

**PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL  
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME WOMEN WORKERS IN VILAVANCODE  
TALUK OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT**

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**\*T.CHANDRA KALA**

Research Scholar, Department of Commerce and Research Centre, Nesamony Memorial  
Christian College, Marthandam, Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University,  
Abhisekapatti, Tirunelveli – 677011.

**\*\*Dr.R.MABEL SULOCHANA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Research Centre, Nesamony Memorial  
Christian College, Marthandam.

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is an Indian job guarantee scheme. The act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people. The objective of the study is to analyse the problems faced by the MGNREGS sample beneficiaries in their work and work site. Convenient sampling technique is adopted for this study. Finally the study concluded that the most important problem faced by the beneficiaries in work is “No extra benefit from government” and work site is “No security in work site”.*

**Key words:** *Purchasing power, Beneficiaries, Unskilled workers*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is an Indian job guarantee scheme. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wages. The act was enacted by legislation on August 25, 2005 with the of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or unskilled work to people in rural India, whether they are below the poverty line.

In 2005, India’s parliament passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which is the central government response to the constitutionally manifested right work and a means to promote livelihood security in India’s rural areas. To this end, the act guarantees 100 days of manual employment at statutory minimum wages at any rural household whose adult members willing to do unskilled manual works, the manual work needs to create sustainable assets that promote the economic and infrastructure development of village.

This act was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people primarily semi or unskilled work to people living in rural India whether or not they are below the poverty line. A round one third of the stipulated work force is women .It was initially

called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) but it was renamed namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was launched on February 2, 2006 from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh initially covered 200 poor district of the country. At the time of beginning wages are paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the state, unless the centre notices a wage rate which will not be less than Rs.60 (US \$ 1.09) per day. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.

In 2007-2008 the Act was implemented in phased manner 130 district were added. In March 2009 the statutory minimum wage rate has been increased up to Rs.120 (US \$2.18) per day. Initially on October 2, 2009 the law was initially called the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was renamed as "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In India, it is not surprising that women have a protective role of the family among the population of the bottom ladder of economic hierarchy. Unemployment is one of the major challenges of our country. MGNREGP have a great impact in reducing the unemployment. The employment of women is one of the central issues in the process of development of countries all over the world. A number of rural development programme has been implemented by the governments at the centre from time to time to ensure the balanced regional development of the rural areas, employment generation and poverty eradication. The concept of women workers has become an issue of global concern in 1980's. Women are socially, economically and politically backward and they are facing many problems in work and work site. Hence analyzing the problem faced by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme women workers is the need of the day for many cogent and pressing reasons.

## **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

Rural development programmes include all the conscious human efforts which are mainly distributed towards finding out the causes of backwardness and searching for the potentials of developments. The present study has been made to analyze the work related problems faced by the MGNREGS and to find out the problems faced by the sample beneficiaries in their worksite.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To analyses the work related problems faced by the sample beneficiaries in their work.
2. To find out the problems faced by the sample beneficiaries in their worksite.

## METHODOLOGY

The selection of sample was based on convenient sampling method and the sample has been selected according to the personal discretion of the investigator. All the workers in vilavancode taluk could not be included in the sample within the limited time available. Therefore samples of 150 respondents were selected for the study. The study is based on collection of data from both primary and secondary source. Primary data is collected through interview schedule. Secondary data is collected from panchayat office, books, official websites and journals. The data obtained from the respondents are analysed with the help of weighted average method.

## PROBLEM FACED BY THE WOMEN WORKERS

The problem of women workers were grouped in two major categories viz work related problems and worksite related problems .

1. Work related problems:
  - a) Low wage more work.
  - b) Irregular employment
  - c) Unawareness about job
  - d) No extra benefits from government
  - e) Difficult to do the job
2. Worksite related problems:
  - a) Scarcity of drinking water
  - b) Lack of sanitary facility
  - c) No security in the worksite
  - d) Lack of crèche facility for children
  - e) Less rest time

## WORK RELATED PROBLEMS

Under weighted average method proper weightage is to be given to various items. The weightage to each item being proportional to the importance of the item in distribution. Weighted average ranking method is used to analyses the problems and results are tabulated.

