

The Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme on Livelihood Security of the Rural Poor in Kerala

SajeevKumar.M.P,

Research Scholar, SIRP, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Vinodan.C,

Associate Professor, SIRP, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Rajeev MM

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences,
Central University of Rajasthan

Received: **12 March** Revised: **19 March** Accepted: **25 March**

Abstract

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was developed by the Indian government to reduce rural poverty through 100 days of guaranteed employment per year. The objectives of the study are (1) to find out the economic impact of MGNREGS among rural beneficiaries (2) to find out the livelihood security of the beneficiaries accomplished through MGNREGA programme (3) to understand the influences of MGNREGA programme on rural poverty in Kerala. The present study is intended to identify the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA and its effect on poverty reduction. The study based on descriptive, the method used was qualitative. The study is covered three districts of Kerala namely, Kannur, Kottayam, and Kollam districts. From each area, five panchayats will be included. Samples from 15 Grama Panchayats in the three districts will be selected equally for the study. Selection of the panchayats will be made using purposive sampling method. Here the researcher presenting the salient features of the Focus Group Discussions carried out in these districts among the respondents. The findings imply that the scheme provided timely support to the rural poor people and it given immense change in their life in terms of social and economic improvement and boost up their confidence to meet the realities in the life.

Keywords: MGNREGA, rural poverty, purposive sampling method, focus group discussions.

Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) has come into force with effect from February 2006 initially in 200 districts and later on extended to all the rural districts of India from 2008-09. The scheme is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act is an essential step towards the realization of the right to work and aims at arresting out-migration of rural households in search of employment simultaneously enhancing people's livelihood on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas. Economic security enables women to make choices and live independently; it enriches all aspects of their lives and those of their families including their education, health, employment, personal safety, and financial security.