



International Journal of Research in Engineering & Social Sciences
Website: www.indusedu.org (ISSN 2249-9482, Volume 4, Issue 3, March 2014)

**AWARNNESS AND WORK MECHANISMS OF MGNREGA AT
PERIYANAICKENPALAYAM BLOCK IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as an instrument in reducing the massive influx of poor rural unemployed workers. This programme helps the poor to reduce the level of hunger, repay the debts, sending their children to the school, tuition and getting better medical facilities. MGNREGA generates productive employment opportunities at rural areas really empowering rural women, leads to social equity and finally reduce the livelihood vulnerability index. On this background, an attempt is made to analyze the awareness and mechanism of getting work of MGNREGA programme. The main objectives of the study are to study the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries, to estimate the awareness of the programme and to analyze the mechanism of getting work to be done under this Act. The study was conducted in the Periyanaickenpalayam block in Coimbatore District and the data is collected with a structured questionnaire. The target group is the person registered under this MGNREGA programme, and the list is received from the President of the Block. The findings of the study revealed that above ninety percent of the beneficiary were women. Most of the people were aware of the programme and they bring their own equipment for the work, and every beneficiary of the MGNREGA act had easy access and received their job card.

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MGNREGA is a ray of hope for the rural downtrodden. It acts as an instrument in reducing the massive influx of poor rural unemployed workers. This programme helps the poor to reduce the level of hunger, repay the debts, sending their children to the school, tuition and getting better medical facilities. MGNREGA generates productive employment opportunities at rural areas really empowering rural women, leads to social equity and finally reduce the livelihood vulnerability index. It act as a platform for the vulnerable to raise their 'voice', assert their rights to hold the accounts , take collective action thereby transforming social protection to social justice. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) under the 'Ministry of Rural Development' strives for the enhancement of rural livelihood by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The latest form of wage employment program is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) which offers 100 days of guaranteed employment to the rural unemployed ment of unemployment benefit in lieu of that, an enforceable right of citizen to demand employment. Thus, NREGA is a public works program with a difference, which moves away from being a purely supply-side intervention to one which caters to demand for wage employment at individual/family level in rural areas. The Key features of the MGNREGA programmes are legal right to employment for adult members of rural households and one third of the beneficiaries must be definitely women, the wage rates are determined by the Central government. Time bound guarantee of work and unemployment allowance is provided. Decentralized planning done by the Grama Sabhas and Panchayat Raj for planning, implementation and monitoring of the works. Work site facilities should be provided. There are provisions for proactive disclosure through wall writings, citizen information boards, Management Information Systems and social audits. Social audits are conducted by gram sabhas to enable the community to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the study are:

- To study the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries of the MGNREGA programme
- To analyse the awareness of the MGNREGA among the rural people.
- To estimate the mechanisms of getting work that are to be done under the Act.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. The Coimbatore district consists of nine Taluks, 9 blocks, four municipalities and two corporations in area of 7,470.79 sq km. It is one of the most industrially advanced and commercially vibrant districts of Tamilnadu the data for the study is purely primary in nature. The study was conducted in Periyanaickenpalayam block in Coimbatore district. The survey was planned in consultation with the Project –Officer, DRDA, BDOs and Head/Professor of Home Science Extension Education, Avinashilingam University. The investigators had a structured questionnaire to know about the socio economic programme, awareness and work mechanisms under the scheme. The target group of the study was the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programmer. The beneficiaries of various Panchayat from Periyanaickenpalayam block is shown in Table: 1

Table: 1 Selection of Sample in Periyanaickenpalayam Block

Name of the block	Name of the Panchayat	Number of Sample
Periyanaickenpalayam	Najundapuram	35
	Billich	27
	Pannimadai	50
	Chinnathadakam	41
	Asokapuram	27

RESULTS

The study on the Awareness and Mechanism of MGNREGA in Coimbatore district are discussed under the following heads,

