

Agricultural Labour After the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Programme: with Special Reference in Thanjavur District

¹B. Balambika, ²Dr. A. Arulraj

¹Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Economics, Rajah Serfoji Government College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu India

²Associate Professor & Head, PG & Research Department of Economics, Rajah Serfoji Government College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu India

Abstract:

The position of women is closely related with their economic condition, which in exchange, depends upon rights, roles and opportunity for this involvement in economic actions. In 2005, India established the National workfare programme the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that attempts to guarantee employment to the rural poor when they want it. The Massive system (2017-18 budget of around \$7 billion) has historically been plagued by substantial corruption, through double system reforms seem to have cut the leakage of funds over time (Imbert and Papp 2018). The researcher wants to know the current situation of agricultural labourers socio-economic status of after implementation of MGNREGS in Thanjavur. The main objectives of the study is 1) To analyse the social Status of the agricultural labourers after MGNREGS in the study area. 2) To examine the social Status of the agricultural labourers after MGNREGS in the study area. The researcher chose the random sampling method for this research. Both primary and secondary data is used for this study. The primary data was collected with the help of well structured questionnaire for 150 sample respondents from various villages of the Thanjavur District. The secondary data was collected from various published and unpublished sources. This study concludes that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is developing the rural women's socio-economic status in Thanjavur District. the women agricultural labourers are suffering due to climate change, low wage rate and gender in equality. This MGNREGS scheme is given a job security for all. This is help to met out their family expenses in the study area. The Government has to improve this scheme to given more employment opportunity like increasing the working days, and increasing the wage rate of the workers.

Keywords: Agricultural Labourers, Socio – Economic Condition, and MGNREGS

Introduction:

Socio – Economic growth is the primary goal of agricultural growth for rural people, particularly to bring some continuous improvement in their living status through the increase in their income and access to social goods. The position of women is closely related with their economic condition, which in exchange, depends upon rights, roles and opportunity for this involvement in economic actions. Pattern of women actions are impacted by the prevailing cultural orientation and also related with this stage of economic growth. Government implements several programmes to improve the cultural and economic growth in rural India. The beginning of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREG) is one of the affirmative programme is Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Thirunalvelli and Karur from 01.04.2007 ahead.

In 2005, India established the National workfare programme the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that attempts to guarantee employment to the rural poor when they want it. The Massive system (2017-18 budget of around \$7 billion) has historically been plagued by substantial corruption, through double system reforms seem to have cut the leakage of funds over time (Imbert and Papp 2018). The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) provides essential income protection for over 100 million families in rural areas by ensuring them work for 100 days. Through the system, workers get the daily salary ranging from 204 rupees (US \$2.47) to 333 rupees (US \$4.02) depending on the government they represent access to the income protection system is critical given the lack of job opportunities

in rural areas. It has been particularly critical for female's management of 58% of programme participants at 2022 – 23 were females, most of whom came from socially and economically marginalized families. The administration has run to digitize NREGA, including its attendance checks and salary payments, sufficient access to the net has turned into important for people's power to receive these vital benefits. Web news is already poor at distant areas covered by this system, causing severe challenges and setting back development on poverty reduction. The researcher wants to know the current situation of agricultural labourers socio-economic status of after implementation of MGNREGS in Thanjavur.

Statement Of The Problem:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is given a employment opportunity for agricultural labourers. Majority of the agricultural women labourers are getting benefits from this scheme, their livelihood is improved. This scheme is given a opportunity to live their own in the society. MGNREGS is how to improve the rural women's economic status in the study area.

Objectives Of The Study:

- To analyse the social Status of the agricultural labourers after MGNREGS in the study area.
- To examine the social Status of the agricultural labourers after MGNREGS in the study area.

Hypothesis For The Study:

- There is an insignificant relationship between age and No of Days employed in MGNREGS of the sample respondents in the study area.
- There is an insignificant relationship between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area.
- There is no significant difference between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents.

