



CORRELATES OF KNOWLEDGE OF JOB CARD HOLDERS OF MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The objective of the scheme is to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. The present study was conducted in Imphal- west district of Manipur using the Ex-post facto research design. It was found that none of the respondents were in the high category of annual income. It is observed that the Social participation and housing type were positive and significantly related with awareness of the job card holders on NREGA. The data were collected using structured interview schedule. The data collected were then analyzed using appropriate statistical tools namely, frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation simple correlation coefficient and multiple regressions. It was found that the Social participation and housing type were positive and significantly related with awareness of the job card holders on NREGA. It may be concluded that there is a need of sound and sustainable strategy to improve the awareness of the job card holders on NREGA through organizing effective and efficient training programme regarding guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) its objective, goals, silent features and most importantly about the rights given to the job card holders under NREGA.

Key Words : Socio-Economic Characteristic Awareness, Job Card Holder and Variables.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, initiated a holistic and integrated development scheme, viz. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is the latest form of wage employment programme which offers 100 days of guaranteed employment to the rural unemployed poor. The unique feature which distinguishes this scheme from previous

employment programme is that the NREGS is endorsed by a legal guarantee. Accordingly, NREGS is implemented under NREGA – a law enacted by Indian Parliament. NREGA is an abbreviation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. After acquiring the status of an Act, it is used to be called as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and also abbreviated

as NREGS. Now it is called Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act popularly known as MGNREGA.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted on August 25, 2005. The scheme has been introduced in 200 districts of the country on Feb 2, 2006 extended to another 130 districts w.e.f. April 1, 2007. In April 2008, the scheme has been extended to all rural districts of India. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme aims at enhancing the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The objective of the scheme is to create durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion etc., so that the process of employment generation is sustainable. The Act envisages that the schemes will lead to large scale creation of livelihood assets in rural areas which can have a sustainable impact on rural poverty. Upholding the Rights perspective, the Act clearly defines the fundamental principles and the basic entitlements of the laborers and workers. Keeping in view, a study was access to socio-economic characteristics and Knowledge of Job Card Holders under NREGA scheme in Imphal West District, Manipur.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Imphal-West District of Manipur using the Ex-post facto research design. Multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted to select the appropriate number of the

respondents. In Imphal-West District, there are 2 C.D blocks i.e Haorangsabal block and Wangoi block. Out of two blocks, one Wangoi block was selected randomly for the present study. There is 15 Gram Panchayats in this block, 2 Gram panchayats were selected randomly. 3 villages and 2 villages from each Gram Panchayats were selected randomly. Total 120 respondents (Job Card Holders) were selected based on proportional random sampling method. The data were collected using structured interview schedule. The data collected were then analyzed using appropriate statistical tools namely, frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, simple correlation coefficient and multiple regressions

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Table-1 shown that majority of the respondents (91.6%) were knowledge about the job card followed by (75%) of the respondents payment knowledge of wages, (60%) of the respondents were of knowledge selection of work, (50%) of the respondents were knowledge about work application (48.3%) of the respondents were about the work site facilities (41.6%) of the respondents were knowledge about monitoring and a few respondents and (25%) of the respondents were found knowledge in the investigation observation. The findings were in line with the research results of Ghuman and Dua (2008) and Jha & Pandit (2002).

This table indicates that majority of the respondents (74.1%) belong to Partial knowledge followed by no knowledge (13.3%) and very few per cent were in full knowledge (12.5%). The findings were in line with the research results of Jandu (2008). The reason might be that the respondents are not given the necessary training and knowledge programme regarding the objective, goals, silent features of NREGA and

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to the knowledge of job card holders under NREGA n = 120

Sr. No.	Knowledge of job card holders on NREGA	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Job card	110	91.6	I
2.	Work application	60	50.0	IV
3.	Selection of work	72	60.0	III
4.	Payment of wages	90	75.0	II
5.	Work site facilities	58	48.3	V
6.	Monitoring	50	41.6	VI
7.	Investigation observation	30	25.0	VII

most importantly the rights given to the respondents

The results on correlation coefficient between socio-economic characteristics and knowledge of job card holders under NREGA are presented in the Table-3. It is observed that the Social participation and housing type were positive and significantly related with knowledge of the job card holders on NREGA. Where, age, occupation, education, size of land holding, material possession, family type, family size, annual income and opinion on benefit of NREGA were not significantly related with knowledge of the job card holders on NREGA

The table-4 reveals that out of total independent variables only one of them i.e. social participation was found positive and significant at 0.01 level of significance. This indicates that this variable was important in contributing towards the change in knowledge of job card holders. The R^2

value (0.403) suggests that 40.3% was contributed towards the changes in knowledge of job card holders due to independent variables. Besides the above independent variables the other independent variables were also responsible in contributing towards the change of dependent variable even though they were not significant. Further, the variable whose regression coefficient was found positive and significant social participation could be term as good predictors of knowledge of job card holders on NREGA.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that there is a need of sound and sustainable strategy to improve the knowledge of the job card holders on NREGA through organizing effective and efficient training programme regarding guidelines of NREGA its objective, goals, silent features and most importantly about the rights given to the job

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their overall knowledge of job card holders on NREGA

n = 120

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No knowledge (low)	16	13.3
2.	Partial knowledge (medium)	89	74.1
3.	Full knowledge (high)	15	12.5
	Total	120	100

Mean = 73.27 S.D =14.69

Table 3: Correlation coefficient between independent variables and dependent variable (Knowledge of job card holders)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age	-0.129 (NS)
2.	Occupation	0.042 (NS)
3.	Education	0.066 (NS)
4.	Social participation	0.615**
5.	Size of land holding	0.077 (NS)
6.	Housing type	0.182*
7.	Material possession	0.075 (NS)
8.	Family type	0.008 (NS)
9.	Family size	-0.039 (NS)
10.	Annual income	-0.115 (NS)
11.	Opinion on benefit of NREGA	0.050 (NS)

** Significant at the 0.01 level * Significant at the 0.05 level NS= Non Significant

Table 4: Regression analyses of independent variables and dependent variable

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Beta	Regression coefficient b'	Std.error (S.E)	't' value
X1	Age	-0.054	-0.079	0.119	-0.665 NS
X2	Occupation	0.079	0.772	0.818	0.943 NS
X3	Education	-0.062	-0.456	0.644	-0.708NS
X4	Social participation	0.602	6.779	0.893	7.594**
X5	Size of land holding	0.044	0.889	1.601	0.555 NS
X6	Housing type	0.027	0.639	2.324	0.275 NS
X7	Material possession	0.071	0.578	0.957	0.603 NS
X8	Family type	0.041	1.288	3.099	0.416 NS
X9	Family size	0.015	0.286	2.109	0.136 NS
X10	Annual income	-0.081	-1.467	1.574	-0.932 NS
X11	Opinion on benefit of NREGA	0.071	0.181	0.207	0.874 NS

** Significant at the 0.01 level * Significant at the 0.05 level NS= Non Significant

R=0.403 F=6.628

card holders under NREGA. Thus, by organizing training programme frequently and implementing earnestly the knowledge of the respondents can be improve leading to proper function of the scheme, development of rural people, socio-economic upliftment and providing livelihood security to the poorest of the poor in rural India. It was found that the Social participation and housing type were positive and significantly related with awareness of the job card holders on NREGA.

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