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## **Performance of Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**

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#### **Abstract**

Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a star programme of central government which ensures livelihood rights to rural people. After a decade of implementation of the scheme, this study is conducted at gross root level to review the performance. The study has conducted with secondary data of Rajakkalpatti panchayat of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. The study finds that majority of scheduled caste and Below Poverty line families were registered under this scheme. Less than half of the potential labours only registered. Women registration and participation is high in this Gram Panchayat. More than half of the labourers are effective and fit for unskilled work. Within a quarter of period more than half of the labourers were registered under this scheme. Majority of beneficiaries were received job card in stipulated time. Less than one fourth of families only utilized 100 days work in reference year. Person days generated were decreasing and quality of work is also decreased. Government should take action to ensure the quality of work.

**Keywords:** Wage employment, Poverty alleviation, Rural livelihoods, Employment Guarantee scheme, MGNREGS.

#### **Introduction**

Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNREGS) is a flagship program of central government. It ensures minimum 100 days of employment per year for all rural families. This program is much relevant for all poor families. This scheme is helping to get minimum living wages to avoid migration, and create sustainable asset in the rural areas. After experimentation it is implemented in all rural districts in India. Panchayat is playing a crucial role in implementing this scheme and due to the lack of awareness, lack of human resources and some other causes the scheme is not properly implemented.

#### **Objectives**

To examine the performance of MGNREG scheme at village panchayat level.  
To elicit out the people participation in MGNREG scheme in study panchayat.

#### **Materials and Methods**

To conduct this study with above objectives lottery method was used to select the District, Block and Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu. Based on this method Rajakkalpatti Village Panchayat of Alanganallur block in Madurai district has been selected. To bring out this study secondary data has been collected from the panchayat records. The study has been conducted fully with secondary source only.

#### **Demography of research site**

Rajakkalpatti panchayat is located in Alanganallur block of Madurai district. It includes two hamlets such as Rajakkalpatti and Maravapatti. Population of this Panchayat is 2843. The voters are 1609; among them 808 of them are male voters. The women voters are 801. There are 520 families in this panchayat. The Maravapatti panchayat is having 288 families and Rajakkalpatti panchayat is having 232 families. There are 102 scheduled families and 250 Below Poverty line families in this Panchayat.

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**Registered families in MGNREGS**

According to National Rural Employment Guarantee Act those who are willing to do manual work they have to register their name in Panchayat office. In this Panchayat

totally 93.3 percent of the families are registered under. Percent of registration is same in both the villages. There is no much difference between the both villages. It shows the economic equality of the villages.

**Table 1:** Registration of families

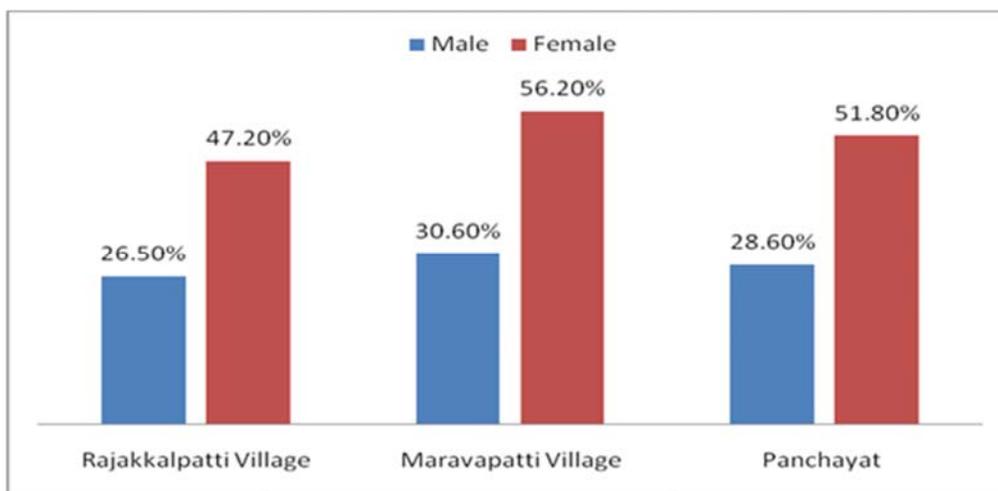
Name of the village	Schedule caste %	Below Poverty Line %	Total %	Not Registered %	Migrated %	Total %
Rajakkalpatti	89.8	92.4	93.1	3	3.9	100
Maravapatti	88.9	89.4	93.4	1.7	4.9	100
Total	89.2	90.8	93.3	2.3	4.4	100

**Registered labourers**

About 40 percent of the potential labors are enrolled. The remaining labors are very old, students, economically sound and unwilling people. Maravapatti village is having more enrollment than Rajakkalpatti village. It is high than Panchayat average enrollment. In Rajakkalpatti village the people are economically sound, comparatively number of old age people are high, and college going students are also high so that the enrollment is less than other village.

**Gender wise registration**

Basically in this scheme the women participation is high. In Rajakkalpatti panchayat 51.8 percent of the women are registered in this scheme. At hamlet level also the women registration percent is same. In Maravapatti village 56.2 percent of women are registered under this scheme. In Rajakkalpatti village 47.2 percent of the women are registered under this scheme. Panchayat and hamlets in both level the women registration is high. It is because of the equal wage rate. Due to the low wage the men participation is low at panchayat and hamlet level.



