

CHAPTER - IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study relating to “**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) on Economic Conditions of Paniyan Tribal Population**” are discussed under the following heads:

- 4.1 Profile of paniyan tribal population in MGNREGA programme.
 - a. Socio – demographic characteristics of paniyan tribal respondents
 - b. Living conditions of paniyan tribal population.
- 4.2 Economic status of paniyan tribal people before participating in MGNREGA Programme.
 - a. Details on nature of work, income, savings and debt.
 - b. Preference towards MGNREGA
- 4.3 Economic status of paniyan tribal people after participating in MGNREGA Programme.
 - a. Association between participation in MGNREGA and Socio – economic and Demographic Variables.
 - b. Improvement in standard of living among paniyan tribal population.
 - c. Determinants of family income of tribal respondents.
 - d. Saving pattern of tribal respondents.
 - e. Benefits of MGNREGA.
 - f. Relationship between MGNREGA and standard of living among Paniyan tribal Population.
- 4.4 Health conditions of Paniyan tribal people.
- 4.5 Problems faced by the Paniyan tribal respondents.

4.1 Profile of Paniyan Tribal Population in MGNREGA programme.

A. Socio – demographic characteristics of Paniyan Tribal Respondents:

In India the tribes form a significant section of the population mainly because of two factors: they constitute 8.14 percent of the total population, numbering 8,45,11,216 persons (2001 census) which has increased to 8.6 percent numbering 104,281,034 (census 2011) and they have distinct cultures, dialects and economic pursuits in different ecological settings. Since independence they have been incessantly drawing the attention of policy makers because of their geographical isolation, backwardness, shyness of contact, primitive traits etc. Although some of the tribes of various districts in India have advanced a lot, a majority of them still fall in the category of backward tribes who find it difficult even to earn their livelihood. On the one hand, they are constantly losing their ethnic identity, but on the other hand, they have not been able to integrate themselves with the mainstream society. Their system of marriage, family patterns, occupation, gender relations and their lifestyle differentiate them from their non-tribal counterparts. The present study traces the pattern of socio-economic changes in the lifestyles of selected tribal group (Paniyans) which are found in Gudalur block of Nilgiri district. Socio-economic and cultural changes in tribal society is probably one of the most inadequately researched areas in academic field. There are wide gaps in knowledge regarding the levels of living, determinants and consequences of tribal society's lifestyles, socio-economic changes, problems among various tribal groups. The changes in life styles of tribal society are miserable and that is neglected field for many years. The socio – demographic profile of the selected sample population is presented in table – IV.

Table – IV
Socio – Economic Conditions of Paniyan Tribal Population

S:No	Details	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender		Male		Female	
	Total		645	313	48.5	332
2	Marital Status	Married	245	78.4	265	79.9
		Unmarried	52	16.6	52	15.5
		Widow	16	5.0	15	4.6
Total			313	100	332	100
3	Age	Up to 30	156	49.8	86	25.9
		31 – 40 Years	92	29.4	186	56.1
		Above 40	65	20.8	60	18.0
Total			313	100	332	100
4	Educational Status	Illiterates	188	60.0	274	82.5
		Primary	70	22.4	58	17.5
		Secondary	55	17.6	-	-
		Higher Secondary	-	-	-	-
		Others	-	-	-	-
Total			313	100	332	100
5	Type of Family	Joint	277	88.5	319	96.1
		Nuclear	36	11.5	13	3.9
Total			313	100	332	100
6	Number of Dependents (elders)	1 – 2	46	14.7	21	6.3
		3 – 4	103	32.9	213	64.2
		5 – 6	164	52.4	98	29.5
Total			313	100	332	100
7	Number of Children	Nil	16	5.1	10	3.0
		1 – 2	119	38.0	83	25.0
		2 – 4	178	56.9	239	72.0
Total			313	100	332	100

Source: Field Survey 2019.

Gender:

Gender is a term that has been used to divide people into male and female categories. India is a fascinating and vibrant place with its many “cultures, customs, castes, and religions”. Sons are still considered superior to daughters in India, as they are in many other countries, and women are forced to be submissive to men at home and at work (Kindon, 2001 and Santhosh 2017). Table - IV reveals information about the Paniyan tribal group that has been investigated. Male respondents accounted for 48.5 percent of MGNREGA workers, while female respondents made up 51.5 percent of the overall workforce.

Marital Status:

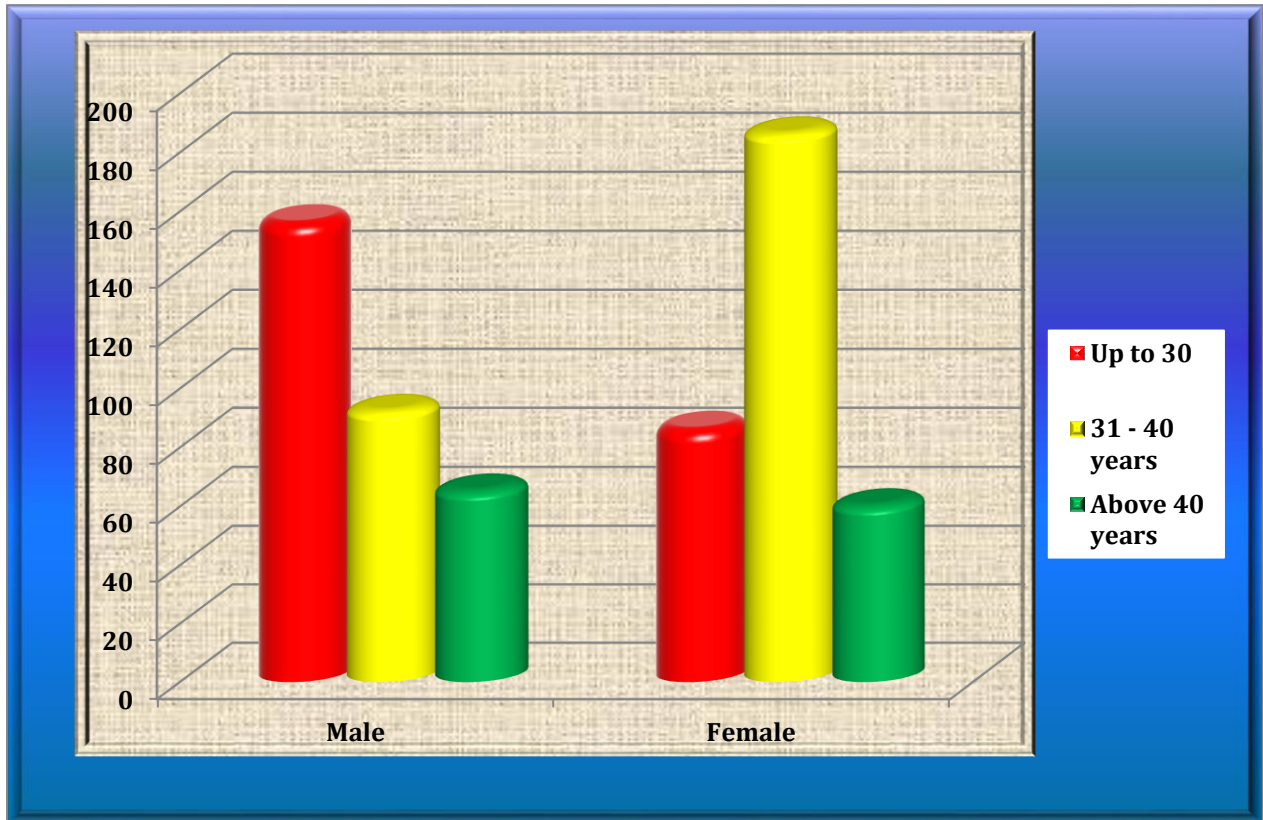
People are divided into three groups depending on their marital status. Marital status is one of the important factors that influences household employment and income through MGNREGA. According to the current study 78.4 percent of the male population was found to be married, 16.6 percent was unmarried, and 5.0 percent was widowed. Among the female respondents, 79.9 percent of them were married, 15.6 percent were unmarried and widowed were 4.6 percent. In their study, Castelli (2018) and Pillai (2014) noticed that a large number of married people were found among MGNREGA employees who were motivated to participate in MGNREGA due to economic necessities.

Age:

The age of the respondent determines his or her level of awareness about MGNREGA programme (Angappan 2014). Age is one of the determinants of socioeconomic status of a person. Table – IV shows the age profile of the respondents in the study area. It is worth noting that only 30 percent of male respondents and 56 percent of female respondents were in the most productive age group of 31 – 40 years. Similar findings were reported in a survey conducted by Thilaka (2018), in which it was noted that the sample had a higher female participation rate.

Figure – 7

Age wise distribution of the respondents



Education:

Swami Vivekanandha says that “If a child cannot reach education, then education must reach the child”. Sivaprasad and Chetlal (2020) stressing the need for education, remark that it must help in empowering India especially tribals, the neglected community. Tribal students apart from learning education must have the service mind to serve their own community. They must help their people to overcome exploitation and preserve their rights.

The human capabilities of a nation are strengthened by education. Training encompasses all aspects of human development in the broadest sense. Table – IV shows the distribution of all the individuals involved in MGNREGA depending on their educational attainment. India is a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-lingual, and multi-ethnic democracy. Scheduled Tribes are one of the most visible backward classes or economically marginalised groups in society. Despite several efforts to promote formal education since independence, the literacy rate among scheduled Tribes has remained low, with female literacy at 34.22 percent, compared to 70.3 percent nationally (Joshi and Basu 2013).

Gautam (2013) in his study discovered that Paniyas gave less importance for schooling. They believe that the educated young generations were reluctant to return to their traditional jobs. According to the results, the Paniyas face a severe illiteracy problem. Low education is said to be the root cause of their social backwardness. Parents in tribal communities are negative about their children's education. It is possible to conclude that school enrollment is decreasing among Paniyan settlements due to poor infrastructure development and a lack of better facilities for higher education. Just a small percentage of tribal parents are concerned for their children's education. They still have a high dropout rate; among the respondents 60 percent of male respondents were illiterate, while 82.5 percent of the female respondents were illiterate. Just 22.4 percent of male respondents had completed primary school; only 17.5 percent of the female respondents completed up to high school, while 17.6 percent of male respondents completed up to secondary school. In their study, Negi et al. (2017) and Kumar (2018) derived similar findings in their study. They concluded that between the

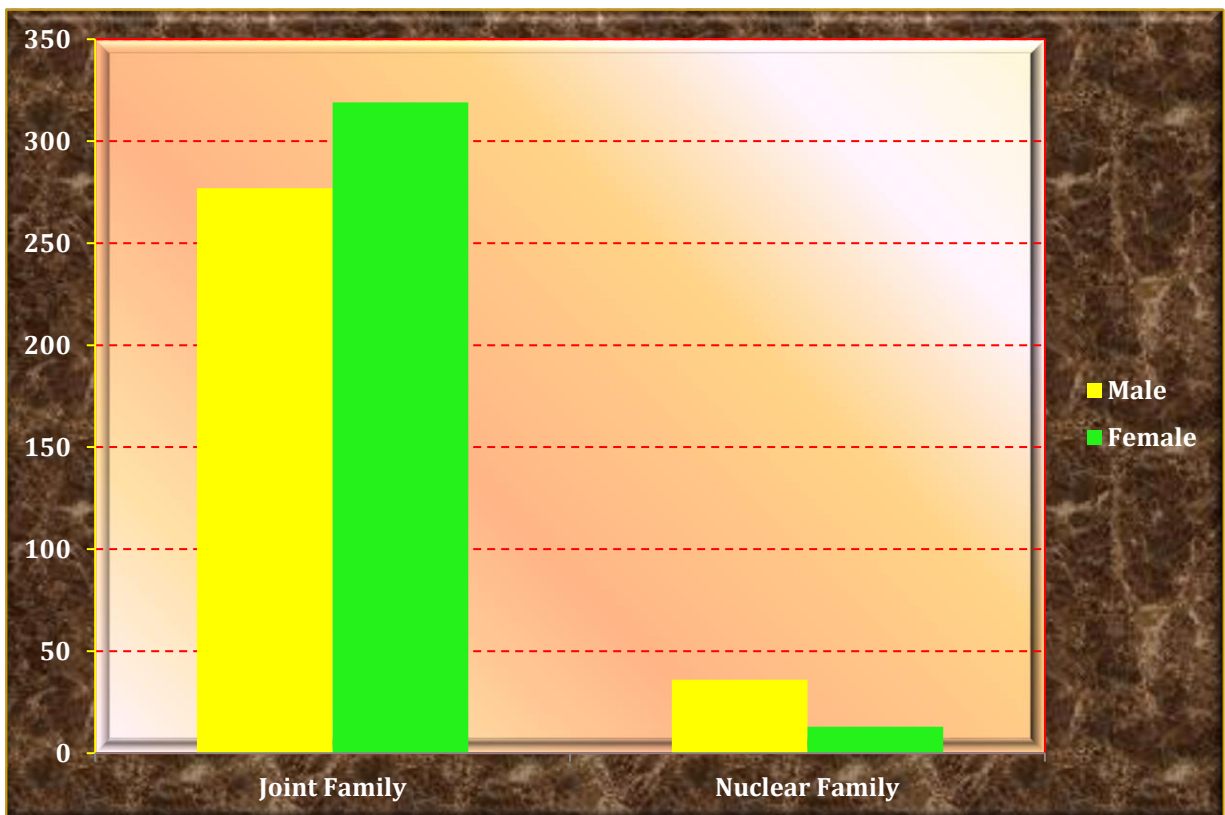
ages of 11 and 15, female respondents dropped out of school due to family responsibilities and child marriage. Though parents regard sending their children to school as a blessing, they prefer to send them to outside work so that they can assist the family in overcoming poverty. The tribes' poor literacy status was discovered to be due to a lack of infrastructural facilities in the classrooms, in addition to a lack of appropriate schools.

Type of Family:

The Indian set up of families and functions have been gradually changing due to a number of factors. Rapid industrialization, the influence of western culture and technology, and the need to organise themselves, according to Swastik (2011), are the reasons responsible for the disintegration of joint families in India. Nuclear families, which consist of a husband, wife, and unmarried children, are gradually displacing the traditional joint family structure that characterise rural society. According to the current study, 88.5 percent of male respondents lived in joint families and nuclear families was mentioned by just 11.5 percent; while 96.1 percent of female respondents lived in joint families and nuclear families was found among 3.6 percent of the respondents. For participating in MGNREGA, the size of the family has a substantial and favorable relationship with the decision of the beneficiaries.

Figure – 8

Type of family wise distribution of the respondents



Number of Dependents:

In the current study, on the basis of number of dependents in the family it was found that majority of male respondents had dependents (elderly people) around five to six members and among females it was noticed that 64 percent of them had dependents between three to four members. Similarly majority of both male and female respondents remarked that they have children between two to four members in their families in the study area. These information are illustrated in figure – 9 and 10.

