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## Attitude of beneficiaries towards Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act [MGNREGA]

**Raut Mangesh A, Chinchmalatpure UR and Thote Vitthal**

**Abstract**

Today India is a fast growing economics of the world. Indian economy is also exhibited remarkable resilience in the recovering from the global financial and economic crisis. However, the progress on human development in the country has not been commensurate with the promise held out by rapid economic growth. Hunger, malnutrition, maternal is the main problem due to unemployment. The study of some state like Bihar, U.P., M.P., Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, etc revealed that share of poor is likely increased from 65 to 71%. The prevailing situation indicated that in India, even during the absence of financial and economic crisis, with a fast growing economy. The challenging of employment as well as poverty and vulnerability of a large segment of its population has been a major areas of concern.

While a higher growth is one of the necessity of condition for generating more employment and providing decent work condition, policymakers have always focused on the need for a number of dedicated policies for employment creation to tackle and deprivation. An important step was the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act {MGNREGA} implementation by the government of India's ministry of rural development {MoRD}. It aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by generating hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Majority (59.16%) of the beneficiaries had moderate attitude towards MGNREGA, while 40.84 per cent of them had favorable. No one should found to be un-favorable attitude towards MGNREGA. Majority of the beneficiaries had moderate to favourable attitude towards MGNREGA.

**Keywords:** Rural development, attitude, MGNREGA, poverty

**1. Introduction**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the flagship programme of the Indian Government that directly touches the lives of the rural poor. The act was enacted on 25th August, 2005 and it come in to force on 2nd February, 2006. MGNREGA is the Scheme which can definitely improve the economic and social condition of beneficiaries if implemented properly. For last several decades these villages have been suffering from poverty, lack of quality health services, poor infrastructure and inadequate facilities of education. The rural economy mainly depends on agriculture. MGNREGA marked a paradigm shift from the other employment programmes with its right based approach. Govt. is legally accountable for providing employment of hundred days to those who demand it. This programme not only provides employment but also focuses on inclusive growth, as it conserves natural resources and creates productive assets. By protecting the environment and reducing rural-urban migration this programme has transformed the face of the rural India. In Wardha district agriculture solely depends on monsoon. So villagers have no job when there is no agricultural work. Searching for short period job in villages is very difficult and therefore, many times they earn nothing. Thus, during this period MGNREGA is a bliss for them.

**2. Objective**

Being the largest employment generation programme rooted in an Act guaranteeing the right to work for those who are willing to work, the MGNREGS is bound to play a major role in alleviating unemployment and underemployment by providing livelihood security. It would be interesting to study if this new wage employment programme has been able to fulfill its objective and overcome the drawbacks of the earlier programmes The study has been designed with the following specific objectives;

1. To study the attitude of the beneficiaries towards MGNREGA.

### 3. Methodology

The study entitled "Attitude of Beneficiaries towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)" was conducted in Wardha district of Vidarbha region. The study was conducted in Wardha and Hinganghat tahsils. The lists of MGNREGA beneficiaries was obtained from respective gram panchayat and from rojgar sanyojak

who is main in the village and the villages having maximum number of MGNREGA beneficiaries drawn were selected. Thus, 10 villages from two tehsil, each of five villages were selected for study. The 120 beneficiaries drawn from 10 villages, each of 12 beneficiaries from villages. The ex-post facto research design of social research was used. The following table shows the distribution of panchayat samiti-wise list of randomly selected 10 gram panchayats and 10 villages from two panchayat of Wardha.

**Table 1:** Distribution of Selected Villages

| Sr.no | Wardha     | No of job card | No of respondants | Sr.no | Hinganghat | No of job card | No of respondants |
|-------|------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1.    | Ashta Neri | 174            | 12                | 1     | Kingaon    | 188            | 12                |
| 2.    | Bhugaon    | 144            | 12                | 2     | Bothuda    | 194            | 12                |
| 3.    | Selu Kate  | 187            | 12                | 3     | Jangona    | 200            | 12                |
| 4.    | Jaulgaon   | 89             | 12                | 4     | Kutki      | 182            | 12                |
| 5.    | Mandavgad  | 124            | 12                | 5     | Daroda     | 340            | 12                |
|       | Total      | 718            | 60                |       | Total      | 1104           | 60                |

