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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study on the Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Generation and Distribution of Sustainable Assets among Tribal and Non-Tribal Population in Tripura State of North-East India

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Abstract

The MGNREGA was introduced in 2005 to meet the challenges of poverty and unemployment in rural India. This paper attempts to exercise a comparative study of asset-creation through MGNREGA among the tribal and non-tribal people in the state of Tripura. The objective was to find out to what extent the distribution of assets is justified in regard to income generation in rural Tripura. The study is based on secondary data and primary data. To carry out the study three (3) Autonomous District Council (ADC) and three (3) non-ADC blocks (a collection of villages) were chosen from this state. The required secondary data for this study were collected from sources such as various Govt. organization like panchayats (local Government at village level), Blocks, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), District Magistrate (DM) Offices etc. The required data for the study was also collected from various websites and different publications of Govt. of Tripura and Govt. of India.

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Introduction

Poverty is a serious problem all around the globe. It is a situation where the individual or communities lack the resources, environment and ability to meet the basic needs of life. Unfortunately, about 1.7 billion people in the world are estimated to be living in absolute poverty today. In our country, in spite of various efforts since independence, the evils of poverty are still prominent in the society. The nation is the home of for one third of the total poor of the world. It has been found that in spite of economic progress, percolation of benefit is very slow among the poorer section of the society. According to Jaya Raj in her article by 2015, an estimated 53 million people will still live in extreme poverty and 23.6% of the population will still live under US\$ 1.25 per day. The effects of the global financial downturn in 2008-2009 have plunged 100 million more Indians into poverty than there were in 2004, increasing the effective poverty rate from 27.5% to 37.2%. Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his address to the 'Rio+20' UN Summit on sustainable development at Rio de Janerio, Brazil, focussed on the fact that those living at the subsistence level cannot bear the costs of economic adjustments and their livelihood considerations are important in determining how scarce natural resources such as land, water and forest are used. After the new international price survey 2005, the global poverty numbers have been updated. As a result, the old international poverty line of \$1.08 a day in 1993 Purchasing Power Party (PPP) prices has been updated to a new international poverty line of \$1.25 a day in 2005 PPP prices. Using this new data, it has been found that global poverty rates fell from 52% in 1981 to 26% in 2005. (Joya Raj, 2012)

The great Indian nation has a variety of its own, but the most unfortunate thing is that our country faces the serious problem of poverty. The government of India has accepted the Tendulkar Committee report which says that 37.2 % of people in India live below the poverty line. The report says that the percentage of poor in rural areas was

estimated at 41.8 per cent and 25.7 per cent in urban areas.(Gargi Parsai, 2011) The N.C. Saxena Committee report (2009) states that 50% of Indians live below the poverty line.(N. C. Saxena Committee 2010). Again, a study by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative using a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) found that there are 645 million poor living under the MPI in India, 421 million of whom are concentrated in eight North Indian and East Indian states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This number is higher than the 410 million poor living in the 26 poorest African nations.(Jonon Burke 2012) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, or NREGA, was brought into force by the government of India in February 2006 as a tool against poverty. It is the first nation-wide employment scheme that guarantees employment legally to India's rural population. The NREGA is being implemented in 200 most backward districts of 27 states in the country -- socio-economically, the most challenging areas in India. It guarantees 100 days of unskilled jobs per rural household. More importantly, the Act aims to eradicate extreme poverty and at making villages self-sustaining through productive assets creation (such as water tanks and soil conservation works). This is meant to regenerate the rural natural resource base, which in turn will result in sustainable livelihoods for residents. (Disa sjoblom and John Farrinton 2008)

The Act puts Panchayati Raj Institutions (the third tier of government in India i.e the village level) at the helm of affairs -- beginning with identifying the eligible households to planning the works to be undertaken. According to the Union rural development ministry's figures, more than 1.36 crore people -- above one percent of India's total population -- have been given jobs under the Act. The Central government's outlay for schemes under this act is Rs. 40,100 crores in 2011. (Disa sjoblom and John Farrinton 2008)

Northeast is the homeland of a large number of tribes. There are about 145 tribal communities in this region. One of these Northeastern states, Tripura, is the habitation of 3673917 people and 855556 household as per Indian Census report 2011.Of the total population of the state, 2712464 people and 616582 household belong to the rural areas(Census 2011),1166813 (31.76 % of total population) people belong to the schedule tribe (ST) community, 654918 (17.83%) people belong to the schedule caste (SC) community and the rest belong to the UR (Unreserved) and OBC (Other Backward Community) community (Census 2011). Most of the tribal live in the hill areas. There are about 19 tribes living in Tripura; the Tripuri, Noatia, Jamatia, Chakma, Reang, Halam, Garo, Munda, Mog, Lushai, Oraon, Uchai, Khasi, Bhil, Lepcha, Bhutia, Chaimal and Kuki. Almost each of these indigenous tribes has a rich culture and heritage of its own.(Indian population survey 2011)

NREGA in Tripura: Economic problems have been a serious problem for Tripura since independence. Because of inadequate Central Government aid and investment the infrastructural facilities of the state failed to develop to the desirable extent. Long neglect of the state and failure in the past to exploit the natural resources led to growing unemployment and resentment among the youth.