Following five problems are given to the respondents and they were requested to rank them.

1. Low wage more work
2. Irregular employment
3. Unawareness about job
4. No extra benefit from government
5. Difficult to do the job

**Table . 1. Computation of work related problems**

Sl. No	Problems	Weight					Total
		5	4	3	2	1	
1	Low wage more work	36(180)	33(132)	24(72)	30(60)	27(27)	471
2	Irregular employment	24(120)	33(132)	28(84)	35(70)	30(30)	436
3	Unawareness about job	22(110)	30(120)	33(99)	30(60)	35(35)	424
4	No extra benefits from government	41(205)	35(140)	29(87)	24(48)	21(21)	501
5	Difficult to do the job	27(135)	19(76)	36(108)	32(64)	36(36)	419

Source: Computed data

**Table.2. Weighted Average Rank for work related problems**

Sl. No	Weighted average	Rank
1	$471/150 = 3.14$	2
2	$436/150 = 2.91$	3
3	$424/150 = 2.83$	4
4	$501/150 = 3.34$	1
5	$419/150 = 2.79$	5

Source: Computed data

It can be inferred from the above table that among the different problems faced by the MGNREGS beneficiaries in their work, the major problems faced by the respondent is no extra benefit from government with a mean score of 3.34. Low wage more work is the second important problem with a mean score of 3.14. Irregular employment ranks with third, with a mean score of 2.91. Unawareness about the job ranks fourth, with a mean score of 2.83. Difficult to do the job to be the last problem with the least mean score of 2.79.

It has been found that, the major problem faced by the MGNREGS workers in their work is no extra benefits from government.

### **PROBLEMS FACED BY THE BENEFICIARIES IN THEIR WORKSITE**

Following five problems were given to the respondents and they were requested to rank them.

1. Scarcity of drinking water
2. Lack of sanitary facility
3. No security in worksite
4. Lack of crèche facility for children
5. Less rest time

**Table . 3.Computation of work site related problems**

Sl No	Problems	Weights					Total
		5	4	3	2	1	
1.	Scarcity of drinking water	38(190)	25(100)	29(87)	31(62)	27(27)	466
2.	Lack of sanitary facility	28(140)	34(136)	47(141)	24(48)	17(17)	482
3.	No security in work site	47(235)	35(140)	19(57)	30(60)	19(19)	511
4.	Lack of crèche facility for children	21(105)	19(76)	33(99)	34(68)	43(43)	391
5.	Less rest time	17(85)	38(152)	22(66)	30(60)	43(43)	406

Source: Computed data

**Table . 4.Weighted Average Rank for work site related problems**

Sl.No	Weighted Average	Rank
1.	$466/150=3.11$	2
2.	$482/150=3.21$	3
3.	$511/150=3.41$	1
4.	$391/150=2.61$	5
5.	$406/150=2.71$	4

Source: Computed data

It can be inferred from the above table that, among the different problems faced by the MGNREGS workers in the worksite, the major problem faced by the respondents is no security in worksite with a mean score of 3.41. Lack of sanitary facility is the second important problem with a mean score of 3.21. Scarcity of drinking water ranks third, with a mean score of 3.11. Less rest time ranks fourth, with a mean score of 2.71. Lack in crèche facility for children to be the last problem with the least mean score of 2.61.

It has been found that, the major problem faced by the MGNREGS workers in their work site is no proper security in working place.

### SUGGESTION

The present study suggested that the government should offer additional benefit to motivate the beneficiaries of MGNREGS. The level of security should also be strengthened by the government. If these suggestions are carry out by the government, the MGNREGS workers will work happily in the site.

### CONCLUSION

The MGNREGS is an important programme towards realization of the right to work. Women are major part of our society but in India their status is always considered next to men. MGNREGA become a new light and hope of ray for rural women which provide recognition in

the society through including the 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.

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