



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Sociology

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE MGNREGA BENEFICIARIES (A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JEVARGI TALUKA KALABURAGI DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA)

KEY WORDS: Women, social, Rural, Employment, Empowerment, Development.

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ABSTRACT

This impact social assessment comes as an important intervention in the wake of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) which is being implemented all over India from 1st April 2008. The idea of the assessment is also premised on the widely held belief that NREGA is foundationally capable of transforming the rural lives by improving living conditions, increasing sustainable agrarian activities and wholesome economic support. The Act stipulates that wages will be equal for men and women. It is also committed to ensuring that at least 33% of the workers shall be women. The coverage of NREGA is an ambitious one as it talks about two things; one to create local employment opportunities for the rural poor and second to invest on building rural sustainable assets through variants of works such as water conservation, irrigation facilities, rural connectivity, land improvement on land owned by STs/SCs, etc. The NREGA is unique in the sense that it is sensitive to working conditions of workers, especially women as it advocates for providing accessible worksite (within five kilometer of the workers residence), crèches etc for women with children below six, at least one third of work opportunities must go to women and gender parity of wages, etc. Besides this, there are strong provisions to pre-empt corruption, regular and transparent maintenance of all NREGA documents especially muster rolls, job cards, utilization certificate etc. In the case of employment not being given within the job application by the rural citizens within 15 days of the receipt of the application for work, the state government would be answerable to give unemployment allowance against such a failure. Under NREGA, rural laborers have a legal entitlement not only to work on demand but also to minimum wages. The study tries to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic profile of women in Jevargi Taluka of Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.

INTRODUCTION:

Rural development remains one of the major challenges to policy makers of country, government moving towards to eradicate maladies in rural area and create livelihood security to people¹. As Gandhi stated India lives in its villages, India village dominated society which more than 68 percent of population resides in rural area, country should provide employment facilities to all people.²

A majority of the poor in rural areas of the country depend mainly on the wages they earn through unskilled, casual, manual labour. They are often on threshold levels of subsistence, and are vulnerable to the possibility of sinking from transient to chronic poverty.³ Inadequate labour demand or unpredictable crises that may be general in nature, like natural disaster or personal like ill-health, all adversely impact their employment opportunities. Progress of a nation is greatly shaped by the status of involvement of women along with their counterpart.⁴

The literature review carried out reflects that though some researchers have done study on NREGS most of those are confined to economic aspect only. It is not comprehensive. Very few people have emphasized on implementation aspects of NREGS. Social aspects are not much highlighted⁵.

In this context an attempt has been made to study the socio-Economic profile of the women Beneficiaries of MGNREGA in Jevargi Taluka of Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.

Methodology

Primary data was collated through interview schedule. Researcher has met to the rural women and collected the information through interview schedule.

The secondary data was collected mainly through published works in the form of books, articles, and internet resources.

Scope of the study

Scope means area of the study. The research was restricted to the Jevargi Taluka of Kalaburagi district, Karnataka.

Sampling

For the present study random sampling was resorted for

selecting females of different socio economic aspect for the study 150 respondents were selected randomly in the study area.

Tools and techniques used

Both qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed in the backdrop of the research objectives. Quantitative data was tabulated and statistically analyzed using SPSS software. Qualitative data was interpreted based on the information collected from the field. The statistical technique employed to analyze the collected data is Percentage.

Analysis of Data

Socio-Economic Profile of the Beneficiaries:

It's very essential phase of the discussion while making the indepth study of the social factors like, caste, sex, education, and religion. the economic factors like income land holdings occupation etc.

Age Structure of the beneficiaries:

Especially the programme provide 100 days wage employment for per house holds poor in the study areas actually there is no age limitations. The age classification of the beneficiaries is given in the bellow mentioned table.

Table – 1

Age of the respondents

Sl. No.	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1.	18-25	18	12.0
2.	26-35	56	37.3
3.	36-45	54	36.0
4.	46-65	22	14.7
Total		150	100.0

Source : Primary data

The above table no. 01 reveals that, out of 150 beneficiaries 37.3 respondents are in the age group of 26-35 years, next highest number of beneficiaries are in the age group of 36-45 years, i.e. 36% respondents and only 12% beneficiaries belong to the age group of 18-25 years. The age group of 46-65 years respondents are 14.7% benefited this scheme. Therefore, the maximum number of beneficiaries come under the age group of 26 to 45 years.

Caste Structure :

Under the MGNREGA programe SC, ST caste people are given more then 50% preference to do work in the study areas. More number of SC, ST people they are living below poverty line. The below mentioned table shows the beneficiaries details according to cate.

