

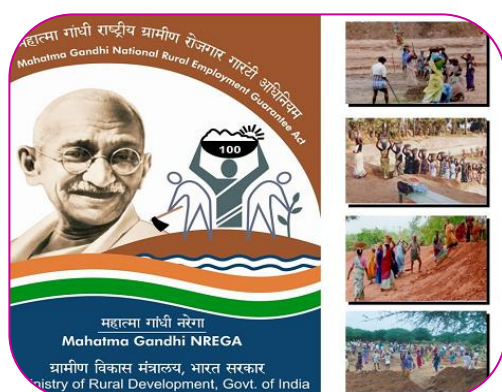


ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631(UIF)

UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514

VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 8 | MAY - 2019



LIVELIHOOD STATUS OF THE SAMPLE BENEFICIARIES OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT: EMERGING ISSUES AND EVIDENCES

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ABSTRACT:

Livelihood of the individual and social is a product of natural, social and economic environment and it is defined as an adequate stock and flow of food and cash to meet basic needs. Three out of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas, and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Livelihood status shows an individual living standard. Against this background the present study has been carried out. In the present study an attempt has been made to assess the

significance of selected socio-economic variables and to suggest measures for the improvement of livelihood status of the rural households in general and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme beneficiaries in particular. This study is mainly based on primary data which were collected by canvassing the structured interview schedules among the rural households being the beneficiaries of MGNREGA in three taluks of Davanagere District namely, Harihar, Davanagere & Jagalur. Simple statistical tools and techniques like averages, ratios, percentages, were employed for analysis of data. The results were presented through bar diagrams, wherever appropriate. The main findings indicate that of the total sample MGNREGA beneficiaries a significant proportion of are Hindus, followed by Muslims and the Others. The significant sample MGNREGA beneficiaries were in middle age category. Out of 240 sample beneficiaries a majority of 44.58 per cent beneficiaries are illiterates. It is found that the possession of land by the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries is very small that is not economically viable to support their household. A majority of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries had lowest household annual income. Finally the study suggested that the self employment training and subsidy cum low interest loans should be provided by the government to the poor rural household. Community latrine should be constructed by the local government. The marginal cultivated land should be sanctioned to landless rural poor households by the government under poverty alleviation schemes. The minimum wages prescribed and also paid under MGNREGA need to be revised upward.

KEYWORDS: MGNREGA, Sample Beneficiaries, Religion, Social Groups, Marital Status, Educational Status, Housing Ownership, Housing Condition, Sanitation Facility, Household Assets, Agricultural Assets, Land Ownership, Household Annual Income.

1. INTRODUCTION

A livelihood is the material means whereby one lives. Livelihood generation refers to the bundle of activities that people undertake to provide for their basic needs. For the results or outcomes of those

activities the term livelihood is used. Livelihood as a concept for research and development thus includes what people do and what they achieve by doing it. Chambers defines livelihood as "adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic

needs". These flows or supplies of food and cash are not just there. They have to be brought about through the process of livelihood generation, which is comprised of activities and the resources and assets needed to carry out these activities. We also assume that these activities are interrelated and affect each other, because they are all geared towards the objective of securing and enhancing livelihood. Therefore, livelihood generation will display the workings of a multifaceted and dynamic system, which we call the livelihood system.

Livelihood of the individual and social is a product of natural, social and economic environment and it is defined as an adequate stock and flow of food and cash to meet basic needs. Chamber's definition of livelihood states that " a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living : a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short run". In rural India, agriculture is the predominant means of livelihood and serves as the only means for effective and relevant poverty reduction.

Three out of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas, and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Livelihood resources can be understood as the 'capital base', from which different productive streams are desired and constructed therefore livelihood is also disaggregated into a series of indicators. These indicators are identified based to on an understanding that ability to pursue different livelihood strategies is dependent on the basic economic, social, tangible and in tangible assets that people have in their possession. Drawing on an economic metaphor, such livelihood resources may be seen as the 'capital base from which different productive streams are derived from which livelihood are constructed'. The capital base is further disaggregated into natural capital, financial capital, physical capital, human capital and social capital. When the livelihoods are constructed and operationalised from these 'capital bases' the strategies are strained by risks and render the humans vulnerable. The five types of capital, the livelihoods that flow out of these capitals and the coping mechanism due to risks and threats are all mediated by the policy and institutional environment. This environment could influence the operationalisation of particular livelihood strategy in multiple ways.

