



Success of MGNREGA: delusion or reality – study of Tonk District, Rajasthan, India

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Abstract

Rural poverty and its eradication has always been a critical issue in our Nation. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a UPA flagship programme ensures job guarantee of 150 days in a financial year to adult member of rural family who volunteer to do unskillful manual work. The aim of this study is to access the achievements of MGNREGA in Tonk District of Rajasthan. Rajasthan is one among the Indian states where the performance of social welfare scheme MGNREGA is found pleasing, therefore Tonk districts of Rajasthan is been selected as a research area for the study. Prominence is also been made on trend of employment under the scheme, contribution ratio among male, females and minority classes. Result of the study is grounded on the data gathered for five years that is from financial year 2011-12 to 2015-16. The study is based purely on secondary data. The main findings of the study are maximum workers in the scheme are from the peer group of 30-40 years. The participation ratio in person day's generation is highest among Scheduled Castes as compared to Scheduled Tribes.

Keywords: Guarantee, Employment, Manual Work, Social Welfare, Eradication.

Introduction

Poverty alleviation and unemployment in rural India have always been a major issue. Government of India has taken up various initiatives in this regard but poverty and unemployment are still a major challenge. Various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes was initiated by government time to time since independence such as Integrated Rural Development Program (1978), Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (1985), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (1999)¹. However these programmes could not create such major impact in rural area as it was expected to be. There were number of loopholes responsible for the failure of such schemes like lack of proper planning, timely disbursement of funds at lower level government etc. In order to overcome all these problems government of India in 2005 introduced Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

“National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’ 2005 (NREGA) was launched with effect from 2nd February 2006. During 2009-10, through an amendment the NREGA has been rechristened as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). To start with, 200 selected districts of the country were brought under its ambit. In 2007-08, it was extended to 130 more districts. As against the original target of 5 years, within three years of its launch MGNREGA has been extended to all the districts from 1st April 2008”². ‘National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to rural households whose adult members are volunteer to do unskilled manual work’³.

Literature Review: Review of literature constitute an important section in any research study, which provide a critical and in depth evaluation of provision research of any subject. This in turn helps to identify the gaps in the literature and motivate for the further research in the area to fill such gaps with proper justification and research. The researcher has made the following efforts to review the existing literature. ‘A study on Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal conducted to know about the performance of governing bodies study ends up with the conclusion that increasing the performance of the governing body that is gram panchayat can improve the performance of NREGS, hence it can help to reduce the level of poverty’⁴. A Study explored to examine the difference in the assets of two districts of Haryana one is agriculturally advanced and one is agriculturally backward. The study reveals that farmers having large size of holdings, more numbers of livestock’s, migrating to other places for employment and have taken loan are less inclined to participate in MGNREGS⁵. The socio-economic status of the rural poor has been improved over time but it needs sudden important change in implementation of scheme⁶. A study conducted in Rajasthan reveals that people experienced significant change in their lives, women’s were made independent to participate in public meetings but on the other side there was considerable rise in corruption⁷. A research aimed to discuss the impact of NREGA on overall quality of life of beneficiaries in the scheme. The finding reveals that scheme has brought changes in the lives of beneficiaries but the programme should be free from corruption and malpractices so that it can act as a tool to rejuvenate area of the country⁸. A research is conducted to investigate that to what extend the

MGNREGS has reached the tribal people in term of employment generation and asset creation. The study ends up with the conclusion that tribal people are not aware about the programme, no unemployment allowance is paid, delay in wage payments, all this is because of the wide gap between programme implementation in tribal area⁹.

Objectives: i. Trend of employment provided against demand raised in Tonk over last five consecutive financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. ii. Participation rate of SC, ST and other castes in total person day's generation. iii. To investigate the division of person day's generation among male and females. iv. To look after the participation rate in employment of different age groups over five financial years.

MGNREGA in Rajasthan

Rajasthan ranks among the worst states in term of sanitation in India¹⁰. However it is making progress in implementing convergence between MGNREGA. 'Rajasthan is geographically the largest state in the country (area 342239 Sq. kms.) with total 33 districts, current population of the state is around 74791568 which is 7th largest in the country, low level of literacy 67% (male 80.51% and female 52.66%),. Whereas in reference to Human Development Report (HDR) 2010-11 Rajasthan ranks 14th with score 0.468 (Rajasthan Human Development Report 2010) which is categorized as low human development'¹¹. In this background it can be said that Rajasthan is on the path of Economic Development.

