

An Organized Management Information System: A Descriptive Study from the Dash Board of NREGAsoft

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Abstract

All public funded programmes need to ensure transparency and thoroughness in its implementation. If it cannot follow the characteristics, may lead to failure in its execution. For ensuring good governance with the help of technology and innovation it is mandatory to follow the basic rule and regulations implied in the programme. Now it became the standard operating procedure in the present scenario. The largest public funded programme in the world, MGNREGA, is fit up with technology and point of order. The study tries to see that the employment guarantee programme is not only meant for the rural, unskilled marginalised community's livelihood enhancement, but to empower them in the digital world. Here in this study, tries to describe and relate the high-end technology with a grassroot level employment guarantee programme. It is, then deemed to be the best model for all forthcoming government funded programmes.

Keywords: NREGAsoft, MGNREGA, marginalised, software

Introduction

A software works with a set of instructions. It is designed to perform specific tasks. For performing the specific task, a software documentation is needed. The documents are given by the concerned authorities. They know each and every concept related to the programme going to implement. Eventhough it contrasted with hardware but it performs on the hardware. So software and hardware are both sides of the same coin. The machine learns, read and memorize the machine language, supported by the processor. A well-equipped and well- functioning software is needed for a hussile free and transparent functioning of the Management Information System. The National Informatics Centre's NREGA soft is a kind of software that enables the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act/Programme) to function properly. The proper documentation of the programme is safely kept with the software, NREGAsoft. This software is initiated, managed and maintained by National Informatics Centre(NIC). National Informatics center is an initiative of the Government of India under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It is the provider of IT (Information Technology) and ITES (Information Technology Enabled Services) for government sponsored and public funded programmes. They design and develop ITES on behalf of the central and state government schemes and projects. NIC is the nodal agency for the government to implement software needed for the programmes. Established in 1976 under the ministry, now is the third eye of the government in related programmes and schemes. NIC's services have spread over the areas of Digital Government Research Centre (DGRC), Government Local Area Networks (LANs), Video Conferencing, National Knowledge Network (NKN), Mobile Competency

Centre, Email & Messaging, Remote Sensing & GIS, Webcast, Domain Registration, NICNET, Data Centre, Security and Block Chain Technology.

NREGAsoft

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 is a flagship programme of government of India. Through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, aims to enhance of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country. By providing at least one hundred days of work and it guarantees wage employment. The regularity of the programme is that, in each financial year to every household the employment guarantee programme offers unskilled manual work for at least one member of the BPL household.

NREGAsoft is a local language enabled workflow-based e-Governance system. It is available in both offline as well as online mode. NREGAsoft capture the activities under NREGA at all levels of execution. Each stakeholder can access NIC website and contribute relevant information through the designed portal. A customized interface is provided to each stakeholders of NREGA. An illiterate worker is provided with sound based, icon based, touch screen kiosk model to enter/access information on the portal to enforce the right based framework of law, the State, Districts and Gram panchayats have local language interface while the Ministry works in only in English language

Objective of the study

1. The study explain the facilities of e-Governance by enabling IT based implantation of NREG Scheme across State, District and three tiers of Panchayathi Raj Institutions.
2. It aims to deliberately empowering the common man, the unskilled workers using the technology and reduce the gravity of digital divide.
3. The study makes sure knowledge regarding NREGAsoft and provide an information platform to citizen in compliance with the right to information Act (RTI Act).
4. It aims to unveil all the documents like muster rolls, registration application register, job card/employment register/muster roll issue register, muster roll receipt register which are inaccessible to public otherwise.

Statement of the Problem

The public funded programmes are well organized but not free from corruptions. The MNREGA introduced by the government with modern technology. The new information Technology and its services make sure to implement and monitor the MGNREGA, which aims to reduce digital divide in the society.

