



## **MGNREGA: IS A KEY FOR CREATING SOCIAL CAPITAL AMONG LABOURERS ?**

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### **Abstract**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was a successful programme especially in Tamilnadu. The Cuddalore district has been considered as a one of the main districts in Tamilnadu which mainly had its success on implementing the programme. The workers are partially or fully touch with the other workers during the working time. And also the MGNREGA team mode attracts the workers and share information when they work in MGNREGA. So there is a need to know the idea of those workers how it creates the social capital among them by engaging with MGNREP. Finally conclude that through implementation of “MGNREGA” scheme, the work pattern creates the social capital among labour in the study village.

**Keywords: MGNREA, Social Capital, Labour, Bonding, Bridging**

### **Introduction**

Generally, economics tries to explain the interaction of an individual and group in markets and studies about human behaviour also. The every individual behave rationally and believe on their choice that gives most net benefit to them. This can be considered as a basic economic model of human behaviour. Everyone had a chance to face his choices and choose according to their rationale behaviour. Sometime economics is used to explain human behavior based on the rational choices of individuals acting in their own self-interest through getting information. The cars, restaurants, Meals and pencils which are considered as classical goods and services are simply differing from economics of information. These classical economic goods and services had its price or value based on the cost of inputs, labour, and investment and so on with the trade of pencil eraser, wood etc.,. Likewise the price of meal and restaurant also had certain features.

But the information good have been differed from other goods by its different features. Basically information has large fixed costs of producing the first unit and relatively lower marginal cost for producing additional units. The value of information depends on when it is sold or exchanged. Information when sold and/or exchanged is still retained by the seller; information when purchased cannot be easily returned. And information can be enjoyed by more than one consumer without a decrease in the amount produced. In fact, in networked information markets the more consumers engaged in the market, the more benefit each consumer receives from it.

A Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) which guarantees 100 days of employment to every household could go a long way in reducing rural underdevelopment, an important contributing factors in rural poverty by gathering all workers in a single roof. This programme was a successful one in Tamilnadu especially; Cuddalore District is one of the major districts for contributing in the performance of MGNREGA of Tamilnadu.

In this district majority of population was fully depends on agriculture and its allied activities. The Cuddalore district has been considered as a one of the main districts in Tamilnadu which mainly contributes on agriculture production. It has a major share on labour force also.

The workers are solely attracted and got information through panchayat officials for working in MGNREGA which harms partially or fully influence the labourers to share or exchange their information among their group of people. So there is a need to study the opinion of that labours how they are realizing the social capital in MGNREGA. At this juncture the study will be made on the Keerapalayam block in Cuddalore district to find out the perception of labours on MGNREGA and their idea about social capital.

### **Statement of the problem**

The labourers looks not only at ‘income generation’, migration, financial inclusion, infrastructural development etc. but also look for social capital as indicators of success or failure of MGNREGA. The Ideas and plans can deliver the desired outcomes when implementation is capable, creative and builds on social capital. There is a critical need to give equal importance to works as assets, training must enlarge include inputs on works planning, social capital building, land husbandry, sustainable agriculture, convergence of

services and market dynamics. The social capital can help the people to exchange their information among the other people will helps to find a job, mutual support, financial support, social gathering, and idea for their own development.

### **Objectives of the study**

The following are the objectives of the study;

- To find the perception, motivation and performance of respondents on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act,
- To find the idea of respondents on bridging social capital through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act,
- To analyze the idea of respondents about bonding social capital through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the study area.

### **Data and Methodology**

This present research is descriptive in nature. The study is mainly based on primary data. The study will describe and show the impact of the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act” (MGNREGA) to create social capital among labours in the study area. The primary data are qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. Qualitative provides insights and understanding of the problem setting where as quantitative research seeks to quantify the data. The quality of the data should be routinely evaluated on the basis of objectively, nature, methodology, accuracy and time. In Tamil Nadu Keerapalayam Block of Cuddalore District is selected for the study purpose. In this scheme 100 beneficiaries would be taken by purposive random sampling technique with the help of the structured interview schedule.

### **Limitation**

The present study had certain limitations. The present study would be done within a short span of time. The findings will be only opted to study area alone. There is no comparative study made. The result of analysis made in the study depends fully on the accuracy, reliability of information given by respondents.