In Tripura the NREGA was introduced in Dhalai district on 2nd February, 2006. During the Financial Year 2010-11, in the context of asset creation, flood control-activity has been done in 716 nos., water conservation 12341 nos., irrigation 5926 nos., drought-proofing 5543 nos., and land development 15638 nos. throughout the state of Tripura. In 2010-11, the issuance of NREGA job-cards was 518424 nos. Among these job cards, 184026 nos. of job cards belonged to the STs. The scenario of Employment generation in 2010-11 showed household-demanded employment was 489235 nos. whereas number of provided employment was 488970 nos. Again, the number of families working after getting work from NREGA was 295890 nos. (www.nrega.nic.in)

MATERIALS & METHODS:

The study focuses on some crucial matters: how have the assets been distributed in the Autonomous District Council (ADC) and non-Autonomous District Council blocks during the financial year 2010-2011. A field-survey was conducted to discover the various factors of low asset distribution in the ADC areas. Three ADC and three non-ADC blocks were selected for the study. The selection of blocks were done from West Tripura (Bishalgarh, Dukli), South Tripura (Killa block) and (Kowhai, Padmabil & Tuasikhar) Blocks from khowai Ditric for the purpose. The study is based on purposive sampling also. The reason behind the selection of West Tripura district is its high rate of population and R.D. Blocks and also because the maximum percentage of asset generation through NREGA has been done in West Tripura district, according to Secondary data. The reason behind selection of South Tripura and Khowai district is the remoteness of these districts from the capital of the state which is situated in the West Tripura district and the presence of Schedule Tribe Community in abundance. Four panchayets and four ADC Villages have been choosen from each blocks for our study. To understand the reason of low asset generation 100 no. of respondents from each ADC village and Non ADC Panchayat have been selected. A group of 1000 respondents

have been taken into account to gather the required information about generation of income from the acquired assets. The required primary data for the study was collected through interview with the people. A detailed interview schedule was prepared containing questions on asset generation, demographic features of the people, income generation after creation of asset, the various reasons responsible for distribution of low assets, etc.

The secondary data for this study have been collected from various government offices like panchayets, Blocks, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), District Magistrate (DM) Offices etc. The required data for the study was also collected from various websites and different publications of Govt. of Tripura.

The paper is organized into three sections where the first section focuses on asset distribution among the ADC and non-ADC villages and the comparison of created assets in the ADC and the non-ADC blocks. The second section speaks on the various reasons on low asset distribution in the surveyed Blocks. The third section highlights on what sort of durable assets have been generated in the ADC and Non ADC Blocks and the future of those assets in the context of income generation

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

Based on the activity of NREGA and the scenario of asset generation and potentialities of the created assets for income generation of the tribal and non-tribal people of Tripura, the present paper aims to make a keen study on the overall event. The specific objectives of this paper are as follows:

1. To identify the distribution of productive asset generation among the tribal and non-tribal population.
2. To know about the income generation potential of created assets for economic growth of these people.

ASSET GENERATION:

More than a quarter of population continued to be poor even sixty years after independence. To consider and revise the poverty lines, the Planning Commission has constituted an expert group whose recommendations, hopefully, would provide acceptable measures to reduce poverty. Since poverty is a multi-dimensional problem, it requires a multi-pronged strategy to tackle it. For example, regions which have large number of people include tribal forested regions and rain fed agricultural regions, watershed development has to be the crucial instrument for poverty reduction. Again, the poor who are concentrated in certain states or regions where land-man ratio is the lowest, effective land reforms and provision of agricultural services in these regions require special emphasis. There is a large dependence on casual labour. These workers get low wage and unable to find employment throughout the year. Most of them belong to SC and STs. A programme like (NREGP) can provide better wages and enhance the number of working days for this category.

