LIFE SATISFACTION OF MGNREG WOMEN WORKERS IN KERALA- A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MATHILAKAM BLOCK IN THRISSUR DISTRICT

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India has been passed in the year 2005 in the Parliament, and it was enacted in 2006. The programme is self-targeted in nature and is designed to provide 100 days of employment to rural households and to serve as safety net. Its aim is to reduce rural poverty and vulnerability of rural women households for constituting economic growth. The study analyzes the life satisfaction of MGNREG women workers in Kerala and an analysis of life satisfaction which indicates the variables like, economic, social, individual and familial impact on MGNREG women workers. It also analyzes the problems faced by the women workers in Kerala. The study is based on actual beneficiaries i.e. the women workers who are actively participating in the scheme. The tool for analysis is used as SPSS. The study is based on primary data through interview schedule and group discussions in two gramapanchayats in Mathilakam Block in Thrissur District in Kerala State.

Life satisfaction is defined as a person's feeling about their activities of their daily life, their re-sponsibilities, the meaning of their life, the achievement of goals, having a positive ego, regarding a person them-selves valuable, and keeping an optimistic attitude. Life satisfaction is affected by a person's role in their family, religion, and the frequency of meeting they have with their children living far away (Kim, 1996).

Key Words:(MGNREG, Consumption Factors, Economic Factors, Life- Satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

A major problem of the Indian development process is to inability to generate adequate employment opportunities for the growing moral forces. In India, presently prevailing poverty alleviation programmes, both self and wage employment scheme have been given some considerable and relief to poor families. MGNREGP aims at better livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. It is applicable in all the 615 districts of the country. It is not restricted on gender, geography age, skill and caste. In this Act equal wages will be provided to both men and women, no contractors and machineries are allowed for work. Social Audit and records are transparently available for public scrutiny. It has given a big boost to rejuvenate and conservation or natural resources particularly common property resources (CPRS) and upgrades the rural especially among women, SCs, STs, and BPL families. The critical review of literature indicates that there is still a gap in existing literature as regards the Life satisfaction achieved through MGNREG Programme in Kerala, In order to fill the gap; the present study has been proposed. It is hoped that the findings of the study would help to get a full picture of the driving force behind to join this programme, its impact on rural people, work satisfaction, consumption pattern, Life satisfaction, Socio economic impact of MGNREGP on women workers in Kerala.

REVIEW OF LITERTURE

Khera et al, (2009), focused on the female worker participation is highlighted to the impact of the scheme on their lives. It revealed that the significant benefits for the women who include increased food security and a better ability to avoide hazardous work. The availability of local wage employment at the statutory minimum wage for women is a new development associated with the MGNREGA.

Pancayati Raj updates, (2008), the study in Andra Pradesh exposed that the female participation at 52% is higher than that of their male counterparts. MGNREGA has been playing a vital role and makes a mark in the lives of many rural poor nationally in general, and particularly in AP. Multi-stage systematic random technique is adopted for the study. The study first selected 3 divisions from the district, viz, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy and Narayanapet. From each division one Block/ Mandal was randomly selected. Logistic regression model is applied to determine the likelihood of being migrant households by examining their basic amenities, fixed resources, participation in labour and credit market. Binary logistic regression model constructed by taking some of the vital characteristics of households such as, MGNREGA status, caste, land ownership and occupation with regard to migration.

Jacob et al. (2006), argued that despite the positive response and outcome of the MGNEG scheme, there are multiple problems involved in implementation as well as administrative obstacles. Inadequate and insufficient staff and corruption are the major issues found to be widespread in the scheme throughout the country.

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Herbert Sruthy,(2011), in their micro study, revealed that in Kerala , Kudumbasree , the network of women's Self Help Groups aimed at poverty eradication plays a key role in implementation of the MNREGA. The tie-up between the Kudumbasree and the MGNREGP in Kerala's Panchayats'are now seen to have yielded considerable gain in terms of implementation Chathakulam2007, Joseph 2009).Transfer of economic resources to beneficiaries are seen to have been improved through the linkage.

