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A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTIONAL ATTITUDE AND KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS MGNREGA IN TAMILNADU WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

In India, despite economic growth, poverty and unemployment continue to be the major economic problems with 75 per cent of the rural population living below poverty line and 74 per cent unemployed population hailing from rural India .in order to overcome this evil roots the central govt initiated the MGNREGA. Though the scheme considered as a livelihood source for the rural people but who are not fully aware of the full fruit of the scheme. In another flip of the coin most of the past research concentrated on the economic point of view and performance analysis about the scheme. The researchers in the past period not have given importance to the current topic. In order to concentrate on that particular the present study is discussed both the awareness and perceptional attitude of the beneficiaries towards mgnrega in the study area.

KEYWORDS

mgnrega, livelihood, awareness, perceptional attitude, beneficiaries.

INTRODUCTION

ocial evils and uncivilized people came from the seed of poverty. The country will not move forward with the mass of poor people. To lit the lamp in the downtrodden people's life, UPA Govt has innovated the scheme called MGNREGA, which is the largest public employment programme in the World providing work to 5 Crore rural households or 10 Crore workers. One in every 3 rural households is a worker under the programme. It addressed 41% of the problem of underemployment in the rural areas. In the current financial year; the central government has allotted 5,000 crores to nrega in the union budget.

MGNREGA in Tamilnadu was started on February 2^{nd,} 2006 in six districts under phase I; phase II started on 01.04.2007 mainly in four districts, and the remaining 21 districts is taken part under phase III on 01.04.2008. This year the wage rate is increased to Rs.184 in Tamilnadu. Approved Labour Budget in the FY 2015-2016 is 239.11 crore. Total number of household completed the work in the FY 2014-2015 were 22, 07,425 crore.²

Tiruchirappalli is the Main district in which the scheme provided a sustainable work to the rural women as evidenced by the percentage of women participation was 79.15, where men are 20.85 in the FY 2014-2015. Such huge number of people procuring benefit under this scheme it is necessary to analyses whether the job card holders really aware of the policies, benefits and the govt assistances available under this scheme.

In this cockpit view, a study has undertaken in Pullambadi block of Tiruchirappalli district to explore the perceptional attitude and knowledge towards the employment guarantee scheme.

THE EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT: THE BASIC IDEA

The Employment Guarantee Act is a step towards the right to work, as an aspect of the fundamental right to live with dignity

- The "right to life" is a fundamental right of all citizens under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
- "Right to life... includes the right to live with human dignity; it would include all these aspects which would make life meaningful, complete and living."
 (Supreme Court)

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

R.S.Negi (2015)⁴ et.al underwent an attempt to assess the impact on implementation and effectiveness of the Act in district Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. The study was mainly focused on the impacts of MGNREGA related to natural resources include soil, water etc. The objectives were to create wage employment for the rural sustainable livelihood to raise productive capacity of the economy and to analyze the extent of women participation. They concluded that the introduction of the programme of MGNREGA had a clear positive impact on the rural economy through employment and income generation and also through raising the standard of living and socio-economic performance of the rural community of the district. So it is recommended that the present programme should be further spread in the rural areas by means of proper planning, adequate supervision, effective implementation and better monitoring. The MGNREGA scheme should not be confined into 100 day's work for wage earners it should be further extended for shake of beneficiaries.

Ram Babu and Dr.A.N.Panda (2015)⁵ conducted performance assessment of nrega in which they analyzed the current status, future prospect, funding pattern and wage rate of MNREGA. He summarised that Household provided employment in the financial year, 2013-14 (up to December, 2013) 3.8 crore and 135 crore person days of employment were generated. Expenditure on Wages in the current financial year, 2013-14, Rs.17832 corer (76% of the total expenditure) From FY 2006-07 up to FY 2013-14(up to Dec, 2013) the women participation rate has ranged between 40-51 percent of the total person-days generated, much above the statutory minimum requirement of 33% percent. 2013-14, 74 million individuals in 48 million household in rural Indian were employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment guarantee program with each household on average work for 46 days. This cost the Government of India Rs 39,000 corer in the year 2013-2014.