The low asset-base of the poor is a supreme cause behind poverty in our nation. Dr. C.H. Hanumatha Rao, in this context, underlines the fact that sharp and successful reduction of poverty can be made possible if building up of rural infrastructure through NREGA such as irrigation, rural roads, water harvesting measures, agricultural research and extension and institutional credit are brought into account. (Economic Times 2005)

The NREGA programme is an activity that attempts to elevate the rural economy through creation of sustainable assets — it aims at facilitating the use of ecology for economy. The first aspect of the Act that could be relooked at is its evaluation and monitoring. Instead of the simple calculation on jobs demanded and provided, the NREGA needs to be evaluated and monitored on its impact on livelihood security through sustainable asset creation. On the basis of this idea, Table no.1 gives us a poignant picture of the scenario of asset distribution in ADC and non-ADC blocks in Tripura. In the course of our survey, we have considered the fisheries, plantation, rural connectivity, and irrigation as durable assets.

Table 1: Generation of assets in the ADC blocks during the financial year 2010-11

Tulasikhar	ADC Village	Water conservati on	Drought Proofing	Irrigation	Rural Connectivity	Land Development	Total
	1.Asaram Bari	12	2	3	2	19	38
	2.Paschim Rajnagar	13	2	15	11	13	54
	3.Banbazar	11	3	4	3	20	41
	4.Holong Mwataai	9	2	0	7	4	22
	Total	45	9	22	23	56	155
ADC BLOCK							
Killa	1.Atharovola.	2	12	1	18	1	34
	2.Noabari	3	22	10	21	5	61
	3.Rayabari	6	15	0	17	3	41
	4.Bewanbari	4	7	1	7	15	34
	Total	15	56	12	63	24	170
ADC Block							Total
Padmabil	Khirod Nagar	8	3	5	7	25	48
	South R.C. Ghat	17	7	9	24	50	107
	Upendra Nagar	16	3	5	19	18	61
	Uttar Padmabil	10	4	11	36	24	85
	Total	51	17	30	86	117	361

Source:www. nrega. nic. co.in/year 2010-11

Table 2 : Generation of assets in the non-ADC blocks during the financial year 2010-11

	Panchayat	Water Conservation	Drought Proofing	Irrigation	Rural connectivity	Land Development	Total
Bishalgarh	1. Devipur	14	7	3	14	32	70
	2. Ghaniamara	13	6	12	41	2	74
	3. Brajapur	20	29	4	20	20	93
	4. N.C. Nagar	30	36	6	32	13	117
	Total	77	78	25	107	67	354
Block							
Dukli	1. Anandanagar	20	45	0	66	31	162
	2. Bikramnagar	22	32	1	34	57	146
	3. madhuban	22	34	0	38	20	114
	4. Malaynagar	7	9	0	53	50	119
	Total	71	120	1	191	158	541
Block							Total
Khowai	1. Madhya Ganki	25	9	12	48	10	104
	2. Paschim Singicherra	23	18	10	44	20	115
	3. Laxminarayan pur	54	28	24	37	14	157
	4. Purba Ganki	30	30	5	46	10	121
	Total	132	85	51	175	54	497

Source: www.nrega.nic.co.in /year2010-2011

Table 1 shows distribution of assets in the ADC Blocks surveyed. The table reflects that in Tulasikhar ADC Block Water conservation-activity has been done the most whereas the least activity in this case has been found in Killa ADC Block. Surprisingly, a negligible quantity of Drought proofing has taken place in both Padmabil and Tulasikhar ADC Block. In Killa block, all the panchayat have seen plantation. All the surveyed block had Irrigational activity done; in Padmabil block the maximum activity has taken place and on the other hand, the least work took place in Killa. Again activity regarding Rural Connectivity has been done more or less in all the ADC Blocks surveyed. Among them Padmabil (86 Nos) block has the most activity done and Tulasikhar (23Nos) block, the least.

