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Estimating profile of the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and relational analysis of MGNREGA beneficiaries with impact

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Abstract

The present study was conducted purposively in Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2023-24, from one districts four tahsils were selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of beneficiaries working under MGNREGA scheme. With irrespective of villages list of beneficiaries of MGNREGA scheme was collected from official website of MGNREGA, ministry of rural development government of India. From these MGNREGA beneficiaries lists of 120 MGNREGA beneficiaries was selected randomly from selected four talukas of Nanded districts. For estimating profile of the beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It was observed that majority (70.83%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to middle age group, (59.16%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries were Male, (30.00%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries educated upto primary school level, (45.00%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to lower caste, (47.50%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holdings, (43.33%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries had agriculture as their Occupation, (41.66%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries got 91-100 employment days, (65.83%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to annual income, (61.66%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to nuclear type of family, (44.17%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to medium family size, (39.17%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries had medium social participation, (63.33%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries were using medium level source of information.

Keywords: MGNREGA, employment, beneficiaries, profile, impact

Introduction

India's rural landscape is plagued by pervasive poverty and unemployment, affecting nearly 30% of its population. The lack of stable income opportunities forces millions into a cycle of deprivation, hindering economic growth and social development. This issue is further complicated by India's vast rural-urban divide, where limited access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure exacerbates poverty. Recognizing this challenge, the Indian government enacted the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2006.

MGNREGA represents a paradigm shift in addressing rural poverty by providing a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment per year to rural households during off-seasons. This pioneering legislation empowers marginalized communities, ensuring a safety net against economic distress. By doing so, MGNREGA addresses the root causes of poverty, including unemployment, underemployment, and low wages. The Act's provisions also acknowledge the seasonal nature of rural employment, providing a much-needed cushion during periods of economic downturn. The Act's primary objectives are multifaceted. Firstly, it aims to enhance rural livelihoods through wage employment, focusing on unskilled manual labor. Secondly, it promotes food security and sustainable development through asset creation. Lastly, it seeks to eradicate poverty by generating inclusive economic opportunities. MGNREGA's scope extends to various sectors, including infrastructure development, natural resource management, and social asset creation.

The program's impact is far-reaching, with significant benefits for rural households. MGNREGA has improved rural employment prospects, increased wages, and enhanced livelihood security. Additionally, the program has promoted social equity by providing equal opportunities for marginalized groups, including women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. The creation of durable assets has also facilitated long-term economic growth, improving rural infrastructure and productivity. Despite its successes, MGNREGA faces challenges and criticisms. Implementation issues, delays in wage payments, and limited awareness among beneficiaries have hindered the program's effectiveness. Moreover, the program's focus on unskilled labor has raised concerns about its potential to create sustainable employment opportunities. Critics argue that MGNREGA's emphasis on manual labor may not address the changing needs of India's rural economy. This research aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on poverty reduction strategies in developing regions. By examining MGNREGA's impact on rural employment, income, and consumption, this study seeks to evaluate the program's effectiveness in alleviating poverty. The research will also analyze the program's role in promoting sustainable livelihoods and identify challenges and areas for improvement.

The study's findings will provide valuable insights into MGNREGA's potential to transform rural India, offering lessons for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars. As India continues to grapple with rural poverty, understanding the successes and limitations of MGNREGA is crucial for informing future policy decisions. Ultimately, this research aims to shed light on the program's potential to create a more equitable and prosperous rural India.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted purposively in Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2023-24, from one districts four tahsils were selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of beneficiaries working under MGNREGA scheme. With irrespective of villages list of beneficiaries of MGNREGA scheme was collected from official website of MGNREGA, ministry of rural development government of India. From these MGNREGA beneficiaries lists of 120 MGNREGA beneficiaries was selected randomly from selected four talukas of Nanded districts. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, Z test and were used for the analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Age

It was observed from table 1, 70.83 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to middle age group (29 and 38), followed by old age (39 and above) 19.17 percent and remaining young age (Up to 28) 10.00 percent. It was observed from below table that, most of the MGNREGA beneficiaries belong to middle age category i.e. 29 to 38 years.

