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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

NREGS: GADAG DISTRICT; IMPLEMENTATION AND SKILL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT

MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE.N. MEERANAIK

Department of Geography
Anjuman Arts, Science & Commerce College Dharwad(KARNATAKA)

Abstract:

NREGA is a historic employment scheme in India for providing 100 days guaranteed wage employment for all employment seekers above 18 years of age and willing to do work. NREGS has come into force on 5th September 2005 in 200 districts in India and has been extended to another 130 districts later.NREGA as the world's largest ecological security and food security act, which can successfully strengthen the ecological foundation for sustainable agriculture (Swaminathan.M.N.2009). Environment is the most important agenda of the international community due to its far reaching consequences on the survival of human beings and other forms of biodiversity on the earth. An environment and ecological act is one of the best features of the NREGA as it designates a balance between human action and natural resources creating a sustainable economic security through green jobs. The NREGS must be strengthened and revamped to provide not just wages for work done but work that will make ecological regeneration possible.

KEYWORDS:

NREGA , implimentation , Sustanable , Gadag District.

INTRODUCTION

NREGA as the world's largest ecological security and food security act, which can successfully strengthen the ecological foundation for sustainable agriculture (Swaminathan.M.N.2009). Environment is the most important agenda of the international community due to its far reaching consequences on the survival of human beings and other forms of biodiversity on the earth. An environment and ecological act is one of the best features of the NREGA as it designates a balance between human action and natural resources creating a sustainable economic security through green jobs. The NREGS must be strengthened and revamped to provide not just wages for work done but work that will make ecological regeneration possibl.

The Global economic and ecological crises can be seen as opportunity to fundamentally question our paths of 'development', and move towards ideologies, policies, and practices of ecological sustainability and social equity. India in its current globalizing form, presents a vivid picture of un sustainability. Just as there is increasing concern that the current path of globalization is yielding too few decent jobs, so is there concern that we cannot continued with growth at the expense of environmental quality. We are therefore in a period of transition searching for the policies and the leadership that can take us into a sustainable development path where social and environmental dimensions of globalization are an integral part of economic policy-making. Transitions in employment structure and in workplace are central to this process. Environmental degradation is one of the most serious threats facing economic and broader sustainable development. All these environmental and ecological perspectives are taken into account in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

RIEVW:

NREGA Provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work with the auxiliary objective being: Generating productive assets and protecting the environment. This Act designed to provide an ecological perspective to the implementation of the programmes under the NREGA in order to achieve long-term livelihood sustainability. The ecological systems on which large number of people depend for their livelihoods.

The ecological aspects is one of the best features of the NREGA as it designates a balance between human action and natural resources creating a sustainability economic security through green jobs. The NREGS must be strengthened and revamped to provide not just wages for work done but work that will make ecological regeneration possible. NREGA has been able to contribute to ecological restoration through its design. The study also indicates that NREGS has some in-built limitations such as only a focus on employment, activities not implemented according to a plan, spatially or time-wise, and disconnected and scattered implementation of activities to name a few. But many of the NREGS activates still have the potential to provide environmental services, conserve and enhance natural resources (soil, water, and grass and forest resources). There is a need to identify such activities that improve soil, water grass and forest resources, even without micro-plans or watershed plans. Investment in NREGA activities, given the scale and importance, should lead to sustained flow of benefits such as employment, income water supply, food and grass production. The successful implementation of the NREGA indicates that the climate is conductive for a far-reaching, rights-based legislation to environment and maintains of eco system.

OBJECTIVES:

1.To know the sustainable development and Environment for NREGA
2.To know the Proper Utilization of Spatial and Man power of NREGA
3.To know the Sustainable development of NREGA in Study area.
4.To assess the expenditure concentrated on Scheme in the study area.
5.To know the Maximum Utilization of the Schemes in the Gadag district of Gram panchayts.

METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on the report, Simple descriptive methodology is followed. But few of geographical identities follow for compilation of this paper.

