

AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME HAS AFFECTED THE INFRASTRUCTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THALLY BLOCK IN KRISHNAGIRI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

B. Jayakumar ¹ and Prabakar S ^{2*}

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Social Sciences,
School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology Vellore.
Email: jk.jayakumar6008@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0009-5274-7126

² Associate Professor, Senior Department of Social Sciences,
School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology Vellore.
*Corresponding Author Email: prabakar.s@vit.ac.in, ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0950-3651

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.11466354](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11466354)

Abstract

The Government of India recognized occupation as a crucial factor for increasing per capita income and eliminating familial destitution. In line with this objective, they introduced various initiatives for rural development after the declaration of independence, most notably during the Fifth Five-Year Plan. One such initiative was the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which aimed to enhance rural employment opportunities and alleviate rural destitution. To evaluate the impact of MGNREGS on the environment and infrastructure in rural areas, a research was undertaken in the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu. The inquiry included 160 respondents, and their environmental and infrastructural conditions were assessed both before and after the implementation of MGNREGS. The findings of the study indicated a positive influence of MGNREGS on the rural population. The assessment was carried out on a component-by-component basis. It revealed significant improvements in various aspects. Firstly, as the respondents aspired to become self-employed in the future, there was an observed emphasis on the preservation of natural resources. This indicated a growing awareness of sustainable practices and environmental consciousness among the rural population. Secondly, the implementation of MGNREGS contributed to enhanced rural connectivity, resulting in improved infrastructure conditions in the area. Better infrastructure facilitates greater economic activity and better living standards. Lastly, the study highlighted the positive impact of MGNREGS on grassroots democracy, empowering local communities to involve in the process of decision-making processes. In conclusion, the study demonstrated that MGNREGS played a crucial role in uplifting the environmental and infrastructural conditions of the Thally block in Krishnagiri district. By providing employment opportunities, promoting natural resource preservation, and improving rural connectivity, MGNREGS contributed significantly to the overall development and well-being of the rural populace.

Keywords: Environmental Condition, Impact, Infrastructural Condition, MGNREGS.

INTRODUCTION

The flagship programme of the Indian government is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which directly impacts the sustenance of the people in rural areas. On August 25, 2005, the law was enacted, and on February 2, 2006, it came into force. The MGNREGA initiative has the potential to considerably enhance participants' social and economic status if it is implemented well. For many years, these communities have suffered from poverty, a lack of high-quality healthcare services, substandard infrastructure, and inadequate educational facilities. The foundation of the rural economy is agriculture.

MGNREGA signified a paradigm leap from the earlier employment initiatives with its right-based philosophy. The government is required by law to provide 100 days of labour to everyone who requests it. In addition to creating jobs, this approach

prioritises inclusive growth through safeguarding natural resources and creating usable assets. This strategy has altered the appearance of rural India via environmental preservation and a reduction in rural-urban migration.

Thali Block, Krishnagiri District Monsoon is the only factor affecting agriculture. As a result, when there is no agricultural employment, locals are unemployed. In communities, finding short-term work is exceedingly tough, therefore, they frequently make nothing. Therefore, MGNREGA is a blessing for them at this time. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), according to the Government of India, is expected to change all of this through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP).

Under the MGNREGP, each household is assured 100 days of employment at a minimum wage that is specified by the corresponding state governments. The Gram Panchayat issues a work card to each home (after registering the members of the household free of charge) and offers jobs after 15 days of registration (upon request by the family). The program's ultimate goal is to uplift the living standards of the people strengthening by social and economic infrastructure in rural regions. The kinds of initiatives suggested enhanced social and environmental infrastructure for the rural populace.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), also known as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), was passed by the Indian Parliament and came into effect in 2005. Its enactment was a result of an electoral pledge made by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a coalition government led by the Indian National Congress party, which assumed office after winning the general elections in 2004. Schedule I of the Act contains a comprehensive list of fundamental provisions that outline the key aspects and objectives of the scheme. One of its core objectives was to provide a legal guarantee of employment for rural households in India. Under this scheme, eligible rural households were entitled to engage a work for 100 days in a finance year as wage employer with a focus on unskilled manual work.

The implementation of the MGNREGA began in February 2006, starting with 200 of the "poorest" districts across the country. These districts were identified based on various socio-economic measures and the prevalence of poverty. The scheme's rollout in these districts aimed to prioritize the area's most in need of employment generation and poverty alleviation measures. Following its initial launch, the MGNREGA expanded its coverage to an additional 130 districts in April and May 2007. This expansion extended the benefits of the employment guarantee scheme to a larger number of rural households and regions.

