Research Article

ASSOCIATION OF PROFILE OF THE MGNREGS BENEFICIARIES WITH THE DIRECT CHANGES IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract: A study was conducted on 120 MGNREGS beneficiaries in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, to study the association of profile of the beneficiaries with their direct changes observed due to the implementation of MGNREGS. Thirteen independent variables were selected as profile of the beneficiaries. The results revealed from the study were; out of thirteen independent variables, education, size of the family, experience& number of years benefitted, socio-politico participation, risk orientation, economic motivation and achievement motivation showed significant relation with direct changes. Other variables like age, gender, annual income, possession of assets, sources of information and level of aspiration showed non- significant relationship with direct changes. The Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) of all the thirteen selected variables put together explained 88.34 percent of variance in the direct changes experienced by MGNREGS beneficiaries, remaining 11.66 percent due to the extraneous factors.

Keywords: *Direct changes, MGNREGS, Profile, MLR, Correlation*

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Introduction

India is one of the developing nations, the majority of population are poor and still their livelihood depends on daily labour wages. In rural areas, it is very difficult to find work on regular basis. Hence, the rural people migrated to cities to find work. To eradicate this situation, the then UPA (United Progressive Alliance) Govt. introduced Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on 2nd Feb of 2006. The main aim of this scheme is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every rural household who were willing to do unskilled manual work. Impact of MGNREGS was studied under direct changes like employment generation, income generation, community & individual assets creation and reducing migration. Srikakulam district is one of the backward districts of Andhra Pradesh, from where the urban migration is very high. During 9th Day of MGNREGS, Srikakulam district awarded with "High Level Inclusive Employment Generation" in the year 2014. In this scenario, the study was undertaken to ascertain the association of profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with the direct changes experienced by them.

Material and Methods

The study was taken up in the year 2016 with an ex-post facto research design. Out of 40 mandals in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, three mandals namely, Seethampeta, Ranasthalam and Polaki were selected purposively based on the criteria of maximum wage employment generation. From each mandal, four villages were selected purposively based on criteria of maximum wage employment generation. Thus, comprising a total of 12 villages were selected for the study. From each village 10 beneficiaries were selected randomly thus making a total of 120 respondents. The data was collected from the sample of MGNREGS beneficiaries by personal interview method using structured pre-tested schedule. Statistical tools like Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the data. Direct changes were measured in terms of low, medium, high direct changes categories. Correlation co-efficient (r) and Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) was used to study the relationship between the profile of the

MGNREGS beneficiaries with the direct changes observed in the study area.

Results and Discussion

Direct changes observed due to implementation of MGNREGS
Direct changes were categorised into three groups *i.e.*, low (>40.38), medium (36.72-40.38) and high (<36.72) direct changes.
Table-1 *Distribution of the selected MGNREGS beneficiaries according to the direct changes observed, (n= 120)*

S	Direct changes	MGNREGS Beneficiaries	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low direct changes	15	12.50
2	Medium direct changes	67	55.83
3	High direct changes	38	31.67
	Total	120	100
	Mean: 38.55 SD: 1.83		

The [Table-1] presented that majority (55.83%) of MGNREGS beneficiaries belonged to medium direct changes category followed by more (31.67%) and less (12.50%) direct change categories.

Relationship between profile of the MGNREGS beneficiaries with the direct changes experienced by them.
Correlation coefficient of profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with the Direct changes experienced by them
An attempt has been made to find out if there exists any relationship between the profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries namely age, education, size of family, gender, experience and number of years benefitted, annual income, possession of assets, sources of information, socio-politico participation, risk orientation, level of aspiration, economic motivation and achievement motivation with direct changes occurred due to implementation of MGNREGS.