Figure – 9

Number of dependents (elderly) of the respondents

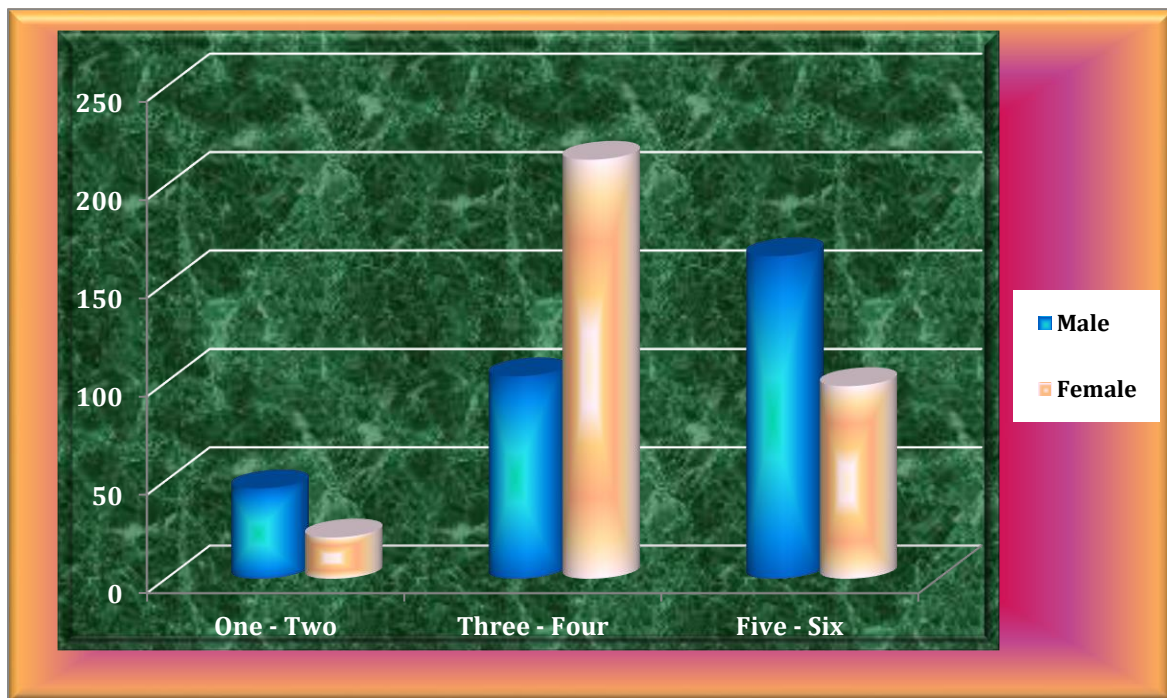
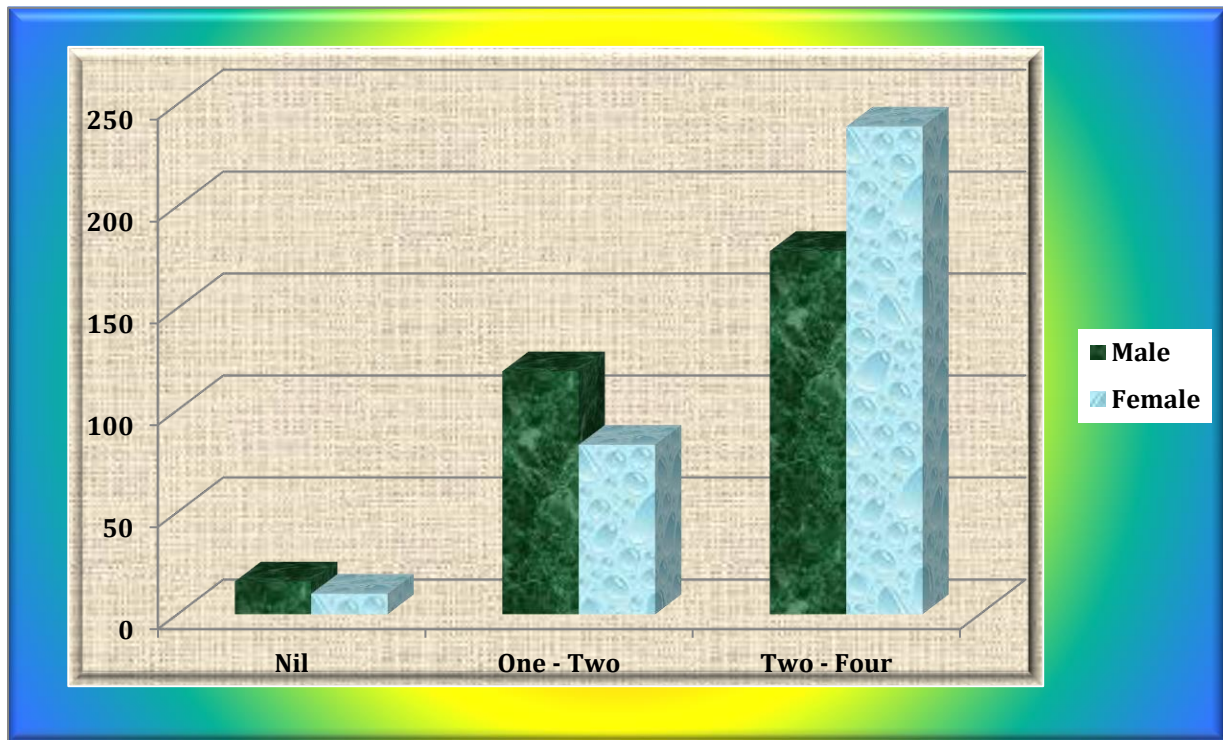


Figure – 10

Number of children of the respondents



B. Living Conditions of Paniyan Tribal Population:

The hill tribes or Adivasis (original inhabitant) as they are called, account for barely five percent of the area population in the Western Ghats. The distribution of tribal population is varied from the different geographical location. The tribal groups widely distributed with varied ecological and geo climatic conditions throughout the country. They are homogeneous, culturally firm, have developed strong magico religious health care system and wish to retain their life style. Tribal livelihood system varies considerably between different regions as also among various ethnic groups depending on ecological, historical and cultural factors. These tribal communities which predominantly occupy the forest region from time immemorial have lived in isolation but gracefully live in consonance with nature. In latter days with the reduction of forest area, imposition of forest regulation, the life of tribals has been highly changing. Emptiness, incomprehension and wringing have made them to leave their conventional forest living and takes to felony, voyage or solicit employment in rural and urban setup. (Basavarajaiah 2020). The survey revealed that the house of the Paniyan tribes was generally situated on the exposed slope of the hill. Habitation and housing conditions would provide a better understanding of the social life of Paniyas. It was observed that due to the proximity to the forest most of the Paniyas live in rural areas. Most of the houses in the study area were made of wood, bamboo and sun grass in top of the hill. Government also provided house around the size of 11/10 feet. The type of house in which the tribal population resides has been shown in the table – V

Table – V
Housing Pattern of Paniyan Tribal Population

S:No	Details	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			Male		Female	
1	Structure of House	Hut	55	17.6	105	31.6
		Tiled	258	82.4	227	68.4
		Thatched	-	-	-	-
		Terraced	-	-	-	-
Total			313	100	332	100
2	Ownership of House	Own	55	17.6	105	31.6
		Rented	-	-	-	-
		Government Provided	258	82.4	227	68.4
Total			313	100	332	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

Structure of the House

Habitation and housing condition would provide a better understanding of the social life of Paniyas. The table - V explains tribal population with the details of their structure of their living home in three types; first one explains the structure of home with four types hut, tiled, thatched and terraced; among the three categories 17.6 percent of male respondents said that they live in hut and 31.6 percent of females said that they live in hut and the respondents who those live in tiled house was 82.4 percent as stated by male respondents and the 68.4 percent of female said that they live in tiled home. Bamboo is possibly the most important forest resource for the indigenous people and is greatly used for house construction and agricultural implements used by them. (Siddiqi 1998)

Ownership of House

As Jyothi (2013) and Thangamani (2014) remarked that generally tribes built their own houses. Ownership of house is categorized into three types i.e. is own home, rented home and the home provided by the government. From the table it is evident that 17.6 percent of male respondents have their own house and 31.6 percent of females

have their own home and the respondents also live in the houses which were built by the government for the tribal people. 82.4 percent of male respondents said that they live in government funded home and 68.4 percent of the female respondents said they live in government funded home.

According to a report of Planning Commission (2006) about housing condition across the districts, almost everyone owned homes (99 percent), although the types of houses differed. For example, while houses built from mud walls (80 percent) and stone roofs (78 percent) were common in Bastar (Chhattisgarh), inhabitants of Kanker (Chhattisgarh) used houses of mud walls (93 percent) and roofing made of tiles (99 percent). Houses built with brick wall (83 percent) and tile roof (98 percent) was widespread in Mandla (Madhya Pradesh) whereas houses of mud walls (89 percent) and tile roofs (77 percent) were more regular in Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh). While the majority of houses in Koraput (Orissa) were constructed using brick walls (69 percent) and asbestos roofs (57 percent), a small proportion of households were built using mud walls (27 percent) and tile roofs (38 percent). Houses with mud walls (48 percent) as well as stone walls (31 percent) using tile roofs (31 percent), and kedu cemented roofs (31 percent) were found in Sirohi (Rajasthan) whereas West Midnapur (West Bengal) had mud houses (96 percent) with thatch (41 percent), asbestos (27 percent), or tile roofs. The availability of electricity was common in the study area except in Sirohi (Rajasthan) as only 32 percent of the households in this district reported to have electricity.

The sources of drinking water for the majority of inhabitants were either tube or open wells. A question on the travel time to the source of water was included to obtain an indirect measure of the availability of water. Almost all households reported that they could reach their source of water within 30 minutes.

The majority of households did not have any toilet facility and inhabitants used open space to defecate and urinate, indicating inhabitants' poor access to adequate sanitation facilities. Additionally, no households used kerosene stoves to cook as women cooked using wood (as the majority had wood stoves). While the usage of wood for cooking represents the poverty level of the households, numerous scientific (Torben

et.al., 2015) studies also report potentially serious adverse health effects related to breathing from the wood combustion.

Tribal communities have preserved their unique style of indigenous jewelry craft that is made of local materials in harmony with the local eco-system. The majority of households reported to have jewelry at home. It is to be noted that such jewelry has a high traditional value amongst the tribal people and is a form of savings and investment for many rural households. (Deepti and Samik 2015)

Lastly, the majority of the respondents did not possess any agricultural machinery such as pump sets, power tillers, threshers, or tractors. Since most inhabitants in the study region were highly dependent on agriculture; yet few possessed these farm machineries, indicating farmers of the study region to be small or marginal farmers relying on primitive agricultural practices.

Figure – 11

Housing pattern of the respondents

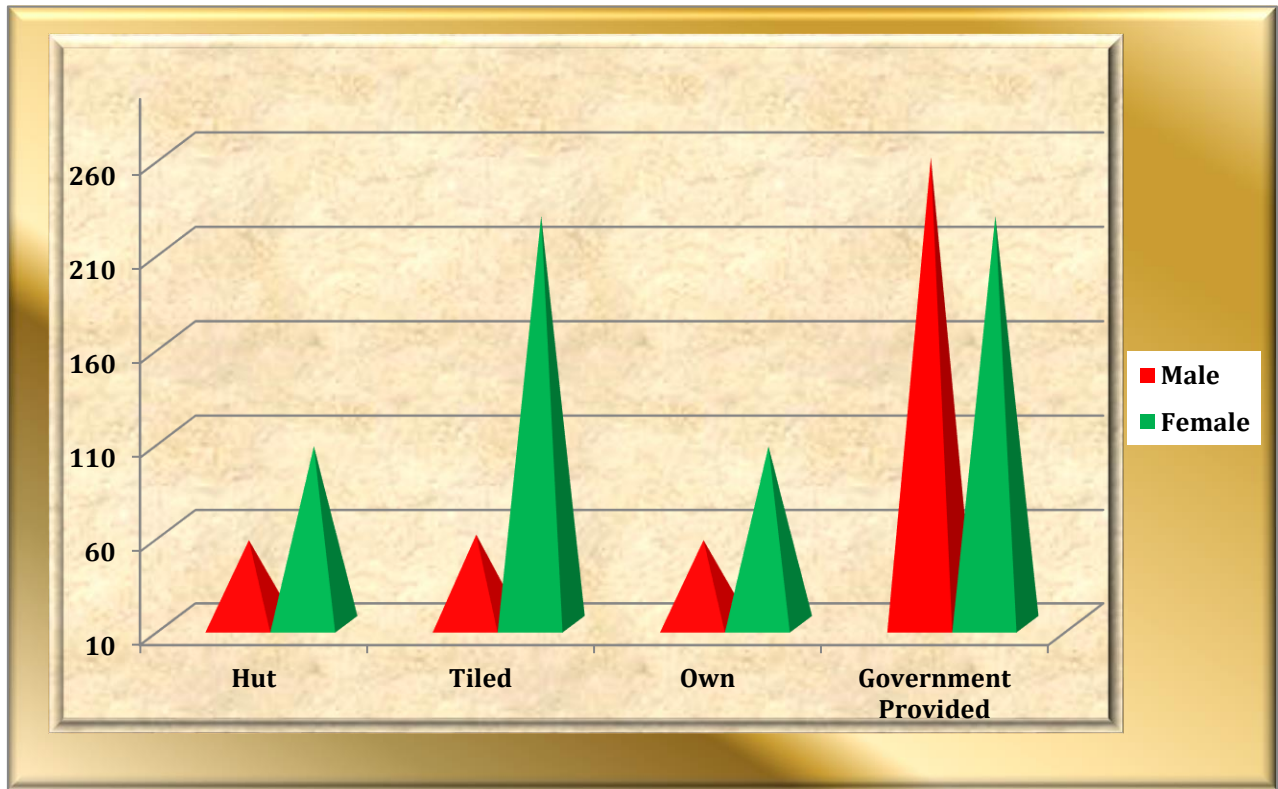


Figure – 12

OWN HOUSE OF PANIYAN TRIBAL RESPONDENTS



Figure - 13

HOUSE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF (CMSPGHS) FOR
PANIYAN TRIBAL RESPONDENTS



4.2 Economic status of Paniyan Tribal People before participating in MGNREGA Programme

A. Details on Nature of work, Income, Saving and Debt

The tribes at the present day have a very low standard of life. Their poverty is due to their inability to take the fullest advantage of their physical environment to develop profitable economic activities whilst they have to live in a social environment which stimulates artificial desires which cannot be easily satisfied. The tribes themselves remarked that within the same environment they were once able to live a comparatively easy existence where there was food and they were able to weave their colorful clothing and wear attractive ornaments; and live in well-constructed and artistic houses. There was work, leisure and cultural recreation full of songs, music and dance. Development of communication, extensive use of money economy, and greater contact with new tribal population deprived them of opportunities for their normal economic activity. They lost their lands to money lenders, and the gradual destitution of their forests for commercial purposes led them into a life of inadequately paid wage earners where there was no hunting to supplement their food, and where they had to buy grains for which they had little cash. Thus began an existence of chronic malnutrition facing the entire tribal population. The degeneration of clothing habits and the gradual disappearance of well-built houses is a story of hardly one hundred years. The absence of freedom in their own environment, lack of money, and worries and anxieties or a life of want and suffering have told on their happy ways of living, and the decadence of tribal arts and culture are today very much in evidence (Metha, 1953 and Kumar 1993).

In contrast, economic status is a combined economic and sociological overall measure of a person's work experience, as well as the economic and social positions of an individual or family (Bhushan and Sain 2020). The economic status of a person or a collective group refers to their social standing or class. It is often calculated as a blend of earnings and profession.

