

CHAPTER-8
ASSESSMENT OF MGNREGS ON RURAL OUT-MIGRATION IN THE
DISTRICT

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8.1. Introduction:

The government of India introduced MGNREGA in 2006 for introducing the livelihood guarantee in rural India by giving employment guarantees. They are providing minimum wages, mainly for unskilled labour. The Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), through September 7, 2005, was implemented in rural districts in India in April 2008. It aims to produce 100 days of work for the unskilled adult member of every family. This scheme provides direct income to the unskilled labour into rural areas of the country.

However, the main focus of this scheme is to improving “natural resource management through works that address the cause of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion” and it stimulates sustainable rural development (Benni and Nagaraja; Purohit, 2012). The works under MGNREGA works have been increasing day by day. This is important that the female participation is also increasing. In this study, the important thing is that women are giving wage rates equal to the men, which shows the women are empowered economically and socially. This Act can be considered a small step in enabling persons and households to have access to income that enhances well-being (Puthenkalam and George, 2012). It has an essential possible to change the geography of poverty. It is called the “model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass-root democracy” (Puthenkalam and George, 2012).

Koch Bihar district is characterised by no industry district and the base of the economy mainly agrarian as the main reason for labour out-migration. The landless poor people, mostly immigrants from Bangladesh, and economically backward, constitute a significant portion of out-migrants. The labour out-migration occurred in two ways, viz. short-term migration and long-term migration. These migrant labourers visited brick kilns, stone quarrying, plantations, construction, and rice mills, etc., for their livelihood. So, MGNREGS aims to establish a ‘social floor’ for the poor and weaker section, basically for SC/ST/women. This programme was initiated with multiple objectives other than providing employment, such as rural out-migration, building rural assets and infrastructure, women empowerment, and weaker groups.

8.2. Salient Features of the Act:

This Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) refers hundred days of work to the unemployed families in rural areas; this programme revealed the following characteristics;

- i. The household should be belongs from rural area and be an unskilled manual worker.
- ii. General details of respondents for registration in the scheme are writing application to the local Gram Panchayat.
- iii. All the members of the registered households should provide work within 5 kilometres radius of the village.
- iv. Wages are paid as per the state-wise (Gangadhara and Aswath, 2016) as per “Minimum Wages Act 1948”. It will be paid as per piece rate, as per the schedule of rates (SoRs). Payment will be done weekly and not beyond a fortnight in any case. Payment of wages is made through the individual/joint bank/post office beneficiary accounts.
- v. Plans and decisions of work made by the Gram Panchayat under this Scheme.
- vi. Contractors and machineries are not permit in this scheme.
- vii. Transparency and accountability in the programme ensure through social audit and grievance-redressal mechanisms.

8.3. MGNREGS- Missing Target?

The chief objective of the “MGNREGA is to provide a steady source of income and livelihood security for the poor, the vulnerable, and marginalised, which have a significant impact on poverty and inclusive growth” (Ranjan, 2016). MGNREGS was implemented in around 1, 00,000 villages across the country for the poor. Six hundred four districts under the scheme from April 2008, the government is expected to spend around Twenty thousand crores (200 billion) rupees annually on implementing the NREGA during 2008-2009 (Misra, 2011). Economic Survey (2010-11) stated that during 2009-2010, The budget of the scheme during 2010-2011 was Rs. 40,100 crores for about 4.5 crores households for improvement of “permanent asset creation and infrastructure building activities, reducing transaction costs, better monitoring, and extension to urban areas” (Pradhan and Golait, 2011). The study reveals that in the Financial Year 2011-2012, about five crore households (around 25 percent of rural households) provided 209 crore person-days of work. The MGNREGA provides around Rs.1,10,700 crores as worker wages from FY 2006 to FY 2011-2012, which

positively impacts household income, expenditure, livelihood security, beneficiary's health, and so on (Ranjan, 2016).

This employment guarantee scheme was considered essential for India for poverty reduction, prevention, reducing migration, and the poor's empowerment. This Act can also potentially use surplus labour for sustainable development and development for the economy. Anilkumar and Mulagund (2016), in their paper "Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on Rural-Urban Migration in Background Areas-A Micro Level Investigation in Yadgir District in Karnataka State," shows this scheme is lifeline of rural poor of the Karnataka. The study reveals direct and indirect impacts on employment generation and poverty reduction. Singh (2013) found that the MGNREGS programme helps the rural poor and weaker section of the society with employment, reducing the temporary out-migration.

In contrast, MGNREGS can reduce temporary migration but is ineffective in the long period when several factors would change together. In another study by Prasad (2016), this scheme has played an essential role in reducing distress migration. However, it must be noted that although it has reduced distress but has not been able to eliminate the process of distress migration. The underlying reason for this is that the programme is not being implemented throughout the year, somewhat a limited number of employment days under the MGNREGS programme. Shah et al. (2011) focused that this scheme is a critical factor in developing the vast rural population, empowering rural communities. This programme also helps to develop income level and food security by guaranteeing 100 days of work. According to the report by BR Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development, Kalyani Nadia (2017) on "Impact of MGNREGA on Tribal Population: A Case Study of Jungle Mahal of West Bengal," the programme has a good potential for improving the rural income and livelihood security of the rural people. They also provide the scheme did not provide the employment which would have expected. The study focuses on tribal are provided with an average of less than 50 days of work per year and the payment status of wages, which was delayed due to the out-migration from Jungle Mahal, West Bengal. Another study by Pamecha and Sharma (2015) revealed that the one primary objective of MGNREGS is to reduce unskilled labour migration from rural areas by providing 100 days wage guarantee. They have noticed the impact among short-duration or temporary migrants,

where the female members preferred the local migration. Finally, they conclude that the scheme certainly reduces the distress migration from rural areas.

8.4. Overview of MGNREGS Works in Koch Bihar District:

8.4.1. Working Household and Job Card Status

Table 8.1 shows the working details of the percentage of the household worked and percentage of job card status of the MGNREGS in Koch Bihar district block-wise. Average 47.83 percent of the household was worked under the MGNREGS in the financial year of 2017 to 2018. The highest percentage of households allotted worked identified in Haldibari (78.76%) followed by Sitalkuchi (56.57%), Mathabhanga-II (54.61%), Tufanganj-II (51.61%), and Mekhliganj (51.61%). The minimum percentage of households worked to the total block household identified in Mathabhanga-I (35.26%) followed by Tufanganj-I (41.31%), Dinhata-I (42.56%), Dinhata-II (43.69%), and Sitai (44.42%).