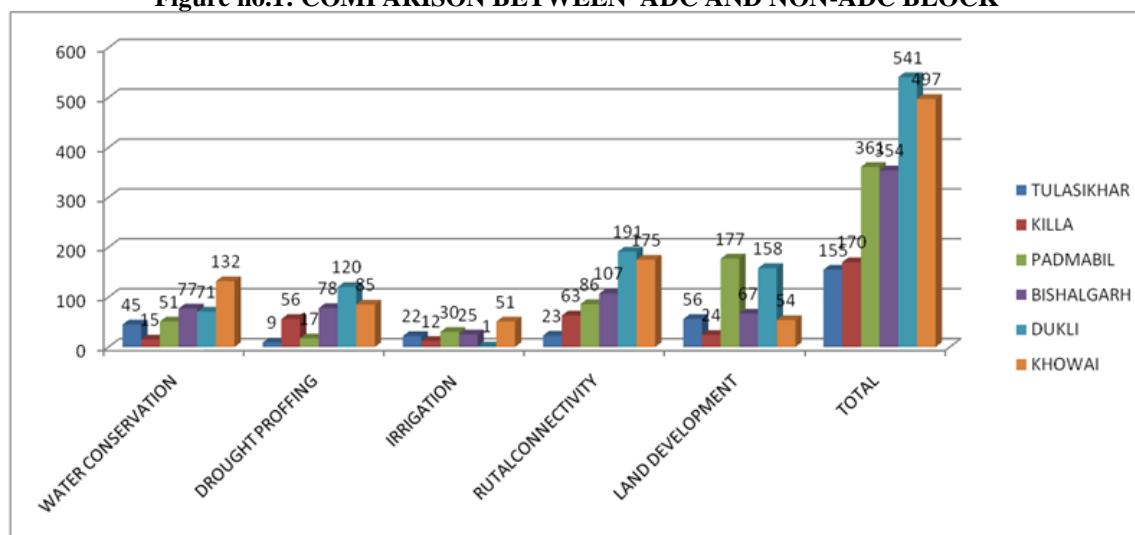
Regarding the totality of different activities the maximum work has been done in padmabil block (361 nos.) and the minimum work has been done in Tulasikhar block (155 nos.). Again, in regard of total asset creation among the ADC Villages under different ADC Blocks, it is found that the most number of activities have taken place in Dakshinmranchandra Ghat ADC Village (107 nos.) from Padmabil block and the minimum activity took place in Holong Mwaitaai ADC Village under Tulasikhar block (22) nos.

NREGA is considered as one of the most powerful initiatives ever undertaken to transform rural livelihoods in our country. It is a developmental programme undertaken in public investments for creation of durable or sustainable assets, which can provide much-needed momentum to growth in the most backward regions of India. The Act aims at constructing bunds and ponds as part of a watershed development strategy. On this foundation of water security, a sustainable village development plan can be built that includes a healthy agriculture and allied rural livelihoods. (Mihir Shah 2008)

Table no. 2 reflects the status of asset creation on the surveyed non-ADC blocks as well. Khowai block has seen the maximum activity regarding water conservation (132 nos.). The same activity was minimum in Dukli (71 nos) block. The picture of Drought proofing reflects the fact that maximum plantation has taken place in Dukli block (120nos.) whereas the minimum plantation has taken place in Bishalgarh block (78 nos). Irrigational activity has been done in all the G.P.s of the surveyed non-ADC blocks. Khowai block has seen the maximum activity (51 nos.) and Dukli block has seen the most negligible activity (1 nos.) regarding the same. Rural connectivity has been done the most in Dukli block (191 nos.) whereas Bishalgarh block has seen the least activity (107 nos.) in this matter.

From the viewpoint of total asset creation among the non-ADC blocks, the majority of activities have taken place in Dukli block (541 nos.) and in Bishalgarh block, the least work (354 nos.) have been found to be done. Among the total G.P.s under different non-ADC blocks, Anandanagar G.P. has seen the maximum total assets created (162 nos.) under Dukli block and Devipur G.P. under the Bishalgarh block has seen the least work (70 nos.) done during the financial year 2010-2011.

Figure no.1: COMPARISON BETWEEN ADC AND NON-ADC BLOCK



Source: www.nrega.nic.in. 2010-11

In MGNREGA selection is supposed to be done to the disadvantaged sections in order of priority - SC/ST first followed by small and marginal farmers. But this should be taken up as a principle and on priority-basis and not as a restrictive execution Guideline. (MoRD 2010). But the study depicts that the reality is otherwise.

On the basis of the given Figure no.1 attempts have been made to compare the details of asset distribution in the ADC and non-ADC blocks surveyed. It has been found that the total number of assets generated on the on the basis of four parameters exists far more in the non-ADC blocks than the ADC blocks.

Water Conservation : The picture of water conservation shows that among the non-ADC blocks, the maximum number of ponds have been created in Khowai block (132 nos.) whereas among the ADC blocks, the maximum number of ponds have been generated in Padmabil block (51 nos.). What is noticeable is that the maximum number of ponds created in the ADC blocks i.e. in Dukli block, is even far less in number than the minimum number of ponds created in the non-ADC blocks (in Dukli 71 nos.).

Drought Proofing: The picture of Drought Proofing shows that in almost all the G.P.s of each non-blocks, this activity has been done in a satisfactory number. Among the three non-ADC blocks surveyed, the maximum number of plantation has taken place in Dukli block (120 nos.). Regarding the same, in the ADC blocks plantation has been done in nominal terms. Only in Killa block 56 number of activity has taken place. Though the tribals primarily depend on forestry and plantation, nominal activity regarding plantation has been done in Padmabil (17 nos.) and Tulashikhar block (09 nos.).