Finally, on April 1, 2008, the MGNREGA was made accessible to all rural districts in India. This move marked a significant milestone in the scheme's nationwide implementation, ensuring that every eligible rural household in the country could participate in the program and avail of the employment guarantee. Throughout its implementation, the MGNREGA has been instrumental in creating job opportunities, promoting inclusive growth, and fostering rural development. It has empowered rural communities, improved livelihood security, and facilitated to reconstruct the natural and artificial resources with as water conservation structures, rural roads and other

public works. The MGNREGA continues to be one of the flagship social welfare programs in India, playing a crucial role in combating poverty, unemployment, and promoting equitable development in rural areas. Its success and impact have garnered widespread recognition both nationally and internationally as a pioneering initiative in the field of rural employment and social security.

The primary clauses of the scheme are

- Jobs must be provided after five days of receiving job applications.
- The daily rate of unemployment must be paid in cash if employment cannot be found within 5 days.
- Work within a 5-kilometer radius; otherwise, overtime pay must be paid.
- The beneficiaries must consist, at least in part, of women.
- The Gram Sabha will make work suggestions.
- The Gram Panchayat will carry out at least 50% of the work.
- The primary role of PRIs in arranging and executing
- At all levels, institutional mechanisms would be used to ensure transparency, accountability, and social audit.
- To ensure a responsive implementation, a grievance redressal procedure must be put in place.

Why Thally Block, Krishnagiri District?

The selection of Thally Block in Krishnagiri District for this study is particularly significant due to its status as the most undeveloped taluk in the region. Being the most underdeveloped area, it often faces challenges related to poverty, lack of basic amenities, and limited access to infrastructure and resources. The MGNREGA report claiming a noteworthy impact in Thally Block implies that the implementation of the program has brought about positive changes in the region.

As MGNREGA focuses on providing employment opportunities and creating assets in rural areas, it can play a crucial role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people living in such disadvantaged regions. One of the key areas where MGNREGA can make a difference is in human development. By generating employment through the program, individuals in Thally Block are provided with a means to earn a livelihood and improve their overall quality of life.

This additional income can positively influence various aspects of human development, such as access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and living standards. It can empower households to invest in their children's education and better healthcare facilities, leading to improved human development indicators in the long run.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mgnregp and Malar (2021) emphasizes that the historical relevance of MGNREGA and a critique of previous rural employment schemes. The MGNREGP is the biggest employment safeguard program in the world. It is remarkable head start to provide work for all the people in india to get rid off from the poverty. People and the requirement to create long-lasting assets and essential rural infrastructure. Prioritizing rural infrastructure is one of the most important objectives of economic growth. Vij

(2013) stated that by developing assets, infrastructure, and human capital, as well as promoting civic engagement and social justice, it ought to be able to improve the lives of the poor. It has become more widely acknowledged that social protection measures may have transformational and developmental effects, as well as the circumstances in which they may occur. By giving the most vulnerable populations the tools, they need to assert their rights and demand social justice, social protection programs can become transformational if they address the underlying difficulties and disparities.

Ghuman and Singh (2018) have elucidated that through their study, Punjab reveals that the MGNRES developed natural resources at the micro level through the enhancement of water ponds, afforestation. But their lives and longevity have manifestly been vulnerable by the related lack of local participatory ruling, technical proficiency, and social audits. Natesan and Marathe (2017) have mentioned that the scheme MGNRES helped to enhance women's empowerment, household expenses, supervision of economic development among village people, and MIEM detentions present execution effectiveness and afford suggestions to drive ineffective villages towards effectiveness.

Alha (2017) Pointed out that the scheme's impact on a constrained rural labour level has been minimal due to a low off take of employment due to already established alternative livelihood methods, which decreased the motivation to engage in this programme. However, the programme has been helpful in two ways: first, it caused lower caste women to stop working in agriculture, which represents a break from the exploitative production relations in the two study villages; and second, it led to the creation of an exclusive category of MGNREGA workers made up of female middle caste workers who had previously not engaged in paid work. Rehman and Azhoni (2022) have said that some of the obstacles to community expansion include income disparity, substandard housing, poor healthcare, and a lack of participation in alternative forms of employment. If the MGNREGA scheme is introduced, the lifestyle of the village people will be empowered.

