

MGNREGA a well come change: a study of block BEHIBAGH District KULGAM, J&K

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Abstract

Background/Objectives: The present study conducted in Block BEHIBAGH of District KULGAM in J&K, has defined positive changes and its impact on block under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Methods/Statistical analysis: To achieve the objective of this study both primary and secondary data was collected. Primary data was collected through a well-designed interview schedule and secondary data was collected from block officials, internet and MGNREGA cell. During the study all the 18 PANCHAYATS were selected and the households of these PANCHAYATS were further simplified on the basis of random sampling to get the purpose of this study.

Findings: MGNREGA has a great impact on the study block. Before this act the current block was suffering from so many miseries but MGNREGA have fulfilled all the demanded tasks like lanes, land irrigation bodies, crossings, flood protection bunds, village interconnected streets, roads and water bodies. MGNREGA provided lot of employment to the households in which 2327 households demanded employment but only 2135 households got employment in the financial year 2015. The executed works in the block is 340 which costs 339.35 lakhs has been spent on the block. Women participation in the block is 12663(out of 20123) participated, in which only 134 women's completed 100 days of work. The act provided substitute income to the labours 540 labours of this block have been taken for the study purpose and they all responded about increment in their income after working under MGNREGA. In the long run we can say that the act benefited each and every one in direct or indirect way and made a positive effect on the life of people.

Improvements/Applications: Study suggested that corruption, improper planning, sub-standard material, low wages and unawareness like issues should be checked at the ground level to provide maximum benefit to the society.

Keywords: MGNREGA, impact, works, employment and benefit.

1. Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir is among the largest states of India. According to the census of 2011 the total population of state was 125 lakhs in which 91.35 lakhs (72.79%) residing in rural areas and 34.14 lakhs (27.21%) population is residing in urban areas. Jammu and Kashmir is an agrarian state; almost 75% population gets their livelihood directly or indirectly from this sector. Rural J&k contains 26.14% (out of 72.79%) population which is below poverty line (BPL). So, there was the obvious need of such schemes which will work for the rural development and for the eradication of rural poverty. J&k is also considered as the disputed territory between India, Pakistan and china by which the state failed to implement any central scheme which made the state backward in development process. Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act (MGNREGA) came with a welcome change in the state. Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act was enacted in 25th august 2005 and got implemented in 2nd February 2006. It was implemented in three backward districts (DODA, KUPWARA, POONCH) in its 1st phase in 2006, later it was extended to two more districts (ANANTNAG AND JAMMU) in its 2nd phase and in its 3rd phase (2008) it was implemented in entire state[1-3].

Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act is a largest employment generation scheme started in country. The act provides 100 days of employment to every household whose adult members voluntarily are willing to do unskilled work under MGNREGA. The main purpose of this act is to provide the social, economic, financial, employment support to the rural population and to work for rural development in

every aspect of social life, which is the back bone of this country [4-5].It was implemented in 200 districts in its first phase and later on it was implemented in all the remaining districts of the country, except the districts that have hundred percent urban population. This act is known as the biggest social welfare and social security programme, it has become the powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic governance [6-7]. MGNREGA works on village level and provides the job to the labours within the five kilometers of village and helps them to work for their society in which they are living as a part of society [8]. MGNREGA has a great impact on the quality of life among the rural generation who suffered a lot before its implementation and it created a healthy atmosphere for their good being.

There is a grass root level participation of every citizen under this act and involvement of civil society and beneficiary through democratic process. MGNREGA is expected to change the whole scenario of village life in modern times towards its better development and social security [9]. The act has a great impact on women and labour empowerment which was the big social problem in the society and created an atmosphere for them, where they can stand on their own feet [10-11]. MGNREGA is the only scheme which started at the grass root level and made its impact on global level by changing the whole mechanism of village life towards a modern India [12-13].This paper will explain the works done under MGNREGA in a single financial year and will also try to explain the positive changes and overall impact of this act in the study Block.