Irrigation: In the context of irrigation, it has been found that among the non-ADC blocks, the maximum number of irrigation-activity has been done in Khowai block (51 nos.) and in Dukli block, only (1nos.) of irrigational activity has been done. On the contrary, among the non-ADC blocks, the most number of works regarding the same has been done in Padmabil block (30 nos.). In Tulasikhar block only twenty two (22) numbers and in Killa block twelve (12) numbers of activities have taken place.

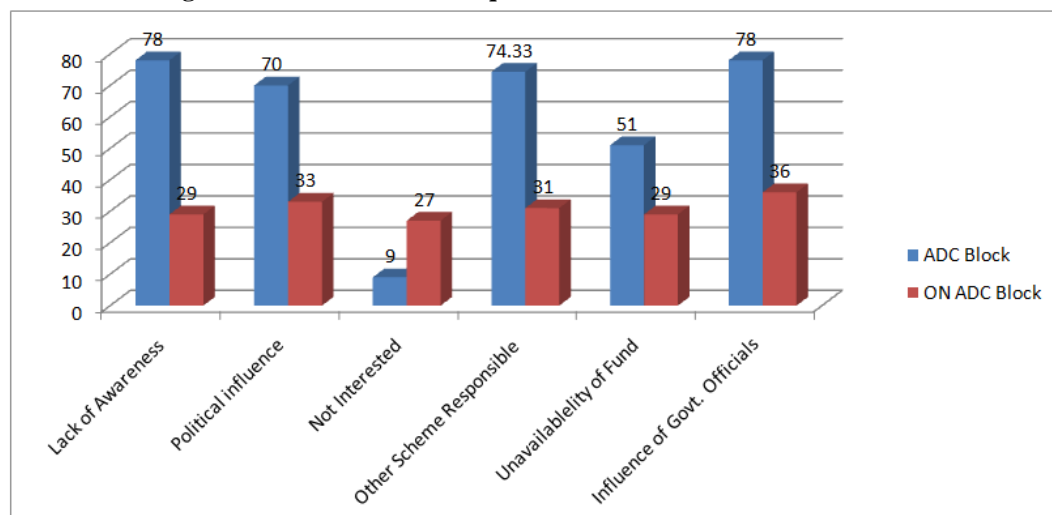
Rural Connectivity: In Dukli block, the most number of works (191 nos.) done in relation to rural connectivity was found among the non-ADC blocks. Again, Padmabil block has seen the maximum number of rural connectivity (86nos.) among the ADC blocks surveyed. The fact is that even much more works have been done in Bishalgarh non-ADC block (107 nos.) than in Padmabil ADC block (86 nos.). The notable point is that Bishalgarh block has the least work done in this respect amongst the non-ADC blocks.

Land Development: Only in this regard the ADC Blocks have done more activity than that of the Non ADC Blocks. The maximum number of land development activity has been done by Padmabil ADC Block (177 nos.) and among the non ADC Blocks Dukli block has done the maximum work (158 nos.).

Block-wise total asset generation: In regard of block-wise total asset creation, Dukli block has seen the maximum number of assets created (541 nos.) among the non-ADC blocks whereas, among the ADC blocks, the most number of assets have been created in Padmabil block (361nos.).

According to “Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Unit (as a part of its media dissemination activities), Centre for Science And Environment, New Delhi”, the NREGA, in its attempt to create assets, is supposed to concentrate on the local demands and needs. But in reality it is found that the Act does not do enough to address the institutional and management gaps. In our empirical study, we found some surprising reasons behind the demand and the implementation gap. The extent and influence of these causes in both ADC and non-ADC blocks have been delineated here:

