

# Socio- Economic Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Workers in Thootukudi District in TamilNadu

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**Abstract** - As public works programmers one of the main intended benefits of MGNREGA is the creation of additional employment. The scheme also has the potential to affect rural labor market when alternative job opportunities are viable. MGNREGA has radically transformed the manner in which poor rural households view their rights as citizens and has served as a critical source of livelihood for many of the poorest households at times when no work was available in private rural labor markets. MGNREGA has not been a complete success but it has significant potential to transform power relations in the rural country. It deals with gender wise classification, age of respondents, marital status, religion, occupation, education, nature of family, and family income in the study.

**keywords** - Livelihood, Employment opportunities, Socio Economic Analysis

## 1. Introduction

It is estimated that in 2005 there were 2.6 billion people living in poverty that is on less than us\$2 per day and about 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty, that is one less than, despite a robust economic growth, poverty and unemployment continue to be the major economic problems with 75 percent of the rural population living below poverty line and 74 percent unemployed population hailing from rural India (sanyal, 2011). MGNREGS participants consume more high-value commodities like milk, chicken, and fish as compared to MGNREGS non-participants (devi, 2011) MGNREGS induced significant changes in the annual per capital income, monthly per capital food expenditure, annual per child expenditure on education, per capital saving, condition of the dwelling houses, access to health care facility and possession of other assess or luxury items for these household which are regularly working in the scheme (sankar et al. 2011) MGNREGS works related to drying pond road construction, land development have environmental benefit such as ground recharge, increased soil fertility reduction in soil erosion and improved tree cover, integrate the fishing activities on the community basis as provide strong livelihood security to the landless people. These environmental benefit derived from MGNREGA works have contributed to reducing the agricultural and livelihood vulnerability in the MGNREGS (koustab majundart 2016) rural development in India is one of the most important factors for the growth of the Indian economy. India is regarded as the land economy. India is regarded as the land of villages out of 1, 210,276,932 (121 crore) Indian economy 833,087, (68.84 crore) live in urban areas. Poverty, unemployment farmers deaths, drought low, level of communication, illiteracy have increased during last few decades (ganyadhara reddy 2016) this scheme is the biggest poverty alleviation program in the world poverty alleviation program in the world providing work 5 crore rural households or 10 crore workers one in every 3 rural household is a worker under this program. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, mal-nourished children, anemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty and the failure of subsistence predication during brought.

## 2. Methodology

The present study aims to enumerate the sources of rural workers in Thootukudi district of Tamil Nadu, based on both the primary and secondary data. The primary data relating to the study was collected with the help of the specially prepared Interview Schedule. The data were collected from significant sample beneficiaries of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from Thootukudi districts of Tamil Nadu. Stratified Proportionate sampling techniques methods was used. The secondary data was collected from Journals, Books, Reports, Newspapers and the like to substantiate the study and as supportive evidences in the field of study.

## 3. Collection of data

A pilot study was conducted with 30 MGNREGS rural workers to assess the status. The data relating to the profile of MGNREGS rural workers, family data of MGNREGS rural workers, MGNREGS rural workers employment data, General information of MGNREGS rural workers, feedback on MGNREGA, problems in MGNREGS, awareness about MGNREGS. The Thoothkudi district comprises of twelve blocks and all the twelve blocks are selected for field survey. From each block out of the total panchayats 25 per cent of the panchayats are selected as sample by using lottery method. From 25 per cent of the sample panchayats out of the registered workers (0.5%), 275 workers are identified as the sample respondents for the study by using multistage random sampling method.

## 4. Socio Economic Characteristics of workers

In this section, an attempt is made to discuss the demographic characteristics such as gender age, marital status religion, community, literacy level and the like.

#### 4.1. Gender –Wise Classification of the Respondents

Gender is one of the important profile variables of the respondents. It has its own impact on the employment pattern. The problems encountered in availing employment may also be influenced by the gender of the respondents. Hence, the present study includes the gender as one of the important profile variables. The gender –wise classification of the respondent is shown in Table 1. **Gender –Wise Classification of the Respondents**

S.No	Gender	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	80	15.15
2.	Female	448	84.85
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: It is observed from Table 1 that out of the total respondent, 84.85 percent are female whereas remaining 15.15 percent of the males. Hence the majority of the MGNREGA workers are female in Thootukudi District.

#### 4.2. Age of the respondents

Since the age of the respondents is one of the important market segments among the workers , it is included in the present study. The awareness on MGNREGA depends upon the age of the respondents. In the present study , the age of the respondents is classified into below 25 years , 25to 35 years, 35 to 50 years and 51 and above . The age wise classification of the respondents is presented in Table 2. **Age –Wise Classification of the Respondents**

S.No	Age	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Below 25 years	9	01.70
2.	Between 25 – 35 years	107	20.27
3.	Between 35– 50 years	223	42.23
4.	above 50 years	189	35.80
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: The above table shown that out of 528 , majority of 223 (42.23 percent) of the workers in the age group of 35-50years,followed by 189 (35.80 percent),107 (20.27 percent) and 9 ( 1.70 percent) are in the age group between 51 and above, 25-35 years and below 25 years respectively.

#### 4.3 Classification of respondents based on Marital status

The marital status is classified into three categories namely, married, unmarried, widow and divorced. The marital status among the respondents is shown in Table 3. **Classification of respondents based on Marital status**

S.No	Marital status	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Un married	16	03.03
2.	Married	422	79.92
3.	Widowed	80	15.15
4.	Divorced / Separated	10	01.90
	Total	528	100.00

It could be evident from Table 3 that the majority of the respondents are married. They constitute 79.92 percent to the total. It was followed by widows, unmarried and divorced, which constitute 15.15 percent, 03.03 percent and 01.90 percent respectively.