Reddy (2016) stated that the scheme MGNREGA, which helps the number of children in the house, influences the selective wages of the plaintiff completely. This indicated that the more children who want to be supported, the higher the person's asking wages. Natesan and Marathe (2021) have emphasized that productivity assessment and environmental development support the existence of extensive power infrastructure in rural regions. The beneficiaries of the MGNREGA are appreciative, but they continue to be hindered by the murky registration and employment procedures and their lack of faith in the bureaucratic implementation process. Lokhande and Gundimeda (2021) have done so purely to provide information about the potency of the government reduction to permit tasks in disc inhibition zones under the second round of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions that took effect in April 2020. Chakraborty (2014) demonstrates that how the scheme's design in structure and operational errors are preventing the intended advantages to be realized. Kjelsrud and Sjurgard (2022) have elucidated that the impact of India's MGNREGA, a significant public labour program that specifically encourages female involvement, on intimate partner violence. Ghosh (2021) pointed out that a large percentage of agricultural communities in this region work on plantations and farms.

RESEARCH GAP

The vast amount of research on the effects of the MGNREGS that has been done is evident from a careful review of the literature. There are, however, relatively few studies that evaluate the effectiveness of its scheme. Thus, evaluating MGNREGS executing states on the basis of effectiveness allows us to know the impact of before and after MGNREGS on environmental and infrastructural conditions.

This research paper impacts to the contemporary academic work on MGNREGA as it recognizes the environmental and infrastructure conditions level efficiency exposition of resource use as a research gap, it highlights and systemises the scheme MGNREGA while implementing thally block in Krishnagiri district which is based on the efficiency obtained from limited rural villages. It also scrutinizes state specific scarcity and excess resources with correspondence to inputs and outputs and it also focuses on state specific commandments to transform villages from deficient to efficient one. This study also proposes the policy to the government for empowering resources in the rural areas and to achieve desired economical standards.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are to:

Examine the impact of MGNREGS for the enhancement of Environmental conditions and Infrastructural conditions of villages in Thally block, Krishnagiri, TN.

Hypothesis

- There is no significance between MGNREGS and Environmental conditions of villages in Thally block, Krishnagiri, TN
- There is no significance between MGNREGS and Infrastructural conditions of villages in Thally block, Krishnagiri, TN

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

The research is centered on the Thally block within the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, India. From the 38 districts in Tamil Nadu, only Krishnagiri district was selected for this study, and within Krishnagiri district, the Thally block was chosen as the research area. The study employed random sampling to select five panchayats, and within each panchayat, two villages were chosen based on similar criteria. In total, eight villages were included in the study. From these eight villages, 16 respondents were randomly selected for participation, consisting of 7 males and 12 females who were MGNREGS cardholders. Additionally, 60 male and 100 female beneficiaries with MGNREGS cards were chosen using the simple random sampling method for the study. Data was collected through a standardized questionnaire and conducted via in-person interviews, following a predetermined schedule. The collected data underwent analysis, which included examining frequency distribution, calculating mean values, and assessing standard deviation. The primary aim of the research is to evaluate the impact of the MGNREGA program on beneficiaries in the Thally block of Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu. By employing various sampling and data analysis techniques, the study seeks to draw conclusions about the program's effectiveness in improving socio-economic conditions for the selected beneficiaries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall impact of the MGNREGS on the infrastructure and environmental condition of the rural people Thally block of the Kirishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

- Ho1 There is no significance difference between before and after MGNREGS for Environmental conditions the rural people Thally block of the Kirishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

Table 1: An impact of before and after MGNREGS in Water management for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri

Water Management			
	Before MGNREGS		After MGNREGS
	N	Mean	Mean
Ponds	160	.69	3.68
Dug Well	160	.00	.68
Check dams	160	.26	1.51
Embankment	160	.00	.62
Farm Pond	160	.06	4.19
Soak pit	160	.00	72.79
Renovation of Traditional water	160	.34	.93

The above frequency table shows mean value of before and after MGNREGS in Water management. Before MGNREGS the ponds mean value is .69 and after MGNREGS the ponds mean value is 3.68, Before MGNREGS the Dug Well mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Dug Well mean value is .68, Before MGNREGS the Check Dams mean value is .26 and after MGNREGS the Check Dams mean value is 1.51 , Before MGNREGS the Embankment mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Embankment mean value is .62, Before MGNREGS the Farm Pond mean value is .06 and after MGNREGS the Farm Pond mean value is 4.19 , Before MGNREGS the Soak pit mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Soak pit mean value is 72.79, Before MGNREGS the Renovation of Traditional Water mean value is .34 and after MGNREGS the Renovation of Traditional Water mean value is .93 which shows there is no impact of before MGNREGS for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri and there is an impact of after MGNREGS for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri.