Hazarika (2014)⁶ examined the impact of MGNREGA on income and migration of people of Lakhimpur District, Assam. The study found that scheme has a positive impact on eradicating poverty by increasing income of people and decreasing the rural migration

According to the study "The Politics of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Andhra Pradesh" by Diego Maiorano (2014)⁷ said that how political dynamics have influenced the nrega implementation in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that implementation performance of the scheme has been fairly good in the study area .The reason behind that success was political commitment of that state's chief minister. He argue that Andhra Pradesh has performed fairly well as far as the generation of MGNREGA employment is concerned. In fact, among India's largest states, it is among the top performers in terms of both person-days per household generated (56.49 as against an all-India average of 42.43 in 2011–12) and number of households provided with 100 days of

employment (17.76% as against 7.81% on average in 2011–12). Andhra Pradesh also has an above-average participation rate of women (57.79% as against 48.17% in 2011–12).

Shenbagaraj P. and Arockiasamy S. (2013)⁸ "Impacts of MGNREGA on Local Development: A Study of Ottapidaram Blocks in Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu", they proposed that the scheme was able to provide only 26 days of employment in a year on an average of the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. Moreover they claimed that the average earnings by each person did not exceed Rs. 2000 per year.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study focused on the following objectives:

- 1. To know about the respondent's perceptional knowledge related to the provision of the scheme.
- 2. To analyses the respondents overall attitude towards the performance of the scheme.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Based on the collection of previous literature the researcher found that most of the research have emphasized on economic aspect, performance analysis and migration level. Very few people have concentrated on social audit and political aspects of NREGS.No researcher gave importance to respondent's knowledge and attitude towards the scheme because they are the stakeholders of the scheme. They should know all the information and provisions related to the scheme. Therefore the present study will discuss both the awareness and perceptional attitude of the beneficiaries in the study area. While studying the study will emphasis on following questions:

- 1. Are the people really aware about MGNREGA provision?
- 2. Is it really a livelihood generating programme or not?
- 3. What type of attitude and value the respondent's possessed about the implementation of the program.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

UNIVERSE OF STUDY: The study was carried out in state of Tamilnadu. However, the study area was confined to Pullambadi Block in Tiruchirappalli district. Using purposive sampling method the study area was selected. The Pullambadi Block consists of 33 Panchayat which includes 22450 registered households that contains 37881 registered jobholders. Exploratory research design was followed for this research.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE: For the selection of beneficiary respondents two stages were followed. In the first stage purposive sampling method was adopted for the selection of the study area. In the second stage, for selecting the sample respondents, convenient sampling technic was adopted.

SAMPLE SIZE: Hence it is a pilot study the researcher selected two samples from each Panchayat which in number 66.All the sample were jobholders only.

SOURCE OF DATA: Data was collected both from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected from all the stakeholders of NREGS. Well-structured Questionnaire was used for collecting data from the beneficiaries. The secondary data was collected from official records, published reports of similar projects, and Ph.D. thesis, journals and online sources.

TOOLS OF ANALYSIS: The collected data were analysed with help of Garrett's ranking technique Under the Garrett's Ranking Technique the percentage position is calculated by using the following formula: Percentage position= 100(Rij-0.5)

N.

Where,

Rij = Rank given for the i_{th} statement by jth employee

Nj = Number of statements ranked by jth employee

The percent position of each rank thus obtained was converted into scores by referring to the table given by Garrett. Then for each statement, the scores of individual employees were added together and divided by the total number of employees. The mean scores for all the statements were arranged in an ascending order, ranks were assigned and the important statements identified

ANALYSIS OF COLLECTED DATA

The following table clearly explains that the various sources through which the respondents come know about the birth of the scheme in the study area.

TABLE 1: SOURCES FOR AWARENESS

Sources	Number of Respondents	Percentage
News paper	5	7.5
Radio	10	15.15
Television	5	7.5
NGO representative	9	13.63
Govt officials	9	13.63
Panchayat members	16	24.24
Friends & Neighbors	12	18.18
TOTAL	66	100

Source: Primary data

Therefore, the table reveals that with help of Panchayat members the respondents get the intro or awareness about the scheme (24.24%) whereas newspaper or television does not give any proximity in the sources list, because both of the sources get only 7.5%.