#### 4.4. Classification of respondents based on Religion

The religion is classified into three categories namely, Hindu, Muslim and Christian. The details about the religion – wise classification of the respondents are shown below in Table 4. **Classification of respondents based on Religion**

S.No	Religion	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Hindu	352	66.67
2.	Christian	174	32.95
3.	Muslim	2	00.38
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: It is found from Table 4 that the majority of the respondents are Hindu, which constitute 66.67 percent. It was followed by Christians and Muslim, which constitute 32.95 percent and 0.38 percent respectively. It is concluded that among the 528 workers under MGNREGA selected under study, 352 are Hindus, 174 are Christian and only 2 are Muslims in the study area.

#### 4.5 Community wise classification

It is an accepted fact that caste system is so deep rooted in India and villages are no exceptions to this. It is being found that class system is to a considerable extent, influenced by caste structure. In the present study for the purpose of analysis, the castes are divided into four board categories. They are Scheduled caste/ Tribe, Most Backward Class, Backward Class and Other Class. The details are given in Table 5. **Community- wise Classification of the respondents**

S.No	Community	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	OC	6	01.14
2.	BC	310	58.71
3.	MBC	80	15.15

4.	SC / ST	132	25.00
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: The above table shown that 37 percent of MGNREGS members are BC religion, 33 percentage of the respondent are SC/ST, 23 percentage of the respondent are MBC, only 7 percentage of the respondent are OC religion.

#### 4.6 Occupation –Wise Classification

In the present study , the occupation is confined to Agricultural labour, Former, driver, Daily wage earner. Table 6 presents the details about the distribution of the respondents according to their occupation. **Occupation –Wise Classification**

S.No	Primary occupation of the Family	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Agricultural labour	76	14.39
2.	Small Former	162	30.68
3.	Driver	8	01.52
4.	Daily wage earner	282	53.41
	Total	528	100.00

It is evident from Table 6 that out of 528 workers , 282 ( 53.41 percent) come under the category of daily wage earner followed by small former, agricultural labour and driver which constitute 30.68 percent, 14.39 percent and 1.52 percent respectively. It is concluded that the majority of the workers under MGNREGSA belong to daily wages earner in the study area.

#### 4.7. Education –Wise Classification of the respondents

The level of education respondents the level of formal education completed by the respondents at the time of interview. Since the level of education provides more awareness on the employment schemes, the level of education may increase the level of expectation and also determine the level of awareness on MGNREGA schemes. In the present study, the level of education is confined to illiterate, primary, secondary, higher secondary and degree/ diploma education. Table 7 presents the details about the distribution of respondents according to their level of education. **Table 7: Level of Education –Wise of the respondents**

S.No	Education	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	189	35.80
2.	Primary Education	277	52.46
3.	Secondary	53	10.04
4.	degree /diploma	9	01.70
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: Table 7 shows that level of education among the respondents that the important levels of education among them are primary education which constitutes 52.46 percent to the total respectively. The number of respondents with illiterate, secondary and degree/diploma education constitutes 35.80, 10.04 percent and 1.70 percent to the total respectively. It is concluded that the majority of the respondents have primary education in the study area.

#### 4.8. Type of family of the Respondents

The nature of family respondents the type of family pattern at which the respondents are living . In the Indian setup, the traditional family system is joint family system under which, the respondents are living are living along with their parents, brothers, sisters and their children under one family. The respondents belongs to nuclear family and joint family system in the present study are shown in table 8. **Type of family of the Respondents**

S.No	Type of family	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	409	77.46
2.	Joint	119	22.54
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: The above table shown that 77.46 percent of the respondents are nuclear family system in the MGNREGA and only 22.54 percentage of the respondent are joint family system.

#### 4.9. Annual Income of the Respondents

The family income of the respondents indicates the total income earned by the earning members of the family during a year. Since the family income is an important factor in determining the standard of living of the respondent, it may have its own impact on the employment. The family incomes per year are confined to below Rs.100000, Rs. 100001-200000, Rs. 200001- 400000 and above Rs.400000.The distribution of the respondents on the basis of their family income is shown in Table 9. **Annual Income of the Respondents**

S.No	Annual Income of the household	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1.	below Rs.100000	367	69.51
2.	between Rs.100001 – 200000	84	15.91
3.	Between Rs. 200001 – 400000	55	10.42
4.	above Rs.400001	22	04.16
	Total	528	100.00

Source: primary data: The above table shown that 69.51 percent of the respondents are below Rs.100000 annual income in the MGNREGA, 15.91 percentage of the respondent are between Rs.100001 - 200000, 10.42 percentage of the respondents are between Rs. 200001-400000 and only 04.16 percentage of the respondent are above Rs.600000 of the annual income.

## 5. Findings

1. The out of the total respondents, 42.23 percent are female where as the remaining 35.80 percent are male.
2. The majority of the respondents are age group of between 35-50 years.
3. The majority of the respondents are married.
4. The majority of the respondents are Hindus.
5. The majority of the respondents are scheduled caste/ tribe.
6. The majority of the respondents are daily wages earners.
7. The majority of the respondents are nuclear family.
8. The majority of the respondents are below Rs.100000 incomes in the study area.

## 6. Conclusion

The MGNREGA is a land mark legislation aimed at strengthening livelihood security for the rural poor guaranteeing 100 days wage employment in an adult member and unskilled work. In this scheme workers livelihood has increased in the study area.

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