

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59266

Title: Study on MGNREGP to improve quality of life and employment of regular laborer's in selected blocks of Tirunelveli District

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

- Title and research focus**

The manuscript addresses an important topic concerning the role of MGNREGP in employment generation and quality of life among Scheduled Tribe households in Tirunelveli District. The focus on Nanguneri and Valliyoor blocks provides useful micro-level evidence. However, the title should be revised for grammatical accuracy and closer alignment with the actual research objectives, population, and variables examined.

- Abstract requires substantial refinement**

The abstract provides the broad objective, major findings and concerns associated with the scheme, but its structure can be improved. The research problem, sample size, sampling method, data-collection period, statistical tools and principal findings should be stated more systematically. The abstract also contains several grammatical and typographical errors. The conclusion that MGNREGP is the “best institutional mechanism” should be presented more cautiously and should be directly supported by the empirical evidence.

- Major concern regarding sample size consistency**

A significant methodological clarification is required. The methodology states that approximately 130 Scheduled Tribe households were identified and that **98 households** were selected for the field survey using Cochran's formula. However, the Findings section subsequently states that “**500 households**” were surveyed. This is a major inconsistency and must be corrected throughout

REVIEWER'S REPORT

the manuscript. The authors should clearly state the population size, calculated sample size, actual number of respondents, block-wise sample distribution and final valid responses used for statistical analysis.

- **Sampling methodology needs greater explanation**

The manuscript states that stratified sampling was adopted, while the selection of Tirunelveli, Nanguneri and Valliyoor appears to involve purposive selection. The authors should clearly explain the sampling stages and distinguish between purposive selection and stratified sampling. The number of villages and respondents selected from each block should also be explicitly presented. This would improve the reproducibility and methodological credibility of the study.

- **Literature review should be strengthened and better synthesized**

The literature review contains several studies concerning MGNREGA, rural employment, migration and beneficiary characteristics. However, much of the review is presented as a sequence of individual study summaries rather than as a critical synthesis. The authors should identify the specific research gap more clearly and explain how the present study differs from earlier studies. More recent literature should also be incorporated where appropriate. The transition from the literature review to the research objectives and hypotheses should be strengthened.

- **Statistical methodology requires clarification**

The manuscript mentions estimated chi-square values and states that beneficiaries in the two blocks differed significantly with respect to social and demographic characteristics. However, the manuscript does not adequately present the chi-square values, degrees of freedom, significance levels/p-values and the variables tested. A complete statistical table should be provided. The authors should also explain the null and alternative hypotheses and the decision criteria used for significance.

- **Presentation and interpretation of Table 1 need improvement**

Table 1 provides useful socio-economic information regarding gender, religion, family type, marital status, family size, age composition, education, occupation and family income. However, the table should be professionally reformatted and accompanied by appropriate statistical explanations. The sample totals should be checked against the methodology and findings. Percentages should be verified for consistency, and the units of income and other measures should be clearly specified.

- **Findings should be more closely connected to the research objectives**

The findings section mainly describes socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries. While these findings are relevant, the paper's stated focus is on employment and quality of life. The authors

REVIEWER'S REPORT

should provide stronger empirical evidence concerning changes in employment days, income, savings, expenditure, migration, quality of life and other relevant outcomes. The conclusion refers to improvements in quality of life and economic self-reliance, but the supporting quantitative evidence for these outcomes is not sufficiently demonstrated in the presented analysis.

- **Suggestions and conclusion require evidence-based revision**

The recommendations concerning child-care facilities, worksite facilities, wage-payment delays, wage revision and mitigation of distress migration are relevant to the issues identified in the manuscript. Nevertheless, some recommendations are highly specific and should either be supported by appropriate policy references or clearly presented as recommendations emerging from the respondents' experiences. The conclusion should avoid broad generalizations and should explicitly acknowledge the study's geographical and sampling limitations.

- **Language, formatting and referencing require comprehensive editing**

The manuscript contains numerous grammatical, spelling, spacing and formatting problems, including inconsistent terminology such as MGNREGP/MGNREGA, inconsistent capitalization, missing spaces and several typographical errors. The references also require uniform formatting. The manuscript should undergo careful language editing and reference-style standardization before publication. In particular, the authors should verify every citation in the text against the reference list and ensure that all bibliographic details are complete and consistent.