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To study about attitude of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries about MGNREGA in Bapatla Mandal of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The basic objective of this research is to study beneficiaries' knowledge about MGNREGA in Bapatla Mandal of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. MGNREGA aims to provide a steady source of income and livelihood security for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. As the scheme assures 100 days guaranteed employment to the rural people in order to raise their standard of living and empower them economically, it has been receiving variegated responses from different parts of the country. So, it felt necessary to study about the knowledge of beneficiary respondents about MGNREGA. In this regard, a primary field study has been conducted with 60 job card holders of MGNREGA regarding their insight on the programme whether it raised their standard of living and brought any changes in their financial aspects or not. This paper mainly focusses on some of the basic awareness issues such as job card, work man days, muster roll, wage rate, social audit, shelf of works undertaken etc.

Keywords: MGNREGA, employment, livelihood, work man day

Introduction

Poverty and unemployment are the twin problems faced by developing countries. According to the Indian Planning Commission, almost 26.02 crores of population are below the poverty line (BPL). In India, GDP and Unemployment rates are going hand in hand, causing fret for any democratic society. Unemployment and Poverty are strongly related and hinder the economic growth and development of the country. Thus, Government of India, aiming at balanced growth and to overcome above mentioned Weaknesses of past employment programs, passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the year 2005 in order to empower the rural laborers with right to get employment of 100 days per year per family during off Season. In accordance, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February, 2006. It's effective implementation started from 1st April 2006 in 200 drought prone and backward districts in India. NREGS covered nearly 625 districts in the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population. Again, the Government of India on 2nd October, 2009 renamed its flagship rural job guarantee programme- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). The revolutionary programme provides legal right of employment to rural mass an exclusive feature which differentiates it from routine schemes aiming to eliminate poverty and generate employment. The objective of the MGNREGS is to provide additional resources apart from the resources available in the district from different wage generating programmes to supplement wage employment to all wage seekers at village level, and providing food security through Creation of need based economic, social and community assets in the district related to Soil & Water Conservation, Plantation, Forestry related activities such as Fire Protection, Plantation and Management of Non-timber forest products (NTFPs), Land Development Works, Rural Connectivity Works and B.P.L/ST/SC/ Individual beneficial assets. Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, MGNREGA can help in protecting environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban mitigation and fostering social equity, among others. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (2005) was introduced with the prime objective of providing employment to the rural poor. On this background the present study was conducted to study about attitude of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries about MGNREGA in Bapatla Mandal of Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

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Methodology

The present study has been conducted in Bapatla Mandal of Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Ex post facto research design was followed for the analysis because the research was conducted after the occurrence of a particular incident. The sample of the respondents for the study comprised of two types i.e. sample I-beneficiaries and sample-II non beneficiaries. The interview schedule was developed to measure the attitude of beneficiaries. The information collected was scored, tabulated, computed and analyzed to have necessary interpretation.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according their Socio-Economic profile

S. No	Independent Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Age		
	20-35 years	19	31.66
	36-50 years	22	36.68
	50 years and above	19	31.66
2.	Gender		
	Male	25	41.67
	Female	35	58.33
3.	Education		
	Illiterate	17	28.33
	Primary	40	66.67
	Secondary	3	5
	High School	0	0
	Intermediate	0	0
	Graduation	0	0
4.	Caste		
	General	7	11.67
	BC	9	15
	SC	44	73.33
	ST	0	0
5.	Occupation		
	Farmer	10	16.67
	Agricultural Laborer	41	68.33
	Others	9	15
6.	Type of family		
	Nuclear	27	45
	Joint	33	55
7.	Type of House		
	Hut/Kaccha	0	0
	Semi-Cemented	8	13.33
	Cemented	52	86.67
8.	Size of Land Holding		
	Landless	50	83.34
	Upto 3 acres	8	13.33
	4-6 acres	2	3.33
9.	Annual Income		
	Upto 20,000	50	83.34
	Upto 30,000	8	13.33
	Upto 40,000 & above	2	3.3

From the above Table 1, it is evident that majority of the beneficiaries belonged to middle age group (36-50 years) and 31.66 per cent fell equally in both old age and young age category. 58.33 per cent of the beneficiaries were female were as 41.67 per cent were male. In Education, 66.6 per cent of the beneficiaries were educated upto primary school education whereas 28.33 percent were completely illiterates. 5 per cent of the beneficiaries were educated upto upper primary school. On the basis of the Caste, 73.33 per cent of the beneficiaries belonged to SC category, 15 per cent belong to BC category and 11.67 per cent belong to general category.

Majority (85 per cent) of the beneficiaries had “farming only” as their main occupation. 55 percent of the beneficiaries lived in joint families whereas 45 per cent lived in nuclear families. 86.67 per cent of the beneficiaries lived in cemented houses and 13.33 percent lived in semi-cemented houses. 83.34 per cent of the beneficiaries were landless followed by 13.33 per cent whose land is less than 3 acres and 3.33 per cent has land upto 6 acres. 83.34 per cent of beneficiaries earned upto 20,000 within a year, 13.33 per cent earned upto 30,000 and 3.3 per cent earned upto 40,000 within a year.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to level of attitude

S. No.	Category	Beneficiaries	Non -Beneficiaries
1.	Less favorable attitude (42-45)	6 (10%)	27 (45%)
2.	Favorable attitude (46-49)	18 (30%)	20 (33.33%)
3.	More Favorable attitude (50-53)	36 (60%)	13 (21.67%)
	Total	60 (100%)	60 (100%)

It has been concluded from the study that in beneficiaries category 60 per cent respondents had more favorable attitude followed by 30 per cent of respondents had favorable attitude and rest 10 per cent had less favorable attitude about MGNREGA in Bapatla. And in Non- beneficiaries category 45 per cent respondents had less favorable attitude followed by 33.33 per cent of respondents had favorable attitude and rest 21.67 per cent had more favorable attitude about MGNREGA in Bapatla.

Conclusion

It has been concluded from the study that most of the beneficiaries of Bapatla Mandal have high level of attitude about MGNREGA in beneficiaries category and in non beneficiaries category most of the respondents had less favourable attitude about MGNREGA. There are few aspects where people are still in lack in gaining complete knowledge about MGNREGA due to poor response of officials in creating awareness among the people time and again.

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