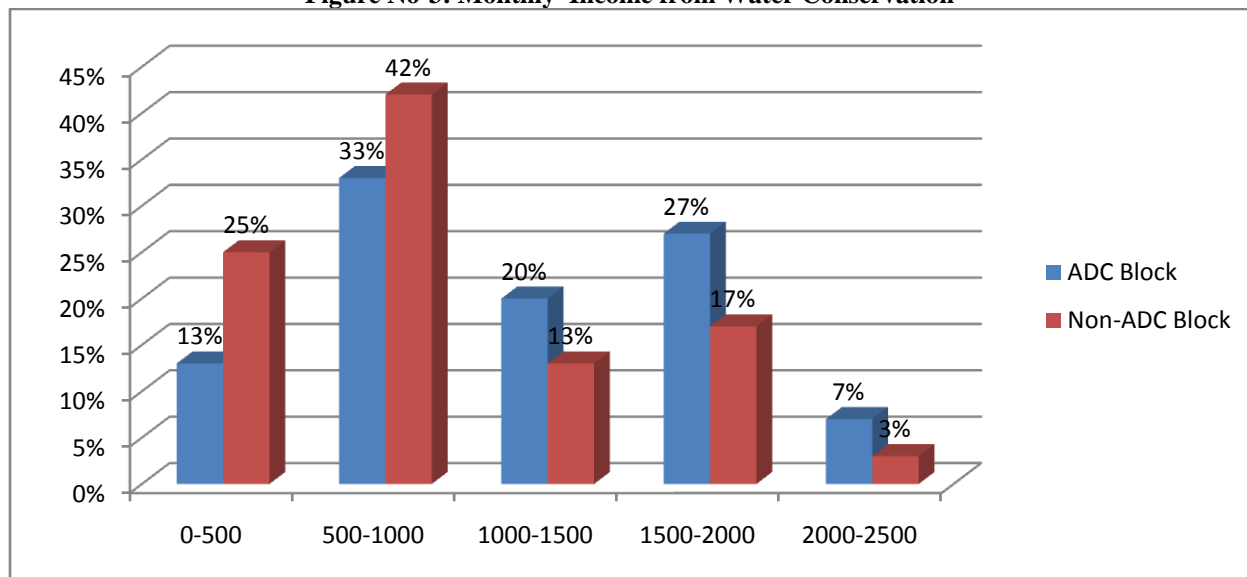
Figure. 2: Causes behind inequalities in asset distribution:



The above bar-diagram is a reflection of the various factors of inequalities in asset distribution in the ADC and non-ADC blocks surveyed. It has been found that maximum respondents from the ADC blocks said they had a great lack of awareness

78% regarding the activities of NREAGA whereas in the non-ADC blocks, only 33% respondents in average expressed their lacking of awareness regarding the same. The factor of political influence seems to be more or less instrumental in the ADC as well as in the non-ADC blocks. The NREGA has been found to be influenced politically more in the ADC areas than in the non-ADC areas. 70% respondents among the ADC block claimed so and 33% respondents from non-ADC blocks opined the same. The picture of "other schemes responsible" from the table shows that majority of the people from the ADC blocks stated that other schemes like IAY, Kutir Yoti, Annapurna, Antyoday, etc. were responsible behind low asset generation in the ADC areas. The maximum of 74.33% people from the ADC blocks had such an opinion. However, the same factor appears to be less instrumental in the non-ADC blocks as only 31% people in average said other schemes were responsible. Regarding unavailability of Fund in the ADC areas, 29% respondents in average, in their opinion, said that there is no unavailability of fund whereas 51% respondents in average in the non-ADC blocks said the similar thing. What is perceptible in this respect is that funding is more available in the ADC areas than in the non-ADC areas. Again, it is quite often found that the panchayat officials pay more importance to the opinions of the panchayat members rather than emphasizing the requirements of the people. The majority of the respondents in the ADC blocks surveyed, in their views, said that influence of the Officials had induced disturbance in the process of asset generation ; 78% from ADC blocks said so. Again, 36% respondents from the non-ADC blocks had the opinion that Officials influenced in the activities of the NREGA and slowed down its progress.

