

## A STUDY ON EMPLOYMENT OF MGNREGA WORKERS IN ERODE DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

**Dr. N. Mani**

*Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, Erode Arts & Science College, Erode, Tamil Nadu.*

**N. Krishnan**

*Ph.D (Research Scholar) Dept. of Economics, Erode Arts and Science College, Erode, Tamilnadu.*

### **ABSTRACT**

*The present paper focuses on employment of MGNREGA workers in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. The Ministry of Rural Development is one of the important ministries in India involved in development of rural areas of the country. The mission and vision of ministry exhibits a sustainable and inclusive growth of rural India. The ministry is striving hard to increase livelihood opportunities and improved quality of life of rural poor people. Furthermore, eradicating poverty is a significant endeavor of the ministry. Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is the flagship programme of the Government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. Objectives of the study: 1. to study the MGNREGA workers in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. 2. To offer suggestion and improvement of MGNREGP. This study used mainly secondary data. The sources of the data are published and unpublished sources like books, journals, magazines, publications, reports, etc. The study found that the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at a Glance. The average wage rate per day per person was 129.3 in FY 2013-2014 and 121.4 and 114.5 was registered in FY 2012-13 and 2011-12. From the analysis, it is found that the total no. of block and total no. of panchayat has 231. The total no. of registered workers is 224746 in Erode district and the total no. of registered workers is 13240094 in Tamil Nadu. Hence it can be concluded from the study the Minimum no. of workers recorded in the block of Bhavanisagar (Mudukkanthurai panchayat) ie. 117 and Maximum no. of workers signed in the block of Bhavani (Kavandapadi panchayat) ie. 4577. There is also the important role of the Govt. in implementation of MGNREGS. Thus the Govt. must take immediate steps to stop corruption in its implementation by which the MGNREGA wages reaches to the workers directly. We can surely ensure that the money goes to those who need it.*

**Key words:** *Rural Employment, MGNREGA, Rural Development.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted in September 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched on 02.02.2006 and was initially implemented in six districts, viz., Cuddalore, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram from 02.02.2006 onwards and in four more districts viz. Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Karur from 01.04.2007 onwards. From 01.04.2008 onwards, the scheme was extended to the remaining twenty districts of the State which are; 1. Ariyalur, 2. Dharmapuri, 3. Perambalur, 4. Pudukottai, 5. Ramanathapuram, 6. Namakkal, 7. Vellore, 8. Thoothu kudi, 9. Virudhunagar 10. Salem, 11. Erode, 12. Tiruchirappalli, 13. Kancheepuram 14. Theni, 15. Tiruvallur, 16. Madurai, 17. Nilgiris, 18. Kanniyakumari, 19. Coimbatore and 20. Krishnagiri and 21. Tiruppur.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME**

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. This Act is an important step towards the realization of the right to work. It is also expected to enhance people's livelihoods on a sustained basis, by developing the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas. The Village Panchayat will issue job cards to every registered individual. Payment of the statutory minimum wage and equal wages for men and women are the notable features of the scheme. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - TN under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was formulated in G.O M.S No. 89, RD & PR (CGS1) dt 2.8.2006 and published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary No.181 dt.2.8.2006.

**Funding Pattern: The cost of the scheme is shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 90:10. The Central Government will bear the following costs:**

a) The entire cost of wages for unskilled manual workers. b) 75 percent of the cost of material and wages for skilled and semi-skilled workers. c) Administrative expenses, which will include, inter alia, the salary and allowances of Programme Officers and their support staff and work site facilities. d) Administrative expenses of the Central Employment guarantee Council.

**The State Government will bear the following costs:** a) 25 percent of the cost of material and wages for skilled and semi-skilled workers. b) Unemployment allowance payable in case the State Government cannot provide wage employment within 15 days of application. c) Administrative expenses of the State Employment Guarantee Council.

