

# IMPACT OF MGNREGP ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THRIKKUR GRAMA PANCHAYATH, THRISSUR DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT:** National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 was later renamed as the Mahathma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the “right to work”. It aims at to ensure the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult member’s volunteers to do unskilled manual work. With its legal framework and rights-based approaches MGNREGA provides employment to those who demand it and is a paradigm shift from earlier programs. Notified on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005, MGNREGP aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing guaranteed employment.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic status, women empowerment, problems in the worksite

## INTRODUCTION

The Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is an employment scheme in India, which provides 100 days of employment to all employment seekers above 18 years of age and who are willing to do work. The scheme was implemented on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005 in 199 districts in India and extended to another 130 districts later. In Kerala this scheme was implemented for the first time in Palakkad and Wayanad. The MGNREGP was launched to address the issues of extreme poverty and unemployment in rural areas as well as to provide opportunity and resources to build and improve rural infrastructure. The scheme successfully provided livelihood opportunity to a great number of poor rural households and checked short term distress migration to some extent besides improving the nutritional status and enhancing the dignity and social position of women in the family. The realization that the reason for the failure of central development model was that the issue of equity was not properly addressed while implementing various schemes led to MGNREGP. Most of the programmes implemented earlier suffered due to the fact that they failed to provide economic security to rural women. MGNREGP deserves special mention in this context. In the short span of 10 years that this employment programme has been in existence, it has generated 19.86 billion person-days of employment benefitting 276 million workers, with more than half the jobs going to women workers and almost a third to members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

This study is conducted in Thrikkur Gramapanchayath. Majority of population consist of farmers and self employed persons. This study aims at assessing the impact of MGNREGP on the employment generation and wages of the female household workers because social empowerment is achieved only through economic empowerment. It also points out the problems faced by the workers in the work place.

## OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the impact of MGNREGP on the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.
- To find out the problems faced by the workers in the work place and suggest remedies.

## HYPOTHESIS

$H_0$  1= There is no significance difference between economic status of members before and after joining MGNREG programme.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study entitled “IMPACT OF MGNREGP ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THRIKKUR GRAMAPANCHAYATH, THRISSUR” is descriptive in nature. Considering the location advantage and time constraint the study has been confined to Thrikkur Gramapanchayath in Thrissur district. As per 2011 population census it is spread over an area of 25.38sq/km with a population of 23707. It consist of 17 wards with a population of 2391 active MGNREGP women beneficiaries which forms the population for this study. From the 17 wards three wards namely 9 (Kallayi), 10 (kavallloor), 11 (Muttithadi) were selected for the study using simple random sampling (lottery method). For this study 120 samples were proportionately taken from the selected wards (40 from each wards) using non probability sampling method (purposive). The study has been carried out with the help of both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected with the help of unstructured schedule and informal interview with MGNREGP mates and overseer. Secondary data collected from various books, journals and E- resources. Statistical tools namely percentage, paired sample t-test, one sample t – test

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- ❖ **Geethanjali, K.**<sup>1</sup> in her article named “Impact of MGNREGA on Asset Creation and Empowerment of Women Wage Seekers” published in Southern Economist (2015) said that, rural unemployment is an abiding problem and cannot be deciphered through piecemeal approaches. A lot of people migrated from rural area to urban area due to the seasonal nature of rural employment and low wage. MGNREGP is a unique programme constituted for eradication of rural poverty and prevention of distressed migration.
- ❖ **Borah, Kabita and Rimjhim Bordoloi**<sup>2</sup> in their analysis named “MGNREGA and its Impact on Daily Waged women workers: A Case study of Sonitpur District of Assam” presented in Journal of Economics and Finance (2014) states that it is common in the developing countries that women are being ignored since pre historic time. The scheme has a positive impact on incomes, education and economic upliftment in the study area. And another major finding is that this programme helps to increase women participation in grama sabha, increasing number of women in speaking out in the meetings, increasing capacity of interaction etc. But the poor implementation across the nation (such as lack of child care facility, worksite facility and illegal presence of contractors) accrued the gender sensitiveness of this Act mainly in north-eastern state. Certain initiatives and changes should be taken to remove these barriers. The valuable gains should not be derailed for poor implementation.
- ❖ **Kar, Spandita**<sup>3</sup> in her article headed “Empowerment of Women through MGNREGS: Issues and Challenges” published in Odisha Review (2013) explains MGNREGA has positive impact on employment pattern of women. Women have benefited both as individual and community. Women are benefited individually because they are able to earn independently, spend some money for their own needs, contribute in family expenditure etc. The gained benefits of women as community can be understood by increased presence in Gramasabha meetings. This helps to become more aware of their citizenship rights and duties. Investing in informal groups is one way of doing this – policy has prioritized investment in training of elected leaders, which needs to continue, but democratic processes require active citizenship by all and this fact needs to find a place in resource allocations too.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

## Age classification

Age	Ward No:						Total	
	Ward Nine		Ward Ten		Ward Eleven			
	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%
30-40	7	17.5	2	5.0	2	5.0	11	9.2
40-50	4	10.0	6	15.0	9	22.5	19	15.8
50-60	9	22.5	12	30.0	13	32.5	34	28.3
60-70	8	20.0	15	37.5	9	22.5	32	26.7
70-80	12	30.0	5	12.5	7	17.5	24	20.0
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100	120	100

## Job other than MGNREGP

Job other than MGNREGP	Ward No:						Total	
	Ward Nine		Ward Ten		Ward Eleven			
	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%
Yes	16	40.0	13	32.5	16	40.0	45	37.5
No	24	60.0	27	67.5	24	60.0	75	62.5
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100	120	100

## Annual Income of respondents

Annual Income	Ward No:						Total	
	Ward Nine		Ward Ten		Ward Eleven			
	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%	No:	%
10000-20000	25	62.5	16	40.0	17	42.5	58	48.3
20000-30000	132	32.5	16	40.0	20	50.0	49	40.8
30000-40000	2	5.0	8	20.0	3	7.5	13	10.8
Total	40	100	40	100	40	100	120	100

<sup>1</sup> Geethanjali, K. (2015). Impact of MGNREGA on asset creation and empowerment of women wage seekers. *Southern Economist*, 81, 9-14.