Table-2 *Relationship between selected independent variables of MGNREGS beneficiaries and Direct changes, (n=120)*

SN	Independent variables	'r' values
1	Age	0.290 NS
2	Education	0.734**
3	Size of the family	0.427*
4	Gender	0.151 NS
5	Experience and number of years benefited	0.883**
6	Annual income	0.202NS
7	Possession of assets	0.014NS
8	Socio- politico participation	0.941**
9	Sources of information	0.083NS
10	Risk orientation	0.543**
11	Level of aspiration	0.090NS
12	Economic motivation	0.701**
13	Achievement motivation	0.574**

** = 1% level of significance (0.449)   NS = Non-significant
* = 5% level of significance (0.349)

The results in [Table-2] indicated the computed r-values for independent variables and direct changes experience by MGNREGS beneficiaries. The computed r-value (0.290 NS) between age and direct changes showed a positive and non-significant relationship as a result of impact of MGNREGS. This indicated that age did not significantly influence the direct changes due to implementation of MGNREGS activities. The finding was in agreement with the findings of Kantharaju (2011) [1]. The computed r-value (0.734**) showed a positive and significant relationship between education and direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries. Education is a requirement for better perception and comprehension. Beneficiaries' education might be helping them to understand and decide correctly about MGNREGS activities and works. Higher the education wider will be the interaction of the individuals with different sources and increase the ability to grasp facts, analyze and interpret them in proper way. Hence the above trend was noticed. The result was in agreement with the results of Kakati & Behera (2014) [2].

A bird eye view of computed r-value (0.427*) for size of the family and direct changes exhibited that there was positive and significant relationship between size of family and direct changes of the MGNREGS beneficiaries. It indicates that there was direct contribution of size of the family to direct changes. This can be concluded that if there was a greater number of family members they might contribute to develop more number of direct changes such as increase in income, individual assets creation, numbers of roads laid, plantation works, bunds development, watershed works rather than small size of family *i.e.* with one or two members. The findings were in confirmation with the studies of Devi *et al.* (2011) [3]. The computed r-value (0.151 NS) for gender and direct changes results a positive and non-significant relationship. This indicated that gender did not significantly influence the direct changes experienced by beneficiaries due to MGNREGS activities implementation. The findings were in concurrent with the findings of Kakati & Behera (2014) [4].

The results showed the computed r-value (0.883**) for experience& number of years benefitted and direct changes had a positive and significant relationship. Greater the experience and number of years benefitted more will be the direct changes. This might be due to more the years of MGNREGS work participation and experience of beneficiaries more the direct changes in terms of income generation, low migration and employment generation. The findings were in agreement with the findings of Singh *et al.* (2014) [4]. The computed r-value (0.202 NS) for annual income and direct changes noticed that there was a positive and non-significant relationship indicated that annual income did not significantly influence the direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries due to MGNREGS activities implementation. The finding was in line with the findings of Singh *et al.* (2014) and Mohanraj (2011) [4-5].

The computed r-value (0.014 NS) showed a positive and non-significant relationship between assets possession and direct changes that were experienced by the MGNREGS beneficiaries. This indicated that possession of assets did not significantly influence the direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries due to MGNREGS activities implementation. The findings were not in confirmation with findings of Devi *et al.* (2011) [3]. The results exhibited the computed r-value

(0.941**) for socio- politico participation and direct changes indicated that there was a positive and significant relationship. It might be due to the fact that the beneficiaries who experienced more direct changes through their participation in co-operatives and welfare associations as a member are likely to have more information gathered regarding MGNREGS activities than the beneficiaries with less social participation. It would have been the reason for such a relationship existed between socio-politico participation and direct changes. This result was in agreement with the result of Mohanraj (2011) [5].

When it comes to sources of information, the computed r-value (0.083NS) for sources of information and direct changes showed that there was a positive and non-significant relationship. This indicated that sources of information did not significantly influence the direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries due to MGNREGS activities implementation. The finding was in agreement with the findings of Kantharaju (2011) [1]. The computed r-value (0.543**) enlightened that the correlation between risk orientation and direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries was positive and significant. It could be stated from the finding that the higher the risk-taking ability of beneficiary, the higher would be the direct changes occurred. This might be due to the fact that the beneficiaries who take greater risk, the direct changes like higher income would occur. As a result of use of new ideas, the improvement in economic condition could be expected. That is why such type of relation existed in the study. This result was in conformity with the results of Vinay *et al.* (2013) [6].