Economic status also reveals inequities in resource availability, as well as questions of power, jurisdiction, and control. Traditional economics has emphasised cash benefits traded through a market economy, while sociologists have emphasised social prestige and other social rewards as important motivators for human behaviour. The concept "social standing" was coined by Weber (1992) to describe "a significant claim of social esteem in terms of negative or favourable rights". One of the main aspects that distinguishes communities and affects their performance is the kind of benefits they provide to their members. In general, there are three kinds of incentives: (a) private monetary advantages like wages and profits; (b) social rewards like rank and prestige; and (c) laws and regulations that enforce certain types of behaviour while punishing others. Social status is thus part of the incentive structure provided to individuals in every society. These incentives affect an individual's choice of actions, occupation, education level and so forth.

The economic conditions in terms of days of employment, income earned per month, saving behavior and debt position of selected sample population before joining into MGNREGA programme is reported in table - VI

Table – VI

Economic Status of Paniyan Tribal People before MGNREGA work

S:No	Details	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			Male		Female	
1	Nature of Work	Agriculture Labour	20	6.3	45	13.5
		Forestry Work	85	27.2	72	21.6
		Self employed	65	21	57	17.1
		Bamboo Sellers	46	14.6	66	19.8
		Unemployed/ Other Works	97	30.9	92	28
Total			313	100	332	100
2	Work per Month	Unemployed	152	48.5	160	48
		5 – 10 days	68	22	82	25.3
		10- 20 days	54	17.1	59	17.3
		More than 25 days	39	12.4	31	9.4
Total			313	100	332	100
3	Total Family Income	500 – 1000	102	32.5	131	39
		1000 – 2000	154	49.2	146	44
		Above 2000	57	18.3	55	17
Total			313	100	332	100
4	Amount of Savings	No savings	140	45	152	46
		500 – 1000	94	30	120	36
		1000 – 2000	79	25	60	18
Total			313	100	332	100
5	Reasons for debt	Marriage	200	63.9	319	96.1
		Hospital	0	0	0	0
		Education	0	0	0	0
		Natural Disaster	113	36.1	13	3.9
Total			313	100	332	100
6	Sources of Debt	Money Lenders	313	100	227	68.4
		Bank	0	0	0	0
		More than One	0	0	105	31.6
Total			313	100	332	100
7	Amount of Debt	500 – 1000	21	6.7	13	3.9
		1000 – 2000	205	65.5	319	96.1
		Above 2000	87	27.8	0	0
Total			313	100	332	100

Source: Field Survey 2019.

Scheduled Tribes made up approximately 8.0 percent of India's population. Scheduled Tribes also accounted for 25 percent of the poorest population in India. India's National Data (2018) found that Scheduled Tribes in India were the poorest populace. According to The National Family Health Survey 2015-2016, 45.9 percent of Scheduled Tribe members lived in the lowest wealth bracket. This finding was even more shocking since more people of Scheduled Tribes lived in the lowest wealth bracket than the people of Scheduled Castes.

While economic development usually associates with poverty alleviation, economic development and industrialization are the cause of Scheduled Tribes' poverty in India. As Raj (2020) remarked that the recent economic development has eliminated many of the traditional occupations that tribal inhabitants of India had. The same study presented a table of data about the incidence of poverty between tribals and non-tribals in India. That India's economic development did not occur equally for the many Scheduled Tribes. The data from 1993 to 2012 showed that tribal poverty is always higher than non-tribal poverty. The study found that tribal poverty was still more than two times higher than non-tribal poverty, even though India's overall incidence of poverty has been in decline since 1993.

The main occupation of the respondents covered under the study was agricultural activities before participating in MGNREGA. 27.2 percent of the male and 21.6 percent of the female respondents were found in forestry work. 21 percent of the male and 17.1 percent of the female respondents were self-employed, 14.6 percent of the male and 19.8 percent of the female respondents were bamboo article sellers. Less than 50 percent of male and female respondents were unemployed. Total family income is the combined gross income of all members of a household who are 15 years or above. Household income is an important measure used by lenders for underwriting loans, as well as a useful economic indicator of one's standard of living (Kagan 2019). As could be observed from in the table – VI, total family income earned by a little more than 50 percent of the respondents ranged between Rs. 1000 – 2000 per month. Savings was very meager among studied population which was less than Rs.2000 per month. 66 percent of male and 96 percent of the female respondents had debt between Rs. 1000-

2000 per month, the main reasons for debt was conducting marriage for the family members and also to meet health expenses.

Figure – 14

Working conditions of the tribal respondents before MGNREGA work

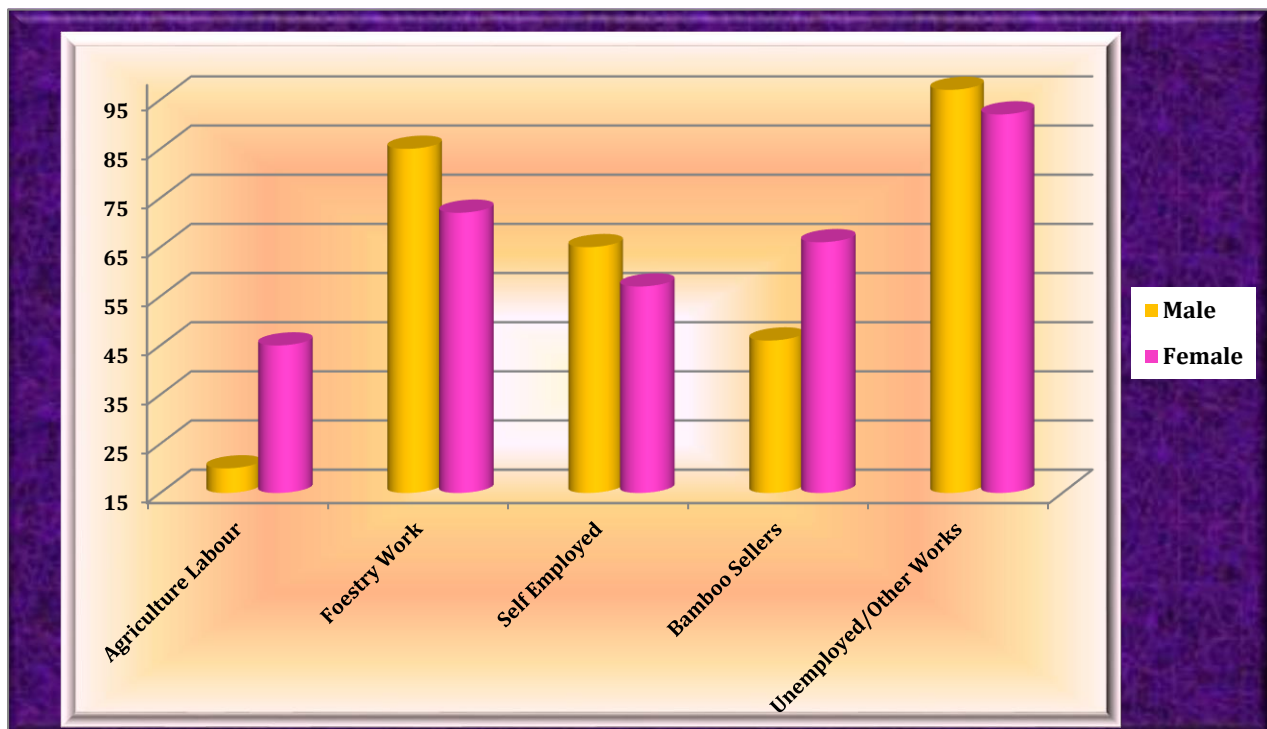
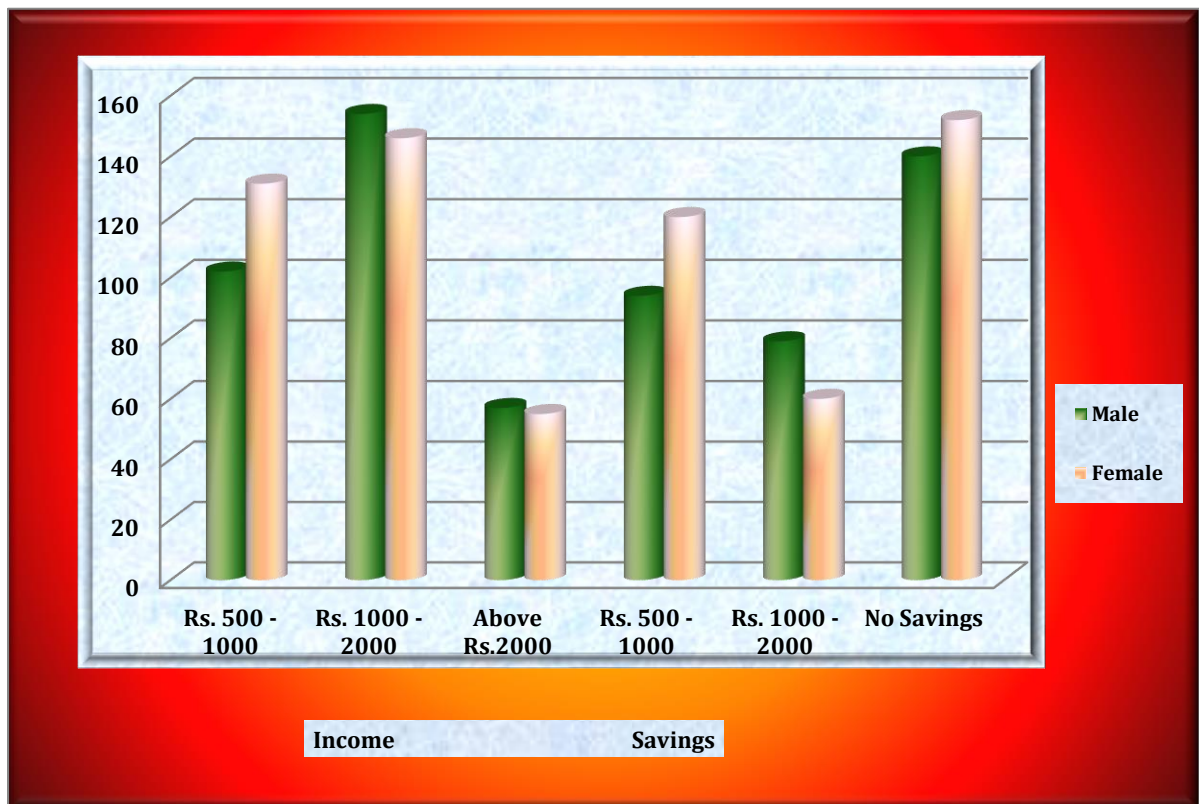


Figure – 15

Income and saving conditions of the tribal respondents before MGNREGA



B. Preference towards MGNREGA – Garret Ranking

The development of rural India is essential for inclusive and equitable growth and it must be stated that the MGNREGA has immense potential to provide social security. The programme such as MGNREGA typically provide unskilled workers with short term employment on public works. (Rengasamy and Sasi kumar 2011) it also intend to create durable community assets which would enhance productivity and it examines the impact of MGNREGA on employment, wage rates of rural labourers (Trishala et al., 2018).

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP), is one of the most progressive legislations enacted in India since independence. It guarantees 100 days of employment to each household at a minimum prescribed rate. The Act aims to provide employment to more than 20 million households, out of which more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries come from scheduled castes/scheduled tribes (SC/ST) households. Prasanna et.al., (2017) remarked that MGNREGP promises to reduce the conditions of rural poor for their employment simultaneously addressing the problems of poverty and inequality. MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of one hundred days of employment in every financial year. It attempt to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country but MGNREGA is one of the greatest experiments undertaken in India to eradicate rural poverty (Muzafar and Jahangir 2017). The MGNREGA has shown a significant improvement in different aspects. The number of households associated with MGNREGA works has been increasing consistently, the number of (Lakshmi and Rajeshkumar 2018) days for which employment has been provided have also increased. Another important aspect of MGNREGA 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.

MGNREGA has significantly increased the bargaining power of labour. There has been an increase in overall average minimum wage paid to labourers working in agriculture, increase in number of days the agricultural labour households get the work and annual income of these households. (Viswanathan et al., 2014)Distress migration has reduced in many parts and there is livelihood diversification in rural areas.

MGNREGA is used as a supplementary income source in non-agricultural seasons. MGNREGA creates “Green Jobs” as 70 percent work relates to water conservation, drought proofing, plantation and afforestation. Productivity effects of MGNREGA have been reported and there has been significant improvement in ground water, agricultural productivity and cropping intensity. This has led to reduction in water vulnerability, agriculture vulnerability and livelihood vulnerability. One of the arguments strongly favoring MGNREGA was its contribution towards gender empowerment in particular and social empowerment in general. With a view to include women in the labour force, MGNREGA came up with the norm of at least one third of the workers should be women in the activities carried out under the programme. (Mattos and Dasgupta 2017). It has been noted in many states there are more women worked in MGNREGA than males. This is because in some districts, male wages from non- MGNREGA activities (both agricultural and non-agricultural) is found to be much more than MGNREGA wages. Other benefits like flexible working hours, nature of activities undertaken and equal wage rate for both male and female workers results in higher participation of women in the programme.

Further, flexibility of timings helps women take care of house and job. Reduced influence from contractors and formation of social groups within work zones reduces the fear of exploitation and encourages women to participate more. Also, under MGNREGA, work is provided within five km radius of the worker’s residence, much to the relief of women who do not have to move long distances in search of work.

Garret ranking technique was used in the current study to assess the preference towards MGNREGA by the selected tribal households. The order of merit given by the respondents was converted in to ranks. The results of garret ranking for preferences towards MGNREGA expressed by the respondents in MGNEGA are shown in table – VII.

Table – VII

Preference towards MGNREGA – Garret Ranking

S.No	Items	Score	Rank
1	Enhancing income	73.65	2
2	Enhancing bargaining power	49.72	6
3	Preventing migration	19.06	15
4	Generating employment	53.60	3
5	Creating assets	49.01	7
6	Creating rural infrastructure	44.78	10
7	Improvement in Skill labor	39.05	12
8	Financial inclusion	28.22	14
9	Transparency and accountability	44.37	11
10	Improvement in living conditions	81.80	1
11	Improvement in health	46.05	9
12	Better social participation	46.46	8
13	Able to repay debt	49.75	5
14	Enhanced expenditure	38.88	13
15	Able to save	52.62	4

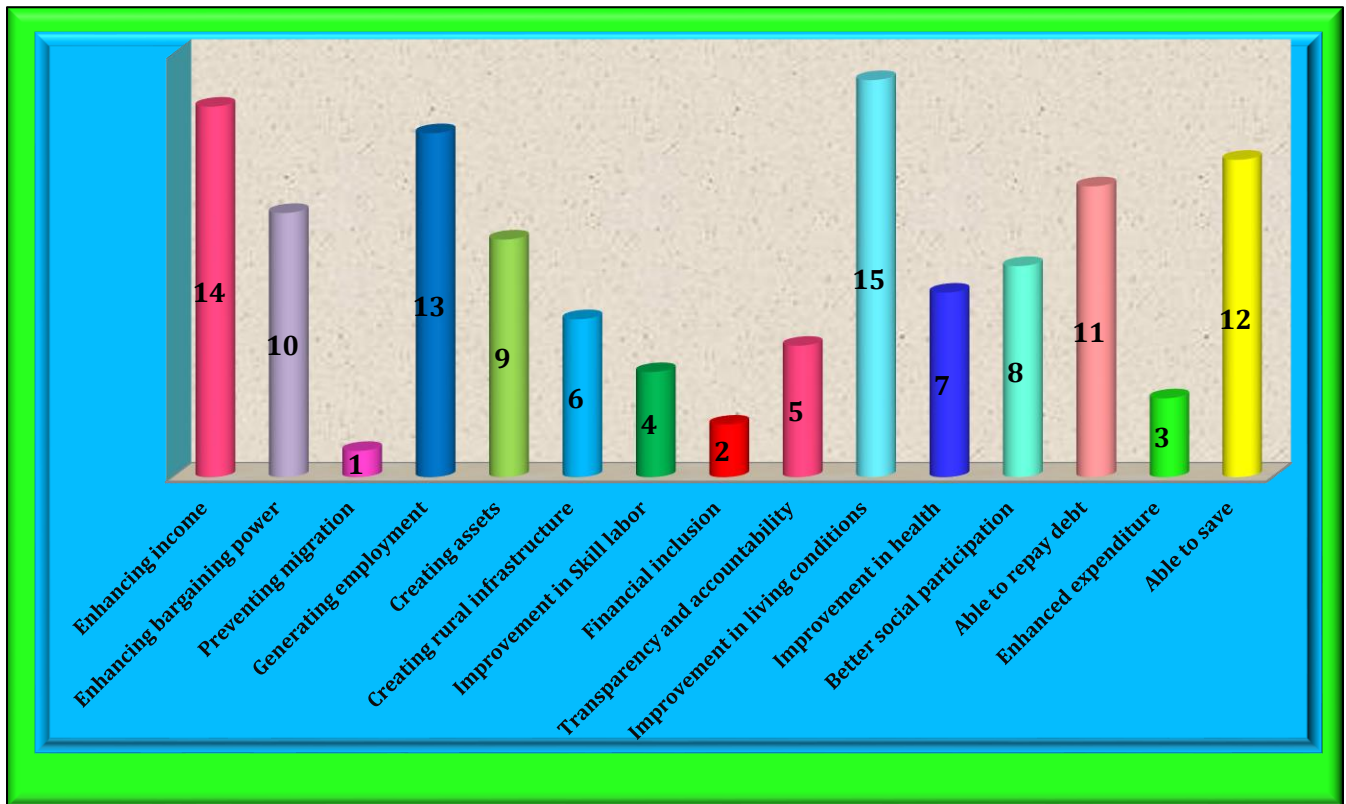
Source: Calculated figures based on the data compiled.

