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Socio-personal, socio-economic and psychological profile of the MGNREGA beneficiaries in Chhattisgarh plains

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Abstract

The analysis of Socio-personal; socio-economic and psychological profile of the MGNREGA beneficiaries and implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) may substantiate the presence of gaps to a considerable extent. The identified gaps may help to give directions to the policy makers to manipulate the appropriate factors with reference to poverty alleviation so as to increase employment and poverty alleviation of rural people in Chhattisgarh plains. As known the MGNREGA provides guarantee employment to the rural households. This study gives an understanding about the level of awareness and satisfaction related to the different provisions of MGNREGA and its impact includes socio economic condition and social empowerment.

Keywords: Socio-personal, socio-economic, psychological, MGNREGA beneficiaries

Introduction

The MGNREGA, since its inception in year 2005, is one of the biggest poverty alleviation programmes in the world. The act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual labour at the statutory minimum wage rate. The programme also aims at providing of livelihood security for the rural poor through creation of durable assets. The Government has referred to it as an "Act of the people, by the people, and for the people". It is the first nation-wide employment scheme that guarantees employment legally to India's rural population. Naturally, it has generated intense speculation and interest for providing livelihood security to rural unemployed. The Act gives power to the daily wage labours to fight for their right to receive the wages that they must receive and not just a means of providing social security to its people. The Act mandates 33 per cent participation of women. It provides disincentive for underperforming states, as an unemployment allowance has to be paid by the state government if work is not provided within 15 days of demand. Also an accountability of the delivery system has been built in through social audit. However, the key question is whether various provisions of the Act are being implemented properly for the desired ways. The study aims to understand the following objectives:-

1. To study the socio-personal, socio-economic and psychological profile of the MGNREGA beneficiaries
2. To determine the awareness and level of satisfaction about various activities of MGNREGA among the beneficiaries

Methodology

The study was carried out in eight randomly selected districts of Chhattisgarh plains during the years 2016-17 and 2017-18. Two blocks from each selected district were selected for the selection of villages. In this way a total of 16 Blocks (Total 8 X 2 =16 blocks) were selected randomly. From each selected block, 2 villages (Total 32 villages) were selected randomly for the selection of respondents. From each selected village, 10 beneficiaries were selected randomly, who had job card and involved in MGNREGA activities in the villages. In this way, a total of 320 MGNREGA beneficiaries were selected by using simple random sampling method

Results and Discussion

The data collected from respondents through personal interview and group discussion were coded, tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis. The results so obtained from analysis of data supported with appropriate justification have been presented.

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Table 1: Socio-personal characteristics of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Per cent
Gender		
Male	255	79.69
Female	65	20.31
Age		
Young (30-45 years)	45	14.06
Middle (46-60 years)	208	65.00
Old (More than 60 years)	67	20.94
Educational status		
Illiterate	29	9.06
Primary school	163	50.93
Middle school	81	25.32
High school & Higher Secondary	35	10.94
College and above	12	3.75
Caste		
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	52	16.25
Scheduled Caste (SC)	108	33.75
Other Backward Class (OBC)	143	44.69
Other Caste (OC)	17	5.31
Size of family		
Small family (Up to 5 Members)	311	97.19
Medium family (6-8 Members)	08	2.50
Large family (More than 8 Members)	01	0.31

Table 1 Shows that majority of the respondents (79.69 per cent) were male and remaining 20.31 per cent respondents were female and majority of the respondents (65.00 per cent) belonged to middle age group (46 to 60 years). Maximum (50.93 %) of them had educated up to primary school. The table also shows that more number of the respondents (44.69 per cent) belonged to other backward class, to scheduled caste, similar findings reported by Ram and De (2003) [5], Palanichamy (2011) [6], Bordoloi and Ahmad (2011), and Longchar and Longkumer (2012) [7].