Methods And Materials:

The researcher chose the random sampling method for this research. Both primary and secondary data is used for this study. The primary data was collected with the help of well structured questionnaire for 150 sample respondents from various villages of the Thanjavur District. The secondary data was collected from various published and unpublished sources.

Result And Discussion:

Table – I: Age Of The Sample Respondents:

Age	Frequency	Percentages
Below 20 age	32	21.33%
21 to 40 age	65	43.33%
41 to 60 age	40	26.67%
61 and Above	13	08.67%
Total	150	100%

Source: compute from primary data.

The Table – I is shows that the age of the sample respondents in the study area. 43.33 (65) percentages of the sample respondents belongs to 21 – 40 age group, 26.67 (40) percentages of the sample respondents belongs to 41 – 60 age group, 21.33 (32) percentages of the sample respondents belongs to below 20 age group, and 08.67 (13) percentages of the sample respondents belongs to 61 and above age group in the study area.

Table – ii: Educational Status Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area.

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Below 8 th Std	28	18.67%
10 th Std / ITI	42	28.00%
12 th Std / Diploma	56	37.33%
UG Degree	18	12.00%
PG Degree and Above	06	04.00%
Total	150	100%

Source: Compute from primary data

Table – II is shows that the educational status of the sample respondents in the study area. 37.33 (56) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is 12th standard / Diploma, 28.00 (42) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is 10th standard / ITI, 18.67 (28) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is below 8th standard, 12 (18) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is UG degree, and 04.00 (06) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is PG degree and above in the study area.

Table – iii: No. Of Days Employed In The Mgnregs In The Study Area (Per Year):

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Below 40 Days	19	12.67%
41 to 60 Days	46	30.67%
61 to 80 Days	56	37.33%
81 Days and above	29	19.33%
Total	150	100%

Source: Compute from primary data

Table – III is reveals that the no. of days employed in the MGNREGS in the study area. 37.33 (56) percentages of the sample respondents 61 – 80 days employed in MGNREGS per year, 30.67 (46) percentages of the sample respondents 41 – 60 days employed in MGNREGS per year, 19.33 (29) percentages of the sample respondents 81 days and above employed in MGNREGS per year, and 12.67 (19) percentages of the sample respondents below 40 days employed in MGNREGS per year in the study area.

Table – iv: Primary Occupation In The Study Area:

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Agriculture	12	08.00%
Agricultural Labour	74	49.33%
Own Business	10	06.67%
Home Maker	54	36.00%
Total	150	100%

Table- IV is examine that the primary occupation of the sample respondents in the study area. 49.33 (74) percentages of the sample respondents primary occupation is agricultural labourers, 36 (54) percentages of the sample respondents primary occupation is home maker, 08 (12) percentages of the sample respondents primary occupation is agriculture, 06.67 (10) percentages of the sample respondents primary occupation is own business in the study area.

Table – V: Personal Income Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area (Per Month):

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Below Rs. 6,000	54	36.00%
Rs. 6,001 to Rs. 12,000	32	21.33%
Rs. 12,001 to 18,000	26	17.33%
Rs. 18,001 to Rs. 24,000	25	16.67%
Rs. 24,001 and above	13	08.67%
Total	150	100%

Source: Compute from primary data

Table – V is shows that the personal monthly income of the sample respondents per month in the study area. 36 (54) percentages of the sample respondents personal monthly income is Below Rs. 6,000, 21.33 (32) percentages of the sample respondents personal monthly income is Rs. 6,001 – Rs. 12,000, 17.33 (26) percentages of the sample respondents personal monthly income is Rs. 12,001 – Rs. 18,000, 16.67 (25) percentages of the sample respondents personal monthly income is Rs. 18,001 – Rs. 24,000, and 08.67 (13) percentages of the sample respondents personal income is Rs. 24,001 and above in the study area.

Table – Vi: Total Monthly Family Income Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area.

