

# A Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on Rural Empowerment in Tirunelveli DT

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**Abstract:** *The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of India (MGNREGA) was passed to “provide for the enhancement of minimum wage security of the households in rural areas of the country, by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every year to every household whose members to do unskilled manual work”. The MGNREGA ensures on demand one hundred days of employment in a year to a household at the minimum wage for rural households. The MGNREGA is based on twin principles of universality and self-selection. The Act places enforceable obligation on the State and gives power to rural labourers. AS A Legal right to work, MGNREGA related with previous employment generation schemes in several aspects. This study examines the impact of MGNREGA on rural empowerment in Tirunelveli.*

**Keywords:** Rural empowerment, Impact of MGNREGA, Socio economic development.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Social and economic development is the main aim of rural development for rural people, especially to bring about improvement in their living condition through an increase in their income and access to social goods. The status of rural people is intimately connected with their economic status, which in turn, depends upon rights, roles and opportunity for the participation in economic activities. The economic status of rural people is now accepted as an indicator of a societal development stage. However, all development does not result in improving rural people economic activities. Pattern of rural people activities are affected by the prevailing social ideology and are also linked with the stage of economic development. Government implements different programmes to improve the social and economic development in rural India.

The introduction of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is one of the affirmative programme. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted in September 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched on 02.02.2006 and was initially implemented in six districts in Tamilnadu, viz., Cuddalore, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Tiruvanamalai and Villupuram from 02.02.2006 onwards and in four more districts viz., Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Karur from 01.04.2007 onwards. From 01.04.2008 onwards, the scheme was extended to the remaining twenty one districts of the state. Thus, the MGNREGA covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population.

The manmade of the Act is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment on demand in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Besides having the potential of creating useful assets, strengthening democracy and decentralisation by affecting transparency and accountability this flagship programme of the Government endeavours to empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, through the processes of a right-based legislation. Thus, MGNREGA with twin objectives of rural employment and development has been perceived as a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India because of its triple impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment. It stipulates that employment generating works must be targeted towards a set of specific rural development activities.

**1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To evaluate the income of rural beneficiaries of MGNREGA.
- To measure the satisfaction level of rural beneficiaries through MGNREGA. To know the impact of MGNREGA among rural people and
- To recommend measures to ensure the socio economic development through rural empowerment.

**II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Prasad (2016)**<sup>1</sup> observed through this study that MGNREGA has played a significant role in reducing the distress migration; the program is yet to realize its full potential. While some problems are linked with the development of infrastructure such as post offices etc., that would improve the access to the beneficiary households, other problems are linked to functional gaps such as lack of proper information dissemination. A third category of problems are linked with the inadequacy of resources and proper designing of the activities to create durable, productive public assets. MGNREGS is very helpful to reducing migration in rural areas.

**Keshari Nandan Mishra (2017)**<sup>2</sup> studies on the agricultural development through MGNREGS, Empowerment of Marginalized sectors of people working under MGNREGA. It is started from the history of Indian development and women’s empowerment and then attempted to capture the grass root realities of MGNREGA. It was focuses with scientific perspective on various aspect that impact of MGNREGS on agricultural productivity, raise underground water, migration, gender equality, poverty alleviation generate employment etc. lastly an attempt that positive changes has been looking in rural society due to MGNREGA.

**Sanjay Kumaretal (2018)**<sup>3</sup> This paper is critically analysis of MGNREGS implementation process with keenly observation. MGNREGA has been largely successful in providing labour based wage employment at such a huge level, across the country. This has helped wage seekers to boost their socio-economic condition. It has also fetched some infrastructural development in the villages, however, the extent to which it was expected, has not been achieved through the MGNREGS.

**III. SOURCE AND METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

The data for the study were collected both from primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected by administering a structured questionnaire among the selected parameters. Secondary data were collected from the official records of the selected literature from the journals and research articles.

**IV. ANALYSIS**

The variables were analysed and tabulated as below:

**Table 1: Demographic profile of Respondents**

Sl. No	Variable		No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Age	Below-20	25	14.97
		20-25 years	37	22.16
		25-30 years	28	16.76
		Above 30 years	77	46.11
		Total	167	100
2.	Gender	Male	77	46.10
		Female	90	53.89
		Total	167	100
3.	Education	Literate	100	59.88
		Illiterate	67	40.11
		Total	167	100

According to the table 46.11 per cent of the respondents belong to age group of above 30 years and 22.16 per cent of the respondents belong to age group of 20-25 years above and 90 per cent of the respondents are female and 100 per cent of the respondents are illiterate peoples.

**Table 2: Knowledge about MGNREGS**

Sl. No	Resources	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Media	28	16.76
2.	Project Officials	77	46.11
3.	Friends	25	14.97
4.	Village Legal Officials	37	22.16
	Total	167	100

From the above table it is observed that out of the total sample 46.11 per cent of the beneficiaries came to know about MGNREGS through project officials and 22.16 per cent of the beneficiaries came to know about MGNREGS through village legal officials. This shows that majority of the beneficiaries know about MGNREGS through project officials.

**Table 3: Respondents Annual Income**

Sl. no	Annual Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Below Rs.20,000	77	46.10
2.	Rs.20,001-40,000	40	23.95
3.	Rs.40,001-60,000	48	28.74
4.	Above Rs.60,000	2	1.19
	Total	167	100

From the above table it is observed that out of 100 per cent of the respondents 46.10 per cent of the respondents earns an annual income of below Rs.20,000 and only 1.19 per cent of the respondents earns an annual income of above Rs..60,000.

## V. FINDINGS

- Majority of the respondents registered under MGNREGS are above 30 years.
- Majority of the respondents on MGNREGS are female.
- Majority of the respondents on MGNREGS are illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents on MGNREGS came to know about this scheme through project officials.
- Majority of the respondents on MGNREGS earns an annual income of Below Rs.20,000.

## VI. SUGGESTIONS

- The Government should constitute committees for monitoring the service delivery and public grievance resolution.
- These committees hold meetings once in three months to review the performance under MGNREGS scheme.
- Women should encouraged more to work, which can create employment in village.
- Awareness campaigns should be conducted to increase employment level in MGNREGS.
- Educate people through a group of trained or qualified personnel capable of taking up village level expedition to educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The majority of the rural people are dependent on agricultural sector. The implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) provided significant employment to rural people and released huge amount of money as wages, creation of rural asset. This scheme increases social security measures by decrease in migration of the people from villages to town and enable them to work to create assets at the village level.

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