
Impact of MGNREGA-A case Study of Baramulla District.

Ummar Ahad¹

¹parray.umar@gmail.com

Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

Abstract- *MGNREGA is a fortune changing scheme providing guaranteed employment to rural people of India. The basic aim of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to ensure and enhance basic livelihood security of rural households in at national level. This scheme assures employment to unskilled rural laborer for 100 days. With proper and just implementation such type of schemes may be an effective weapon to eradicate poverty. It also aims at transforming the rural areas by improving the economic conditions of the inhabitants. Rural economy is the back-bone of Indian economic development. Provision of employment to rural poor will certainly boost the economy. It increases demand for goods and services. In this article an effort has been made to analyze the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA scheme on the life of beneficiaries of Baramulla district. The findings of the study revealed that the programme has brought the change in the lives of the beneficiaries to great extent. Though it is always a debatable issue that whether such changes, by MGNREGA are sustainable or temporary.*

Key Words: - Employment Act, Beneficiaries, Persondays, Gram Panchayat.

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the flagship programme of the Central Government that directly influences the lives of the rural poor. The act was enacted on 25th August, 2005 and it came in to force on 2nd February, 2006. MGNREGA is the Scheme which can definitely improve the economic and social condition of beneficiaries if implemented judiciously. For last several decades rural India has been suffering from poverty, lack

of quality health services, insufficient and irrelevant infrastructure and inadequate facilities of education.

MGNREGA marked an archetype shift from the other employment programmes with its target based approach. Govt. is legally accountable for providing employment of 100 days to those who demand it. This programme not only provides employment but also focuses on inclusive growth, as it conserves natural resources and creates sustainable assets. By safeguarding the environment and reducing rural-urban migration this programme has transformed the face of the rural India. MGNREGA also marked its footprints in Jammu and Kashmir also. The Baramulla district is no exception. This district is mostly a hilly region and agriculture is practiced on large scale. So most of the villagers have no job when there is no agricultural work. Searching for short period job in villages is very difficult and therefore, many times they earn nothing. Thus, during this period MGNREGA is blessing for them.

OBJECTIVE

Development of any region depends more upon the human capital. India is a labor abundant nation with severe poverty in rural and especially in tribal areas. In the Baramulla district main source of livelihood is agriculture and labor work. As irrigation facility is not adequate, agricultural land is less productive. The key objective of the paper is to find out the potential of this scheme to attack on the ever-growing of poor Socio-Economic structure of people of the area. The study also explores about changing expenditure pattern of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA. This

study examines the earning level of each house hold and expenditure pattern on food and nonfood items. In this study effort was also made to find out views and feedback of the beneficiaries about the programme.

METHODOLOGY

There are 367gram panchayats and 732 villages in Baramulla district. For the field survey we have purposively selected Baramulla district and all the 26 blocks of the district. From each block two panchayats were selected .The criteria for selection of Gram panchayat was one headquarter Gram Panchayat and the other one was far away from the headquarter. Thus total 50 Gram

panchayats were selected by using purposive sampling method; from each gram panchayat 2 villages were randomly selected for the study. After the selection of the villages the list of jobcard holders of MGNREGA household was obtained from gram panchayat and 2NREGA jobcard holders were randomly selected. Thus the sample size comprising of 200 NREGA beneficiaries was collected. Mainly the research is based on descriptive method. Basic statistical tools have been used to analyze and examine the facts and information collected from the field survey.