From the table – VII, it can be identified that first three ranks were assigned to the preferences such as “Improvement in living conditions” “Enhancing income” and “Generating employment” for the tribal respondents. The above three factors strongly influenced the beneficiaries in choosing MGNREGA. The study has further shown that the respondents have got ability to save, repay debt, improve their bargaining power, and create asset and better social participation with the involvement into the MGNREGA programme as could be seen from next few ranks. The last three ranks were assigned to preferences like “Enhanced expenditure” “Financial inclusion” and “Preventing migration”. From this it can be inferred that the selected tribal respondents had preferred MGNRGEA program so as to improve their living conditions and they considered that this program will enhance their income and it will generate new

employment opportunity for them. Similarly Mitra et.al., (2014) reported that the factors responsible for increase in income were found to be non farm income followed by total consumption expenditure, farm income, and expenditure on FPS (Fair Price Shop) as percent to total income, expenditure on FPS as percentage to total expenditure, total savings and total man-days under MGNREGS. Santhosh et.al., (2018) also highlighted that to strengthen transparency and accountability within the operation of MGNREGA, Initiation and awareness should be given the rural poor about this program. The study concluded that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a flagship programme and it is really a boon for the rural poor. The success of MGNREGA should be judged not by the large number of unskilled manual labour which is coming out to dig roads, but to be able to say that they have created sustainable rural livelihoods through the rejuvenation of water, land and forests. Thus MGNREGA is to be used to re-build our traditional agricultural set up and conserve depleting natural resources using our human capital productively (Viswanathan 2014). Motivated by the above stated reasons, the respondents covered under the study preferred to participate in MGNREGA to improve their economic conditions and there by enhance their standard of living.

Figure – 16

Preference towards MGNREGA



4.3. Economic status of Paniyan Tribal People after participating in MGNREGA programme

The Tribal development schemes as it has been conceived, aim at overall progress of a tribe in their economic, health, social and culture life. The very idea of development programme is to generate progressiveness in all the spheres of life, several reports of destabilization in the Tribal life and culture have been recorded mainly due to the introduction of some developmental programmes without proper understanding the community.

The number of households receiving jobs under MGNREGA has rapidly risen, demonstrating the scheme's broad reach (Sarkar, Kumar and Supriya, 2011). The growing presence of women in MGNREGA is another significant feature of the programme. The introduction of MGNREGA increased women's economic and social inclusion in society. It was effective in ensuring women's rights and equality in political, economic, and social matters (NFIW, 2008). The scheme's primary target is wage earners, and it has tremendous potential to improve the socioeconomic condition of rural residents, who are primarily poor. A significant rise in wages would undoubtedly result in a higher quality of living (Shah, 2012). The infrastructure in the villages has improved in the post-MGNREGA era, according to a study conducted by Sami and others (2012) in Karnataka. Aside from village growth, the people who took part in the project saw a significant improvement in their quality of life. All of this indicates that MGNREGA is a good safety net for the rural poor and tribal population as it provides significant income to the households participating in the scheme.

Table –VIII

Economic Status of Paniyan Tribal People after MGNREGA work

S:No	Details	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			Male		Female	
1	Nature of Work	Agriculture Labour	6	1.9	120	36.1
		Agriculture	5	1.6	41	12.3
		Construction Work	7	2.2	5	2
		Collecting Food Product	15	4.8	11	3.3
		More than One	280	89.5	155	46.3
Total			313	100	332	100
2	Work per Week	1 week	35	11.2	41	12.3
		6 days	262	83.7	291	87.7
		5days	16	5.1	0	0
Total			313	100	332	100
3	Number of Employed in House Hold	Two	26	8.3	13	4
		Three	183	58.5	250	75
		Four	104	33.2	69	21
Total			313	100	332	100
4	Total Family Income	5000 – 10,000	79	25	18	5.4
		10,000 – 15,000	222	71	305	91.9
		Above 15,000	12	4	9	2.7
Total			313	100	332	100
5	Amount of Savings	Below 5,000	189	60.4	209	63.0
		5,000 – 10,000	120	38.3	121	36.4
		No savings	4	1.3	2	0.6
Total			313	100	332	100
6	Mode of Savings	Bank	236	75.4	326	98.2
		NGO	2	0.6	4	1.2
		More than One	71	22.7	0	0
		No Savings	4	1.3	2	0.6
Total			313	100	332	100
7	Amount of Debt	Yes	249	79.6	266	80.1
		No	64	20.4	66	19.9
Total			313	100	332	100
8	Repaid Amount	Below 5,000	240	76.7	332	100
		5,000 – 10,000	73	23.3	0	0
		Above 10,000	0	0	0	0
Total			313	100	332	100

Source: Field Survey 2019.

In all the study area, the mgnrega has provided income – earning opportunities to unskilled workers for both men and women. The reasons for unavailability of wage labour for women are complex and vary across regions. Women have few opportunities for paid agricultural work. There are even fewer opportunities for non – agricultural wage work in these tribal areas where the economy is predominantly agricultural. The women who reported wage work other than mgnrega were performing agricultural labour in their own villages or nearby villages and construction work in towns and cities (Pandi 2016). According to the result shown in the table – VIII, the nature of work performed by the Paniyan tribal population was more than one activity. The number of other working members in the family of the selected tribal population showed that at least three members in the family of selected respondents were found to be working as this was mentioned by 58.5 percent of male and 75 percent of female respondents. They were engaged in the activities like agriculture labour, construction work, collecting food products etc., the sample population was found to be working for six days in a week which was mentioned by 84 percent male and 88 percent of female population. Total family income earned by a little more than 50 percent of the respondents ranged between Rs. 10000 – 20000. Savings was very meager among studied population which ranged between Rs.5000 – 10,000 per month after participating in MGNREGA. 66 percent of male and 96 percent of the female respondents had debt between Rs. 1000-2000 per month the main reasons for debt was conducting marriage for the family members. (Pandi 2016) also arrived at the same conclusion in his study; many female respondents said that the work provided under the mgnrega opened up new opportunities for them. The wider acceptability for undertaking mgnrega work were based on the following factors: (i) lack of alternative employment was cited as the main reason to engage in mgnrega works by more than half of the respondents (ii) owing to family commitments women did not want to travel long distances for employment; mgnrega work are within a radius of five km. the study revealed that 32 percent of the workers chose mgnrega as the work available within their residential area. Through informal discussion with the workers it was learnt that the wage rate offered by mgnrega is more or less equal to other agricultural works in the study area. Ashok (2017) mentioned in the study that the respondents believed that the MGNREGA has

influenced them in having better savings habit. The income earned from the scheme made them keep an amount of savings. As Bai (2017) in the study mentioned the payment received from MGNREGA was so less for the respondents that it did not make any difference to their saving amount. The enhancement in the mean values of standard of living between before and after the implementation of MGNREGA programme was found to be highly significant at one per cent level (Roy and Gowda 2019).

Figure – 17

Working Conditions of the Tribal Respondents after MGNREGA

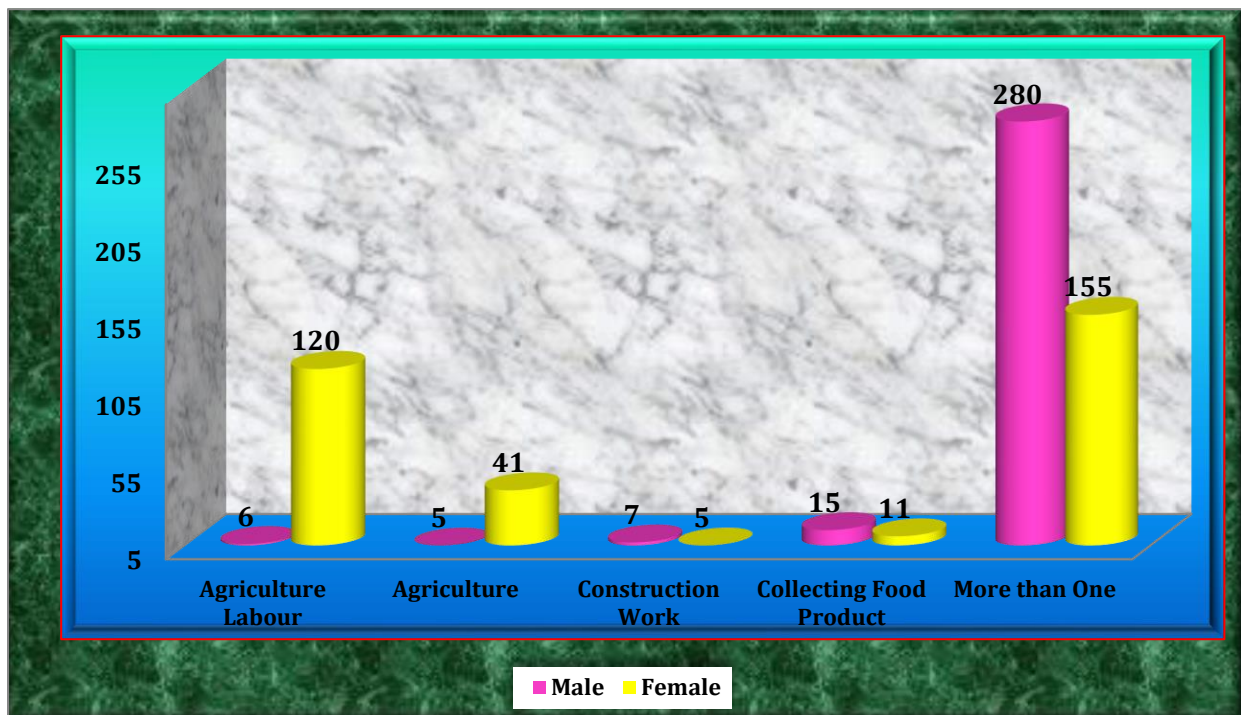


Figure – 18

Income and saving condition of the Tribal Respondents after MGNEGA

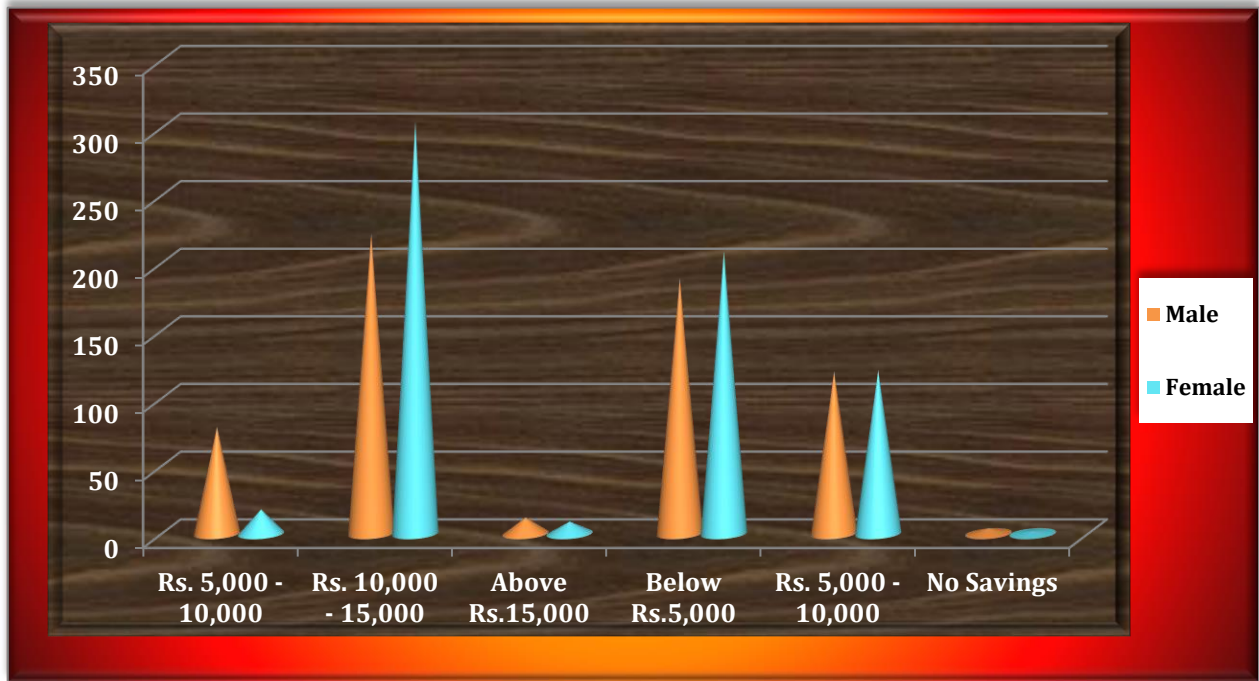


Figure – 19
MEN WORKING AS A AGRICULTURE LABOUR'S



Figure – 20
WOMEN WORKING IN RAIN WATER HARVESTING IN HILLS



A. Association between participation in MGNREGA and Socio – economic and Demographic Variables.

An attempt was made to examine whether there was any association between participation of the respondents in MGNREGA and Socio – economic and demographic variables

The null hypothesis framed was:

H₀: There is no association between participation of respondents in MGNREGA and Socio demographic variables.

H_a: There is association between participation of respondents in MGNREGA and Socio demographic variables.