**Priority of works:** Taking into account the field conditions in Tamil Nadu, the works are being taken up in Tamil Nadu in the following priority: a) Formation of new ponds. b) Renovation of existing Ponds, Kuttais, Kulams, Ooranies, and Temple tanks etc. c) Desilting of channels. d) Desilting and strengthening of bunds of irrigation tanks. e) Formation of new roads. f) Other water conservation/soil conservation measures/flood protection measures.

**Special Steps Taken To Ensure Successful Implementation Of NREGS:** On assumption of office in the month of May 2006, this Government noticed that the scheme had not taken off properly. This was evident from the fact that the expenditure made up to 31.03.2006 was only Rs. 3 crores and that works had been taken up only in 924 Village Panchayats out of a total of 3,830 Village Panchayats in the six Districts. This Government was quick to identify the issues and bottlenecks that were responsible for the poor progress in the implementation of the programme and came out with a series of initiatives to address those issues and to remove the implementation bottlenecks. As a result of the concerted efforts taken by this Government, a sum of Rs.5, 241.21 crores has been utilized and over 69.250 crores man days of employment have been generated up to 31.01.2011. About 82% of the work force comprises women and 56% are Scheduled Castes. A notable feature of the scheme is that it has had a buoyant effect on rural wages.

**Goals of MGNREGA:** Long-term objectives of the Act include: 1. Enhancement of livelihood security in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every registered household. 2. Creating productive assets. 3. Protecting the environment. 4. Reducing migration. 5. Empowering rural women and the poor through the provision of a right-based law. 6. Fostering social equity. 7. To create strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing employment source, when other alternative are inadequate. Thus MGNREGA has 3 distinct goals: 1. Protective, 2. Preventive, 3. Promotive. It protects the rural poor from vulnerabilities by providing them demand based employment. It prevents risk associated with agricultural investment and forced migration of rural poor. It brings prosperity in rural economy via increased consumption demand. Thus MGNREGA can be considered as a growth engine.

**Salient features of MGNREGA:** Right based-frame work (ii) Time bound guarantee of employment (iii) Permissible works (IV) Labour intensive works (v) Decentralization (VI) Work site management and facilities (vii) Women empowerment (viii) Transparency and Accountability (ix) Funding.

**Table 1: Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at a Glance**

	FY 2013-2014	FY 2012-2013	FY 2011-2012
<b>Total no of Districts</b>	644	636	635
<b>Total No. of Blocks</b>	6576	6568	6378
<b>Total No. of GPs</b>	247643	247643	247643
<b>Total no of Villages</b>	778134	778134	778133
<b>Total No. of HH Registered(In Cr)</b>	12.9	12.9	12.6
<b>Total No. of Workers in Job Card(In</b>	28.3	28.6	27.8

Cr)				
Number of GPs with NIL exp		35770	25763	25065
Number of Ongoing Works(In Lakhs)		99.8	80.2	53.2
Total No. of Works Taken up (New+Spill Over)(In lakhs)		110.8	106.5	80.8
Total Exp(In Cr)	Wages (Rs. In Cr.)	17531	27129.5	24306.2
Material and skilled Wages (Rs. In Cr.)		5652.6	10377.9	10650.5
	Adm Exp:			
GP Level		140.3	307.6	301.8
	Block Level	708.3	1327.9	1191.7
	District Level	291.6	482	514.4
	State Level	88.448	32.936	108.055
	Total Adm Expenditure	1228.7	2150.4	2116
	Total Exp (Rs. in Cr.)	24412.2	39657.9	37072.7
	Labour Vs Material (%)	75.6	72.3	69.5
	Admin Exp (%)	5	5.4	5.7
Wage Employment Provided(in lakhs)	Households	376.6	498.3	506.4
	Individuals	548.8	796.3	820
	Men	280	421.6	446.6
	Women	268.8	374.7	373.3
	SCs	128.8	181.3	185
	STs	94.4	142.6	147.4
	Persons with Disability	3.5	4.1	4
Person days(In Cr)	Total as per LB	259.4	278.7	199.6
	Person days Generated so far	132	230	218.8
	% of Total LB	50.9	82.5	109.6
	% as per Proportionate LB	64	105.7	155.8
	SC person days	30.9	51.1	48.5
	ST person days	20.5	40.8	40.9
Average Wage rate per day per person		129.3	121.4	114.5
Average days of employment provided per Household		35	46.1	43.2
Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment(In Lakhs)		12.5	51.5	41.7
% payments generated within 15 days		68.2	61.7	57.8
% of payments Disbursed through EFMS		16.2	0.9	0