**Fig 1:** Gender wise registration

**Age wise registration**

General assumption is that the old age people are highly participated in this scheme so, the work output is too less. Rajakkalpatti panchayat is having 69 percent of efficient labour. Only two percent of the people are very old. Particularly 26 percent of the people are experienced people. It is good in combination of labour. It is having high percent of efficient labour so, there is a chance to have a good quality of work.

registration is only single digit. There was a good awareness among the community so most of the people are registered within a quarter.

**Table 2:** Age wise registration of labors

Age	18-20	21-45	46-60	61-75
Registered people	3 %	69 %	26 %	2 %

**Table 3:** Year wise registration of labors

Year	I Quarter	II Quarter	III Quarter	IV Quarter	Total
2008-09	64.2 %	2.8 %	3.6 %	0 %	70.6 %
2009-10	9.3 %	16.3 %	0.5 %	0 %	26.3 %
2010-11	3.1 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	3.1 %
Total	76.6 %	19 %	4%	0%	100%

**Registration and duration**

The scheme was initiated on April 2008 in this panchayat. From the initiation period the registration was started. In first quarter of the year 2008, 64.2 percent of the people are registered under this scheme. Totally 70.6 percent of the people are registered within a year. Remaining 26.3 percent of the people are registered in second year. Only 3.1 percent of the people have been registered in 2010. After 2010 the

**Issue of job card**

According to the act if a person has registered under this scheme the panchayat has to issue the job card within 15 days. Here 0.9 percent of the people have been got the job card after two weeks only. It is a violation of act. The data is not available for 5.6 percent of people for data of issue of job card. Only 0.8 percent of the people are got the job card immediately. The panchayat has issued the job card for 92.8 percent of the people to less than two weeks so the panchayat is working efficiently.

**Table 4:** Duration of issue of job card for registered families

Period	Within a day	Less than one week	Less than two weeks	After 2 weeks	Data not available
Frequency	5	211	388	6	36
Percent	0.8	32.7	60.1	0.9	5.6

**Work participation of families in 2013**

Only less than one fourth (17.6 percent) of families were utilized 100 days work in reference year. One fourth of families were worked 76 to 99 days of work. Followed by that one fifth (19.1 percent) of families were worked 51 to 75 days. Majority of families (26 percent) were not participated

in work. The work was provided very rarely so now most of the families are going outside for work so, the work participation is poor. The scheme is demand driven but implemented as a supply driven. The work is not provided when there is a need so the participation is poor.

**Table 5:** Work participation of families in 2013

No of Days worked	0	1 To 25	26 To 50	51 To 75	76 To 99	100
Percent of Families	26.00%	11.00%	8%	19.10%	25.00%	17.60%

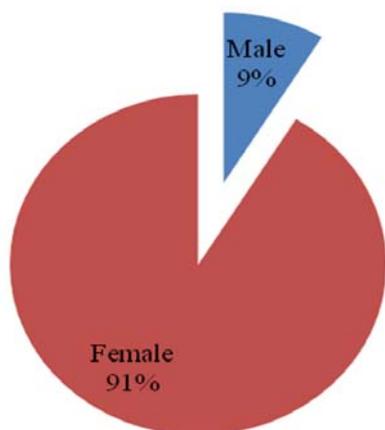
**Gender participation in work**

Generally the people think that in this scheme, the quality of work is poor because of women participation. This study is also prove that the women participation high in all works. In this panchayat the Puthukulam tank renovation work is done. The total person days are 7912. In this total man power 91.3 percent of the man power is women power. According to the medical science the women are unfit to the physical work. It may lead to the poor quality of work output.

projected labour budget. The man days generated has been decreased in the financial year 2014-15.

**Quality of work**

Totally six works were done in this panchayat. Among these six works the people think that the five works quality is average and one work is poor quality. People perceived that this work was done in summer season so the mud was very hard so the people can't work properly and it leads the poor quality of work. The remaining five works are better than this work. But no work is done with good quality. The reason is that the people attitude is poor they think that it is a government work so we need not work properly. The people are comparing with other people so those who have a good attitude they are also not willing to work.



**Fig 2:** Gender participation in work

**Work disparity**

During 2010 to 2013, six works has been done in this panchayat but if we see at hamlet level there is inequality in asset creation. In Maravapatti four assets has been created and Rajakkalpatti only two assets has been created. It shows the unavailability of work site in panchayat level. One hamlet is having more work sites another hamlet is having less work sites. Another finding is that all the six works are only tank renovation. The panchayat is not concentrate on any other work. There is an opportunity to form a road and tree plantation but the panchayat is giving importance to only tank renovation

**Person days generated**

This panchayat is highly concentrated on employment generation. In 2012-13, 39639 person days of employment has been created. In 2013-14, about 41874 person days of employment has been generated. In 2014-15, 38293 man days were created. The Panchayat has not achieved the

**Conclusion**

The study finds that, initially there was an enthusiasm among the people to register and participate in scheme. Now the performance of this scheme is declining at gram panchayat level. The evidence shows that decreasing of person days and quality of output in asset creation is also decreased. Lack of men labour participation and poor attitude of labors are reason for poor quality of assets created. Government should take effective action to ensure the quality of assets created under this scheme.

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