1.A secondary data of geographical area identifies of environmental and social challenges and also used to develop strategies for solving the existing idanties
2.Calculated the food crops production in the study area by applying Simple way of graphical method
3.With help of questioner and secondary data an informal discussion was arranged with officials and works to understand the problems and difficulties in a implementations.

STUDY AREA:

Gadag district came into existence on 1st November 1997. The new district comprises five taluka Viz., Gadag, Nargund, Ron, Shirahatti, and Mundargi. Gadag district is located in northern parts of Karnataka and situated in between 15 15 north to 15 45 northern latitudes and 75 20 east to 75 47 eastern longitudes. It is bounded by Koppal district on east, Bagalkot district on north, Haveri district on south and Dharwad district on west. The district for administratively dived into 5 talukas and 337 villages. It consist of 3 town municipalities, 5 town panchayaths and 11 hob lies.

The district falls in the semi-arid tracts of Karnataka. The annual rainfall is generally less than 75.0 cm. It lies to the east of the Western Ghats in the rain-shadow region. Hence receives low rainfall and generally drought prone and it is a part of Krishna major basin the district drained by two main rivers namely Malaprabha and Tungabhadra. Malaprabha along with its tributary Bennihalla drains northern parts and two rivers join at Ron taluk. The Malaprabha and Tungabhadra sub basins have the area of 2768 sq km and 1889.2 sq km respectively.

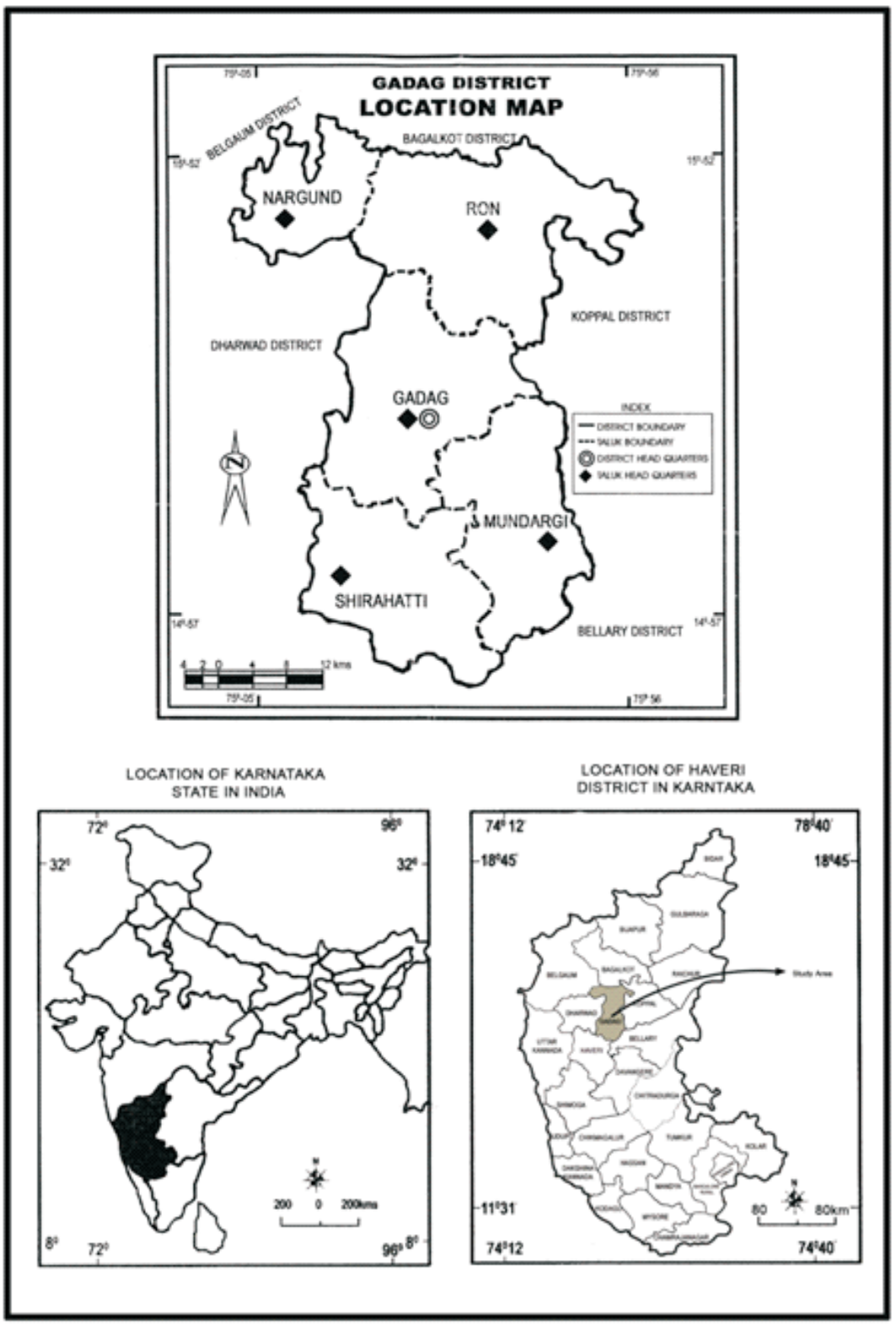
GADAG DISTRICT
LOCATION MAP
BELGAUM DISTRICT
BAGALKOT DISTRICT
NARGUND
RON
KOPPAL DISTRICT
DHARWAD DISTRICT
GADAG
INDEX
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
TALUK BOUNDARY
DISTRICT HEAD QUARTERS
TALUK HEAD QUARTERS
MUNDARGI
SHIRAHATTI
BELLARY DISTRICT
4 2 0 4 8 12 kms
75°-05
75° 56
14°-57
15°-52
LOCATION OF KARNATAKA
STATE IN INDIA
72°
96°
32°
8°
200 0 200kms
LOCATION OF HAVERI
DISTRICT IN KARNTAKA
74°12
78°40
18°45
11°31
Study Area
80 0 80km