1. Objectives

1. To measure the extent of employment generation under MGNREGA.
2. To measure the changes occurred in the block after MGNREGA implementation.
3. To examine the impact of MGNREGA on block infrastructure.
4. To examine the impact on women and labour empowerment.
5. To check the issues visible at the ground level.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Data base

The present study was conducted in the block BEHIBAGH in the financial year 2015 and this study was conducted in order to measure the changes appeared in the block BEHIBAGH after the implementation of MGNREGA. Block BEHIBAGH is situated at the southern area of district KULGAM and this block got existed in 14th august 2014. It consists of 46 villages distributed in 16 PANCHAYATS. The present population of this block is 41154 in which male population is 20181 and female population is 20123. To achieve the objective of this study both primary and secondary data was collected in the field. Primary data was collected through a well-designed interview schedule besides interview schedule appropriate methods were also used and secondary data was collected from block officials, internet and MGNREGA cell.

During the study all the villages were selected and then the families of these villages were selected on the basis of random sampling so that my sample size became 300. The present block was selected for the study purpose because it is a newly formed block and not much research has been done on this block, The present block is scattered in a vast area and contains large area of the district KULGAM, People of the block are with different economic classes, there is also large no. of illiteracy in the present block and people are not too much aware about government schemes. The present study was carried out in two years on the basis of both primary and secondary data and as well as statically data was also used as per the requirement of this study.

2.2. Analytical tools

To get the exact data and information from the field, villages of the block were visited weekly to collect the response from the respondents with the help of a well-designed interview schedule besides it camera for photography and map of the block were used to collect data of the respective villages of the block. Comparison were made between the past achievements and achievements presently under MGNREGA. The previous data was checked whether, it is visible in the field or not. All the issues and demands of the people were addressed to governing bodies of Block officials.

3. Features of MGNREGA

1. MGNREGA is a wage employment scheme and provides employment to every household who are voluntarily ready to do unskilled work.
2. MGNREGA provides 100 days of employment for a job card holder in a single financial year.
3. MGNREGA provides work on the basis of demand of people.
4. MGNREGA is implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on cost sharing basis between centre and states on the basis of 90:10 respectively.
5. MGNREGA provides facilities like drinking water, first aid medical kit, sun shade for children and washroom facilities for women during work site.
6. MGNREGA provides the provision of unemployment allowance, if the employment seekers are not provided employment within 15 days of the demand of their application seeking employment.
7. MGNREGA provides work within the five kilometres of the village and if work is given beyond the five kilometres of the village, then govt. had to pay additional 10% wages to the respective applicant.
8. MGNREGA is a public welfare programme.
9. MGNREGA provides wages to the labours within the fortnight from the date of work done.
10. MGNREGA provides equal rights to women; there is no gender discrimination under this act.