## Analysis

Table 1 Response about MGNREGA by labours

SL. NO	Statements on perception of the motivation and performance	Response and Score					Total score
		SDA	DA	UD	A	SA	
1	The work is engaged every day without any necessary conditions so the work tension will be less.	-	20	36	160	190	406
2	Feel like coming to work every day because it is interesting to meet people and work happily.	6	2	3	152	170	384
3	The work is done sincerely because govt. officials are trusted and supported positively.	-	16	36	168	190	410
4	The prevailing work climate encourages maintaining team spirit in the place of work.	-	24	42	184	140	390
5	It encourages us by having choice of work without any force on work.	5	16	45	200	110	376
6	It suggests the ways of improving the bargain for wage rate during the work done continuously in MGNREGA.	-	26	51	200	100	377
7	The MGNREGA wage rate is enough to us to maintain the family	8	42	72	188	-	310
8	I can able to contribute on my village up-liftmen.	-	14	39	232	115	400
9	I had a satisfaction to participate in a government programme.	-	24	69	164	105	362
10	It provides regular earning for a particular period.	-	40	48	104	190	382

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 show that the respondent's opinion number 8 that is I can able to contribute on my village up-liftmen has score for 400. The opinion number 3 that is the work is done sincerely because Govt. officials are trusted and supported positively had the score value for 410 and the statement. The work is engaged every day without any necessary conditions so the work tension will be less for 406. The prevailing work climate encourages maintaining

team spirit in the place of work is for 390. Like above majority of the statements get a score above than its average score. The statement like The MGNREGA wage rate is enough to us to maintain the family got the least score for 310.

### **Bridging Social Capital**

**Table 2 Bridging Social Capital**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Bridging Social Capital</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>No Idea</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
1	I feel happy by be a part of MGNREGA.	24 (24)	56 (56)	13 (13)	7 (7)	-
2	I am interested in what goes on MGNREGA among my co-labours.	23 (23)	59 (59)	14 (14)	-	6 (6)
3	My MGNREGA team is a good place to be	40 (40)	56 (56)	4 (4)	-	-
4	I would be willing to touch personally after completing MGNREGA.	29 (29)	47 (47)	12 (12)	-	2 (2)
5	Interacting with the people at my MGNREGA team makes me want to try new things	16 (16)	60 (60)	18 (18)	5 (5)	1 (1)
6	Interacting with the people at my MGNREGA team make me feel like a part of a larger community	25 (25)	60 (60)	11 (11)	4 (4)	-
7	Interacting with people at my MGNREGA team reminds me that everyone in the roof is connected	27 (27)	57 (57)	14 (14)	1 (1)	1 (1)
8	I am willing to spend time to support general in my friend through MGNREGA.	31 (31)	52 (52)	12 (12)	3 (3)	2 (2)

*Source: Computed from Primary Data*

Table 2 clearly depicts the bridging social capital. The bridging social capital was scaled such as strongly agrees, agree no idea, disagree, and strongly disagree. In regard to I feel I am part of my MGNREGA team community, 56 respondents (56 per cent) opined that agree, 24 respondents (24 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 13 respondents (13 per cent)

opined that no idea, 7 respondents (7 per cent) opined that disagree and nobody is not respond to strongly disagree.

In regard to I am interested in what goes on at in my MGNREGA team, 59 respondents (59 per cent) opined that agree, 23 respondents (23 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 14 respondents (14 per cent) opined that no idea, 6 respondents (6 per cent) opined that strongly disagree and nobody is not respond to disagree.

In regard to My MGNREGA team is a good place to be, 56 respondents (56 per cent) opined that agree, 40 respondents (40 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 4 respondents (4 per cent) opined that no idea, and nobody is not respond to disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

In regard to I would be willing to touch after completing MGNREGA team, 47 respondents (47 per cent) opined that agree, 29 respondents (29 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 12 respondents (12 per cent) opined that no idea, 2 respondents (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree and nobody is not respond to disagree.

In regard to interacting with the people at my MGNREGA team makes me want to try new things, 60 respondents (60 per cent) opined that agree, 18 respondents (18 per cent) opined that no idea, 16 respondents (16 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 5 respondents (5 per cent) opined that strongly disagree, 1 respondent (1 per cent) opined that disagree.

In regard to Interacting with the people at my MGNREGA team make me feel like a part of a larger community, 60 respondents (60 per cent) opined that agree, 25 respondents (25 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 11 respondents (11 per cent) opined that no idea, 4 respondents (4 per cent) opined that disagree and nobody is not respond to strongly disagree.

In regard to Interacting with people at my MGNREGA team reminds me that everyone in the world is connected 57 respondents (57 per cent) opined that agree, 27 respondents (27 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 14 respondents (14 per cent) opined that no idea, 1 respondent (1 per cent) opined that disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

In regard to I am willing to spend time to support general in my MGNREGA team friend, 52 respondents (52 per cent) opined that agree, 31 respondents (31 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 12 respondents (12 per cent) opined that no idea, 3 respondents (3 per cent) opined that disagree, 2 respondents (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

### Bonding Social Capital

The Bonding Social Capital for the sample respondents through the MGNREGA were categorized in Table 2.

