

**ATTITUDE OF THE BENEFICIARIES TOWARDS MGNREGS IN
ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh to study the attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGS. An ex-post facto research design was followed to present investigation. Multistage sampling procedure was followed for this study. Sample sizes of 120 respondents were selected by using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Out of the sixty three mandals, three mandals were selected based on the criteria of maximum employment generation. From the list of villages in each mandal, four villages were selected based on the criteria of the maximum employment generation. From each selected village, 10 respondents were selected from the list of beneficiaries by following the simple random sampling. The data was collected through personal interview with the help of structured interview schedule. The data was obtained, coded, classified and tabulated. Finally statistical tools such as Correlation coefficient and multiple linear regression analysis were used for the analysis of the data, so that the finding could be meaningfully interpreted and conclusions drawn. The study revealed that majority (79.17 %) of the respondents had moderate favourable attitude, where in 13.33 per cent had unfavourable attitude and 7.50 per cent highly favourable attitude. The education, size of the family, socio-politico participation, sources of information and achievement motivation showed positive and significant relationship with the attitude of MGNREGS beneficiaries, whereas age, gender, occupation, caste, annual income, number of years benefited, economic motivation, risk orientation and level of aspiration showed non-significant relationship.

KEY WORDS: Attitude, Beneficiaries, MGNREGS

INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was considered as the World's largest massive public investment programme. The former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh launched the

Scheme on 02.02.2006 in Bandlapalli village of Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. The aim of the scheme was to enhance the livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every

household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Further, its primary objective was to augment wage employment and strengthen natural resource management. It was started with an initial outlay of Rs. 11,300 crore in year 2006-07 and it is now Rs.38,500 Crore rupees allocated for MGNREGS (2016-17). Keeping in view of the importance of the programme in achieving the livelihood security of the rural people, a study was taken up to know the attitude of the beneficiaries towards MGNREGS.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondents for this study. In the first stage Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh was purposively selected based on the criteria of the maximum employment generation in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Out of 63 mandals of Ananthapuramu district, three mandals were selected purposively based on the criteria of the maximum employment generation. From the list of villages in each mandal, four villages were selected making a total of 12 villages, based on the criteria of the maximum employment generation. From each selected village from the list of the beneficiaries, 10 respondents / beneficiaries were selected. To measure the attitude of the beneficiaries towards the scheme a scale developed by Jayanta Roy (2012) was used in the study with suitable modifications. The primary data was collected from the selected MGNREGS beneficiaries through personal interview with help of a well-structured interview schedule. The data was obtained from the selected respondents, then coded, classified and tabulated. Finally statistical tools such as descriptive statistics, correlation coefficient and multiple linear regression analysis were used for the analysis of the data, so that the finding could

be meaningfully interpreted and conclusions drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Attitude of the beneficiaries towards MGNREGS

From the Table 1, it was revealed that majority (79.17 %) of the respondents had moderate favourable attitude, where in 13.33 per cent had unfavourable attitude and 7.50 per cent highly favourable attitude. Majority of the respondents showed moderate and highly favourable attitude. This might be due to the reason that the impact created by the programme on the minds of people and majority of the respondents was satisfactory towards the programme. Since they are getting 150 days assured employment in every financial year in their own village with dignity and irrespective of gender, caste, creed and religion under this programme. The reason for the unfavorable attitude might be due to certain constraints such as delay in wage payment, distance worksite and heavy manual works.

Relationship between the selected profile characteristics with attitude of the MGNREGS beneficiaries

The relationship between each independent variable with attitude of MGNREGS beneficiaries are presented in Table 2 and were discussed below. From the Table 2, it was evident that the correlation-coefficients of education, size of the family, socio-politico participation, sources of information and achievement motivation had positive and significant relationship with the attitude of the MGNREGS beneficiaries, whereas the variables age, gender, occupation, caste, annual income, number of years benefited, economic motivation, risk orientation and level of aspiration had non-significant relationship with the attitude of the MGNREGS beneficiaries.