The estimated chi-square value is presented in table – IX

Table – IX
Relationship between Participation in MGNREGA and Socio – economic demographic factors

Variables	χ^2	df	Sig
Nature of work	15.359	8	.053**
Work per week/day	78.630	4	.000*
Number of Employed in Household	177.550	4	.000*
Age	66.948	4	.000*
Amount of Saving	60.378	4	.000*
Type of Family	154.057	2	.000*
No.of.Dependents	266.811	4	.000*

Source: Estimated based on field survey 2019

*significant at one percent level **significant at five percent level

The calculated value of chi-square is greater than the table value at one per cent level of significance. Therefore null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is relationship between the participation of respondents in

MGNREGA and socio economic status of the respondents such as Nature of work, work per week, employed in household, age, amount of savings, type of family, number of dependents. The chi square values were 15.359, 78.630, 177.550, 66.948, 60.378, 154.057, and 266.811 respectively.

B. Improvement in Standard of Living among Tribal Population - Paired't' Test

“A Paired't' test is used to compare two variable means where samples are studied in which observation in one sample can be paired with observations in the other sample.”

In the current study, the improvement in the standard of living of the respondents after their participation in MGNREGA was studied in comparison with the pre – MGNREGA in terms of select indicators. The results obtained are shown in table – X.

The hypothesis framed was as follows:

H₀: There is a no significant change in the quality of life of the tribal people before and after participating in MGNREGA programme.

H_a: There is a significant change in the quality of life of the tribal people before and after participating in MGNREGA programme.

Table – X
Paired Samples Statistics for before and after participating in MGNREGA
Programme

Variables		Mean	SD	SE Mean	t-value	.sig
Food	Before	81.16	24.25	0.95	-18.009	.000*
	After	106.59	16.93	0.67		
Clothing	Before	323.02	159.97	6.30	-64.102	.000*
	After	552.25	101.61	4.00		
Shelter	Before	322.09	208.02	8.19	69.927	.000*
	After	579.30	126.70	4.99		
Education	Before	49.61	86.44	3.40	-14.361	.000*
	After	122.79	83.73	3.30		
Medical Expenses	Before	313.80	75.10	2.96	-13.509	.000*
	After	363.41	119.14	4.69		
Transport	Before	223.57	61.89	2.44	-37.704	.000*
	After	433.10	90.08	3.55		
Savings	Before	46.98	100.02	3.94	-40.424	.000*
	After	975.35	504.14	19.85		
Income	Before	4442.89	767.494	36.180	-21.036	.000*
	After	5566.44	956.799	45.104		
Religious function	Before	1246.51	250.17	9.85	-32.764	.000*
	After	1793.95	308.24	12.14		
Recreation	Before	209.30	168.13	6.62	-43.912	.000*
	After	500.00	0.00	0.00		
Assets	Before	10.47	50.11	1.97	-34.929	.000*
	After	252.56	158.25	6.23		
Days of Work	Before	18.03	1.49	.06	-117.972	.000*
	After	27.21	1.32	.05		

*Significant at 1 percent level.

The paired t test was applied to find whether there is significant difference between the standard of living before and after involving in the programme. At one percent degree of significance, the estimated value of the paired t test was found to be -18.009 for expenses on food from which it can be concluded that there is a substantial difference in food expenditures before and after participation in the MGNREGA programme. In the research carried out by Jagadees (2016) found that the scheme had the greatest effect on improving food security. It gave the rural poor enough money to purchase at least the most basic needs, such as food. It was further maintained that male and female employees were paid equally and without variation. The estimated value of the paired t test was -64.102, 69.927, -14.361, -13.509, -37.704, -40.424, -21.036, -32.764, -43.912, -34.929, -117.972 respectively and It could be deduced from the estimated t value that there is a substantial difference between expenditures on clothing, housing, schooling, medical expenses, transportation expenses, religious functions, entertainment, properties, days of work, wages, and investments before and after participation in the MGNREGA.

Joseph and Muneeswaran (2014) explained that MGNREGA helps to create social and economic security to rural poor; it enhanced sustainable standard of living of the poor through enhancement of income, saving, investment and optimum consumption level while it successfully helped in curtailing, in poverty and migration in the rural area at the same time, it failed to provide maximum satisfaction of the rural people in terms of wage and social responsibility”.

Shaikh (2019) et.al., in their study proved that after participating in MGNREGA, the annual income of the beneficiaries had increased and major contributing factor to the increase in income was due to additional employment generated under the scheme. The purchasing power of the beneficiaries for assets like farm implement, television, mobile phone, bike, livestock have also increased after MGNREGA”. (Dkhar 2012).

Similarly Deepak (2017) et.al., in their study also found that the difference between the mean annual income of the beneficiaries increased after participating in MGNREGA and it was found to be highly significant.

C. Determinants of Family Income of Tribal Respondents (Multiple Regression Analysis)

In the current study, the factors such as age, family type, amount of debt, educational status, days of work, food and non-food expenses, number of dependents, and assets maintained were hypothesised as determinants of family income. The following hypothesis was tested by using multiple regression analysis.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between selected factors and family income.

H_a: There is a significant relationship between selected factors and family income.

Table – XI
Determinants of Family income – Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	Unstandardised Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	P value
Age	.113**	.104	2.997	.003
Type of Family	-.693**	-.276	-6.765	.000
Amount of Debt	.081**	.109	3.031	.003
Educational level	-.099*	.063	1.848	.065
Day's of Work (After programme)	.730**	.542	4.230	.000
Food expenses (After programme)	.332**	-.231	-4.115	.000
Non-food expenses	.108*	-.057	-1.733	.084
Dependents (below 15 years)	.202**	.196	4.539	.000
Number of Dependents (Above 50 year)	.171*	-.208	-2.098	.036
Assets maintained (after programme)	.099*	.116	2.060	.040
R ²	.563			
F	29.411			

Source: Estimated based of field survey, 2019

* R² = .563 and F = 29.411

** Significant at 1 percent level *significant at 5 percent level

The results explained that 56.3 percent of the variation in the family income was explained by selected variables. The meaningful F value indicates that it is statistically significant at one percent level. Age, family type, amount of debt, educational status, days worked, food expenditures (after programme), non-food expenses, and the number of dependents (over 50 years) in the family were found to be statistically significant at one percent level in determining the family income. The above-mentioned variables all had a good association with family income. At one percent significant level, asset keeping during the participation period was statistically important in determining family income. The family income was positively correlated with the factors such as age, days of work, number of dependents, food and non-food expenses. In their research, Divakar et al. (2016) found that in fully implemented MGNREGA villages, participation in the MGNREGA increases with wages, while in partially implemented MGNREGA villages, participation does not. In fully implemented MGNREGA villages, the average amount of savings made in SHGs was also higher than in partly implemented MGNREGA villages. In fully implemented MGNREGA villages, the total consumption spending of participant households was higher on food, clothing, schooling, health, agricultural equipment, non-agricultural equipment, and other expenditures than in partially implemented MGNREGA villages. Similarly, Harish (2011) stated that MGNREGA introduction has greatly aided needy households in increasing their income by providing jobs, which has increased by 16.17 percent.

According to Dulsai and Mari (2019), the enhancement of natural capital as a result of MGNREGS has been discovered to be an effective indicator of worker livelihood sustainability. The fact that workers apply their MGNREGS wages to their household food expenditures, including vegetables, fruits, and nutritious food products, explained the positive significant relationship between the quality of households' food consumption and workers' livelihood sustainability (egg, milk, fish, meat, etc.). The results further illustrated MGNREGS employees usually invested in productive household properties such as a car, mobile phone, small farming tools and machinery, cattle, and so on.

Unlike consumption, acquisition of properties also help MGNREGS beneficiaries raise more money. Investment in valuable household properties which has a significant relationship with the long-term viability of workers' livelihoods. Malangmeih and Mitra (2014) conducted a study on the livelihood protection of rural households in the MGNREGA programme. It was found that Non-farm income was found to be the most important factor in increasing income, followed by overall consumption spending and expenditure on FPS (Fair Price Shop) as a percentage of total income.

D. Saving pattern of tribal respondents - Discriminant Analysis

The discriminant analysis was carried out to identify the factors which discriminated the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme, into low and high saving groups. The high and low savings groups were identified based on mean savings. If the saving of beneficiaries is above mean savings (Rs.1,745), they were classified as high saving group. If the saving of beneficiaries is below the mean savings, they were classified as low saving group.

The form of the multiple linear discriminant function specified in the study was

$$Z = L_1 X_1 + L_2 X_2 + L_3 X_3 + L_4 X_4 + L_5 X_5 + L_6 X_6 + L_7 X_7 + L_8 X_8 + \dots + U$$

Where Z = Discriminant Score

L₁ = Discriminant co – efficient

X₁ = Age

X₂ = Family Type

X₃ = Number of Dependents

X₄ = Family Income

X₅ = Food Expenses

X₆ = Non Food Expenses

X₇ = Repaid Debt Amount

X₈ = Expenses on Livestock

Table – XII
Results of Discriminant Analysis

Groups	Mean of low savings Group	Mean of high savings group	Discriminant co-efficients (bi)	Relative Discriminant Power (in percent)
Age	43.7	43.29	0.078	3.504043127
Family Type	1.08	1.06	0.37	16.62174304
No.of.Dependents	3.89	3.86	0.28	12.57861635
Family Income	4927.79	4975.47	0.071	3.189577718
Food expenses	482.54	517.68	0.526	23.62982929
Non food expenses	1540.21	1550.06	0.031	1.392632525
Repaid debt amount	1574.03	1521.72	0.15	6.738544474
Expenses on livestock	481.19	525.25	0.72	32.34501348
Eigen Values	.030			
Wilks' Lambda	.971			.017*
Chi – Square	18.673			

Source: Estimated field survey

*Significant at 5% level

Table – XII shows the mean of selected socio – economic factors and the relative discriminating power of the variables which discriminate the beneficiaries into low saving and high saving groups.

The mean age, number of dependents in the family and amount of repaid debt were higher for low saving beneficiaries. The mean family income, food expenses, non – food expenses and expenses on livestock were higher for the high saving beneficiaries groups. It revealed that there was mean difference in the selected socio – economic factors between low and high savings groups pertaining to beneficiaries of MGNREGA. To test the significance of mean difference in the selected socio economic factors between groups, Wilks Lamda and the corresponding chi – square were calculated in the process of discriminant analysis. The results showed that Wilks

Lamda was statistically significant which could be observed from the significant chi square value (18.673). It revealed that all the selected socio economic factors together were capable to classify the beneficiaries of MGNREGA programme into low and high savings group.

The estimated unstandardised discriminant co – efficients revealed that expenses on livestock was a dominant factor in discriminating the beneficiaries into low and high saving groups. It alone contributed 32.34 percent. The next important factor was food expenses which contributed 23.62 percent followed by family type (16.62 percent) and number of dependents (12.57 percent). Age, family income, non food expenses and repaid amount of debt were the least important factors to discriminant the beneficiaries into low and high savings groups. It was less than 10 percent. The canonical correction associated with discriminant function was 0.497. It revealed that 49.7 percent of variation between the group was explained by the selected socio economic variables.

Similar findings were observed in the study Mitra (2014) et al., in their study estimated a discriminant function to study the factors affecting increase in income of the respondents. “It was remarked that the non – farm income was found to be the most discriminating factor among the relative variables considered for the study followed by total consumption expenditure and farm income”.

E. Benefits of MGNREGA – Application of Factor Analysis

MGNREGA is the government's flagship social programme, with public service offering relatively consistent work openings that are especially useful in demonstrating rural development. Das et al. (2011) are a group of researchers who came up with a novel way to solve a problem. A number of centrally financed projects have been initiated under the Rural Development Mission for the Welfare of the Vulnerable. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), on the other hand, is one of India's most important attempts to combat rural poverty. (Das et al., 2011) The scheme was launched with the support of Panchayats, civil society, and local government to correct the flaws and weaknesses in all previous schemes. Poor households were selected for jobs and livelihood benefits in order to supplement their family income and

boost the quality of life in rural areas and poor people's purchasing power (Sathiskumar and Nagarajan 2017). It has been argued that in order to achieve inclusive growth, there is a need to increase aggregate demand, which can be achieved by increasing people's income levels (Padma 2015) The impact of MGNREGA scheme is focused on job patterns and labour participation rates, and it adequately serves rural India to achieve its goal of improving living standards (Murty 2015) and efficiency of this scheme can be increased by exploring the potential of MGNREGA convergence with agricultural schemes, increasing the wage employment and ensure the time bound employment Guarantee and wage employment (Sankar and Sharma 2010).

It is generally regarded that MGNREGA has the potential not only to reduce poverty and vulnerability, but also to provide more transformative results in terms of empowerment and social justice. It was found that the scheme benefits the poorest households – especially Dalits and women – by acting as a safety net and a tool for poverty alleviation. However it has also had substantial effects for rural jobs, such as raising rural income standards, increasing the bargaining power of low caste workers in the labour market, and reducing poverty.

These benefits are not only important, but also revolutionary, as they have an effect on rural development ties and contribute to the empowerment of rural labouring poor. However, the scheme's results in terms of building long-term assets and fostering grassroots democracy are much less promising (Vigneswara, 2018).

The MGNREGA programme has allowed rural households to improve their buying power, live a quality and healthier life with all basic amenities, educate their children, and receive a variety of other benefits. Because of the increased income provided by the MGNREGA, rural households have been able to go for an extra mile and invest on a better standard of life. The survey carried out by Dheeraj (2017) showed that 89 percent of households have electricity connections, 45 percent have televisions, and almost 40 percent have access to mobile phones. MGNREGA's positive impact is not enough to alleviate poverty. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) promotes the lives of rural poor people in a number of ways, including ensuring their livelihood. MGNREGA aims to improve rural poor

livelihood stability by providing at least one hundred days of wage jobs to any household with adult members willing to do unskilled manual labour. MGNREGA not only provides wage jobs as a means of income, but it also creates long-term assets such as road construction, land protection, water storage, and irrigation facilities, all of which have a significant impact on the village economy. (Adi Lakshmi 2018)

It is observed that the economically weaker states of the country have been benefited maximum and have implemented the MGNREGA more vigorously. The study conducted by Kumar and Josh (2013) has shown that the rise in income could lead to increase in food consumption – both of cereals and non – cereals by all the categories of households. A diversification in the dietary pattern of household has also been observed, which is again a strong indicator of better food consumption. These developments have resulted into a substantial increase in calorie – intake as well as protein – in take by different categories of households, by eight to nine percent. MGNREGA is considered as a silver bullet for eradicating poverty and unemployment which provides alternative sources of livelihood and it is considered as the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people as well as strategic needs of women’s participation and the government transformed different programmes/ scheme to uplift the women from poverty and vulnerability of life. It strives hard to increase livelihood opportunities and improved quality of rural areas of the country but authority must take immediate steps to stop corruption in its implementation by which MGNREGA wage reaches to the workers directly. (Datta and Sharma 2010) it has been agreed that the MGNREGA has constituted a safety net for the rural poor, contributing towards their food security, reducing distress migration and increasing access to health and education. The MGNREGA has also contributed to their increase of rural and urban wages, thus helping to reduce poverty also among non – beneficiaries.

The researcher used factor analysis to investigate the benefits of the MGNREGA programme to the respondents in the current study. MGNREGA provides social protection for the most vulnerable people in rural India by creating jobs and ensuring their livelihood stability through the development programme, enhanced water security, soil conservation, and increased land productivity. As a result of its effect on social

welfare, socioeconomic stability, and political empowerment, MGNREGA is an important tool for ensuring sustainable development in rural India. The study's participants were asked to score MGNREGA's advantages on a five-point scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The scale goes from a score of 5 for strongly agree to a low of 1 for strongly disagrees. The underlying dimensions of the variables seen as MGNREGA benefits were identified using factor analysis.