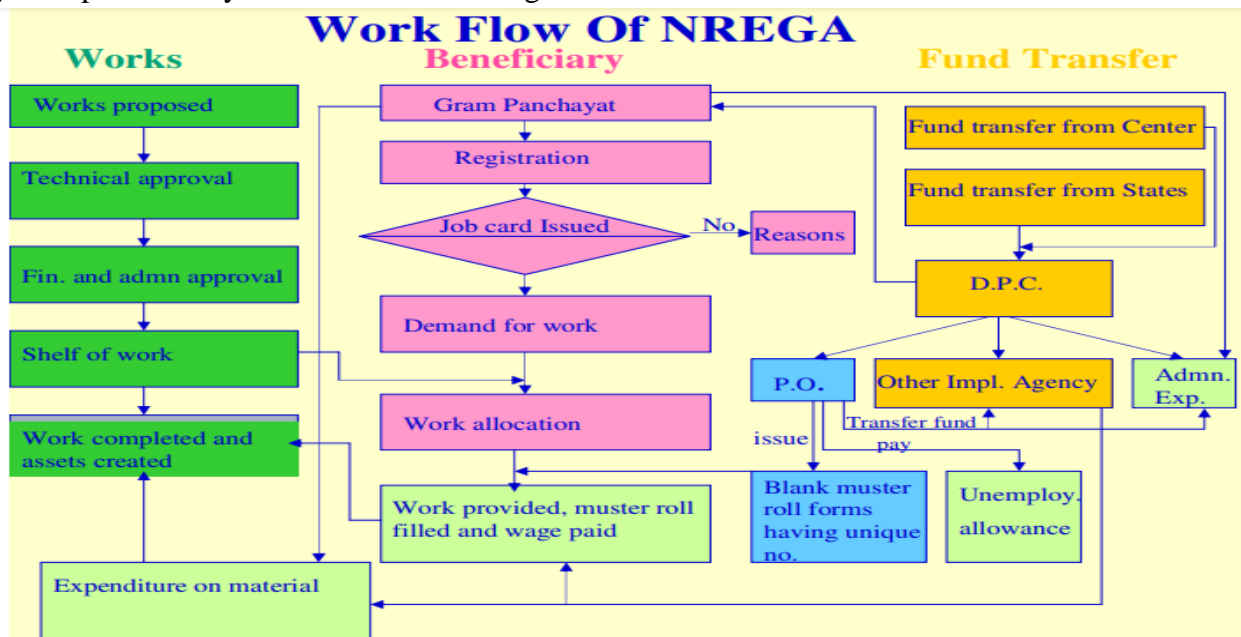
Methodology and Source of data

A descriptive methodology is uses to study. The descriptive methodology tries to describe the way of operation of the Management Information System (MIS) of the National Informatics Corporation(NIC). The NREGAsoft is the software application used in the MIS. The dash board of the MIS explains the verbal content of the NREGAsoft. As a social science topic, it unveils the non-technical side of the MNREGA Programme. The software application works on the basic technical explanation of each concept used in the MNREGA. The aim of the description is to make aware of the technical terminology associated with the programme.

The study used secondary data for the descriptions. The main source of data is the website of MNREGA. All conceptual notes and their descriptions are taken from the MIS-MNREGA. Another source of data is the NREGAsoft, the software application developed by NIC. Information regarding the study are taken from the above mentioned secondary sources.

Limitations of the Study

The study is limited due to the lack of in-depth technical knowledge. Some areas of the website are inaccessible due to privacy reasons. The software building language is insignificant in the study, because it try to explain the laymen sense of knowledge in MNREGA.



Source:<https://nrega.nic.in/>

NREGAsoft was first comprehensive software equipped to serve the needs of the marginal community. It is the first of this kind that account the data of the primary level community. This software helps the e-Governance solution, which took data management practices below block level in online mode across the country in absence of e-Governance infrastructure availability at Gram Panchayat level. The data management of NREGS, in majority of states is being done at block level. Most of the states started managing data using offline and a few with online. The states have adopted various kinds of operating management procedures in NREGAsoft. Some maintains its own staff, contract data entry operator, outsourcing data entry, and arranging entire ICT infrastructure at block level through private parties. to address the need of content management.

It is advisable to have a detailed view and explanation regarding the website and web links of MNREGA. One specialty of the website is that any key word typed in the menu bar, can access the data easily and quickly. The entire modules to track the MNREGA can be broadly classified into two categories.

1. The dash board of MNREGA
2. The common access point for data entry and information.

The dashboard is a comprehensive data point. It is also the ready reckoner of the employment guarantee programme website. From here onwards we can access data at micro level. All detailed data is contained in the dashboard. The contents available in the dash board are:

- o The various levels of implementation- State, District, Block and Grama Panchayaths.

- 34 states and union territories,
- 740 district panchayaths,
- 7173 block panchayaths and 269399 grama panchayaths

A detailed and comprehensive implementation levels are available in data boxes. Prima facie, a national view of data is available in the front page. At the same time access person can view the data at its minute level, from the dashboard, if and when going deep into the details. The main data points in the dash board are:

I. Job Card

Basically, the job card is an entry identity card in to the employment guarantee programme. It is issued on behalf of the beneficiary registered in the web portal of NREGA. It is an entrance card for doing works. A person without job card is not allowed to work in MNREGA schemes. The job card contains all the personal identities as in the Aadhar card. The detailed contents in the job card area of the website include, total number of job cards issued, total number of workers, total number of active job cards, total number of active workers, scheduled caste workers against active job cards and scheduled tribe workers against active job cards. In the beginning of the industrial era, job card was a corporate identity. Now it comes at the grassroots level labour community. This is a new and innovative strategy adopted for the smooth conduct of the public funded programmes. Job card is an innovative idea to ensure productivity, time keeping and avoid duplication in work and payroll. Above all it assures openness in job and work. Each job card is linked with Aadhar (UID). All public funded programmes are now in tune with the MGNREGA interface.

