



A Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mgnregs) in Perundurai Block Erode District in Tamilnadu

KEYWORDS

National rural employment guarantee scheme (NREGA), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Poverty, self-sustaining

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ABSTRACT National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005 and it was renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October, 2009. The Act aims at eradication of extreme poverty and at making villages self-sustaining through productive asset creation. In this paper, an attempt is made to focus some lights on the measures of performance of MGN-REGS in the Erode district located in the Tamil Nadu

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment breeds poverty, poverty is one of the most critical issues in the country. It is conventionally measured by the income and expenditure level that can sustain a bare minimum standard of living. But measuring standard of living is a tricky issue. Income or consumption levels and access to minimum level of social amenities are the important aspects of living standards. The factors giving supplementary information of poverty are life expectancy, infant mortality rate, nutrition literacy, access to primary schools, health clinic and drinking water etc., Absolute poverty views the poverty line as the expenditure required to purchase subsistence bundle of items by the individuals.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the rural areas the major economic activities are irregular and intermittent and seasonal fluctuations. This leads to periodic with drawl of labour force, especially on the part of marginal labours, often women, who shift back and forth between what is reported as domestic and gainful work. The poor economic status of rural people has forced them to use their children for some work. Such with drawl of children from school is another dimension of problem persisting in the rural areas. All these facts articulate for protection and sympathy from the government to safeguard the rural population in our county. As a result, many employment generation programmes have been attempted in the state.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio economic profile of sample beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- To know the awareness level of MGNREGS in the study area.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data base for this research study consists of both primary and secondary data. Perundurai block in Erode District is purposively selected for the present research work. There are two villages were purposively chosen for this study under Perundurai block (Singanaillore and Thingalore) under **Simple Random Sampling**. The sample villages were chosen because the MGNREG Scheme has been im-

plemented for a long time. Then 100 sample beneficiaries were chosen randomly consisting of 50 in Singanaillore, 50 in Thingalore. The sample beneficiaries were contacted with a specially prepared and pre tested questionnaire. The secondary data has been taken from the various official websites of MGNREGS.

STATISTICAL TOOLS:

- Frequency Distribution
- Henry Garrett Ranking Techniques

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Frequency Distribution

Table.1 showing Description of Socio Economic Profile of sample beneficiaries under MGNREGS following frequency distribution is constructed.

Profile	Groups	Frequency	Percent-age
Gender	Male	33	33
	Female	67	67
Age	29-39 years	11	11
	40-50 years	26	26
	Above 50 years	63	63
Social category	ST	2	2
	SC	30	30
	BC	68	68
Religion	Hindu	84	84
	Muslim	12	12
	Christian	4	4
Marital status	Married	76	76
	Widow / Widower	20	20
	Divorced	3	4
Educational Status	Illiterate	55	55
	Primary	33	33
	SSLC	7	7
	HSC	5	5
Landholding	Land Less	76	76
	Marginal(<1acre)	10	10
	Small(1 to 2 acres)	6	6
	Medium (2 to 5 acres)	8	8

Occupation	Agricultural labour	55	55
	Agriculture	21	21
	Petty Business	5	5
	Non Agriculture Labour	19	19
Annual Income	Rs.10000-Rs.250000	45	45
	Rs.25001-Rs.40000	23	23
	Rs.40001-Rs.55000	30	30
	Rs.55001-Rs.70000	2	2

From the above frequency distribution the following points are understood

- Majority of the respondents (67) are female
- Majority of the respondents (63) are having age group of more than 50 years old.
- Majority of the respondents (68) are belong to the community of BC
- Majority of the respondents (84) are Hindus
- Majority of the respondents selected for the study (76) are married.
- Majority of respondents (55) are illiterate.
- Majority of the respondents (76) are not having land for agriculture.
- Majority of the respondents (55) are agricultural labour.
- Majority of the respondents (45) are earning annual income of Rs.10,000-Rs.25,000.

Henry Garrett Ranking Techniques

This technique was used to know the awareness level of MGNREGS in the study area. In this method, the researcher was asked to rank the opinion about MGNREGS according to the statements. The orders of merit given by the respondents were converted into ranks by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percentage Position} = \frac{100(R_{ij}-0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where

R_{ij} = the rank given for i^{th} item j^{th} individual

N_j = Number of items ranked by j^{th} individual.

The percentage position of each rank thus obtained was converted into scores by referring to the table given by Henry Garrett. Then for each factor the scores of individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of respondents for whom the scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in the order of their ranks and inferences were drawn.

Table. 2 showing opinion about awareness level of MGNREGS

S.NO	STATEMENTS	TOTAL SCORE	MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	Understandable Programmable objectives of the scheme	7535	75	1
2	Easy eligibility norms	7430	74	3
3	Easy registration procedure	7390	74	3
4	Training	7251	73	6
5	Job card	7450	75	1
6	Time duration	7429	74	3
7	Nature of Work is easy	7312	73	6
8	Nominal wages	6983	70	8
9	Payment of Wages	6955	70	8
10	Span of control	6982	70	8

It could be seen from the above table that Understandable Programmable objectives of the scheme and job card were ranked first with a score of 75 Garrett points. Easy eligibility norms, Easy registration procedure and job card were the third rank with a score of 74 points. Training and Nature of Work is easy were ranked as the sixth with the score of 73 and Nominal wages, Payment of Wages and Span of control were ranked as the eighth with a score of 70 Garrett points.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The government has to ensure the benefits are justified and reached.
2. Awareness committee can be formed consisting of educated youth who would bring communication effectiveness of village building initiatives at district / block level.
3. Give full wages.
4. Increasing infrastructure provision like create water, and first aid box.
5. Low level of instructions of receiving wages.
6. Peoples all are participated in the Grama Sabha meeting.
7. Remove the corruption problem
8. Government employees should distribute the wages
9. Increasing wage rate
10. To include new ideas of the job.
11. Increasing number of working days.
12. To create the new employment.

The non-agricultural and self employment is precarious. The MGNREGP should provide more employment. The study found significant increase in the income level of the respondents. Almost all MGNREGP works of rural Tamil Nadu is focused on building poverty alleviation initiatives like water harvesting renovation of water bodies, etc. These works are very much telling with the visions of the programme i.e ensuring unskilled work to rural people to raise their livelihood. The programme should also address specific infrastructure initiatives that would deliver multiplying effects to their village. For a developing rural economy, the programme is definitely a boon but it needs to metamorphose fitting to the local-ity needs and there by maturing its activities from being just means of "short term job provider" to long term sustainable livelihood enhancement initiatives.

CONCLUSION

A person who is not gainfully employed is called unemployed. In India, the problem of unemployment has become very serious as around 9 percent of the labour force is unemployed. Not only there is open unemployment is structural in nature. In urban areas, unemployment is mainly industrial and educational in nature. In rural areas, it is seasonal and disguised in nature. Thus various causes responsible for high incidence of unemployment in India are growing population, in appropriate technology, faulty education system and failure of growth process in generation appropriate and adequate jobs. This approach seeks solution to the unemployment problem not through emphasizing any particular pattern of resource allocation technological choice but through special employment schemes especially rural public works like Mahatma Gandhi National rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGP). This approach regards the regular development process as being incapable of alleviating the problem of unemployment and under employment in the foreseeable future. The objectives are to analyze the socio-economic conditions of the percentage of population benefits under the scheme, to find out effective participation of beneficiaries, to know the awareness level of (MGNREGS) in the study area.

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