

# MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS) IN THE LIVELIHOODS RURAL POOR: A STUDY ON THATHANOOR VILLAGE AT DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

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**Abstract**—The study examined the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the livelihoods rural poor in Thathanoor Village at Dharmapuri District in India. The main aim of this scheme has been the creation of better employment opportunities, improved water security and higher land productivity by providing 100 days of employment to an adult member of a rural household who is willing to do unskilled manual work within 5 km his or her residence. Globally MGNREGS is identified as one of the most successful public works programme when compared to other programmes of the world. Altogether for the block as a whole, 85 respondents were selected for the survey. They were administered by a structured questionnaire along with personal open-ended discussion session and the data pertaining to various variables have been collected and interpreted by using a before-after method of analysis. I have analysed the impact of MGNREGS on income, expenditure, poverty and empowerment. The outcomes of the analysis of Thathanoor Village have brought multiple effects. While there was positive response in terms of income, political participation and empowerment of women, but in terms of the impact of the scheme on the reduction of poverty and the demands of work the responses were negative. Firstly, in terms of wages, the respondents were receiving only the wage for a maximum of 25 days they worked and for the remaining days they were unaware of unemployment allowances. Secondly, they were provided limited employment days as a result of works given and not demanded; this was something unlike the rules of the scheme as the work was to be given when the beneficiaries desired. With limited days of participation in the scheme their incomes increased and so did their expenditures, but if the days of employment were increased the scheme has the potential for being a role model in this region of Thathanoor Village Dharmapuri district.

**Keywords**— Land Productivity, MGNREGS, Poverty, Unemployment Allowances, Unskilled Manual Work.

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the middle of 20<sup>th</sup> century, public works have been central to rural development thinking and practice. The main aim of public works programmes is to minimize inequalities, marginalization and disparities in both the social and economic spheres by reducing poverty and vulnerability. As part of the rural poverty reduction agenda in many countries, national governments are increasingly investing millions of dollars in such programmes. There are different kinds of public works interventions, but the key components are the provision of employment by the state at a prescribed wage for those unable to find alternative employment. This provides a form of social safety net and livelihood security for the poor. Livelihood is one of the most important goals of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the well-known public works programme in India - being attempted through the creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity. Launched in 2006, MGNREGS has a great impact on the social transformation as well as on the livelihoods of poor and marginalized. Against this backdrop, this study evaluates the impact of MGNREGS's potential for livelihood security of rural poor in the Thathanoor Village at Dharmapuri District.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Development of the country is associated with the overall development of the rural areas and poverty is the basic feature of these areas. Development theories have it origin from three different halls of the academy. It has originated from

contradictions between economic growth and economic development which are the concerns of the field of economics, between the dialectics of modernity and tradition concerned in the study of sociology and between the theme of state and society which belongs to the academy of political theory (Nayak, 2008:1). The theories of economic growth were investigated by the mercantilists and physiocrats and by notable classical economists like Adam Smith, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill, Thomas Robert Malthus and Karl Marx in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century (Jingan, 1997: 92).

The theories that root the cause of poverty can be due to individual deficiencies, by cultural beliefs, by geographical disparities,

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Since recent past the issue of development provided by various rural development programmes has been a burning issue and has been discussed and debated by policy makers, economic reformists, sociologists and feminists. They have been debating on the issues relating to socio-economic, political progress and how the poor are found to be under oppressions of inadequacies to meet their daily requirements. In that critical and crucial juncture many of socio-economic reformists with the help of eminent scholars of social sciences have obtained research analysis on this issue. The following sections is an endeavour to focus on the already published works relating to rural development programmes in the form of books, volumes, dissertation, articles, research papers etc. focusing on the pre-implementation and post implementation of MGNREGA all over the country.

Scoones (2009) has in his work offered a historical review of key moments in debates about rural livelihoods identified the tensions, ambiguities and challenges of such approaches. He has identified number of core challenges, centred on the need to inject a more thorough-going political analysis into the centre of livelihoods perspectives.

Solesbury (2003) in his work presents a chronology and a descriptive narrative of the development of Sustainable Livelihood Approach and identifies and characterizes four key interactions between research, policy and practice in that development.

The World Bank Report (2009) describes the public works programmes as being more effective when they include community involvement in the planning and selection of projects undertaken with public works labour including the creation of infrastructure that is most needed by the community. This gives a sense of community ownership of the asset is more likely to result in the maintenance of that asset.

