

Time Matters: A Perspective on Making Mgnregs As More Participant Friendly Livelihood Programme

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Abstract

MGNREGS is the mass programme of Indian Government to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing guaranteed 100 days of manual wage employment in a fiscal year to the willing adult member of the family. The work force of MGNREGS involves in renovating and maintaining existing and creating new physical and natural capitals in the respective panchayat between 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. of government working days. Time is one of the important factors that determine everything in this world. The rural livelihood activities are season bound and time based. The time schedule and management of MGNREGS activities are not much supportive and not going hand-in-hand with the rural livelihood activities. Appropriate changes in the time schedule and management of MGNREGS activities will make the programme more participant friendly in enhancing the rural livelihood security.

Keywords: Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Livelihood, Livelihood activities, Livelihood options, Livelihood security, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act – 2005, Natural Capital, Physical Capital

1. INTRODUCTION

The livelihood security enhancement programme of Indian Government for the rural mass was made as a right of each family living in the rural areas. The Act of Legislation for livelihood security was enacted in the year 2005 in the Indian Parliament as ‘National Rural Employment Guarantee Act – 2005’, it was translated into action as ‘National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme’ from the year 2006 and it covered the whole nation in the year 2007. Later, it was named as ‘Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme’ (MGNREGS) in 2009. The scheme seeks to enhance the livelihood

security of the Indian rural mass by providing 100 man days of guaranteed manual work against daily wage to one of the willing adult members in each of the family. And this workforce is expected to construct new and renovate and maintain existing physical and natural capitals of the community.

The activities of MGNREGS are implemented between 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. on government working days. This article discusses about various issues of livelihood situations in the rural areas related to time. And, it tries to create a comprehensive understanding on the time related issues and to bring out some suggestions for making the mass programme of Indian Government more participant friendly.

2. SPACE AND TIME IN THE CIVILIZATION OF HUMAN BEINGS

Space and Time are the important factors that determine everything. Human beings have no control over these. In the beginning, as like any other living beings, human beings also followed the natural cycle of Space and Time to make their survival. The food availability was based on the season; therefore, they always moved in a routine path according to the season of food availability in a place. The elephants and other animals live in herd in the forest

continue this life even today. Even though they were on move, they had got needed level of understanding to lead their life in a comfortable way.

The civilization of human beings started, when human beings started to understand the concepts of Space and Time. The observation and proper understanding of human beings on natural cycle of Space, Time and their relation with living beings facilitated them to settle down in a place, where they can meet all their basic needs – food and protection. These places were basically water available areas, which further facilitated them to go for agriculture and animal husbandry. This water basin civilization has brought the human beings today to the level of road side civilization through various civilizations.

The entire time concept of human beings is divided into days comprising of two major parts as day and night based on solar appearance. And further, the day part is divided into morning, forenoon, noon, afternoon and evening; and, the night time is divided into late evening, night, midnight and early morning. Now, the whole day is divided into and administrated by 24 hours cycle. The days are grouped into months and months are grouped into year based on the functioning of solar system in which earth is a part. Each day is comprised of set

of weather conditions, like, atmospheric temperature, atmospheric moisture and motion of air / wind. The adjacent days falling in similar weather conditions on annual basis are grouped under seasons, like, summer, monsoon, winter, spring and autumn. These seasons and months corresponding to each other are used as a time for a particular activity in agriculture, like, land preparation, sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, etc. and in animal husbandry, like, bringing in / purchasing new animal, breeding, disposing-off or culming, etc.. If one misses the season, lose is inevitable in the activity due to low yield, disease, etc.. This is not mythical; and, the human beings spent a long time to understand this natural fact and science and use it for their sustainable livelihood promotion in an optimal way.

3. TIME STRUCTURE OF LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES OF RURAL MASS

Agriculture and agricultural labour are the primary occupation of the rural mass; and, it is followed by Animal Husbandry. There are countless allied activities emerged out of as well as around these two major livelihood activities in the rural areas. Even though these major livelihood activities are considered as “unorganised sector”, actually, they

stimulate, create, organise and run a mass of rural as well as urban livelihood activities. These major and their allied livelihood activities are revolving around the space and time concepts.