Against this background the present study has been undertaken. General information collected from the 240 selected sample beneficiaries of MGNREGA has provided a good insight into their social and economic status and also the standard of living. The socio-economic conditions such as region, gender, religion, caste, age, marital status, educational status, family structure, housing conditions, access to electricity, access to drinking water facility, access sanitation facility, access to PDS card, household asset position, value of household assets, land ownership, earning members of the family, monthly earnings, household annual income, have been made a significant influence on livelihood status of the rural households. Therefore, in the present study an attempt has been made to assess the significance of selected variables.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

- To study the social status of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act beneficiaries in Davanagere District of Karnataka;
- To study the economic conditions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act beneficiaries in Davanagere District of Karnataka; and
- To suggest measures for the improvement of livelihood status of the rural households in general and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act beneficiaries in particular.

3. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study is mainly based on primary data. The primary data were collected by canvassing the structured interview schedules among the rural households being the beneficiaries of MGNREGA in

three taluks of Davanagere District namely, Harihar, Davanagere & Jagalur. A structured interview schedule was canvassed to elicit the information relating to the identification details such as name of the beneficiary, religion, caste, household economic status and basic details such as housing condition, landholdings, livelihood strategies and income and household asset position, expenditure and household savings details were elicited from the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries.

Multi stage stratified random sampling technique was adopted for collection of the primary data. Davanagere district is selected for the purpose of present study. From Davanagere district three taluks one developed (Harihar), one moderately developed (Davanagere) and one backward (Jagalur) were selected on the basis of selected economic indicators. One advanced gram panchayath and one backward gram panchayath from each taluka viz. Salakatte (advanced) and Kunabelekeri (backward) from Harihar; Igooru (advanced) and Hunnur (backward) from Davanagere and Hanumanthpura (advanced) and Kenchhanahalli (backward) from Jagalur were chosen on the basis physical and financial progress of MGNREGA. From each selected gram panchayath 40 beneficiaries were randomly selected among all the social groups. The total sample size of the study was 240 beneficiaries. Simple statistical tools and techniques like averages, ratios, percentages, were employed for analysis of data. The results were presented through bar diagrams, wherever appropriate.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section an attempt has been made to analyze the livelihood status of the sample beneficiaries of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

4.1. Religion of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 1 provides the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by religion in selected taluks. The data indicates that of the total sample beneficiaries a significant proportion of 68.75 per cent are Hindus, followed by Muslims (26.67 per cent) and the Others (4.58 per cent). Across taluks the share of sample beneficiaries belonging to Hindu religion was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (73.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere (67.50 percent) & Jagalur taluks (65 per cent). Whereas the share of sample beneficiaries belonging to Muslim and Others religions was found to be higher in Jagalur (both together of 28 per cent) and Davanagere taluks (both together of 26 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar taluk (both together of 21 per cent). This implies that the proportion of sample beneficiaries is higher in Hindu religion than that of in Muslim and other religions (Figure 1).

Table 1
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Religion

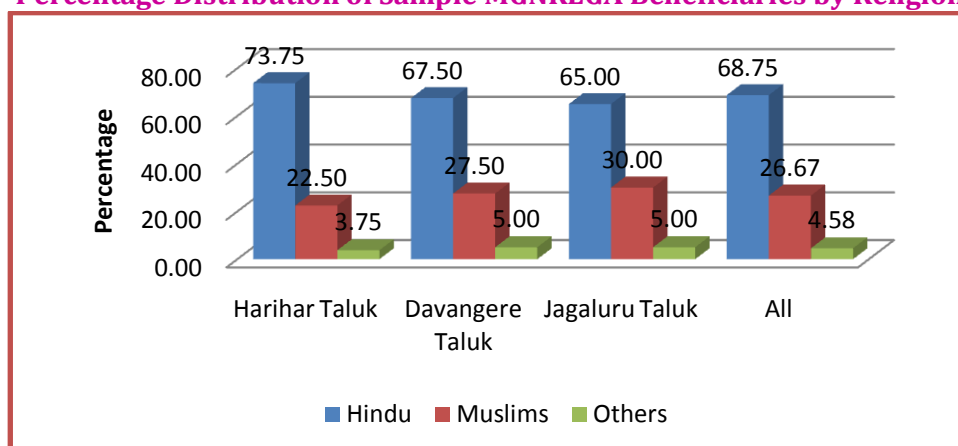
| Religion | Harihar Taluk | Davangere Taluk | Jagaluru Taluk | All |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Hindu | 73.75 | 67.50 | 65.00 | 68.75 |
| Muslims | 22.50 | 27.50 | 30.00 | 26.67 |
| Others* | 3.75 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.58 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: * Includes Christians and Jains.

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

Figure 1
Percentage Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Religion



Source: Table 1.