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Below Rs. 9,000	18	12.00%
Rs. 9,001 to Rs. 18,000	37	24.67%
Rs. 18,001 to 27,000	51	34.00%
Rs. 27,001 to Rs. 36,000	23	15.33%
Rs. 36,001 and above	21	14.00%
Total	150	100%

Source: Compute from primary data

Table – VI is explains that total monthly family income of the sample respondents in the study area. 34 (51) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is Rs. 18,001 – Rs. 27,000 per month, 24.67 (37) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is Rs. 9,001 – Rs. 18,000 per month, 15.33 (23) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is Rs. 27,001 – Rs. 36,000 per month, 14 (21) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is Rs. 36,001 and above per month, and 12 (18) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is below Rs. 9,00 per month in the study area.

Table – Vii: Total Monthly Family Expenditure Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area.

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentages
Below Rs. 6,000	25	16.67%

Rs. 6,001 to Rs. 12,000	33	22.00%
Rs. 12,001 to 18,000	53	35.33%
Rs. 18,001 to Rs. 24,000	29	19.33%
Rs. 24,001 and above	10	06.67%
Total	150	100%

Source: Compute from primary data

Table – VII is examine that the total monthly family expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area. 35.33 (53) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is Rs.12,001 – Rs. 18,000 per month, 22 (33) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is Rs. 6,001 – Rs. 12,000 per month, 19.33 (29) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is Rs. 18,001 – Rs. 24,000 per month, 16.67 (25) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is below Rs. 6,000 per month, and 06.67 (10) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is Rs. 24,001 and above per month in the study area.

Statistical Inference – I: There Is An Insignificant Relationship Between Age And No Of Days Employed In Mgnregs Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area.

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.898 ^a	.806	.805	.466		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Age						
ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	133.100	1	133.100	614.187	.000 ^a
	Residual	32.073	148	.217		
	Total	165.173	149			
a. Predictors: (Constant), Age						
b. Dependent Variable: No. of Days Employed in MGNREGS						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.165	.103		1.592	.114
	Age	1.070	.043	.898	24.783	.000
a. Dependent Variable: No. of Days Employed in MGNREGS						

$R = 0.898; R^2 = 0.806; F = 614.187; t = 24.783$

There is a high positive correlation between age and no of days employed in the MGNREGS in the study area.

H0: There is an insignificant relationship between age and no. of days employed in MGNREGS in the study area. The Statistical inference – I reveals that there is a high positive correlation between age and no. of days employed in MGNREGS in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed.

H1: There is a significant relationship between Age and No. of Days employed in the MGNREGS in the study area.

Statistical Inference – Ii: There Is An Insignificant Relationship Between Educational Status And Income Of The Sample Respondents In The Study Area.

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.882 ^a	.777	.776	.640		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Education						
ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	211.551	1	211.551	516.294	.000 ^a
	Residual	60.643	148	.410		
	Total	272.193	149			
a. Predictors: (Constant), Education						
b. Dependent Variable: Personal Income						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.942	.156		-6.024	.000
	Education	1.272	.056	.882	22.722	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Personal Income						

R = 0.882; R² = 0.777; F = 516.294; t = 22.722

There is a high positive correlation between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area.

H0: There is an insignificant relationship between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area.

The Statistical inference – II reveals that the there is a high positive correlation between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed.

H1: There is a significant relationship between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area.

Statistical Inference – Iii: There Is No Significant Difference Between Total Family Income And Expenditure Of The Sample Respondents

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.949 ^a	.900	.900	.362		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Total Family Income per Month						
ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	174.922	1	174.922	26.834	.000 ^a
	Residual	19.372	148	.131		
	Total	194.293	149			
a. Predictors: (Constant), Total Family Income per Month						
b. Dependent Variable: Total Family Expenditure per Month						
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.119	.078		1.518	.131
	Total Family Income per Month	.901	.025	.949	36.557	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Total Family Expenditure per Month						

R = 0.949; R² = 0.900; F = 26.834; t = 36.557

There is a high positive correlation between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area.