Table – 2

Caste Wise distribution of the Sample Beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	GM	2	1.3
2.	SC	46	30.7
3.	ST	40	26.7
4.	OBC	62	41.3
	Total	150	100.0

Source: Primary data

The above table-02 shows that, out of 150 respondents the major share is taken by OBCs i.e. 41.3% who belongs to Lingayat & Muslium community. Next 30.7% respondents comes under the social group of SC and 26.7% respondents belongs to ST community and only 1.3% respondents comes under the General casts. Therefore the maximum benefit of the programme goes to OBC people in the study area.

Marital Status :

Marriage increases the responsibilities, obligations and burden of a person. Under the programme the marital status of the sample beneficiaries are given below table.

Table – 3

Marrital status of sample beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Marrital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Married	127	84.7
2.	Unmarried	9	6.0
3.	Widow	14	9.4
	Total	150	100.0

Source : Primary data

Table, 03 shows that the 84.7% respondents are married, 6.0% respondents unmarried, 0.7%) widow and 8.7% widower are worked under the NREGA programme respectively in the study area. The maximum number of married respondents worked in this scheme.

Education level :

Education is one of the important factor, which is playing an important role in social and economic life of the people in the society. The bellow table shows the clear picture of the level of education.

Table – 4

Educational level of sample beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Education Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	79	52.7
2.	Primary	51	34.0
3.	Secondary	20	13.3
4.	Graduate	--	--
5.	Technical	--	--
	Total	150	100.0

Source : Primary data

Out of 150 more then half 52.7% respondents are illiterate and 47.3% respondent have education 47.3% the maximum number of people have attended school only primary level. i.e. 34.0% and only 13.3% of respondents have attended level and none of them were graduate and technical educated. Therefore the table shows that those who have worked under the MGNREGA are illiterate and only primary level educated people.

Family Setup :

The economy of an Indian village is primarily based upon agriculture. Agriculture being the main source of livelihood agriculture land is the most valued property and is the basis of social status. In parsons (1956) view land is the major factor of production. The factor of land provides the most elementary structure of the economy

In Indian society, there are two types families, 1) Joint family and 2) Nuclear family every member of the society following the Indian tradition. The observation made through survey, large number of beneficiaries are belong to joint family.

Table – 5

Type of Family

Sl. No.	Type of family	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Joint family	85	56.7
2.	Nuclear family	65	43.3
	Total	150	100.0

Source : Primary data

Above table, 05 exhibited that out of the 150 beneficiaries joint family respondents are 85 56.7% and that of nuclear family are 43.3% beneficiaries. Therefore, joint families are gaining more benefits as compared to nuclear families.

Types of House:

Usually the people those work under the MGNREGA they are very poor and they don't have adequate houses in the village. The type of house hold was given below table.

Table – 6

Types of House of Sample beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Types of House	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Katcha	34	22.7
2.	Semipucca	70	46.7
3.	Pucca	46	30.7
	Total	150	100.0

Source : Primary data

The above table shows that 46.7% respondent live in the semipucca house, 22.7% respondent live in the Katcha houses and only 30.7% respondent are live in pucca houses. Therefore the maximum number of people doesn't have any proper house in the study area. The Government interduce many housing programme but they are not reach to needful people properly.

Land Holding :

The Yalburga taluka District of Karnataka is most backward district compared to other districts of the Karnataka state. The people of this district are very poor. Among 150 respondents only 40.0% beneficiaries had their own land and 60% beneficiaries were don't have any land of agriculture.

Table – 7

Land holdings of sample beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Land Holdings	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Irrigated	10	6.7
2.	Non – Irrigated	140	93.3
	Total	150	100.0

Source : Primary data

Above table 07 reveal that the maximum number of land holdings are dry land holdings i.e. 93.3% and only 6.7% respondents are had irrigated land in the study area. The all 60 land holders are marginal formers. Therefore, the maximum beneficiaries are don't had their land and they go to work from village to metro stations.

CONCLUSION:

MGNREGA is widely acclaimed that it provides employment, income and help the rural people to come out of the poverty. The study concluded that despite these shortcomings, this programme enhance their standard of living of the vulnerable section of the society, particularly women who are social, political and economic empowerment of women. The study finds that the 100 days is not sufficient in this region which is facing frequent drought due to inadequate rainfall. Therefore, additional 50 days of employment is very well solicited by the workers particularly women folk. There is a direct relationship between education and efficiency of a person. Education is the key that opens the door of prosperity in life which is essentially social in character. It is considered as the harbinger of social change which unlocks the gates of modernizations.

Age has been considered as one of the important indicators of socio economic status of an individual. Physical maturity of an individual is indicated biologically by his age. Caste is the play a vital role in the twenty first century. Caste is an important social factor influencing social life. Even though the level of education modifies the behaviour of the individual, caste remains the basis of the activity. In the study area majority of the beneficiary are SC/ST and backward class. It is also an important economic institution for members. The size of the family also determines the social status of the members. Since number of members in the family affects not only the economic position but also other aspects of social life.

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