Table 8.1: Percentage of Household Worked and Job Card Status

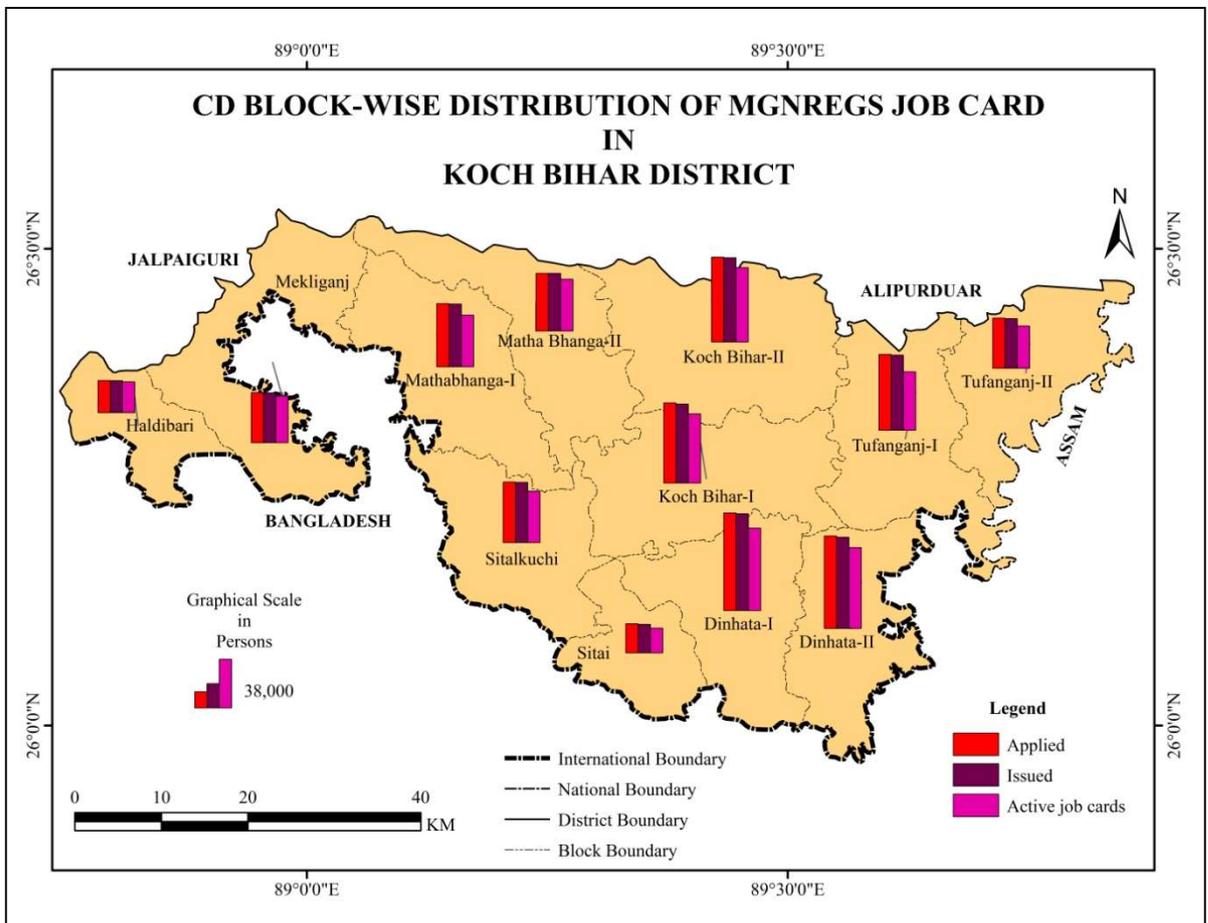
Block Name	Percentage of Household Worked to total block household	Percentage of Job Card	
		Issued	Active
Koch Bihar-I	48.38	98.58	87.51
Koch Bihar-II	46.33	99.21	88.22
Tufanganj-I	41.31	98.95	77.87
Tufanganj-II	51.61	98.94	85.18
Dinhata-I	42.56	99.29	85.12
Dinhata-II	43.69	98.55	88.74
Sitai	44.42	98.03	86.55
Haldibari	78.76	99.81	96.26
Mekhliganj	51.61	99.59	93.95
Mathabhanga-I	35.26	99.3	82.33
Matha Bhanga-II	54.61	99.97	89.95
Sitalkuchi	56.57	99.58	85.39
Total	47.83	99.13	86.68

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)

Out of these Haldibari blocks having 96.26 percent of active job cards of the households, followed by Mekhliganj (93.95%), Mathabhanga-II (89.95%), Dinhata-II (88.74%), and so on. Tufanganj-I shows a 77.87 percentage of active job cards in 2017-2018 (Map 8.1).

8.4.2.Social Group-Wise Working Household

Out of all social groups, 56.07 percent of households belong to Scheduled caste (SC), and the remaining 0.84 percent from Scheduled Tribe (ST), and 43.09 percent from other caste categories. Majority percentage of SC households taken this scheme for the Mathabhanga-I block (73.58%), followed by Mekhliganj (71.2%), Sitai (70.38%), and so on. In the financial year 2017-18, the very lowest percentage of SC households engaged for the community development block Dinhata-I (42.95%), whereas the remaining 55.63 percent of households belong from other caste households in the same block. Most ST households worked from Mekhliganj (2.98%), whereas it was lowest in the Sitalkuchi block (0.02%). The majority percentage of households worked from the non-SC/ST category was found in CB block Dinhata-I (55.63%) (table 8.2 and Map 8.2).



Map 8.1: CD Block-Wise Distribution of MGNREGS Job Card in Koch Bihar District

Table 8.2: Percentage of Household Work under MGNREGS

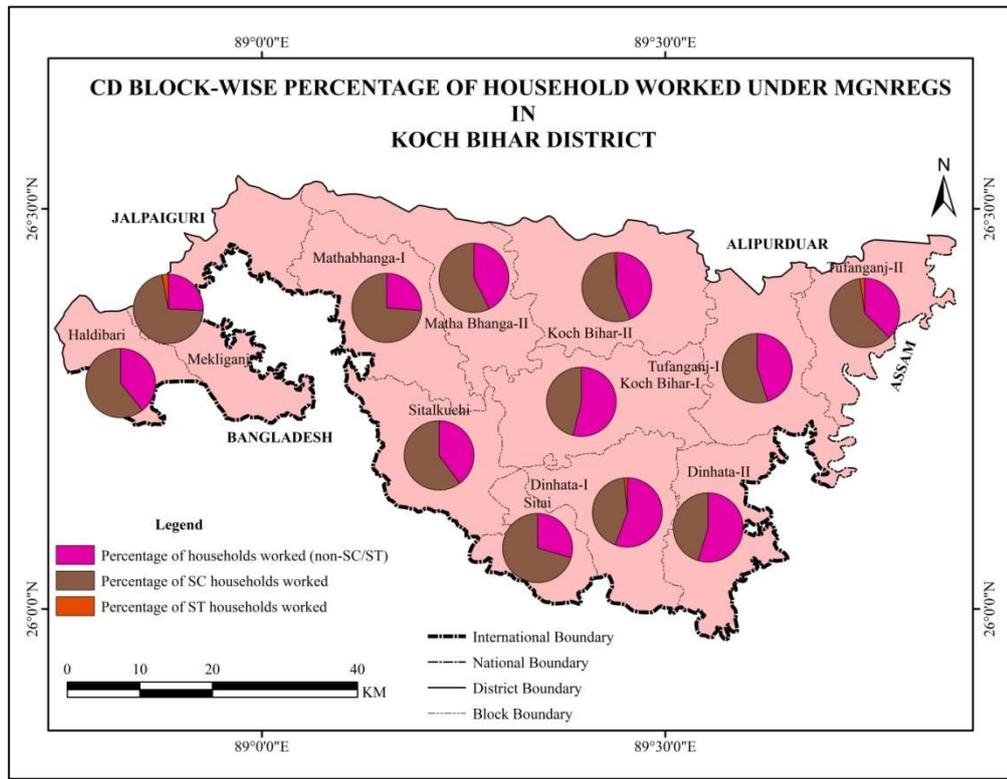
Block	Percentage of households worked (non-SC/ST)	Percentage of SC households worked	Percentage of ST households worked	Percentage of households worked
Koch Bihar-I	53.71	45.92	0.37	100
Koch Bihar-II	43.57	55.39	1.03	100
Tufanganj-I	45.05	54.82	0.13	100
Tufanganj-II	37.57	60.22	2.21	100
Dinhata-I	55.63	42.95	1.42	100
Dinhata-II	54.34	45.07	0.6	100
Sitai	29.48	70.38	0.14	100
Haldibari	39.18	60.52	0.3	100
Mekliganj	25.82	71.2	2.98	100
Mathabhanga-I	26.29	73.58	0.13	100
Matha Bhanga-II	42.41	56.84	0.75	100
Sitalkuchi	39.97	60.01	0.02	100
Total	43.09	56.07	0.84	100