3.1. Issues observed during the field work

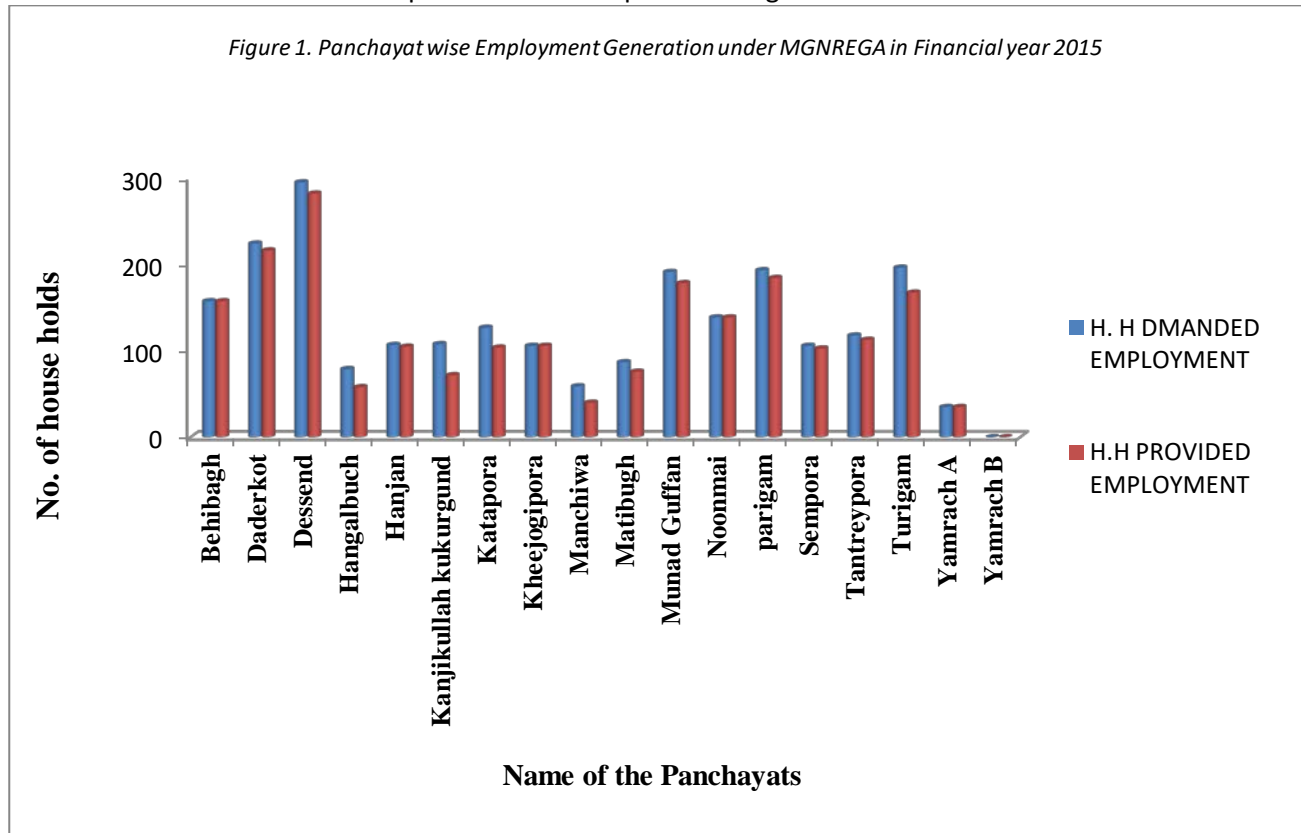
- 1.1. Land issue:** Land issue is the big issue coming during the execution of work, because people are not ready to provide land as per the requirement of work.
- 1.2. Corruption:** Corruption is still present there because the work done under MGNREGA doesn't cost that much as the bill gets passed.
- 1.3. Sub Standard Materials:** In order to save money contractors use sub standard materials due to which MGNREGA construction have a very short period of life.
- 1.4. Fake Job Cards:** Fake job cards are present in the beneficiary list due to which a lot of amount gets miss used and Persons who don't work under MGNREGA gets payment on share basis.
- 1.5. Unawareness about MGNREGA:** people of the block are not fully aware about MGNREGA due to which people are not getting equal benefits.
- 1.6. Dishonesty from representatives:** The representatives of block like PANCHS and SARPANCHS are not honest with the people and they have made their own property by the money they get from Govt. for public welfare.
- 1.7. Low wage rates:** There are low wage rates due to which lot of people doesn't work under MGNREGA and also lot of labours cancelled their job cards.
- 1.8. Improper planning:** Due to the absence of civil engineers there is not any proper planning and money is wasted on unnecessary tasks.

4. Results and discussion

MGNREGA have done wonders in the current block and have eradicated so many issues of block by which, it was lagging behind the ladder of development. After the implementation of this act the block has changed into a new era of development. Before its implementation the current block was suffering with so many miseries but MGNREGA have fulfilled all the demanded tasks like lanes, land irrigation bodies, crossings, flood protection bunds, village interconnected streets, roads and drinking water. MGNREGA provided lot of employment to the households in which 2327 households demanded employment but only 2135 households were provided with employment in the current financial year 2015. The executed works in the block is 340 which costs 339.35 lakhs has been spent on the current block in the financial year 2015. There is a lot of women participation in the block 12663 women participated in MGNREGA in which only 134 women's completed 100 days of work. The act provided substitute income to the labours 540 labours of this block has been taken for the study purpose and they all responded about increment in their income after working under MGNREGA⁽⁵⁾. In the long run we can say that the act benefited each and every one in direct or indirect way and made positive impact on the lives of people.