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

Particular	Frequency	Percentage
Types of house		
Kachcha House	231	72.19
Pakkahouse	46	14.37
Mixed (Kachcha/ Pakka)	43	13.44
Material possession		
Tractor	02	0.63
Seed drill	18	5.62
Local plough	119	37.19
Khurpi/Kudali	208	65.00
Sprayer	26	8.12
Television	234	73.12
Radio	23	7.18
Smart phone (mobile)	221	69.06
Occupations		
MGNREGA	320	100.0
Agriculture	216	67.50
Agriculture Labour	195	60.94
Animal husbandry	26	8.12
Service	13	4.06
Business	11	16.88
Land holding		
Landless	104	32.50
Marginal farmer (Up to 1.0 ha)	83	25.94
Small farmer (1.1 to 2.0 ha)	96	30.00
Medium farmer (2.1 to 4 ha)	30	9.37
Big farmer (More than 4 ha)	07	02.19
Annual income		
up to Rs.75,000	122	38.12
Rs.75,001 to Rs. 1,50,000	167	52.19
Rs. 1,50,001 to Rs. 3,00,000	15	04.69
More than Rs. 3,00,000	16	05.00

Table 2 indicates that majority of the respondents (72.19 per cent) had kachcha house. Regarding material possession, majority of the respondents (73.12 per cent) possessed television followed by 69.06 per cent were having smart phone (mobile).

Occupation of the respondents is the main source of earning for their livelihood and fulfills necessary requirements. In the study area, most of the respondents were practicing agriculture for their livelihood. The data related to the occupation of the respondent's families are presented in table 2. The findings shows that all the respondents (100 per cent) were engaged in MGNREGA activities followed by 67.50 per cent had agriculture as their main occupation, whereas 60.94 per cent of them were practicing labour as subsidiary occupation. table 2 also shows regarding land holding in that most of the respondents (32.50 per cent) belonged to landless families, followed by 30.00 per cent respondents had 1.1 to 2.0 ha of Small land holding, while, 25.94 per cent of the respondents had marginal size (up to 1.0 ha) of land holding and 9.37 per cent of the respondents had 2.1 to 4 ha (Medium) land holding. Only 2.19 per cent of the respondents had more than 4 ha (Big farmer) size of land holding.

The findings show about annual income, that the majority of respondents (52.19 per cent) earned annual income in the range of Rs.75001 to Rs. 150000 followed by 38.12 per cent of the respondents received annual income up to Rs.75,000, while 5.00 per cent of the respondents has annual income more than Rs. 3,00,000. It has also been observed that only 4.69 per cent of the respondents fell under the income range of Rs. 1, 50,001 to Rs. 3, 00,000.

Similar findings reported by Rathi *et al.* (2004) [8] and Kulshrestha *et al.* (2010).

Table 3: Source wise average annual income of the respondents

Occupation	No. of family involved		Annual income (in Rs)	
	F	P	Range	Average
MGNREGA Work	320	100.00	3,000-20,000	12,069.00
Agriculture	216	67.50	25,000-3,00,000	1,02,500.00
Labour	195	60.93	4,000-45,000	14,990.00
Animal husbandry	26	8.12	2,000-70,000	16,125.00
Service	13	4.06	60,000-3,00,000	1,34,880.00
Business	11	3.43	30,000-3,00,000	1,18,660.00
Average annual family Income (Rs.)				76,417.00

F=frequency, P= per cent

The data are presented in Table 3, cent per cent of the respondents had Rs. 12,069 average income from MGNREGA work followed by 67.50 per cent of the respondents were getting Rs. 1,02,500 average annual income from agriculture, while 60.93 per cent of the respondents had appeared in labour work and their average annual income was Rs. 14,990. Whereas 8.12 per cent respondents had average annual income Rs. 16,125 from animal husbandry and 4.06 per cent of the respondents had Rs. 1, 34,880 average annual income from service. Only 3.43 per cent of the respondents had Rs.1, 18,660 average annual income from business. The average annual family income of the respondents was Rs.76417.

Overall awareness about various MGNREGA provisions also is displayed in Fig 1 that the finding indicates that maximum (60.31 per cent) respondents were moderately aware about various MGNREGA provisions, followed by less aware (23.12 per cent). Only 16.56 per cent of the respondents were fully aware about MGNREGA provisions.