(Source: www.nrega.nic.in)

The above table 1 shows the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at a Glance. The average wage rate per day per person was 129.3 in FY 2013-2014 and 121.4 and 114.5 was registered in FY 2012-13 and 2011-12.

**Table 2: The no. of registered workers in Erode district of Tamil Nadu under MGNREGA Scheme.**

Block Name	Panchayat Name	No. Of Registered Workers	Block Name	Panchayat Name	No. Of Registered Workers
Ammapet	Attavanaipudur	692	Bhavanisagar	Vinnapalli	579
Ammapet	Bhootapadi	755	Chennimalai	Basuvapatti	1194
Ammapet	Chennampatti	2352	Chennimalai	Ekkettampalayam	872
Ammapet	Guruvareddiyur	1959	Chennimalai	Ellaiagramam	550
Ammapet	Kadappanallur	464	Chennimalai	Ingur	1284
Ammapet	Kalpavi	669	Chennimalai	Kavundachipalayam	1524
Ammapet	Kannapalli	895	Chennimalai	Kodumanal	284
Ammapet	Kesarimangalam	1329	Chennimalai	Koothampalayam	556
Ammapet	Komarayanur	846	Chennimalai	Kumaravalasu	1457
Ammapet	Kurhichi	979	Chennimalai	Kuppichipalayam	494
Ammapet	Manickampalayam	1092	Chennimalai	Kuttapalayam	619
Ammapet	Mathur	1208	Chennimalai	Mugasipulavanpalay am	395
Ammapet	Muhasipudur	920	Chennimalai	Mukasipidariyur	1800
Ammapet	Oddapalayam	1029	Chennimalai	Murungatholuvu	1618
Ammapet	Padavalkalvai	539	Chennimalai	Ottaparai	1592
Ammapet	Patlur	1218	Chennimalai	P. Palatholuvu	751
Ammapet	Poonachi	1130	Chennimalai	Paniyampalli	796
Ammapet	Pudur	366	Chennimalai	Pudupalayam	544
Ammapet	Singampettai	694	Chennimalai	Pungampadi	739
Ammapet	Vellithiruppur	1406	Chennimalai	Sirukalanji	932
Anthiyur	Bramadesam	2124	Chennimalai	V. Vellodu	1406
Anthiyur	Burgur	2139	Chennimalai	Varapalayam	400
Anthiyur	Chinnathambipalaya m	1023	Chennimalai	Voipadi	683
Anthiyur	Ennamangalam	1163	Erode	Elavamalai	864
Anthiyur	Gettisamudram	1005	Erode	Ellappalayam	541
Anthiyur	Keelvani	589	Erode	Gangapuram	949
Anthiyur	Koothampoondi	710	Erode	Kadhirampatty	825
Anthiyur	Kuppandampalayam	1123	Erode	Koorapalayam	697
Anthiyur	Michaelpalayam	877	Erode	Mettunasuvampalaya m	1975
Anthiyur	Moongilpatti	670	Erode	Muthampalayam	591
Anthiyur	Nagalore	882	Erode	Perode	833
Anthiyur	Pachampalayam	1158	Erode	Pitchandampalayam	1031
Anthiyur	Sankarapalayam	907	Erode	Thindal	1320
Anthiyur	Vempathy	1800	Erode	Villarasampatti	891
Bhavani	Alathur	519	Gobichettipal ayam	Alukkuli	1677
Bhavani	Andikulam	534	Gobichettipal ayam	Ammapalayam	397
Bhavani	Chinnapuliyur	757	Gobichettipal ayam	Ayalur	1285
Bhavani	Kavandapadi	4577	Gobichettipal	Bommanaickenpalay	1097