- Socio-economic background of the beneficiaries
- Awareness about the scheme
- Mechanism of getting work

i) **SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE BENEFICIARIES**

The Table-2 shows the socio economic background of the beneficiaries

Table – 2: Socio-Economic Background of the Beneficiaries

Particulars	Categories	Periyanaickenpalayam	Percentage
		N=160	
Gender	Male	16	10
	Female	144	90
Educational Status	Illiterate	141	89
	Primary School	16	10
	Middle School	2	1
	High School	-	-
Age	21-30	11	7
	31-40	19	12
	41-50	34	21
	51-60	35	22
	61-70	41	26
	71 and above	20	12
Caste	SC/ST	125	78
	BC	20	13
	MBC	8	5
	Others	7	4
Income (monthly)	Below 1000	48	30
	1001-2000	47	29
	2001-3000	25	16
	3001-4000	20	13
Bank account	Yes	139	87
	No	21	13
Name of the bank	IOB	102	64
	Canara	22	14
	Union Bank	21	13
	State Bank	5	3
Post office	Yes	21	13
	No	139	87
Occupation	Coolie	112	70
	Domestic help	48	30
Type of ration	Green	120	75
	PLI	40	25
Possession of land	Yes	-	-
	No	160	100

Provision of	Yes	152	95
	No	8	5
Toilet facility	Yes	45	28
	No	115	72
Water facility	Yes	108	67
	No	52	32

Source : Field Survey

The table reveals that the ninety percent of the beneficiaries are women. Nearly 86 percent of educational status was illiterates and 10 percent have completed their primary school level. Twenty-Five percent of people belong to the age group of 61-70 years. Among 160 beneficiaries of the programme, 78 percent belongs to SC/ST category. Only 10 percent had the income above the Rs 4000 and above, and 29 percent of people had the income between Rs1000-2000. The bank account holders were 87 percent among the beneficiaries. The green color ration card holders were nearly 75 percent and 70 percent of the people were engaged in coolie works. No beneficiaries had their own land and 95 percent of them had the electricity connections. Nearly 72 percent of the people did not have toilet facilities and 67 percent of the people had the water facility. The above table depicts the infrastructure facilities have enhanced in the rural areas.

ii) AWARENESS ON MGNREGA

The table reveals the awareness of MGNREGA programme among the people

Table :3 –Awareness on MGNREGA

Particulars	Categories	Periyanaickenpalayam	
		N=160	Percent
Sources of information	President	45	28
	Neighbours	70	44
	Ward members	31	19
Knowledge about the scheme	Yes	82	56
	No	78	44
Distance from house/ work site	Yes	125	53
	No	75	47
Employment day	Yes	91	57
	No	69	43

Beneficiaries should bring working equipment	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-
Knowledge about salary (eligible wage)	Yes	140	87
	No	20	13
Number of days employment provided	Yes	148	92
	No	12	8
Machinery utilized	Yes	-	-
	No	160	100
Accident provision	Yes	75	47
	No	85	53
Worksite facilities	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-
Vigilance committee formed	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-

Source : Field Survey

The table reveals that 28 per cent got information about the scheme through presidents and 44 percent know from the neighbours. Maximum number of people had knowledge about the scheme. 100 per cent stated that they are bringing their own equipment and 87 percent had the awareness on the wages.

iii) MECHANISMS OF GETTING WORK

The mechanisms of getting work done is shown in table-4

Table :4 - MECHANISMS OF GETTING WORK

Particulars	Categories	P.N.Pakayam N=160	Percentage
Mode of putting application	Oral	108	67
	Written	52	33
Way of register is easy	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-
Time period taken to get job card	Within a day	90	56
	Less than one week	50	31
	Less than 15 days	20	13
Type of proof given	Ration card	148	92
	ID card	12	8
Issued proof for	Yes	160	100

registration	No	-	-
Money spent for getting job card	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-
Time period taken to get job	Immediately	112	70
	Within a day	13	8
	Within two days	24	15
	Within a week	11	7
Photos of beneficiary on job card	Yes	160	100
	No	-	-
Money spent for taking photos	Yes	-	-
	No	160	100
Custody of job card	Self	160	100
	President	-	-
	Clerk	-	-
	Family head	-	-

Source : Field Survey

Under the MGNREGA programme, 80 percent of the beneficiaries had submitted their application orally to the president as well as panel out clerk. All beneficiaries accept that the way of registration was easy (100 percent). Nearly 42 percent of them accepted that their job card was received within a day. The Ration card was given as the proof of identity by more than 85 percent of beneficiaries. Cent percent of the people had their photo in their job card and also accepted that they did not spend money for their job card. The job card is under the self custody of the beneficiary.

CONCLUSION

The objective of the Act is to enhance the 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' volunteers to do unskilled manual work. In the study area, the beneficiaries of the Mahatma National Rural Employment programme, the infrastructure facilities have increased and all of them had good knowledge about the programme and wages.

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