The factor analysis included all of the advantages considered by the respondents. Cronbach's alpha was used to assess the efficiency by using factor analysis.

The KMO and Bartlett test measurements were also computed to assess the appropriateness by using factor analysis and the findings are presented in table – XIII.

Table – XIII
KMO and Bartlett's Test Measures

Test Measures	All
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure	.735
Cronbach's Alpha	0.712
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	
(i) Approx. Chi-Square	22399.458
(ii) Degrees of freedom	190
(iii) Significance	.000

Source: Estimation based on Field survey

Cronbach's Alpha reliability statistics helps to evaluate whether the number of individual items contains the same characteristics to explain the characteristics of the constructs. In the study, the cronbach's alpha value for Benefits of MGNREGA was 0.712 which is greater than 0.7 indicating the internal consistency of the constructs. The KMO statistics for the beneficiaries were 0.735 signifying higher than acceptable adequacy of sampling. Bartlett's test of sphericity was also found to be significant at 1 percent level providing evidence of the presence of relationship between the variables to apply factor analysis.

Table – XIII below enlists the Eigen values, their relative explanatory powers and the factor loadings for 20 components identified within the data set.

Table – XIV
Benefits of MGNEGA

S. No	Benefit of MGNREGA	Components			
		1	2	3	4
1	Continuous employment			.783	
2	Enhance total family income		.783		
3	Better employment	.919			
4	Higher wages	.835			
5	Education of children			.743	
6	Chance for higher education			.828	
7	Create better atmosphere for education				
8	Better health treatment				
9	Exposure to private hospital				
10	Able to get quick treatment		.857		
11	Better care for elders at place of origin		.789		
12	Purchase of household articles		.751		
13	Improvement in the facilities at home		.878		
14	Purchase of jewels				
15	Assets creation				.801
16	Exposure to urban life		.807		
17	Chance to participating in urban social activities				
18	Repayment of debt	.851			
19	Able to save				.883
20	Able to create improvement on existing landholdings	.900			
Eigen Value		6.383	5.058	3.760	1.343
Percentage of Variance		31.913	25.289	18.798	6.715
Cumulative percentage		31.913	57.201	75.999	82.714

Source: Estimation based on Field survey

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

From the table – XIV, it is inferred that all the benefits were reduced into four factors in the factor analysis. Factor I has significant loading on dimension namely “better Employment” “higher wages” “repayment of debt” and “able to create improvement on existing landholdings” as these variation explained about 31.913

percent of variance in the benefits expressed by the respondents through their MGNREGA programme . Factor – II ha significant loading on five Dimensions namely “Enhance total family income ”, “able to get quick treatment”, “better care for elderly at place origin”, “purchase of household articles”, “improvement in facilities at home”, “Exposure to urban life”, as these variables explained 25.289 percent of variation in the benefits of MGNREGA. Factor III has significant loading on their dimensions which are “continuous employment”, “education of children”, and chance for higher education as there factors explained 18.79 percent of variation among the sample respondents. Factor IV has significant loading for two variables namely “asset creation”, and “able to save”, as they explained 6.71 percent of variation in the benefit. The cumulative percentage of variation explained by the selected benefits was 82.714 percentage. MGNREGA, according to Vasanthi (2017), is an effective tool for reducing poverty and improving the socioeconomic status of the poor, especially rural women. It has been instrumental in bringing about positive change in the lives of rural women. It has been noted that since operating under the MGNREGA scheme, women have earned the ability to begin investing their salaries in banks. Rural women have gained further attention, which has contributed to their active role in addressing local issues in general and women's individual problems in particular.

Saroniya and Singh (2016) and Sameeksha (2012) in their study also found out that the implementation of MGNREGA has helped in the creation of sustainable rural assets, water conservation and forestry works, MGNREGA contributed to ecological restoration and generate environmental benefits through increased livelihood security, especially for rural women to climate change and other shocks, besides, the progamme also helped in enhancing in social security and living standards of poor households. It also helped in preventing seasonal or distressed migration towards cities and given work opportunity at native place and increased household income which is used for food security, education of dependents, health care and debt repayments.

F. Relationship between MGNREGA and Standard of Living among Paniyan Tribal Population – Path Analysis

❖ Impact of MGNREGA

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, mal-nourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. Kantharaju (2011) conducted a study on Impact of MGNREGA towards Employment Generation and Assets creation among randomly selected 120 beneficiaries from four Taluks in Tumkur District of Karnataka State. The findings of the study revealed that, 50 percent of the beneficiaries were middle aged, 53.33 per cent of the beneficiaries belonged to Other Backward Castes (OBCs), 33.33 percent of the beneficiaries had completed primary school, 61.67 percent of beneficiaries were small farmers, majority of the beneficiaries belonged to the above poverty line. Agriculture was the main occupation of cent per cent of the beneficiaries and had knowledge about the objectives of MGNREGA on getting 100 days of wage employment. About 23.33 percent of the beneficiaries got employment of 71-80 man days in a year, the major individual farm works were horticultural planting 33.33 percent, 21.35 percent of the beneficiaries had participated in desolation of tanks and cleaning of community ponds. The variables such as education, urban contact, social participation and caste had positive and significant relationship with knowledge level and farm assets created by the beneficiaries. The variables such as caste, land holding annual income and urban contact had negative and significant relationship with employment generation and community assets created by the beneficiaries. Delay in payment of wages, insufficient wage rate and creation of poor quality assets were the

major constraints expressed by the beneficiaries. There is need to enhance the wage rate, transparency in evaluating the works undertaken under MGNREGA, wages should be paid in time and proper publicity for Grama Sabha were the major suggestions given by beneficiaries for successful implementation of MGNREGA.

❖ **Preference towards of MGNREGA:**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP) was legislated, which is one of the most progressive legislations enacted in India since independence. It guarantees 100 days of employment to each household at a minimum prescribed rate. The Act aims to provide employment to more than 20 million households, out of which more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries come from scheduled castes/scheduled tribes (SC/ST) households. Prasanna et.al., (2017) remarked that MGNREGP promises to reduce the wandering of rural poor for their employment simultaneously addressing the problems of poverty and inequality. This study analyzed the impact of MGNREGP on poverty alleviation with special reference to Salem and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu, India. The study has adopted the multi-stage sampling method. A well structured interview schedule has been used for the data collection. The study conducted by Xavier et.al., (2014) found that the MGNREGA increases income and expenditure of the households compared over the pre MGNREGA period and the scheme significantly enhances the social and economic decision making power to women in the men dominated rural society. Hence the scheme ensures improved standard of living of the vulnerable poor, more specifically among women. It also finds that poor worksite facility, hot climate condition and reduction of leisure time put them much hardship during the working hours of MGNREGA.

❖ **Benefits of MGNREGA**

MGNREGA can be considered as a growth engine. A study was undertaken to assess the impact of the scheme on change in their income, savings pattern and extent of employment after the implementation of the scheme in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka state by Divakar et.al., (2016). The study was undertaken to assess the

impact of the scheme on change in the income, savings pattern and extent of employment after the implementation of the scheme in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka state. Kalaburagi district was covered during the third phase of implementation of MGNREGA which was selected for the study with the pre set objective of analyzing the impact of MGNREGA on the participant households. For evaluating the specific objectives designed for the study, required primary data was collected from the participants for the agriculture year 2013-14. MGNREGA fully implemented village farmers were earning significantly higher income (74.48 percent) than that of partially implemented MGNREGA village farmers 4775/year. The average amount of savings made in SHGs was Rs.2,380 in fully implemented MGNREGA villages, whereas in partially implemented MGNREGA villages it was Rs.1,543. The savings made in banks Rs. 12, 000 by the participants in fully implemented MGNREGA villages, whereas, in case of partially implemented MGNREGA villages the savings was made by participants was around Rs.8,120 it was less compared to fully implemented MGNREGA villages.

❖ **Standard of Living and MGNREGA**

A standard of living is the level of wealth, comfort, material goods, and necessities available to a certain socioeconomic class or a certain geographic area. The standard of living includes basic material factors such as income, gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, and economic opportunity. The standard of living is closely related to quality of life, which can also include factors such as economic and political stability, political and religious freedom, environmental quality, climate, and safety. Jana et.al., (2013), in their paper titled “Socio Economic Determinants of Participation in MGNREGA: A Study in Bankura District of Rural West Bengal” attempted to review the current status of implementation of MGNREGA in Bankura district, West Bengal and to identify the emerging strengths and weaknesses for wider dialogue for improvement. 200 households were chosen from two backward and demographically diversified blocks on stratified random sampling technique. The respondents were asked through open ended questionnaire on several aspects of MGNREGA. The study found that there was a low awareness among the beneficiaries about the scheme under MGNREGA as well as some institutional gaps. The study also

observed some irregularities in the implementation of the scheme. The beneficiaries believed that if the scheme was effectively implemented, MGNREGA will be a more effective instrument for eradicating poverty. Roy (2013), in his study titled “Right Based Approach in Accessing Social Sector Services- A Case Study of MGNREGA” attempted to study the right based employment guarantee scheme with social safety net for the rural poor. Under this Act if work is not provided within 15 days time frame from the date of registration for employment then the applicant is eligible for unemployment allowance. The study also highlighted the characteristics of MGNREGA as a right based approach and evaluated how far the right based programme is able to give scope in accessing social services to the beneficiaries in India with special reference to North East. The study found that the scheme is very effective in addressing the problem of poverty in India which is the main cause of vulnerability of life. By generating income it has been acting as a helpline in accessing social services for MGNREGA workers.

Bebarta (2013), in a research work titled “Impact of MGNREGA in the Lives of Tribal People: A Study of Rayagada Block in Gajapati District” assessed the implementation of MGNREGA and its impact on the lives of tribal people in the Rayagoda block in the district of Gajapati of Odisha. As known the MGNREGA provides guarantee employment to the rural households, it also empowers the marginalized rural mass through decentralized planning which ensures the livelihood security by creating durable assets. The study was based on a random sample of 50 tribal households covering awareness related to the different provisions of MGNREGA and its impact viz., socio-economic condition, livelihood security, sustainable asset creation, agricultural productivity, migration and social empowerment. The study found that the tribal households in the Gajapati district have been benefited from MGNREGA in many ways as it has increased their income resulting into multiple impacts in their social and economic well being.

The Path analysis was used to study the direct and indirect relationship between the preference of the beneficiaries and benefits received out of programme. The beneficiaries of the MGNREGA programme stated economic conditions, financial improvement, health, employment and household and social societal service as the

preferences for the programme. The benefits enjoyed by the beneficiaries were help to improve the standard of living was measured based on five point scale. All the above preference variables benefit and standard of living variables were measured based on five point rating scale.

The following hypotheses were framed in the path analysis.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between MGNREGA programme and standard of living of tribal people.

H_a: There is significant relationship between MENREGA programme and standard of living of tribal people.

Initially, in the structural equation modeling, the reliability of the scale used in the variables was tested. To test the reliability of the scaling used in the selected variables, Cronbach alpha was calculated. The results of Cronbach alpha are shown in table.

Table - XV
Reliability Statistics

Cronbach alpha				
Economic Condition	Financial Improvement	Health	Employment	Household and Societal Service
0.702	0.713	0.734	0.715	.752

Source: Estimation based on field survey, 2019.

Cronbach's alpha with respect to need for MGNREGA, Preference of MGNREGA and Benefit of MGNREGA was greater than 0.7, indicting the internal consistency in the scale used for measuring economic condition, financial improvement, health, employment, household and societal service.

Interrelationship between need for MGNREGA, Preference of MGNREGA, benefit of MGNREGA and standard of living was analysed.

The variable shows the need for MGNREGA was calculated based on a test containing 5 multiple choice questions on conceptual need for MGNREGA.

The interrelationship between need for MGNREGA, Preference of MGNREGA, benefit of MGNREGA and Standard of Living was examined by applying the Structural Equation Model (SEM) analysis. Towards this, initially, a default model was drawn. The model depicted was a conceptual model, not a representation of a specific structural equation modeling to be tested. It was based on preliminary work conducted by the researcher to reflect the available variables in the study.

Figure – 21
Impact of Mgnrega – Model (Default Model)

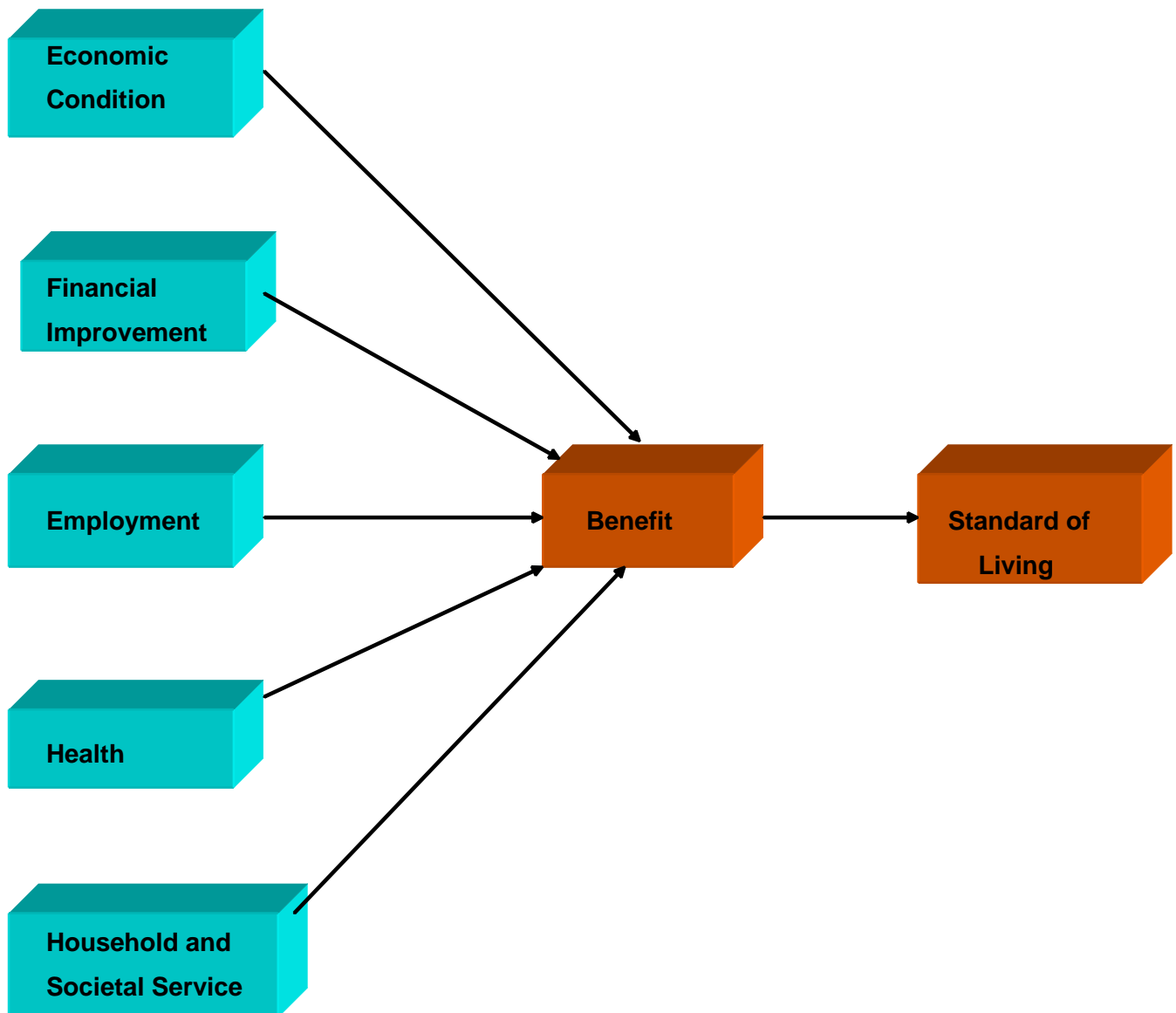


Table – XVI enlists summary value of various measures used in evaluating the model fitness.