3. 1. AGRICULTURE AND TIME

Agriculture is highly seasonal one and it purely depends upon natural seasons. Not only the space and time, but also the nature of the plant and its growth stages also operate here. Agriculture is not only of an individual farmer’s concern but of the whole families’ concern. The farmers and their family jointly involve in agriculture. Men, women and children have their own part in agriculture. It demands different roles from different persons. Traditionally, people allotted / divided the activities for men, women and children separately as well as jointly. For example, in Paddy cultivation, land preparation, sowing and irrigating the crop are for men; waste management, transplanting and weeding are for women; and, harvesting is for both men and women. Children in the family have to take care of the babies and animals at their home, when their parents are occupied in the field. The men and women role division in agriculture is mostly based on their role in the family. For example, men go for land preparation early in the morning, when women involve in the household activities, like, caring the

children and the aged, feeding the animals, maintaining the home garden, etc..

The issue in agriculture of small, marginal and landless agricultural labourers is the under employment in today's context. The workforce in other sectors are paid on hours basis; whereas, in agriculture, a small or marginal farmer has to lose one day earning for a small work in their land. For example, a farmer having half or one or two acres of land goes for irrigating his / her field. Due to various reasons, like, small fragmentation of landholding, water availability, electric power availability, water turn practiced in common / community or compound water source, the farmer cannot irrigate the land at one stretch. The farmer may spend three to four hours in reaching the place, irrigating the crop in a small landholding and returning back to home. The remaining day of the farmer goes without any fruitful return for the family. Likewise, there are number of activities in agriculture, which almost takeaway the time of the small and marginal farmers. They cannot engage a full labour for this small purpose, since it will not be economical in agriculture. The situation of the agricultural labourers is also equally worst as small and marginal farmers. They can neither depend nor leave their agricultural labour as one of their livelihood

option. Because, they wish to get sufficient employment opportunity from agriculture, since they can stay in their village, spend more time with their family, involve in other social and economic activities. Due to various reasons, they get employment from agriculture for some days and depend on the other labour in and around their village.

3. 2. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND TIME

Animal Husbandry is also highly seasonal one since it is interlinked with agriculture as well as natural seasons. There is time for each and every activity in animal husbandry, like, breeding season, yielding / culmination season, disease season. When there is more feed, the birds and animals breed well, grow well and yield well. There is a season, when the grown up birds and animals are sold out for income purpose as well as bring in new animals and birds. There are three big festivals and about 10 small festivals and important events in Tamil Nadu, when the animals and birds are sold for a high price due to the demand in the market.

Most of the families in each hamlet used to keep few animals and birds at household level as a means of supplementary income and one or two families in a hamlet used to keep animals in herd and birds in flock as their main source of income. Generally, people feed their

animals and birds twice a day, i.e., morning and evening. Some go in the morning time and some in the evening time to the fields for collecting feed for the animals, specially, cattle, goat and sheep. They collect once and feed twice. It is their routine work. Therefore, all the families take care of their household animals in an informal way, except one or two families, where an individual is rendered exclusively for looking after the animal herd and or birds flock. Here, in majority of the families, the same issue exists as the small and marginal farmers face. One cannot get full day employment or wage for looking after few animals and birds at the household level. At the same time, people cannot leave an existing livelihood option for acquiring a new livelihood option unless it is promising and sustainable. In a livelihood framework, the livelihood status of a family is strong and robust, when it has more livelihood options.

3. 3. OTHER ALLIED LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS AND TIME

The other livelihood options that revolve around agriculture and animal husbandry are also highly seasonal, since it is interlinked with natural seasons. For example, collection of dry forest produces, like, broom grass, mat grass, wild fruits, medicinal herbs, etc., occurs once a while in

a season. The people involved in it will not spend their whole day on this activity. They go either in the morning or in the evening; because, this is the apt time for this activity. They process it during the nights; because, this is the apt time for this activity. Since it is a supplementary income activity, one cannot allot a whole day for this. If they do so, they will lose their optimal income for that day. The situation is the same in the case of waste management too. Household and animal waste management is a part of the routine activity in the family. Normally it happens in the morning and or evening time along with other housekeeping activities. These wastes are collected and kept in a pit meant for it and, later, it will be used as composite manure in agriculture. It is an indirect way of community participation in the agricultural activity. Once or twice in a year, during the agriculture land preparation, the farmers contact each house and takeaway the composited manure from the pit against cash or agricultural produce as a basal dose for their next crop. This is also an additional income to the family through informal activity.