4.1. Employment generation under MGNREGA in financial year 2015

Figure 1 indicates panchayat wise list of households who got employment under MGNREGA. it is apparent from the figure that 2327 house holds demanded employment in financial year 2015, in which 2135 house holds were provided employment and the remaining 192 house holds did not got employment in this financial year. This study also indicates that people of the given block are interested in the MGNREGA works and get the maximum benefit from this act. Job cards were provided to all the volunteers who were interested to work under MGNREGA. Volunteers are of different age groups, which indicates all the age groups are interested to work under MGNREGA for the development of their respective villages.

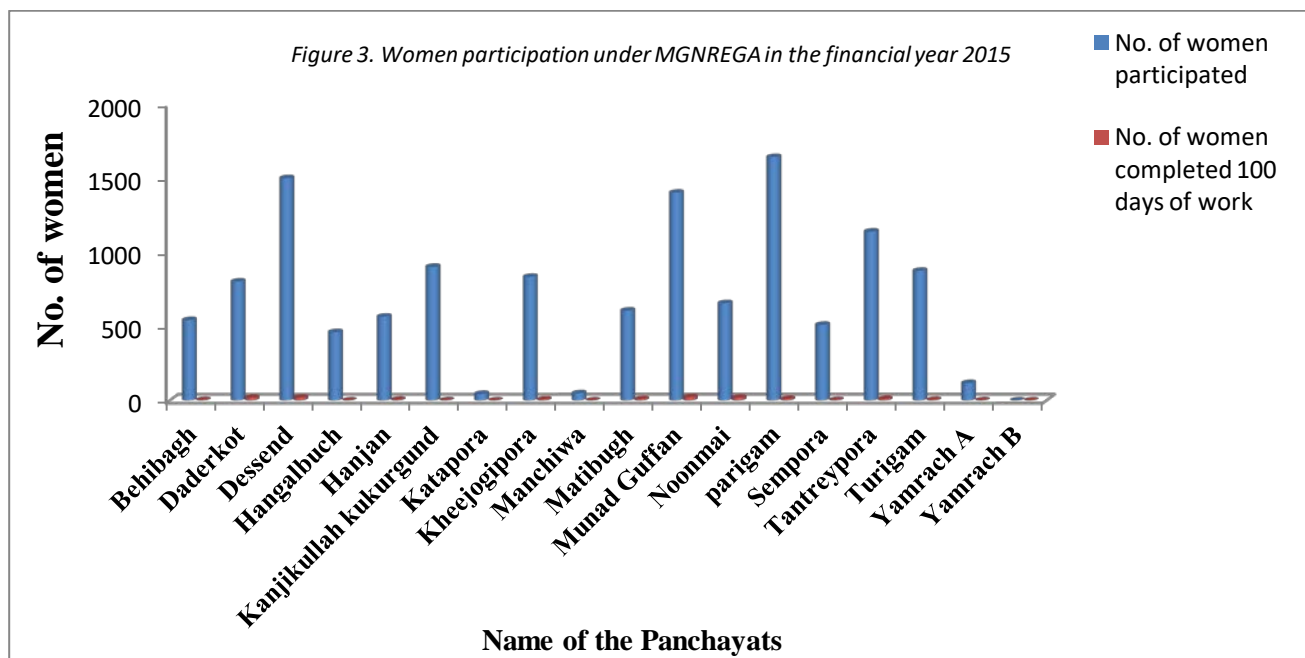
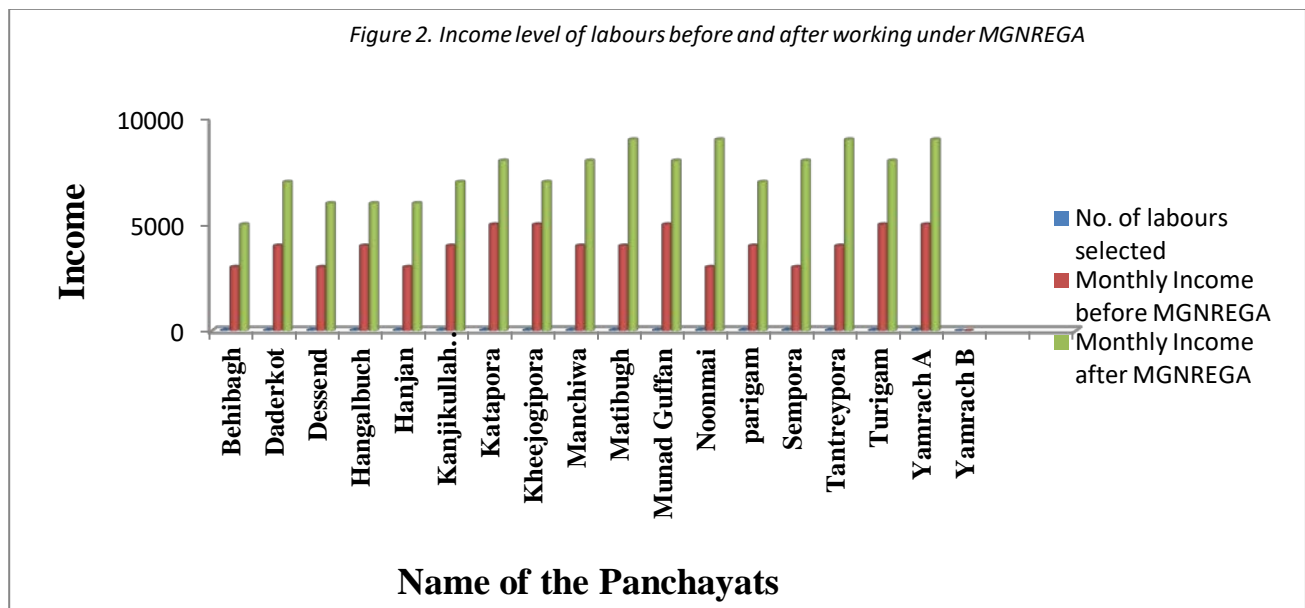


