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To study the Socio-economic status and opinion of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) beneficiaries in district Lucknow (U.P.)

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ABSTRACT
The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 having received the assent of the President on 5th September, 2005, was published in the gazette of India on 7th September 2005. The act guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The findings reveal that the majority of the beneficiaries belonged to the adult age group, scheduled caste illiterate ,maximum respondents having age 25 to 50 years, kucccha houses and single family medium size family and belonged to the labour category. The findings also reveal that all the beneficiaries gave their opinion in favour of increasing rural development and enhance livelihood security in the rural area. Majority of respondents received the minimum wages obtained on weekly basis.
Keywords: *Age, education, opinion, unskillled manual work.*

INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 having received the assent of the President on 5th September, 2005, was published in the gazette of India on 7th September 2005. The act guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The basic objective of the act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas along with other objective like generating Productive assets, production of environment, empowering rural women reducing rural. Urban migration and fostering social equity among others. The act is an important step towards the realization of the right to work NREGA is said to be an enactment of the people by the people and for the people.

As there are hardly few studies conducted over the working of MNREGA and more so in districts Lucknow this study will be an important addition in this direction. The investigation is based on the following objective:

To study the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.

To study the opinions of the beneficiaries about MNREGA

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Random sampling technique was used for selection of beneficiaries which has been described into the following heads. The study was conducted is district Lucknow in the state of U.P. The selection of this district was done purposively as it was easily approachable by the researcher and well known to the language of the people of the area which helped during the collection of data. Hence a two development blocks B.K.T. and Chinhat selected purposively. The selection of beneficiaries was done on the random basis. There are, 100 beneficiaries were selected to study the effects of MNREGA on socio-economic condition of the village. The schedule was prepared finally tested so as to know how for they would be helpful is collecting accurate unbiased, adequate and relevant informations. The study was conducted by survey method, collection of informations from the selected villages were gathered with the help of personal interview method. The selected beneficiaries were asked about the MNREGA & their utilizations.

In order to obtain information's the investigator visited the villages frequently and collected information after contacting either at home or at the field. The investigator made several queries to get actual impact of the project. The data collected through personal interview method were classified, tabulated and analysed in the light of objectives of the study. The beneficiaries were accurately interpreted and results was drawn out scientifically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Socio-economic status of the respondents
MNREGA mainly focused on the upliftment of rural people emphasizing weaker section of the community. To study about socio-economic status of the following aspects were included age, caste, educational level, dwelling pattern, type of family, size of family, occupation, social participation and total annual income of the beneficiaries.
Age groups of beneficiaries
Age is directly correlated with the innovativeness of the beneficiaries. Younger age group is always looking conscious about the surroundings and plays significant role is the constructive work of the country. Information has been collected and the results have been discussed under following table.

Table 1: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their age

S.No.	Particulars	Number on beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Upto 25 years	18	18.00
2.	25 – 50 years	72	70.00
3.	Above 50 years	10	10.00
	Total	100	100.0

The above table reveals that majority 72 (72.00%) beneficiaries fell under the category of adult age group (25 to 50 years) followed by 18 (18.00%) beneficiaries belonged to the young age group i.e. of 25 years, and only 10(10.00%) beneficiaries belong to above 50 years of age group.
Caste group of the beneficiaries
MNREGA emphasized to uplift the weaker section of rural communities eg., Backward caste's and schedule castes and scheduled tribes there was no schedule tribes on the area under study thus the caste wise analysis of the beneficiaries under different categories was done and findings have been presented in the following table.

