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CONTENTS

Sr. No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)	Page No.
1.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND ITS ASSOCIATED REWARD POLICIES: THE CONSIDERATIONS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION <i>Dr. PO-CHIN WU, TSAI, MENG-HUA & HSIAO, I-CHUNG</i>	1
2.	MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF SIYARAM SILK MILLS LIMITED THROUGH Z-SCORE MODEL <i>GARIMA MADAN & Dr. N. S. RAO</i>	7
3.	A PRAGMATIC STUDY ON THE ASSOCIATION OF DEMOGRAPHICS ON INVESTOR'S INVESTMENT DECISION <i>SHAILAJA YADAV & Dr. NIRMALA JOSHI</i>	12
4.	SATISFACTION LEVEL OF MIGRANT EMPLOYEES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TIRUPUR GARMENT INDUSTRY <i>Dr. D. GNANASENTHIL KUMAR & T.SREEREKHA</i>	17
5.	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR – A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO SELECT (IT) INDUSTRY IN CHENNAI <i>Dr. N. SUREGA</i>	21
6.	PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGS IN KERALA: A SPECIAL REFERENCE AT KADAPLAMATTOM GRAMA PANCHAYATH <i>ANUSHA KJ & Dr. PRAKASH C</i>	27
7.	A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AS DRIVERS OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN NIGERIA, 1981-2014 <i>UDEORAH, S.F., VINCENT, M.O. & OHAM, N. R.</i>	30
8.	SATISFACTION LEVELS OF THE CUSTOMERS IN TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS – A STUDY IN ANANTAPURAMU DISTRICT <i>Dr. G.PAVAN KUMAR</i>	39
9.	ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGY OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN PROJECT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GUJARAT STATE <i>NIRAV ASHOKBHAI PANDYA</i>	45
10.	DEMONETIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON INDIAN ECONOMY <i>SUMIT BANERJEE</i>	48
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	50

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PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGS IN KERALA: A SPECIAL REFERENCE AT KADAPLAMATTOM GRAMA PANCHAYATH

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a job guarantee scheme for rural Indians. It was enacted by legislation on 25 August 2005. The scheme provides a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of paid employment in every financial year to adult members of any household willing to do unskilled manual work related to public work at statutory minimum wages of 240 per day in 2017 prices. The MGNREGA has affirmative impact on empowerment pattern of women. Women have benefited both as individual and community. Women are benefitted individually because they are capable to earn separately, spend some money for their requirements, contribute in family expenditure etc...During this project, the majority of the respondents are satisfied with MGNREGS programme and they are fully aware about the remuneration pattern, working facilities provided by MGNREGS scheme.

KEYWORDS

MGNREGS, women empowerment, awareness level, socio-economic development, employment status.

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INTRODUCTION

MGNREGA is a novel and well distinguished scheme as it focuses on the grass root level which is the backbone of the country like India. The scheme was introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, primarily semi or unskilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India. It attempts to bridge the gap between rich and poor in the country. An Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing atleast one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every households who adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and for matters connected there with or incidental there to. The law was initially called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and was renamed with the prefix "Mahatma Gandhi" on 2 October 2009, Gandhi's birth anniversary. In the year of 2011, the program was commonly criticized as no more effective than other hardship decrease programs in the country of India. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as an element of unemployment and eradicating the poverty in the life of below poverty lines.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

MGNREGS is an employment guarantee scheme. It was enacted 2005. **Soumya ohanty [2012][2]** she says that MGNREGA is a good scheme for eradicating unemployment and poverty, and how this scheme has provided alternative source of livelihood which reduces the migration, and ask rural people in villages self sustained. (**kareemulla, 2013**)The scheme aims at the development of the rural poor by giving employment to both men and women and considers gender equality. This scheme creates employment opportunities, among the people, improves the standard of living of the rural people, empowerment of women, creates infra-structural development in rural areas, prevents the migration of the rural people to urban area and largely participates in the financial inclusion process by opening bank or post office accounts. (**Saraswanth, 2011**) MGNREGA has been successful in self-selecting rural poor into participation and households participating longer in the programme have been able to borrow more from formal sources. This paper also provides evidence that, increases in productivity of economics activities for participants, due to work in MGNREGA Acts as link between longer participation and increased access to formal credit. This study highlights some important features of MGNREGA, which enables a typical Employment Guarantee Scheme to have a multidimensional positive impact on lives of rural poor, including better access to formal credit. It is observed that MGNREGA has been successful in efficiently targeting rural poor, which ensures the availability of transfer benefits only for the targeted population. It should be scrutinized periodically at implementation and budgetary fronts to ensure fairness and efficiency. (**Suman Pamecha, 2015**)MGNREGA is an ambitious scheme providing employment to rural people of India. The basic aim of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to enhance livelihood security of household in rural area. By this scheme Govt. gives assurance of employment to unskilled rural labourers for 100 days. With better implementation such type of scheme may be an effective weapon to fight against poverty. It also aims at transforming the rural areas by improving the socio-economic conditions of people. Rural economy is the back-bone of Indian economic development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature and has adopted the following methodology:

The population for the study was 990 workers of MGNREGS who availed benefit from MGNREGS scheme. Data were collected from the beneficiaries residing in Kadaplamattom Grama Panchayath. Purposive sampling was used as the sampling technique. Sixty beneficiaries were identified. Both primary data and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected through structure questionnaire. The questionnaire elicited information relating to the profile of the workers, their current status, level of awareness, evaluation of role of panchayath and changes in economic and social status. The primary data were also collected through interview held with MGNREGS workers. The study also used secondary data in order to ascertain the success in the working of MGNREGS programmes. The tools used for collection primary data were structure questionnaire for MGNREGS beneficiaries. The publications which constituted the secondary sources of information were annual reports of MGNREGS in Kerala. All data collected were tabulated to facilitate interpretation.