The World Development Report (2014) has described the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as a “stellar example of rural development”. The Annual Report credits the government’s flagship rural employment programme for not just unleashing a “revolution in rural India” but establishing a model of rural development.

Human Development Report (2014) also indicates that this kind of social net would also have multiple benefits in the human development. This is because MGNREGS has been able to provide income security to a large number of beneficiaries.

Sen (1975) wrote nearly two decades ago that “more has been written on the unemployment problem of India than on any other country in the world”. India’s history highlights the importance of empowering poor people and controlling corruption for poverty alleviation to succeed.

Bhende et al (1992) they attempt to analyze the role of Employment Guarantee Scheme in augmenting the wage income of rural households and its performance in terms of targeting the poor from the non-poor. They find that the Employment Guarantee Scheme provide employment when farm and off-farm employment opportunities are inadequate to absorb idle labour force in the rural areas. The scheme succeeded in targeting the poor from non-poor and it has helped in reducing the severity of poverty by augmenting the incomes of the rural poor.

Srinivas (1960) studied the India’s villages and observed that every village within a single state differed considerably in terms of economic, social, cultural, religious and political dimensions. In spite of several differences seen in the study, there was a thread of unity.

Chambers (1995) explores the different dimensions of poverty and illustrates the poor people’s criteria in the article “Poverty and livelihoods: whose reality counts?” The paper discusses neglected dimensions of deprivation including vulnerability, seasonality, powerlessness and humiliation and the need of objective in terms of replaced “employment” in jobs of livelihood.

Cameron and Lim (2005) studied those rural households influenced by the migration of adult household members to urban locations in search of employment. Children may be left in the care of their mother alone or in the care of

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grandparents when both parents have migrated. Their studies suggest that household types other than nuclear families result in some significantly worse child nutritional outcomes. The implication is that governments should protect the welfare of the children of migrants, either through targeted programs or through increased opportunities for employment in rural areas.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this study is to look at how MGNREGS can contribute to the development and livelihood security of rural people in Thathanoor Village. Following are some specific objectives:

- To study the economic and policy rationale for rural development programmes.
- To study the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Dharmapuri district Thathanoor village, in response to the role and relevance of such programmes with regard to the development of rural areas in general and as employment generation and poverty alleviation strategy for the rural poor, in particular.
- To investigate the impact of MGNREGS on the livelihoods of rural poor, economic stability and people empowerment.

## **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

- Research also an analysis if the rural people feels that improve to on salary time to quickly given to people expecting.
- Helpful for people suggestions to developed strategy.
- Further research can use this data (primary data).
- It focuses on how many people to use on this scheme work to help on livelihoods.

## **LIMITATIONS**

The study on 'Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the livelihoods of Rural Poor: A study of the Thathanoor Village, Dharmapuri District, had some limitations. The data collection was restricted to MGNREGS of Thathanoor Village which was survey. Thus, it may fail to represent the actual scenario of the whole village. Further due to the limitation of time and other resources it was not possible to work with a large sample of respondents, they have rural poor have been considered for the study.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

To make the research systemized the researcher has to adopted certain method. The method adopted by researcher for completing the project is called methodology.

### **Research Design**

A research design is the basic the frame work which provide guidelines for whole research Methodology. The choice of research design depends on the depth and expert of data required the costs and benefits of the research. The urgency of the work and time available for completing it. Descriptive research is used for this study

### **Population**

The population of the study impact of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Scheme on The Livelihoods of Rural Poor: a study of the Thathanoor village in Dharmapuri districts in Thathanoor region.

### **Sampling Design**

The way of selecting the sample is popularly known as the sample design. Sampling type adapted to this research is simple random sampling

### **Sample Size**

The sample size is 130 respondents.

### **Location of The Study**

Location of the study is Thathanoor Village, Dharmapuri district

**Types of Data**

- Primary
- Secondary

**Primary Data**

Primary data has been used for the purpose of the study. The primary data was collected by means of questionnaire and discussions with the respondents

**Secondary Data**

The secondary data was collected from office records. Magazines and websites for the analysis

**Data Collection**

The research instrument is the means and methods through which data are collected for the purpose of this study. Structured questionnaire was used it consists of 20 questions under various dimension.