Table - XVI
Model Fit Summary of Structural Equation Model

Fit Indices	Results	Suggested values
Chi square in AMOS(CMIN)	2.658 (0.617)	≤ 5.00 (Hair et al., 1998)
Comparative Fit index (CFI)	1.00	>0.90 (Hu and Bentler, 1999)
Goodness of Fit Index (GFI)	.999	>0.90 (Hair et al. 2006)
Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI)	.992	> 0.90 (Daire et al., 2008)
Normated Fit Index (NFI)	1.00	≥ 0.90 (Hu and Bentler, 1999)
Incremental Fit Index (IFI)	1.00	Approaches 1
Root mean square error of Approximation (RMSEA)	.000	< 0.08 (Hair et al., 2006)

*Computed through Amos output

From the table – XVI the model result computed through Amos demonstrated that CMIN was achieved with the probability level of 0.617 which was greater than 0.05 which indicates perfect fit of the model. In other words, it explained that the perfect fit of the Impact of MGNREGA model. Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) value (1.00) and Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI) value (.992) was greater than 0.9 representing a good fit. The calculated Normated Fit Index (NFI) value (1.00) and Comparative Fit Index (CFI) value (1.00) indicates that it was a perfectly fit and also it was found that Root Mean square Residuals (RMR) and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) value was 0.000 which was less than 0.08 which indicate a perfect fit. Thus, the Goodness of fit indices support the model fit and these indices indicate the acceptability of the structural model.

Figure – 22 exhibited the standardized solution for the variables under Impact of MGNREGA Model. Structural equation modeling was computed from the perspective of the respondents of Paniyan Tribal People in Gudalur Panchayat.

Figure – 22

Standardised Solution of Impact of MGNREGA Model

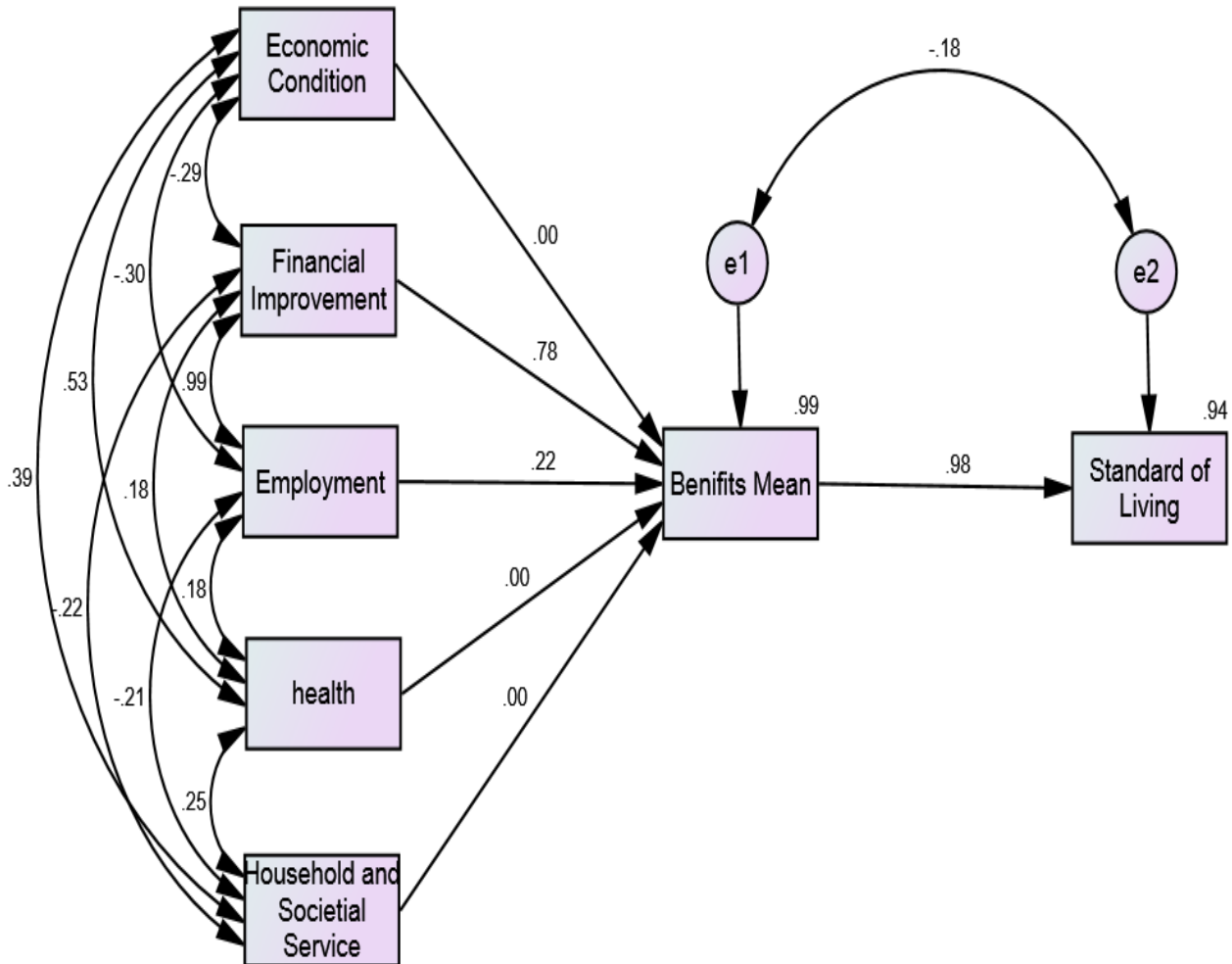


Table - XVII
Path Coefficients in Extracted Model

Path Coefficients		Estimate	Standardised Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P	Hypothesis	
Benefits Mean	←	Economic Condition	.000	.000	.005	.085	.932	Accepted
Benefits Mean	←	Financial Improvements	.782	.785	.022	35.212	***	Rejected
Benefits Mean	←	Health	-.003	-.005	.011	-.510	.610	Accepted
Benefits Mean	←	Household and Societal Service	-.003	-.005	.006	-.759	.448	Accepted
Benefits Mean	←	Employment	.215	.215	.022	9.673	***	Rejected
Standard of Living	←	Benefits Mean	.975	.985	.010	103.078	***	Rejected

Source: Estimated from field survey, 2019

Table - XVII exhibit path coefficients in extracted model. The table enlists the relationship between variables and standardized coefficient with 'p' values. Along with these, whether the concerned hypotheses could be accepted or rejected is also provided.

The Path coefficients were statistically significant for the benefits of MGNREGA programme such as Financial Improvement and Employment conditions. It revealed that the programme had positive impact on the financial status and employment conditions of the tribal households. Both these factors had significant influence on standard of living in terms of income and savings.

To conclude the Path analysis showed that the benefits of MGNREGA programme had significantly improved the standard of living of the paniyan respondents covered under the study.

4.4 Health conditions of Paniyan Tribal People

Health is a prerequisite for human development and is an essential component for the well being of the mankind. The common beliefs, customs, practices related to

health and diseases in turn influence the health of human beings. Health is a function, not only of medical care, but also of the overall integrated development of society – cultural, economic, educational, social and political. Therefore to have sound health, the various depending factors are also to be looked into”. (Naidu 2015) Health is an important determinant of a community's well-being. One of the most important aspects of human growth and success is health. India has the world's second-largest population. Tribal population face a variety of challenges as a result of their poverty and deprived circumstances, with health being one of the most important concerns that makes them more vulnerable and deprived. For a long period of time, tribal wellbeing has been the subject of constant discussion and deliberation. The socio – economic conditions along with poor health and sanitation conditions make it more vulnerable and susceptible to disaster and change (Dandub 2019).

Health should not be a privilege reserved for those with means and resources; it is a human right that should be enjoyed by all, regardless of socioeconomic class. Improving the health of the people and that health inequities will have a significant impact on not only the individual's but also society's well-being. (Kumaresan et al. 2010)

The prevalence and distribution of communicable diseases has a greater impact on impoverished families than on better-off households, resulting in loss of working and a lack of revenue and livelihood. Such communicable diseases are often water-borne and are affected by a variety of health-related factors such as a household's living environment, hygiene, and sanitation.

According to the UNDP report (2008), approximately 1.5 million people die each year from diarrheal diseases, which are often linked to poor sanitation. The majority of these deaths could be avoided with proper sanitation, safe drinking water, and a healthier lifestyle that includes good nutrition and a clean, hygienic lifestyle. Women have historically been in charge of domestic water supply and sanitation, as well as maintaining a sanitary home climate in rural India. As a result, a woman's knowledge of healthier living habits is much more important in order to keep herself and her family disease-free (Samik and Deepti, 2015). Adult women from almost every household (90 percent) went to fetch water across the districts, and on average, they spent less than

30 minutes (mostly between 15 and 30 minutes) fetching water from various sources that differed across the districts. The habit of not purifying water (or filtering it through a cloth to purify) before drinking was troubling across the districts, regardless of the source of drinking water. It should be remembered that purifying water with cloth is the least efficient form of purification. Almost all residents (93 percent) reported urinating or defecating in their homes. The majority of women did not wash their hands with soap after using the restroom (76 percent) or before eating (90 percent). Unsanitary conditions are created by a lack of toilet facilities, the prevalence of open ditches, and women's unhygienic lifestyle habits, which contaminate water, breed mosquitoes, and cause water-borne diseases. This may explain why influenza, diarrhoea, measles, fatigue, and other ailments including stomach pain, headache, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever were listed as the top health problems among respondents' households.

Poor tribal communities in India have much poorer health indices than the rest of the country. The Paniyan tribal people live in isolated rural hamlets in hilly, forested areas, where illiteracy, poor physical conditions, starvation, insufficient access to potable water, and a lack of personal hygiene and sanitation render them more susceptible to disease. One of the most significant human efforts to improve the quality of life, especially for tribal people, is providing health care facilities (Balgir, 2000, 2005). It entails the creation of conditions that provide for normal physical and mental growth and functioning of individuals as well as groups of people. Medical scientists have realised that humans can no longer be viewed as anatomical and bodily entities, and that man's personality must be considered in terms of perceptions, history, and belief systems (Balgir, 2000). Traditional remedies remain and persist, according to anthropologists' research, despite the fact that the average person today has access to western medicine. Traditional tribal medicine and healing systems must be clinically studied and combined with contemporary allopathic systems in order to make them accessible and affordable to the impoverished tribal population.

The health status of the tribal people has historically been low among the primitive tribes due to illiteracy, isolation, and remoteness, according to consensus. These tribals, who are limited to hilly and heavily forested areas, have low

socioeconomic development and are economically disadvantaged, continue to be neglected and untouched by the country's developmental processes. An integrated multidisciplinary approach has been adopted by different researchers to study the tribal health problems in the country which indicates that the primitive tribes have distinct health problems, mainly governed by multi-dimensional factors like their “habitat, difficult terrain, ecologically variable niches, illiteracy, poverty, isolation, superstition and deforestation”.

The interaction of different social, cultural, economic, economic, and political practices has had a significant impact on tribal peoples' health needs and practices (Balgir 2005). Disease avoidance has also been attributed to social attitudes, customs, practices, values, and behaviours related to health and illness. There is a variety of mythology associated with health ceremonies in most indigenous nations. Tribal folklore from various socio-cultural structures can have a positive effect and can serve as a model for good health and sanitation practices in a given environment.

Tribal culture in general, and primitive tribal groups in particular, are disease-prone and lack basic health services. They are mostly abused, ignored, and exposed to a variety of diseases, including starvation, morbidity, and mortality (Balgir, 2000). Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance of disease sources, hostile climate, inadequate health, lack of clean drinking water, and blind convictions, among other things, add to their suffering (Sethalakshmi 2011).

The details on the various health problems faced by the respondents in the study area after participating in MGNREGA are reported in the table - XVII

Table - XVIII

Impact of MGNREGA on Paniyan Tribal Population towards Their Health Problems

Statement		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Rank
Unsafe working conditions	Frequency	21	40	40	250	294	645	4.17	3
	Percentage	3.3	6.2	6.2	38.8	45.6	100		
Working at high place	Frequency	37	35	23	253	297	645	4.14	4
	Percentage	5.7	5.4	3.6	39.2	46.0	100		
Injuries	Frequency	182	178	162	45	78	645	2.47	12
	Percentage	28.2	27.6	25.1	7.0	12.1	100		
Less frequency of transport facilities	Frequency	200	44	102	44	255	645	3.17	10
	Percentage	31.0	6.8	15.8	6.8	39.5	100		
Occupational diseases	Frequency	96	34	0	0	515	645	4.25	2
	Percentage	14.9	5.3	0	0	79.8	100		
Physical barriers	Frequency	144	126	125	125	125	645	2.94	11
	Percentage	22.3	19.5	19.4	19.4	19.4	100		
Hazardous operation at work Place	Frequency	175	63	31	31	345	645	3.48	8
	Percentage	27.1	9.8	4.8	4.8	53.5	100		
Lack of first aid facilities	Frequency	16	57	38	40	494	645	4.46	1
	Percentage	2.5	8.8	5.9	6.2	76.6	100		
Lack of crèches and Toilet facilities	Frequency	189	73	8	12	363	645	3.44	9
	Percentage	29.3	11.3	1.2	1.9	56.3	100		

Pollution	Frequency	165	67	48	0	365	645	3.52	7
	Percentage	25.6	10.4	7.4	0	56.5	100		
Unreachable hospital	Frequency	184	13	60	23	365	645	3.58	6
	Percentage	28.5	2.0	9.3	3.6	56.5	100		
Heavy medical cost	Frequency	160	4	69	47	365	645	3.70	5
	Percentage	24.8	6	10.7	7.3	56.5	100		

Source: Estimated based on Field Survey 2019

The above table – XVIII depicts the effect of the MGNREGA on tribal population in terms of health concerns expressed by respondents. With a mean score of 4.46, the lack of first-aid services emerged as the first problem. The respondents' second most pressing issue was workplace disorders, which received a mean score of 4.25, followed by unhealthy job conditions (4.17), and working at a high elevation (4.14). The average ranking for these problems was greater than four. For issues such as high treatment costs, inaccessible hospitals, noise, unsafe operations at work, a lack of crèches and toilet facilities, and psychological distress, the mean score was less than 3.5.

Similarly Jonathan (2015) in her study remarked that tribal people suffer from muscular pain, injuries, malaria, skin infection and tuberculosis due to their working in different types of construction activities. Badodiya (2013) reported that the human rights of individuals and families include rights to safe working conditions and a clean and safe working environment, rights to reasonable limitation of working hours, rest leisure and rights to freedom of association and to join a trade union, rights to freedom from sexual harassment in the workplace, rights to protection during pregnancy from work, proven to be harmful (Srinivasan 2013).

Further, Badodiya (2013) reported in his study that age, social participation, source of information, their level of knowledge had significant relation with health hazards in agriculture activities carried out under MGNREGA.

