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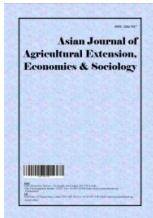
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Income and Employment Pattern of MNREGA Programme in District Sant Kabir Nagar

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The MGNREGA scheme is an initiative to improve rural livelihood, but also there are several pros and cons. So, this research is being done to study the scheme in the selected area. The study was conducted using purposive cum random sampling procedure and seventy-five respondents were selected from a block of district. The data collected through personal interview method were classified, tabulated and analysed in the light of objectives of the study. MGNREGA is a beneficiary scheme that improves the socioeconomic face of the maximum rural households in the selected research area. It is seen that majority of the respondents are enjoying the income and employment rewards from the scheme and are further seeking it in the future. The wages provided and works assigned are found satisfactory to the households, and MGNREGA enhances livelihood security in the study area.

Keywords: MGNREGA; income; employment; rural development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)" was enacted to reinforce the commitment towards livelihood security in rural areas. It is powerful, fruitful and valuable in context of nation's rural livelihood development concerning either its income, employment or social livelihood [1]. The scheme assures guarantee for one hundred days employment in every year for adult members on any rural household willing to do public work and any related unskilled manual work. MGNREGA is an execution for terminating the poverty and unemployment in rural areas. With the help of this scheme, opportunities have been raised in rural areas and hence the change in income pattern, and livelihood can be seen [2]. The act introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing of the rural people reduced distress migration primarily semi un-skilled work people living in Rural India. Although, there is gap in adaptation and implementation of technologies at field level on India agriculture context (*Purohit & Purohit*). MNREGA, is one of the largest rights based social protection initiatives in all world. MNREGA is the first ever law internationally that guarantees wage employment an unprecedented scale. Every social expenditure scheme for prospect of human development must be following bottom-up approach like MGNREGA, with due importance to people's participation [3]. One unique fact about MNREGA is that it has provided a fair opportunity to people from rural India to earn their own income without any discrimination of caste or gender. Most remarkable feature of MNREGA is that it pays women the same as men, something that was virtually unimaginable in rural India. However, less participation can also be seen in few regions, due to root cause of lack of information/awareness about MGNREGA and also due to the reason that the job card was not handed over to them [4]. But the scheme should be continued in future and expanded to other region of the country involving more families under its ambit [5]. Also, such schemes must be running and used regularly to facilitate the social protection for the people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities and therefore contributing towards the overall development of the local people. Hence, the act is found improving significantly the socio-economic wellbeing of the rural household [6].

It seeks to establish a dialogue between academics and policymakers with those who are

working at grass root level to monitor the functioning of the scheme (Md. Ashraf Ali et al.) The problems and prospects of MNREGA can then be better understood and accordingly, necessary measures can be devised to make the programme realise its set objectives. The present study entitled "Income and Employment pattern of MNREGA programme in district Sant Kabir Nagar, is attempted to make an appraisal of the MNREGA process and procedures in Sant Kabir Nagar district.

2. METHODOLOGY

The selection of this district was purposively done as it was easily approachable by the researcher and well known to the language of the people of the area which helped during the collection of data. There are **nine** development blocks in district Sant Kabir Nagar. The MNREGA programme is being carried in all the blocks of district Sant Kabir Nagar. The list of all the blocks **was** prepared and of then one block namely Semariyawan was selected on random process. The development block Semariyawan have an area of 21083.71 ha covering 189 villages respectively. The MNREGA programme is being carried in all the villages of selected block. A list of all the villages under the jurisdiction of Semariyawan development block was prepared. From this list five villages were chosen by simple random sampling techniques.

The selection of beneficiaries of MNREGA / respondents was done on the random basis. Out of this list, 15 respondents from each village were chosen randomly. Thus, a total of 75 respondents were selected to an economic study of MNREGA programme in district Sant Kabir Nagar of the villages. The schedule prepared were finally tested so as to know how far they would be helpful in collecting accurate, unbiased, adequate and relevant information. The data collected through personal interview method were classified, tabulated and analysed in the light of objectives of the study. The respondents were accurately interpreted and results were drawn out scientifically.

2.1 Statistical Tools

The statistical tools which have been used in this study were percentage, average, mean score and rank order etc.

- Percentage=
$$\frac{\text{number of respondents belonging to a particular category}}{\text{total number of respondents}}$$

- Average = $\sum X/N$
Where, $\sum X$ = the sum of the variate
N = Number of observations
- The various ranks were given on the basis of highest to the lowest frequency/mean score.
- Mean score = $\frac{\text{total score on particular item}}{\text{number of respondents}}$

Mean score values have been worked out for all the given statements on three continuums i. e. Score of 3, 2 and 1 were allotted to the three point of continuum as follows.

- a. Agree - 3
- b. Undecided - 2
- c. Decided - 1

All the total scores obtained by the respondents given standards were divided by the number of respondents to find out the mean score value.

A number of problems were faced during the collection of data from the respondents. Since half of the respondents were illiterate, hence it was difficult to collect accurate information. However, reliability of the data was maintained by making cross questions and experience gathered from the other sources.

3. RESULTS

It is evident from above data in the table 1 that 22.33 per cent respondents had their income (Up to 50000 per year), followed by 70.66 per cent medium income groups (Rs. 50000 to 80000). Least number of respondent's i.e. 6.66 per cent were found under higher income groups (above Rs .80000).

