

Association of Profile of the MGNREGA Beneficiaries with their Extent of Knowledge towards their MGNREGA Activities- A Study in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

In this study an attempt has been made to find out if there exists any relationship between the profile characteristics of the MGNREGA beneficiaries with their extent of knowledge on MGNREGA activities. For this purpose One hundred and twenty respondents were randomly selected. The results revealed that the majority of the MGNREGA beneficiaries had medium knowledge followed by high and low knowledge. Out of thirteen selected independent variables nine of them showed significant relation with the extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. The Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) analysis indicated that all the thirteen variables put together explained 86.26 per cent of variance in the extent of knowledge of beneficiaries on the MGNREGA activities.

Key words: *Extent of knowledge, MGNREGA, Profile, Relationship.*

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) though notified on 7 September, 2005, was implemented in all the rural districts of India in April 2008. It is the biggest employment providing programme ever started in a country which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. This Scheme is different from the earlier employment programmes because it is on one hand demand-driven and on the other, treats employment as a right of the rural households. Thus, the scheme provides income directly to the unskilled workers in the rural areas.

The MGNREGA has shown a significant improvement in different aspects. The number of households associated with MGNREGA works has been increasing consistently, the number of days for which employment has been provided have also increased. Another important aspect of MGNREGA is the increasing participation of women in it. It not only provides employment to them but gives wage rate equal to that of a man. It has empowered the women economically as well as socially. Since the launching of MGNREGA, there have been several studies looking into its implementation aspects, such as wage formation processes in the rural labour markets, its finances, its democratic administration and implementation. The present study was focused on the association of the profile characteristics with the knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries about the MGNREGA activities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the year 2015 with ex-post facto research design in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Out of 40 mandals of the district, 3 mandals namely, Seethampeta, Ranasthalam and Polaki were selected based on criteria of maximum wage employment generation. Four villages from each mandal comprising total 12 villages were purposively selected based on criteria of maximum wage employment generation. From each village 10 beneficiaries were selected randomly thus making a total of 120 respondents. The data was collected from the sample of MGNREGA beneficiaries by personal interview method using structured pre-tested schedule. Statistical tools like Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the data. Correlation co-efficient (r) and Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) was employed to study the relationship between the profile of the beneficiaries and their extent of knowledge on MGNREGA activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Extent of Knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries

The Table 1 indicated that majority (57.50%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries had medium knowledge followed by high (23.33%) and low knowledge (19.17%). The plausible reason behind this might be due to majority of the beneficiaries had medium size of the family, 4-6 years of experience, medium sources of information, medium level of aspiration, medium level of economic motivation and medium level of achievement motivation. Hence, this trend was noticed.

Table 1: Distribution of the selected MGNREGA beneficiaries according to their Extent of knowledge on MGNREGA activities (n= 120)

S. No.	Extent of knowledge of MGNREGA Beneficiaries	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low knowledge	23	19.17
2	Medium knowledge	69	57.5
3	High knowledge	28	23.33
	Total	120	100.00
Mean: 62.38		SD: 10.38	

The implementing agencies at village level and Field Assistants should conduct training programme on MGNREGA and motivate them to have more sources of information and socio-political participation. So that beneficiaries will improve their knowledge on MGNREGA. Similar findings were reported by Manoj *et al.* (2013).

2. Relationship between selected independent variables of MGNREGA beneficiaries with their extent of knowledge on MGNREGA activities.

a) Correlation coefficient of profile characteristics with their extent of knowledge

The results in Table 2 revealed the computed r-values for independent variables and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. The computed r-value (0.922**) showed a positive and significant relationship between age and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. This might be due to the fact that as the age increases, the experience and participation of the beneficiaries might be helpful in increasing their knowledge about MGNREGA. This finding was in agreement with the findings of Sandhya (2014) and not in agreement with Sravankumar *et al.* (2013). The computed r-value (0.513**) for education and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries showed positively and significantly related. It indicated that the higher the education of beneficiaries more would be the knowledge. This might be due to the fact that the education played a greater role in acquainting and understanding the information that widened the thinking horizon and made the beneficiary more knowledgeable. This finding was in agreement with the findings of Sandhya (2014).