In far-flung, remote tribal areas, health care is a big issue. Their ill health is exacerbated by a lack of food security, hygiene, and clean drinking water, as well as poor education and high poverty rate. Malnutrition is a multifaceted and intergenerational epidemic. Over the years, tribal communities have established their own method of medicine dependent on herbs and other natural products harvested and processed locally. They have their own diagnostic and treatment scheme. However, capabilities and natural capital are rapidly dwindling. Furthermore, conventional systems are incapable of treating or preventing certain illnesses that modern medicine is capable of (Kusum 2016).

Naidu (2015) in his study on “Tribal Health care problems in India” remarked that health is a prerequisite for human development and is an essential component for the well being of the mankind. The culture of community determines the health behavior of the community in general and individual members in particular. The tribes in India have distinct health problems mainly governed by multidimensional factors in the society. The health and nutrition problems of the tribal population of India, there were several communicable diseases prevalent among the tribals of India; women’s health among tribals was a grossly neglected concept in the society; hereditary and genetically derived health problems in the society, sexually transmitted diseases were most prevalent diseases in the tribal area in India.

In tribal culture, the medicinal practice is organized around herbal and psychometric therapy. Healing rituals include a hint of mysticism, the mystical, and sorcery, culminating in real magic – religious ceremonies, for example. Faith healing has long been an aspect of the Tribal Health Care System's conventional therapy, and can be equated to rapport or trust building in contemporary treatment procedures. There is mythology associated with health traditions in the majority of tribal cultures. The health culture of a community does not change so easily with changes in the access to various health services. Hence, it is required to change the health services to conform to health culture of tribal communities for optimal utilization of health services (Venkat 2015).

The details on the distance covered to avail medical help and the type of medicine preferred by tribal people studied are shown in table - XIX

Table – XIX
Health Care Seeking Behavior for the respondents

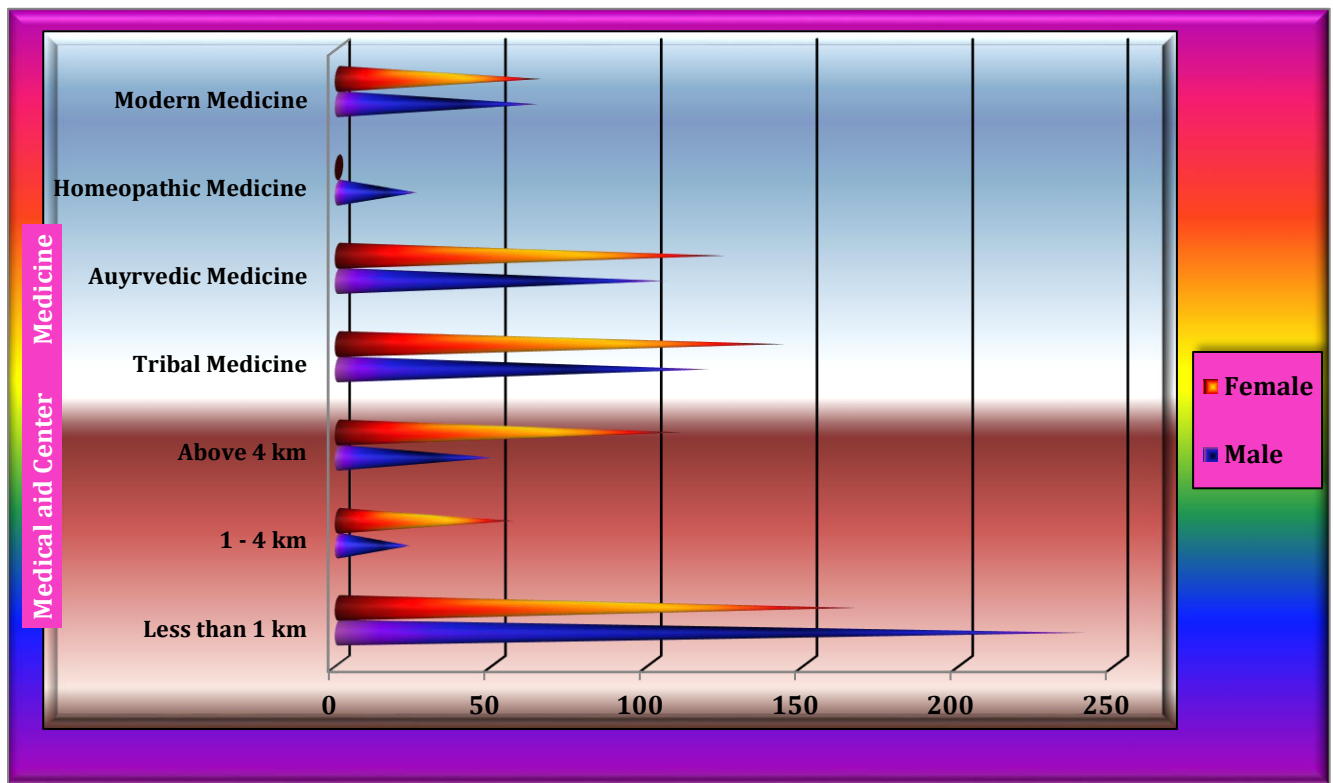
S:No	Details	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
			Male		Female	
1	Medical aid Center	Less than 1 kilometer	240	76.7	166	50
		1 – 4 kilometer	23	7.3	56	16.9
		Above 4 kilometer	50	16	110	33.1
Total			313	100	332	100
2	Medicine	Tribal Medicine	119	38	143	43
		Ayurvedic Medicine	105	33.5	124	37.3
		Homeopathic Medicine	25	8.1		-
		Modern Medicine	64	20.4	65	19.7
Total			313	100	332	100

Source: Field Survey 2019

According to the availability of medical aid centers, 76.7 percent of male participants and 50 percent of female participants reached medical aid centre within one kilometer. While tribal medicine was preferred by 33.5 percent of males and 37.3 percent of females, ayurvedic medicine was preferred by 33.5 percent of males and 37.3 percent of females it can be deduced from the study that that the majority of tribal respondents favour conventional medicine and have no interest in modern medicine similar finding were observed in a study carried out by (Kankana De 2017).

Figure – 23

Health seeking behaviour of the respondents



4.5 Problems faced by the Paniyan tribal respondents

Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the flagship programme of the Government to influence the life of poor masses positively and enhance their development. MGNREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The awareness level of beneficiaries and implementing agencies greatly determine the success and failure of any rural development schemes in India. Unlike other rural employment schemes, MGNREGA has given rise to the demand-driven approach. The works under MGNREGA has to be triggered by the beneficiaries themselves. But the study conducted by Lali (2021) revealed that due to lack of awareness, the beneficiaries do not demand work under the scheme. Instead, the works under MGNREGA is turning into allocation based. Due to a lack of awareness about the provisions of the Act, people are unaware of the basic entitlements guaranteed under MGNREGA, such as possession of a Job Card, minimum wage rate, unemployment allowance, delay compensation, fare wages, worksite facilities, social security provisions, social audit, etc. It is found that most of the elected Panchayati Raj members at the Gram Panchayat level are also unaware of these entitlements of the MGNREGA. The lack of awareness does not only hamper the working of MGNREGA but often lead to corruption and poor management of the scheme. The Government must carry out intensive awareness programmes for beneficiaries and intensive capacity building and training programmes for the Panchayats.

The participation of people is the pre-requisite for the proper identification of development needs in the village. It is observed that due to lack of awareness, community participation in the MGNREGA planning exercise is missing rather it is observed that the planning exercise is made closed-door without considering the local needs. The problem of planning exercise and community participation must be addressed through proper capacity building and training interventions. Planning and

implementation of any rural development programmes require professional human resource support, especially in the rural areas where the level of education and exposure is extremely low.

The MGNREGA is perhaps the largest and most ambitious rural employment and scheme in India. However, many studies (Kumar and Giri, 2017) have revealed that the implementation of MGNREGS since its inception has serious lacunae. Various factors have contributed to the implementation problems of MGNREGA. For instance, Mahi Pal, (2014) revealed that the lack of awareness among various stakeholders about the provisions of the Act and not using proper IEC strategy for awareness building is one of the factors responsible for lacunae. Similarly, Patel, (2010) revealed that the PRIs functionaries as implementing agencies are not aware of some of the scheme's essential features of the scheme. (Koyu, et al., 2017) opined that apparently, the working of MGNREGA is congruent with the policy document of the scheme. But the performance of MGNREGA is miserably poor.

In spite of large number of provisions under MGNREGA being in favor of workers, they could not enjoy their entitlements, such as getting work for the stipulated 100 days, unemployment allowances and basic amenities at the work site, etc.

According to the provision of MGNREGA, within 14 days of a work's completion its payment has to be made. Nevertheless, wages could not be paid within the stipulated period of time. In spite of that delay in payment and incorrect payments is a common problem under MGNREGA. This delay can be from several weeks to sometimes months. Often workers have to make several visits to the post office or the bank only to find that their wages have not been credited into their accounts. When works are done without proper permission, the payments are withheld leading to delay in wages. In case of delay in payments beneficiaries must be compensated as per the Payment of Wages act of 1936. The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides the facilities for shade for children, safe drinking water, a first-aid box and periods of rest at the work site. A few reports from the field in Orissa (Kalahandi District), Chhattisgarh (Jashpur District), Jharkhand (Palamau District), Gujarat (Sabarkantha District) and Madhya Pradesh (Jhabua, Khandwa and Umaria Districts) observed a complete lack of facilities

at the worksite. In Rajasthan in spite of that, it was heartening to note that medical kits were not found at most worksites. During extreme summer season, kids were not being taken care of properly. As a consequence, women were hesitant to bring their children to the sites. It also forced them to rethink about applying for work in the first place. For the rural poor workers, trees are the only savior from hot sun and provide them with shade on the open sites.

Kala and Sulochana (2020), carried out a study on the Problems faced by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme women workers in vilavancode taluk of kanyakumari district, In their study they explained about the work related problems and problem faced by the beneficiaries in their worksite. Following five problems were given to the respondents and they were requested to rank them showed which that low wage, more work, Irregular employment, unawareness about job, No extra benefit from government and difficult to do the job. The problems of the respondents in their worksite were given to the respondents and they were requested to rank them. The analysis showed that scarcity of drinking water, lack of sanitary facility, no security in worksite, lack of crèche facility for children, less rest time. MGNREGA become a new light and hope of ray for rural women which provide recognition in the society through participation of women in the community level work. From this, they become self independent, active participator in the community development, improvement in the decision making process in the village and their family respectively.

The various problems faced by the selected paniyan tribal respondents covered under the study are presented in table - XX

Table – XX

Problem faced by paniyan tribal respondents

Statement		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Rank
Continuous work/ day	Frequency	303	250	40	40	12	645	4.23	2
	Percentage	47	38.8	6.2	6.2	1.9	100		
More hours of Work / day	Frequency	230	253	90	35	37	645	3.94	5
	Percentage	35.7	39.2	14.0	5.4	5.7	100		
Delayed payment of wages	Frequency	104	78	162	119	182	645	2.65	12
	Percentage	16.1	12.1	25.1	18.4	28.2	100		
No work during rainy reason	Frequency	255	44	102	44	220	645	3.17	10
	Percentage	39.5	6.8	15.8	6.8	31.0	100		
Constant exposure to dust/ lot of health problems	Frequency	0	85	155	178	227	645	2.28	11
	Percentage	0	13.2	24.0	27.6	35.2	100		
Corruption	Frequency	271	88	88	90	108	645	3.50	9
	Percentage	42.0	13.6	13.6	14.0	16.7	100		
Sexual harassment	Frequency	0	0	71	218	356	645	1.56	15
	Percentage	0	0	11.0	33.8	55.2	100		
Lack of family support	Frequency	500	41	38	50	16	645	4.49	1
	Percentage	77.5	6.4	5.9	7.8	2.5	100		

Additional family burden	Frequency	423	12	8	73	129	645	3.82	6
	Percentage	65.6	1.9	1.2	11.3	20	100		
No basic facilities	Frequency	0	255	48	116	226	645	2.19	14
	Percentage	0	39.5	7.4	18.0	35.0	100		
No time for social obligation	Frequency	369	27	57	22	170	645	3.62	8
	Percentage	57.2	4.2	8.8	3.4	26.4	100		
Afraid of approaching higher officials	Frequency	365	47	69	4	160	645	3.70	7
	Percentage	56.6	7.3	10.7	0.6	24.8	100		
Due to illiterate not able to understand the total benefits of the scheme	Frequency	305	222	38	54	26	645	4.13	3
	Percentage	47.3	34.3	5.9	8.4	4.0	100		
Face hurdles due to poor transport/ road facilities	Frequency	297	205	61	39	43	645	4.04	4
	Percentage	46.0	31.8	9.5	6.0	6.7	100		
Urban culture and customs prevent to interact with others	Frequency	78	45	162	178	182	645	2.47	13
	Percentage	12.1	7.0	25.1	27.6	28.2	100		

Source: Estimated based on Field Survey 2019

The respondents face a wide variety of challenges, as seen in the table above, ranging from day-to-day work to a lack of transportation alternatives. When considering the various problems listed above, the most common problem was a lack of family support, which came as the first, followed by continuous to work every day, which came as the second problem. As shown by the third position, the respondents were unable to grasp the various advantages of the scheme. According to the respondents, the fourth place was given to a lack of suitable transportation and road services. Similar findings were reported in a study by Narayanasamy and Boraian (2009), in their study found that the respondents did face some problem like tools were not good, snakebite at the worksite and difficulty in continuously working in water bodies and certain specific problems like they were not able to strictly follow time schedule, a few were not accustomed to do physical work, tools were too heavy to carry and toilet facilities were not made available in certain worksites. Shoba (2015) in her study identified various problems faced by respondents who were involved in MGNREGA such as hard work, hours of work, travel, lack of basic facilities, wage were not given in time, less work days, low wages, health problems, delay in getting job, corruption and sexual harassment. The problems faced at home were lack of family support, lack of time to take care of children and elders, no time for social obligations, no time for household chores and suspicion by husband. Kumar and Helaney (2015) also identified the following problems in the implementation of MGNREGA such as difficulty in identification of suitable work, insufficient and improper tools, higher turnover of workers, upkeep of equipment at worksite, physical work of mates along with others, lack of public support and difficulty in job card management.

Seethalakshmi and Rathiha (2018) conducted “A Study on Personal Problems of the Workers in MGNREGA Scheme”. The study was conducted in Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala, to find out the personal problems by workers in MGNREGA Scheme. Six hundred MGNREGA workers were selected and information was collected with the help of structured Interview schedule and data was analysed with the appropriate statistical tools such as; mean score; ranking, F-Test and results were drawn from it. The data for the purpose of the study has been collected from the 600 respondents of MGNREGA workers in Thiruvananthapuram District. The objectives of the study were to

identify the personal problems associated with MGNREGA Scheme, to examine the Personal Problems of MGNREGA workers among Different Education Status, to assess the Personal problems of MGNREGA workers among different Caste Groups, to offer suitable suggestions on the basis of findings of the study. It indicated personal problems of MGNREGA workers was high for the variable 'Lack of awareness' with the mean score of 4.00 followed by 'Low level of education' and 'Lack of confidence' with the mean score of 3.51 and 3.40. Personal problems such as 'Lack of motivation' and 'Family issues' had emerged with the mean scores of 2.30 and 2.47. The study revealed that a perception on the problems was high among MGNREGA workers with low level of education and it was high among the high school level educated MGNREGA workers since it has the highest mean score of 3.11.