OBJECTIVES
1. To investigate the Life satisfaction achieved through MGNREG Programme in Kerala.
2. To study about the consumption pattern of women workers in MGNREG Programme in Kerala.

HYPOTHESIS
1. H0: There is no significance difference among mean rank of religion with regard to consumption factors.
    H1: There is significance difference among mean rank of religion with regard to consumption factors.
2. Ho: No significant difference between consumption factors and economic factors.

    H1: There is significant difference between consumption factors and economic factors.

METHODOLOGY
Both primary and secondary data are required for the study. A descriptive research study will be conducted in the selected 'Blocks' according to the workers' participation level of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.

Mathilakam Block in Thrissur District is purposively selected for the present research work. In the Block two panchayats(Sree Narayanapuram and Edavilungue) are to be purposively chosen for the study. The sample panchayats were selected because of the effective implementation of MGNREG scheme there in for the last seven years. 100 sample beneficiaries are selected randomly, 50 each from each panchayats.

Secondary data are collected from the rural development agencies, reports, periodicals, websites etc. After the data collection the empirical data are to be classified, tabulated and interpreted in terms of appropriate Statistical and Mathematical tools which were suited.

Table-1, Socio-economic Profile of the Beneficiary Households

Socio-economic Profile of the Beneficiary Households N=100			
Item	**Categories**	**No. of respondents**	**Percentage**
Age	20-40	25	
	40-60	68	
	Above 60 years	7	
Religion	Hindu	90	
	Muslim	7	
	Christian	3	
Category	SC	45	
	OEC	5	
	OBC	48	
	GENERAL	2	
Family structure	Nuclear	89	
	Joint	11	
Marital Status	Single	2	
	Married	90	
	Widow	8	
Number of dependents	Two	48	
	Three	23	
	Four	14	
	Above Four	15	

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Land holdings	Landless	1		
	Marginal	3		
	Small	73		
	Medium	23		
Type of living house	Hut	5		
	Tiled	19		
	Concrete	71		
	Others	5		
Level of category	APL	28		
	BPL	72		
Ownership status of house	Own	93		
	Rented	5		
	Others	2		
Educational qualification	Below SSLC	70		
	SSLC	24		
	PLUS Two/Predegree	6		
Source of Income	Spouse's Income	69		
	Income from Son	24		
	Daughter's Income	2		
	Income from Property	5		
Total Annual Income	Below One lakh	87		
	1-2 Lakhs	12		
	2-3 lakhs	1		

Source: Primary data

Table-2,Life-Satisfaction-Economic Factors

Factors	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Mean Score	Std. Deviation
Helping to increase income	1	5	3.43	IV	.714
Improve in purchasing power	2	5	3.34	VII	.742
Decision making power in family	1	5	3.39	V	.852
Communication skill	2	5	3.44	III	.701
Job performance level	2	5	3.59	I	.668
Helped to build optimistic attitude	1	5	3.52	II	.745
Position in the society	1	5	3.38	VI	.930

Source: Primary data

From the above table it is clear those factors affecting the economic factors of MGNREG workers. The attribute of Job performance level of workers is above the average level, the mean score is 3.59, followed by the scheme helped to create optimistic attitude among its beneficiaries (3.52), and it improved the communication skill of workers (3.44), increase income of its beneficiaries (3.43) and increase in decision making power.

Table-3,Test whether significant difference between level of category with regard to economic factors.

Level	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	P-value
APL	24.8929	3.54170	1.233	.221
BPL	23.7778	4.24338		

Accept the null hypotheses at 5% level of significance because, P value is greater than 0.051. There is no significant difference between APL and BPL category with regard to economic factors.

