

MAHATHMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME IN DHARMAPURI TALUK – A STUDY

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INTRODUCTION:

The government like the 'Rural Manpower Programme' taught the lesson of financial management, the 'Crash Scheme for Rural Employment' of planning for outcomes, a 'Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme' of labour-intensive works, the 'Drought Prone Area Programme' of integrated rural development, 'Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Scheme' of rural economic development, the '**Food for Work Programme**' (FWP) of holistic development and better coordination with the states, the 'National Rural Employment Programme' (NREP) of community development, and the 'Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme' of focus on landless households. The Planning Commission later approved the scheme and the same was adopted on national scale. The unemployment is seriously viewed and to solve this problem many development programmes have been attempted in our country. Employment creation and poverty reduction are the core components of rural development. **Rural development is defined as structural of low-income population** residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self sustaining. It includes economics development with close integration among various sector; and economic growth specifically directed at the rural poor. In fact, it requires area based development is one of the main and important tasks of development planning in India.

The unemployment level India is growing over the year. The number of persons found registered with the employment exchange was 36.7 million in 1994, which rose to 40.8 million 1999 and 42.0 million in 2001 year wise registered with the employment exchange in quest of seeking employment to earn their livelihood. But the trend of placement through employment exchange is dealing by a significant proportion. The placement has come down to 2.53 Lakhs in 1991 from 5.04 Lakhs 1981 and introduced further to 1.10 Lakhs

in 2001. Since the early 1970 the government of India introduced a series of antipoverty cum employment generation schemes. Some of them are given below.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:

The National Rural Employment Act of 2005 (NREGS) confers legal right to employment on the rural citizens, is a Landmark in the history of independent India. It seeks “to provide for enhancement of livelihood security of the household in rural areas of the country (except J&K) by providing at least one hundred day of guarantee employment in every financial year of every household whose adult members volunteer to do the unskilled work the schemes made under the Act” initially starting from 200 most backward districts of the country. Will be extended to the whole country within a period of five year.

Central government shall meet the cost towards the payment of wage $\frac{3}{4}$ material cost and certain percentage of administrative cost. State government unemployed allowance $\frac{1}{4}$ of material cost and administrative cost and state council.

Entitlement:

A house hold is entitled for 100 days of work in a year within the household have the right to demand employment.

Registration of rural households for wages employment.

A household that wants work under this Act should submit name, age, sex and addresses of its adult members to the local Gram Panchayat for registration.

Job Card to every registered household.

Upon registration a job card will be issued by the Gram Panchayat with photographs of adult members of the registered household. It will be valid for five year and will have the registered number of the household.

Application for work

To get employment the registered adult must submit an application on a plain paper in writing to Gram Panchayat or the programme officer (at block level) and get a dated receipt of the application. The application should be submitted for at least 14 days of continuous work. Women with get priority to the extent that one third of persons who are given employment are women have asked for work.

Allotment for work

Within 15 days from submitting the application or from the data when employment is sought employment should be provided by the Gram Panchayat. Grama Panchayat will inform applications where

and when to report for work within 15 days by means of a Letter public notice of this will be displayed on the Grama Panchayat's Office.

No contractor will be allowed to work under the scheme.

Payment of unemployment allowance

If the eligible applicant does not get employment within 15 days of demand of work or the date from which he sought work, he shall be provided unemployment allowance. There will be no unemployment allowance if a person does not appear for the work allotted.

Minimum entitlement of labourers

- The Statutory minimum wage application to agricultural workers in the state to be paid.
- Wages to be paid not later than a fortnight after the data on which work was done.
- Work will be provided within 5 km of applicants residence. If employment is provided beyond 5km radius of the applicant's residence then he is entitled to 10 percent additional wages towards transport and living expenses.
- If a worker gets injured working on the site, free medical treatment will be given by the state government.

Creation of durable assets:

- Water conservation and water harvesting.
- Drought proofing, including alternations and tree plantation.
- Renovation of traditional water bodies including desalting of tanks.
- Flood control and protection of works including drainage in water – logged areas.
- Land development.
- Rural connectivity to provide all weather roads.
- Any other work which may be notified by the central Government in consultation with state governments.

Implementation of the Act

- The Gram Sabha will identify works to be taken up the Panchayat have the principle responsibility for planning implementing and monitoring.

