

RESEARCH NOTE :

Development of scale to measure attitude of the beneficiaries towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Programme

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SUMMARY : The MNREGA is a right based scheme implemented by the government aiming to enhance livelihood security of rural people. It is a holistic programme encompassing employment opportunities, women empowerment and creation of durable assets for the community. It has mainly been enacted for checking distress migration of rural youth for search of job in city area during off season. Thus, the scheme is vital for uplifting poor people and rural youth through provision of employment. Hence, it becomes essential that it is properly availed. Here an effort was made to develop a scale which can measure attitude of beneficiaries towards MNREGA. Among the techniques available, 'scale product method' was chosen to develop the scale. The scale developed was found highly reliable as the coefficient of reliability calculated by the Rulon's formula was 0.79.

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KEY WORDS:

Beneficiaries attitude

Agricultural wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non- agricultural activities constitute the bulk of the rural poor. Small land holdings and their low productivity are the major causes of poverty among households dependent on land based activities for their livelihood. Poor educational base and lack of other vocational skills also perpetuate poverty. In such situation, the creation of employment opportunities for the unskilled force with food security has been an important objective of developmental planning in India, to fulfill which several rural

employment schemes were initiated; however, they suffered with many limitations.

The MNREGA was initiated with the objective of enhancing livelihood security in rural areas. It has mainly been enacted for checking distress migration of rural youth for search of job in city area during off season. Thus, the scheme is vital for uplifting poor people and rural youth through provision of employment. Hence, it becomes essential that it is properly availed. With this in view, an effort was made here to develop the scale which can measure the attitude of beneficiaries towards MNREGA.

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Among the techniques available, ‘scale product method’ was chosen which combines the Thurston’s techniques of equal appearing interval scale (1946) for selection of item and Likert’s technique of summated rating (1932) for ascertaining the response on the scale as proposed by Eysenck and Crown (1994).

Item collection :

Initially, large number of statements reflecting attitude of beneficiaries towards MNREGA were collected from relevant literature and constructed through discussion with experts and extension personnel. The statements thus, selected were edited on the basis of criteria shown by Edwards (1957) and at last, 12 statements for attitude of beneficiaries towards MNREGA were selected as they were found to be non-ambiguous.

Judge’s rating of attitudinal statements :

Seventy slips of these statements were distributed among 70 selected experts working in Department of Extension Education and Directorate of Extension Education of four Agricultural Universities of Gujarat as well as Extension Education Institute, Anand Agricultural University. The judges were asked to judge the degree of unfavourableness or favourableness of each statement for its inclusion in the final scale on the five point equal appearing interval continuum. Out of these experts, 50 experts returned the statement after duly recording their judgments and were considered for

the analysis.

Determination of scale values :

The scoring on five point rating scale was made by assigning score ranging from 1 (for strongly unfavourable) to 5 (for strongly favourable). Based on the judgment, the median value of the distribution for each of 27 statements was calculated by using following formula:

$$S = L + \frac{0.50 - \sum Pb}{Pw} \times i$$

where,

S = the median or scale value of the statement

L = Lower limit of the interval in which the median falls

P = the sum of the proportion below the interval in which the median falls.

Pw = the proportion within the interval in which the median falls

i = the width of the interval which is assumed to be equal to 1.0 (one).

The inter-quartile range ($Q = Q_3 - Q_1$) for each statement was also worked out for determination of ambiguity involved in the statement.

When there was a good agreement among the judges in judging the degree of unfavourableness or favourableness of a statement, Q value was observed smaller than the scale value, but when there was relatively little agreement among the judges, Q value was observed bigger than the scale value. Only those items were

Table 1 : Format of scale of MNREGA

Statement number	Statements	Scale value	Quartile value
1	MNREGA is effective in enhancing livelihood security in rural areas. (+)	1.39	1.06
2	MNREGA enhances the women empowerment in rural area. (+)	1.83	1.12
3	I feel that there is lack of proper coordination between the programme personnel and the beneficiaries. (-)	2.50	1.67
4	MNREGA increases purchasing power of beneficiaries. (+)	2.01	0.87
5	MNREGA is a boon for poor rural people. (+)	1.50	1.19
6	I feel that MNREGA is responsible for scarcity of agriculture labour. (-)	2.68	2.44
7	I think that mode of payment of wage in MNREGA is not proper. (-)	3.0	2.27
8	The execution of the MNREGA at grass root level is ineffective. (-)	2.40	1.97
9	There is no discrimination in paying wages to both men and women in MNREGA. (+)	2.11	1.33
10	MNREGA is better than other employment programmes. (+)	2.27	0.95
11	I feel that MNREGA increases corruption in rural area. (-)	2.34	1.74
12	MNREGA has failed in preventing migration of rural people. (-)	2.73	1.41

selected whose (median) scale values were greater than Q values. However, when a few items had the same scale values, items having lowest Q value were selected. Based on the scale (median) and Q values, 12 statements were finally selected to constitute the scale to measure attitude of beneficiaries towards MNREGA. The final format of scale is given in Table 1.

Reliability of the scale :

The reliability of this scale was measured by split-half method was used because of limited time and resources available to the researcher. The 12 statements were divided into two halves with 6 odd numbered in one half and 6 even-numbered statements in the other. These were administered to 20 respondents. Each of the two sets of statements was treated as a separate scale and then these two sub-scales were correlated. The co-efficient of reliability was calculated by the Rulon's formula (Guilford, 1954), which came to 0.79. Thus, the scale developed was found highly reliable.

Content validity of the scale :

The validity of the scale was examined for content validity by determining how well the content of the scale is representative of the domain subject matter under study. Since as many items covering the subject matter under study as possible were selected by discussion with the experts, reviewing the literature and strict adherence to the judges' ratings, it was assumed that the scale has

satisfactory content validity.

Conclusion :

The scale developed to measure attitude of rural youth towards agriculture as an occupation is reliable and valid, hence, it may be used in future studies with due modifications.

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