

## **IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEMES IN VILLUPURAM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU**

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### **Abstract**

The MGNREGS provides employment opportunity to every rural household for 100 days per year. This will enable the rural household to get wage rate in order to raise their standard of living in the country. The wage rate remains high and the income is being distributed through employment. The present study has taken initiative to discuss impact of MGNREGS in a poor people dominated village of Villupuram district. The researcher also concludes that there is significant inter block variation with respect to impact of MGNREGS on rural livelihood. It is also inferred that the main factor that reveals the empowerment of the sampled households is the 'recognition from the society'. The main economic impact of the scheme is the decrease in the amount of income spent on food consumption. The researcher also identified the wish of the majority of the household who insisted on avoiding contractor in the function of the scheme.

**Keywords:** MGNREGS, Employment and Blocks.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The first tangible commitment to the poor under MGNREGS is that they can expect to earn a living by working, without loss of dignity and demand this as a right. The government has a statutory obligation to provide employment to every household, or if unable to do so, it has to provide an unemployment allowance. It is true that this will not end either poverty or exploitation but it is significant nevertheless, and could mark the beginning of momentous changes in the lives of the rural poor (Mathur 2007). The performance through its impact is ascertained by the analysis of the data obtained directly from the wage seekers who had participated, accessed and got benefits from MGNREGS in the study area. The economic impact is assessed by using the primary data on socio-economic status of sample households before and after of MGNREGS implementation.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Santosh Singh et al., (2014) in their study reveal that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was meant to provide for enhanced livelihood security for households in rural areas by providing at least a one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. As a legal right to work, MGNREGS contrast with previous employment- generation schemes in several aspects. The purpose of the study is to analyze the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in district Pauri

Garhwal of Uttarakhand state. However, the study finds large women participation under this scheme; highest number of assets is created in the area of rural connectivity and few in drought proofing.

Prabakaran (2021) in his study reveals that MGNREGA has created more employment days and the earnings of women have increased. The majority of respondents participated in the programme and particularly, a higher percentage of female respondents worked in this scheme. All the sample respondents particularly women utilized this scheme and worked as labourers. Most of the respondents have a primary and secondary level of education. This research shows that there is an increase in the woman days of employment under MGNREGA. Moreover is clear that after the implementation of MGNREGA scheme the income has significantly increased to all the households. However, it is concluded that there is a positive impact on the employment opportunities and income generation for women. The success has to be continued, a sustained monitoring and social audit of the scheme is inevitable.

### **Statement of Problem**

There are adequate surplus labours in rural areas in India. Many programmes are implemented in rural areas to create the capital formation and generate employment and then improve the standard of living. Here, the researcher can across many programmes and has taken initiative to enrich and pointed out in details about MGNREGS. MGNREGS provides employment opportunity in every rural household that is 100 days per year. This enables them to get wage rate and to raise their standard of living in the country. The wage rate remains high and the incomes are distributed through employment. But in Villupuram district the standard of living and the income of the workers in the rural area are poor. At this juncture, the researcher has under takes a study on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the impact of MGNREGS in Villupuram district.
2. To offer suggestion to improve the schemes in the study area.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study is confined to Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. Villupuram district has a large number of MGNREGS works and workers. From this district, there are four revenue divisions and eight revenue taluks and 13 blocks. Among them three blocks have been identified as the study area, viz., Mailam, Vanur and Olakkur based on the population of these blocks. Primary data is used for the present study. About 150 MGNREGS workers are randomly selected from three blocks in Villupuram district. The primary data collected pertain to the year 2022-23. The statistical tools such as 5-point scales techniques and ANOVA test are employed.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Block-wise Respondents' Impact of MGNREGS

A study of data in table 1 indicates the block-wise respondents' impact of MGNBREG scheme on rural households. It can be assessed with the help of 19 factors on a 5-point rating scale. These include timely payment of wage, shift in expenditure pattern, acquisition of movable and immovable assets, status of loan, status of household assets, livestock number, migration, bank operation, household food security, women participation, guarantee of employment, income level, access to electric power, proper payment of wages, job card, supplement employment act, household sanitation, proper maintenance of water bodies and proper maintenance of roads.