## 2. Attitude of Beneficiaries towards MGNREGA

**Table 2:** Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their level of attitude towards MGNREGA

| Sr. No. | Items/ Indicator  | SA        | A         | UDA       | D         | SD        |
|---------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 01      | MGNREGA is effective in enhancing livelihood security in rural areas. (+)                                   | 51(41.66) | 27(23.34) | 15(12.50) | 19(16.66) | 07(05.84) |
| 02      | I feel that Agriculture is the best occupation for MGNREGA beneficiaries(+)                                 | 56(46.66) | 31(25.84) | 15(12.50) | 16(13.34) | 02(01.66) |
| 03      | MGNREGA enhances the women Empowerment in rural area.(+)  | 64(53.34) | 25(20.83) | 15(12.50) | 13(10.83) | 03(02.50) |
| 04      | I feel that there is lack of proper Coordination between the programme personnel and the beneficiaries. (-) | 72(60.00) | 23(19.16) | 13(10.84) | 09(07.50) | 03(02.50) |
| 05      | MGNREGA increases purchasing power of beneficiaries. (+)  | 72(60.00) | 22(18.33) | 10(08.33) | 15(10.00) | 04(03.34) |
| 06      | MGNREGA is a boon for Poor rural people. (+)  | 67(55.84) | 27(22.50) | 08(06.66) | 13(10.83) | 05(04.17) |
| 07      | I feel that MGNREGA is responsible for scarcity of agriculture labour. (-)                                  | 70(58.33) | 22(18.33) | 17(14.17) | 10(08.33) | 01(00.84) |
| 08      | I think that mode of payment of wage in MGNREGA is not proper. (-)  | 73(60.84) | 20(16.66) | 10(08.33) | 13(10.84) | 04(03.33) |
| 09      | The execution of the MGNREGA at grass root level is ineffective(-)  | 76(63.33) | 19(15.84) | 12(10.00) | 10(08.33) | 03(02.50) |
| 10      | There is no discrimination in paying wages to both men and women in MGNREGA. (+)                            | 83(69.16) | 14(11.67) | 07(05.83) | 10(08.34) | 06(05.00) |
| 11      | MGNREGA is better than other employment programmes. (+)   | 58(48.34) | 31(25.83) | 14(11.67) | 15(12.50) | 02(01.66) |
| 12      | I feel that MGNREGA increases corruption in rural area. (-)   | 69(57.50) | 25(20.84) | 13(10.83) | 11(09.17) | 02(01.66) |
| 13      | MGNREGA has failed in preventing migration of rural people. (-)   | 64(53.33) | 25(20.84) | 14(11.66) | 12(10.00) | 05(04.17) |
| 14.     | MGNREGA is not much fruitful due to its ineffective working pattern. (-)                                    | 70(58.34) | 22(18.33) | 16(13.33) | 09(07.50) | 03(02.50) |
| 15.     | MGNREGA helps the beneficiaries to improve socio-economical status. (+)                                     | 88(73.34) | 14(11.66) | 05(04.17) | 09(07.50) | 04(03.33) |

**Source:** Field survey. (Figures in parenthesis indicates percentages), SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, UD = Undecided, D= Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

It is crystal clear that most of the beneficiaries i.e. 73.34 per cent appeared to have favourable attitude with the statement that MGNREGA helps the beneficiaries to improve socio-economical status whereas only 07.50 per cent beneficiaries have disagree with this. It is also noticed that most of the beneficiaries 69.16 per cent have favourable attitude with the statement that there is no discrimination in paying wages to both men and women in MGNREGA, it was further noticed that majority of beneficiaries 63.33 per cent accepted that the execution of the MGNREGA at grass root level is ineffective, the 60.00 per cent and 19.16 per cent beneficiaries have strongly agree and agree that they feel that there is lack of proper Coordination between the programme personnel and the beneficiaries, respectively. Similarly significant percentage i.e. 60.84 per cent beneficiary also observed to be think that mode of payment of wage in MGNREGA is not proper, The 60.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have strongly attitude about MGNREGA increases purchasing power.