			ayam	am	
Bhavani	Mylambadi	<b>1442</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Chandrapuram	<b>603</b>
Bhavani	Odathurai	<b>1251</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Kadukkampalayam	<b>659</b>
Bhavani	Oricheri	<b>1141</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Kalingiyam	<b>1569</b>
Bhavani	Paruvachi	<b>1413</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Kottupullampalayam	<b>1201</b>
Bhavani	Periyapuliyur	<b>1104</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Kullampalayam	<b>795</b>
Bhavani	Punnam	<b>1224</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Mevani	<b>756</b>
Bhavani	Sanniyasipatti	<b>637</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Modachur	<b>971</b>
Bhavani	Thottipalayam	<b>2079</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Nagadevampalayam	<b>1170</b>
Bhavani	Urachikottai	<b>1106</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Nanjai Gobi	<b>958</b>
Bhavani	Vairamangalam	<b>605</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Nathipalayam	<b>523</b>
Bhavani	Varadhanallur	<b>958</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Pariyur	<b>401</b>
Bhavanisagar	Desipalayam	<b>795</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Perunthaliyur	<b>970</b>
Bhavanisagar	Karapadi	<b>573</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Polavakkalipalayam	<b>1126</b>
Bhavanisagar	Kavilipalayam	<b>803</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Savandappur	<b>1035</b>
Bhavanisagar	Kothamangalam	<b>1479</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Siruvalur	<b>2161</b>
Bhavanisagar	Mathampalayam	<b>874</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Vellalalayam	<b>1429</b>
Bhavanisagar	Mudukkanthurai	<b>117</b>	Gobichettipal ayam	Vellankoil	<b>1065</b>
Bhavanisagar	Nallur	<b>930</b>	Kodumudi	Anjur	<b>958</b>
Bhavanisagar	Nochikuttai	<b>356</b>	Kodumudi	Avudaiyarparai	<b>629</b>
Bhavanisagar	Panniyampalli	<b>1102</b>	Kodumudi	Ayyampalayam	<b>801</b>
Bhavanisagar	Periyakallipatti	<b>599</b>	Kodumudi	Elunoothimangalam	<b>623</b>
Bhavanisagar	Pungur	<b>654</b>	Kodumudi	Ichippalayam	<b>1126</b>
Bhavanisagar	Thoppampalayam	<b>1080</b>	Kodumudi	Kolathupalayam	<b>1866</b>
Bhavanisagar	Uthandiyur	<b>1446</b>	Kodumudi	Kongudaiyampalaya m	<b>530</b>
Bhavanisagar	Varappalayam	<b>668</b>	Kodumudi	Konthalam	<b>1062</b>
Kodumudi	N.Kolanalli	<b>762</b>	Perundururai	Chinnaveerasangili	<b>681</b>
Kodumudi	Vallipuram	<b>283</b>	Perundururai	Kallakulam	<b>452</b>
Modakkurichi	46 Pudur	<b>1549</b>	Perundururai	Kambuliampatty	<b>878</b>
Modakkurichi	60 Velampalayam	<b>1222</b>	Perundururai	Kandampalayam	<b>230</b>
Modakkurichi	Anandampalayam	<b>774</b>	Perundururai	Karandipalayam	<b>338</b>