Thus, it may be concluded that most of the respondents fell under the category of medium income groups which indicated their poor socio- economic status in the village, in spite of the fact that the MNREGA provides employment opportunities to enhance their income.

The above table revealed that the majority of respondent (80%) engaged in MNREGA were getting the extra employment in agriculture and allied activates an average of 225 days while 13.33 per cent respondent engaged in some small business activates getting total employment of 226.5 days and least respondent 6.6 per cent are engaged in their self-employment got 128 days total employment in a year including 100 days guarantee employment in MNREGA programme.

3.1 Opinion of the Respondents Regarding Role MNREGA

The opinion about the uses of MNREGA were collected, analysed and interpreted the results have been given in table 3 finding of table reveals that the various opinion statements of selected beneficiaries regarding, the table further showed that opinion about "F" took place in the first position in rank order having mean score of 2.86 second position occupied by opinion "G" having mean score 2.80 third occupied by opinion "A" having mean score 2.73. The lowest position "H" having mean 2.26 IV, IV, IV V, V, VI, VI, VI, VII, occupied by D J M B I E K L C respectively the average mean is 2.43. Thus, it is concluded that maximum respondent gave the positive opinion about MNREGA.

The constraints face by the respondents during the work of following aspects were included minimum wages, wages are to be paid according to minimum wages, disbursement of wages on weekly basis. Minimum wages meant to say that, the labors are expecting higher incomes from the scheme. Also, the payments on weekly basis assist the the labors to consume it on day-to-day expenses. Employment will be given within 15 days, availability of facility like-drinking water facility, first aid, crèche, shed, proper availability of work in a financial year.

Table 1. Income pattern of the respondents

S.N.	Particulars (income in Rs/year)	Category	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	Up to 50000	Lower	17	22.66
2.	Rs. 50000 to 80000	Medium	53	70.66
3.	Above 80000	High	5	6.66

Table 2. Employment seeking pattern of the respondents

No of respondent	Under MNREGA (%)	Agriculture & allied activates (day)	Business (day)	Self-employment	Total
60	100	125	----	-----	225
10	100	----	126.5	---	226.5
5	100	----	----	128	228

Table 3. Measure of the opinion of respondents about MNREGA

S.N.	Statement	Symbol	Total score	Mean	Rank
1.	MNREGA is the enhancement of livelihood security in the rural area	A	205	2.73	III
2.	MNREGA is the helpful for to improve the socio-economic status of the respondent	B	190	2.53	V
3.	MNREGA resource full employment (100 days in a year)	C	175	2.33	VII
4.	100 days employment scheme can solve the problem farmer	D	195	2.60	IV
5.	MNREGA is a good programme for rural development	E	185	2.46	VI
6.	The wages under MNREGA are appropriate	F	215	2.86	I
7.	The work assigned by MNREGA to you is appropriate for your health	G	210	2.80	II
8.	It provides enough wages to the worker	H	170	2.26	VIII
9.	This program solves the rural unemployment	I	190	2.53	V
10.	Are you satisfy with MNREGA	J	195	2.60	IV
11.	The age limit under MNREGA	K	185	2.46	VI
12.	Mode of payment is satisfactory	L	185	2.46	VI
13.	The prescribed facility under MNREGA is provided by Gram panchayat	M	195	2.60	IV

Table 4. Livelihood security of the people

S.N.	Particular	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	Weekly basis	60	80
2.	Fortnightly basis	15	20
	Total	75	100

Wages are to be paid according to minimum wages as prescribed under the minimum wages act 1948 to agricultural laborers in the state, unless the centre notifies a wage rate which will not be less than Rs. 60/days.

The national rural employment guarantee act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the people. The results have been presented in the following table 4.

The data contained in table indicate that out of 75 respondents 80 per cent respondents obtaining wages on weekly basis and remaining 15 per cent (15 %) obtaining wages on fortnight basis.

It is clear that the maximum respondents are obtaining the wages on weekly basis.

4. CONCLUSION

In India, the main problem of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas has been factors for high incidence or poverty.

The eleventh plan (2007-2012) target generation of additional employment opportunities in services and manufacturing sectors in particular, labour intensive menu factoring sector. Some direct employment will also be available in the social sector like health and education moreover,

wage employment programme like MNREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) will help the main aim of MNREGA enhancement of livelihood security to the households in rural areas of the district as well as state by providing round the year employment with minimum guarantee of hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to every household volunteer to do unskilled manual work secondary objective creation of assets for development of rural areas.

- The majority of the respondents, 66.66 per cent obtaining minimum wage and 33.33 per cent of respondents, has obtained below minimum wages followed.
- A maximum of 66.66 per cent of respondents' work was obtained within 15 days, followed by minimum wages of twenty-six per cent. Twenty per cent obtaining wages on a fortnightly basis. Twenty per cent of respondent's employment was obtained in 15-30 days, and the remaining 13.33 per cent work was obtained in 30-60 days.
- The majority, 75 per cent, said that worksite facility was not available, followed by 25 per cent of respondents saying worksite facility is available.

Out of 75 respondents, the majority of beneficent opinion about the MGNREGA as a good programme for the rural area, provide a mode of payment is satisfactory, solve the rural employment alleviation of rural poverty, providing the rural connectivity and water conservation facility.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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