allowance under the scheme. Consequently, their economic status could be improved.

(ii) In the study area, the wage payment is made in an irregular manner. The delay in wage payment discourages the workers to participate in the scheme. Therefore, the state government should take adequate policy measures to make the payment as per the guideline of the scheme.

(iii) It is found that below 10 % households have got 100 days of employment throughout the financial year. Besides, the average days of employment provided per household is ranged between 30,54 and 42,08 which is less than the half of the

normative 100 days under the scheme. With these few days of employment, the workers cannot maintain their livelihood. Therefore, the government should take appropriate measure to provide at least 100 days of works to the job card holders.

The present study is confined to the general perception of the beneficiaries on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA. In the future study, the perception of the beneficiaries can be assessed by disaggregating the data on the basis of caste, gender, class, etc. Moreover, further study can be carried outby taking other socio-economic parameters which are beyond scope of the present study. Similarly, sample size taken in the study can be increased in the future research.

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Authors' contribution

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Conceptualization	70 %	20 %	10 %
Data curation	0 %	60 %	40 %
Formal analysis	50 %	30 %	20 %
Funding acquisition	36 %	32 %	32 %
Investigation	10 %	80 %	10 %
Methodology	50 %	30 %	20 %
Project administration	40 %	40%	20 %
Resources	0 %	0 %	0 %
Software	0 %	0 %	0 %
Supervision	10 %	20 %	70 %
Validation	60 %	20 %	20 %
Visualization	50 %	30 %	20 %
Writing – original draft	50 %	30 %	20 %
Writing – review & editing	60 %	25 %	15 %

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