It was also observed that more than half of beneficiaries (58.33%) had favourable attitude with the statement that MGNREGA is responsible for scarcity of agriculture labour,

it is also observed that 58.34 per cent beneficiaries that MGNREGA is not much fruitful due to its ineffective working pattern, MGNREGA is effective in enhancing livelihood security in rural areas is strongly agree by 41.66 per cent beneficiaries, while 23.34 per cent only agree with them. The beneficiary feel that Agriculture is the best occupation for MGNREGA, the 46.66 per cent beneficiaries agreed strongly followed by 25.84 per cent agree to that statement, the next statement that the MGNREGA enhances the women Empowerment in rural area the majority 53.34 per cent beneficiaries support the statement, MGNREGA is a boon for Poor rural people majority 55.84 per cent beneficiaries strongly supported with 22.50 per cent agreed while 10.83 per cent denied the support to the statement. MGNREGA is better than other employment programmes 48.34 per cent beneficiaries strongly agree and 12.50 per cent beneficiaries disagree with this statement. Majority of the beneficiaries' support that MGNREGA has failed in preventing migration of rural people is 57.50 per cent and 9.17 per cent where disagree with the statement.

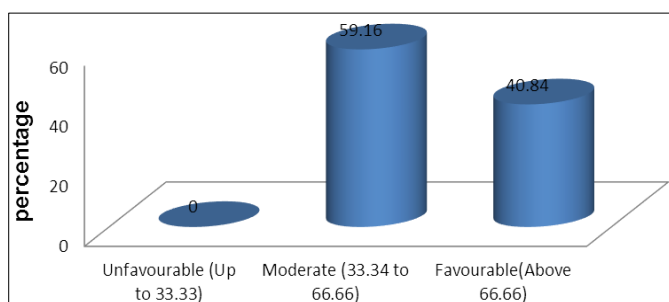
On an average it can be seen that the beneficiaries have positive attitude towards MGNREGA. To put this attitude in to action the government should remove presumptions and highlight the need of beneficiary.

### 3.1 Attitude level

The data with this regards distribution of beneficiaries according to their level of attitude towards MGNREGA. The data in regards of which are depicted in Table 3 and graphically depicted in Fig. 1

**Table 3:** Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their attitude towards MGNREGA

| Sr. No. | Category                   | Beneficiaries n=120 |            |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
|         |                            | Frequency           | Percentage |
| 1       | Unfavourable (Up to 33.33) | 00                  | 00.00      |
| 2       | Moderate (33.34 to 66.66)  | 71                  | 59.16      |
| 3       | Favourable(Above 66.66)    | 49                  | 40.84      |
|         | Total                      | 120                 | 100.00     |



**Fig 1:** Distribution of the beneficiaries according to their attitude towards MGNREGA

It could be seen that majority 59.16 per cent of the beneficiaries had moderate attitude towards MGNREGA, while 40.84 per cent favorable attitude towards MGNREGA, respectively. None of the beneficiaries was found in the category of unfavorable attitude.

### 4. Conclusions

Majority of the beneficiaries had moderate to favourable attitude towards MGNREGA. From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that great majority 100 per cent of the beneficiaries had moderate to favorable attitude towards MGNREGA.

The realization on part of beneficiaries that MGNREGA is the major resort to sustain their lives and families might have made them more inclined towards MGNREGA to earn more. This might be the reason for higher level of favorable attitude among beneficiaries towards MGNREGA. Finding indicated that, there is a scope to improve the attitude of the beneficiaries towards MGNREGA.

### 4.1 Implications

1. The study revealed that caste, social participation, land holding, annual income, occupation, and economic motivation were significantly related with attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA. Due manipulation of these characteristics, where ever possible, may be made to shape the attitude towards more favourableness for those beneficiaries who have less favourable attitude.
2. Further, efforts may also be made to sustain the status of those beneficiaries who have already more favourable attitude towards MGNREGA; such beneficiaries may be

utilized by the extension agencies in convincing the other beneficiaries to know more about MGNREGA.

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