Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Empowerment of Rural People: A Sociological Study of Haryana

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Abstract

The study conducted in Haryana is pertaining to the Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Empowerment of Rural People: A Sociological Study of Haryana.

The study conducted in two districts of Haryana- Jhajjar and Mahendergarh, One where the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was initiated in the beginning on February 2, 2006 and the other district where the programme was implemented at the later stage on April 1, 2008. Another reason for the selection of these two districts was that Jhajjar district is the more economically developed area and Mahendergarh district belongs to less economically developed area. Out of the two districts of Haryana four villages have been selected using the Stratified Random Sampling method (two villages from each district). From these four villages, Dehkora and Chhudani were selected from Jhajjar District and Rajawas and Digrota were selected from Mahendergarh District. Keeping in mind the objectives of the study 410 respondents have been selected (204 males and 206 females) from all the four villages. For the present study, multi-stage sampling has been used. Firstly out of 21 districts, two districts of Haryana have been selected. From each district, one block has been selected through lottery method. From each of the selected block, two villages selected for the study. The present study employed exploratory research design; this helped us in exploring and understanding certain issues in the field situation. For the collection of data, we have adopted interview schedule. Questions contained in the interview schedule were about their age; caste; education; income of family, marital status etc. At the same time worksite facilities; work location; employment availability in a year and their satisfaction level under MGNREGA etc. were also studied.
Apart from the primary data collected through interview schedule, secondary data have also been collected from the district census reports; district employment reports; state employment reports; newspaper reports; Haryana statistical abstract reports etc. The study revealed that both males and females were participating equally under MGNREGA. The majority of the sample workers were from the scheduled castes (55.36 percent) and also it can be said that the majority of our sample was illiterate. It was observed that out of total sample, 95.12 percent respondents were married where only 04.88 percent respondents were unmarried. 77.56 percent respondents were having pucka house and 21.95 percent respondents were having semi pucka houses. The study revealed that 42.68 percent respondents were earning their livelihood from MGNREGA for 61-80 days and 22.44 percent respondents got employment for 81-100 days in a year under MGNREGA. Out of the total respondents, 389 respondents (94.88 percent) were completely satisfied with MGNREGA. The study revealed that, out of total respondents, 17.81 percent respondents were aware about drinking water facility at worksite, 10.24 percent were aware about the creche facility at worksite and a very huge segment, 63.66 percent of the respondents were not aware about any worksite facilities such as, rest shed, crèche, first aid box, insurance and not even drinking water.