Table1 Details of Panchayats and Villages InBaramulla District

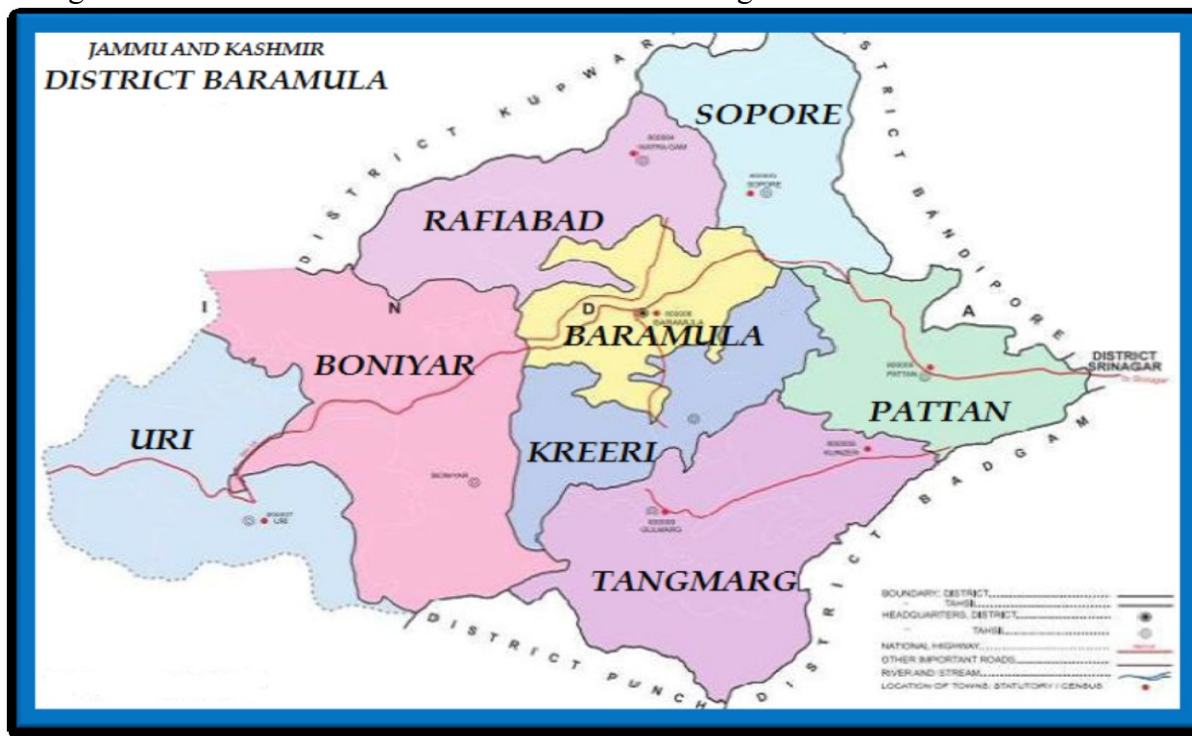
Blocks	No. of Panchayats	No of Villages
Baramulla	18	32
Bijhama	8	17
Boniyar	11	26
Chnadilwanigam	6	16
hardaboora	1	19
Kangroosa	6	20
khiapora	5	21
Khoresherabad	13	23
Kunzer	10	23
Lalpora	9	23
Nadihal	14	27
Narwav	16	30
Noorkhah	9	20
Parenpilan	13	16
Pattan	31	55
Rafiabad	16	36
Rohama	19	33
Sangrama	14	25
Singhpora	16	31
Sopore	9	9
Tangmarg	18	51
Tujarsharif	18	30
Uri	20	31
Wagoora	29	69

Wailoo	8	20
Zaingeer	20	29
Total	367	732

Study Area

Baramulla district is one of the 22 districts of J&K. Baramulla town is district and administrative headquarter of this district. The district covered an area of 4190 km² in 2001 census but it was reduced to 3353km² at the time of 2011 census, owing to readjustment of district boundaries. The district is situated at 34.19⁰ N longitude and 74.36⁰ E latitude. It comprises of 542 villages. The main town is located on the either banks of river Jehlum, about 55 kms away from summer capital Srinagar. Baramulla has an average elevation of 1593 meters. Baramulla

district is the largest district in the entire valley both with reference to area and population. The district is bounded by Srinagar and Ganderbal districts in the east and by Kupwara in the north and Bandipora in the north-east to pooch in the south and Budgam in the southwest. Baramulla district has a distinction of having geographical diversity as it has in its jurisdiction, sub-temperate/Sub-tropical areas apart from vast area falling under temperate zone. It has a severe cold climate in winter and a pleasant weather in summer. Almost all parts of the district receive good snowfall in winter season.