Source: www.nrega.nic.in(FY 2017-18)

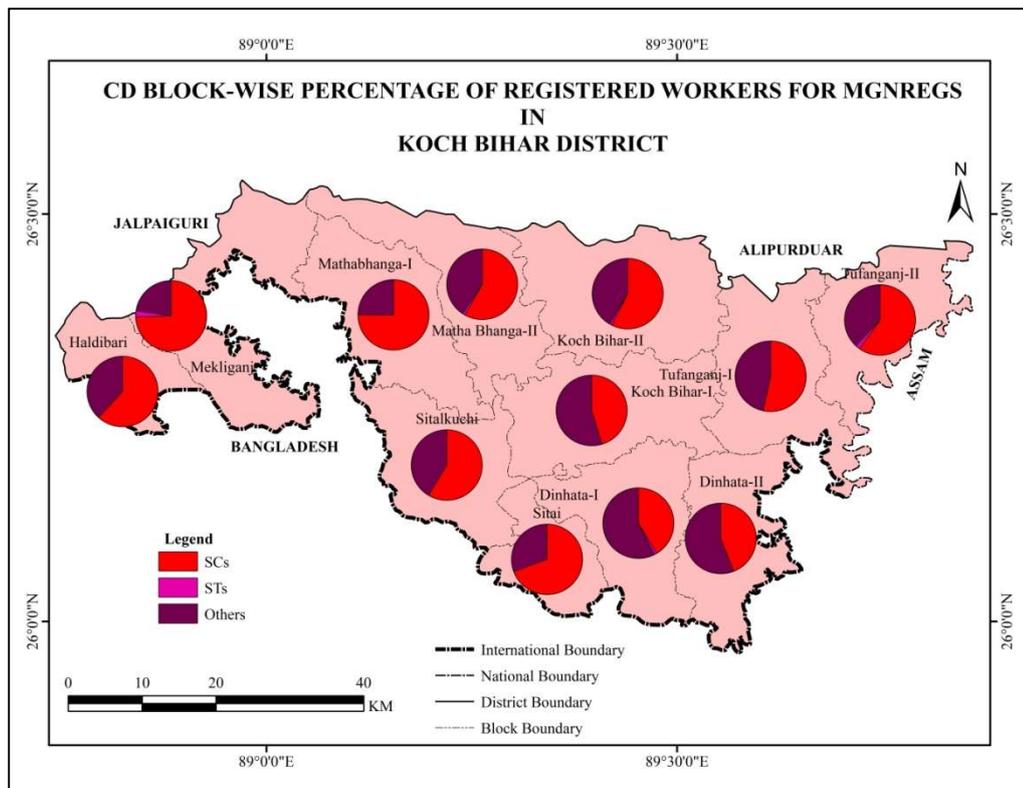
Table 8.3: Block-Wise Percentage of Registered Workers for MGNREGS

Block	Registered Workers (%)			
	SCs	STs	Others	Total (%)
Koch Bihar-I	45.17	0.28	54.55	100.00
Koch Bihar-II	57.46	1.06	41.48	100.00
Tufanganj-I	53.35	0.11	46.55	100.00
Tufanganj-II	59.85	2.05	38.10	100.00
Dinhata-I	41.39	1.17	57.44	100.00
Dinhata-II	43.73	0.64	55.62	100.00
Sitai	69.28	0.11	30.62	100.00
Haldibari	61.57	0.36	38.07	100.00
Mekliganj	74.49	2.85	22.66	100.00
Mathabhanga-I	74.99	0.12	24.89	100.00
Matha Bhanga-II	58.11	1.17	40.72	100.00
Sitalkuchi	58.55	0.01	41.44	100.00
Total	55.28	0.81	43.90	100.00

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)



Map 8.2: CD Block-Wise Percentage of Household Worked Under MGNREGS in Koch Bihar District



Map 8.3: CD Block-Wise Percentage of Registered Worked Under MGNREGS in Koch Bihar District

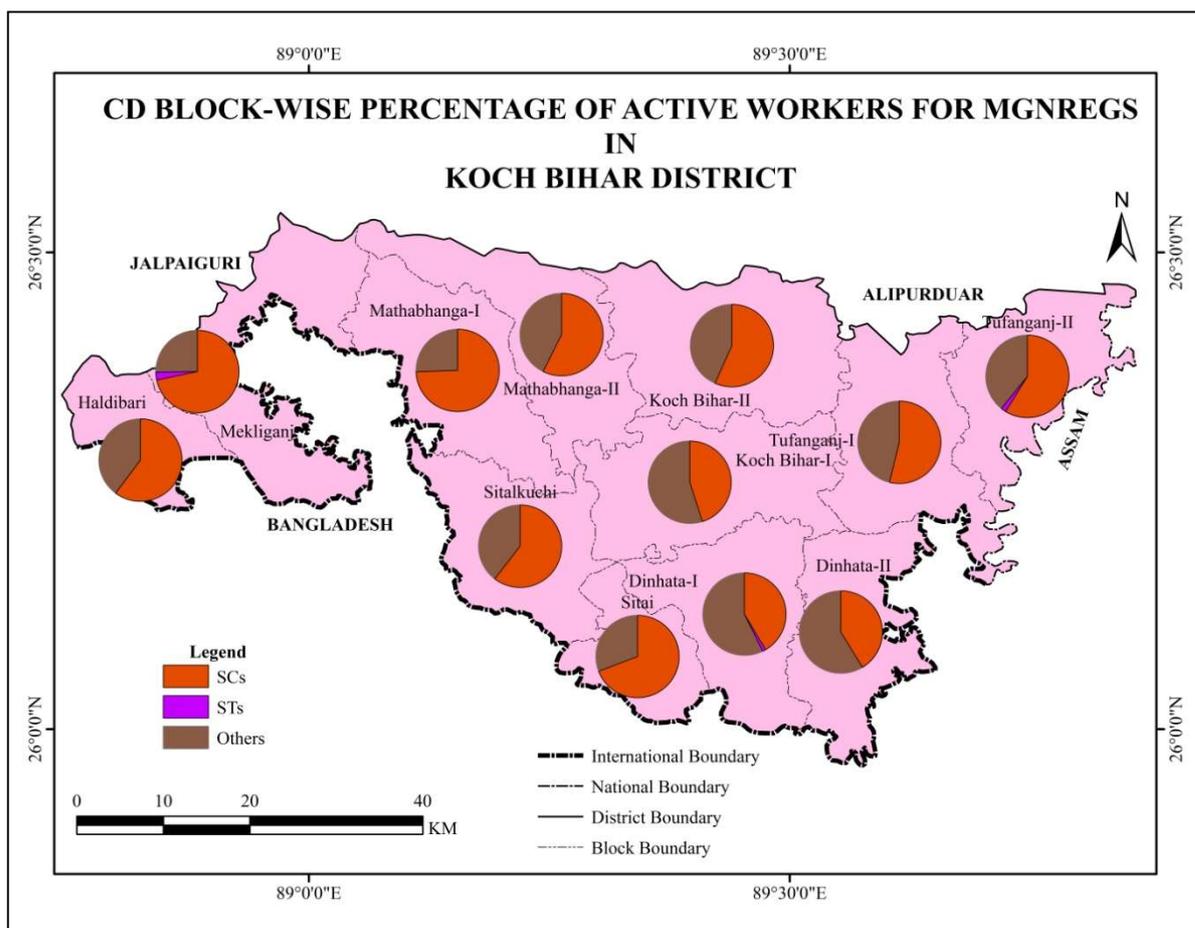
Table 8.3 focuses overall 55.28 percentage of the SC workers, and 43.90 percent of non-SC/ST workers, and 0.81 percent of ST workers have been registered under MGNREGS work in the financial year 2017-2018 in Koch Bihar district. CD block Mathabhanga-I has a percentage (74.99%) of SC worker registration, whereas it was lowest in Dinhata-I (41.39%). Similarly, the Mekhliganj block having a higher percentage of ST worker registration (2.85%) under MGNREGS. Alternatively, the Dinhata-I block has been registered a higher percentage of non-SC/ST category worker in this financial year. Map 8.3 gives an overview of the CD block-wise percentage of registered workers under Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, and non-SC/ST categories.