Table 2: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their caste group

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
A	Back ward caste	43	43
B	Scheduled castes	57	57
A	Backwafd castes		
	Maurya	4	4
	Aheer	8	8
	Verma	7	7
	Gadaria(pal)	4	4
	Gupta	20	20
B	Schedule castes		
	Pasi	30	30
	Chamar	13	13
	Dhobi	6	6
	Kori	8	8
	Total	**100**	**100**

The above table that majority of beneficiaries i.e. 57(57%) belonged to scheduled castes and remaining 43(43%) beneficiaries belonged to backward castes. Among scheduled castes 30(30%) beneficiaries belonged to the sub caste Chamar followed 13(13%) pasi, 30(30%) kori 8(8%) and 6(6%) Dhobi other hand. Gupta 20(20%) the sub-cast of backward class were more fallowed by maurya 4(4%), Gadaria 4(4%) Aheer 8(8%). It may concluded that the majority of scheduled castes were having more involvement in comparison to backward castes and general castes the under MNREGA and none of the other castes received benefits from the scheme.
Educational level of the beneficiaries
Education increase awareness about the environment and brings change in the direction of development of an individual, society and ultimately the nation. To get the opinion of any programme, it is essential to know the educational level of the society in which the programme aimed to contribute on the elevation of

socio-economic status of poverty striken population of the village thus. The level of educational of the beneficiaries was studied and results have been presented in the following table.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondent on the basis of their education

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	52	52
2.	Can sign only	15	15
3.	Primary school	12	12
4.	Junior high school	10	10
5.	high school	7	7
6.	Intermediate & Above	4	4
	Total	100	100.0

The data reveal that maximum 52(52%) beneficiaries were sign illiterate followed by "can sign only". Primary school level, 12(12%) Junior high school leval 10(10%) High school 7(7%) Intermediate & above 4(4%).

Thus, it is apparent from the findings that out of the total beneficiaries, majority were illiterate or can sign only. This shows low literacy level, restricting the utilization of the benefits of programme.

Dwelling pattern of the beneficiaries

The structure of house and material used in building the house draw a clear picture of economic status of the beneficiaries. Hence information regarding type of house of the beneficiaries was also collected. The findings have been given in the followed table

Table 4: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their house

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Mixed house	60	60.00
2.	Pucca house	10	10.00
3.	Kuchcha house	30	30.00
	Total	**100**	**100.0**

The data contained in Table 1.4 indicate that out of 100 beneficiaries, 60(60.0%) beneficiaries, had Mixed house followed by 30(30%) beneficiaries having their Kuchcha house and remaining 10(10%) beneficiaries had pukka house.

Thus, it is clear from the above table that maximum beneficiaries that their house eithermixed and kuccha house show their low economic status.

Type of family of the beneficiaries

An attempt has been made to study family pattern of the beneficiaries the results have been presented in the following table.

Table 5: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their family type

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Single family	70	70.00
2.	Joint family	30	30.00
	Total	**100**	**100.00**

It is inferred from above table that 70(70 %) beneficiaries belonged to Single-family system while remaining 30(30%)beneficiaries were living in Joint family system.

Thus, it may be concluded hat joint family system still exists in the district Lucknow. But the process of disintegration has started.

Size of family of the beneficiaries

The size of family plays an important role in decision making process in beneficiaries to the adoption of innovation size of the family of the beneficiaries was also chosen as variable. The results drawn have been discussed as under table:

Table 6: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their size of family

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Up to 5 member	30	30.0
2.	6 to 8 member	48	48.0
3.	Above 8 member	22	22.0
	Total	**100**	**100.0**

It is obvious form table that maximum 48(48%)had 6 to 8 members in their family, whereas 22(22%)beneficiaries were having above 8 members and only 30(30%) beneficiaries were having above 5 members in a family.

Thus, it can be concluded that maximum respondent were having 6to 8 members in a family.

Occupation of the beneficiaries

Occupation is directly associated with the economic status of a person. An attempt has been made to study the main occupation of the beneficiaries under study. The findings are given as under the following table:

Table 7: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their occupation

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Agriculture + Dairying	32	32.0
2.	Agriculture laborers	43	43.0
3.	Non-agriculture laborers	25	25.0
	Total	**100**	**100.0**

It is evident from above table the maximum beneficiaries i.e. 43(43%) were engaged in agriculture labor while 32(32%) agriculture + dairying and 25(25%) engaged in non-agricultural labours.

It may be concluded that maximum of the beneficiaries fell in the category of labour groups. They preferred agricultural labour as their main source of income. Least 25(25%) proportion of beneficiaries kept themselves apart from labour groups.