Fig. 1

Table No-1.1. Gadag district taluka wise land use.

Name of the Taluka	Geo-graphical area	Forest	Cultivable waste	Barren current/ Land	Permanent Pasture	Net area sown	Area sown more than once
Gadag	109751	1749	291	18302	1054	85004	15366
Mundargi	88398	17646	163	8126	280	57031	--
Naragund	43562	--	--	2996	52	36205	1003
Ron	129091	276	370	--	428	120588	3701
Shirhattia	94913	12943	186	388	778	74368	15984
Total	465715	32614	1010	29812	2592	373196	36054

RAINFALL AND CLIMATE :

The district falls under semi arid tract of the state and it is categorized as draught prone. monsoon period from June to September. And remaining 20.5% takes place during rest of the year. In the district from December to February month is winter season. During April to May temperature reaches up to 42*C and December and January temperature will go down to 16*C. The standard deviation of rainfall in the district varies from 1.3 to 263.5mm from the west to east. The average standard deviation for the district is about

146mm. south-west monsoon is dominant followed by north-east monsoon. And normal rainfall is 613 mm. The north-east monsoon contributes nearly 24.8% and prevails from October to early December. And about 54.7% Precipitation takes place during south-west

Table-No-1.2 Taluk wise rainfall details in gadag district, Karnataka.

Taluks	Working Rain Guages	Actual rainy days (05)	Normal rain fall in mm	Actual rain fall in mm	Normal rainy days 1901-1970
Gadag	3	55	665.7	773.7	46
Mundargi	34	38	489.0	482.4	34
Naragund	2	44	545.0	435.3	39
Ron	3	43	613.1	680.8	42
Shirhatti	4	48	748.9	673.5	55
Total	16	46	612.3	609.1	43

SCHEMES IMPLEMENTATION:

The activities under the NREGS are largely linked to water, soil and land, which are the key natural resources determining agriculture and livestock production. They can have a positive or negative influence on these natural resources, affecting their ability to provide environmental services. Environmental services include recharging groundwater, increasing the area irrigated, reducing soil erosion, increasing soil fertility, conserving biodiversity, reclaiming degraded crop and grazing lands, enhancing the supply of leaf manure, fuel wood and non-wood forest produce, and carbon sequestration. The goal of NREGA activities includes conserving natural resources and enhancing environmental services to sustain food and livestock production, increasing the supply of fresh product production. The benefits accruing from the activities implementated under the NREGA can be describe as “service provided:, The millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005)considers humans an integral component of the natural ecosystem unlike classical approaches, which differentiate human as non-natural. The approach also addresses the sustainability of resources and livelihood by considering human wellbeing a parallel theme to the functioning of the natural ecosystem.