The computed r-value (0.090NS) for level of aspiration and direct changes showed positive and non-significant relationship. This indicated that level of aspiration did not significantly influence the direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries due to MGNREGS activities implementation. The finding was in agreement with the findings of Sujaatha *et al.* (2014) [7]. The computed r-value (0.701**) for economic motivation and direct changes was seen that there was a positive and significant relationship. The beneficiaries with more economic motivation might be trying to fulfil with goals namely children's education, welfare and better standard of living which require many and one of the means to increase income. The less economic oriented beneficiaries on the other hand might be maintaining similar attitude to the past resulting in low income compare to high economic oriented beneficiaries. This could be one of the reasons for such type of relationship existed between economic motivation and direct changes of beneficiaries. Similar result was reported by Manoj (2008) [8].

The results exhibited the computed r-value (0.574**) for achievement motivation and direct changes. It could be inferred that there was a positive and significant relationship between achievement motivation and direct changes of MGNREGS beneficiaries. It could be inferred that higher the achievement motivation on the part of beneficiaries, the more would be the direct changes occurred might be due to their enthusiasm and zeal to become economically sound. It is assumed that achievement motivation makes the beneficiary to get direct changes in terms of increasing income, community & individual assets creation and more number of persons in a family to get employment. This could be one of the reasons for such type of relationship existed between achievement motivation and direct changes of beneficiaries. This result was in line with the result of Manoj (2008) [8].

Multiple Linear Regression analysis of profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with Direct changes

An attempt has been made to find out the amount of contribution made by the profile characteristics in explaining the variation in the dependent variable; direct changes due to the impact of MGNREGS as experienced by the beneficiaries. The profile characteristics being age, education, size of the family, gender, experience and number of years benefitted, annual income, possession of assets, socio-politico participation, sources of information, risk orientation, level of aspiration, economic motivation and achievement motivation. It was observed from the [Table-3] that the thirteen independent variables with direct changes taken on Multiple Regression Analysis gave the R_2 (co-efficient of multiple- determination) value of 0.8834 for MGNREGS beneficiaries. Hence, it could be inferred that independent variables put together to contribute 88.34 percent of the total variation in the direct changes experienced by MGNREGS beneficiaries, leaving the rest of extraneous effect.

Table-3 *Multiple Linear Regression analysis of profile characteristics of MGNREGS beneficiaries with Direct changes, (n=120)*

SN	Independent variables	Regression coefficient	Standard error	't' value
1	Age	0.5030	0.0865	7.5639**
2	Education	0.0962	0.0521	0.1846 NS
3	Size of the family	0.2304	0.1108	2.0794*
4	Gender	0.1101	0.1433	0.7683 NS
5	Experience and number of years benefitted	0.5362	0.1909	2.8071**
6	Annual income	0.1967	0.09021	2.1855*
7	Possession of assets	0.9795	0.2048	4.7820**
8	Socio politico participation	0.2880	0.1090	2.6422**
9	Sources of information	0.0074	0.0333	0.2242NS
10	Risk orientation	0.6701	0.3250	2.0618**
11	Level of aspiration	-0.0154	0.0252	-0.6111 NS
12	Economic motivation	0.1183	0.0660	1.7924NS
13	Achievement motivation	0.6060	0.2052	2.9532**

a = 6.3320, R_2 = 0.8834, NS = Non-significant, * = 5% level of significance (1.9802), **=1% level of significance (2.6181)

$$Y=6.3320+0.503*x1+0.096x2+0.230*x3+0.11x4+0.536*x5+0.196x6+0.979*x7+0.288*x8+0.007x9+0.670*x10-0.015x11+0.011x12+0.606*x13$$

The independent variables like size of the family and annual income had contributed significantly at 0.05 level of probability towards the variation in the direct changes. Whereas variables like age, experience and number of years benefitted, possession of assets, socio-politico participation, risk orientation and achievement motivation contribute significantly at 0.01 level of probability.

Conclusion

It was concluded from the study that the correlation-coefficients of education, size of family, experience and number of years benefitted, socio- politico participation, risk orientation, economic motivation and achievement motivation of MGNREGS beneficiaries with their direct changes were significant. Age, gender, annual income, possession of assets, sources of information and level of aspiration were non-significant. All independent variables stated above showed positively significant relationship with direct changes at 0.01 level of probability except the variable size of family which was positive and significant at 0.05 level of probability.

Application of research: This study inferred that higher the education, higher the size of family, greater the experience and number of years benefitted, higher the socio-politico participation, higher the risk orientation, higher the economic orientation and greater the achievement motivation, the higher would be the direct changes.

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