



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Commerce

MGNREGA SCHEME AND EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN SELECTED BLOCKS IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT

KEY WORDS:

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INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed by Indian parliament in 2005 and the Scheme (each state was expected to design its own scheme based in the National Guidelines) designed under the Act was implemented in 200 districts on India in February 2006. The coverage of the Act was expanded gradually and since 2008-09 MGNREGA covers the entire rural India. As is well known, MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment at the minimum wage rate (prevailing in the concerned state) to every rural household living in rural India. The main objectives of MGNREGA are (1) to guarantee 100 days of work at the legal minimum wages to each household that demands work in rural India, (2) to generate productive assets in the economy and thereby enhance livelihoods of people and (3) to empower (Gram) Panchayats and Gram Sabha by ensuring their participation in the planning and implementation of MGNREGA, and thereby strength decentralized democracy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

MGNREGA, 2005 is an innovative step that Government of India has taken which aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Need of the hour is to make the rural people particularly women should be acquainted thoroughly with every aspect of the Scheme.

Keeping in mind the importance of this programme this research work focuses to study the implementation of MGNREGA in selected blocks of Tiruchirappalli District, Tamilnadu, to measure the demographic profile of the sample rural women empowerment in the MGNREGA programme.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

MGNREGA is a thread of optimism that runs through the life of many job seekers to provide them a secured employment that leads to a stable livelihood. The scheme has also extended its hands towards the woman of the society (especially the woman of the rural India) who continued to be subjugated to the social intricacies. MGNREGA stands out for the fact that it is demand driven programmed and has greater permanence than any other schemes (especially for females) MGNREGA has though triggered numerous policies which enhance the position of women in the society yet it does not provide women with socio-economic standing as that of men.

The MGNREGA has become a tool for the development of the rural people, especially the women. The study shows that the women have become more empowered and enriched through the programmed. The major impact of the programmed is in the income generation, increased social participation, decision-making power etc. of the women. This study focus on the employment opportunities to the needy rural women and their empowerment for the livelihood, as the prerequisite of the hour.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To measure the demographic profile of the sample respondents and the empowerment of rural women through MGREGA programme in selected blocks in Tiruchirappalli District
2. To highlight the Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is a descriptive research work based on both primary and secondary data. Required primary data has been collected through a well structured questionnaire and personal interview schedule with Rensis Likert Five Point Scale questions from the rural women under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) -with special reference to Tiruchirappalli District. The villages like AZGHYAMANAVALAM, THIRUVASI, and KOVATHAKUDI are the Panchayat villages selected for the purpose of the study. The above table proves that there are nearly 2,374 workers residing in the above three Panchayats, 733 male and 1,641 female workers. Hence convenience sampling method has been adopted to select 5% of the total women population, which take in to 82 workers, thus the population has been rounded of to 100 respondents for the purpose of the study adopting survey method. Required secondary data has been collected from the sources like websites of Tamilnadu Government, various publications, Reports, journals, books etc.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study area is confined to only selected Panchayats and blocks in Tiruchirappalli District and hence the findings of the study may not be generalized.
2. Yet another limitation of the study also suffers unclear information furnished by the sample respondents for certain queries raised by the researcher which may be subjected to bias.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSIONS

To measure the demographic profile of the sample respondents and the empowerment of rural women through MGREGA programme in selected blocks in Tiruchirappalli District, statistical tools like Factor Analysis, KMO Test were used for the purpose of analysis of this study.

FACTOR ANALYSIS : MGREGA PROGRAMME

Factor analysis is used to resolve a large set of measured variables/ statements in terms of relatively new categories, known as factors. This technique allows to group variables/ statements into factors and the factors so derived may be treated as new variables (latent variables) and their value is derived by summing the values of the original variables which have been grouped into the factor. Thus, Factor Analysis helps to reduce the complexity of large number of observed variables into new (latent) variables which summarise the commonality of all the variables.

COMMUNALITIES

| Variables | Extraction Values |
|---|-------------------|
| MGNREGA programme is very helpful for economic development of an individual | .919 |
| Wages are paid regularly | .893 |
| work measurement is very satisfactory | .858 |
| Accidental benefits under MGREGA are well known | .839 |
| MGNREGA programme goes on continuously in our village | .811 |
| Gram Sabha Meetings are held in villages decide the MGNREGA work | .794 |
| MGNREGA work are carried out by the same contractor for different works | .734 |

| | |
|---|------|
| work site are provided with needed facilities to work | .573 |
| MGREGA rules are very clear and easy to understand | .569 |
| I am aware about the work done in MNREGA work | .483 |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis

The amount of variance a variable share with all other variables included in the analysis can be inferred from the communalities table. Variable with higher extraction values show higher association with other variables. Variable such as MGNREGA programme is helpful for economic development for individual, wages paid regularly, work measurement is satisfactory, accidental benefits are well known under MGREGA programme share high variance with other variable which reflects that they can be easily associated with other factors. Variables such as work site are provided with needed facilities, rules of MGREGA programmes are clear and easy to understand and the respondents are aware of the work done in MGREGA work show very low extraction value which show low correlation value.