As per 2011 census, Baramulla district has a population of 1,008,039. Of the total population 534,733 (53.05%) were males and 473,306 (46.95) were females. The sex ratio being 885

females per 1000 males, a decrease from 905 in 2001, and much lower than the national average of 940. The district has a population density of 305 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its

population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 20.34%. Baramulla has a literacy rate

of 66.93% with male literacy 77.35% and female literacy 55.01%.

Table 2:- Socio-Economic Profile of Baramulla District.

Population	Persons	1008039
	Males	534733
	Females	473306
Literacy	Persons	545,149
	Males	337,170
	Females	207,979
Scheduled caste	Persons	1,476
	Males	1,451
	Females	25
Scheduled tribes	Persons	37705
	Males	20237
	Females	17468
Worker & Non Workers	Persons	304200
	Males	249581
	Females	54619
Main Workers	Persons	187959
	Males	169496
	Females	18463
Marginal Workers	Persons	116241
	Males	80085
	Females	36156
Non- workers	Persons	703839
	Males	285152
	Females	418687
Cultivators	Persons	57495
	Males	43142
	Females	14352
Agri- Labourers	Persons	62246
	Males	53316
	Females	8930
Workers in Household industry	Persons	15084
	Males	9095
	Females	5989

Other workers	Persons	169375
	Males	144028
	Females	25347

Source: - Census of India, 2011.

Basic Facilities:

The study of the table-3 describes the basic facilities available in survey area. It includes electricity, drinking water. It also gathers facts about television and toilet facilities available to surveyed households. The use of cycle, motorcycle and mobile is very common in survey area.

If we examine the study reveals that 88.5% have electricity connection at their home. The condition of drinking water connection needs to be improved, only 78% household have reported that they have this facility at their home, only

83% families have gas connection in their kitchen. It is interesting to note that less than 30% tribal families have gas and less than 13% tribal families have drinking water connection. Though the electricity facilities show good signs but as per the tribal people almost 44% lack electricity facility. Less than 87% of tribal population is having access to portable water. Lack of appropriate Sanitation is a major concern for the people of upper reaches of Baramula. The basic toilet and sanitation facilities are available to only 71% of households. Therefore "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" has a role to play in survey area.

Table – 3: Caste wise distribution of the facilities available beneficiary families

Facilities		Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Total	%
Electricity	Yes	11	25	67	44	157	78.5
	No	-	01	51	01	43	21.5
Water Connection	Yes	09	08	15	15	44	22.0
	No	02	18	103	30	156	78.0
Gas Connection	Yes	10	08	66	09	93	46.5
	No	01	18	52	36	107	53.5
Television	Yes	10	15	89	28	142	71.0
	No	01	11	29	17	58	29.0
Mobile	Yes	09	16	100	34	159	79.5
	No	02	10	18	11	41	20.5
Cycle	Yes	05	04	33	09	51	25.5
	No	06	22	85	36	149	74.5
Motor Cycle	Yes	06	07	35	12	60	30.0
	No	05	19	83	33	140	70.0
Sanitation Facilities	Yes	04	02	12	02	142	70.0
	No	07	24	106	43	68	30.0

The above data reveals that there are still lots of areas where the improvements are to be induced in order to bring the positive changes. The careful analyses depicts that scheduled tribe population is

way back behind the other categories. The portable water needs to be provided to tribal areas. The means of other fuel and heating sources must be provided to them on priority

basis so as to ensure their socio-economic environment also.
upliftment and consequently safeguarding the