Social participation of the beneficiaries

As social participations plays a key role in information dissemination, decision-making and deriving benefits from the various schemes. Analysis regarding this has been depicted in the following table:

Table 8: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their social participation

S.No.	Particulars	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	Non-member ship	58	58.0
2.	Membership of one organization	30	30.0
3.	Membership of more than one organization	12	12.0
	Total	**100**	**100.0**

It is obvious from the above table that out of 100 beneficiaries 58 (58%) beneficiaries were not the member of any organization while 30 (30%) beneficiaries were the member of one organization and only 12 (12%) beneficiaries had the membership of more than one organization.

Thus, it can be concluded that maximum beneficiaries were not having the membership of any social organization.

Total annual income of the beneficiaries

To know the annual income of the beneficiaries. The data were gathered and the findings are given in the following table:

Table 9: Distribution of the beneficiaries on the basis of their annual income

S.No.	Particulars (income in Rs/annum)	Category	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
1.	UptoRs. 8000 per annum	Lower	10	10.0
2.	Rs. 8000 to 12000	Medium	53	53.0
3.	Rs. 12000 to 16000	High medium	27	27.0
4.	Above of 16000	High	10	10.0
	Total		**100**	**100.0**

It is evident from above data in the table that 53 (53%) beneficiaries had their income (Rs. 8000 to 12000 per annum), followed by 27 (27%) high-medium income groups (Rs. 12000 to 16000). Least number of beneficiaries i.e. 10 (10%) were found under higher income groups (above Rs. 16000) and some number of beneficiaries belongs to lower income groups (upto Rs. 8000 per annum)

Thus, it may be concluded that most of the beneficiaries fell under the category of low medium income groups which indicated their poor socio-economic status in the village, inspite of the fact that the MNREGA and provided employment opportunities to enhance their income. The socio economic status results of the study are in line with the findings given by [5, 6, 3, 8].

Opinion of the beneficiaries regarding role of MNREGA

Table 10: To measure the opinion of beneficiaries about MNREGA

S.No.	Statement	Symbol	Total score	Mean	Rank
1.	MNREGA is the enhancement of livelihood security in the rural area	A	265	2.65	II

2.	MNREGA is the helpful for to improve the socio-economic status of the respondent	B	255	2.55	V
3.	MNREGA resource full employment (100 days in a year)	C	253	2.53	VI
4.	100 days employment scheme can solve the problem farmer	D	222	2.22	XI
5.	MNREGA is a good program for rural development	E	275	2.75	I
6.	The wages under MNREGA is use	F	260	2.60	III
7.	The work assigned by MNREGA to you is appropriate for your health	G	220	2.20	XII
8.	It provide enough wages to the worker	H	245	2.45	VIII
9.	This program solve the rural unemployment	I	225	2.25	X
10.	Are you satisfy with	J	252	2.52	VII
11.	The age limit under MNREGA	K	258	2.58	IV
12.	Mode of payment is satisfactory	L	230	2.30	IX
13.	The prescribed facility under MNREGA are provide by Gram panchayat	M	200	2.00	XIII

The opinion about the uses of MNREGA were collected, analyzed and interpreted the results have been given in table 2.1 finding of table reveals that the various opinion statements of selected beneficiaries regarding, the table further showed that opinion about "E" took place in the first position in rank order having mean score of 2.75 second position occupied by opinion "A" having mean score 2.65 third position occupied by opinion "F" having mean score 2.60. The lowest position "M" having mean 2.00 IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII occupied by K B C J H L I D G respectively the average mean is 2.43. Thus at confided that maximum beneficiaries gave the positive opinion about MNREGA. The similar opinion are line with [1, 3, 7]**.**

CONCLUSION
It can be concluded that majority of respondent belong to about age group, different sub castes of scheduled caste and backward caste and had high level of illiteracy, having mixed house, joint family with 6 to 8 member, agriculture labour groups and medium income groups. Most of them were not the member of any organization due to poor and uneducated of beneficiaries. Out of 100 beneficiaries that majority of beneficent opinion about the MNREGA is a good programme for rural development, enhancement of livelihood security in the rural area, provide mode of payment is satisfactory, solving the rural unemployment alleviation of rural poverty, providing the rural connectivity and water conservation facility.

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