4.2. Social Groups of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 2 presents the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by social groups in selected taluks. The data shows that at the aggregate level the equal proportions of 25 percent beneficiaries were found among all the social groups. It is because in the present study from each gram panchayath 40 beneficiary households, of which 10 from SCs, 10 from STs, 10 from OBCs and 10 from Others were selected with a view to ensuring equal representation all the community. Across taluks a similar trend by and large was observed.

Table 2
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries Households by Social Groups

| Caste | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|--------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| SCs | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| STs | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| OBCs | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Others | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

4.3 Gender Composition of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 3 depicts the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by gender in selected taluks. The data indicates that at the aggregate level of the total sample beneficiaries a majority of 216 accounting for 90 per cent of households are males, whereas the minimum of 24, accounting for 10 per cent are females. Going by taluks the proportion of male beneficiaries was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (95 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks. Whereas the proportion of female beneficiaries was found to be significant in Jagalur taluk (13.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar and Davanagere taluks (Figure 2).

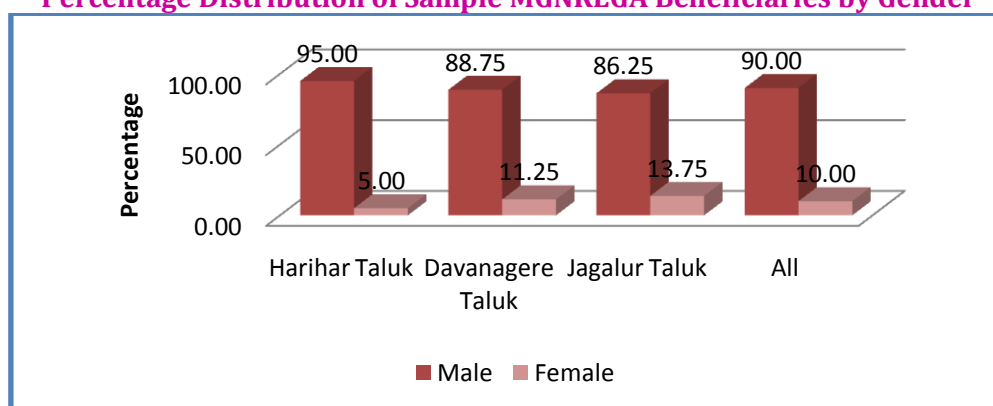
Table 3
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Gender

| Gender | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|--------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Male | 95.00 | 88.75 | 86.25 | 90.00 |
| Female | 5.00 | 11.25 | 13.75 | 10.00 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

Figure 2
Percentage Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Gender



Source: Table 3.

4.4. Age of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Age is an important determinant factor of work participation rate in an economic activity of an individual in society. Table 4 provides the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by age- groups in selected taluks. The data reveals that at the aggregate level the majority of 59.58 per cent sample beneficiaries were in middle age category, while of 21.25 per cent were in old age category and 19.17 per cent were young farmers. Across taluks, it has been observed that the share of middle age farmers is higher in Harihar taluk (68.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks. Whereas the share of young and old age farmers (both together at 50 per cent) is higher in Jagalur taluk as compared to that of in Harihar and Davanagere taluks.

Table 4
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Age- groups

| Age -groups | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 18-30 | 15.00 | 18.75 | 23.75 | 19.17 |
| 31-50 | 68.75 | 60.00 | 50.00 | 59.58 |
| 51 & above | 16.25 | 21.25 | 26.25 | 21.25 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source: Primary Survey

4.5. Marital Status of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Marriage is also one of the important determinants of the individual's status in society. Table 5 provides the data on distribution of sample beneficiaries by marital status in selected taluks. The data shows that out of 240 sample MGNREGA beneficiaries the largest proportions of 76.25 per cent are married. Whereas, the 6.67 per cent sample beneficiaries are unmarried. However, among the married beneficiaries, 13.33 per cent, and 3.75 per cent are widowed and separated, respectively. Going by taluks, It has been found that the share of married (78.75 per cent) and separated (5 per cent) sample beneficiaries is higher in Davanagere taluk than that of in Harihar and Jagalur taluks. Whereas the unmarried sample beneficiaries are higher in Harihar taluk and Jagalur taluks as compared to that of in Davanagere. While the proportion of beneficiaries who are widowed was found to be higher in Jagalur taluk(15 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar and Davanagere taluks .

