



MGNREGS A Facilitator for Rural Development in Tamilnadu

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Abstract – The intention of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is to provide a basic employment guarantee in rural areas. Poverty alleviation programmes comprising of wage employment programmes, rural housing schemes and a public distribution system have been initiated from time to time. The earlier wage employment programmes did not attain the goals and aims. The objectives of the study were to analyse the financial pattern of MGNREGS, employment generation, asset creation, achieving women empowerment under MGNREGS. MGNREGS has transformed our rural India by eradicating poverty enabling the safety net for the unemployed especially during famine and drought leading to sustainable development. Here the researcher has studied the overview of MGNREGS in Tamilnadu.

Keywords: MGNREGS; Rural Development; Tamilnadu

1. INTRODUCTION

In India, 72 percent of population lives in rural and remote villages. India's economy mainly depends upon rural development and growth. Rural growth tends to agricultural development and the improvement of rural infrastructure. After Independence, our country faced a lot of economic problems as well as social problems such as population growth, poverty, unemployment, lack of industrial development, inadequate infrastructure, ignorance, low level of savings and investment. In these circumstances, there is a need to reconstruct and trigger rural growth in order to relieve from the socio-economic problems. Poverty alleviation programmes comprising of wage employment programmes, rural housing schemes and a public distribution system have been initiated from time to time. The earlier wage employment programmes did not attain the goals and aims. In this situation, the Government of India implemented MGNREGS on 2nd February, 2006 with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work".

MGNREGS plays a vital role as a social change instrument which facilitates changes in the village. This scheme has the potential to transform the lives of millions of rural poor by guaranteeing wage employment through the creation of productive assets. The MGNREGS has reduced distress migration from poor regions, provided secured incomes for women, supported agricultural wages and increased incomes for wage workers who are arguably amongst the poorest in the country. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment and its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development. There are three overarching goals in MGNREGS: i) employment creation; ii) regeneration of the natural resource base and creation of productive assets in rural areas; and iii) strengthened grassroots processes of democracy through transparent and accountable governance. Another important aspect of MGNREGS is the increasing participation of women in it. It not only provides employment to them but by giving wage rate equal to that of a man, it has empowered the women economically as well as socially. It aims at creating sustainable rural livelihood through regeneration of the natural resource-base, i.e. augmenting productivity and supporting creation of durable assets and strengthening rural governance through decentralization and processes of transparency and accountability. In addition to this, the aim of MGNREGS is to create durable assets that would augment the basic resources available to the poor.

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