

Impact Of MGNREGA On Rural-Urban Migration: Revisiting Harris-Todaro Model of Migration

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Abstract- MGNREGA is the rural development scheme that launched in February 2006 by Government of India (GOI) to provide 100 days of employment to an adult in every household per year. Harris-Todaro model provide a policy implication that an integrated rural development program should be encouraged in rural area to reduce rural-urban migration. The MGNREGA scheme is the biggest rural development program in India and reduction in distress rural-urban migration is one of its salient feature and objective. The present study has been carried out in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan to study the impact of the MGNREGA on rural-urban migration and try to test policy implication provided by the H-T model. The study found that the scheme was partially successful in preventing MGNREGA beneficiaries from becoming a migrant. A strong and significant association can be seen between awareness about wage difference and migration status. Study concludes that there is a need for a lot of improvement required in areas of implementation under MGNREGA scheme. The study suggests that the system be executed properly, with sufficient planning and effective oversight by the appropriate authorities as well as proper monitoring being carried out at the local level.

Index Terms- MGNREGA, Harris-Todaro, Migration, Rural Development, Wage Difference.

I. MIGRATION

Migration is the crucial components that influencing demographic changes in a country after fertility and mortality. According to United Nations Organization Summit held in 1993, "Migration is defined as a transfer from one migration determining region to the other, usually transcending departmental boundaries

throughout a given migration period, usually including a transfer of abode."

II. MIGRATION IN INDIA

There are four distinct migration streams in India i.e. rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to urban. Migration from rural to urban areas is the crucial and important migration patterns is accounting for roughly 20 per cent of all migrants. People migrate to the urban area from rural areas in quest of numerous possibilities such as jobs, schooling and social assistance. Due to three major factors, migration will gain momentum in India. Firstly, a push factor will arise due to inadequate holding capacity in agriculture. Secondly, as high-tech manufacturing develops with rise of the knowledge economy occurs, cities will be the places to create jobs and attract migrants. Thirdly, when rural regions develop, people would migrate to cities in quest of better schooling, higher quality employment and recreation and social opportunities in cities and this causes the property-push migration.

III. HARRIS-TODARO MODEL OF MIGRATION AND ITS POLICY IMPLICATION

The popular research paper 'Migration, unemployment and development: A two-sector analysis' by Michael Todaro and John R. Harris on the situation of distress rural-urban migration was published in American Economic Review in 1970. The Harris-Todaro approach seems to have some implications for policy makers. Harris-Todaro model provide a policy implication that an integrated rural development program should be encouraged in rural area. A long-term remedy to the issue of distressed rural-urban migration is provided by effective rural development program in a specific nation or region.

IV. MGNREGA: AN ALTERNATIVE TO MIGRATION

“NREGA should help in reducing the number of migrant laborers in the country as employment is being provided to them in their own villages.”- Mallikarjun Kharge

The MGNREGA provides a guarantee while also ensuring hundred employment days at a minimum wage rate. One of its primary goals is to significantly reduce migration of labor by giving rural regions access to locally accessible employment. The MGNREGA program was originally introduced in February 2006 throughout 200 of the most underdeveloped areas after being enacted in August 2005. Later, it was expanded to an additional number of 330 districts across nation in April 2007 and then more 295 districts were added into this in April 2008. This brings up the total number of 625 districts out of the overall 640 districts across the country, according to the Census 2011. Presently, the scheme has implementing in all districts in India.

V. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

According to the Harris-Todaro migration model “An integrated rural development program should be encouraged in rural area. An effective development scheme or rural development program can provide long-term solutions for the issue of distressed rural-urban migration.” The MGNREGA scheme is the biggest rural development program in India and reduction in distress rural-urban migration is one of its salient feature and objective. More specifically, we study the impact of the MGNREGA on rural-urban migration and try to test policy implication based on the recommendations of H-T model on rural development.