In order to know about the respondent's awareness level about the scheme eleven factors were determined. The percentage score for each rank from 1 to 11 factors are calculated. The percentage score thus obtained for all the eleven ranks are converted into scale values using Garrett Ranking Conversion Table. The scale value for first rank to eleventh rank is 81, 70, 63, 57, 52, 47, 42, 36, 29 and 18 respectively. The score value (fx) is calculated for each factor by multiplying the number of respondents (f) with respective scale values (x). The total scores are found by adding the score values (fx) of each rank for every factor. The mean score is then calculated to know the order of preference given by the respondents for the factors. Based on the mean score, the overall ranks are assigned for each. The ranking analysis of the factors influencing the passengers in selecting train as their mode of travel through Garrett's Ranking Technique is shown in Table 3 and Percentage Positions and their corresponding Garrett's Table values are given table 2.

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE POSITIONS AND THEIR CORRESPONDING GARRETT'S TABLE VALUES

Rank	Percentage Position	Garrett's Table Value
1	100(1-0.5) 11=4.5	82
П	100(2-0.5) 11=13.63	71
Ш	100(3-0.5) 11=22.72	64
IV	100(4-0.5) 11=31.81	59
V	100(5-0.5) 11=40.90	55
VI	100(6-0.5) 11=50	50
VII	100(7-0.5) 11=59.09	45
VIII	100(8-0.5) 11=68.18	40
IX	100(9-0.5) 11=77.27	35
Χ	100(10-0.5) 11=86.36	28
XI	100(11-0.5) 11=95.45	17

TABLE 3: THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS ABOUT THE SCHEME AND THEIR RANKS

S.No	Factors	Rank								No of respondents	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
1	Α	40	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	5119	77.56	1
2	В	1	15	11	3	4	6	10	5	3	4	4	66	3483	52.77	Ш
3	С	11	1	15	4	3	6	4	3	5	4	10	66	3391	51.37	V
4	D	2	23	8	5	1	10	7	2	2	5	1	66	3781	57.28	П
5	E	5	5	3	13	4	6	5	7	9	8	1	66	3305	50.07	VI
6	F	2	2	5	4	3	9	4	1	1	10	25	66	3117	47.23	VII
7	G	8	12	3	3	12	4	5	6	3	2	8	66	3441	52.14	IV
8	Н	2	1	2	5	4	2	2	4	9	4	31	66	2182	36.37	XI
9	1	3	2	1	3	6	7	1	8	9	6	20	66	2497	37.83	Χ
10	J	4	6	9	1	2	4	6	2	17	8	7	66	2987	45.26	VIII
11	K	3	6	8	4	5	4	2	1	3	10	20	66	2750	41.67	IX

The factors considered for analysing the awareness level of the respondents and their rank after the Garrett ranking analysis.

TABLE 4

S.NO	Factors	RANKS					
1	A. 100 days per households						
2	B. Knowledge about correct minimum wage	III					
3	C. Mode of fixation of wage	٧					
4	D. Equality in wage for both the gender	II					
5	E. More within a radius of 5km	VI					
6	F. Eligibility for unemployment allowance	VII					
7	G. Compensation for delayed payment	IV					
8	H. Medical assistance for injury in the worksite	XI					
9	Available of Worksite facilities Crèche (if more than 5 children below the age of 6 years are present) b. shades C. Drinking water d. Period of rest	X					
10	J. Right to payment within a fort night	VIII					
11	K. Accidental benefits	IX					

CONCLUSION

From the above study it may concluded that the respondents of Tiruchirappalli district are very familiar about only the days of employment and equal wage for both the genders. They don't have any proper knowledge about medical assistance, facilities available, compensation accidental benefits, mode of payment and fixation of wages etc. Implementation of any scheme alone is not duty of any government. They have to monitor on a continuous basis whether the scheme has given full details to the people who are taking active part under the scheme, otherwise we won't realize the expected benefits.

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