Table 5
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries Households by Marital Status

| Marital Status | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Married | 76.25 | 78.75 | 73.75 | 76.25 |
| Un-Married | 7.50 | 5.00 | 7.50 | 6.67 |
| Widowed | 13.75 | 11.25 | 15.00 | 13.33 |
| Separated | 2.50 | 5.00 | 3.75 | 3.75 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source: Primary Survey

4.6. Type of Family Organization

The family structure whether it is nuclear or joint is also another important factor which has influenced on the people living standards. Table 6 presents the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by family type in selected taluks. The data indicates that at the aggregate level, out of 240 sample beneficiaries a significant of 76.25 per cent were found to be having nuclear family and the rest i.e. 57 accounting for 23.75 per cent were having joint family. Across taluks, the proportion of beneficiaries who were having nuclear family was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (80 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks , whereas the proportion of Beneficiaries who having joint family was found to be higher in Jagalur taluk (27.50 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar and Davanagere taluks.

Table 6
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries Households by Family Type

| Family type | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Nuclear | 80.00 | 76.25 | 72.50 | 76.25 |
| Joint | 20.00 | 23.75 | 27.50 | 23.75 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

4.7. Educational Status of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 7 presents the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by level of education in selected taluks. The data reveals that out of 240 sample beneficiaries a majority of 44.58 per cent beneficiaries are illiterates, whereas the rest of 55.42 per cent beneficiaries are literates. Among the literate sample beneficiaries, the highest proportion of 70.68 per cent beneficiaries had primary level of education. While of 21.05 per cent beneficiaries had secondary level of education. Further, about 8.27 per cent beneficiaries had higher secondary level of education. Similarly a minimum of 8 per cent beneficiaries had graduation and above level of education.

Taluk wise analysis indicates that the proportion of sample beneficiaries who were illiterate was found to be significant in Jagalur taluk (76.32 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar taluk (65.38 per cent) and Davanagere taluk (72.09 per cent). Whereas among the literate beneficiaries the proportion of beneficiaries who had primary, secondary, higher secondary and above level of education was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (all together of 65 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk (all together of 53.75 per cent) & Jagalur taluk (all together of 47.50 per cent). This implies that, due to better educational amenities and environment the level of education is higher in Harihar taluk than that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks.

Table 7
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Level of Education

| Level of Education | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Illiterates | 35.00 | 46.25 | 52.50 | 44.58 |
| Literates | 65.00 | 53.75 | 47.50 | 55.42 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |
| Literates | | | | |
| Primary | 65.38 | 72.09 | 76.32 | 70.68 |
| Secondary | 23.08 | 20.93 | 18.42 | 21.05 |
| Higher secondary & above | 11.54 | 6.98 | 5.26 | 8.27 |
| Total | 100.00 (52) | 100.00 (43) | 100.00 (38) | 100.00 (133) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

4.8. Housing Ownership of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Housing ownership has been categorized into three types. Viz., Own Govt. provided rented house. An effort has been made in this section to find out the housing ownership of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries. Table 5.8 provides data on distribution of sample beneficiaries by housing ownership. The data indicates that at the aggregate level a great majority of the sample beneficiaries lived in owned houses, followed by government provided and rented houses, accounting for 81.25 percent, 14.58 percent and 4.17 percent respectively. Across taluks the proportion of sample beneficiaries living in owned houses was found to be quite higher in Harihar taluk (83.75 percent) as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluk. This implicitly shows that a considerable number of sample beneficiaries (4.17 percent) in the study area are not able to have the owned houses, due to lack of income.

Table 8
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Housing Ownership

| Particular | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Own | 83.75 | 81.25 | 78.75 | 81.25 |
| Govt. Provided | 10.00 | 15.00 | 18.75 | 14.58 |
| Rented | 6.25 | 3.75 | 2.50 | 4.17 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

4.9. Housing Condition of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 9 provides the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by housing conditions in selected taluks. The data shows that at the aggregate level out of 240 samples beneficiaries majorities of 50 per cent were staying in Semi-pucca houses. Similarly, a large proportion of 29.17 per cent were staying in Pucca houses. Whereas a minimum of 11.67 per cent were staying in RCC houses. Further, a noticeable proportion of 9.17 per cent were staying in Katcha houses. Across taluks the share of sample beneficiaries who are staying in Katcha, and Semi- pucca houses was found to be higher in Jagalur taluk (all together accounting for 70 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk (all together accounting for 58.75 per cent) and Harihar taluk (all together accounting for 48.75 per cent). Whereas the share of sample beneficiaries who are staying in Pucc and RCC houses was found to be significant in Harihar taluk (51.25 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks(Figure 3).