VI. REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND RESEARCH GAP

After going through the considerable literature available for the MGNREGA, it is clear that no study has been conducted on MGNREGA and its impact on the issue of migration from rural areas to urban with

the relevance of the prediction of Harris-Todaro migration model of economic development especially the southern districts of Rajasthan Pratapgarh. Hence the present study aims at analyzing the influence of MGNREGA program on the rural-urban migration in Pratapgarh district and made an effort to fill this research gap.

VIII. SELECTION OF STUDY AREA (WHY PRATAPARH..... ????)

This study selected Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan state for intensive study purposively because Pratapgarh district named as one of the country's most backward districts declared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in year 2006 and it is also receiving funds from Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme and MGNREGA is implemented extensively and intensively for the development of the social economic conditions of district. The movement of rural workers of Pratapgarh district is witnessed continuous migration pattern towards the other states like Maharashtra, Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh in the search of employment. The study has been carried out in Pratapgarh district to know the impact of MGNREGA on rural-urban migration.

IX. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the implementation of MGNREGA scheme in study area.
2. To analyse the impact of MGNREGA on distress rural-urban migration in Pratapgarh district.
3. To understand the relevance of the Harris-Todaro model of migration in relation to rural-urban migration MGNREGA in Pratapgarh district.
4. To provide suggestions, recommendations for better execution of the scheme on the basis of findings of the study.

X. HYPOTHESES

- H₁0: There is no significant impact of MGNREGA on the rural-urban migration in study area.
- H₂0: There is no significant association between Awareness about Wage Rate Difference and Status of Migration.

XI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study is mainly based on the primary data which has been collected through a pre-tested schedule with Multi-stage random sampling technique. The initial schedule has prepared in Hindi language so that respondent will easily understand the questions and later on it is prepared in English. Multi-Stage simple Random Sampling method has been adopted for the present study. In first stage, 3 gram panchayats from each block has been taken and 3 villages from each gram panchayat has been selected in second stage. In the stage third, 10 households from each village had selected. The total number of households from each block of district is 90 for the study. Hence, the study has covered a sample of 450 MGNREGA beneficiaries.

XII. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Statistical methods such as arithmetic and standard deviation etc. have been used and the data are presented by diagram. One sample 'T' test has used to study analyse the effectiveness of the scheme on various aspects of the families of migrant workers. MS Excel has been used for data analysis and calculation. Chi square test for association also used to study the association between the awareness of households about the wage difference and effectiveness of the scheme on rural-urban migration. Tabulation, Cross-Tabulation, linear graph, percentile and other relevant methods according to availability of the data has been used in the present study.

XIII. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The present study is focused mainly on the implementation and impact of the scheme on rural-urban migration in Pratapgarh district with the relevance of Harris-Todaro model of migration.

Impact of MGNREGA on Rural-Urban Migration

In order to know the impact of MGNREGA on rural-urban migration, the perception of respondents about different aspects of migration is recorded in a five point scale and one sample 'T' test has applied as depicted in table below. The analysis was done by comparing the score of every dimension with the neutral score of 3. 'T' test was applied to confirm that

the difference in the mean score of each aspect from neutral score is statistically significant or not. The score is less than 3 and if it statistically significant, this would indicate the negative perception towards the impact of MGNREGA on different aspects of rural-urban migration. Similarly if the score is greater than 3 and if it statistically significant, this would indicate the positive perception towards the impact of MGNREGA on different aspects of rural-urban migration.

Table 2 Perceptions about the Impact of MGNREGA on Various Aspects

Particulars	Perceptions about the Impact of MGNREGA (Mean Score)	SD	SE	T-Value
Has the change in migration status of family due to MGNREGA?	2.63	1.1178	0.053	7.0217*
Has MGNREGA changed the type of migration?	1.99	0.9785	0.4607	21.8961**
Has the duration of migration (number of days) during the year decreased after MGNREGA?	2.72	1.0649	0.0501	5.5777*

Has distance of migration reduced due to MGNREG A?	3.14	1.0583	0.0498	2.8062* *
Has MGNREG A helped to prevent migration incidence	2.33	1.0076	0.0474	14.1056 **
Decrease in the migration of women after MGNREG A	3.28	1.1353	0.0535	5.2318* *
Decrease in of child migration after MGNREG A	3.18	1.0336	0.0487	3.6942* *
Reduction in dependenc e on migration for livelihood after MGNREG A	4.16	0.9772	0.046	25.1815 **
Overall	2.92	1.0466	0.1011	10.6893 **