SAMPLE PROFILE

Out of 60 respondents, majority of the respondents came under female category and majority belonged to the age group 46-55 and 91.8 percent respondents are married. About 45.9 percent respondent having educational qualification upto SSLC. It means the respondents are having low educational qualification. About 80 percent respondent got 100 days of work, 78.3 percent respondent are worked 6-8 hours under MGNREGA.

INFERNENTIAL ANALYSIS

Analysis regarding the satisfaction level of respondents.

TABLE 1: ANALYSIS REGARDING THE SATISFACTION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

Item	Highly satisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Highly dissatisfied (%)
Wage	26.2	48.3	16.7	8.3	0
Method of payment	19.7	39.3	31.1	8.2	0
Quality of work	31.1	36.1	29.5	1.6	0
Behaviour of administrative	34.4	41.0	23.0	0	0
Availability of work	23.0	44.3	24.6	4.9	1.6
Nature of job	26.2	44.3	21.3	4.9	1.6
Updation of record	45.9	37.7	11.5	3.3	0
First aid facilities	49.2	39.3	8.2	1.6	0

Source: Primary data

The table shows that the satisfaction level of beneficiaries under MGNREGS. With regard to the wage, method of payment, quality of work, behaviour of administrative, availability of work, and nature of job, the respondents are highly satisfied. And they are highly satisfied with the updation of record and first aid facilities

TABLE 2: AWARENESS LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS

Factor	Fully aware (%)	Aware (%)	Not aware (%)
Aware about remuneration	63.9	32.8	1.6
Aware about payment method	60.7	36.1	1.6
Aware about equipment provided by the authority	72.1	23.0	3.3
Aware about of duration of work	37.7	45.9	14.8
Aware about unemployment allowances	23.0	39.3	36.1
Aware about social audit	41.0	32.8	24.6
Aware about job card should be issued within 15 days of application	52.5	39.3	6.6
Aware about employment will be given 15 days of application for work	62.3	31.1	4.9
Aware about accident provision	59.0	32.8	6.6

Source: primary data

The table shows the awareness level of beneficiaries under MGNREGS. The table clearly says that, majority of the respondents are highly aware about the given above factors except unemployment allowances and duration of work. With regard to duration of work and unemployment allowance, majority of the respondents are aware.

SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The future scope of this work is to carry out the analysis by using various other suitable methods and by using other data mining techniques. Its scope for future work can also be extended in the part of gathering data from the implementing officials from their perspective and analyze. Hence the data collected in this paper is collected from the workers point of view. (S.prakasam, 2015)

The NREGA is a new life line of the rural people who earn their livelihood as wage earners. It also gears up the social relationship among the rural people which is a pre requisite condition to build a strong society or a nation. It also reduces the gender difference for some works which are in practice in rural areas. It is also observed that female workers, both urban and rural, receive lesser wages than their male counterparts for doing the same jobs. The Act of the MGNREGA removed the gender difference in wages. The right to participate in works for women was made compulsory as per the Act of MGNREGA that there must be at least 33% participation for women. Some suggestions are incorporated here on the basis of literature observations.

1. All the programmes under MGNREGA must be well planned well ahead of time with a definite time frame for completion.
2. State MGNREGA has much more to do to strengthen the *Panchayati* Raj System, curtailment of direct intervention of other departments or agencies associated with it, would be a welcome step in this regard. The village administration should be brought down to *Taluk* level or lower level so that all the development programmes under MGNREGA can reach the villages situated at a distance from Development Block.
3. Present target of 100 days employment per house hold should be ensuring strictly.
4. Wage rate should have parity with outside rate and ongoing price hike which would reduce the migration of labour from village to nearby township or city.
5. More transparency is needed about the sanctioned work and financial involvement therein.
6. Auditing may be done through an extra government agency in addition to *Gram Panchayat* to check mishandling of fund.
7. *Panchayat* should be empowered financially and job responsibility should be distributed to all the elected members.
8. Any kind of political intervention should be stopped.
9. Strengthening active citizenship is a must.
10. Build large scale citizen's awareness campaigns for generating demand side of NREGA.
11. Improve institutional capacities of *Gram Panchayat*.
12. Financial Inclusion – Banks & Insurance network must be extended.
13. People's participation through *Gram Sabhas* needs to be ensured.
14. Social Audits for transparency and accountability is a must.
15. Access to Information at every stage of implementation is quite necessary.
16. IT platform for placing all information in public domain.
17. Innovative use of ICT for development of financial products needs to be implemented.
18. An effective grievance redressal mechanism needs to be evolved.
19. A partnership with Academia, Media, Legal Fraternity and Financial Institutions is quite necessary. (Das, 2013)

CONCLUSION

Thus, from the above discussion we can conclude that the government is now more serious about the poverty eradication from India. The government of India has also taken significant steps towards enhancing the participation of grass root bodies in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The socio-economic programmes are now more target oriented and putting direct assault on poverty. Programmes like MGNREGA should be given in the planning process; so that the poverty from villages can be reduced to great extent. The success and effectiveness of these programmes will depend upon the sustained, intelligent and enthusiastic involvement and cooperation of the village community. (sharma, 2013). The MGNREGA has affirmative impact on empowerment pattern of

women. Women have benefited both as individuals and community. Women are benefited individually because they are capable to earn separately, spend some money for their requirements, contribute in family expenditure etc. The gained benefits of women as society can be understood by increased presence in the grama sabha, increasing number of women in speaking out in the meeting, increasing ability of interaction etc. but the poor implementation across the nation accrued the gender sensitiveness of this act mainly in north-eastern states. Certain initiatives and changes should be taken to get rid of these barriers. The precious gains should not be derailed for poor implementation.

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