

A Study On MGNREGA And Employment Opportunities At Karumpattur Panchayat In Kanniyakumari District

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was introduced in India in the year 200-06. The main motive of this scheme is that provide employment to the rural job seeks and abdicates poverty in rural areas MGNREGS makes a new history as well as the history of decentralization in India. It promises too days of work per year to all rural households. The work is to be made available to anyone who demands it with an application to work, failing which the state government is liable to pay an unemployment allowance. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for Eradicating rural poverty and Unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith hungry people, malnourished children, anemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for Eradicating rural poverty and Unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith hungry people, malnourished children, anemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGP) intended to provide assurance and security of employment to rural workers. The main aim of this programme is empowerment of rural unemployed by providing employment. It is a known fact that in almost all the districts where Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme has been implemented have not been able to utilize the financial allotment made for the purpose. Not only this, none of the district could have realized the target of providing 100 days of Employment to the job card holders, even though funds for the programme have never been a constraint. The objective of provision of 100 days of employment had not been achieved

in many of the states. Regional variations were there in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. The present study is the small step in this direction to the verify the regional variations if any in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in Karumbatoor village pachayat of Kanniyakumari District in Tamil Nadu State.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the functions and performance of MGNREGP in the study village.
2. To analyse the economic status of the households of MGREGP beneficiaries.
3. To verify the extent of implementation of MGNREGP in the study village.
4. To verify the prevalence of the statutory provision of 100 days employment existing in the study village.
5. To trace whether the beneficiaries of MGNREGP in the study village were really benefited.

3. METHODOLOGY

The data for the research study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data included the information collected directly from the sample respondents through a pre structured questionnaire by personal interview method. The study is based on random sample of 40 households from Karumpattur village panchayat in Kanniyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. The secondary were collected from the records, research papers and rural development Website.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The MGNREGP workers are selected through a random sampling method. The total number of MGNREGP workers in the study area is 1027. The data collected from the villages namely, Karamba vilai, Kottaiyadi, Chotapanickan Therivilai, Aundi vilai in Karumpattur village panchayat. Out of these four villages, 10 respondents are taken from each village.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter analyses the employment pattern of MGNREGP works in Karumpattur panchayat. In this study, the researcher analyses the age wise distribution, religion, Community, marital status, income, expenditure, savings, debt, employment generation and reason for joining scheme etc,

TABLE 1: SOURCES OF INCOME

SL.NO	INCOME (IN `.)	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 20,000	6	15.0
2	20,000-40,000	11	27.5
3	40,000-60,000	12	32.5
4	Above 60,000	10	25.0
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

The table shows that annual income of the household. About 15 percent of households are earning income between below ` . 20,000 27.5 percent of the households are earning income

between ₹.20,000-40,000, 32.5 percent of households are earning income between ₹.40,000-60,000 and 25 percent of the households are earning income above ₹.60,000.

TABLE 2: THE PATTERN OF EXPENDITURE

SL.NO	INCOME (IN ₹.)	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 25,000	12	30.0
2	25,001-35,000	14	35.0
3	35,001- 45,000	9	22.5
4	Above 45,000	5	12.5
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

The table 2 depicts the expenditure of the MGNREGP beneficiaries. The analysis of our study shows that 35 percent of the respondents spend with ₹.25,001 – 35,000 22.5 percent of the respondents spend the amount between ₹. 35001 – 45,000 and 30 percent of the respondents spent the amount below 25,000. Only 12.5 percent of the respondents have spend the amount above ₹.45,000. The average expenditure of the respondents is ₹.33,450 in our study.

TABLE 3: LEVEL OF SAVINGS

SL.NO	INCOME (IN ₹.)	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 2000	4	10.0
2	2000- 4000	16	40.0
3	4000 - 6000	11	27.5
4	6000 – 8000	6	15.0
5	Above - 8000	3	7.5
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

The table 4 shows that 10 percent of the respondents saved below ₹.2000 and 40 percent of the respondents saved between ₹.2000 and ₹.4000. 27.5 percent of the households saved between ₹.4000 and ₹.6000 and 15 percent of the respondents saved between ₹.6000 and ₹.8000. At the same time only 7.5 percent of the respondents saved above ₹.8000. It is concluded that majority the respondents fall under the saving level of ₹. 2000 – 6000. i.e. 67.5 percent.

TABLE 4: INDEBTNESS

SL.NO	PARTICULARS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	State Bank of India	6	15.0
2	Indian Overseas Bank	8	20.0
3	Money Lenders	6	15.0
4	Friends and Relatives	4	10.0
5	SHGs	16	40.0
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

The table 4 shows that most of them have received money from SHGs, 15 percent of the sample respondents have received money from State Bank of India and it also shows that 20 percent of

the sample respondents have got money from Indian Overseas Bank and 40 percent of the sample respondents have received from money lenders. Only four respondents got money from friends and relatives i.e. 10 percent.