Table 8.4 highlights 54.79 percent of the SC workers was an inactive category, whereas 44.37 percent were non-SC/ST category of active workers in the district. The majority percentage of active SC workers was found in the Mathabhanga-I block (74.37%), and the least percentage of SC active workers found in Dinhata-II (41.03%). Similarly, the maximum percentage of active other caste workers was found in Dinhata-I (57.25%), and the minimum percentage was observed in Mekhliganj (25.24%). Maximum active ST workers were observed in Mekhliganj (3.07%) and lowest in Sitalkuchi block (0.01%).

Table 8.4: Block-Wise Percentage of Active Workers for MGNREGS

Block	Active Workers (%)			Total Workers
	SCs	STs	Others	
Koch Bihar-I	44.92	0.31	54.77	100
Koch Bihar-II	56.13	0.97	42.90	100
Tufanganj-I	53.76	0.09	46.14	100
Tufanganj-II	58.78	1.99	39.23	100
Dinhata-I	41.47	1.29	57.25	100
Dinhata-II	41.03	0.63	58.34	100
Sitai	69.09	0.12	30.79	100
Haldibari	60.00	0.27	39.73	100
Mekhliganj	71.69	3.07	25.24	100
Mathabhanga-I	74.37	0.15	25.48	100
Matha Bhanga-II	56.76	0.99	42.26	100
Sitalkuchi	60.43	0.01	39.56	100
Total-District	54.79	0.84	44.37	100

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)



Map 8.4: CD Block-Wise Percentage of Active Workers for MGNREGS in Koch Bihar District

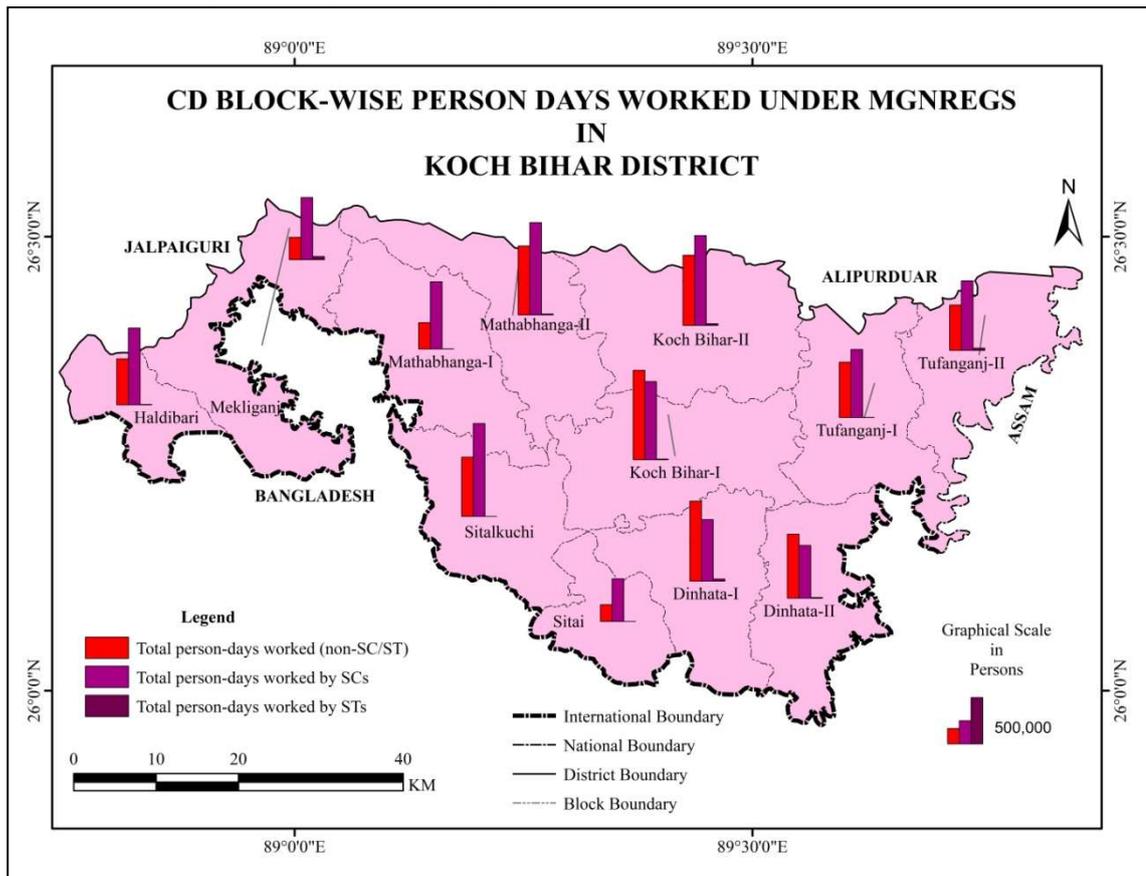
Map 8.4 highlights the percentage of the district of active workers block-wise. The pie diagrams show almost all the blocks having the majority percent of Scheduled Castes (SCs) workers where Scheduled Tribes (STs) are deficient. Mathabhanga-I is showing the highest percentage of active SC workers concentration.

The table 8.5 indicating the person-days worked under the scheme. The study reveals that the district has 16313011 person-days works under MGNREGS in the financial year 2017-2018. Out of all, 69, 56,860 person-days works have been done under non-SC/ST workers whereas it 92, 25,187 person-days for SC workers. The study shows majority numbers SC person days work was done in the Sitalkuchi block (1002985), and the minimum number was in Sitai (460134) block. The majority number of total person-days works under non-SC/ST was observed at Dinhat-I (863920). Similarly, the maximum number of person-days work observed at Mekliganj block followed by Tufanganj-II and Dinhat-I block. Map 8.4 depicting the highest percentage of active SC workers is in the Mathabhanga-I block, yet most SC person days worked has been done at CD block Sitalkuchi.

Table 8.5: Block-Wise Person Days Work Under MGNREGS

Block	Total person-days worked (non-SC/ST)	Total person-days worked by SCs	Total person-days worked by STs	Total person-days
Koch Bihar-I	966185	844268	6788	1817241
Koch Bihar-II	758137	970363	18184	1746684
Tufanganj-I	598122	734428	1394	1333944
Tufanganj-II	490507	752758	25159	1268424
Dinhata-I	863920	664223	21897	1550040
Dinhata-II	691411	570605	7752	1269768
Sitai	181639	460134	1006	642779
Haldibari	496267	830103	4013	1330383
Mekliganj	241154	671210	33844	946208
Mathabhanga-I	284502	727304	1456	1013262
Matha Bhanga-II	745109	996806	9249	1751164
Sitalkuchi	639907	1002985	222	1643114
Total	6956860	9225187	130964	16313011

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)



Map 8.5: CD Block-Wise Person Days Worker under MGNREGS in Koch Bihar District

Table 8.6: Block-Wise 100 Days Complete Work Status of MGNREGS

Block	Total households reached the 100-day limit (%)	Total SC households over the 100-day limit (%)	Total ST households over the 100-day limit (%)
Koch Bihar-I	1.36	0.64	0.01
Koch Bihar-II	2.3	1.3	0.04
Tufanganj-I	2.56	1.59	0
Tufanganj-II	7.68	4.48	0.2
Dinhata-I	7.91	3.25	0.07
Dinhata-II	1.47	0.87	0.02
Sitai	8.46	6.22	0.01
Haldibari	18.8	12.35	0.05
Mekliganj	2.79	1.69	0.31
Mathabhanga-I	12.4	8.78	0.03
Matha Bhanga-II	4.03	2.58	0
Sitalkuchi	23.22	14.62	0
Total	7.07	4.33	0.06