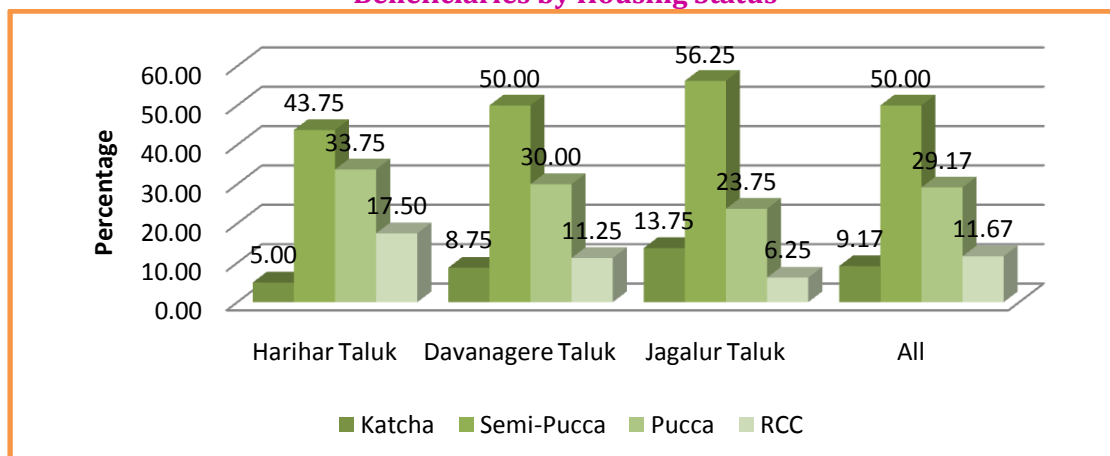
Table 9
Distribution of Housing Condition of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Housing Status

| Housing status | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Katcha | 5.00 | 8.75 | 13.75 | 9.17 |
| Semi-Pucca | 43.75 | 50.00 | 56.25 | 50.00 |
| Pucca | 33.75 | 30.00 | 23.75 | 29.17 |
| RCC | 17.50 | 11.25 | 6.25 | 11.67 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.

Source : Primary Survey

Figure 3
Percentage Distribution of Housing Condition of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Housing Status



Source: Table 9.

4.10. Access to Sanitation Facility

Sanitation facility is an important component, which highly influences the health status of the people. Table 10 provides the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by sanitation facility in selected taluks. The tabulated data reveals that at the aggregate level, of the total sample, a higher proportion of 67.08 per cent sample beneficiaries have individual toilet, while smaller proportion of 5 per cent sample beneficiaries have access to community latrines. However, a 27.92 per cent sample beneficiaries invariably goes far open defecation in the country side. Across taluks, the proportion of sample beneficiaries with individual toilet was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (78.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere (67.50 per cent) & Jagalur (55 per cent) taluks. Similarly the proportion of sample beneficiaries who access to community latrine was found to be higher in Jagalur taluk (8.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar and Davanagere taluks. Whereas the proportion of sample beneficiaries who goes for open defecation was also found to be higher in Jagalur taluk (36.25 per cent) as compared to that of in Harihar & Davanagere taluk.

Table 10
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Sanitation Facility

| Sanitation Facilities | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Individual toilet | 78.75 | 67.5 | 55 | 67.08 |
| Community latrine | 0 | 6.25 | 8.75 | 5 |
| Open defecation | 21.25 | 26.25 | 36.25 | 27.92 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.
 Source : Primary Survey

4.11. Value of Household Assets of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 11 presents the estimated value of household assets held by the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries. The data reveals that at the aggregate level the proportion of estimated value of all the household assets was at Rs. 15666416. Going by taluks the proportion of the estimated value of household assets held by the sample beneficiaries was found to be higher in Harihar taluk as compared to that of in Davanagere & Jagalur taluks. The value of household assets held by the sample beneficiaries was estimated at current prices for Rs. 5628672, Rs. 5165864 and Rs. 4871880 in Harihar, Davanagere and Jagalur taluks, respectively. In other words the value of household assets held by the sample beneficiaries in Harihar taluk was 1.08 & 1.16 times higher as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks, respectively.