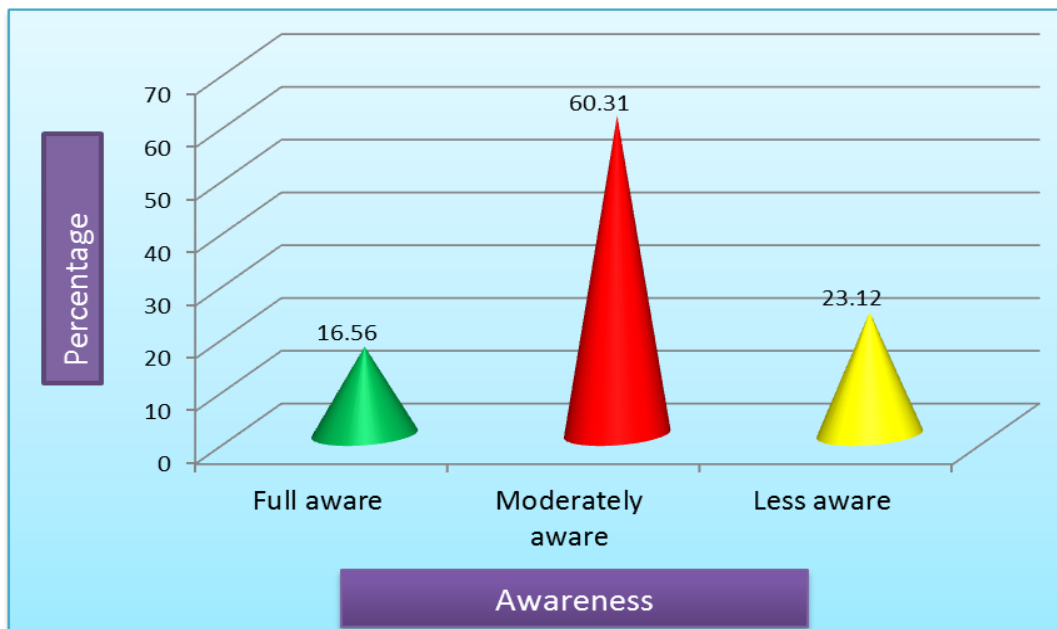


Fig 1: Overall level of awareness about MGNREGA provision

Table 4: Level of satisfaction about MGNREGA activities

Statements	Level of satisfaction					
	Less satisfied		Satisfied		Fully satisfied	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Availability of 100 days employment	228	71.25	184	28.75	0	0.00
Transparency & Democracy to give the equal opportunity for employment	76	23.75	312	48.75	264	27.50
Transparency giving a Job card	52	16.25	276	43.12	390	40.63
Delivery of job card within 15 days after application	00	0.00	534	55.62	159	16.56
Provide employment within 15 days of application	320	100	00	0.00	00	0.00
Wage payment as decided / declared by the Government	0	0.00	00	0.00	960	100.0
Facilities at work site	171	53.43	108	16.88	285	29.69
Satisfied with the powers of Gram Sabha	00	0.00	144	22.5	744	77.5
Complaints by the Concern officer/ employee/Sarpanch	178	55.63	128	20.00	234	24.37
Satisfied with the evaluation & monitoring of works by the concerned agencies	00	0.00	560	87.5	120	12.50
Payment details displayed on the notice board of the Gram Sabha/Panchayat	20	6.25	240	37.5	540	56.25

Table 4 depicted about the level of satisfaction of MGNREGA beneficiaries towards various activities. It was found that cent per cent of the respondents were less satisfied with the provision of getting employment within 15 days of application; followed by 71.25 per cent respondents were less satisfied about availability of 100 days employment

Conclusion

In this study it was concluded that most of the respondents in the study area were male and belonged to 46 to 60 years of age, belonged to other backward class and having primary school level education, living in small family. The majority of them having kachha house and possessed television in their house. All the respondents had engaged in MGNREGA activities however, agriculture was the major occupation of respondents. More than half of the respondents earned annual income in the range of Rs. 75,001 to Rs. 1, 50,000, agriculture contributed major share in over all annual income. The average annual family income of the respondents was Rs.76417. Maximum respondents were moderately aware about various MGNREGA provisions, level of satisfaction of beneficiaries about various MGNREGA activities. It was found that cent per cent of the respondents were less satisfied with the provision of getting employment within 15 days of application; followed by less satisfied about availability of 100 days employment. On the basis of findings, as per

programme of act 100 days ensured employment may strictly followed and need to be increased to 150 days to fulfill the purpose and objectives of MGNREGA and ensure the livelihood security of the rural people.

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