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)

Map 8.5 depicts the scene of the total number of person-days worked in the financial year 2017-2018 to the block-wise according to its category. The above table 8.6 gives the 100 days the complete status of work under MGNREGS. Out of all households, only 7.07 percent of households in the district reached a 100-day limit of work. The CD block Sitalkuchi has 23.22 percent of households and reached the 100-day limit of works under the scheme in a financial year. It has observed only 1.36 percent of households from Koch Bihar-I reached 100 days limit. Overall, 4.33 percentage of SC households have received over 100 days' limits of work. Out of these maximum percent of SC households received over 100 days limits from Sitalkuchi block (14.62%) followed by Haldiabri (12.35%), Mathabhanga-I (8.78%), and so on. Only 0.64 percent of SC Households from Koch Bihar-I received over 100 days limit. Only 0.31 percent of ST households received over 100 days of work from the CD block Mekhliganj.

8.4.3. Male-Female Participation of MGNREGS Works

In an earlier study by Gnyaneswar (2006), the scheme has emerged as an essential tool for female participation in work, creating women empowerment. The scheme has become “a beacon of light in the empowerment of the rural women” and helped develop livelihood status and socio-economic conditions by providing equal wages to male and female workers. Here, it is important to note that rural participation of rural women is higher than rural men workers. The research shows that 56.11 percent of rural females and the remaining 43.89

percent were male participation in the district. Participation of the higher percentage of female workers is found at Mathabhanga-II (71.49%) and lowest at Tufanganj-II (50.99%). Maximum participation of male worker was found at Koch Bihar-I (48.33%) and whereas lowest at Mathabhanga-II (28.51%) (table 8.7).

Table 8.7: Block-Wise Male-Female Participation of Workers of MGNREGS

Block	Male (%)	Female (%)
Koch Bihar-I	48.33	51.67
Koch Bihar-II	44.89	55.11
Tufanganj-I	44.99	55.01
Tufanganj-II	49.01	50.99
Dinhata-I	45.07	54.93
Dinhata-II	36.84	63.16
Sitai	42.78	57.22
Haldibari	47.25	52.75
Mekhliganj	45.10	54.90
Mathabhanga-I	43.76	56.24
Matha Bhanga-II	28.51	71.49
Sitalkuchi	47.87	52.13
Total	43.89	56.11

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)

8.4.4. Types of Works under MGNREGS

Study found that under the public work relating to natural resource management, the work of rural infrastructure development was highest in Koch Bihar-I block (Rs. 131.51 lakh) followed by Dinhata-II (Rs. 97.5 lakh) and Sitalkuchi (Rs. 89.76 lakh). Under the work of drought-proofing, the Sitai block having the highest work. (Rs. 820.62 lakh), whereas in flood control work highest in Dinhata-II block (Rs. 660.97 Lakh). For agricultural development to develop the micro irrigation system in Koch Bihar –II bock followed by Dinhata-II, Dinhata-I whereas it was deficient in Sitalkuchi, Mekhliganj and Mathabhanga-I block (table 8.8).

Table 8.8: Public Work Relating to Natural Resources Management (Rs. In Lakhs)

Block Name	Rural Infrastructure	Drought Proofing	Land Development	Flood Control & Protection	Micro Irrigation Work	Renovation of Traditional Waterbody
Koch Bihar-I	131.51	791.52	150.42	382.72	17.22	0.24
Koch Bihar-II	8.35	382.98	226.77	406.55	184.35	4.73
Tufanganj-I	9.02	192.41	192.7	372.52	50.46	1.36
Tufanganj-II	0	92.64	169.76	52.18	94.24	1.07
Dinhata-I	37.08	48.06	660.97	27.76	123.61	0.05
Dinhata-II	97.5	559.57	406.16	841.59	127.75	0
Sitai	14.66	820.62	299.73	58.08	113.22	0
Haldibari	0	352.69	208.57	54.15	36.29	0
Mekliganj	16.95	79.38	10.04	76.44	7.18	0
Mathabhanga-I	15.94	17.83	86.81	380.06	3.7	0.7
Matha Bhanga-II	1.91	440.32	132.33	367.69	62.12	0.37
Sitalkuchi	89.76	101.25	279.2	589.52	7.12	38.97

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)

Table 8.9: Individual Assets for Vulnerable Sections (Rs. In Lakhs)

Block Name	Fisheries	Food Grain	Water Conservation and Harvesting	Works on Individual Land
Koch Bihar-I	0	0.25	6.78	1608.71
Koch Bihar-II	8.17	0.02	16.61	1051.65
Tufanganj-I	0	0.13	10.6	3535.2
Tufanganj-II	0	0	67.45	2851.39
Dinhata-I	0	0.02	166.92	768.41
Dinhata-II	0	0.03	324.24	467.44
Sitai	0	0.1	6.42	918.3
Haldibari	0	0	21.08	1436.05
Mekliganj	0	0	6.84	1534.06
Mathabhanga-I	0	0.1	0.75	3115.68
Matha Bhanga-II	0	0	0.52	747.92
Sitalkuchi	0	0.1	11	1534.21

Source: www.nrega.nic.in (FY 2017-18)

The data from the FY 2017-2018 observed that to create individual assets for the vulnerable section have done on fisheries, food grain, Water conservation and harvesting and works on individual land. We observed that some developments of fisheries are found in

the Koch Bihar-II block. Works on an individual section like soil digging, vermin compost, plantation, etc., have been observed in Tufanganj-I (Rs. 3535.2 Lakh), Mathabhanga-I (Rs. 3115.68 Lakh), Tufanganj-II (Rs. 2851.39 lakh).

8.5. Results and Discussion:

8.5.1. Characteristics of MGNREGS Household by Migration Status

This study shows the relationship between basic household features of the migrant and non-migrant households regarding MGNREGS status. Of the total surveyed households, 83.9 percent of them received MGNREGS job cards. Of them, 65.5 percent of households with MGNREGS job cards have at least one member migrated outside the villages (Table 8.10).

Table 8.10: MGNREGS Household According to their Migration Status

Job cards of Households (%)		Migration status (%)		Grand Total (%)
Yes	No	Non-migrant	Migrant	
83.9	16.1	33.5	65.5	100

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

The study indicates that despite being the beneficiary of MGNREGS, some households sent their family member(s) to another place for better income. As per migration status, it has been observed that 33.5 percent of non-migrants receive job cards and 16.1 percent of total households in the district did not receive the job cards (table 8.10). The study focuses on the peoples belonging from the BPL category wholly depend on out-migration to fulfill livelihood. This was causes for the uncertainty, irregularity, less frequency of work involved in this scheme. As a result, beneficiaries faced problems about when and how many days of work and what wage rates they will get (Korra, 2015).

Table 8.11: MGNREGS Household by their Caste and Migration Status

Caste	Migration status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
SC	22.2	43.7	65.9
ST	0.0	.6	.6
OBC	7.2	21.0	28.1
General	4.2	1.2	5.4
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Out of total 65.9 percent of job card holding beneficiaries to Scheduled caste (SC) communities, followed by OBCs (28.1%), General (5.4%), and STs (.6%). Simultaneously, financially vulnerable deprived communities like the Scheduled caste (SC) and OBC are

comparatively more engaged, whereas general caste and STs are less in number in the work of MGNREG Scheme. Among the MGNREGS households, a large percentage of out-migration happened from SCs (43.7%) and OBCs (21.0%), where STs and general castes were less inclined to do so (Table 8.11). Similarly, non-migrants' households belong to SCs and OBC communities. The household having better resources and assets are comparatively less registered in MGNREGS. Moreover, it is also noted that non-MGNREGS beneficiaries are unwilling to move their place of origin for their better household assets.

