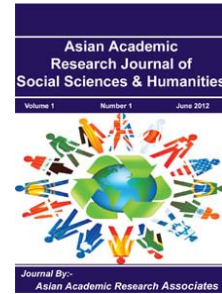




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**STATUS AND CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT  
GUARANTEED PROGRAMME**

**DR.S.RAJAMOHAN\***

**T.DHANABALAN\*\***

\*Professor, Alagappa Institute Of Management, Alagappa University Karaikudi

\*\*Ph.D.Research Scholar, Alagappa Institute Of Management, Alagappa University, Karaikudi

**ABSTRACT**

Poverty is intimately connected with vulnerability and shocks. Severe and chronic deprivation in India is compounded by general uncertainty with respect to livelihood and life, which threatens an even wider section of the population than might be counted as poor. Thus poverty is an extremely complex phenomenon, which manifests itself in a range of overlapping and interwoven economic, political and social deprivations. These include lack of assets, low income levels, hunger, poor health, insecurity, physical and psychological hardship, social exclusion, degradation and discrimination, and political powerlessness and disarticulation. Therefore, policy instruments should be designed to address the poverty. In order to address the poverty and to safeguard the livelihood security of the rural poor, the government of India enacted an employment generation programme called NREGA in 2005 and later it was called as MNREGA. With this backdrop the present paper made an attempt to picturise the current status, challenges and prospective aspects of MNREGA.

**Keywords:** MNREGA, Livelihood, Poverty, Empowerment