| Total Variance Explained | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Component | Initial Eigenvalues | | | Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings | | | Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings | | |
| | Total | % of Variance | Cumulative % | Total | % of Variance | Cumulative % | Total | % of Variance | Cumulative % |
| 1 | 4.190 | 41.896 | 41.896 | 4.190 | 41.896 | 41.896 | 4.029 | 40.286 | 40.286 |
| 2 | 3.284 | 32.838 | 74.734 | 3.284 | 32.838 | 74.734 | 3.445 | 34.447 | 74.734 |
| 3 | .760 | 7.601 | 82.335 | | | | | | |
| 4 | .625 | 6.254 | 88.589 | | | | | | |
| 5 | .452 | 4.516 | 93.104 | | | | | | |
| 6 | .308 | 3.082 | 96.187 | | | | | | |
| 7 | .187 | 1.869 | 98.056 | | | | | | |
| 8 | .137 | 1.372 | 99.428 | | | | | | |
| 9 | .039 | .395 | 99.823 | | | | | | |
| 10 | .018 | .177 | 100.000 | | | | | | |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotated Factor Loading on MGREGA Programme

| Rotated Component Matrix | Component | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | 1 | 2 |
| MGREGA rules are very clear and easy to understand | -.571 | .493 |
| Wages are paid regularly | .185 | .927 |
| Accidental benefits under MGREGA are well known | .843 | .359 |
| Gram Sabha Meetings are held in villages decide the MGNREGA work | .117 | .883 |
| work site are provided with needed facilities to work | -.393 | .647 |
| work measurement is very satisfactory | .921 | .101 |
| I am aware about the work done in MNREGA work | -.639 | .273 |
| MGNREGA work are carried out by the same contractor for different works | .856 | .027 |
| MGNREGA programme goes on continuously in our village | .875 | .214 |

| | | |
|---|------|-------------|
| MGNREGA programme is very helpful for economic development of an individual | .187 | .940 |
| Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. | | |
| a. Rotation converged in 3 iterations. | | |

The above illustrates that the principal component analysis and rotated factor loading method is used for stimulating factors. From the above table, it is observed that out of 10 factors, 2 factors were identified by the rotation method. The total percentage of variance in the factors shows 74.734 percent.

Clustering of stimulating factors in MGREGA Programme

| Factor | Particulars | Rotated Factor Loadings |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| I | Accidental benefits under MGREGA are well known (V1) | .843 |
| | Work measurement is very satisfactory (V2) | .921 |
| | MGNREGA work are carried out by the same contractor for different works (V3) | .856 |
| | MGNREGA programme goes on continuously in our village (V4) | .875 |
| II | MGREGA rules are very clear and easy to understand (V5) | .493 |
| | Wages are paid regularly (V6) | .927 |
| | Gram Sabha Meetings are held in villages decide the MGNREGA work (V7) | .883 |
| | Work site are provided with needed facilities to work (V8) | .647 |
| | I am aware about the work done in MGNREGA work (V9) | .273 |
| | MGNREGA programme is very helpful for economic development of an individual (V10) | .940 |

The above table depicts that clustering of stimulating factors in MGREGA Programme. The table shows that variable V1 - Accidental benefits under MGREGA are well known, V2- Work measurement is very satisfactory, V3- MGNREGA work are carried out by the same contractor for different works, and V4- MGNREGA programme goes on continuously in our village, thus V1-V4 is clustered together as Factor I, The next variables V5- MGREGA rules are very clear and easy to understand, V6- Wages are paid regularly, V7- Gram Sabha Meetings are held in villages decide the MGNREGA work, V8- Work site are provided with needed facilities to work, V9- I am aware about the work done in MGNREGA work and V10- MGNREGA programme is very helpful for economic development of an individual, thus V6-V-10 are constituted as Factor II. Hence, the factor that stimulates the MGREGA Programme are quoted above as Factor I & Factor II.

MGREGA PROGRAMME

| KMO and Bartlett's Test | | |
|--|----------|------|
| Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy. | .670 | |
| Approx. Chi-Square | | |
| | 1045.135 | |
| Bartlett's Test of Sphericity | Df | 45 |
| | Sig. | .000 |

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity is used for testing the appropriateness of the factor model. The test is based on a chi square transformation of the correlation matrix. The chi square value shows that the variables are appropriate for factor analysis. A higher value of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin statistics indicates that the sample is adequate to explain the correlation between the pairs of variables with the other variables.

In the present study, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy (MSA) and Bartlett's test of Sphericity were applied to verify the adequacy or appropriateness of data for factor analysis. The test is based on a chi square transformation of the correlation matrix. In this study, the value of KMO for overall matrix was found to be excellent (0.670) and Bartlett's test of

Sphericity was highly significant ($p < 0.05$). A higher value of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin statistics indicates that the sample is adequate to explain the correlation between the pairs of variables with the other variables and the Bartlett's Sphericity test was effective, as the chi-square value draws significance at five per cent level. The results thus indicated that the sample taken was appropriate to proceed with a factor analysis procedure. Besides the Bartlett's Test of Sphericity and the KMO Measure of sampling Adequacy, Community values of all variables were also observed.

CONCLUSION

MGNREGA is an effective device for poverty alleviation and improving socio-economic condition of the poor particularly rural women. It has played a significant role in bringing positive change in the life of rural women. It has been observed that women after working under MGNREGA have gained protection and opportunity to start saving their wages in the banks. The recognition for the rural women has increased which led to their active participation in solving the common problems of the locality in general and individual problems of women in particular.

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