3. 5. GENDER AND TIME

Gender plays a vital role in utilisation of time in the human life, specially, in the rural life. Women are given

dual role in the family than men. Women are put-up in a situation, where she has to play the roles of family caretaker as well as an earning adult member in most of the rural families of India. The dual role is burdensome for women unless and until the family members, community and environment play the supportive role. The situation is worst, if the women play the role of small / marginal farmer or head of the family, where adult male is absent or disabled or differently able. Their time management will become highly difficult one in relation with livelihood activities. Needs of women in their natural situations, like, pregnancy, lactating, menstruation, menopause, etc. are not given sufficient importance and support in the Indian society; and, they are left alone to deal it. Pregnant and lactating women are given one support – maternity leave – in the organised sector and women in the unorganised sector are given one support – financial support – by the government through maternity scheme. These are not at par with their needs and Indian society needs to walk a long distance to attain at least the sensitivity

towards gender issues in livelihood activities.

4. TIME STRUCTURE IN MGNREGS AND THE ASSUMPTIONS BEHIND IT

The implementation time structure of the activities of MGNREGS spreads between 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. of government working days. Since the government officials are the implementers and monitors of the programme, they follow a time pattern, which suits them most. To follow this time schedule, the women participants of this programme should have another time schedule of their own. A study conducted on the impact of MGNREGS in livelihood enhancement through light upon the issues in time schedule and structure followed in the programme. The study is conducted in two village panchayats, namely, Seethaparpanallur and Sivasailam, situated in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu State, using census method. The general time schedule and structure followed in MGNREGS and by the participants is explained below:

TABLE – 1
SEX WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Panchayat	Respondents					
		Male		Female		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	Seethaparpanallur	35	9.97	316	90.03	351	100.00
2.	Sivasailam	28	17.07	136	82.93	164	100.00
	Total	63	13.52	452	86.48	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

Table – 1 gives the picture of sex wise distribution of the study respondents. The total number of respondents is 515 (63 male (13.52 per cent) and 452 female (86.48 per cent)). Seethaparpanallur panchayat contributes 351 respondents (35 male (9.97 per cent) and 316 female (90.03 per cent))

and Sivasailam contributes 164 respondents (28 male (17.07 per cent) and 136 female (82.93 per cent)). An average of 86.48 per cent participants is women. It can be stated that MGNREGS programme has attracted women more due to the prevailing rural livelihood situation.

TABLE – 2
TIME OF PARTICIPANTS REACHING THE WORK SPOT

S. No.	Reaching time at the work spot	Seethaparpanallur		Sivasailam		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	At 8:00 hours	0	0.00	16	9.76	16	3.11
2.	Between 8:01 and 8:30 hours	1	0.28	52	31.71	53	10.29
3.	Between 8:31 and 9:00 hours	148	42.17	94	57.32	242	46.99
4.	Between 9:01 and 9:30 hours	200	56.98	2	1.22	202	39.22

5.	Between 9:30 and 10:00 hours	2	0.57	0	0.00	2	0.39
	Total	351	100.00	164	100.00	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

A vast majority of the MGNREGS participants are women. They leave their house after finishing their morning job – household works, including preparing their children to school. The school in the villages start at 9:00 a. m.; therefore, the women leave their children behind and start to their work. The above table (Table – 2) shows that the majority of the participants reach the work spot between 8:31 and 9:30 hours and 8:00 and 9:00 hours in Seethaparpanallur (348 participants (99.15

per cent)) and Sivasailam (162 participants (98.79 per cent)) panchayats respectively. The early they go, the early they get work allotment. The early they get work allotment, the early they complete the work before the day becoming hotter. At the same time, one should remember that the possibility of women involving in informal or non-formal livelihood activity, like, feeding and caring the household animal and birds is very difficult at this circumstance.