Table 4:- Sectoral Breakup under MGNREGA, District Baramulla

	Work / Activities	Works Completed			On Going Works			Total	
		Unit	Cu. Mtrs	Exp.	Unit	Cu. Mtrs.	Exp.	Physical	Financial
1	Water Conservation & Water Harvesting	42	0	26.30	61	0	1.66	103	27.96
2	Drought Proofing	16	0	10.03	12	0	1.15	28	11.18
3	Micro Irrigation Works	304	0	317.3	222	0	137.9	526	455.34
4	Provision of Irrigation Facility of land owner	603	0	468.3	440	0	89.15	1043	557.48
5	Renovation of traditional Water Bodies	47	0	37.93	47	0	1.45	94	39.38
6	Land Development	187	0	133.6	121	0	31.09	308	164.70
7	Flood Control & Protection	774	0	576.4	293	0	53.62	1067	630.02
8	Rural Connectivity	1780	0	1256.2	1439	0	156.2	3219	1412.47
9	ApnaPanchayatGhar	78	0	0.00	64	0	108.4	142	108.41
10	Play field	6	0	11.31	23	0	8.67	29	19.98
11	Vermi compost	0	0	0.00	1	0	0.00	1	0.00
12	IAY	0	0	0.00	13	0	0.00	13	0.00
13	AWC	0	0	0.00	2	0	0.25	2	0.25
15	Individual House Hold Latrines (SBM)	0	0	165.8	0	0	0.00	0	165.86
16	Recurring / Non Recurring	0	0	365.8	0	0	0.00	0	365.89
17	Any other activity approved by MRD.	49	0	44.97	17	0	1.64	2	46.61
	Total:-	3886	0	3414.2	2755	0	591.2	6641	4005.5

Table 5:- Socio-Economic Background of Beneficiaries:

NREGA statistics Baramulla	
Employment provided to households	0.50038 lakhs
Persondays (in lakhs)	
Total	28.57
Scs	0.06(0.2%)
Sts	0.73(2.54%)
Women	3.48(12.18%)
others	27.79(97.26%)
Total works taken up	10932
Works completed	1066
Works in progress	9866

Impact on Migration:

One of the important objectives of MGNREGA is a significant reduction in migration of unskilled labour force from the rural villages to urban cities through its provision of hundred days of guaranteed wage employment. The survey has also gathered facts about various facts of migration in the selected villages of Baramulla district. Important features regarding migration of the surveyed area are as follows-

- Out of 200 households, only 14.5% reported that they migrated for their livelihood.

- No migration was observed in 12 Gram Panchayats.
- Among the migrated beneficiaries 47% had migrated to Srinagar.
- Study shows that 83% of the migrants were male.
- 79% of migrants have reported that they lived at migrated places not more than six months period, though they prefer to come back frequently to their native villages.
- The 82% of migrants are married, 66% are educated and 74% fall under the age group of 25 to 49 years.

The following Table 6:- shows physical progress report of district Baramula, March 2017

