

**MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE  
SCHEME AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS: A CASE STUDY IN UTHIRANGUDI  
VILLAGE PANCHAYAT, NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT**

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**Received: 21 Aug 2018**

**Accepted: 27 Aug 2018**

**Published: 31 Oct 2018**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Since 2000 India has experienced rapid economic growth and a sharp decline in poverty. But employment has grown far more slowly. And although agriculture contributes only 18% to the Indian economy, it continues to employ 47% of the workers. The rural poverty and unemployment in India has grown and recorded huge in last few decades. Due to that there is a growing illiteracy, increase the hungry people, undernourished children, farmer suicides, hunger deaths, rural people migration for inadequate employment and increasing poverty. Thus the Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005 to solve the listed problems. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was passed by the parliament in 2005 and came into force on February 2, 2006. It was renamed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in October 2009. The aim this scheme is to enhance livelihood security for all adults willing to perform unskilled manual labour in rural areas. The main objective of the present study is to assess the impact of MGNREGA on rural livelihoods. This study was carried out in Uthirangudi Village Panchayat of Sempanarkoil Block in Nagapattinam District. The survey method was adopted. There are 483 card holders in the study area (Village Panchayat office record). Out of this 218 card holders were determined as the sample size of the study. To select the sample respondent three stages were followed. In the first stage, purposive sampling method was followed to select the sample village Panchayat. In the second stage, proportionate sampling technique was used to determine the sample size each hamlets. In the third stage, random sampling method was used to select the sample respondent from each hamlet. Data were collected from the respondents through direct interviewing method using a pre-tested structured interview schedule. The interview schedule consists of two parts viz., Demographic profile and their perception towards MGNREGA. The collected data was analyzed using SPSS package. The study conclude that majority of the sample card holders responded that the local administrator does not properly implement the programmes, the number of days employment is not given as per the MGNREGA Act, the officers are not monitor the work properly and the programmes helps to improve their income to meet day to day expenses only.*

**KEYWORDS:** MGNREGA, NREG, Impact on NREG, Rural Livelihoods