**Table 3 Bonding Social Capital**

S. No.	Bonding Social Capital	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Idea	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	There are several people at my MGNREGA team, all are trust me	29 (29)	54 (54)	10 (10)	5 (5)	2 (2)
2	If I needed an emergency of money, I know someone at my MGNREGA team I can turn to	23 (23)	57 (57)	18 (18)	4 (4)	1 (1)
3	There is someone at my MGNREGA team I can turn to about very making important discussions	26 (26)	49 (49)	18 (18)	6 (6)	1 (1)
4	The People I interact with at my MGNREGA team would be good job references for me	33 (33)	51 (51)	7 (7)	7 (7)	2 (2)
5	I do not know people at my MGNREGA team well enough to get them to do anything important	18 (18)	33 (33)	37 (37)	9 (9)	2 (2)

*Source: Computed from Primary Data*

Table 3 clearly depicts the bonding social capital. The bonding social capital were scaled such as strongly agree, agree, no idea, disagree, strongly disagree. In regard to there are several people at my MGNREGA team, all are trust me, 54 respondents (54 per cent) opined that agree, 29 respondents (29 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 10 respondents (10 per cent) opined that no idea, 5 respondents (5 per cent) opined that disagree and 2 respondent (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

In regard to If I needed an emergency of money, I know someone at my MGNREGA team I can turn to, 57 respondents (57 per cent) opined that agree, 23 respondents (23 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 18 respondents (18 per cent) opined that no idea, and 1 respondent (1 per cent) opined that disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

In regard to There is someone at my MGNREGA team I can turn to about very making important discussions, 49 respondents (49 per cent) opined that agree, 26 respondents (26 per cent) opined that strongly agree and 18 respondents (18 per cent) opined that no idea, 6 respondents (6 per cent) opined that disagree and 1 respondent (1 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

In regard to The People I interact with at my MGNREGA team would be good job references for me, 51 respondents (51 per cent) opined that agree, 33 respondents (33 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 7 respondents (7 per cent) opined that no idea and disagree and 2 respondent (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

In regard to I do not know people at my MGNREGA team well enough to get them to do anything important, 37 respondents (37 per cent) opined that no idea, 33 respondents (33 per cent) opined that agree, 18 respondents (18 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 9 respondents (9 per cent) opined that disagree and 2 respondent (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

### **Findings**

- The study reveals that 63 per cent of the respondents belong to 41 to 60 years and 29 per cent of respondents belong to Above 60 years. 8 per cent respondents belong to 18 to 40 years category.
- The study shows that 62 per cent of the respondents belong to up to 10<sup>th</sup>. The 19 per cent of the respondents belong to illiterate. 9 per cent of the respondents belong to above higher secondary level. Remaining passion belongs to category of higher secondary.
- Majority of the respondents 73 per cent are belong to Male category and 27 per cent of the respondents belong to Female category.
- The study show that 47 per cent of the respondents were classified them under SC. And 42 per cent of the respondents belong to BC category.
- The study reveals that to know about the MGNRGEA Scheme in 100 per cent through the village officials.
- Majority of the respondents 81 belong to saving their Income.

### **Opinion on Perception and performance**

- Majority of the respondent's 81 per cent are belonging to impact of MGNREGA scheme under to uplift to my village.



- The study reveals that has found that all the respondents have agreed that their standard of living is increased.
- During the study the researcher has found that all the respondents have are like to continue the job.
- During this study the researcher has found that all the respondents do not agree their wages.

### **Bridging Social Capital**

It depicts that I am interested in what goes on at in my MGNREGA team, 59 respondents (59 per cent) opined that agree, 23 respondents (23 per cent) opined that strongly agree.

It portrays that my MGNREGA team is a good place to be, 56 respondents (56 per cent) opined that agree.

In regard to I am willing to spend time to support general in my MGNREGA team friend, 52 respondents (52 per cent) opined that agree, 31 respondents (31 per cent) opined that strongly agree, 12 respondents (12 per cent) opined that no idea, 3 respondents (3 per cent) opined that disagree, 2 respondents (2 per cent) opined that strongly disagree.

### **Bonding Social Capital**

In regard to there are several people at my MGNREGA team, all are trust me, 54 respondents (54 per cent) opined that agree, 29 respondents (29 per cent) opined that strongly agree.

It note that There is someone at my MGNREGA team I can turn to about very making important discussions, 49 respondents (49 per cent) opined that agree, 26 respondents (26 per cent) opined that strongly agree.

It is interesting to note that I do not know people at my MGNREGA team well enough to get them to do anything important, 37 respondents (37 per cent) opined that no idea.

### **Conclusion**

From these facts we finally conclude that through implementation of “MGNREGA” scheme, the work pattern promotes social capital in village. The MGNREGA addresses itself chiefly to working people and their fundamental support to live with societal gathering. The

success of the MGNREGA, in this area, however, will depend on people's Psychological Act and by having a choice of work. The effectiveness of the scheme had been achieved by the sociological behaviour of village people, we should empower the workers. The thrust of MGNREGA is on strengthening the social capital as a base of livelihood.

Finally, MGNREGA creates social capital in their own near villages without having a strain, provides the basic sociological needs of the people which completely resolves the owing to their social exclusion. At the end, this programme has created a distinctive desire to had touch and develop with preference for continues and never ending improvement will yield a life of endless activities and satisfaction.

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