TABLE – 3

TIME OF PARTICIPANTS STARTING THE WORK

S. No.	Starting time of the work	Seethaparpanal lur		Sivasailam		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	At 8:30 hours	0	0.00	1	0.61	1	0.19
2.	At 9:00 hours	1	0.28	7	4.27	8	1.55
3.	Between 9:00 and 9:30 hours	18	5.13	143	87.20	161	31.26
4.	Between 9:31 and 10:00 hours	324	92.31	12	7.32	336	65.24
5.	10:30 hours and above	8	2.28	1	0.61	9	1.75
	Total	351	100.00	164	100.00	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

The participants handover their job cards to the field supervisor or a person mentioned by thereof for the purpose as soon as they reach the work spot. The above table (Table – 3) depicts that majority of them start doing the allotted work between 9:00 and 10:30

hours and 9:00 and 10:00 hours as they reach the work spot in Seethaparpanallur (350 participants (99.72 per cent)) and Sivasailam (162 participants (98.79 per cent)) panchayats respectively.

TABLE – 4

TIME OF PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING THE WORK

S. No.	Completing time of work	Seethaparpanallur		Sivasailam		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	By 11:00 hours	2	0.57	0	0.00	2	0.39
2.	By 12:00 hours	147	41.88	0	0.00	147	28.54
3.	By 13:00 hours	184	52.42	2	1.22	186	36.12
4.	By 14:00 hours	7	1.99	0	0.00	7	1.36
5.	By 15:00 hours	6	1.71	1	0.61	7	1.36
6.	By 16:00 hours	4	1.14	140	85.37	144	27.96
7.	By 17:00 hours	1	0.28	21	12.80	22	4.27
	Total	351	100.00	164	100.00	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

The above table indicates that most of the MGNREGS participants in Seethaparpanallur panchayat (331 participants (94.30 per cent)) complete their allotted work between 12:00 hours and 13:00 hours and in Sivasailam panchayat (161 participants (98.17)) complete their allotted work between 16:00 hours and 17:00 hours. The reason for this difference

is that the Seethaparpanallur panchayat participants complete the allotted work in one sitting – forenoon – itself, while the Sivasailam panchayat participants complete the allotted work in two sittings – forenoon and afternoon. At the same time, it is noteworthy that the participants, who completed their allotted work, also made to sit till the end of the day. But, it is a

tradition in agriculture or any other rural livelihood activity, that the labourers, who complete their allotted work, have the right to leave the work spot for their own informal and non-formal livelihood activities, like, collecting feed for their

household animal, like, cattle, calf, sheep, goat, etc.. These kinds of flexible and cushion traditions only breed and rear new and creative livelihood options in the rural areas.

TABLE – 5
TIME OF PARTICIPANTS LEAVING THE WORK SPOT

S. No.	Leaving time from the work spot	Seethaparpanallur		Sivasailam		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	By 15:00 hours	70	19.94	0	0.00	70	13.59
2.	By 16:00 hours	271	77.21	7	4.27	278	53.98
3.	By 17:00 hours	10	2.85	152	92.68	162	31.46
4.	By 18:00 hours	0	0.00	5	3.05	5	0.97
	Total	351	100.00	164	100.00	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

The above table illustrates that most of the MGNREGS participants leave the work spot after completing the allotted work between 15:00 and 16:00 hours in Seethaparpanallur (341 participants (97.15 per cent)) and at 17:00 hours in Sivasailam (152 participants (92.68 per cent)) panchayats. Most of the MGNREGS participants from both the panchayats told that they are not allowed to leave the work spot before 16:00 hours even they complete the allotted work. The participants, who have completed 100 man

days of work, stated that the monitoring visit used to take place between 15:00 and 17:00 hours. Therefore, even though they complete the allotted work early, they are made to sit idle. The field supervisor or the Assistant puts a present mark in the participants' job card and returns it to them in the evening, when they leave the work spot. It shows the perception of the officers that the paid workers are bound to be at the work spot during the stipulated time irrespective of work completion.