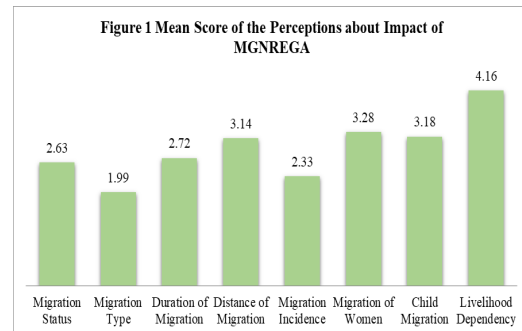
Source: Compiled from Primary Data

*** Significant at 0.01 level

** Significant at 0.05 level

It is clear from the above table that the overall mean score of 2.92 indicates a negative perception of the respondents about the impact of MGNREGA on various aspects related to rural-urban migration. The null hypothesis of the research was that there is no significant impact of MGNREGA on rural-urban

migration. Our analysis revealed that there is no significant impact of MGNREGA on the various aspects of the families of migrant workers ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis has proved correct and it has been accepted. The figure number 1 presented the mean score of the respondent's perceptions about the impact of MGNREGA on various aspects of the rural-urban migration.



XIV. RELEVANCE WITH THE PREDICTION OF HARRIS-TODARO MODEL

The Harris-Todaro model produced a powerful policy recommendation that an integrated rural development program should be encouraged in rural area for the long-term solutions of distressed rural-urban migration. The MGNREGA scheme is the biggest rural development program in India. The relevance of the Harris-Todaro model in the present study is presented in this section as following:

XV. SIGNIFICANCE OF WAGE RATE SATISFACTION IN REDUCING MIGRATION

The association between the wage rate satisfaction and effectiveness of the scheme in reducing rural-urban migration analyzed by applying cross tabulation analysis. Analysis indicates that there is a strong association can be seen between the parameters cross- tabulated. Table revealed that those satisfied with MGNREGA wage rates are less likely to migrate from their villages. This indicates that if wage rates under MGNREGA increase, it can help stem the tide of migration from rural households to cities.

Table 3 Cross-Tabulation Analysis between Wage Rate Satisfaction and Effectiveness of the Scheme in reducing Rural-Urban Migration

			Has the Scheme is Effective to Reduce the Rural-Urban Migration?			Total
			Yes	No	Partially	
Is the Beneficiary Satisfied with the Wages Received under MGNREGA?	Yes	Count Expected Count	13 11.99	60 30.38	20 50.63	93 93.0
	No	Count Expected Count	45 46.01	87 116.62	225 194.37	357 357.0
	Total	Count Expected Count	58 58.0	147 147.0	225 225.0	450 450.0

XVI. SIGNIFICANCE OF WAGE RATE DIFFERENCE AND MIGRATION STATUS

The Harris-Todaro model predicts that the solution to lowering rural-urban migration is through rural development. Therefore the further analysis has applied to test the relevance of the model with the rural-urban migration scenario and impact of MGNREGA scheme on it in Pratapgarh district. It is analyzed through the Chi-square analysis for the cross tabulation between the variables of awareness about wage rate difference and status of migration.

Table 4 Chi-Square Analysis of the Cross-Tabulation between Awareness about Wage Rate Difference and Status of Migration

			Migration Status		Total
			Yes	No	
Awareness About Wage Rate	Yes	Count Expected Count	364 347.91	16 32.09	380 380.0