MGNREGA in Tonk: Tonk is one of the 33 districts of Rajasthan which ranks 23rd in term of population, 18th in term of

area and 19th in term of population density in the state. Instead of this it constitute 77.6% and 22.6% of rural and urban population SC and ST population accounts for 20.3% and 12.5% whereas total population of Tonk is 1,421,326 in which female and male accounts for 6,93,190 and 7,28,136¹². It is situated 95 km by road from Jaipur. Tonk is Nagar-Parishad whereas all other blocks are Nagar-Palikas. In 2006 Ministry of Panchayat Raj named Tonk as one of the country's 250 most backward districts out of 640¹³. Tonk is also receiving funds from Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).¹³

Data Source and Methodology of the Study

The methodology is the way of achieving the goal through considering the observation, collection and analysis of relevant data related to the study of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with reference to Rajasthan. This study is descriptive type. On the basis of annual reports of MGNREGA of various financial years. The data for the study has been collected through secondary sources from government and non-government agencies, different reports of Ministry of Rural Development, surveys of NSSO, Annual reports of MGNREGA. Data is gathered for five consecutive years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. Data is collected on demand for employment, employment provided against demand, person days generation, women participation and age wise composition of employment in Mgnrega Simple percentage method is been used to carry out the objective. Collected data was tabulated and analyzed on the basis of bar graphs. The study will be useful to the people who are interested to know about the performance of MGNREGA in Tonk.

Table-1: Census of Tonk 2011¹².

Population	14,21,711
Males	52%
Females	48%
Coordinates	26.17 ° N 75.78 ° E
Total area cover	7194 Km
Sex ratio	949 females per 1000 males
Literacy Rate	69.47%
Male	78.7%
Females	59.85%
Population Growth rate over decade 2001-2011	17.33%
Total Blocks	6 (Uniara, Todaraisingh, Tonk, Deoli, Newai, Malpura, Peelu)
Total Villages	1093
Religions in Tonk	
Hindus	62%
Muslims	35%
Jains	2.7%
Others	0.3%

Table-2: Performance of MGNREGA in Rajasthan and Tonk in financial year 2015-16¹⁴.

S.no	Particulars	Rajasthan	Tonk
1	Total HH applied for job card	1,00,59,444.00	2,66,265.00
2	Total job card issued	99,41,496.00	2,65,041.00
3	Total job card issued (SC)	18,04,895.00	50,973.00
4	Total job card issued (ST)	17,57,744.00	38,505.00
5	Total job card issued (non-SC/ST)	63,78,857.00	1,75,563.00
6	Total HH demanded work	46,88,288.00	1,36,542.00
7	Total person demanded work	70,42,736.00	2,20,716.00
8	Total HH allotted work	46,84,972.00	1,36,504.00
9	Total person allotted work	70,35,812.00	2,20,555.00
11	Total HH worked	42,20,882.00	1,18,511.00
12	Total person worked	60,23,418.00	1,77,944.00
13	Total HH reached 100 day limit	4,68,700.00	6,521.00
15	Total HH worked(non-SC/ST)	23,87,181.00	76,230.00
16	Total person day worked(non-SC/ST)	12,87,38,180.00	36,72,736.00
17	Total SC HH worked	8,55,554.00	23,697.00
18	Total person days worked by SCs	4,87,82,602.00	11,92,330.00
19	Total ST HH worked	9,78,147.00	18,584.00
20	Total person days worked by STs	5,66,03,767.00	9,23,858.00
21	Total person days worked by women	16,16,02,358.00	40,72,966.00
22	Total person days	23,41,24,549.00	57,88,974.00
23	Total SC HH over 100 day limit	1,08,483.00	1,383.00
24	Total ST HH over 100 day limit	1,20,306.00	1,065.00
25	Total bank account	94,24,340.00	2,81,860.00
26	Total individual bank account	86,74,117.00	2,72,682.00
27	Total joint bank account	7,50,223.00	9,178.00
33	Amount disbursed to bank accounts	24,08,63,25,827.00	56,95,36,109.00

Trend of Employment provided against demand raised in Tonk.