H0: There is an insignificant relationship between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area.

The Statistical inference – III reveals that the there is a high positive correlation between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed.

H1: There is a significant relationship between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area.

Findings Of The Study:

- 43.33 (65) percentages of the sample respondents belongs to 21 – 40 age group in Thanjavur District.
- 37.33 (56) percentages of the sample respondents' educational status is 12th standard / Diploma In the study area.
- 37.33 (56) percentages of the sample respondents 61 – 80 days employed in MGNREGS per year in the study area.
- 49.33 (74) percentages of the sample respondents primary occupation is agricultural labourers in the study area.
- 36 (54) percentages of the sample respondents personal monthly income is Below Rs. 6,000 in Thanjavur District.
- 34 (51) percentages of the sample respondents total family income is Rs. 18,001 – Rs. 27,000 per month in the study area.
- 35.33 (53) percentages of the sample respondents total family expenditure value is Rs.12,001 – Rs. 18,000 per month in the study area.
- The Statistical inference – I reveals that the there is a high positive correlation between age and no. of days employed in MGNREGS in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed. H1: There is a significant relationship between Age and No. of Days employed in the MGNREGS in the study area.
- The Statistical inference – II reveals that the there is a high positive correlation between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed. H1: There is a significant relationship between educational status and income of the sample respondents in the study area.
- The Statistical inference – III reveals that the there is a high positive correlation between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area. Therefore, the Null hypothesis is rejected and alternative Hypothesis is framed. H1: There is a significant relationship between total family income and expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area.

Conclusion:

This study concludes that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is developing the rural women's socio-economic status in Thanjavur District. the women agricultural labourers are suffering due to climate change, low wage rate and gender in equality. This MGNREGS scheme is given a job security for all. This is help to met out their family expenses in the study area. The Government has to improve this scheme to given more employment opportunity like increasing the working days, and increasing the wage rate of the workers.

Reference:

- [1] Ambasta P, Shankar PSV, Shah M. Two years of NREGA: The road ahead, Economic and Political Weekly, 2008; 43(8):41-50.
- [2] Bhalla S. Inclusive growth? Focus on employment. Social Scientist, 2007; 35(7):24-43. 10. Economic Survey (2009-10 & 2010-11) Government of India, New Delhi.
- [3] Dr. Prasad KVS. Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): An Overview, ISSN: 2230-9519 (Online) |ISSN: 2230-2463, IJMBS. 2012;
- [4] Dr. Vilas M. Kadrolkar, An Impact Assessment Study of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Act" (MGNREGA) In Karnataka, Global Research Analysis, ISSN No 2277-8160. 2012; 1(4).
- [5] Ghosh M. Inclusive growth and rural poverty in India: Policy implication for eleventh plan. Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2010; 65(3):552-561.
- [6] Harish BG, Nagaraj N, Chandrakantha MG, Srikantha Murthy PS, Chengappa G, Basavaraj G. (2011). Conducted a study on Impacts and Implications of MGNREGA on Labour Supply and Income Generation for Agriculture in Central Dry Zone of Karnataka, Agricultural Economics Research Review (Conference Number), 2011; 24:485-494.

- [7] Jacob, Arun and Varghese, Richard (2006) NREGA implementation- I reasonable beginning in Palakkad, Kerala. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41(48): 4943-4945.
- [8] Jha, R., Raghav, G. and Shylashri, S. (2008) Reviewing the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 43(11): 44-48.
- [9] Kareemulla, K., Kumar, S., Reddy, S.K., Rama Rao, C.A. and Venkateswarlu, B. (2010) Impact of NREGS on rural livelihoods and agricultural capital formation. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 65(3): 524-539.
- [10] Khera, R. (2008) Empowerment guarantee act. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 43(35): 8-10