TABLE – 6

TOTAL HOURS OF TIME THE PARTICIPANTS WORKED

S. No.	Total hours worked	Seethaparpanallur		Sivasailam		Total	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent	No.	per cent
1.	1 Hour	2	0.57	0	0.00	2	0.39
2.	2 Hours	145	41.31	0	0.00	145	28.16
3.	3 Hours	170	48.43	1	0.61	171	33.20
4.	4 Hours	22	6.27	1	0.61	23	4.47
5.	5 Hours	4	1.14	0	0.00	4	0.78
6.	6 Hours	7	1.99	14	8.54	21	4.08
7.	7 Hours	0	0.00	139	84.76	139	26.99
8.	8 Hours	1	0.28	9	5.49	10	1.94
	Total	351	100.00	164	100.00	515	100.00

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

The above table explains about the total hours of time the participants worked in MGNREGS activity. Most of the participants from Seethaparpanallur panchayat (315 participants (89.74 per cent)) stated that they complete the allotted work within two or three hours at a stretch,

whereas, the participants from Sivasailam panchayat (153 participants (93.30 per cent)) phase out their work for a total of six to seven hours, avoid noon hot sun and continue and complete the allotted work in the afternoon from 14:30 to 16:00 hours.

TABLE – 7

TIME OF THE PARTICIPANTS ALLOTTED PER DAY FOR PARTICIPATING IN MGNREGS

Time	In MGNREGS Activity	By the participants
7:30 a. m. to 8:00 a. m.	–	Breakfast
8:00 a. m. to 8:15 a. m.	–	Starting from home
8:45 a. m. to 9:00 a. m.	–	Reaching the work spot and

		submitting the Job Card
9:00 a. m.	Registration and work allotment	
10:00 a. m.	Start of work	
1:00 p. m.	Lunch Break and rest	
2:00 p. m.	Continuing the remaining work, if any	
4:00 p. m.	Roll call, supervision and monitoring of the work done	
5:00 p. m.	Disperse	Receiving the Job Card back and disperse
5:30 p. m. to 6:00 p. m.	–	Reaching home and resuming another role

Source: Computed from field data.

The above table represents the maximum extend of time spent by the participants for taking part in MGNREGS activity. The women in families are put-up in a situation, where they have to start their work at early in the morning and continue till in the night, including MGNREGS work in the day time. MGNREGS is a programme that aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the rural mass – an ‘Unorganised Sector’. Instead of being supportive to the women, the time schedule and structure followed in MGNREGS is treating them as if an eight hours labourers working in the organised sector, where everything is well structured and established.

Another important issue is absence of employment for months together in MGNREGS during the summer season. On

completion of every fiscal year, there is no work for two or three months (April, May and June) due to auditing, accounting, fund request and fund transfer process. Sometimes this absence extends to fourth month also. Since these months are falling in summer, it is very important to provide employment for irrigating the younger plants. Otherwise, the whole effort of the previous year will go in vain. Planting tree saplings in Seethaparpanallur panchayat is an example for this. The panchayat is accounting for 2500 tree saplings planted along the village panchayat roadsides from the fiscal year 2012 – 2013, out of which only 470 tree saplings survived (18.80 per cent) till the end of the fiscal year 2015 – 2016.

5. NEEDED AMENDMENTS IN TIME STRUCTURE

Since most of the participants of MGNREGS are women, the implementation time schedule and structure should take the family and livelihood situation of the rural women into consideration. Most of the women in rural areas are involving in informal and or non-formal supplement livelihood activity, like, feeding and caring the household animal and birds. They should be facilitated to continue their activities so that they can keep-up the livelihood status of their family in a sustainable way. Therefore, the participants of MGNREGS should have various options of time schedule and structure to involve in this programme. Instead of making to sit idle, the participants, who completed their allotted work, could be allowed to go for

their informal and non-formal livelihood activity as it was done traditionally; and, appropriate supervisory and monitoring mechanism could be evolved. Since all the works are recorded and documented, the person found of less contribution than the allotted work could be asked to rectify the very next day itself. Four kinds of work time schedule and structure could be evolved, like, morning work shift (6:00 a. m. to 11:30 a. m.), day work shift (9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.), afternoon shift (2:00 p. m. to 7:00 p. m.) and morning and evening shift (7:00 a. m. to 10:30 a. m. and 4:00 p. m. to 6:00 p. m.) in consultation with the participants at the panchayat level. And, the work spot could be also decentralised so that reaching the spot and returning back may not consume much time of the participants.