Table-3: Households and persons demanded and allotted work in MGNREGA¹⁴.

Year	Total HH demanded work	Total HH allotted work	Total HH worked	Total person demanded work	Total person allotted work	Total person worked
2011-12	1,82,578.00	1,15,515.00	1,08,472.00	1,54,851.00	1,54,848.00	1,43,451.00
2012-13	1,01,596.00	1,01,596.00	88,366.00	1,34,471.00	1,34,470.00	1,13,031.00
2013-14	71,622.00	71,609.00	59,848.00	92,512.00	92,495.00	74,872.00
2014-15	91,705.00	91,688.00	73,409.00	1,27,263.00	1,27,233.00	93,626.00
2015-16	1,36,542.00	1,36,510.00	1,17,741.00	2,20,716.00	2,20,574.00	1,76,233.00

Table-4: Trend of employment provided to Households and Persons in Tonk.

Year	HH demanded employment	HH allotted work	HH Actually worked	Persons demanded employment	Persons allotted work	Persons actually worked
2011-12	1,37,201.20	1,15,305.20	88,851.00	1,21,058.20	1,21,081.00	1,11,730.80
2012-13	1,27,004.90	1,09,344.20	89,209.10	1,33,510.00	1,33,502.50	1,16,346.70
2013-14	1,16,808.60	1,03,383.60	89,567.20	1,45,962.60	1,45,924.00	1,20,962.60
2014-15	1,06,612.30	97,423.00	89,925.30	1,58,414.40	1,58,345.50	1,25,578.50
2015-16	96,415.40	91,462.00	90,283.40	1,70,867.00	1,70,767.00	1,30,194.40

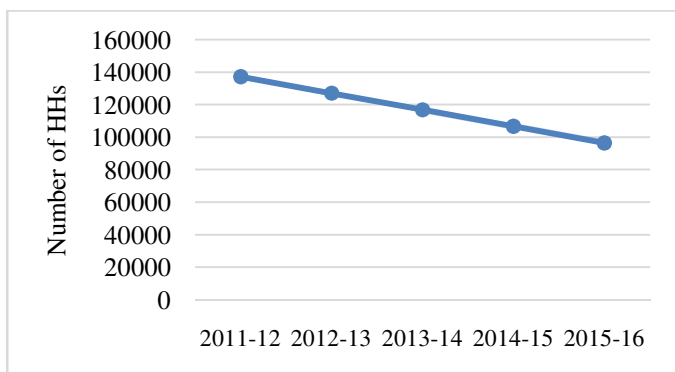


Figure-1: Trend showing HHs demanded for employment over the years.

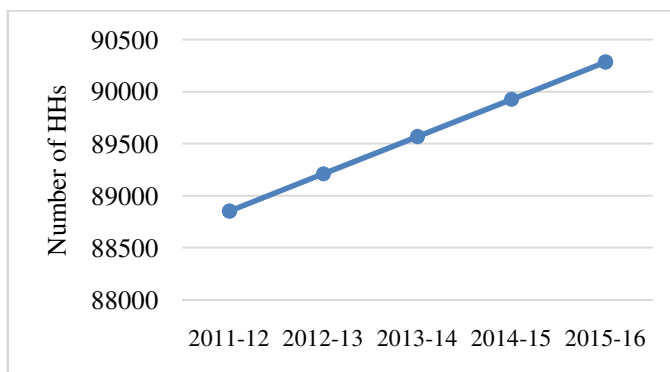


Figure-3: Trend showing HHs actually worked.

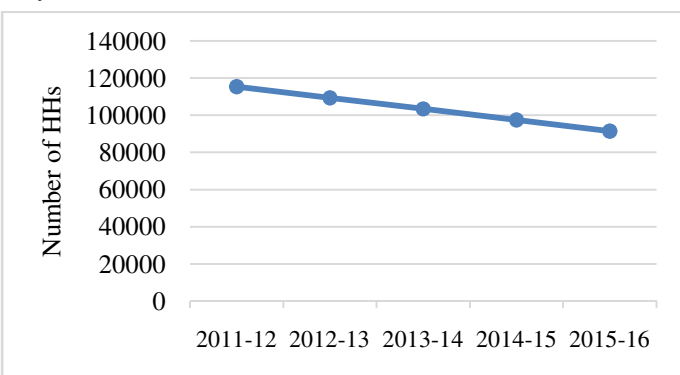


Figure-2: Trend showing household allotted work.