Table 11
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Value of Household Assets

| Household assets | Harihar Taluk | | Davanagere Taluk | | Jagalur Taluk | | All | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) |
| Table | 83.75 | 80640 | 81.25 | 77760 | 78.75 | 75840 | 81.25 | 234240 |
| Chair | 95.00 | 21280 | 92.50 | 20608 | 87.50 | 19712 | 91.67 | 61600 |
| Fan | 67.50 | 80400 | 55.00 | 66000 | 51.25 | 61200 | 57.92 | 207600 |
| Tailoring Machine | 17.50 | 32640 | 13.75 | 26880 | 11.25 | 21120 | 14.17 | 80640 |
| Gas | 86.25 | 369600 | 75.00 | 321200 | 67.50 | 303600 | 76.25 | 994400 |
| Radio | 62.50 | 25792 | 51.25 | 21216 | 42.50 | 17888 | 52.08 | 64896 |
| Two Wheeler Vehicle | 78.75 | 3855200 | 72.50 | 3513600 | 67.50 | 3269600 | 72.92 | 10638400 |
| T.V. | 96.25 | 806400 | 92.50 | 772800 | 91.25 | 764400 | 93.33 | 2343600 |
| Others | 97.50 | 356720 | 95.00 | 345800 | 92.50 | 338520 | 95.00 | 1041040 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 5628672 | 100.00 (80) | 5165864 | 100.00 (80) | 4871880 | 100.00 (240) | 15666416 |

Note: *N.H.: Number of Households; Others comprising mixer grinders, steel almera, steel and wooden cot; Total percent will not be tally to 100 because of multiple answers; Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data.; Source: Primary Survey

4.12. Value of Agricultural Assets of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 12 also provides the estimated value of agricultural assets held by the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries. Across taluks, the proportion of the estimated value of agricultural assets held by the sample beneficiaries was found to be higher in Harihar taluk as compared to that of in Davanagere & Jagalur taluks. The value of agricultural assets held by the sample beneficiaries was estimated at current prices for Rs. 4690350, Rs. 2769950 and Rs. 1915950 in Harihar, Davanagere and Jagalur taluks, respectively. In other words the value of agricultural assets held by the sample beneficiaries in Harihar taluk was 1.69 & 2.44 times higher as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks, respectively.

Table 12
Distribution of Sample Beneficiaries by Value of Agricultural Assets

| Agricultural assets | Harihar Taluk | | Davanagere Taluk | | Jagalur Taluk | | All | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) | N.H.* | Value (in Rs.) |
| Tractors | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Bullock carts | 80.95 | 578000 | 76.47 | 442000 | 83.33 | 340000 | 80.00 | 1360000 |
| IP Sets | 19.05 | 480000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 8.00 | 480000 |
| Wooden ploughs | 100.00 | 378000 | 100.00 | 306000 | 100.00 | 216000 | 100.00 | 900000 |
| Steel ploughs | 66.67 | 490000 | 58.82 | 350000 | 58.33 | 245000 | 62.00 | 1085000 |
| Harvesting machine | 9.52 | 500000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4.00 | 500000 |
| Power tiller | 76.19 | 480000 | 52.94 | 270000 | 50.00 | 180000 | 62.00 | 930000 |
| Sprayers | 90.48 | 42750 | 88.24 | 33750 | 91.67 | 24750 | 90.00 | 101250 |
| Chuff cutters | 100.00 | 96600 | 100.00 | 78200 | 100.00 | 55200 | 100.00 | 230000 |
| Seed fertilizer drillers | 95.24 | 700000 | 88.24 | 525000 | 75.00 | 315000 | 88.00 | 1540000 |
| Threshers | 100.00 | 945000 | 100.00 | 765000 | 100.00 | 540000 | 100.00 | 2250000 |
| Total | 100.00 (21) | 4690350 | 100.00 (17) | 2769950 | 100.00 (12) | 1915950 | 100.00 (50) | 9376250 |

Note: *N.H.: Number of Households; Total percent will not be tally to 100 because of multiple answers; Figures in parenthesis indicates actual data; Source: Primary Survey

4.13. Land Ownership of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Possession of cultivated land is one of the most important determinant factors for measuring the work participation rate in different economic activities. Hence an attempt has been made to collect the information about the land ownership of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries. Table 13 presents the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by size of land holdings in selected taluks. The data indicates that the proportion of sample beneficiaries who are landless was found to be quite significant (79.17 per cent) as compared to the sample beneficiaries with land (20.83 per cent). However, of the total 240 sample beneficiaries a minimum of 20.83 per cent sample beneficiaries have possessed land. Among them only 14.58 per cent sample beneficiaries possess land less than 2.5 acre. While smaller proportion of 6.25 per cent sample beneficiaries possess land between 2.5 to 5 acres. It is found that the possession of land by the sample beneficiaries is very small that is not economically viable to support their household.