II. Progress

The next content in the dashboard is progress. Progress means the progress of the work accounted. In this area the estimate of approved labour budget in crores, persondays of central liability so far accounted, percentage of total Labour Budget (LB), percentage as per proportionate labour budget, Scheduled Caste (SC) Persondays as a percentage of total Persondays, Scheduled Tribe (ST) as a percentage of total persondays, Women Persondays (WP) out of the total measured in percentage, average days of employment provided per household, average wage rate per person per day, Total number of households completed hundred days of wage employment, total households worked in crores, total individuals worked in crores, and differently abled persons worked.

III. Works

The work account is explained as the work category in the dashboard. It includes, number of grama panchayaths with no expenditure, Total number of works taken including new and spillover works, umber of ongoing works, number of works completed in lakhs, percentage of NRM (Natural Resource Management) expenditure in MWC (Mission Water Conservation) blocks, Percentage of category B works including community assets or individual assets, and percentage of expenditure on agriculture and allied works.

IV. Financial Progress

Financial progress is the final icon of the entry dashboard. The financial progress depicts all financial accounts and related data for audit finalization. It can be seen from in various sub icons displayed. The

items are, total center release, in crores, total availability of funds in crores, total expenditure in crores, percentage utilization, wages, material and skilled wages, materials, total administrative expenditures, administrative, average cost per day per person, percentage of total expenditure through e FMS (Electronic Fund Management System), and Percentage of payments granted within 15 days. As per the MGNREG Act wage disbursement should be completed within 15 days of the completion of work.

All the four main component parts includes 41 items in the dashboard of MGNREGA. It is the detailed and elaborated description of MNREGA. All accounting levels are well maintained in the dash board. It also is the stage by stage description of the public funded employment guarantee programme. The accuracy and performance can be read from the final area of the dashboard. As on January 2024, the performance of the software is highlighted in the form as:

- Persondays generated-4356.
- Total Expenditure -986875.17 Crores
- Today (06-01-2024) Total workers 10955544 On 9748714 work sites (pre-muster roll estimate)

From the dash board, it can move to the NREGAsoft, the visual interface of the MGNREGA programme. The visual part of the website shows the detailed picture of the programme/Scheme. The opening page of the NREGAsoft is accessed by following the address, https://nrega.nic.in/MGNREGA_new/Nrega_home.aspx. The home page itself is a visual treat. A beautiful logo and the title is displayed which makes the web page so attractive. From here onwards the journey starts to unearth the detailed description of the NREGAsoft. The dashboard data is set of icons. There are six initial icons displayed in the home page.

- Active Workers
- Assets created till date
- Persondays Generated
- DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) Transactions
- Households benefitted
- Individual Category Workers

By moving from the initial icons, it can access eight detailed icons that helps to understand the progress of MNREGA. They are:

- ❖ At a Glance
- ❖ ABPS (Aadhar Payment Bridge System) Dashboard
- ❖ Jal Doot
- ❖ Reports
- ❖ Social Audit
- ❖ Area officer Visit
- ❖ Water Conservation Studies
- ❖ Amrit Sarovar Mission
- ❖ Youktdhara Portal

The next area of NREGAsoft is another detailed description of the programme; It can be seen in as in another eight icons. They are

- View Daily Attendance

- Ombudsman Login (Only the appellate authority can enter in this icon)
- Payment Dashboard
- Sanction Orders
- Quick Access
- Janmnrega
- Geomgnrega
- Project Unnathi

Further, we can access icons of general areas like; MGNREGA Act, Annual Master Circular (Notice board), Circular, Public Grievances, Library, NREGAsoft updates.

The last area of the NREGAsoft is What's New area. The latest update and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are exhibited here in a scrolled form. It is subject to change, depending upon the decisions of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Findings

The descriptive study has the following findings:

1. It is an established and well equipped Management Information System.
2. Its website and the software designed and developed in a logical way.
3. The website and the contained software are self-explanatory. Even the laymen can access the website and collect information.
4. The logical steps followed and contents incorporated are so easy to handle.
5. Possibilities of further development and potential can be read from the NIC website.

NREGAsoft is a well-equipped and well established software. It is first in the history of public funded programme, functions with a comprehensive website and well equipped software. It is a model for all public funded programmes under government sponsorship. As a grassroot level programme, initiated by government, funded by government and run by government need such a kind of thoroughness and openness.

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