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Socio-personal and economic attributes of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract

The study was an “*Ex-Post-Facto*” research carried out in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh State during the year 2021-22 to assess the attributes of MGNREGA beneficiaries. The study covered 245 beneficiaries from two selected blocks. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect the data from MGNREGA beneficiaries by personal interview method. The data analysis was done by using statistical methods like frequency and percentage. The findings of the study reveal that most of beneficiaries were middle-aged, scheduled tribe, nuclear family, small size of land holding and had medium level of exposure to their respective attributes (social participation, socioeconomic status, extension participation, innovativeness, information seeking behaviour, attitude towards ITK and mass media exposure) of paddy growers.

Keywords: MGNREGA, employment generation, wages, work-guarantee

Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act guarantees employment for more than 54 million rural poor of India for 100 days in a year. The provisions of the Act identifies Panchayati Raj institutions as the key implementing agency for the programme providing a significant opportunity for demonstrating the role of village level institutions in transforming their village infrastructure and addressing abject poverty. The scheme is poised to contribute significantly in growth the overall rural economy in the state as well as the country. The processes are of the scheme have new ways of doing business which include principles of transparency and grass root democracy. It is the largest development programme in the state since its enactment (initiated in 18 districts of state in Feb 2006 and from July 2022 all 52 districts are being covered).

The MGNREGA act has laudable objectives of providing a work-guarantee to the poor rural households on one hand and creating quality asset, strengthening rural resource base, ensuring social inclusion, and strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions on the other. However, questions have been raised about the timing and purpose of the act, its design and structure, about the logic of state intervention in labour market in an era of liberalization, likely impacts of the programme on asset creation and economy and its overall success.

Material and Methods

The study was undertaken in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh State. Jabalpur district comprises 7 blocks out of which 2 blocks, namely Majhoul and Kundam were selected purposely, because of having maximum number of MGNREGA beneficiaries. The ‘*Ex-Post-Facto*’ research design and multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study. A list of beneficiaries were prepared with the help of DDA Office and selected from each block thus the total population are 50079. The sample size was 245 which are calculated with the help of online sampling calculator where is population size (N) 50079, confidence level is 95%, margin of error is 5% and sample proportion is 0.2. The data were collected through personal interview schedule.

Results and Discussion

Socio-personal and economic attributes of MGNREGA beneficiaries

Age

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that majority (72.60%) of the beneficiaries were belonged to middle age category, followed by old (17.40%) and young (10.20%) age.

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The middle aged group are more enthusiastic having more responsibility and efficient than young and old age group engaged in MGNREGA activities and responsible for maintaining their families. The above finding is justified by Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1], Jallaraph and Pathak (2019) ^[2], Rathod (2020) ^[3] and Bhati *et al.* (2016) ^[6].

Education

It is clear from Table 1 that more than half (54.50%) of beneficiaries had primary to high school education, followed by can read and write (26.40%). Whereas, 19.10 per cent were illiterate category. It can be concluded from the study that more than half of the beneficiaries were educated up to high school level. Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1] and Bhati *et al.* (2016) ^[6] observed the same findings.

Caste

With regard to caste, Table 1 revealed that majority (81.30%) of the MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe groups, followed by OBC (15.10%) and General (3.60%), respectively. It can be concluded from the study that the overall majority of the beneficiaries were from other backward class after schedule caste and schedule tribe (SC & ST) categories. Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1], Jallaraph and Pathak (2019) ^[2], Bhati *et al.* (2016) ^[6], Kumar and Kumar (2016) ^[5] observed the same findings.

Family type

Data presented in Table 1 indicates that majority (80.41%) of the beneficiaries had joint family, followed by nuclear family (19.59%). Thus; it can be concluded that majority MGNREGA beneficiaries had joint family. This is due to having joint family system in the study area. Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1], Rathod (2020) ^[3] and Bhati *et al.* (2016) ^[6] observed the same findings.

Family size

Table 1 indicates that more than half (64.08%) of the beneficiaries had medium size of family, followed by large (21.63%) and small (14.29%), respectively. This is due to having joint family system the study area. Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1] observed the same findings.

Social participation

Social participation gives an idea of the respondent's participation in social activities. From Table 1, it is shown that most (76.33%) of beneficiaries had low social participation, followed by medium (18.37%) and high (5.34%) social participation, respectively.