A critical observation of the computed r-value (0.639**) showed that a positive and significant relationship between the size of the family and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. This might be due to the fact that as the size of the family increases, knowledge about MGNREGA also increases because of high

interaction among the family members. The finding was in line with the study of Usha *et al.* (2014). The computed r-value (0.271NS) for gender and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries was a positive and non-significant relationship. This indicated that gender did not significantly influence the knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries about activities of MGNREGA. The findings were not in confirmation with the studies of Ghatak (2012).

The results showed that the computed r-value (0.703**) for experience and number of years benefited and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries had a positive and significant relationship. It is obvious that experienced MGNREGA beneficiaries would have more knowledge because of continuous participation. This result was in conformity with the results of Sravankumar (2012). The results exhibited the computed r-value (0.091NS) for annual income and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries showed that the annual income and extent of knowledge of beneficiaries on MGNREGA showed a positive and non-significant relationship. This result indicated that annual income did not significantly influence the extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries about activities of MGNREGA implementation. This was not in agreement with Sandhya (2014).

The computed r-value (0.157NS) for possession of assets and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries showed a positive and non-significant relationship. The results indicated that possession of assets did not significantly influence the extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries about activities of MGNREGA implementation. The findings were in agreement with the findings of Stina *et al.* (2013). The computed r-value (0.353**) for sociopolitical participation and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries indicated that there was a positive and significant relationship between socio-political participation and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. This inferred that beneficiaries who actively participate in social activities through social organizations come across different types of people, exchange one's views and experiences, discuss about problems and solutions and thereby gain more and more knowledge. The findings were in line with the results of Sandhya (2014).

Coming to the sources of information, the computed r-value (0.715**) for sources of information and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries showed a positive and significant relationship. This can be concluded that the knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries increases with more sources of information. Different sources of information enable the beneficiary to have different kinds of information, relevant and useful information, in turn enlarge the

Table 2: Relationship between selected independent variables of MGNREGA beneficiaries and their Extent of knowledge (n=120)

S. No.	Independent variables	'r' values
1	Age	0.922**
2	Education	0.513 **
3	Size of the family	0.639**
4	Gender	0.271NS
5	Experience and number of years benefited.	0.703**
6	Annual income	0.091 NS
7	Possession of Assets	0.157 NS
8	Socio-politico participation	0.353 **
9	Sources of information	0.715 **
10	Risk orientation	0.359**
11	Level of aspiration	0.289 NS
12	Economic motivation	0.642 **
13	Achievement Motivation	0.381 **
** = 1% level of significance (0.449) NS = Non-significant		
* = 5% level of significance (0.349)		

Table 3: Multiple Linear Regression analysis of profile characteristics of MGNREGA beneficiaries with their Extent of knowledge (n=120)

S.No.	Independent variables	Regression coefficient	Standard error	't' value
1	Age	0.9169	0.3762	2.4372*
2	Education	0.515	0.1151	4.4743**
3	Size of the family	0.1009	0.0296	3.4087**
4	Gender	1.2667	0.4107	3.0842**
5	Experience and no. of years benefited	0.3968	0.0968	4.0991**
6	Annual income	0.167	0.0481	3.4719**
7	Possession of Assets	-0.2623	0.2916	-0.8995 NS
8	Socio-politico participation	0.1878	0.033	5.6909**
9	Sources of information	0.0367	0.153	0.23986NS
10	Risk orientation	-0.0186	0.2403	-0.0774 NS
11	Level of aspiration	0.0501	0.171	0.2929NS
12	Economic motivation	0.1872	0.0477	3.9245**
13	Achievement Motivation	0.1127	0.0265	4.2528**
a = 23.8832 R ² = 0.8626 NS = Non-significant				
* = 5% level of significance (1.9860) **=1% level of significance (2.6181)				
Y=23.883+0.916*x ₁ +0.515*x ₂ +0.1*x ₃ +1.266*x ₄ +0.396*x ₅ +0.167*x ₆ -0.262*x ₇				
+0.187*x ₈ +0.0367*x ₉ -0.018*x ₁₀ +0.051*x ₁₁ +0.187*x ₁₂ +0.112*x ₁₃				