- All agencies implementing NREGA will be accountable to the public for their work social audit and right to Information will apply to each aspect of implementation.
- Local vigilance monitoring committee will be set UP.
- The Act will be notified in 200 district indentified by the central Government in the phase in five years it will cover the whole country.

So far, the scheme that was geared to alleviate rural poverty and create natural resource assets has been extended to 200 districts and is targeted to 583 district in five years. The second phase was to start around July which is six months after the first one began but for the abrupt halt. According to the ministry, the reason for pulling the brakes is the gap between demand and supply in employment. By the end of May, around 17.1 million job cards were issued and 71 lakh people demanded employment. Only 60 lakh received it.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

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

OBJECTIVES:

These studies have the following objectives.

1. To study the socio and economic changes of the beneficiaries in Dharmapuri Taluk.
2. To find out their level of Income of the Beneficiary in this study area.
3. To compare the consumption pattern of the beneficiary before and after the programme in this study area.
4. To find out how the income out of this programme is spent particularly by the female beneficiaries.
5. To find out how for this programme is being successful in the study area.
6. To analyse the percentage of rural population benefited out of this programme.

Dharmapuri district, which came into existence on **02.10.1965** is situated in the North Western Corner of Tamil Nadu and is bounded by Dharmapuri and Villupuram Districts on the east, Salem District on the

South, Krishnagiri District on the north and Kaveri River on the west. It is located between latitudes N 11.47' and 12 .33' and longitudes E 77.02' and 78.40'. The total geographical area of Dharmapuri District is 4497.77 Sq Kms, i.e. 3.46% of area of Tamil Nadu.

The District economy is mainly agrarian in nature. Nearly 70% of the workforce is dependent on agriculture and allied activities. **The district is one among the most backward and drought prone areas in the state.** The objectives are to analyse the socio and economic changes of the beneficiaries, to find out their level of Income, to compare the consumption pattern of the beneficiary before and after the programme, to find out how for this programme is being successful in the study area and to analyse the percentage of rural population benefited out of this programme.

The database for this research study consists of both primary and secondary data. Dharmapuri district is purposively selected for the present research work. In the district three villages were purposively chosen for this study viz., Annasagavam, Budanahalli and Mookanur. The sample villages were chosen because the NREGP programmes have been implemented for a long time. Then 100 sample beneficiaries were chosen randomly consisting of 34 in Annasagavam, 33 in Budanahalli and 33 in Mookanur. The sample beneficiaries were contacted with a specially prepared and pre-tested questionnaire. The necessary secondary data were collected from the Block Development Office. The study period was from 2006 to June 2007. The collected data have been analysed and presented in five chapters of this dissertation.

- 72 percent of the respondents are beneficiaries of the rural development programme (NREGP).
- 52 percent respondents are belonging to Most Backward Class (MBC).
- 100 percent of the respondents are belonging to Hindu religion.
- In the study area 75 percent of the respondents are male and remaining 25 percent of the respondent female.
- All the respondents are dwelling in rural area with nuclear family.
- 85 percent of the respondents are earning below Rs.12000 and 10 percent of the respondent earning Rs.25,000 and this people are coming under below poverty line. The remaining 5 percent of the respondent coming under above poverty line.
- Majority (31.21 percent) of the people have studied primary and elementary education and 29 percent of them are illiterates.

- Majority of the people have borrowed loan from bank before implementation of the programme but after the implementation it has reduced.
- In Mookanur people having livestock population has increase when compared to the other villages.

Suggestion:

It is observed in the study that the earners are less to feed the dependents. To increase the number of earners the NREGS should cover all the households in the villages.

The money lender, traders merchants are the major creditors in the villages. This is negative credit structure in the sample villages. To remedy this situation the money lender should be evicted from the villages. Further the institutional loan arrangement should be strengthened in the villages.

The non-agricultural and self – employment is precarious. The NREGS should provide more employment. The mandatory employment of 100 days should be increased in the agenda of the scheme.

Conclusion:

The study found no significant increase in the income level of the respondent. To make the programme successful the NREGS should provide more work vis-à-vis income to the beneficiaries. "Enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work". Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells). Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance in this study area. The Government step taken provide to 100 days employments every family in this study area.

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