**Table 1: Block-wise Respondents' Impact of MGNREGS**

Variables	Name of the Block			Average
	Mailam	Vanur	Olakkur	
Timely payment of wage	4.28	4.42	2.33	4.03
Shift in expenditure pattern	4.13	4.32	3.21	4.32
Acquisition of movable and immovable assets	3.10	4.14	2.18	3.66
Status of loan	4.09	4.16	2.76	3.47
Status of household assets	3.06	4.12	3.74	4.02
Livestock number	3.97	4.21	3.18	4.18
Migration	2.88	3.89	3.46	3.98
Bank operation	2.66	3.96	3.84	4.18
Household food security	3.48	4.05	3.58	4.27
Women participation	2.96	3.96	3.61	3.98
Guarantee of employment	4.50	4.42	4.29	4.52
Income level	2.19	4.14	3.62	4.36
Access to electric power	3.58	2.58	2.58	2.89
Proper payment of wages	2.99	3.94	3.38	3.95
Job card	2.54	2.58	2.18	2.47
Supplement employment act	2.46	2.38	2.14	2.78
Household sanitation	4.45	3.74	3.46	2.92
Proper maintenance of water bodies	2.92	3.12	1.99	3.10
Proper maintenance of roads	2.97	3.99	3.18	4.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>3.63</b>

Source: Primary Data.

Out of the 19 factors of impact of MGNREGS on rural households, the first order is in terms of guarantee of employment and it secures a mean score of 4.52 on a 5 point rating scale. Income level of the households takes the second order impact and it secure a mean score of 4.36 on a 5-point rating scale. Shift in expenditure pattern from 4.36 mean score to 4.32 mean score occupies the third order. Food security is the third order of impact with 4.27 mean score and the others in order of scores.

The block wise analysis reveals the following facts. The households of Vanur block occupies the first position into the mean score 3.64 on a 5-point rating scale, while Mailam block takes the second place with 3.26 mean score and Olakkur block takes the third place with 3.04 mean

score on a 5-point rating scale. So the researcher concludes that the performance of the scheme is better in Vanur block compared to the other two blocks while Olakkur has declined both the other blocks. But Mailam is better than Olakkur block.

**Table 2: ANOVA - Block-wise Respondents' Impact of MGNREGS**

Source of Variation	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F	F crit
Rows	16.881	18	0.938	3.485	1.790
Columns	9.602	2	4.801	17.839	3.230
Error	9.688	36	0.269		
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.170</b>	<b>56</b>			

The two-way ANOVA model is applied for further discussion. At one point, the computed ANOVA value of 3.485 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, the variation among the impact components of MGNREGS is statistically identified as significant as per the realization of the respondents. In another point, the computed ANOVA value of 17.839 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, the variation among the blocks is statistically identified as significant as per the realization of impact components of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme of the respondents.

It is understanding from the above discussion that the respondents realize the very high impact of MGNREGS in terms of guarantee of employment, income level, shift in expenditure pattern, household food security, bank operation, livestock number, proper maintenance of roads, status of household assets and timely payment of wages. The respondents realize the very high impact of MGNREGS in terms of migration, women participation, proper payment of wages, acquisition of movable and immovable assets, status of loan and proper maintenance of water bodies. The respondents realize the very high impact of MGNREGS in terms of household sanitation, access to electric power, supplement employment act and job card. Therefore, the hypothesis that 'There is no significant inter block variation with respect to impact of MGNREGS on rural livelihood' is invalid.

### Suggestions

- Awareness on Vigilance and Monitoring Committees was negligible and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees were also not formed in the study area. Majority of the workers do not know the committees. The beneficiaries of this scheme should know everything about this scheme for that a special awareness camp or an orientation programme can be conducted for the beneficiaries.
- Types of work, working hours, necessity of the work and all the important aspects of the schemes should be explained to the beneficiaries.
- The problem identified by the MGNREGS workers is the involvement of the contractors. It was found to be the major problem among the respondents. Therefore should take necessary action to avoid the contractors and sub-contractors.

## CONCLUSION

The researcher also concludes that there is significant inter block variation with respect to impact of MGNREGS on rural livelihood. It is also inferred that the main factor that reveals the empowerment of the sampled households is the ‘recognition from the society’. The main economic impact of the scheme is the decrease in the amount of income spent on food consumption. The researcher also identified the wish of the majority of the household who insisted on avoiding contractor in the function of the scheme.

Thus the researcher concludes that the adverse effects of such a heavy incidence of poverty on the country’s development are obvious. In this context the self-employment programmes assume significance for they alone can provide income to the rural poor at sustainable basis. The rural worker has emerged as an unintended consequence of MGNREGS. Workers as individuals have gained because of their ability to earn independently are made possible due to the paid employment opportunity under MGNREGS. Independent and monetized earnings have increased consumption choices and reduced economic dependence. This has helped workers in registering their tangible contribution to the household’s income. The overall effects of these have translated into an increased say for workers in household affairs.

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