Table 1: Distribution of beneficiaries according to their Age

Sr. No	Age	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Young (Up to 28)	12	10.00
2	Middle (29 to 38)	85	70.83
3	Old (39 and above)	23	19.17
Mean=34.19		S.D = 5.29	

Gender

It was observed from table 2, 59.16 percent of the beneficiaries were male and remaining 40.84 percent were female. It was observed from below table that, most of MGNREGA beneficiaries were male followed by female beneficiaries.

Table 2: Distribution of beneficiaries according to their Gender

Sr. No	Gender	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Male	71	59.16
2	Female	49	40.84

Education

It was observed from table 3, (30.00%) of respondents had primary education followed by can read and write (18.33%), middle school level (16.67%), can read only (12.50%), Illiterate (11.67%) categories and high school level (10.83%) and none of beneficiaries were educated upto college level. It was observed from given table that most of MGNREGA beneficiaries were educated upto primary school education i.e. (1-4 Std).

Table 3: Distribution of beneficiaries according to their Education

Sr. No	Education	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Illiterate	14	11.67
2	Can read only	15	12.50
3	Can read and write	22	18.33
4	Primary school level (1-4 Std)	36	30.00
5	Middle school level (5-7 Std)	20	16.67
6	High school level (8-10 Std)	13	10.83
7	College level	0	0.00

Caste

It was observed from table 4, 45.00 percent of beneficiaries of MGNREGA belonging to lower caste group (SC, ST and NT), followed by 32.50 percent upper caste (open) and 22.50 percent beneficiaries belonged to middle caste group (OBC and Muslim). It was observed from table that, most of the MGNREGA beneficiaries were having lower cast (SC, ST and NT).

Table 4: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Caste

Sr. No	Category	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Lower (SC, ST,NT)	54	45.00
2	Middle (OBC, MUSLIM)	27	22.50
3	Upper (OPEN)	39	32.50

Land holding

It was observed from Table 5, 47.50 percent of respondents was marginal farmers, followed by 40.00 percent landless, small 6.67 percent, semi- medium 5.83 percent, and no one were with medium and large land holdings. Thus, it is concluded that a majority of the respondents had land holding upto one to two hectares.

Table 5: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Land Holding

Sr. No	Land Holding (Hactares)	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Landless	48	40.00
2	Marginal (Up to 1.01)	57	47.50
3	Small (1.01 to 2.00)	8	6.67
4	Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00)	7	5.83
5	Medium (4.01 to 10.00)	0	0.00
6	Large (10.01 and above)	0	0.00

Occupation

It was observed from Table 6, 43.33 percent of beneficiaries had agriculture as their occupation, followed by farm labourer 32.50 percent, landless labour 10.84 percent, caste occupation 7.50 percent, business 5.83 percent and none of beneficiaries belonged to service. It was observed that most of beneficiaries were having agriculture as main occupation.

Table 6: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Occupation

Sr. No	Occupation	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Farm labour	39	32.50
2	Caste occupation	9	7.50
3	Business	7	5.83
4	Agriculture	52	43.33
5	Service	0	0.00
6	Landless labour	13	10.84

Number of employment days

It was observed from Table 7, 41.68 percent of beneficiaries got 91-100 days of employment availability, followed by 19.16 percent 61-70 days, 18.33 percent 81-90 days, 10.83 percent 50-60 days and 10.00 percent of 71-80 days of employment availability.

Table 7: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Number of employment days

Sr. No	Number of employment days	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	50-60 days	13	10.83
2	61-70 days	23	19.16
3	71-80 days	12	10
4	81-90 days	22	18.33
5	91-100 days	50	41.68

Annual income

It was observed from Table 8, 65.83 percent (Rs.32037 to 90995) of beneficiaries belonged to medium income group, followed by low 17.50 percent (upto Rs.32036) and high 16.67 percent income groups (Rs 90996 and above). Thus, it is seen from the data that majority of the beneficiaries had medium annual income ranging from Rs.32037 to 90995.