Taluk wise tabulated data reveals that the proportion of sample beneficiaries with land less than 2.5 acres was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (17.50 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk (15 per cent) and Jagalur taluk (11.25 per cent). Similarly the proportion of sample beneficiaries with land between 2.5 to 5 acres was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (8.75 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk (6.25 per cent) and Jagalur taluk (3.25 per cent). Whereas the proportion of landless sample beneficiaries was found to be significant in Jagalur taluk (85 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk (78.75 per cent) and Harihar taluk (73.75 per cent). It is found

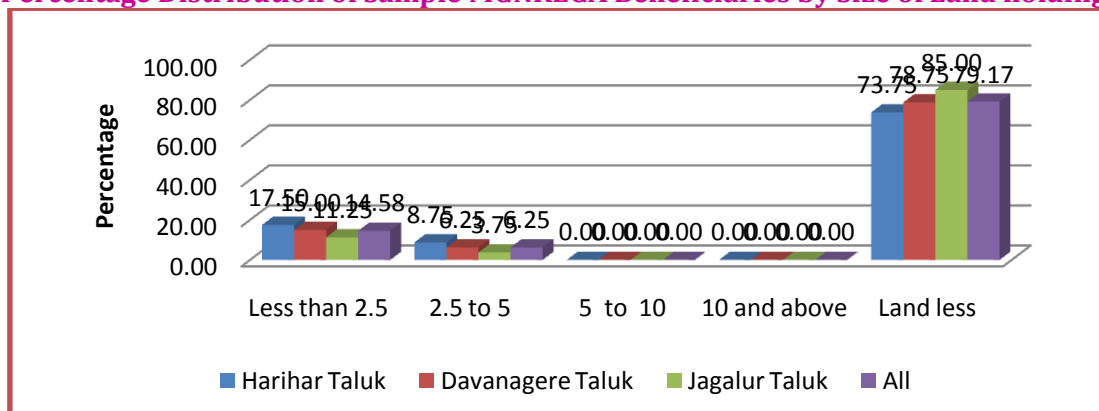
that, most of the sample beneficiaries, have low level of education and possession less cultivated land or they are landless and are involved in wage employment activities provided under MGNREGA for their survival and for livelihood (Figure 4).

Table 13
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Size of Land holdings

| Size of Land holdings (in Acres) | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Less than 2.5 | 17.50 | 15.00 | 11.25 | 14.58 |
| 2.5 to 5 | 8.75 | 6.25 | 3.75 | 6.25 |
| 5 to 10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 and above | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Land less | 73.75 | 78.75 | 85.00 | 79.17 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: The figures in parenthesis indicate actual data.
Source: Primary Survey

Figure 4
Percentage Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Size of Land holdings



Source: Table 13.

4.14. Household Annual Income of the Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries

Table 14 provides the data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by household annual income in selected taluks. The data shows that of the total 240 samples a majority of 39.58 per cent sample MGNREGA beneficiaries had an annual household income at Rs. 160001 & above. While a sizeable proportion of 31.25 per cent sample beneficiaries had an annual household income in the range between Rs. 110001 – Rs.160000. Similarly, a smaller proportion of 25 per cent sample beneficiaries had an annual household income in the range between Rs. 60001 –Rs. 110000. However, a minimum of 4.17 per cent sample beneficiaries had an annual household income less then Rs.60000. Across taluks the proportion of sample beneficiaries whose annual household income is less than Rs.60000 and 60001 to Rs. 110000 was found to be significant in Jagalur taluk (both together at 39.50 per cent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk(both together at 26.25 per cent) and Harihar taluk(both together at 21.25 per cent). Whereas the proportion of sample beneficiaries whose annual

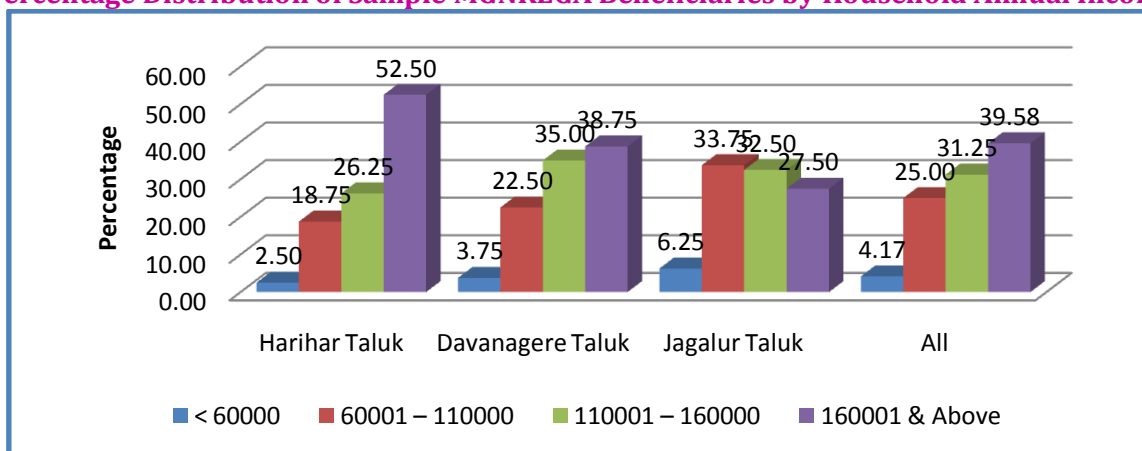
household income is in the range between Rs. 110001 to 160000 was found to be higher in Davanagere taluk (35 percent) as compared to that of in Jagalur taluk(32.50 percent) and Harihar taluk(26.25 percent). While the proportion of sample beneficiaries whose annual household income is Rs. 160001 & above was found to be higher in Harihar taluk (52.50 percent) as compared to that of in Davanagere taluk(38.75 percent) and Jagalur taluk(27.50 percent).This implies that the share of sample beneficiaries whose annual house hold income is in the highest income slabs was found to be quite significant in Harihar taluk as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks (Figure 5).