Material possession

With regard to material possession, Table 1 revealed that

nearly half (45.71%) of them had medium material possession, followed by low (37.95%) and high (16.34%), respectively.

Cosmopolitaness

Out of total 245 beneficiaries, higher percentage (70.61%) of them had medium cosmopolitaness, followed by low(18.77%) and high (10.62%) cosmopolitaness, respectively. Thus; it can be concluded that most of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were medium cosmopolitaness category.

Type of house

Data in Table 1 indicates that majority (72.65%) of the beneficiaries had mixed type house, followed by Kuchcha (14.69%) and Pucca (12.65) house type, respectively. Thus; it can be concluded that majority of them had mixed house type. Rathod (2020)^[3] and Kumar and Kumar (2016)^[5] observed the same findings.

Size of landholding

It is clear from table 1 that majority (94.69%) of the beneficiaries had marginal size of landholding (<1 ha), followed by small (05.31%) size of landholding. None of the respondents belong to medium and large size of landholding. It can be concluded from the study that overall majority of the beneficiaries had marginal to small size of landholding.

Occupation

Table 1 revealed that majority (86.53%) of the beneficiaries engaged in labour work, followed by 13.47 per cent of the involved in labour with other (dairy, poultry, goatary etc.). Dhulgand and Kadam (2019) ^[1] observed the same findings.

Source of income

It is clear from Table 1 that most (66.53%) of the beneficiaries earning income from dual sources, followed by single (22.44%) and multi (11.03%) sources. Thus; it can be concluded that most of the beneficiaries had dual and single sources of income.

Annual Income

The annual income of the family helps to project the overall economic position and it is an indicator of the economic stability of the family. The results presented in Table 1 revealed that majority 93.06 per cent of the beneficiaries were having their low annual income (up to Rs. 50000), followed by medium (06.94%) annual income category. The probable reason for the findings is that majority of the beneficiaries had small size of landholdings and a majority of them engaged in labour work.

Table 1: Distribution of MGNREGA beneficiaries according to socio-personal and economic attributes

Attributes	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age (Up to 35 years)	25	10.20
	Middle age (36 to 55 years)	178	72.60
	Old age (Above 55 years)	42	17.40
Education	Illiterate	47	19.10
	Only can read	30	12.20
	Only read and write	35	14.20
	Primary school education	92	37.50
	Middle school education	33	13.40
	High school education	08	03.60

Caste	General	09	04.60
	OBC	37	15.10
	ST	96	39.10
	SC	103	42.20
Family type	Nuclear family	48	19.59
	Joint family	197	80.41
Family size	Small (up to 04)	35	14.29
	Medium (05 to 07)	157	64.08
	Large (above 08)	53	21.63
Social participation	Low (0 to 5)	187	76.33
	Medium (6 to 10)	45	18.37
	High (Above 11)	13	05.34
Material possession	Low (Up to 06)	93	37.95
	Medium (07 to 12)	112	45.71
	High (Above 13)	40	16.34
Cosmopolitaness	Low (0 to 06)	46	18.77
	Medium (06 to 12)	173	70.61
	High (above 12)	26	10.62
Type of house	Kuchcha house	36	14.69
	Mixed house	178	72.65
	Pucca house	31	12.65
Size of landholding	Marginal (< 1 ha)	232	94.69
	Small (1 - 2 ha)	13	05.31
	Medium (3 - 5 ha)	00	00
	Large (6 - 10 ha)	00	00
Occupation	Labour	212	86.53
	Labour + other (dairy, poultry, goat rearing, fisheries, carpenter and cobbler)	33	13.47
Source of income	Single Source	55	22.44
	Dual Source	163	66.53
	Multi Source	27	11.03
Annual income	Low (Up to Rs. 50000 lakh)	228	93.06
	Medium (Rs. 50000 –100000 lakh)	17	06.94
	High (Above Rs. 100000 lakh)	00	00.00

Conclusion

The socio-personal and economic attributes of sampled beneficiaries show that majority of the respondents belongs to middle age groups, educated up to high school, maximum number of beneficiaries belongs to SC Caste, had marginal size of land holding, most of the beneficiaries were found in the low-income group with low social participation.

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