S. No	Name of the Block	Approved Labour Budget 2016-17	O. B. as on 01-04-16	Release during current year			Misc. receipt	Total Availability	Cumulative Expenditure							Exp. Out of	
				Centre	State	Wages			On Wages unskilled	On semi-skilled and skilled wages	On Material	Administrative Expenses		on wages salary	Total	State Share	Center Share
												Recurring	Non Recurring				
1	Baramulla	204.4	0.35	167.5	24.49	0	1.08	193.429	88.970	20.69	62.930	20.620	0.120	0.00	193.3	24.49	168.4
2	Bijihama	183.1	0.11	180.0	12.29	0	0.342	192.745	115.120	34.51	31.190	11.430	0.420	0.00	192.6	12.29	180.3
3	Boniyar	172.1	0.21	177.5	16.9	0	0.092	194.702	143.950	19.71	19.940	11.050	0.00	0.00	194.6	16.85	177.8
4	Chandil Wanigam	81.22	0.90	33.00	8.00	0	0.037	41.937	22.730	2.580	9.660	6.830	0.00	0.00	41.80	7.980	33.82
5	Hardabورا	128.7	0.29	57.00	14.42	0	0.071	71.786	38.030	2.368	24.014	6.790	0.584	0.00	71.78	14.42	57.36
6	KandiRafiabad	63.9	0.85	60.00	8.50	0	0	69.351	29.300	7.770	26.750	5.480	0.00	0.00	69.30	8.500	60.80
7	Khaipora	77.6	0.50	43.50	6.90	0	0.15	51.058	24.290	2.240	17.170	6.765	0.00	0.00	50.46	6.890	43.57
8	Kunzer	126.0	0.71	65.00	13.28	0	0.178	79.171	43.801	2.571	23.642	8.605	0.527	0.00	79.14	13.28	65.86
9	Lalpora	115.7	0.97	60.50	12.24	0	0	73.711	29.838	5.775	29.888	8.130	0.00	0.00	73.63	12.24	61.39
10	Nadihal	171.0	0.51	100.0	19.15	0	0.144	119.811	57.420	9.980	38.160	14.240	0.00	0.00	119.8	19.15	100.6
11	Narwav	199.6	0.15	196.0	22.06	0	0.368	218.587	111.230	17.89	76.410	13.000	0.00	0.00	218.5	22.06	196.4
12	Noorkhaha	183.9	0.27	204.0	13.83	0	0.46	218.566	118.540	38.32	52.500	9.122	0.00	0.00	218.4	13.83	204.6
13	Paranpillian	241.1	0	216.0	19.98	0	0.444	236.424	131.550	54.30	33.380	17.194	0.00	0.00	236.4	19.98	216.4
14	Pattan	347.6	0.27	205.0	41.58	0	0	246.855	125.680	5.590	85.816	29.750	0.00	0.00	246.8	41.58	205.2
15	Rafiabad	199.1	0.33	95.00	21.33	0	0	116.663	54.020	10.42	36.300	14.710	1.060	0.00	116.5	21.33	95.18
16	Rohama	235.7	0.05	117.0	24.58	0	0	141.636	82.566	5.840	36.420	16.670	0.00	0.00	141.4	24.55	116.9
17	Sangrama	181.7	0.04	122.5	19.17	0	0	141.713	63.325	3.680	59.710	13.360	1.530	0.00	141.6	19.16	122.4
18	Sherabakhore	169.3	0.07	138.0	17.59	0	0.127	155.79	90.915	3.744	49.840	9.270	1.960	0.00	155.7	17.59	138.1
19	Singhpora	319.1	0.73	297.0	21.83	0	0	319.563	185.340	18.67	95.480	19.560	0.450	0.00	319.5	21.83	297.6
20	Sopore	120.5	0.35	51.50	12.25	0	0.046	64.146	27.050	1.202	20.971	8.072	0.00	0.00	57.29	12.25	45.04

21	Tangmar g	278.6	0.24	161.0	24.49	0	0	185.732	96.620	7.740	66.770	13.402	1.200	0.00	185.7	24.49	161.2
22	Tujjersharief	232.5	0.21	107.5	24.49	0	0.336	132.542	69.230	8.750	41.410	12.591	0.420	0.00	132.4	24.49	107.9
23	Uri	326.0	0.26	185.0	30.74	0	0.324	216.327	99.940	38.21	61.490	16.000	0.640	0.00	216.2	30.74	185.5
24	Wagoora	321.6	0.06	227.2	36.95	0	0	264.261	135.800	14.22	93.970	19.850	0.420	0.00	264.2	36.95	227.3
25	Wailoo	113.6	0	52.50	10.66	0	0.072	63.232	33.120	2.820	19.000	8.290	0.000	0.00	63.23	10.66	52.5
26	Zaingeer	248.2	0.07	141.0	26.58	0	0.248	167.844	107.740	9.480	29.520	19.960	1.140	0.00	167.8	26.58	141.2
27	DPO	0.00	0.03	0.00	0	0	0	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	EXENBLA	0.00	0.53	0.70	0	0	0.015	1.252	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.943	0.00	0.943	0.00	0.943
29	ACD	0.00	6.70	29.05	0	0	0.765	36.519	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	13.762	22.08	35.84	0.00	35.84
	5042.89		15.8	349.00	504.28	0.00	5.30	4015.393	2126.115	349.07	1142.3	340.741	25.176	22.085	400.55	504.17	350.09