Figure No-3: Monthly Income from Water Conservation

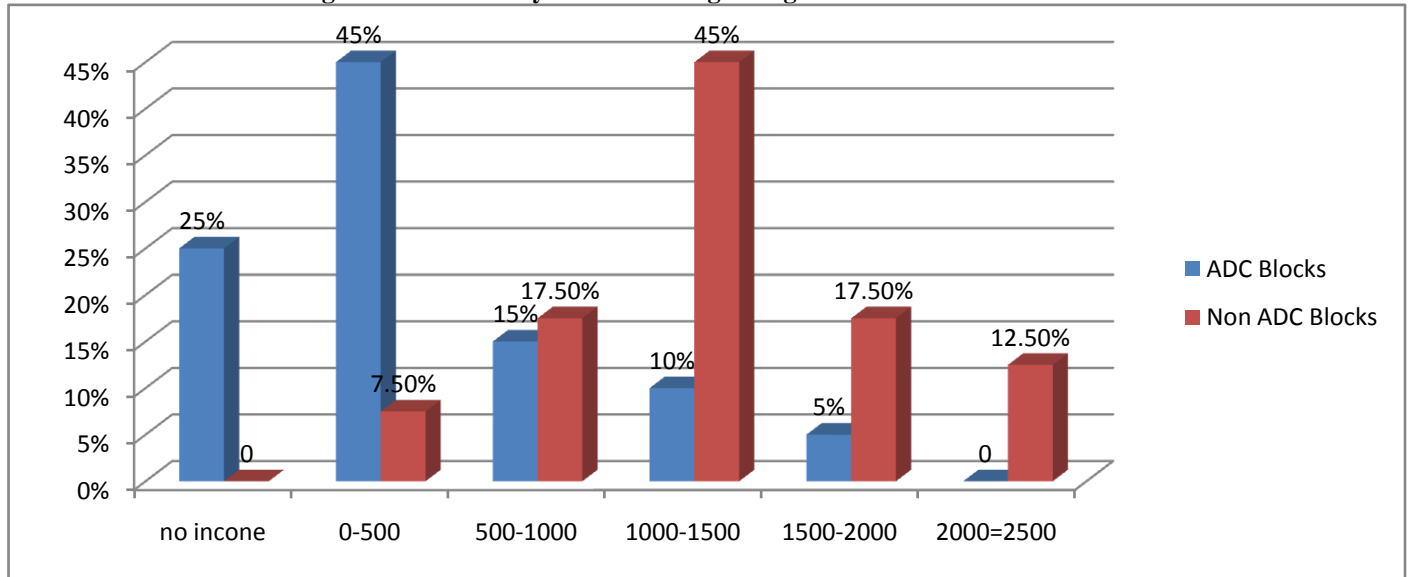


Source: Field survey 2012

To know about the income from the water conservation they have acquired from MGNREGA 100 nos. of respondents from ADC Blocks and 100 from non ADC Blocks were taken into account. The respondents belonging to the ADC Blocks said that they have got the Water Conservation from MGNREGA and have utilized them as fisheries. The respondents sell the fishes produced in these fisheries in the local market to get a better income and in this way they are trying to enhance their economic livelihood.

From the above figure it is found that the maximum (33%) percentage of the respondent from the surveyed 60 nos. of beneficiary from ADC blocks opine they have a monthly income of Rs. 500-1000 allotted to them from MGNREGA in the form of fisheries. 27% respondents from ADC Blocks and 17% from non ADC-Blocks have an income of Rs. 1500- Rs. 2000. Besides, 7% respondents from ADC and 3% respondents from NON ADC Block earn a monthly income of Rs. 2000- Rs. 2500.

Figure No 4: Monthly Income through Irrigation Cannals.



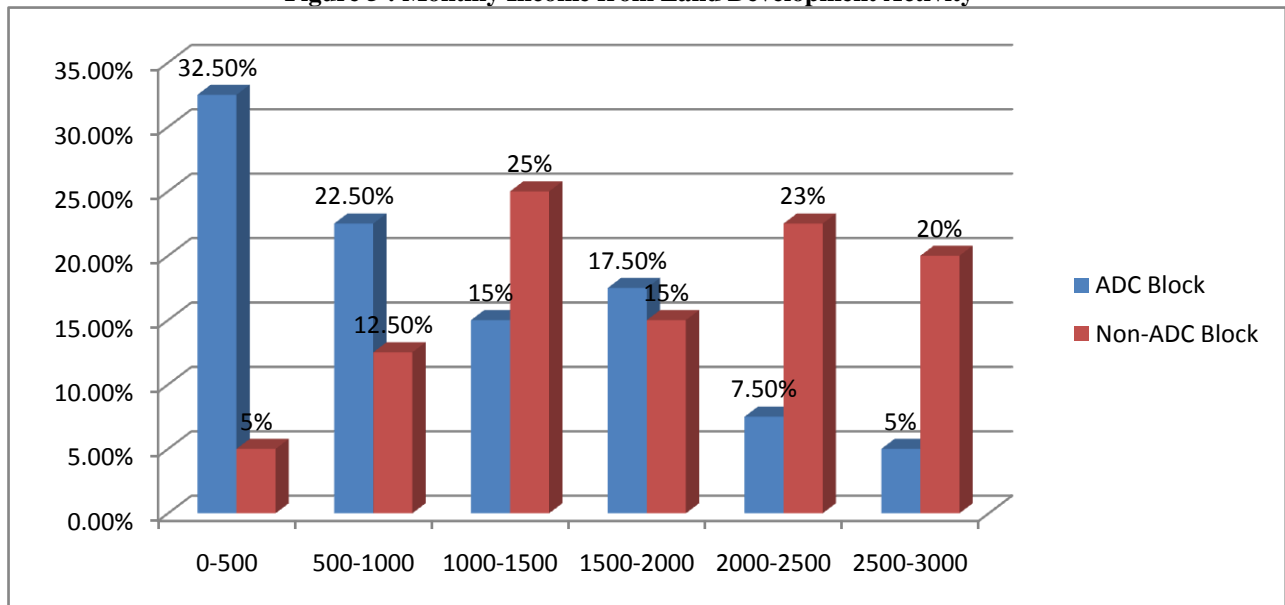
Source: Field survey 2012

The above figure gives a clear picture of the monthly income of the beneficiaries of irrigation channels.