Table 2: Indicates paired sample t test for significance difference before and after MGNREGS in Water management for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri

Water Management						
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Df	Sig.
Ponds Before and After MGNREGS	2.988	3.130	.247	12.072	159	.000
Dug Well Before and After MGNREGS	.675	1.277	.101	6.688	159	.000
Check dams Before and After MGNREGS	1.250	2.361	.187	6.698	159	.000
Embankment Before and After MGNREGS	.619	1.212	.096	6.455	159	.000
Farm Pond Before and After MGNREG	4.137	6.631	.524	7.893	159	.000
Soak pit Before and After MGNREGS	72.788	81.756	6.463	11.261	159	.000
Renovation of Traditional water Before and After MGNREGS	.594	1.464	.116	5.131	159	.000

The frequency Table 2, shows that Paired Sample t test for significance difference before and after MGNREGS in Water management for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri. The above table clearly shows that Ponds Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 12.072 and the significance value is .000, **Dug Well** Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 6.688 and the significance value is .000 **Check dams** and After MGNREGS the t value is 6.698 and the significance value is .000 **Embankment** Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 6.455 and the significance value is .000 **Farm Pond** Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 7.893 and the significance value is .000 **Soak pit** Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 11.261 and the significance value is .000 **Renovation of Traditional water** Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 5.131 and the significance value is .000

Hence, it is observed that the null hypothesis has been rejected while the alternative hypothesis has been accepted and before MGNREGS there is no considerable improvement for Water management for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri. Whereas after MGNREGS there is a considerable improvement for Water management for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri.

- Ho2 There is no significance difference between before and after MGNREGS for infrastructure conditions the rural people Thally block of the Kirishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu

Table 3: An impact of before and after MGNREGS in Land Development for the enhancement of Environment among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri

Land Development			
	Before MGNREGS		After MGNREGS
	N	Mean	Mean
Forest Land	160	.05	1.04
Road Margins	160	.06	6.15
Canal Bunds	160	.26	3.12
Tree Plantation	160	.00	164.03
Afforestation	160	.00	1.36
Playground	160	.00	1.01

The above frequency Table 3, shows mean value of before and after MGNREGS in Land Development. Before MGNREGS the Forest Land mean value is .05 and after MGNREGS the Forest Land mean value is 1.04, Before MGNREGS the Road Margins mean value is .06 and after MGNREGS the Road Margins mean value is 6.15, Before MGNREGS the Canal Bunds mean value is .26 and after MGNREGS the Canal Bunds mean value is 3.12, Before MGNREGS the Tree Plantation mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Tree Plantation mean value is 164.03, Before MGNREGS the Afforestation mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Afforestation mean value is 1.36 and Before MGNREGS the Playground mean value is .00 and after MGNREGS the Playground mean value is 1.01 which shows there is no impact of before MGNREGS for the enhancement of Land Development among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri and there is an impact of after MGNREGS for the enhancement of Land Development among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri.

Table 4: Paired Sample t test for significance difference before and after MGNREGS in Water management for the Land Development among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri

Land Development						
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Df	Sig.
Forest Land Before and After MGNREGS	.994	1.236	.098	10.168	159	.000
Road Margins Before and After MGNREGS	6.094	6.397	.506	12.05	159	.000
Canal Bunds Before and After MGNREGS	2.856	3.005	.238	12.023	159	.000
Tree Plantation Before and After MGNREGS	164.031	110.589	8.743	18.762	159	.000
Afforestation Before and After MGNREGS	1.363	.865	.068	19.924	159	.000
Playground Before and After MGNREG	1.006	1.588	.126	8.015	159	.000