The positively significant relationship between education and the

attitude of the MGNREGS beneficiaries might be due to the reason that the education might have broadcast their outlook, improved interactions and association with MGNREGS officials of scheme which might have resulted in favourable attitude towards the MGNREGS. This finding was in conformity with the finding of Prasad (2005). Size of the family was positively associated with attitude due to the reason that a family of more than three members needs more income for fulfillment of family expenditure on food and education of children. Such situations induced to frame the positive attitude towards income generation programmes. The positive and significant relationship between Socio-politico participation and the attitude of the MGNREGS beneficiaries was due to the fact that the social participation of beneficiaries might have enabled them to exchange ideas and views with other beneficiaries and the official's scheme with which they were associated. This situation might form led to a favourable attitude towards the scheme. This finding was in conformity with the finding of Prasad (2005). Sources of information showed positive and significant with the attitude. This might be due to the regular contacts of the beneficiaries with the officials of village panchayat, mandal development office and also contacts with technical assistants and field assistants in getting latest information and also exposure to various mass media channels like television, radio and newspaper. The information gathered from all such sources favoured in framing the favourable attitude in the minds of the beneficiaries. This finding was conformity with the finding of Meshram *et al.* (2006). Achievement motivation of MGNREGS beneficiaries with their attitude was found to be significant. This might be due to the reason that the beneficiaries with high achievement motivation will work towards reaching new

targets such as increase income levels and improve the livelihood security. This helped in developing favourable attitude towards MGNREGS. This finding was conformity with the finding of Meshram *et al.* (2006).

Multiple linear Regression analysis of the selected profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with their attitude

From the Table 3, it was observed the 14 independent variables with attitude taken on Multiple Regression Analysis gave the R^2 (co-efficient of multiple-determination) value of 0.508 for MGNREGS beneficiaries. Hence, it could be inferred that the independent variables put together contribute 50.80 per cent of the total variation in the attitude of beneficiaries, leaving the rest of extraneous effect. The independent variable socio-politico participation had contributed significantly at 0.01 level of probability towards the variation in the attitude. Size of the family had contributed significantly at 0.05 level of probability leaving other variables like age, gender, education, occupation, caste, annual income, number of years benefitted, sources of information, economic motivation, achievement motivation, risk orientation and level of aspiration were non-significant.

CONCLUSION

From this study, it could be concluded that higher the education, higher the size of family, higher the annual income, higher the socio-politico participation, higher the sources of information and greater the achievement motivation, the higher would be the attitude. The independent variables socio-politico participation and size of the family had contributed significantly towards the variation in the attitude. MGNREGS has changed the attitude of the beneficiaries among the rural people and it is because of

increasing annual income and employment of more days in a year.

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Table 1: Distribution of selected MGNREGS beneficiaries according to their attitude level

(n= 120)

Sr. No.	Attitude	MGNREGS Beneficiaries		
		Score	Frequency	Percentage
1	Un-favourable	< 47.14	16	13.33
2	Moderate	55.16 to 47.14	95	79.17
3	Highly favourable	>55.16	09	7.51
	Total		120	100
Mean : 51.16		SD: 4.01		

Table2: Relationship between selected profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with the attitude.

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	'r' values
1	Age	-0.81 ^{Ns}
2	Gender	0.001 ^{Ns}
3	Education	0.277**
4	Size of the family	0.214*
5	Occupation	0.110 ^{Ns}
6	Caste	0.104 ^{Ns}
7	Annual income	0.128 ^{Ns}
8	Number of years benefited	0.025 ^{Ns}
9	Socio-politico participation	0.617**
10	Sources of information	0.226*
11	Economic motivation	0.038 ^{Ns}
12	Achievement motivation	0.329**
13	Risk orientation	0.043 ^{Ns}
14	Level of aspiration	0.090 ^{Ns}

** = 1% level of significance, * = 5% level of significance, NS = Non-significant

Table3: Multiple Linear Regression analysis of profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with their Attitude

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Regression Coefficient	Standard Error	't' value
1	Age	-0.008	0.038	-0.204 ^{NS}
2	Gender	-0.187	0.615	-0.304 ^{NS}
3	Education	0.272	0.298	0.912 ^{NS}
4	Size of the family	1.209	0.558	2.165*
5	Occupation	-0.227	0.564	-0.403 ^{NS}
6	Caste	0.445	0.351	1.267 ^{NS}
7	Annual income	0.131	0.110	1.183 ^{NS}
8	Number of years benefited	-0.568	0.442	-1.284 ^{NS}
9	Socio-politico participation	1.706	0.266	6.412**
10	Sources of information	0.016	0.090	0.177 ^{NS}
11	Economic motivation	0.061	0.105	0.574 ^{NS}
12	Achievement motivation	0.158	0.095	1.670 ^{NS}
13	Risk orientation	0.083	0.099	0.841 ^{NS}
14	Level of aspiration	0.125	0.188	0.668 ^{NS}

$R^2 = 0.508$

**=1% level of significance

* = 5% level of significance,

NS = Non-significant

$$Y=32.268-0.008x_1-0.187x_2+0.272x_3+1.209x_4-0.227x_5+0.445x_6+0.131x_7-0.568x_8+1.706x_9+0.016x_{10}+0.061x_{11}+0.158x_{12}+0.083x_{13}+0.125x_{14}$$

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