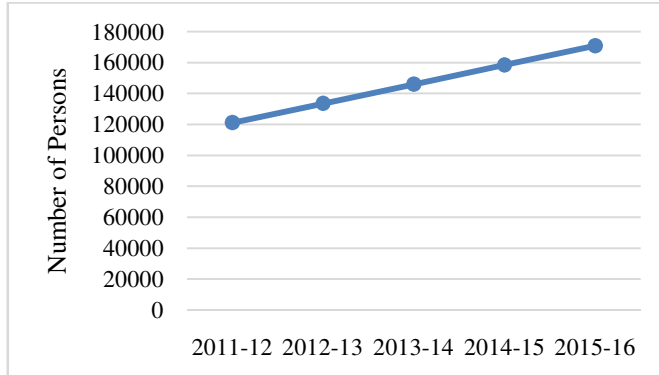


Figure-4: Trend showing persons demanded work.

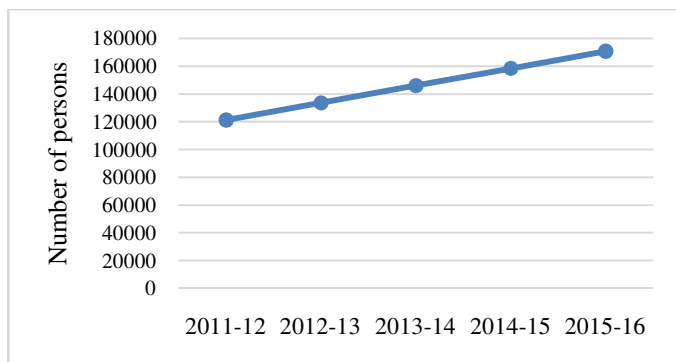


Figure-5: Trend of person allotted work.

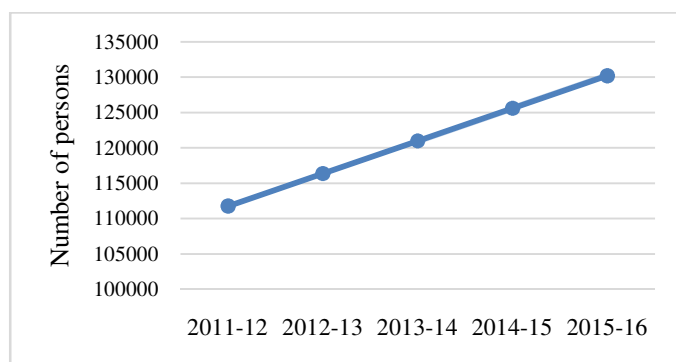


Figure-6: Trend of person actually worked.

The graph shown above envisages the trend of employment demanded, employment allotted and Households and persons actually worked in the employment generation scheme called MGNREGA. Regressive Trend is detected for household demanded for employment and household allotted employment from financial year 2011-12 to financial year 2015-16. Although household actually employed under the scheme shows progressive trend. Whereas persons demanded for employment, persons allotted employment and persons actually employed in the scheme shows Progressive Trend with constant rate of increment.

There is always a difference between person demanded for employment under the scheme and person actually worked. Here the average slit between person demanded and person actually worked for five consecutive years stood at 82.20% (Table-10) which simply means that on an average every year 82.20% of person's actually worked in the scheme against the demand for employment. Whereas as 17.8% of workers somehow didn't worked under the scheme. There could be any reason for such unavailability of workers that is unhealthy working conditions, they must be working some other place etc. Similarly percentage difference between household demanded employment and household actually employed stood at 79.25%.

Participation rate of SCs, STs and other castes in Person day's generation

Table-5: Person day's generation by SCs, STs and non-SC/ST¹⁴.