The frequency table 4, clearly shows that Paired Sample t test for significance difference before and after MGNREGS in Land Development for the enhancement of Infrastructure among rural people of Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri. The above table clearly shows that Forest Land Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 10.168 and the significance value is .000, Road Margins Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 12.05 and the significance value is .000 Canal Bunds and After MGNREGS the t value is 12.023 and the significance value is .000 Tree Plantation Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 18.762 and the significance value is .000 Afforestation Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 19.924 and the significance value is .000 Playground Before and After MGNREGS the t value is 8.015 and the significance value is .000. Hence, it is noted that the null hypothesis has been rejected while the alternative hypothesis is accepted and before MGNREGS there is no considerable improvement for Land Development for the enhancement of Infrastructure among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri. Whereas after MGNREGS there is a considerable improvement for Land Development for the enhancement of Infrastructure among Thally Taluk, Krishnagiri.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In Thally block, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, the study investigated the effects on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on the neighborhood's infrastructure and environmental circumstances. The results show that MGNREGS significantly improved the infrastructure and ecology of the area. Environmental Impact: Environmental management and conservation were not given enough attention prior to the introduction of MGNREGS. However, after the technology was put in place, water management procedures significantly improved. Improvements in water availability and conservation were made by building and repairing ponds, check dams, farm ponds and conventional water sources. Additionally, projects for planting trees and afforestation helped to increase the community's green cover and biodiversity. These developments show that the rural populace is becoming more aware of environmentally friendly practices and environmental consciousness, which has been made possible by the MGNREGS. Impact on Infrastructural Conditions: Thally block had been one of the most

underdeveloped locations in the area before the installation of MGNREGS. The state of the infrastructure, however, significantly improved after the plan was put into action. To offer connectivity and access to vital amenities, roads, canal bunds, and playgrounds were constructed. Infrastructure upgrades and connecting rural areas improved regional economic activity and raised living standards. The study also discovered that MGNREGS boosted local community democracy by giving them more influence. Women's participation in the programme was particularly encouraged, which led to an increase in women's empowerment and family costs. The programme has become one of India's premier social welfare initiatives as a result of its success in creating long-term assets and promoting inclusive prosperity.

Policy Implications and Suggestions:

Strengthening Environmental Conservation: The study found that MGNREGS had a positive impact on environmental conditions in the Thally block. To further strengthen environmental protection, the programme can target initiatives that promote sustainable land use, water management, and afforestation. Incorporating climate change resilience techniques into project design can help ensure that created assets are better prepared to withstand environmental challenges. **Developing Infrastructure:** MGNREGS has shown a remarkable improvement in the infrastructure of the study area.

Policymakers should build on this success by giving priority to the creation of long-term assets such rural roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and sanitary infrastructure in order to encourage economic activity and improve rural living circumstances. The study underlines the significance of women's participation in MGNREGS, which results in better empowerment and family expenditure. This promotes gender equality and social inclusion. The involvement of women and other marginalised groups in the programme, as well as fair access to employment opportunities and decision-making processes, should continue to be promoted by policymakers.

Enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems must be set up to ensure that MGNREGS are implemented correctly. Regular social audits and performance reviews can help identify areas for improvement, overcome implementation challenges, and improve programme efficiency. **MGNREGS and Skill Development:** Integrating skill development programmes with MGNREGS can increase beneficiaries' employability in non-MGNREGS job markets. Providing opportunities for training and upskilling can help participants find better-paying jobs after the promised 100 days of labour. **Using Technology for Transparent Implementation:** Using technology, such as mobile applications and e-governance platforms, may assist to simplify and promote transparency in MGNREGS implementation.

Beneficiaries can use digital tools to acquire access to information about job openings, salary, and project specifics, thereby eliminating corruption and ensuring fair practises. Policymakers should focus areas with high poverty and unemployment rates while implementing MGNREGS to guarantee that the scheme reaches those who need it the most. Targeted outreach initiatives can maximise the scheme's impact on rural poverty eradication. **Improving Financial Inclusion:** By integrating MGNREGS users with formal financial institutions, they can get access to credit and financial services, improving their economic well-being and resilience to economic shocks.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While this study provided insightful information about the productives of MGNREGS in Krishnagiri's Thally block, there are a number of areas that need further research and analysis: Long-term Sustainability: Understanding the assets created by MGNREGS' long-term sustainability is essential to determining how successfully they will continue to support community requirements in the future. Sociological and Economic Implications: A comprehensive evaluation of MGNREGS's social and economic impacts on households that benefit will provide light on the program's role in lowering poverty and raising living standards. Regional Variations: Analysing how MGNREGS has fared in regions of the nation that have varying environmental and infrastructure challenges will help to discover best practises and modify the programme to specific needs. Assessing the success of the MGNREGS grievance resolution procedure to handle beneficiary complaints and enhance programme effectiveness.