Table 8: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Annual Income

Sr. No	Category	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Low (Up to 32036)	21	17.50
2	Medium (32037 to 90995)	79	65.83
3	High (90996 and above)	20	16.67
Mean=61516.66		S.D=29479.79	

Type of family

It was observed from Table 9, 61.66 percent of beneficiaries of MGNREGA were live in nuclear family and (38.34%) live in joint type of family. This clearly shows that the majority of selected beneficiaries of MGNREGA belonged to nuclear families.

Table 9: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Type of family.

Sr. No	Type of Family	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Nuclear	74	61.66
2	Joint	46	38.34

Family size

It was observed from Table 10, 44.17 percent of beneficiaries had medium family size followed by 33.33 percent small and 22.50 percent had large family size. Thus, it is concluded that a majority of the MGNREGA beneficiaries had medium family size upto 8 to 10 members.

Table 10: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Family Size

Sr. No	Family Size	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Small Family (Upto 4)	40	33.33
2	Medium Family (5 to 7)	53	44.17
3	Large Family (8 and above)	27	22.50
Mean= 6.13		S.D=2.34	

Social participation

It was observed from Table 11, 39.17 percent of beneficiaries had medium social participation followed by high 34.16 percent and low 26.67 percent social participation. Thus, it is concluded that a majority of the beneficiaries had medium Social participation.

Table 11: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their social participation

Sr. No	Social Participation	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Low (Upto 7)	32	26.67
2	Medium (8 to 10)	47	39.17
3	High (11 and above)	41	34.16
Mean=9.45		S.D=2.12	

Source of information

It was observed from Table 12, 63.33 percent of the respondents were using medium level of sources of information where as 28.34 percent and 8.33 percent had used high and low level of sources of information respectively.

Table 12: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their Source of Information

Sr. No	Source of Information	Beneficiaries (120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Low (Upto 61)	10	8.33
2	Medium (62 to 70)	76	63.33
3	High (71 and above)	34	28.34
Mean=66.05		S.D=4.72	

Relational analysis

Relationship between profiles of the MGNREGA beneficiaries with impact of MGNREGA.

In relational analysis, it was observed from table 13, the independents variables namely, Age, Gender, education, caste, land holdings, occupation, Numbers of employment days, type of family, family size, were positively and significantly related with impact of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act by Karl persons correlation of coefficient method and explained here under.

Whereas, Social participation and source of information were positively and highly significant and annual income showed positive and non significant relationship with impact of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act by Karl persons correlation of coefficient method and explained here under.

Table 13: Relationship between profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries with overall impact of MGNREGA

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Coefficient of correlation (r)
1	Age	0.242*
2	Gender	0.199*
3	Education	0.218*
4	Caste	0.207*
5	Land holding	0.212*
6	Occupation	0.239*
7	Number of employment days	0.239*
8	Annual income	0.062 ^{NS}
9	Type of family	0.230*
10	Family size	0.220*
11	Social participation	0.281**
12	Source of information	0.273**

Conclusion

Majority (70.83%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to middle age group, (59.16%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries were Male, (30.00%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries educated upto primary school level, (45.00%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to lower caste, (47.50%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holdings, (43.33%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries had agriculture as their Occupation, (41.66%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries got 91-100 employment days, (65.83%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to annual income, (61.66%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to nuclear type of family, (44.17%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries belonged to medium family size, (39.17%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries had medium social participation, (63.33%) of MGNREGA beneficiaries were using medium level source of information.

It was observed that the independents variables namely, Age, Gender, education, caste, land holdings, occupation, Numbers of employment days, type of family, family size, were positively and significantly related with impact of MGNREGA scheme. Whereas, Social participation and source of information were positively and highly significant and annual income showed positive and non significant relationship with impact of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act by Karl persons correlation of coefficient method and explained here under.

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