Year	Total person days worked by non- SC/ST	Total person days worked SCs	Total person days worked STs	Total person days worked SC + ST + others
2011-12	20,47,864.00	6,84,392.00	4,11,660.00	31,43,916.00
2012-13	19,15,218.00	6,46,797.00	3,99,630.00	29,61,645.00
2013-14	12,35,143.00	4,53,822.00	3,75,026.00	20,63,991.00
2014-15	14,68,291.00	5,47,779.00	3,26,268.00	23,42,338.00
2015-16	36,33,072.00	11,81,335.00	9,11,639.00	57,26,046.00

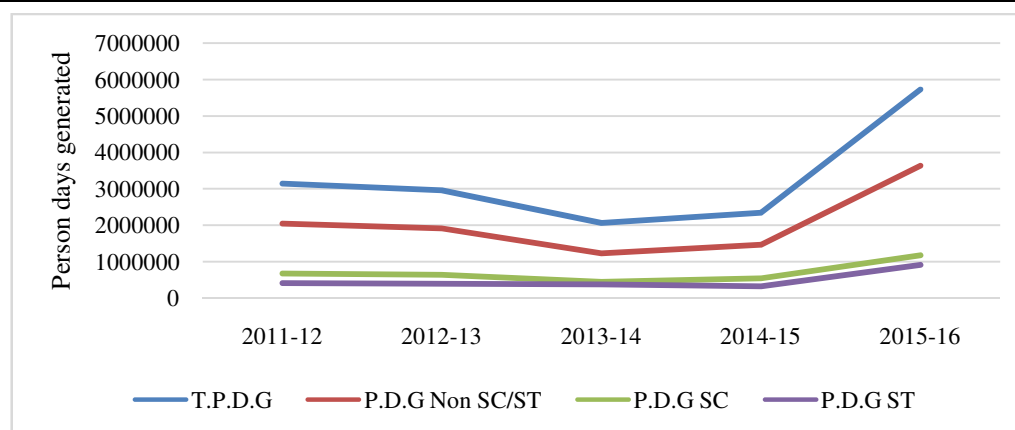


Figure-7: Category wise person day's generation (based on Table-5).

Table-6: Participation Ratio of person day's generation of SCs, STs and Others in MGNREGA.

Year	SCs	STs	Others
2011-12	21.76	13.09	65.13
2012-13	21.83	13.49	64.66
2013-14	21.98	18.16	59.84
2014-15	23.38	13.92	62.68
2015-16	20.63	15.92	63.44
Total	109.58	74.58	315.75
Average	21.91	14.91	63.15

The pie chart shows the average caste wise person day's generation of MGNREGA beneficiaries of five consecutive years from F.Y 2011-12 to 2015-16. 22% of the workers in the scheme belongs to Scheduled Caste, 15% of the workers belongs to Scheduled Tribes whereas 63% are the rest workers from other different castes. As per according to the provisions

made under the scheme to provide and upgrade the living status of marginalized castes of the society Tonk District has shown satisfactory result as combined active person day's generation of SCs and STs account for 37%. The graph drawn on the other side shows the continuous increasing person day's generation by beneficiaries of different castes. However there are little fluctuations noticed in the pattern of person day's generation by all the castes.

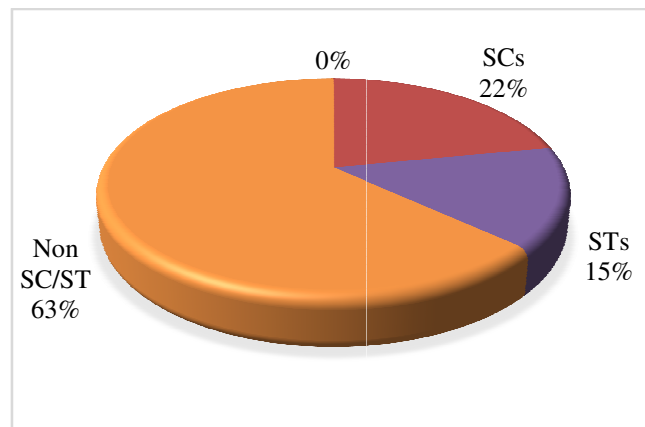


Figure-8: Category wise participation in employment (based on Table-6).

Person day's generation division between males and females

Table-7: Person day's generation by Males and Females in MGNREGA in Tonk¹⁴.