Comparative Studies: Analysing MGNREGS in comparison to other employment- and poverty-reduction programmes to identify strengths and weaknesses and draw lessons from effective models. Environmental Impact Assessment: Analysing the environmental effects of MGNREGS assets to understand how they affect resource management and sustainable development. Researching ways to include climate change resilience into MGNREGS programmes so that the assets created are adaptable to shifting climatic conditions. Gender and Social Inclusion: Analysing how MGNREGS have affected gender and social inclusion, particularly the participation and representation of marginalised communities in decision-making. Policymakers and researchers may continue to enhance MGNREGS's efficacy and impact in achieving its objectives of raising rural employment, lowering poverty, and fostering sustainable development by addressing these areas for further research.

Overall, the study provided important proof of MGNREGS's favourable effects in Krishnagiri's Thally block, as well as insights into the significance of job creation and sustainable development practises. The research advances our understanding of social welfare schemes and can be used to inform present and upcoming policy choices and actions in India that support inclusive and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

The paper extensively examines the effectiveness of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in creating job opportunities and its positive impact on the environment and infrastructure. The main survey findings highlight that MGNREGS has been nothing short of a lifeline for poor villagers, as it significantly contributed to the creation of man-days of employment. This has been particularly beneficial for resource-poor households, who, without MGNREGS, could have remained jobless after completing their agricultural activities. The research's ultimate conclusion is that the overall impact of MGNREGS is considered satisfactory. The program has emerged as a crucial safety net, providing a sense of security and stability for the way of life of rural communities. The positive effects of MGNREGS on the environment and infrastructure have directly or indirectly contributed to the overall growth and well-being of its recipients. As a result, researchers are actively studying the MGNREGS program to comprehensively understand its various implications for the beneficiaries. Public perceptions of MGNREGS's performance are generally

favorable, confirming that the scheme is effectively improving the lives of rural poor people. However, the successful operation and efficacy of MGNREGS are contingent upon the active involvement and participation of its beneficiaries. It is crucial to minimize the influence of elected officials at the block level and ensure that the implementation process aligns closely with MGNREGS's primary objectives.

To ensure MGNREGS's continued success, it is imperative to prioritize the needs and interests of the program participants. This means maintaining a genuine focus on the welfare of the rural poor and diligently adhering to MGNREGS's goals throughout the implementation process. By doing so, the program can maximize its positive impact on job creation, environment, and infrastructure, thereby fostering sustainable development and well-being in the rural areas. In conclusion, the research provides valuable insights into the significance of MGNREGS as a transformative force in rural India. By creating employment opportunities, enhancing environmental conditions, and improving infrastructure, MGNREGS has become a crucial instrument for poverty alleviation and holistic development. Its effectiveness lies in its ability to empower and uplift the rural poor, and continued efforts should be made to ensure that its benefits reach the intended beneficiaries in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

References

- 1) Alha, A. (2017). Impact of MGNREGA on a tightened labour market. *Social Change*, 47(4), 552-564.
- 2) Chakraborty, B. (2014). MGNREGA policy and application. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 34(3/4), 263-300.
- 3) Ghosh, M., & Ghosal, S. (2023). Multidimensional rural livelihoods in Indian sub-himalaya: Regional analysis, households well-being and its determinants. *International Journal of Rural Management*, 19(1), 45-63.
- 4) Ghuman, B. S., & Singh, R. (2018). Environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation in India: a study of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, 40(2), 98-114.
- 5) Kjelsrud, A., & Sjugard, K. V. (2022). Public work and private violence. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 58(9), 1791-1806.
- 6) Lokhande, N., & Gundimeda, H. (2021). MGNREGA: The guaranteed refuge for returning migrants during COVID-19 lockdown in India. *The Indian Economic Journal*, 69(3), 584-590.
- 7) Mgnregp, G.P. and Malar, R.K. (2021) 'A Comprehensive Review on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment a Comprehensive Review on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP)', (June).
- 8) Natesan, S. D., & Marathe, R. R. (2017). Evaluation of MGNREGA: data envelopment analysis approach. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 44(2), 181-194.
- 9) Natesan, S. D., & Marathe, R. R. (2021). MGNREGA Implementation in Tamil Nadu: Voices from the fields. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 15(1), 128-137.
- 10) Sridhar, K. S., & Reddy, A. V. (2015). India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): wages, reservation wages and programme participation in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. *Management and Labour Studies*, 40(3-4), 366-384.
- 11) Rehman, S., Azhoni, A., & Chabbi, P. H. (2023). Livelihood vulnerability assessment and climate change perception analysis in Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Geo Journal*, 88(2), 1427-1447.
- 12) Vij, N. (2013). Empowering the marginalized: mahatma gandhi national rural employment guarantee act in india. *Human Affairs*, 23(1), 91-104.