Swaminathan.M.N (2009) describes NREGA as the world's largest ecological security and food security Act, which can successfully strengthen the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture. By definition, food security involves every individual gaining physical, economic, social and environmental access to a balanced diet that includes the necessary macro- and micro-nutrients, safe drinking water, sanitation, environmental hygiene, primary healthcare and education so as to lead a healthy and productive life. Food should originate from efficient and environmentally benign production technologies that conserve and enhance the natural resource base of crops, farm animals, forestry, inland and marine fisheries. With the initiation of MGNREGA, the minimum purchasing power for food security is being created in families living below the poverty line. Given the rising demand for food grains in future and irrigated areas having reached their plateau of productivity, development of rain-fed areas holds the key to future food security. But Indian's rain-fed areas have been in the throes of an agrarian and unemployment crisis. That is the reason why the Act gives importance to agriculture and irrigation. Additionally, to meet this huge employment demand, it advocates productive use of the forestry sector for livelihood generation. The Act attempts to unlock the potential of the rural poor to contribute to the reconstruction of their environment. To achieve this, it has laid emphasis on creation of productive assets in villages. Out of nine preferred areas of work under the NREGA, seven focuses on water and soil conservation. The attention of the scheme is on the following works in their order of priority in the study area.

Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access
Flood control and protection works (including drainage in water-logged areas)

Water conservation and water harvesting
Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation)
Irrigation canals (including micro and minor irrigation works)
Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe or to land of beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India.
Renovation of traditional water bodies (including desilting of tanks)
Land development
Any other work, which may be notified by the Central government in consultation with the state government.

The priorities of the work to be undertaken include watershed management and water conservation, drought-proofing, flood protection, land development, minor irrigation and rural connectivity. Such work is important to strengthen the ecological foundation of sustainable agriculture. The NREGA is probably the world's largest ecological security programme. With the key provision that investment is an employment guarantee programme must be in productive, eco-friendly assets. This would ensure that the resultant growth dynamic is both sustainable (by regenerating the environment) and non-inflationary (by easing the agrarian constraint). Not only does demand need stimulation, growth has to be sustainable in both economic and ecological terms, especially in these times of climate change.

The purpose of the Act was to create rural assets, important among them being water and soil conservation projects, especially minor irrigation works. The following table shows the various type of work undertaken through NREGS in the financial year 2011-12.

From the table 1 we can deduce that all the works mentioned ensure the sustainable of ecology. The maximum number of works completed focus on water conservation and water harvesting with number of 204193, followed by land development which is 197667 and Renovation of Traditional Water bodies 170631.

MEASURES TO MAKE NREGS MORE ECOLOGICAL:

NREGA should not only creation wage but also creation assets.
Give importance to forestation under the NREGA by linking it to other forestry programmes.
Conservation technologies – stress-tolerant, climate-resilient varieties of seeds, drip irrigation, zero-tillage, raised-bed planning, laser-levelling, can build adaptive capacities to cope with increasing water stress, providing "more crop per drop".
Strengthening land development practices such as land leveling, conservation bench terracing, contour and graded bunding and pasture development prevent soil erosion and loss of organic matter. Reclamation of wastelands and degraded lands together with afforestation, horticulture plantation and agro-forestry have the potential to sequester carbon both above and below ground, thereby contributing to carbon mitigation.
Creating green jobs through NREGS thus enabling ecological security.
Augmenting water resources.
Enabling planned convergence with programmes of water resources with programmes of water resources, afforestation, agricultural productivity.
Adaptive towards the adverse effects of climate change.
If the nature of work relates to natural resources management, they contribute to enhancing the productivity of soil, augment water tables, and increase vegetal cover.
Labour intensive, green jobs are exemplar adaptation strategies for climate change. They combine economic advantages with environmental services.