sphere of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. This finding was in conformity with the finding of Shakya *et al.* (2008).

Regarding the risk orientation, the computed *r*-value (0.359**) showed that there was a positive and significant relationship between risk orientation and knowledge level of MGNREGA beneficiaries. Risk orientation is expressed as the degree to which a beneficiary is oriented to take risk and has courage to face uncertainties in MGNREGA works. Unless the beneficiary had knowledge on implementation of works he does not take risk in practicing it. This finding of the present study was in conformity with the related findings of Sravankumar (2012).

The computed *r*-value (0.289NS) for level of aspiration and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries showed positive and non-significant relationship. The results indicated that level of aspiration did not significantly influence the extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries about activities of MGNREGA implementation. The findings were not in line with the findings of Raja (2004). The computed *r*-value (0.642**) explains that there was positive and significant relationship between economic motivation and knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries. This might be due to the fact that knowledge acquisition being of improve act driven by associated financial benefits. Thus, economic motivation acts as an initiating factor for acquiring knowledge about MGNREGA activities. Hence this trend was observed. This finding was in accordance with the findings of Harish & Manjunatha (2011).

The computed *r*-value (0.381**) for achievement motivation and extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries on activities of MGNREGA stated that there was a positive and significant relationship. This shows that greater achievement motivation of the beneficiary leads to greater knowledge. It implied that achievement motivation directs the individual towards reaching goal through which they had carved themselves. In this process the individual end up with acquisition of knowledge about MGNREGA. This would have been predisposing them to set useful and additional information than the low achievers in improving the knowledge over others. The results were in accordance with the findings of Naik & Babu (2009)

b) Multiple Linear Regression analysis of profile characteristics of MGNREGA beneficiaries with their Extent of knowledge

An attempt has been made to find out the amount of contribution made by the profile characteristics in explaining the variation in the dependent variable *i.e.*, extent of knowledge on

MGNREGA activities. The profile characteristics being age, education, size of the family, gender, experience and number of years benefitted, annual income, possession of assets, socio-politico participation, sources of information, risk orientation, level of aspiration, economic motivation and achievement motivation. The results presented in Table 3 indicated that the 13 independent variables with extent of knowledge taken on Multiple Regression Analysis gave the R^2 (coefficient of multiple-determination) value of 0.8626 for MGNREGA beneficiaries. Hence, it could be inferred that independent variables put together contribute 86.26 per cent of the total variation in the knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries, leaving the rest to extraneous effect. The independent variable like age of beneficiaries had contributed significantly at 0.05 level of probability towards the variation in the knowledge. Remaining variables like education, size of family, gender, experience, annual income, socio-politico participation, economic motivation and achievement motivation had contributed significantly at 0.01 level of probability towards variation in knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

It can be inferred from the above study that the computed '*r*' values of age, size of the family, education, experience and number of years benefitted, socio-politico participation, sources of information, risk orientation, economic motivation and achievement motivation were positive and significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability with extent of knowledge of MGNREGA beneficiaries whereas the variables such as gender, annual income, possession of assets and level of aspiration were non-significant. From this study it could be concluded that higher the age, higher the education, higher the size of family, greater the experience and number of years benefitted, higher the socio-politico participation, higher the sources of information, higher the risk orientation, higher the economic motivation and greater the achievement motivation, the higher would be the extent of knowledge of beneficiaries.

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