ISSN: 2349 - 4891
International
Journal of Recent Research and Applied Studies
(Multidisciplinary Open Access Refereed e-Journal)

A Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Tamil Nadu with Reference to Tiruvannamalai District

[1]K.GOVINDAN & [2]K.R.SARAVANAN,
[1,2]Ph.D. Research Scholars, PG & Research Department of Economics
Muthurangam Govt. Arts College (A), Vellore - 632 002
Affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Serkkadu, Vellore - 632 115

[3]Dr.S.PERUMAL & [4]Dr.N.TAMILARASI,
[3,4]Guest Lecturers Department of Economics
Government Thirumagal Mills College, Gudiyattam, Vellore – 632 232

[5]Dr.G.JAYASANKAR.
[5]Associate Professor & Head, PG & Research Department of Economics, Muthurangam Govt. Arts College, Vellore-632 002
Affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Serkkadu, Vellore - 632 115

Abstract

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is an important rural employment and livelihood-support programme in India. It provides a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year to each eligible rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake such work. In addition to wage employment, the scheme aims to strengthen livelihood resources, promote social inclusion and create durable rural assets. This article presents an analytical framework for examining the implementation and socioeconomic significance of MGNREGS in Tamil Nadu, with particular reference to Tiruvannamalai district. The study is designed around secondary information from the Ministry of Rural Development's MGNREGA Management Information System, the Government of Tamil Nadu's Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, district-level publications and relevant research studies. Key indicators include job-card registration, demand for work, households provided employment, person-days generated, participation of women and socially disadvantaged groups, completion of 100 days of employment, wage-payment performance and types of assets created. Since programme statistics change by financial year and are updated dynamically, district-specific numerical findings should be inserted only after downloading and verifying the relevant official reports. The article concludes with a framework

for assessing employment access, implementation challenges and the contribution of MGNREGS to rural livelihood security.

Keywords: MGNREGS, rural employment, livelihood security, Tiruvannamalai district, wage employment, rural development.

Introduction

Rural unemployment, seasonal underemployment and unstable household income remain important development concerns in India. Rural households dependent on agriculture and allied activities may experience fluctuations in employment because of rainfall variability, crop cycles, limited non-farm opportunities and changing market conditions. Public employment programmes can provide an income-support mechanism during periods when regular work is unavailable. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 established a rights-based framework for providing wage employment to rural households. The programme seeks to improve livelihood security through demand-driven unskilled manual work and the creation of productive community and household assets. The Government of Tamil Nadu identifies MGNREGS as a major programme for employment generation, strengthening the livelihood resource base of poor households, social inclusion and Panchayat Raj institutions.

Thiruvannamalai district provides a relevant setting for studying the scheme because rural livelihoods and local development needs vary across villages and blocks. A district-level assessment should examine not only the number of registered workers but also whether households demanding work receive employment, whether wages are paid on time, who benefits from the scheme, and whether the works created are useful and durable. This article follows the general structure of the uploaded model article, while focusing on MGNREGS implementation in Tiruvannamalai district.

Review of Literature

The MGNREGA Act and official programme guidelines provide the institutional basis for understanding employment entitlements, implementation responsibilities, social audits and asset creation. Government of India programme material describes MGNREGS as a demand-driven scheme intended to provide at least 100 days of wage employment per rural household per financial year, subject to the provisions of the Act.

The Ministry of Rural Development's Management Information System provides administrative data on job cards, demand for employment, employment provided, person-days, expenditure, work status and payment-related indicators. These data make it possible to compare implementation across financial years and administrative levels. The Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department provides state-level information on the scheme and its implementation.

A district-level review should also engage with empirical studies on rural employment, women's labour-force participation, wage income, livelihood security, local asset

creation and transparency in public works. The present article identifies a need for a focused analysis of Tiruvannamalai using verified district-level indicators. A final submitted version should add peer-reviewed studies that directly address MGNREGS in Tamil Nadu or comparable districts.

Objectives of the Study

To explain the objectives and major features of MGNREGS in Tamil Nadu.
To examine the implementation of MGNREGS in Tiruvannamalai district using official programme indicators.
To analyse employment generation, person-days and participation by women and disadvantaged social groups.
To assess wage-payment processes, completion of 100 days of employment and the types of assets created.
To identify implementation challenges and suggest measures for improving the effectiveness of the scheme.

Data and Methodology

Nature of the Study

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design. It is proposed primarily as a secondary-data study. If primary data are collected from workers, Panchayat representatives or programme officials, the article should separately explain the sample size, sampling method, study villages, questionnaire and fieldwork period.

Sources of Data

The principal source is the official MGNREGA Management Information System (MIS), where the researcher can select Tamil Nadu, Tiruvannamalai district, the relevant block or Gram Panchayat, and the financial year. Supplementary sources include the Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, district statistical publications, government reports and published academic studies.

Period of Study

Specify the financial years covered after the relevant official data have been downloaded (for example, a five-year period ending with the latest complete financial year). Record the date on which the online data were accessed because MIS figures may be revised.

Tools of Analysis

Percentage analysis: (Number in a category / Total) × 100.
Year-wise comparison of households demanding and receiving employment.
Trend analysis of person-days generated and expenditure.
Gender and social-group comparison, where official disaggregated data are available.
Gap analysis between employment demanded and employment provided.
For primary data, suitable descriptive statistics and tests may be applied according to the research questions and data structure.