Year	Total person days	Total person days worked by women	Percentage of women person days to total person days	Total person day worked by male	Percentage of male person days total person days
2011-12	31,43,916.00	23,84,881.00	75.85%	7,59,035.00	24.14%
2012-13	29,61,645.00	22,67,203.00	76.55%	6,94,442.00	23.44%
2013-14	20,63,991.00	15,93,607.00	77.20%	4,70,384.00	22.79%
2014-15	23,42,338.00	18,17,221.00	77.58%	5,25,117.00	22.41%
2015-16	57,26,046.00	40,37,898.00	70.51%	16,88,148.00	29.48%

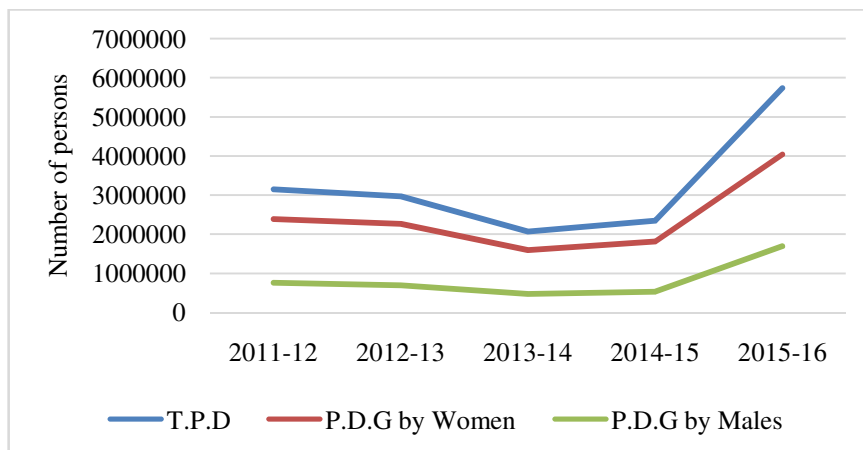


Figure-9: Person days generations by males and females (based on Table-7).

When it comes to the performance of male and females in person days generation it can be easily noted down that women's contribution in person days generation is far better than males. As per according to the guidelines of MGNREGA 33% of the employees or workers should be females. The higher share of women in person day's generation also shows that

higher rate of women's are employed under the scheme against the statutory requirement, not only this but the average performance of females in total person days generation for five consecutive years from F.Y. 2011-12 to 2015-16 is much higher, as the ratio among males and females stood at 24.4 : 75.5 (Table-8).

Participation rate in employment of different age groups over five financial year.

Table-8: Employment provided in the scheme to different age-groups in MGNREGA¹⁴.

Years	18-30 years people	30-40 year people	40-50 year people	50-60 year people	above 60 people
2011-12	35,885.00	43,240.00	34,023.00	20,587.00	9,721.00
2012-13	28,148.00	40,962.00	32,810.00	20,752.00	11,211.00
2013-14	15,415.00	29,509.00	23,552.00	15,015.00	8,182.00
2014-15	16,275.00	41,642.00	33,783.00	22,291.00	13,448.00
2015-16	31,653.00	73,210.00	55,765.00	36,757.00	22,438.00

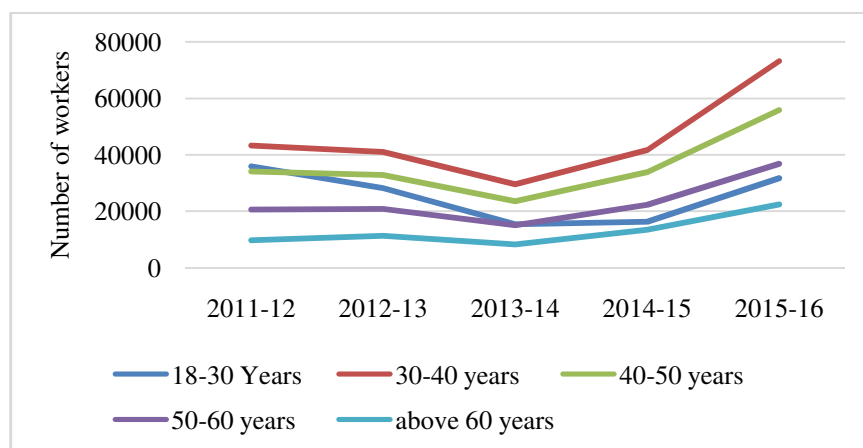


Figure-10: Age-wise participation of workers (based on Table-8).

Table-9: Percentage of workers employed in MGNREGA of different age groups from total employment provided.