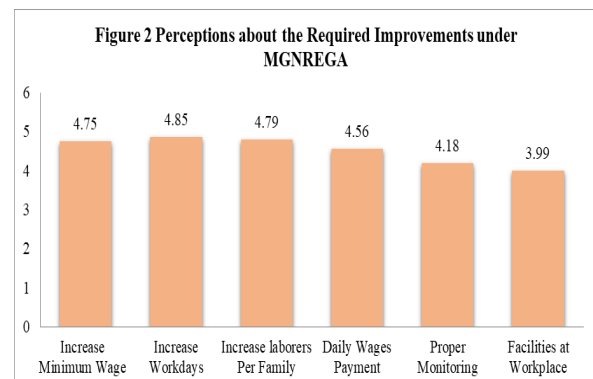
Difference between MGNREG A And Labor Market?	No	Count Expected Count	48 64.09	22 5.09	70 70.0
	Total	Count Expected Count	412 412.0	38 38.0	450 450.0

P value < 0.00001 (Significant at 0.05 Level)

A strong and significant association can be seen between the parameters (P value < 0.00001) cross-tabulated. Knowledgeable beneficiaries (aware of differential wage rates) are not migrating diminishes the importance of pull factor in migration. Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relevance with the rural-urban migration situation in Pratapgarh district has been rejected.

XVII. REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS UNDER MGNREGA

Perceptions about the required improvements under MGNREGA are presented in figure number 2. It is clearly indicates that the average score obtained from the perception of respondents about various components of improvements required in implementation of MGNREGA scheme such as increase minimum wage rates (4.75), increase number of workdays (4.85), increase in number of laborers per family (4.79), payment of wages on daily basis (4.56), proper monitoring by social audit (4.18) and improvement in facilities available at the workplace (3.99) etc. which are more than 3. This reflects the negative perception of respondents about implementation of scheme. Therefore, there is a need for a lot of improvement required in implementation of MGNREGA.



XIX. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- The analysis revealed that there is no significant impact of MGNREGA on the various aspects of the families of migrant workers. Hence, the null hypothesis has proved correct and it has been accepted.
- It is observed that Gram Panchayat has taken the proper initiate to stop migration and implemented the scheme effectively but, not successful in preventing migration, reducing out-migration of workers and to stop worker to becoming a migrant.
- It is examined that the number of respondents those are not satisfied with wage rate received under MGNREGA is higher than the respondents who were satisfied. About 20.67 per cent of the families are satisfied with wage rate received under MGNREGA scheme whereas 79.33 per cent of the families are not satisfied.
- The number of respondents those are aware with the wage difference avail in market is more than the respondents are not aware. About 84.44 per cent of the respondents are aware with differences between wage rate under MGNREGA and market wage rate while only 15.56 per cent of the respondents are not aware.
- The scheme had been partially successful in preventing the respondents from becoming a migrant. About 52 per cent of the beneficiaries agreed that the scheme was partially successful in preventing them from becoming a migrant while the remaining 32 per cent of beneficiary families responded that the scheme had not effective in preventing them from becoming migrant.
- MGNREGA scheme has been successful in reducing rural-urban migration up to some extent. About 54 per cent of the beneficiaries agree that the scheme has been partially successful in reducing rural-urban migration while 33 per cent of beneficiary families responded that the scheme failed to reduce migration.
- A strong and significant association can be seen between awareness of differential wage rates and migration status. Therefore, the null hypothesis that there is no significant relevance with the rural-urban migration situation in Pratapgarh district has been rejected.

- There is a need for a lot of improvement required in areas of implementation under MGNREGA scheme such as increase minimum wage rates, increase number of workdays, increase in number of laborers per family, payment of wages on daily basis, proper monitoring by social audit and improvement in facilities available at the workplace etc.

CONCLUSION

The present study mainly focused on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on rural-urban migration in Pratapgarh district. A big question arises here that whether the scheme has successful in the studied circle or not to control or reduce rural-urban migration, it is observed in the study that the scheme was partially successful in preventing them from becoming a migrant while the remaining beneficiary families responded that the scheme had not effective in preventing them from becoming migrant. The study suggests that the system be executed properly, with sufficient planning and effective oversight by the appropriate authorities as well as proper monitoring being carried out at the local level.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has conducted in Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan by covering 5 blocks of district to analyse the implementation and effectiveness of MGNREGA scheme and its impact on rural-urban migration in Pratapgarh. The findings of the study may not be transferable to other situations and entire state because the sample was restricted to specific area.

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