4.2. Income level of labours before and after working under MGNREGA

Figure 2 indicates the income level of labours working under MGNREGA and changes in their income level after working under MGNREGA. To accomplish these study 540 labours has been taken from all the 18 PANCHAYATS, 30 labours from each PANCHAYAT. It also indicates that 100% of labours got increment in their income after working under MGNREGA because, it provided them work with in the five kilometers of range and it made them too easy to complete their own agricultural work also. It saved their precious time because, before its implementation labours had to travel long distances in the search of work but MGNREGA made them easy to do work along with their families, which helped them to increase their income and made their life satisfactory.

4.3. Women participation in financial year 2015 under MGNREGA

Figure 3 indicates the women participation under MGNREGA in the financial year 2015. This study also reveals that 12663 women have participated from the 18 PANCHAYATS of the block and also it indicates that only 134 women completed their 100 days of employment .It also reveals us that women of the block are interested to work under MGNREGA because it provides them work within the society where they live. It helps them to finish their daily tasks in their homes and also to work under MGNREGA. According to them it is a great move towards the women empowerment. The amount which they get from their tasks helps them to maintain themselves and to become less dependent on their men.

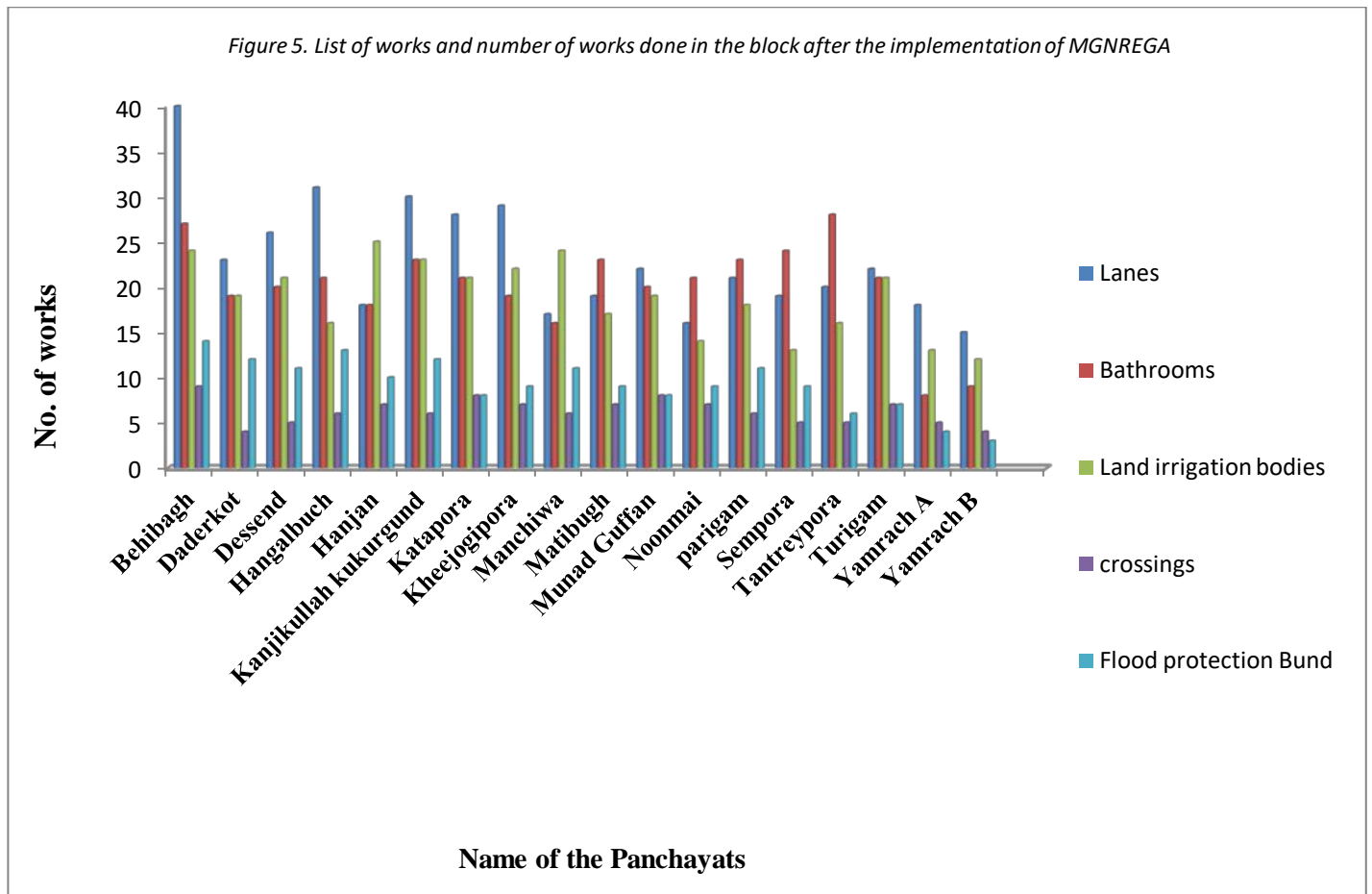
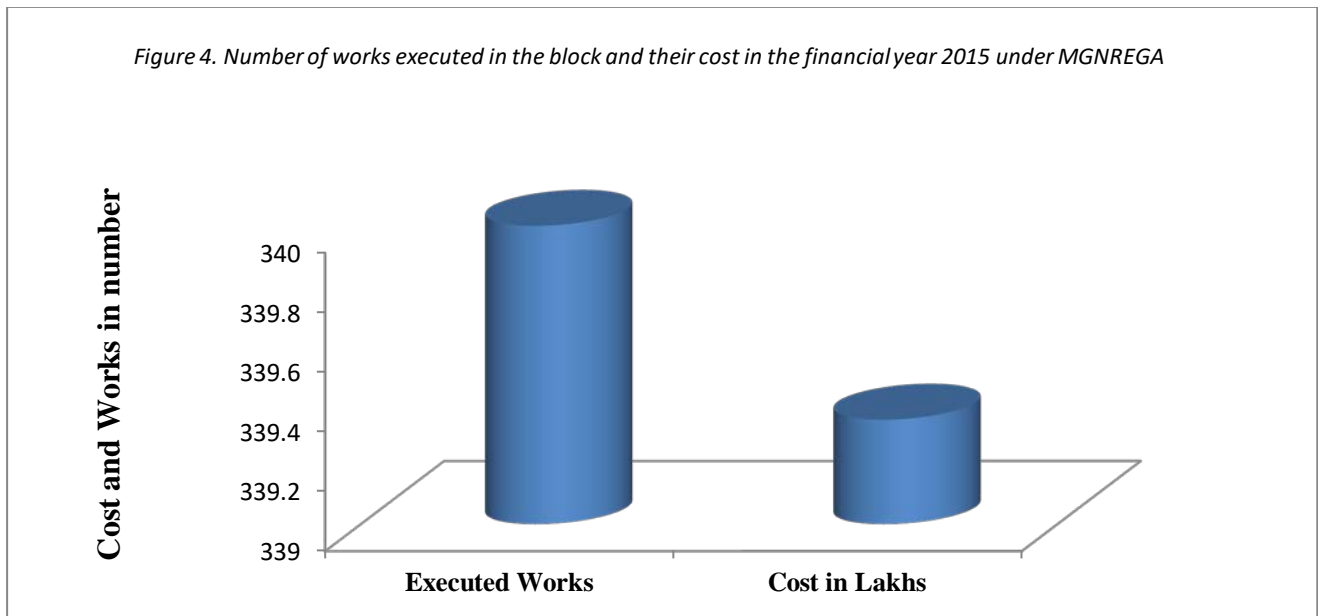


