



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

ISSN: 2454-132X

Impact factor: 4.295

(Volume 4, Issue 6)

Available online at: www.ijariit.com

Correlation of attitude of beneficiaries towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

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"An Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and for matters connected there with or incidental there to."

Source: (NREGA Gazette document)

ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi's statement holds even today as around 60 per cent of the country's populations are still living in rural areas. Gandhi ji laid strong emphasis on a self-sufficient village, decentralization of economic and political powers and development of cottage industries in villages. He believed in the human capital model of development which shifts the emphasis from physical capital formation to human capital formation and from industrial development to rural development, as a basis for overall development. But a major problem of the Indian development process is its inability to generate adequate employment opportunities for the growing rural labour forces. To overcome the problems of unemployment and poverty, the wage employment schemes have been important elements and necessary in public policy of the nation's development. They provide income transfers to poor households during periods when they suffer on account of the absence of opportunities for employment. Though in India presently prevailing poverty alleviation schemes both self and wage employment have been given considerable relief to poor families. But, most of these families even today remain vulnerable. Sustained poverty reduction in India continues to be a major target. Thus, in order to check the above-mentioned problems and with a view to improve employed days, overall economic and social life of the poorest of the poor living in rural areas, a new development strategy was enacted by the Government of India which is known as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. It was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd Oct 2009. It is observed that out of twelve independent variables, ten variables viz, Education, Caste, Land Holding, Social Participation, Annual Income, Occupation, Source of Information were positively and significantly correlated with attitude towards MGNREGA at 0.05 per cent level of probability, other variables like Family Size, extension contact and Economic Motivation were positively and significantly correlated with attitude towards MGNREGA at 0.01 per cent level of probability. Caste, social participation, land holding, annual income, occupation, and economic motivation were significantly related with the attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA.

Keywords— Rural development, Correlation, Significant, Non-significant, Poverty

1. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of MGNREGA is the largest rural employment scheme ever undertaken in India providing guaranteed wage employment, strengthening livelihood opportunities and regeneration of natural resources for rural poor in the country. The scheme is one of the novel initiatives by India in its field of social policy since independence. It is a democratic decentralized wage employment scheme for the purpose of poverty alleviation during the lean season which can play a significant role in promoting desired social changes and national reconstruction, especially in rural India. It has been implemented in the way of comprehensive strategy for yielding overall growth and expected changes among ruralities. It tries to change the face of rural society in respect to a social, economic, and political scenario by offering guaranteed employment opportunities to all adults who are willing to do unskilled manual work. Some of the salient features of MGNREGA over its predecessors are as follows:

- Unlike its predecessors, which had their beginnings in executive orders, MGNREGA is an act of the parliament and thus has both legal superiority as well as constitutional approval.
- It is irrevocable and can be dismissed only by another Act of parliament.

- (c) It is not only a work-based employment programme but also a means to integrate the agenda of providing minimum livelihood security to rural households and other development objectives.
- (d) The basic thrust of the Act is an entitlement and it provides provisions for minimum wages, appropriate worksite facilities and ensures adequate female participation (at least one-third of the workforce).
- (e) It is a first-of-its-kind experiment on partially decentralized planning, implementation and monitoring of program through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across states.

1.1 Objective

The study explores about Attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA. This study examines the attitude level of each household and other profile related MGNREGA. In this study, the effort was also made to find out constraint and suggestion made by beneficiaries about the programme. In this study, we have also tried to observe the socio-economic condition of people. The study has been designed with the following specific objectives:

To study the relationship between selected characteristics of the beneficiaries with their attitude.

1.2 Methodology

The study entitled “ATTITUDE OF BENEFICIARIES TOWARDS MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA)” was conducted in Wardha district of Vidarbha region. The study was conducted in Wardha and Hinganghat Tahsils. The lists of MGNREGA beneficiaries was obtained from respective gram panchayat and from rojgar sanyojak who is main in the village and the villages having a maximum number of MGNREGA beneficiaries drawn were selected. Thus, 10 villages from two Tehsil, each of the five villages were selected for the study. The 120 beneficiaries drawn from 10 villages, each of 12 beneficiaries from villages. The ex-post facto research design of social research was used.

The following table shows the distribution of panchayat samiti-wise list of randomly selected 10-gram panchayats and 10 villages from two panchayats of Wardha.

Table 1: Distribution of Selected Villages

S.no	Wardha	No. of job card	No. of respondents	Sr.no	Hinganghat	No. of job card	No .of respondents
1.	Ashta Neri	174	12	1.	Kingaon	188	12
2.	Bhugaon	144	12	2.	Bothuda	194	12
3.	Selu Kate	187	12	3.	Jangona	200	12
4.	Jaulgaon	89	12	4.	Kutki	182	12
5.	Mandavgad	124	12	5.	Daroda	340	12
Total		718	60	Total		1104	60

The relationship between independent variables and attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA

Table 2: The relationship between independent variables and attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA

S. no.	Independent Variables	Correlation-Coefficient ('r' value)
1	Age	0.0897 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.2277*
3	Caste	0.1734*
4	Family size	0.3234**
5	Family type	-0.0284 ^{NS}
6	Occupation	0.2275*
7	Landholding	0.2313*
8	Annual income	0.1856*
9	Social participation	0.2154*
10	Extension contact	0.6374**
11	Source of information	0.2271*
12	Economic motivation	0.2348**

* Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability

NS= non-significant

The result of relational analysis clearly indicates that selected characteristics of MGNREGA beneficiaries, it is observed that out of twelve independent variables, ten variables viz, *Education, Caste, Land Holding, Social Participation, Annual Income, Occupation, Source of Information* were positively and significantly correlated with attitude towards MGNREGA at 0.05 per cent level of probability, other variables like Family Size, extension contact and Economic Motivation were positively and significantly correlated with attitude towards MGNREGA at 0.01 per cent level of probability. Whereas age had a positive and non-significant correlation with the attitude towards MGNREGA. Rest trait, type of family had failed to establish a significant relationship with the attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA.

2. CONCLUSIONS

Out of twelve independent variables, ten variables viz., *education*, caste, family size social participation, land holding, annual income, occupation, source of information, extension contact and economic motivation showed significant influence on their attitude towards MGNREGA, where age, types of family failed to show any significant influenced on their attitude towards MGNREGA. Caste, social participation, land holding, annual income, occupation, and economic motivation were significantly related with the attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA.

The more significant relationship with the MGNREGA it is due to more number of people aware of this programme and its success in every field. Generally, it provides all type of work nowadays like skilfull and unskilled so people should get attracted to the programme. Many state jump on the successful implementation of MGNREGA due to the wide response by people and government also help the people to develop themselves.

2.1 Implications

- During the period of a personal interview, it is very closely observed that the conceived beneficiaries struggling hard in MGNREGA work due to financial constraints in their family without care of their health. So, the government can make such a provision/amendment where the MGNREGA beneficiaries will be paid half the amount in her absence during the maternity period through direct deposition of the amount in their account. This helps the beneficiary on humanitarian grounds which fills courage and inspires other beneficiaries to take part in the programme actively.
- It was evident from the findings of the study that there was no person to look after the beneficiaries' children at workplace, delay in payment of wages, continuous work not provided, and delay in issue of job card, lack of facilities at work place and 100 days of employment not provided were the important problems encountered by the MGNREGA beneficiaries. Hence, the implementing agency of the MGNREGA needs to make necessary amendments to the programme to overcome the above-said problems. So that the labourers can work in the programme with pride and prestige.

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