Table 8.12: MGNREGS Households by their Occupation and Migration Status

Present occupation	Migration status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
Cultivator	7.8	13.8	21.6
Agricultural labours	6.6	21.6	28.1
Construction labour	.6	5.4	6.0
Labour at brick kilns	5.4	4.8	10.2
Household industry workers	4.8	4.2	9.0
Private sector	.6	1.8	2.4
Business	2.4	4.2	6.6
Government service	1.8	2.4	4.2
Others	3.6	8.4	12.0
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

The above table 8.12 shows a 28.1 percentage of agriculture labours and 21.6 percentage cultivators of households' possess MGNREGS employment card whereas 21.6 percent and 13.8 percent are the migrants from agricultural labour cultivator respectively. Cultivators have less access to the scheme than agricultural labours, but it was not, so much difference observed between them when it comes to migration. It is clear that some cultivators and agricultural labours want to engage in this scheme during the agriculture season, whereas some landless construction labour, cultivator, and agricultural labours prefer to out-migrate other regions for their livelihood. About the scheme, it was observed that 83.9 percent of the household having job cards, whereas 16.1 percent do not have them.

Table 8.13: MGNREGS Households by the Amount of Land and Migration Status

Amount of land (<i>bigha</i>)	Migration status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
<3	10.8	35.9	46.7
3-6	2.4	8.4	10.8
>6	3.6	6.6	10.2
Landless HH	16.8	15.6	32.3
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

HH-Household, one *bigha*=0.1338 *hectare* or 1/3-*acre*, Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

It seems the amount of land play an insignificant role in getting the jobs under MGNREGS. The table shows the amount of land less than 3 *bigha* having higher percentage (35.9%) of migration. Thus, the land having more than 6 *bigha* with MGNREGS job cards are less chances to out-migration (6.6%) than landless the landless beneficiaries. Out of 32.3 percent are landless poor people who had job cards, 16.8 percent did not engage in migration, and they depended on locality and MGNEGS (table 8.13).

Table 8.14: MGNREGS Worker According to their Sex and Migration Status

Gender	Migration Status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
Male	28.7	59.9	88.6
Female	4.8	6.6	11.4
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Table 8.14 shows 88.6percent were male workers and 11.4 percent of them are females. Out of allout-migrant households, 59.9 percent of individual male workers belong to migrant households, whereas the remaining 28.7 percentage are non-migrant (table 8.14).

Table 8.15: Block-Wise Distribution of Households According to MGNREGS Job Cards and Migration Status

Block	Job card of household (%)		Migration status (%)		Total (%)
	Yes	No	Non-migrant	Migrant	
Dinhata-I	41.7	58.3	40.0	60.0	100.0
Dinhata-II	33.3	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0
Haldibari	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Koch Bihar-I	85.7	14.3	16.7	83.3	100.0
Koch Bihar-II	100.0	0.0	58.8	41.2	100.0
Mathabhanga-I	100.0	0.0	20.0	80.0	100.0
Mathabhanga-II	100.0	0.0	17.6	82.4	100.0
Mekhliganj	75.0	25.0	33.3	66.7	100.0
Sitai	100.0	0.0	66.7	33.3	100.0
Sitalkuchi	75.6	24.4	47.1	52.9	100.0
Tufanganj-I	100.0	0.0	24.0	76.0	100.0
Tufanganj-II	100.0	0.0	27.3	72.7	100.0
District-Koch Bihar	83.9	16.1	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Interactions with the workers focused that when an active family member is migrated to other places for work or employment, another adult member of the family usually engages in the scheme. Korra (2015) revealed that the pattern of out-migration or working within the MGNREGS depends on the dimensions of family, gender, and age composition, but

it also depends on the amount of working days, wages, number of job cards within the employment scheme. Out of twelve study blocks, beneficiaries from Haldibari, Koch Bihar-II, Mathabhanga-I, Mathabhanga-II, Sitai, Tufanganj-I, and Tufanganj-II having 100 percent of the employment card of the respondents. Of 33.3 percentage respondents having job cards in the Dinhata-II block, the remaining 66.7 percent are job cards. Similarly, Dinhata-I blocks having lower parentage of job cardholders. It is also found that the lower percentage of job cards for employment sometimes a higher percentage of out-migration. At Dinhata-II block, all the respondents are migrants to other places for their livelihood (table 8.15).

Table 8.16: MGNREGS Households and Working Days

Block	Working Days (%)			Total (%)
	<50 days	51-60 days	>61 days	
Dinhata-I	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dinhata-II	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Haldibari	80.0	20.0	0.0	100.0
Koch Bihar-I	94.4	5.6	0.0	100.0
Koch Bihar-II	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mathabhanga-I	90.0	10.0	0.0	100.0
Mathabhanga-II	94.1	5.9	0.0	100.0
Mekhliganj	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Sitai	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Sitalkuchi	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Tufanganj-I	72.0	4.0	24.0	100.0
Tufanganj-II	90.9	0.0	9.1	100.0
Total	92.8	3.0	4.2	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Table 8.16 found that 92.8 percent of respondent are engaged less than 50 days in a year. Out of, only 4.2 percentage and 3 percent of the respondents have received their work more than 61 days and 51 to 60 days in 2017-18 in Koch Bihar district. The study revealed that all of workers got employment less than 50 days in a year of CD block Dinhata-I, Dinhata-II, Koch Bihar-II, Mekhliganj, Sitai, and Sitalkuchi.

Table 8.17: Number of Working Days of MGNREGS by their Gender

Working days	Gender (%)		Total (%)
	Male	Female	
<50 days	87.7	12.3	100.0
51-60 days	100.0	0.0	100.0
>61 days	100.0	0.0	100.0
Total	88.6	11.4	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Numbers of completed working days are low to the female worker comparatively to the male workers in the district. Overall, the minimum number of working days is less than 50 days, where 87.7 percent are male, and 12.3 percent is a female worker in the district. Interestingly, no female worker engaged the MGNREGS to work more than 51 days to 100 days in 2017-18 in Koch Bihar district. It indicates that female worker participation is less in this programme in the study area (table 8.17).

Table 8.18: Annual wages of MGNREGS Workers by their Sex

Annual wages (Rs) from MGNREGS	Gender (%)		Total (%)
	Male	Female	
<5000	28.1	6.6	34.7
5000-10000	53.3	4.8	58.1
>10000	7.2	0.0	7.2
Total	88.6	11.4	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

The critical aspect to look into wages of MGNREGS where the majority of respondents (58.1%) annual wages from the scheme is Rs. 5000 to 10000 and a very negligible number of them received wages more than Rs. 1000 (7.2%). In wage differentiation, most of the male workers receive Rs. 5000 to 10000 (53.3%). It was 4.8 percent for female workers (table 8.18).

Table 8.19 gives three wages mentioned above categories: workers from most non-migrant households account for annual wages Rs 5000 to 10000 (23.4%) out of 33.5 percent of total non-migrant participants. Individual workers who paid lower wages have to turn on migration from the Koch Bihar district villages.