The study reveals MGNREGA has been successful in increasing the income by providing wage employment to rural households in Baramulla district. 51% households, who reported yearly income up to ₹25000, have admitted that MGNREGA jobs have contributed somewhat from ₹ 5000 to 10000 in theyearly income of their family. Similarly 8% of the total households reported that yearly income from MGNREGA has been more than ₹10000 and only 29% respondents have shown yearly contribution from the scheme upto ₹5000. It is important to note that 97.5% household reported that this programme has definitely remained beneficial to support in adding their yearly income. The picture of yearly income of 200 MGNREGA

beneficiaries is not attractive. 86% beneficiaries have reported that their annual income was up to ₹25000 and only 11.5% have reported their annual income more than ₹ 25000. This depiction shows that among this sample mass is earning bellow 25000. With this yearly income, contribution of MGNREGA income is very good. Out of 200 households, 29% have reported that the contribution of MGNREGA in their total yearly income was up to ₹5000 whereas 60.5% have up to ₹5000 to 10000 and only 8% of households reported that the contribution of MGNREGA income was more than ₹10000 in their annual income. Main source of earning is agriculture and labour work in survey area.

Table 7:- Share of MGNREGA Income in Annual Income :

Income yearly from MGNREGA	Upto 25000	More than 25000
0-5k	55	03
5K-10K	102	19
More than 10k	15	01

Not responded	05	-
Total	177	23

Source:- Survey Report.

Table 8:- Employment Generation under NREGA Part I for the month of 3/2017

S.No	Block	Cuml. No. of household issued job card (till reporting month)				Cuml. No. of Household who have demanded wage employment (till reporting month)	Cuml. No. of households provided employment (till the reporting month)	No. of households working under NREGA during the reporting month
		SCs	STs	Others	Total			
1	Baramulla	0	104	3670	3774	1715	1715	1527
2	Bijihama	0	168	2881	3049	1659	1659	1591
3	Boniyar	0	295	2599	2894	1830	1830	1782
4	ChandilWanigam	0	183	1298	1481	464	464	389
5	Hardaboora	0	3	2305	2308	1077	1077	915
6	KandiRafiabad	0	1	1105	1106	471	471	443
7	Khaipora	0	0	1439	1439	549	549	487
8	Kunzer	0	2	2234	2236	1285	1285	1159
9	Lalpora	0	9	2099	2108	930	930	831
10	Nadihal	0	11	3076	3087	1387	1387	1162
11	Narwav	0	88	3462	3550	2072	2072	1798
12	Noorkhah	0	243	2586	2829	1796	1796	1673
13	Paranpillian	0	318	3315	3633	2083	2083	1985
14	Pattan	0	0	6154	6154	2908	2908	2553
15	Rafiabad	0	0	3378	3378	1338	1338	1103
16	Rohama	0	2	4199	4201	1444	1444	1205
17	Sangrama	0	1	3001	3002	1646	1646	1277
18	SherabadKhore	0	2	2945	2947	1389	1389	1208
19	Singhpora	0	1	5595	5596	3208	3208	2803
20	Sopore	0	82	1763	1845	837	837	755
21	Tangmarg	0		5086	5086	1684	1684	1505
22	TujjerSharief	0	5	3775	3780	1926	1926	1727
23	Uri	0	602	4802	5404	2489	2489	2407
24	Wagoora	0	37	5930	5967	2529	2529	2192

25	Wailoo	0	2	1658	1660	1003	1003	589
26	Zaingeer	0	0	3861	3861	2088	2088	1646
	Total:-	0	2159	84216	86375	41807	41807	36712