TABLE – 8

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS' FAMILIES OWNED ASSETS FOR INCOME PURPOSE BEFORE AND AFTER PARTICIPATING IN MGNREGS

S. No.	Assets	Total			
		Before		After	
		No.	per cent	No.	per cent
	Total Respondents	515	100.00	515	100.00
1.	Cattle	179	34.76	152	29.51
2.	Goat / Sheep	184	35.73	185	35.92

3.	Poultry	171	33.20	181	35.15
4.	Agriculture Land	129	25.05	115	22.33
5.	Small Machinery	3	0.58	3	0.58
6.	Others (Auto, Tractor)	3	0.58	2	0.39
7.	No assets owned	229	44.47	241	46.80

Source: Computed from field data; Data presented in parentheses are percentage.

The above table shows that, among the participants of MGNREGS, a total of 55.53 per cent had one or more assets and 44.47 per cent had no asset for their income purpose before they enrol in the programme. It is a good sign, according to livelihood frame work, to reduce the vulnerability in livelihood since one or the other will support them, when they are in economic crisis. But, this same table shows a dangerous trend in livelihood resource aspect that the number of families owning assets, specially, the agricultural land and cattle owning families, after enrolling in MGNREGS is decreasing to 53.20 per cent and no asset owning families are increasing to 46.80 per cent. And also, it should be kept in mind that the Tamil Nadu State Government has initiated an intervention programme through a free scheme of goat and country chicken distribution for Below Poverty Line families. Therefore, the status of goat and poultry assets are artificially boosted one at this moment.

To prevent these kinds of setbacks of livelihood security in the coming future, there is a greater need for re-scheduling and re-structuring the timings of MGNREGS.

6. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conducting hamlet wise PRA and PLA to find out the past and assess the existing livelihood activities and options and promoting comprehensive Integrated Livelihood Plan for each hamlet with high importance of building the community based Natural Capital, which can create numerous rural livelihood options for the community.
- Planting the tree saplings during the mornings of monsoon season; and, if it is summer, then planting should be done in the evening. Identifying and planting of dry forest evergreen less water dependent local tree species. Irrigating the plants during the evenings of the summer season for long lasting effects. Compulsory usage of

mulching and pitcher pot for planting and irrigating the plant saplings respectively. Regular irrigation planning for the transplanted saplings for at least two to three consecutive summers.

- Identifying the right people, like, people with only one livelihood options, elders, etc., and contracting them for periodical evening irrigation of transplanted saplings during the summer season.
- Promoting shift work system – morning shift work and afternoon / evening shift work along with existing time schedule and structure for enhancing the effectiveness of MGNREGS activities as well as the participants to continue other traditional livelihood options (caring and feeding the household animals, collection of dry forest produces, waste management, informal and non-formal vegetable and herbal home gardening) as well as completing their family duties (sending the children to schools, taking care of the sick / needy in the family, etc.).
- Providing maternity leave of minimum six months with 100 per cent of the full employment benefit, i.e., full wage amount of 50 days for the women, who regularly completed two years in MGNREGS, for her first two pregnancies at least.

- Compulsory provision of Aayaa for the babies of lactating mothers

7. CONCLUSION

Space and time are the determining factors of any activity. These are not under the control of human beings. Rural livelihood options are revolving around these factors. Since seasons based agriculture and animal husbandry are the major livelihood options of the rural mass, these cannot be disturbed by any livelihood efforts that the government takes. The government efforts should be planned in such a way that the natural processes are supported for promoting more livelihood options in the rural areas. The present MGNREGS implementation has not taken this factor into consideration and, moreover, it has taken the rural livelihood situation for granted. This is what the main reason for implementing the programme as a 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. job. The implementation time schedule of MGNREGS should be localised for making it more participant friendly programme in order to enhance the rural livelihood security and rural livelihood options.

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