Tabel: 1.3 Gadag District NREGS.2011-12 (Expenditure in Lakhs)

Block	Rural Connectivity		Flood Control		Water Conservation & water Harvesting	
	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing
Gdag	180 69.212	94 17.933	48 54.677	43 22.657	115 18.030	118 9.838
Nargund	48 25.228	53 1.334	10 42.767	21 0.179	1 6.372	18 0.075
Mundargi	114 46.819	226 61.799	13 20.101	89 37.118	69 53.956	138 43.385
Ron	203 163.938	262 21.792	178 183.149	201 9.903	583 224.979	727 16.530
Shirhatti	83 68.862	144 10.452	72 76.666	151 27.961	105 37.299	157 2.543
Total	628 374.068	779 113.308	321 377.358	505 97.818	873 340.458	1158 72.370

Block	Drought Proofing		Micro irrigation		Provision of irrigation facility to land Development	
	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing
Gdag	408 106.636	157 52.569	39 16.363	18 5.715	24 9.999	74 7.152
Nargund	22 25.587	96 3.344	40 18.045	36 0.188	6 1.687	81 0.477
Mundargi	231 56.322	260 50.422	31 9.689	30 8.879	14 15.172	286 38.405
Ron	38 46.759	112 3.254	52 23.818	49 1.529	46 4.098	48 0.395
Shirhatti	97 29.497	145 29.183	1 4.181	41 1.192	265 14.897	361 3.164
Total	796 264.800	770 138.771	163 72.096	174 17.501	355 45.849	850 49.591

Tabel: 1.4 Gadag District NREGS.2011-12 (Expenditure in Lakhs)

Block	Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies		Land Development		Any other Activity Approved by MRD	
	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Ongoing	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing
Gdag	12 10.754	17 0.867	161 70.245	104 56.773	340 33.909	498 29.825
Nargund	2 7.626	7 1.989	25 31.15	18 1.0173	34 3.722	11 0
Mundargi	26 16.405	84 23.118	65 23.521	111 23.649	11 0	22 6.963
Ron	69 60.875	116 8.935	83 41.963	74 2.713	12 3.852	26 0
Shirhatti	73 16.014	89 7.933	62 87.386	122 33.12	9 14.838	34 0.543
Total	182 111.672	313 42.839	396 254.264	429 117.272	406 56.319	591 37.329

Block	Total					
	Panchayat/ Expenditure	Panchayat/ Ongoing				
Gdag	1328 392.449	1125 204.605				
Nargund	188 162.181	342 14.349				
Mundargi	574 241.998	1246 293.738				
Ron	1264 753.246	1616 66.715				
Shirhatti	767 349.638	1245 116.089				
Total	4121 1899.511	5574 695.494				

ANALYSIS:

The assets created under NREGS in a Gadag district have been useful and contributed towards natural resources regeneration. The maximum works which completed the panchayat focus on water conservation (873) and followed by Drought Proofing (796) Rural Connectivity (628) land Development (1264). When observed expenditure on Panchayt wise, they have focus on Flood Control (377.56 lakhs), Drought Proofing (264.80 lakhs), Land Development (254.26 lakhs). From the table No 1.3 and 1.4 Observed that the panchayats ongoing suspended projects mentioned ensure the sustainability of ecology. The heights in water conservation (1158) followed by Rural Connectivity (779) Drought Proofing (770) Irrigation facilities (850) Flood Control (505) etc.

CONCLUSION:

The paper validates that assets created under NREGA have been useful and have contributed towards natural resource regeneration. Since NREGA is an ecological Act, it was suggested to set up a biological hedge that grows by the year and not degenerate like sea walls made of stone boulders.There is also a need to raise the self-esteem of NREGA workers, making them feel proud of the fact they are engaged in checking eco-destruction. Due recognition could be given to the NREGA groups that have done outstanding work in water harvesting, watershed development and soil healthcare with “Environment Saviour Awards”. This will help spread awareness of the critical role NREGA workers play.

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