Modakkurichi	Attavanai Anumanpalli	<b>893</b>	Perundurai	Karukkupalayam	<b>450</b>
Modakkurichi	Elumathur	<b>890</b>	Perundurai	Kullampalayam	<b>446</b>
Modakkurichi	Enjampalli	<b>1042</b>	Perundurai	Madathupalayam	<b>401</b>
Modakkurichi	Ganapathipalayam	<b>1191</b>	Perundurai	Mettupudur	<b>437</b>
Modakkurichi	Kagam	<b>823</b>	Perundurai	Moongilpalayam	<b>911</b>
Modakkurichi	Kanagapuram	<b>739</b>	Perundurai	Mullampatty	<b>565</b>
Modakkurichi	Kandikattuvalasu	<b>815</b>	Perundurai	Nichampalayam	<b>1367</b>
Modakkurichi	Kulavilakku	<b>781</b>	Perundurai	Pandiampalayam	<b>1179</b>
Modakkurichi	Kulur	<b>928</b>	Perundurai	Pappampalayam	<b>329</b>
Modakkurichi	Lakkapuram	<b>1041</b>	Perundurai	Pattakaranpalayam	<b>813</b>
Modakkurichi	Modavandi Sathiyamangalam	<b>1184</b>	Perundurai	Periaveerasangili	<b>522</b>
Modakkurichi	Mugasi Anumanpalli	<b>943</b>	Perundurai	Periavilamalai	<b>302</b>
Modakkurichi	Muthugoundampalayam	<b>703</b>	Perundurai	Polanaickenpalayam	<b>433</b>
Modakkurichi	Nanjai Kalamangalam	<b>316</b>	Perundurai	Ponmudi	<b>323</b>
Modakkurichi	Nanjai Uthukuli	<b>1512</b>	Perundurai	Seenapuram	<b>1946</b>
Modakkurichi	Palamangalam	<b>474</b>	Perundurai	Sellappampalayam	<b>313</b>
Modakkurichi	Poondurai Semur	<b>745</b>	Perundurai	Singanallur	<b>886</b>
Modakkurichi	Punjai Kalamangalam	<b>945</b>	Perundurai	Sullipalayam	<b>558</b>
Modakkurichi	Thuyyampoondurai	<b>748</b>	Perundurai	Thingalore	<b>1154</b>
Modakkurichi	Villakkethy	<b>435</b>	Perundurai	Thiruvachi	<b>888</b>
Nambiyur	Andipalayam	<b>528</b>	Perundurai	Thoronavavi	<b>776</b>
Nambiyur	Anjanur	<b>1034</b>	Perundurai	Thudupathi	<b>990</b>
Nambiyur	Emmampoondi	<b>1430</b>	Perundurai	Vettiankinar	<b>444</b>
Nambiyur	Getticheviyur	<b>1766</b>	Perundurai	Vijayapuri	<b>1420</b>
Nambiyur	Gudakkarai	<b>874</b>	Sathy	Arasur	<b>461</b>
Nambiyur	Kadathur	<b>663</b>	Sathy	Chikkarasampalayam	<b>1239</b>
Nambiyur	Karattupalayam	<b>1693</b>	Sathy	Gundri	<b>1344</b>
Nambiyur	Koshanam	<b>1304</b>	Sathy	Guthiyalathur	<b>2129</b>
Nambiyur	Kurumandur	<b>943</b>	Sathy	Ikkarainagamam	<b>646</b>
Nambiyur	Lagampalayam	<b>473</b>	Sathy	Indiyampalayam	<b>460</b>
Nambiyur	Olalakoil	<b>976</b>	Sathy	Komarapalayam	<b>1366</b>
Nambiyur	Polavapalayam	<b>774</b>	Sathy	Konamoolai	<b>802</b>
Nambiyur	Sundakkampalayam	<b>1257</b>	Sathy	Koothampalayam	<b>726</b>
Nambiyur	Talguni	<b>395</b>	Sathy	Maccinamcombai	<b>753</b>
Nambiyur	Vemandampalayam	<b>1097</b>	Sathy	Pudupeekkadavu	<b>713</b>
T.N. Palayam	Odayagoundenpalayam	<b>454</b>	Sathy	Rajannagar	<b>824</b>
T.N. Palayam	Perumugai	<b>1397</b>	Sathy	Sadmugai	<b>1567</b>
T.N. Palayam	Pullappanaickenpalayam	<b>764</b>	Sathy	Shenbagapudur	<b>633</b>
T.N. Palayam	Punjaithuraiyampalayam	<b>1643</b>	Sathy	Ukkaram	<b>1755</b>
Thalavadi	Asanur	<b>1328</b>	T.N. Palayam	Akkaraikodivery	<b>774</b>
Thalavadi	Bynapuram	<b>1388</b>	T.N. Palayam	Arakkankottai	<b>1260</b>