Table 8.19: Annual Wages of MGNREGS and Migration of Workers by their Sex

Annual wages (Rs) from MGNREGS	Migration Status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
<5000	8.4	26.3	34.7
5000-10000	23.4	34.7	58.1
>10000	1.8	5.4	7.2
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

Table 8.20: Asset Creation under the MGNREGS Work

Block	Soil digging for Road repair (%)	Plantation (%)	Well digging, weed clear, and drainage cleaning (%)	Total (%)
Dinhata-I	80.0	20.0	0.0	100
Dinhata-II	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
Haldibari	40.0	0.0	60.0	100
Koch Bihar-I	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
Koch Bihar-II	64.3	0.0	35.7	100
Mathabhanga-I	70.0	0.0	30.0	100
Mathabhanga-II	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
Mekhliganj	100.0	0.0	0.0	100
Sitai	81.8	0.0	18.2	100
Sitalkuchi	96.8	3.2	0.0	100
Tufanganj-I	68.0	4.0	28.0	100
Tufanganj-II	0.0	54.5	45.5	100
Total	78.8	5.6	15.6	100

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

8.21: Type of MGNREGS Work by their Migration Status

Migration Status	Types of Work			Total (%)
	Soil digging for Road repair (%)	Plantation (%)	Well digging, weed clear, and drainage cleaning (%)	
Non-migrant	83.3	3.7	13.0	100.0
Migrant	76.4	6.6	17.0	100.0
Total	78.8	5.6	15.6	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

8.5.2 Implications of MGNREGS on Surveyed Households

In this portion, the researcher has been analyses on the consequences of MGNREGS on beneficiary households. Asset creation under the MGNREG Scheme in the district according to the surveyed household that 78.8 percentage works has been done under the scheme was soil digging for road repairing, 15.6 percentage was well digging, weed clear and drainage cleaning, and 5.6 percentage were for plantation. It was surprising that only one CD block, Tufanganj-I, was done under these work categories, where 68 percentage works were done on soil digging for road repairing, 28 percentage for weed clear and drainage cleaning, and only 4 percent were for plantation. It is also noted that 54.5 percentage works under plantation (tree plantation, banana trees, betel nut tree, lemon trees, and so on) has been done in CD block Tufanganj-II, and the remaining 45.5 percentage work was done for well digging, weed cleaning, and drainage cleaning. The study reveals all works done for rural infrastructure related to road repairing in CD block, namely Dinhata-II, Koch Bihar-I,

Mathabhanga-II, and Mekhliganj. Table 8.21 focuses on the majority percentage of migrant and non-migrant workers engaged in soil digging for road repairing under the scheme.

Table 8.22: Improvement of Annual Income (Rs.)by MGRNEGS Worker and their Migration Status

Increased income (Rs.)	Migration status (%)		Total (%)
	Non-migrant	Migrant	
<5000	8.4	26.3	34.7
5000-10000	23.4	34.7	58.1
>10000	1.8	5.4	7.2
Total	33.5	66.5	100.0

Source: Field Study, 2017-2018

The study focused that out of 58.1 percent of households engaged in this scheme, and they improved their income. As a result, 66.5 percentage worker who are migrated they improved their family income. Table 8.22 shows 23.4 percent of non-migrant respondents who improved their family income Rs5000 to 10000 after receiving this scheme in the district.

8.5.3. Perception of MGNREGS Workers

MGNREGS is a significant rural employment generation scheme. A major cause of migration is a lack of employment opportunity in the rural area, so MGNREGS that generates rural employment should adversely affect rural-urban migration. Our study considered a different aspect of MGNREGS to analyse its impact on sample households (Kumar and Deogharia, 2017). The beneficiaries earned from MGNREGS benefit from the rural assets and rural infrastructure development (Mishra et al. 2014).

The perception of the beneficiary works under the scheme indicates its effectiveness on socio-economic condition and migration in the district. Under this scheme, the work satisfaction is based on working distance, the number of working days, frequency of work, and wages based on the “five-point Likert Scale”, which is considered an “interval scale and result is shown as weighted mean”. It is significant with uniform difference like 1 to 1.79, it means strongly disagree. From 1.8 to 2.59, it means to disagree. From 2.60 to 3.39, it means neutral; from 3.40 to 4.19, it means agree; from 4.20 to 5, it means strongly agree (Pimentel, 2010).

**Table 8.23: Descriptive Statistics on the Perceptions of Beneficiaries of MGNREGS
Workers by Five-Point Likert Scale**

Statements	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
I have needed more job cards	334	1	5	3.52	1.249
I have needed more working days	334	1	5	4.5000	.86905
I am satisfied with the frequency of work	334	1	5	3.9072	.93981
I think with the wages of MGNREGS should be an increase	334	1	5	4.7695	.50000
I am satisfied with working distance from home	334	1	5	4.3533	.68513
Valid N (listwise)	334				

Note: 5 strongly agree, 4 agree, 3 neutral, 2 disagree, and 1 strongly disagree

In the first statement, the mean is 3.52. Hence it means that most beneficiaries agree as to whether they need more job cards for the adult member of their families. The second statement is 4.5; it means most of the beneficiaries involved in the MGNREGS have needed more working days. The third statement reveals they have been satisfied with the frequency of work in a financial year. The fourth statement shows 4.7695; it means most beneficiaries strongly agreed that the wages of MGNREGS should be increased. The last statement reveals that most beneficiaries are strongly satisfied with this scheme's working (table 8.23). According to MGNREGS Act, the work should be within a 5 km radius of the villages, and more than 5 km will need extra paid to the worker.

8.5.4. Impact of MGNREGS on Employment and Migration by Multiple Regression Analysis

The study focused that after working under the MGNREGS programme, the number of labour days was increased. Out of all households, 7.2 percent of them have increased their household working days 50 days to 100 days per year, and the remaining 92.8percent of them increased up to 50 days in the same year. The scheme's implementation has been of much help to needy households by providing 83.9 percentage respondents. Out of the 66.5 percentage have under the out-migration category. A similar observation has been made by Harishet al. (2011) where before engagement of this programme, the sample households were employed on their own-farm. The number of day's beneficiaries worked under MGNREGS programmes affected by the factors like status of out-migration, age, gender, monthly income, the status of job cardholder, number of job card, and frequency of work to analyse the relationship between the number of days beneficiaries worked under the scheme and the selecting factors.

Multiple linear regression models have been used to identify the factors to identify the number of days and income generation of the beneficiaries worked under MGNREG Scheme. The two empirical models used for estimation was the form of the following equations;

$$Y_a = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$Y_b = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Description of the variables

Y_a = Number days work received under the last financial year (out of 100 days)

Y_b = Workers income (rupees) from MGNREGS

α = Intercept, a scale of the parameter

X_1 = Rural out-migration (Intercept dummy 1 for out-migrants and 0 for non-migrant)

X_2 = Age of respondents (in Years)

X_3 = Gender (Intercept dummy 1 for male and 0 for female)

X_4 = Monthly Income (rupees)

X_5 = Job cardholder (intercept dummy 1 for Yes and 0 for No)

X_6 = Job cardholders in the family (in numbers)

X_7 = Frequency of works in the last Financial Year (FY-2017-18)

Table 8.24: Factors of Number of Days Beneficiaries Worked Under the MGNREGS Programme

Model (Y_a)	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	1.614	3.563		.453	.651	-5.415	8.643
Out-migration	-3.058	1.527	-.082**	-2.003	.047	-6.070	-.046
Age	.019	.049	.014	.387	.699	-.078	.116
Gender	3.806	1.826	.074**	2.084	.038	.204	7.408
Monthly income	.000	.000	-.079**	-2.085	.038	-.001	.000
Job card holder	3.440	2.880	.073	1.194	.234	-2.242	9.122
Number of job card	2.742	.912	.125**	3.008	.003	.944	4.541
Frequency of work	6.919	.445	.745***	15.546	.000	6.041	7.797

p<0.05 and *p<0.001 is significant at 95 and 99 percent confidence level

Source: Data have been computed by the researcher based on the field survey.