Employment Generation under NREGA Part II 2017

Block	Cuml. Person days generated (in lacs) till the reporting month					Cuml. No. of households completed 100 days of employment (till the reporting month)	No. of households which are beneficiary of land reforms / IAY	No. of Disabled beneficiaries individuals
	SC	ST	Others	Total	Women			
Baramulla	0	797	66731	67528	3659	14	4	2
Bijihama	0	3346	57205	60551	8593	10	40	1
Boniyar	0	4034	73804	77838	14423	21	0	0
Wanigam	0	435	16843	17278	3684	3	7	0
Hardabora	0	24	28057	28081	3388	8	2	0
KRafiabad	0	62	15658	15720	5298	1	0	0
Khaipora	0	0	51641	51641	5978	17	2	0
Kunzer	0	116	45664	45780	2280	14	2	2
Lalpora	0	54	33898	33952	3334	30	4	3
Nadihal	0	460	40011	40471	4516	24	3	1
Narwav	0	1235	66377	67612	2401	7	0	1
Noorkhah	0	5380	54591	59971	7291	2	2	0
Paranpilian	0	9790	72570	82360	25539	48	0	1
Pattan	0	0	96471	96471	6713	24	4	2
Rafiabad	0	0	33298	33298	7432	4	4	0
Rohama	0	0	42013	42013	4916	8	0	0
Sangrama	0	0	43380	43380	2420	1	0	1
SherabadKhore	0	0	21894	21894	3649	25	7	0
Singhpora	0	88	131133	131221	21662	54	7	0
Sopore	0	150	32648	32798	3340	13	1	1
Tangmarg	0	1806	61978	63784	12625	29	81	0
T. Sharief	0	30	63142	63172	10052	3	0	0

Uri	0	30	89938	89968	18851	39	1	1
Wagoora	0	9699	88153	97852	10512	79	2	5
Wailoo	0	837	21079	21916	2824	12	0	0
Zaingeer	0	0	50960	50960	3832	13	6	1
Total:-	0	38373	1399137	1437510	199212	503	179	22

CONCLUSION

Generally, when income of a family increases, it has a profound impact on the expenditure pattern. It is evident from the data that 79.5% respondents were having mobile sets and 30% were possessing motor-cycles. Similarly 71% households have T.V. sets and 88.5% have electricity connection in their dwelling units. This is a bright side of the story.

But the other side of the picture is not so good. The data reveal that 53.5% households do not have gas connection in their kitchen and 30% of our sample households have no toilet facility in their dwelling units. Thus, a long way has to go to improve the quality of life at village level because the absence of these basic amenities to the households ultimately adversely affected the health front of the families. During the survey it was also found that short duration and temporary migration among MGNREGA families was occurring though at low rates. The female members of these households preferred local migration only. Therefore the assured employment in rural areas could certainly reduce out-migration. MGNREGA can certainly check distress related migration from rural areas. This study observed that the wages received by female-worker at migrated place was not different from the minimum MGNREGA wage.

REFERENCES

1. Thomas Bigi and Bhatia Ruby (2012), Impact of NREGA Scheme: A Study on the overall quality of life of its Beneficiaries (A Study undertaken among beneficiaries of 3 districts of Gujarat State).
2. Bhargava K. Anil (2013), The Impact of India's Rural employment Guarantee on Demand for Labour Saving Technology, University of California.
3. Thomas Solinski, NREGA and Labour migration in India : Is village life what the 'rural' poor want ?
4. Shah Mihir, Shanker V. and Ambasta P. (2008). Two years of NREGA : The Road Ahead, Economic Political Weekly, Feb. 23.
5. All-India Report on Evaluation of NREGA A Survey of Twenty Districts, by Institute of Applied Manpower Research, (PEO), Planning Commission.
6. Census of India, 2011.
7. Economic survey, Directorate of Economics, Jammu and Kashmir, 2014-15.