Table 5: Levels of Borrowing

Sl.No	Levels of Borrowing (In `.)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 5,000	7	17.5
2	5,000 – 15,000	13	32.5
3	15,000 – 25,000	9	22.5
4	25,000 – 3,5000	6	15.0
5	35,000 - 45,000	3	7.5
6	Above 45,000	2	5.0
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

TABLE 6: BENEFITS OF MGNREGP SCHEME

SL.NO	USEFULNESS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Regular Income	20	50
2	To improve economic status	4	10
3	To tie up regular expenditure	16	40
	Total	40	100.0

Source: Survey Data

The table 5 shows that 17.5 percent of the respondents have borrowed below `5000, 32.5 percent of the respondents borrowed between `5000 -15000. 22.5 percent of the respondents borrowed the amount between `15000 – 25000 and 15 percent of the respondents borrowed between `25000 – 35000. 7.5 percent of the respondents borrowed between `35000 - 45000 and 5 percent have borrowed above `45000.

To ascertain the usefulness of MGNREGP scheme, information's were obtained from the respondents. According to survey, 50 percent of the respondents opinions that MGNREGP scheme makes the flow of income regularly. 10 percent of our respondents have replied that is scheme improves their economic well-being and 40 percent of our respondents have said that is scheme gives money for regular expenses. The study shows that 30 beneficiaries owned assets lesser than `1, 00,000. Nearly 55 percent of households owned assets between `10, 00,000 and `5,00,000, 10 percent of sample households have assets between `5,00,000 and `10,00,000 and 5 percentage of the households owned assets more than `10,00,0000.

TABLE 7: EMPLOYMENT STATUS

SL.NO	INCOME (IN `.)	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 70 days	4	10.0
2	71- 81 days	6	15.0
3	81 – 90	11	27.5
4	Above 90 days	19	47.5
	Total	40	100

Source: Survey Data

The above table 7 explains that 10 percent of household have received below 70 days of employment, 15 percent of household have received from 71 – 80 days employment and 27.5 percent of household have received from 81-90 days employment in this study area. Majority of the respondents have received more than 90 days employment in this study area i.e. 47.5 percent.

4. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- The study shows that 20 percent of respondents come under the age group between 20 – 30, 27.5 percent of the respondents belong to the age group between 30 -40 and 52.5 percent of the respondents come under the age group above 40. But no respondents belong to the age group between 10 -20 in this study area.
- The study shows that 82.5 percentage of the respondents BC and 17.5 percentage of the respondents belongs to Sc groups.
- The reason is majority of the people living in Karumpattor village panchayat belongs to BC community.
- The study reveals that more than 30 percent of the respondents Christian and 70 percent of respondents are Hindus. It is concluded that majority of respondents are Hindus i.e. 70 percent.
- The study shows that 47.5 percent of the respondents had undergone primary level education. 42.5 percent of the respondents had completed secondary level education and 5 percent of the respondents had completed higher secondary level education and the remaining 5 percent of the respondents are illiterates. From the above table, it is understood that majority of the respondents had primary level of education in the study area.
- The study shows that majority of the respondents are get married and only 3 respondents are unmarried. The married and unmarried respondents are 92.5 percent and 7.5 percent respectively.
- The study explains that 10 percent of the respondents are living in tiled houses, 90 percent of the respondents are living in concrete house. So the most of the respondents are living only tiled house in the study area.
- Out of the household surveyed, it could be seen that 87.5 per of the household come under nuclear family system. Remaining 12.5 percent of the household are following joint family system. It is observed that joint family is unpopular among the household in the study area as only 12.5 percent of the respondents adopt this.
- According to the study, 20 percent of the respondents are male and 80 percent of the respondents are female.
- It is concluded that about 80 percent of respondents are female.
- Among the beneficiaries of MGNREGP in the study village, 72.5 percent expressed that the quantum of money wages were insufficient for them and only 27.5 percent of the beneficiaries replied that the wages were insufficient for them and only 27.5 percent of the beneficiaries replied that the wages through MGNREGP were adequate.

5. CONCLUSION

100 days offer of employment to a family is not sufficient to family. Therefore, the MGNREGP beneficiaries should be offered at least 150 days of work as against 100 days. Majority of the workers feels that the working hours are high. Suppose the working hour is reduced, there is a chance to participate more workers in this scheme. The general complaints of the beneficiaries is the lower wage compared to the prevailing market wage rate in the area. Therefore, it is

necessary to raise the wage level from `150 to Rs.200 per day. Village panchayat and the gram sabha is required planning for effective implementation of MGNREGP.

6. REFERENCES

1. Shankar Chatterjee (2010), NREGS – Facilitating Development and National Integration”, Kurukshetra, Vol: 58, No.6, P.46, April 2010.