Above table 8.24 shows the variables like age and job card status of the beneficiaries were not-significant, indicating they are not significantly impacted by the change in the

dependent variable of the number of days beneficiaries worked under MGNREGS. The co-efficiency of other variables like the status of out-migration, gender, monthly income, number of job cardholders of the family, and frequency of work under MGNREGS was significant. The coefficient for out-migration status for the variable was -.082, indicating that the number of working days under the programme decreased by 0.082 days if the worker was out-migrant. Similarly, for gender, the coefficient was .074, indicating if a worker was male, and the number of working days in the scheme was increased by .074 days. The monthly income coefficient was -.079 indicating that if the household income increased, the number of working days decreased by .079 days. The coefficient value of the number of job cards in the family was .125, implying that if the number of job cards of the adult member family increased, the number of days of work under the scheme increased by .125 days. The coefficient value of frequency of work per year indicates, if a worker received more than 5 times in a year, the number of working days increased by .745 times. The adjusted R² value for the model (Y_a) was 0.779, indicating a good fit, explaining 77.9 percent of the dependent variable total variations (table 8.24).

8.5.5. Impact of MGNREGS on Income and Migration by Multiple Regression Analysis

The above table 8.22 shows after working with the MGNREGS programme, 34.7 percent of out-migrant beneficiaries increased their income up to 10000 rupees, whereas it was 23.4 percent of non-migrant respondents in Koch Bihar district

Table 8.25: Factors of Workers Income from MGNREGS Programme

Model (Y _b)	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	682.533	740.196		.922	.358	-777.525	2142.590
Out-migration	-869.538	317.159	-.124**	-2.742	.007	-1495.144	-243.932
Age	-2.883	10.248	-.011	-.281	.779	-23.098	17.331
Gender	946.437	379.317	.098**	2.495	.013	198.225	1694.650
Monthly income	-.092	.047	-.082**	-1.959	.049	-.185	.001
Job card holder	378.361	598.366	.043	.632	.528	-801.933	1558.655
Number of job card	461.014	188.543	.111**	2.445	.015	89.082	832.947
Frequency of work	1270.939	92.457	.727***	13.746	.000	1088.564	1453.313

p<0.05 and *p<0.001 is significant at 95 and 99 percent confidence level

Source: Data have been computed by the researcher based on the field survey.

Around 7.2 percent of the district total respondents have to increase up to 30000 rupees per year. Interactions with the scheme workers clear that; they have to bring up this work under the programme been only after the agricultural season. The annual income from MGNREGS was determined on the contributing factors like status of out-migration, age, gender, monthly income, job cardholder status, number of job cards, and frequency of work to analyse the relationship between income and contributing factors (table 8.25). The coefficient value of migration status (-0.124) was negative, indicating an inverse relationship between wages earned (dependent variable) from MGNREGS and migration (independent variable). This inverse relationship identified due to out-migration the chances of earned from MGNREGS decreases by -.124 times. The coefficient value of gender was positive, which implies that male respondents' participation increased their incomes by 0.098 times. Interestingly, the higher the family incomes, the chances to earn from MGNREGS are low. The coefficient value of the number of job cards (0.111) indicates a positive relative relationship to increase the wages under the scheme. Another vital variable, the frequency of work in a year, highly positively correlated with wages earned from MGNREGS. The adjusted R^2 value for the model (Y_b) was 0.731, indicating a good fit, explaining 73.1 percent of the dependent variable (Table 8.25).

8.6. Conclusion:

MGNREGS has massive criticism on the quality and sustainability of asset creation for rural India's livelihood development. It is an ecological act that creates sustainability through income generation among the rural peoples in the country where the unskilled workforce easily accessible to the minimum job opportunities. India's government invested a considerable amount in the last financial years, but the outcomes are not up to the mark. In conclusion, we may say that there is no doubt that this is a grass-root level programme, but still, there are many inherent problems in this scheme. The government should think about increasing the number of working days, wages, and frequency of work, which will reduce the out-migration from rural Koch Bihar district. The significant findings are summarised;

1. Average 47.83 percent of the district's household was worked under the MGNREGS in the financial year of 2017 to 2018. The highest percentage of households allotted worked identified in Haldibari (78.76%), followed by Sitalkuchi (56.57%), Mathabhanga-II (54.61%), Tufanganj-II (51.61%), and Mekhliganj (51.61%). The minimum percentage of households worked to the total block household identified in

Mathabhanga-I (35.26%) followed by Tufanganj-I (41.31%), Dinhata-I (42.56%),Dinhata-II (43.69%),and Sitai (44.42%).

2. Out of all, 54.79 percent of the SC workers are in an inactive category, whereas 44.37 percent were non-SC/ST category of active workers in the district. The majority percent of active SC workers are observed in the Mathabhanga-I block (74.37%), and the least percentage of SC active workers found in Dinhata-II (41.03%). Similarly, the maximum percentage of active other caste workers was found in Dinhata-I (57.25%), and the minimum percentage was observed in Mekhliganj (25.24%). Maximum active ST workers were observed in Mekhliganj (3.07%) and lowest in Sitalkuchi block (0.01%).
3. Out of all households, only 7.07 percent of households in the district reached a 100 day limit of work. The CD block Sitalkuchi has 23.22 percent of households and reached 100 day limit of works under the scheme's scheme in a financial year. It has observed only 1.36 percent of households from Koch Bihar-I reached 100 days limit. The overall 4.33 percentage of the SC households has been received over 100 days' limit of work. Out of these maximum percent of SC households received over 100 days limits from Sitalkuchi block (14.62%) followed by Haldiabri (12.35%), Mathabhanga-I (8.78%), and so on.
4. The study shows that 56.11 percent of rural females and the remaining 43.89 percent were male participated in the district. Participation of the higher percentage of female workers is found at Mathabhanga-II (71.49%) and lowest at Tufanganj-II (50.99%). Maximum participation of male workers was found at Koch Bihar-I (48.33%) and lowest at Mathabhanga-II (28.51%).
5. Of the total surveyed households, 83.9 percent of them received MGNREGS job cards. Of them, 65.5 percent of households with MGNREGS job cards have at least one member migrated outside the villages.
6. The amount of land less than 3 *bigha* having higher propensity (35.9%) of migration. Thus, the land having more than 6 *bigha* with MGNREGS job cards are less inclined to out-migration (6.6%) than landless households. Out of 32.3 percent are landless poor people who had job cards, 16.8 percent did not engage in migration, and they depended on locality and MGNEGS.

7. Overall, 78.8 percentage work done under the scheme was soil digging for road repairing, 15.6 percentage was well digging, weed clear and drainage cleaning and 5.6 percentage were for plantation.
8. According to the five-point Likert Scale, most beneficiaries agree that they need more job cards for the adult member of their families. Most beneficiaries strongly agreed that the wages of MGNREGS should be increased. The last statement reveals that most of the beneficiaries are delighted with the working of this scheme.
9. The variables like age and job card status of the beneficiaries were not-significant, indicating they are not significantly impacted by the change in the dependent variable of several days beneficiaries worked under MGNREGS. However, the co-efficiency of other variables like the status of out-migration, gender, monthly income, number of job cardholders of the family, and frequency of work under MGNREGS was significant.
10. After working with the MGNREGS programme, the study shows that 34.7 percent of out-migrant beneficiaries increased their income up to 10000 rupees, whereas 23.4 percent of non-migrant respondents in Koch Bihar district. Overall, 7.2 percent of the district's total respondents have to increase up to 30000 rupees per year. Interactions with the scheme workers clear that; they have preferred to work under the programme have been only after the agricultural season.
11. The annual income from MGNREGS was determined on the contributing factors like status of out-migration, age, gender, monthly income, job cardholder status, number of job cards, and frequency of work to analyse the relationship between income and contributing factors.

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