

Index of Non-Availability of Employment in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: A Case Study

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The index of percentage of population lying in the various ranges of days of employment cannot lead to any constructive interpretations of non-availability of employment to a minimum acceptable level. A better measure to find the index of population for whom the employment is unavailable for some arbitrarily fixed minimum number of days is 'Non-availability of Employment Gap'. The 'Gap' is defined as the mean proportionate employment gap across the total households. It has advantage as an indicator of the potential for eliminating 'non-availability' by targeting employment to those who have not yet got it. 'Employment Gap' is generally found to be different in different income groups.

The present paper finds higher deprivation of lower income groups in the case district. The tables given in the paper although presents 'Employment Gap' as well as Employment Gap Intensity for sixteen districts spread over 14 states in six regions, the case of Devangere district is discussed in details.

It is observed that whereas 'Employment Gap - EG1' indicates a lower differential as income level reduces 'Employment Gap Intensity - EI1' differentials are much higher, this is indicative of **'at lower income levels, employment unavailability hits harder'**. 'Non-Availability of Employment Intensity' generally reduces initially as income level goes up from but is found to rise thereafter. 'Non-Availability of Employment Intensity' increases as minimum threshold days of employment are found to be increasing.