To know about the monthly income of the respondents of irrigation channels 200 respondents from ADC blocks and 200 from Non ADC Blocks were surveyed. The maximum 45% percentage of respondent from ADC blocks said the they have a monthly income of Rs.0-500 only through the irrigation channels, whereas maximum 45% percentage of respondents opine that they earn monthly of Rs. 1000-1500 through the irrigation channels. From the above figure it is also seen that 12.50% respondent opine that they have a monthly income of 2000-2500 whereas none of the respondents from ADC Blocks has such income. The respondents from Non ADC Blocks also opine that they are able to produce crops in the dry season taking privilege from the irrigation channels.

The respondents from ADC areas said that they did not get the desired income from irrigation channels they should have got .As the irrigation channels are kaccha in form, they are damaged very often. Moreover no permanent source of has been created to water the fields through those channels. As a result, they are mostly dependent on the monsoon for the agricultural activity as before.

Figure 5 : Monthly Income from Land Development Activity



Source : Field survey 2012.

Various studies undertaken by government and non-government institutions have tried to assess the quality and efficacy of infrastructures that are being built and their fruitfulness in providing livelihood opportunities in a sustainable manner. As such, little can be known about such issues as – location specific appropriateness about choice of works, quality of works undertaken, their likely sustainability, impact on (water) resources, utilization of the created resource, benefits to the intended beneficiaries, etc. So, in the case of low quality assets created through provisioning of employment opportunities, the key objective of providing sustainable livelihood opportunities would become fruitless and void.

To gather idea about the monthly income of the beneficiaries of Land Development, survey was conducted on 200 respondents from ADC blocks and 200 from Non ADC Blocks. In the present study, Figure 5 shows the fruitlessness of the Land development activity in ADC areas. The above figure shows that the maximum 32.5% of respondents from ADC Block have monthly income of Rs. 0-500 only from Land Development activity whereas the 25% and 23% respondent from non ADC Block opine that they have monthly income of Rs. 1000-1500 and Rs. 2000-2500 respectively. Only 5% respondents from non ADC block opine that they earn monthly Rs.0-500. The respondents from ADC areas said that they did not get the desired income from Land which were renovated through MGNREGA. Through MGNREGA only land has been developed. But this land has not been connected with irrigation channels. No permanent water source is also present there. Hence, the people has to cultivate once in the rainy season and during the rest of the time they can not get engaged with any agricultural activity. In spite of repeated demand for permanent source of water no such action has yet been taken by the administrative officials also.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION:

In the ADC villages, durable assets have been found to be executed in lesser quantity. Sustainable plantation, fisheries, rural connectivity, etc. have been marginally done in these places. Certain Government Audit teams have to be formed to verify and judge the progress of various activities of NREGA. Those Audit teams would have a close and keen observation on the different activities. Added to this, some more recommendations are as follows:

The panchayat officials block officials and other members of the Executive Committee have to be well-trained so that the NREGA guidelines can be followed properly.

The NREGA is basically a poverty-eradication and employment-generation programme. So, it has to be kept into focus that the genuine poor and deserving people gets the benefit of the scheme. The formation of an effective Monitoring body is very much necessary for this purpose.

The Gram Sabha has to be organized each month and at least 60% people of the total households have to remain present in the Sabha. Also any decision or resolution has to be made in the presence of at least 60% attendant.

Subject specialists have to be employed to examine and verify the qualitative aspect of various assets created such as pond, fisheries, plantation, land development for agricultural production, etc.

The general people have to be made aware of the matter that the members of a political party have no role to play in the implementation of the NREGA.

The objective of the NREGA is not only wage distribution through employment but also creation of sustainable assets as well. The villagers have to be made aware of this matter. Again, the sanctioned amount of fund in a financial year of a GP has to be spent in the 60:40 ratio regarding wage-employment and asset creation (wage-employment 60% ,asset creation 40%). The villagers have to be made conscious of this fact also.

The ethnic tribal's of the land primarily maintain their livelihood by means of forestry, fisheries, etc. So, the assets created in their areas ought to be in accordance with their demands for the sustainability of their economy.

So, the NREGA is a programme which has been creating opportunities for the people to enhance their economic condition. The tribal people, who have been alienated from the mainstream of the society, living in the heart of darkness, now, can think of leading a better life through self reliance, getting help from the MGNREGA programme. However, in the course of our study and observations, it has been found that the distribution of assets has not been executed among the tribal people in equal terms. So, effort at every level is necessary so that this "opportunity" can, in real terms, elevate the tribal mass.

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