Table-4, Consumption Factors

Attributes	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Mean Rank	Std. Deviation
Increase in investments	1	5	3.21	III	.924
Purchase of garments and ready-mades	1	5	3.01	IV	.969
Strengthening the environment	1	5	3.22	II	.848
Purchasing durable asset	1	5	2.75	V	1.058
Income for household expenses	2	5	3.73	I	.737

Source: Primary data

From the above table all attributes are relating to their consumption factors. Majority of the workers are agreed that the income from their work is utilized for their household expenses (3.73). Their outcome from the work is beneficial for improving the environment (3.22). Their investment is above the average level (3.21). A part of their income is utilized for purchasing garments and ready-made dresses (3.01). A small part of their income is used for purchasing durable asset (2.75).

Table-5.One-way analysis is used for testing the significant difference among mean rank of religion with regard to factors of consumption.

Religion	Mean Rank	Chi-square	P-value
Hindu	50.36		
Muslim	52.86	.054	.973
Christian	49.33		

Source: Primary data

Since P value (.973) is in between 0.051 to 1.000, hence accept the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance, that there is no significance difference among mean rank of religion with regard to consumption factors. Based on mean rank Muslim religion have give more importance for consumption.

Table-6,Test whether there is **significant difference between consumption factors and economic factors-**

Rank	No. of Cases	Mean Rank	Z-Value	P-Value
Negative Rank	99[a]	50		
Positive Rank	0[b]	0	-8.664[a]	<0.001
Ties	1[c]	-		

Source: Primary data
Note: a. Negative Rank- Consumption Factors < Economic Factors
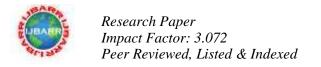b. Positive Rank- Consumption Factors > Economic Factors
C. Ties- Consumption Factors = Economic Factors

Since P-value is less than 0.001, reject the null hypothesis at 1% level of significance; conclude that there is significant difference between economic factors and consumption factors. Based on the mean rank consumption factors are higher than economic.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY
1. One-way analysis is used for testing the significant difference among mean rank of religion with regard factors to consumption. Since P value (.973) is in between 0.051 to 1.000, hence accept the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance, that there is no significance difference among mean rank of religion with regard to consumption factors. Based on mean rank Muslim religion have give more importance for consumption.
2. To Test whether there is significant difference between consumption factors and economic factors, since P-value is less than 0.001, reject the null hypothesis at 1% level of significance; conclude that there is significant difference between economic factors and consumption factors. Based on the mean rank consumption factors are higher than economic factors.
3. The study investigates the consumption factors. Majority of the workers are agreed that the income from their work is utilized for their household expenses (3.73). Their outcome from the work is beneficial for improving the environment (3.22). Their investment is above the average level (3.21). A part of their income is utilized for

purchasing garments and ready-made dresses (3.01). A small part of their income is used for purchasing durable asset (2.75).

4. While testing the significance difference between Category level and Impact of MGNEG Scheme, since P value .189 is in between 0.051 to 1.000, hence accept the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance, that there is no significant difference between mean rank of APL and BPL with regard to impact of MGNREG scheme. Based on mean rank (56.59), APL category of workers has better performance than BPL group.

5. From the study, it is clear that the factors which are affecting the economic condition of MGNREG workers. The attribute of Job performance level of workers is above the average level, the mean score is 3.59, followed by the scheme helped to create optimistic attitude among its beneficiaries (3.52), and it improved the communication skill of workers (3.44), increase income of its beneficiaries (3.43) and increase in decision making power.

CONCLUSION

With the formatting MGNREGP the rural people exercised a vast change in their socio economic status, their buying behavior, life – style etc. The present study has been proposed to identify the full picture about the life satisfaction of MGNREGP workers in Kerala and to analyse the impact of MGNREGP on rural people. The MGNREGP has a women's' Component to ensure the flow of adequate fund to this section. So, this study aims at understanding the impact of MGNREGP on life satisfaction of women workers who are currently working under this programme.

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