4.4. Number of works executed in the block and their cost in the financial year 2015 under MGNREGA

Figure 4 indicates the total no. of works executed in the block and their cost. It also indicates that MGNREGA has executed 340 works in all the PANCHAYATS of the block in the financial year 2015 and the sum of total cost used for performing these tasks are 339.35 lakhs. The figure also indicates that MGNREGA is spending too much money on the village infrastructure and block development.

4.5. List and number of works done under MGNREGA in all the PANCHAYATS of Block

Figure 5 indicates the different works performed under MGNREGA in the last three years. The number of different works is as: lanes 414, Bathrooms 361, Land irrigation bodies 338, Crossings 112, Flood protection bunds 166. The current study also indicates that MGNREGA is performing different tasks to full fill the needs of the rural people and also it made the life of people easy, comfortable and valuable. This study is also made to measure the changes in block development after implementing this scheme. Before it, the block was at the bottom by the means of development.



5. Suggestions

- Awareness about MGNREGA:** Govt. should aware the people about the process of MGNREGA by the awareness programmes at village level, so that every person should get benefit under this scheme.
- Corruption free:** Govt. should take such initiatives where, there is not any chance of corruption and there should be checking bodies present during execution and bill payments.

3. **Increment in Wage Rates:** There should be increment in the wage rates of labours. They are not getting wage rates according to their work and lot of labours complained about late payment which make them dissatisfactory.
4. **Use of Civil Engineers:** MGNREGA body should use civil engineers during the execution of MGNREGA tasks so that there will be proper planning and money will be used according to the need of task.
5. **Time Management:** A timeframe should be maintained, in order to make sure that works taken up must be completed without any delay in a given period of time.
6. **Open Posters:** There should be posters openly on the walls of PANCHAYAT about the new projects, works under taken and the funds sanctioned under MGNREGA, so that people become aware and take responsibility to use this fund on the required field.
7. **No Discrimination:** There should be no discrimination on the basis gender, age and health, because contractors provide more wage rates to healthy and young ones in order to finish work within a short period of time and relatives are benefitted more as compared to others.

6. Conclusion

MGNREGA has created a labour industry and worked for the uplift of village economy. Women were provided with a good employment and it helped them to maintain themselves. They started to live independent life and made them less dependent on their male members, which resulted well control in domestic violence. Before its implementation, the present study area was so poor in means of roads, lanes, Drinking water, village interconnected streets and crossings but after its implementation it fulfilled the dreams of people and helped them to live a life of passion and comfortness. Besides eradicating the rural poverty, it benefited the society socially, economically, morally and changed its shape towards a new outlook where everyone is feeling part of society. The act helped to come out from the rural problems and miseries among the people of the block and created the new shape of block towards a positive achievement. The above mentioned issues and suggestions should be verified and implemented at the ground level to make this act more active and purposeful.

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