**Statistical Tools**

1. Chi Square
2. ANOVA
3. Percentage analysis

**Chi-Square**

Chi-square was done to find out one-way analysis between socio demographic variable and various dimensions of the programme

$$= \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

O-Observed value

E-Expected value

**ANOVA**

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) is a collection of statistical models used to analyze the differences among group means and their associated procedures (such as "variation" among and between groups), developed by statistician and evolutionary biologist Ronald Fisher. In the ANOVA setting, the observed variance in a particular variable is partitioned into components attributable to different sources of variation

**Percentage Analysis**

This method is used to compare two are more series of data. to describe the relationship or the distribution of two or more series of data. Percentage analysis test is done to find out the Percentage of the response of the response of the respondent. In this tool various Percentage are identified in analysis and they are presented by the way of bar diagrams in order to have better understanding of the analysis.

$$\text{Percentage of respondents} = \frac{\text{Number of respondents}}{\text{Total respondents}} \times 100$$

**Table 1: Gender**

<i>Gender</i>	<i>No. of respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Male	64	49.2
Female	66	50.8
Total	130	100.0

The above tables show that majority 66% of the respondents are female and 11% of the respondents are male

**Table 2: Age**

Age	No. of respondents	Percentage
20-29years	6	4.6
30-39years	17	13.1
40-49years	72	55.4
50 and above	35	26.9
Total	130	100.0

The above table shows that majority 72% of the respondents are 40-49 years and 35% of the respondents are 50 and above and 17% of the respondents are 30-39years and 6% of the respondents are 20-29 years

**Table 3: ANOVA**

Aim: To find the age of the has MGNREGS helped you in making a sustainable livelihood of the respondent

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no variance between age of the has MGNREGS helped you in making a sustainable livelihood of the respondent

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a variance between age of the has MGNREGS helped you in making a sustainable livelihood

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	0.646	3	0.215	0.953	0.417
Within Groups	28.462	126	0.226		
Total	29.108	129			

### INTERPRETATION

Hence the above table shows that there is no significant relationship between age of the has MGNREGS helped you in making a sustainable livelihood of the respondent because p value (0.417) is greater than the threshold value of 0.05 hence we accept null hypothesis and reject alternative hypothesis

**Table 4: Chi-Square**

Aim: To find the gender of the respondent do you feel empowered of the respondent

H<sub>1</sub> There is no significant relationship between gender of the respondent and do you feel empowered of the respondent

H<sub>0</sub> There is relationship between gender of the respondent and do you feel empowered of the respondent

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.210 <sup>a</sup>	2	0.546

Hence the above table shows that there is no significant relationship between gender of the respondent and do you feel empowered of the respondents, because p value (0.546) is greater than the threshold value of 0.05 hence we accept null hypothesis and reject alternative hypothesis.

## FINDINGS

- 66% of the respondents are female
- 72% of the respondents are 40-49years
- 123% of the respondent are hindu
- 128% of the respondent are sc
- 104% of the respondent are married
- 53% of the respondent are 4 members
- 62% of the respondent are flood control
- 36% of the respondent are 41-60 days
- 83% of the respondent are daily workers
- 58% of the respondent are less than rs1000
- 69% of the respondent are agriculture/livestock/labourer

## SUGGESTIONS

- The government has to ensure the benefits are justified and reached.
- Awareness committee can be formed consisting of educated youth who would bring communication effectiveness of village
- Building initiatives at district /block level.
- Give full wages.
- Increasing infrastructure provision like create water, and first aid box.
- Low level of instructions of receiving wages.
- Peoples all are participated in the Grama Sabha meeting.
- Remove the corruption problem
- Government employees should distribute the wages
- Increasing wage rate
- To include new ideas of the job.
- Increasing no of working days.
- To create the new employment.
- The non-agricultural and self-employment is precarious. The MGNREGP should provide more employment. The mandatory employment of 100 days should be increased in the agenda of the programme. The study found significant increase in the income level of the respondents.

## CONCLUSION

The development programmes are targeted to improve living conditions, providing minimum needs, increasing productivity and employment opportunities. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is one of the rural development. The labour based programme executed by the central government. The 100 days flagship programme has provides immense help in the upliftment of the malnourished population. This study on 'Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the livelihoods of rural poor: A study of the Thathanoor Village in Dharmapuri District' has proved that, the scheme has been making a difference in the lives of the rural people. People was very poor they are expected increased salary and change to the working days in 100 days to change 150 days and eagerly waited for this work to permanently.

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