Table 14
Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Household Annual Income

| Household Annual Income (in Rs.) | Harihar Taluk | Davanagere Taluk | Jagalur Taluk | All |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| < 60000 | 2.50 | 3.75 | 6.25 | 4.17 |
| 60001 – 110000 | 18.75 | 22.50 | 33.75 | 25.00 |
| 110001 – 160000 | 26.25 | 35.00 | 32.50 | 31.25 |
| 160001 & Above | 52.50 | 38.75 | 27.50 | 39.58 |
| Total | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (80) | 100.00 (240) |

Note: The figures in parenthesis indicate actual data.
Source: Primary Survey

Figure 5
Percentage Distribution of Sample MGNREGA Beneficiaries by Household Annual Income



Source: Table 14.

5. CONCLUSION AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS

The comprehensive analysis on socio-economic profile of the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries clearly reveals that of the total sample beneficiaries a majority are Hindus, followed by Muslims and the Others .While the data on distribution of sample beneficiaries by social groups shows that a majority of sample beneficiaries belong to other backward classes. It has been found that the proportion of sample beneficiaries tended to increase with increasing age groups up to certain level i.e. from 18-30 to 31-50 years and thereafter decline. The data indicates that out of 240 samples the largest proportions of sample beneficiaries are married.

The data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by level of education indicates that a majority of sample beneficiaries are literates. Among the literate beneficiaries, the highest proportion of sample beneficiaries had only primary level of education. It has been observed that a significant proportion of sample beneficiaries were found to be having nuclear family. Across taluks, the proportion of sample beneficiaries who having nuclear family was found to be higher in Harihar taluk as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks.

The data on distribution of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries by housing conditions shows that a majority of sample beneficiaries were staying in semi-pucca houses. Similarly a higher proportion of sample beneficiaries have individual toilet while smaller proportion of sample beneficiaries have access to community latrines. The empirical data show that the household assets and agricultural assets position of the sample beneficiaries in Harihar taluk is better than that of the sample beneficiaries in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks.

The data shows that the proportion of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries who are landless was found to be quite significant as compared to the sample beneficiaries with land. The data shows that of the total 240 sample beneficiaries a majority of beneficiaries had an annual household income at Rs. 160001 & above. It has been also found that the share of sample beneficiaries whose annual household income is in the highest income slabs was found to be significant in Harihar taluk as compared to that of in Davanagere and Jagalur taluks.

Based on the above findings the following suggestions are offered for the improvement of livelihood status of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act beneficiaries. It has been found that of the total sample MGNREGA beneficiaries significant proportions are Hindus, therefore the self employment training and subsidy cum low interest loans should be provided by the government to the poor rural household who belongs to Hindu religion. The data reveals that a majority of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries are illiterates; hence there is a need to improve the literacy rate through establishing informal educational institution by the government.

The study implicitly shows that a considerable number of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries in the study area are not able to have the owned houses and majority of them are staying in katcha and semi-pucca houses, due to lack of income. Therefore pucca-houses should be sanctioned to those beneficiaries by the gram panchayaths under housing schemes. Similarly, one-fourth of the sample MGNREGA beneficiaries invariably go for open defecation in the country side. Consequently community latrine should be constructed by the local government.

It is also found that the proportion of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries who are landless was found to be quite significant, as a result the marginal cultivated land should be sanctioned to landless rural poor households by the government under poverty alleviation schemes. Finally the majority of sample MGNREGA beneficiaries had low household annual income, for that reason minimum wages prescribed and also paid under MGNREGA need to be revised upward.

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