Year	18-30 Year	30-40 Year	40-50 Year	50-60 Year	Above 60
2011-12	25.01	30.14	23.71	14.35	6.77
2012-13	21.02	30.59	24.50	15.50	8.37
2013-14	16.81	32.18	25.69	16.37	8.92
2014-15	12.77	32.67	26.50	17.49	10.55
2015-16	14.39	33.30	25.36	16.72	10.20
Total	90	158.88	125.76	80.43	44.81
Average	18	31.77	25.15	16.08	8.96

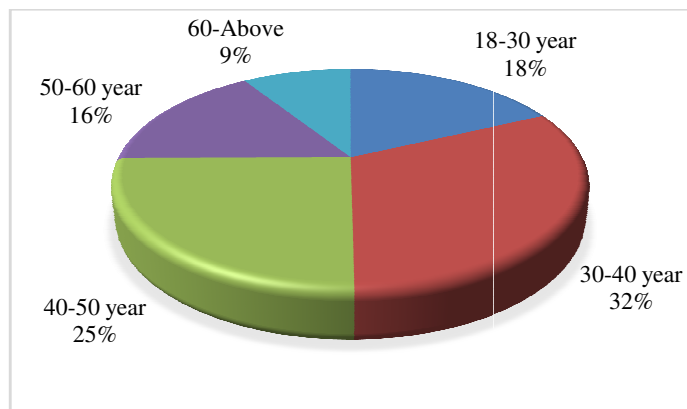


Figure-11: Percentage of age wise participation of workers (based on Table-9)

The graph drawn above shows age wise active participation of workers in employment generation scheme MGNREGA over last five financial years that is from 2011-12 to 2015-16. The workers are been categorized in five age groups they are workers between 18-30 year of age, 30-40 year, 40-50 year, 50-60 year and last workers above 60 year of age. As shown in the graph there is high fluctuations in the employment provided to the workers of each age group although there is increase in employment provided to workers of different age group in the last financial year 2015-16.

The pie-chart dawn above shows average age wise workers employment in MGNREGA over last five financial years. On an average every year in Tonk 18% of the workers employed in the scheme are from age group 18-30 year, 32% are from age-group 30-40 year, 25% are from age-group 40-50 year, 16% are from age-group 50-60 year and 9% are above 60 years. It also shows that most of the workers got employment under MGNREGA in Tonk are from age group 30-40 years.

Conclusion

India has a series of rural development programmes which were implemented for the growth of rural India since independence but one significant difference between MGNREGA and other employment generation and rural development schemes is that MGNREGA is bounded to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year. The UPA flagship programme MGNREGA may not have worked according to the expectations of the nation but it has shown great success in generating employment to rural household and people, doesn't matters whether this employment is provided just for the sake of digging and filling holes, it may not have generated or contributed any additional outcome to the national income of the nation. MGNREGA has given job assurance to people and it has created social inclusion by giving 33% of job assurance to women. Thus it could be concluded that the work of MGNREGA has made positive impact in terms of reduction of poverty directly and indirectly in the researched area. We must also understand that MGNREGA cannot be a long term solution to the unemployment of rural India.

Table-10: Percentage difference between Household and person demanded work and actually worked.

Year	Percentage difference between HHs demanded work and HHs actually worked	Percentage difference between person demanded work and person actually worked
2011-12	59.41	92.63
2012-13	86.97	84.05
2013-14	83.60	80.93
2014-15	80.04	73.56
2015-16	86.23	79.84
Total	396.25	411.01
Average	79.25	82.20

Table-11: Participation Ratio of person day's generation of SCs, STs and Others in MGNREGA.

Year	SCs	STs	Others
2011-12	21.76	13.09	65.13
2012-13	21.83	13.49	64.66
2013-14	21.98	18.16	59.84
2014-15	23.38	13.92	62.68
2015-16	20.63	15.92	63.44
Total	109.58	74.58	315.75
Average	21.91	14.91	63.15

Table-12: Division of total person day's generation among male and females in MGNREGA in Tonk.

Year	Women share	Men share
2011-12	75.85	24.14
2012-13	76.55	23.44
2013-14	77.20	22.79
2014-15	77.58	22.41
2015-16	70.51	29.48
Total	377.69	122.26
Average	75.53	24.45

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