Scheme Overview and Study Framework

The scheme's core entitlement is at least 100 days of guaranteed unskilled manual employment per financial year for each eligible rural household whose adult members volunteer for such work. The

official Tamil Nadu scheme description also identifies livelihood-resource development, social inclusion and strengthening of Panchayat Raj institutions as important objectives. Implementation review should cover registration and job cards, applications for work, allocation of employment, worksite facilities, wage payments, grievance redressal, social audit and the quality of completed assets. For Thiruvannamalai district, the analysis may be organised at district, block and Gram Panchayat levels. The same indicator definitions and financial-year periods should be used throughout the tables so that comparisons remain meaningful.

Statistical Analysis: Tables to Complete from Official Data

Table 1. Annual MGNREGS implementation in Tiruvannamalai district

Indicator	Year	Person-Days
Registered job cards / households	2019-2020	1,48,86,489
Households demanding employment	2020-2021	3,13.58,136
Households provided employment	2021-2022	2,58,05,190
Person-days generated	2022-2023	2,51,78,823
Households completing 100 days	2023-2024	2,57,68,733
Total expenditure / wages paid	2024-2025	1,61,73,969

Source: MGNREGA MIS, Thiruvannamalai district; specify financial years and access date. Do not retain placeholder entries in the final article.

Table 2. Employment demand and provision

Indicator	Number of households	Percentage / rate
Households demanding work	2,60,600	100% reference
Households provided work	2,50,9000	96.28%
Demand–provision gap	97,000	3.72%

Suggested calculation: Employment provision rate = (Households provided employment / Households demanding employment) × 100. The figures must use the same financial year and reporting level.

Table 3. Participation by gender and social group

Category	Workers / person-days	Share (%)	Source year
Women	12,28,986	49.86%	2011
Men	12,35,889	50.14%	2011
Scheduled Castes	5,65,329	22.94%	2011
Scheduled Tribes	90,954	3.96%	2011

Use the exact categories available in the selected MIS report. Do not assume that worker counts and person-days are interchangeable.

Results and Discussion

Employment Generation

The final analysis should compare the number of households demanding employment with the number that received employment in each selected financial year. A high employment-provision rate may indicate that demand was largely met, while a persistent gap requires further investigation into work availability, application recording and administrative capacity. No conclusion should be drawn until the relevant Tiruvannamalai figures have been entered and checked.

Person-Days and the 100-Day Entitlement

Person-days generated measure the volume of employment created, whereas the number of households completing 100 days indicates how many households reached the statutory annual employment benchmark. These are different indicators and should be analysed separately. The district total alone may conceal substantial variation between blocks and villages.

Women's Participation and Social Inclusion

The article should examine women's participation using official worker or person-day data and state clearly which measure is used. It should also consider participation among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other eligible groups where disaggregated information is available. Participation rates do not by themselves establish improvements in empowerment or household welfare; these outcomes require suitable survey evidence.

Wage Payments and Worksite Conditions

The assessment should review wage-payment timeliness, rejected transactions, access to bank or post-office accounts, worksite facilities and grievance mechanisms using the relevant official reports and, where possible, worker interviews. Any claim about delayed payment or implementation failure should be supported by a defined indicator, period and source.

Rural Asset Creation

MGNREGS works may support water conservation, drought mitigation, land development and rural infrastructure, subject to approved work categories and current guidelines. A district study should identify the major completed works and assess their

usefulness, maintenance and durability. Administrative completion records should ideally be supplemented by field observations.

Major Findings

This section must be finalised after official Tiruvannamalai district data have been collected. Report findings in concise points, such as: (i) trend in households demanding and receiving employment; (ii) change in person-days; (iii) share of households completing 100 days; (iv) women's participation; (v) wage-payment performance; and (vi) types and distribution of assets. Insert the relevant figures, financial years and source citations for each finding. Do not present illustrative or placeholder values as actual results.

Suggestions and Policy Implications

Improve awareness of job-card registration and the procedure for demanding work.

Ensure that employment demand is properly recorded and that eligible households receive work in accordance with the Act and applicable guidelines.

Strengthen monitoring of wage-payment delays and rejected transactions, and provide accessible grievance support.

Improve worksite facilities, including drinking water, shade, first aid and other facilities required by applicable guidelines.

Prioritise locally useful and durable assets based on village needs, water conservation and livelihood-resource development.

Strengthen Gram Sabha participation, social audits and public disclosure of work and payment information.

Provide regular training to Panchayat and programme staff on planning, record maintenance and digital reporting.

Publish block-wise and year-wise performance summaries to identify implementation gaps and share effective practices.

Conclusion

MGNREGS is an important rights-based public employment programme intended to strengthen rural livelihood security while creating productive assets. A study of Tiruvannamalai district can contribute to understanding how employment demand is met, how person-days and wages are distributed, and whether the scheme reaches rural households that need wage employment. However, reliable conclusions depend on using comparable official statistics and clearly specifying the financial years and administrative levels covered. The proposed framework combines trend analysis, percentage calculations and examination of employment, inclusion, payments and assets. A stronger district-level evaluation may combine official MIS data with primary information from workers and local institutions. Evidence-based monitoring, transparency, timely payments and community participation can help improve programme implementation and rural development outcomes.

References

Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), official portal. https://nrega.nic.in/

Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development. MGNREGA Public Data Portal / Management Information System. https://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/dynamic2/dynamicreport_MPR.aspx

Government of Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. https://tnrd.tn.gov.in/schemes/cen_nrega_13.html

Press Information Bureau, Government of India (3 December 2024). Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme ensuring 100 days of wage employment for rural households. https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2080090&lang=2&reg=48