Thalavadi	Germalam	<b>500</b>	T.N. Palayam	Kanakkampalayam	<b>1116</b>
Thalavadi	Iggalur	<b>853</b>	T.N. Palayam	Kondayampalayam	<b>1617</b>
Thalavadi	Mallanguli	<b>1251</b>	T.N. Palayam	Kongarpalayam	<b>1463</b>
Thalavadi	Neithalapuram	<b>469</b>	T.N. Palayam	Nanjaipuliampatty	<b>447</b>
Thalavadi	Talamalai	<b>1644</b>	Thalavadi	Thiginarai	<b>1593</b>
Thalavadi	Thalavady	<b>2223</b>	Thalavadi	Thingalur	<b>1203</b>
<b>Total No. Of Block in Erode Districts</b>					<b>231</b>
<b>Total No. Of Panchayat in Erode District</b>					<b>231</b>
<b>Total No. of Reg. workers in Erode District</b>					<b>224746</b>
<b>Total No. Of Registered Workers in Tamil Nadu</b>					<b>13240094</b>
<b>Min. No. of workers in Erode district level</b>					<b>117</b>
<b>Max. No. of workers in Erode district level</b>					<b>4577</b>

(Source: www.nrega.nic.in)

The above table 2 shows that the total no. of block and total no. of panchayat has 231. The total no. of registered workers is 224746 in Erode district and the total no. of registered workers is 13240094 in Tamil Nadu. Hence it can be concluded from the study the Minimum no. of workers recorded in the block of Bhavanisagar (Mudukkanthurai panchyat) ie. 117 and Maximum no. of workers signed in the block of Bhavani (Kavandapadi panchyat) ie. 4577.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The success of the programme depends upon its proper implementation. Much of the pitfalls of MGNREGA implementation can be overcome if proper processes and procedures are put in place. Thus, there should be continuous efforts towards creating adequate awareness on different provisions of MGNREGS amongst the people. Creating awareness is necessary not only to motivate the people to work under the scheme but also to encourage them to participate in its planning and implementation. The average wage rate per day per person was 129.3 in FY 2013-2014 and 121.4 and 114.5 was registered in FY 2012-13 and 2011-12. So from the analysis, it is found that the total no. of block and total no. of panchayat has 231. The total no. of registered workers is 224746 in Erode district and the total no. of registered workers is 13240094 in Tamil Nadu. Hence it can be concluded from the study the Minimum no. of workers recorded in the block of Bhavanisagar (Mudukkanthurai panchyat) ie. 117 and Maximum no. of workers signed in the block of Bhavani (Kavandapadi panchyat) ie. 4577. The suggestions are as follows:

1. Efficient utilization of resources under the scheme requires bringing in transparency and accountability. Provision for social audit at the panchayat level on a regular basis can play a significant role in this regard.
2. The leadership style should be democratic in nature. This will facilitate greater community participation, information sharing, expression of opinion by the rural mass, and development of social networks.
3. There is also the important role of the Govt. in implementation of MGNREGS. Thus the Govt. must take immediate steps to stop corruption in its implementation by which the MGNREGA wages reaches to the workers directly. We can surely ensure that the money goes to those who need it.
4. There should be the ability and willingness of local Govt. and Panchayat to plan works and run the programmes effectively.
5. A proper monitoring mechanism should be developed that can assured correct procedure in job card.
6. Social Audit should carry out in regular interval.

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