<sup>2</sup> Borah, Kabita and Rimjhim Bordoloi. (2014). MGNREGA and its impact on daily waged women workers: A case study of Sonitpur district of Assam. *Journal of Economics and Finance*, 4 (4), 40-44.

<sup>3</sup> Kar, Spandita. (2013). Empowerment of Women through MGNREGS: Issues and Challenges. *Odisha Review*, 76-80.

**Impact of MGNREGP**

$H_0$  = There is no significance difference between economic status of members before and after joining MGNREG programme

Details		Paired differences		T Value	DF	P Value
		Mean	S.D			
Pair 1	Land and house details after- Land and house details before	.05000	.72006	.761	119	.448
Pair 2	House hold facilities after- House hold facilities before	-.60833	.72525	-9.189	119	<.001**
Pair 3	Household assets after- Household assets before (Financial)	-1.02500	.39879	-28.156	119	<.001**
Pair 4	Household assets after- Household assets before (Movable)	-.10000	.32797	-3.340	119	.001**

(Source: Computed data)

**Interpretation**

From its negative mean score it is revealed that, the MGNREGP has no positive impact on the economic status of members with respect to household facilities before and after, household assets before and after (financial) and household assets before and after (movable).

**Views on women empowerment**

$H_0$ = The opinion regarding all the statements of views on women empowerment are equal to average

Statements	Mean	S D	T Value	P Value
Recognized as earning member in your family after joining MGNREGP- E1	3.8083	.84312	10.502	<.001**
Involvement in asset acquisition and other investment decisions –E2	2.9000	1.24617	-.879	.381
Involvement in borrowing decisions –E3	3.4833	1.00405	5.273	<.001**
Active Involvement in family affairs –E4	4.1750	.83679	15.382	<.001**
Active Involvement in social activities –E5	2.6000	1.29900	-3.373	<.001**
Involvement in political activities –E6	2.0250	1.15564	-9.242	<.001**
Facilitate increased savings- E7	3.2083	.95174	2.398	.018*
Are you financially independent now? -E8	3.6333	.80891	8.577	<.001**
Are you confident in official dealings? -E9	3.4583	1.32776	3.781	<.001**

(Source: Computed data)

(Test value =3)

\*\*Denotes significant at 1% level

\* Denotes significant at 5% level

**Interpretation**

All most all of the statements measuring views on women empowerment rejected either at 1% and 5% significant level. Hence the opinions regarding all the statements of views on women empowerment are not equal to average.

**Views on problems faced at work place**

$H_0$ = The opinion regarding all the statements of views on problems faced at work place are equal to average

Statements	Mean	S D	T Value	P Value
Less cooperation from public -F1	3.7917	1.12941	7.679	<.001**
Non availability of work tools –F2	3.9750	.97414	10.964	<.001**
Lack of guidance/supervision- F3	3.1167	1.05467	1.212	.228
Lack of safety measures –F4	3.8917	.99407	9.826	<.001**
Communication problems –F5	2.6667	1.12521	-3.245	.002**
Health problems- F6	4.3000	.83616	17.031	<.001**

(Source: Computed data)

(Test value =3)

\*\*Denotes significant at 1% level

\* Denotes significant at 5% level

**Interpretation**

Majority of the statements measuring views on problems faced at workplace rejected at 5% level of significance level. Therefore opinions regarding all the statements of views on problems faced at workplace are not equal to average.

**FINDINGS**

- ✓ Highest percent of beneficiaries are belongs to the age group between 50 and 60. That means highest percent of beneficiaries are middle aged persons.
- ✓ 37.5% of workers go for other jobs than MGNREG.
- ✓ There is no positive impact on the economic status of the respondents with respect to household facilities and household assets (financial and movable) before and after.
- ✓ Since P values of all most all statements are less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is rejected at 1% significance level. Hence it is concluded that, opinion regarding all the statements showing views on women empowerment are not equal to average.
- ✓ Since P values of all most all statements are less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is rejected at 1% significance level. Hence it is concluded that, opinion regarding all the statements showing views on problems faced at workplace are not equal to average.

**SUGGESTIONS**

- ♣ Government should take effective steps to increase the wage rate. The wage rate is insufficient compared to the work done by them. In outside for this type of works, workers get double wage rate. So in order to uplift their economic status it is necessary.
- ♣ Government should try to increase the days of employment from 100.
- ♣ Panchayath should take care of the health issues faced by the worker at work site. Beneficiaries are spending more amounts from their MGNREGP wage to solve their health problems. Hence government should take initiatives in order to provide insurance facilities to the MGNREGP beneficiaries.

**CONCLUSION**

The result of the present study reveals that MGNREG has benefited to them to certain extend. It helps them to take money from their own pocket not for to meet full expenses but meet certain level of expenses. Now the beneficiaries are proud of being as an MGNREG worker not only because of they are recognized as an earning member in the family but also participating in asset creation and development of society after joining in this scheme. It reveals that they are working in those fields which are near to their house. So they can easily manage both work and family affairs. So it can be concluded that MGNREG has enable to make a positive impact on the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.

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