

**A Study on the Impact of MGNREGS on the Forming In Thirumaur Block, Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu**

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**Abstract**

The aim of this research paper is to study the impact of MGNREGS on Agriculture after its implementation. This study is Explorative in nature and an attempt has been made to explore the problems and Challenge faced by formers after the implementation of the scheme. The universe of the study is all the formers in Thirumaur block in Ariyalur District. Primary as well as secondary data were used in this study. This research study reflects mainly the effects of the scheme on agriculture. All the respondents agree that they had enough laborers for agricultural work before the implementation of MGNREGS. They also agree that the laborers expect more wages after the implementation of MGNREGS. They are also of the opinion that there is a shortage of laborers after the implementation of MGNREGS for agriculture work.

**Keywords:** Farmer, Agricultural labour, MGNREGS and Higher Wage.

**Introduction**

India is the largest democratic country with rich and varied culture and life styles. There are industrious cities and fertile villages. "India lives in its villages" - Mahatma Gandhi once said. It is still true because of the fact that out of 121 crore Indians, 83.3 crore live in rural areas while 37.7 crore stay in urban areas and nearly 70 per cent of Indian population living in rural area.<sup>1</sup> the villagers depend on agriculture for their living. When agriculture fails them, they hurl in poverty. They central and state governments have implemented various schemes to eradicate the poverty of the rural people. The prime goal of rural development is to improve the quality of life to the rural people. Considering the importance of the above fact, Government of India has devised MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) being the world largest employment providing scheme.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1: Time-Line of MGNREGA**

<b>August 25th, 2005</b>	<b>NREGA enacted by legalization</b>
<b>September 5th, 2005</b>	<b>Assent of the President</b>
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup> 2005</b>	<b>Notified in the Gazette of India</b>
<b>February 2nd, 2006</b>	<b>Came into force in 200 districts</b>
<b>April 1st, 2007</b>	<b>113 more districts were notified</b>
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>17 more districts were notified</b>
<b>October 2nd, 2009</b>	<b>Renamed as MGNREGA</b>

**Source:** Compiled from various reports of MGNREGA

MGNREGS has become the cornerstone of the central government's employment policy in rural areas. At least one adult member in each household in the rural areas of India is entitled to at least 100 days of guaranteed employment every year.<sup>3</sup> There is a room for the government to take up concurrent evaluations, more effective monitoring, time-series studies, and focused reports on critical aspects like minimum wages, muster rolls. Therefore it can be called as the mirror of the society.<sup>4</sup> Moreover; the study on this scheme becomes essential as it has affected the rural people and agricultural works both directly and indirectly and in a positive and negative way. These should be studied closely to

identify the negative aspects and the central reasons behind them. So that they can be rectified in order to make the scheme more successful.

### Objectives of the Study

Following are the objectives taken for this study.

#### Overall Objective:

1. To study the problems and challenges faced by formers because of the impact of implementation of MGNREGS.

#### Specific Objectives:

2. To study the effect of MGNREGS on the availability of form labours.
3. To study the effect of MGNREGS on the wages for agricultural labours.
4. To study the impact of MGNREGS on the nature of agricultural work.
5. To suggest ways and means to improve MGNREGS and reducing agriculture problems.

### Methodology of the Study

Research methodology is a way of systematically solving the problem (C.R. Kothari). Explorative Research Design has been used in this study to explore the impact of MGNREGS on Agriculture. The universe of the study is the farmers living in Thirumanur block, which has 36 Panchayats. The sample size of this study is 60 farmers consisting of 20 small farmers, 20 marginal farmers and 20 large farmers; <sup>5</sup> this information was obtained from official criteria of land holding as secondary data. Therefore, this study is made with primary as well as secondary data. The structured interview schedule was used as a tool for the collection of primary data and this schedule was prepared in Tamil language so that it could be understood by the respondents. Simple percentage method has been used to analyse the data.

### Analysis & Data Interpretation

Data with regard to impact of MGNREGS on Agriculture are analyzed, interpreted and shown in various heads in the following tables.

**Table –2: Method of Employment of Agriculture Laboure**

S. No.	Type of laborers	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Daily Wage	39	65.0
2.	Contract and Daily wage	21	35.0
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

It may be ascertained that form the table No.2 that 65.0 per cent of the respondents choose laborers for daily wages, whereas 35.0 per cent of the respondents agree that they get labours on contract and daily wages basis.

**Table – 3: Impact on Duration of Working Hours**

S. No.	Duration of Working Hours	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Reduced	24	40.0
2.	No change	36	60.0
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

It may be interpreted from the table No.3, that 60.0 per cent of the respondents feel that there are no changes in the working hours while 40.0 per cent of them say that the working hours have reduced.

**Table –4: Impact on Involvement of Labors in Agricultural Works**

S. No.	Involvement of Labors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Reduced	51	85.0
2.	Increased	09	15.0
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

It can be inferred from the table No.4 that nearly 85.0 per cent of the respondents agree that the involvement of labors in agricultural works has reduced due to the implementation of MGNREGS as many as 15 per cent of the respondents feel that the involvement of the labors has increased.

**Table – 5: Impact on Migration of Agricultural labors among villages**

S. No.	Migration of Agricultural Labors	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Affected	11	18.3
2.	Unaffected	49	81.7
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

It can be assumed from the above table that migration of laborers has reduced as 81.7 per cent of the respondents accept this fact and 18.3 per cent of the respondents feel there is no impact on migration of agricultural labors among villages.

**Table – 6: Impact on the usage of machinery in Agricultural Works**

S. No.	Usage of machinery	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Reduced	41	68.3
2.	No change	19	31.7
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

It may be assumed from the above table that 68.3 per cent of respondents also agree that agricultural has become machine dependent due to lack of agricultural laborers, while 31.7 per cent of them feel that there is no impact on going for machinery for their agricultural works.

**Table –7: Impact on shortage of Labours**

S. No.	Shortage of Labours	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male worker	09	15.0
2.	Female worker	38	63.3
3.	Male and Female worker	13	21.7
	Total	60	100.0

**Source:** Field Study

From table No.7, it may be disclosed that 63.3 per cent of the respondents feel that there is a shortage of female workers after the implementation of the scheme, while 21.7 per cent say that shortage of both male and female workers exist.

### **Findings of the Study**

After analyzing and interpreting the collected data, the following findings are emerged;

1. There is shortage of female workers for agriculture work after the implementation of the scheme.
2. Agricultural has become machine dependent due to lack of agricultural laborers.
3. Migration of laborers has reduced owing to the implementation of the scheme.
4. Involvement of labors in agricultural works has reduced due to the implementation of MGNREGS.
5. There are no changes in the working hours because of the implementation of the MGNREGS.
6. Laborers expect more wages after the implementation of MGNREGS.

### **Suggestions of the Study**

Following are the suggestions with regard to the above findings.

1. MGNREGS can be implemented during summer, when there are practically no or less agricultural works.
2. Machineries can be used for the most difficult and dangerous works.
3. Works should be given to people below poverty line.
4. Works could be finished in particular time. So that there are sufficient laborers for other works especially agricultural works.

### **Conclusion**

The present study is an attempt to describe the important variable that is the impact of MGNREGS on Agriculture. The study has brought out important findings which indicate significant differences between the MGNREGS works and its relation to the agricultural works, the benefits. Being the world largest employment generation scheme, it should be made expandable and agriculture friendly one and proper convergence of MGNREGS with agriculture may boost the forming activities in our country.

### **References**

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