

### **Editor's Comment:**

My editorial decision is to publish as is with minor corrections.

Re: Editorial decision manuscript number 2024/SAJSSE/117604

South Asia Journal of Social Studies and Economics.

Title: Empowering Rural Voices: Unveiling the Dynamics of MGNREGA Beneficiaries through a Social Work Lens

My editorial decision is to publish as is with minor corrections.

I suggest revised title: "Understanding the Dynamics of MGNREGA Beneficiaries through Social Work Lens: Case Study Shivamogga City Karnataka State, India."

The article is an impressive research article. The article is well-written, most interesting and important. The authors' main conclusion make good common sense to me.

This provides a foundation for social work interventions that aim to improve the overall empowerment of the population while tailoring programs to address specific demographic and social factors. By implementing the proposed policy recommendations and focusing on equity and inclusivity, social work can contribute to enhancing the well-being and empowerment of the entire community.

1. Abstract. Good.

Utilizing data from 80 respondents in Shivamogga District, the study employs the Shapiro-Wilk test for normality, ANOVA for group differences, and Tukey's post-hoc test for specific comparisons. Key findings highlight significant improvements in communication skills, decision-making power,

leadership skills, and social empowerment among beneficiaries. Economic empowerment aspects, such as annual income and food consumption patterns, also showed positive outcomes. Psychological empowerment, encompassing attitudes towards the program, role perception, and desire for control, reflected a high level of empowerment.

2. Keywords: Good.

3. Introduction. Good.

The study employs a multifaceted methodology, including interviews, surveys, fieldwork, and data analysis, to unearth the untold stories of MGNREGA beneficiaries. By engaging with these narratives, we endeavour to

bring forth the human faces behind the policy figures, allowing their experiences to shape the direction of our research. "Empowering Rural Voices" is not just an examination of the dynamics of MGNREGA; it is a testament to the resilience, creativity, and agency of rural communities. Through a rigorous analysis of their experiences, we aim to provide insights that can be instrumental in shaping future policy decisions and interventions. In doing so, we strive to empower rural voices and amplify their agency, thereby fulfilling the true spirit of MGNREGA and, indeed, the promise of a more equitable, inclusive, and just India.

4. Methods and Methodology: Good.

The primary data was collected through structured Questionnaire Women Empowerment scale developed by Pallavi, G. and Shivalingegowda, N. S. 2021. Which is a five point likert scale. The reliability was 0.9289 wherein Split half method developed by Brown prophecy was employed. The data was subjected for statistical validity, which was found to be 0.9638. The data was collected from 80 respondents through interview. For analysing the data Descriptive and Inferential statistical test and SPSS 26.0 software was used.

5. Research Objectives: Good.

1. To Understand the Socioeconomic Dynamics of MGNREGA Beneficiaries.

6.

Hypothesis: Good.

7. Results and Discussion: Good.

8. Table 1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents. Good.

9. Table.no-2: SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT. Good.

10. Descriptive Analysis: Communication Skills, Decision Making Power, Leadership Skills, and Social Empowerment. Good.

This variance could stem from differences in educational background, prior

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work experience, or personal communication styles among the participants.

Identifying and understanding the factors contributing to this variability is crucial for designing targeted interventions to support those who may need additional assistance in improving their communication skills. It also highlights the importance of creating inclusive communication platforms

and training opportunities that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of all beneficiaries, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to enhance their communication abilities within the MGNREGA program.

The mean score for decision-making power (3.38) and its lower variability (SD = 0.466) suggests that while participants feel positively empowered in their decision-making abilities, there is still room for enhancement ((Chand et al., 2020; Khera & Nayak 2012; Pankaj & Tankha 2010; Pellissery & Jalan 2011; Xavier & Mari, 2014).

11. Table.no-3: Economic empowerment. Good.

12. Descriptive Analysis: Annual Income, Food Consumption Patterns, Access to Credit, and Economic Empowerment. Good.

Firstly, the mean scores (4.22) indicate a relatively high level of annual income and food consumption patterns (3.93) among the participants. This suggests that, on average, beneficiaries have sufficient income and access to food, which are vital components of economic well-being (Chand et al., 2020 ; Tagat, 2020). However, the SD (0.4) for these variables imply some variability in income and food consumption patterns (0.452) across the sample, indicating that while many beneficiaries fare well economically, others may face challenges in these areas (Breitkreuz et al. 2017).

13. Table.no- 4: PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT: Good.

14. Descriptive Analysis: Attitude toward Programme, Role Perception, Desire for Control, and Psychological Empowerment. Good.

Overall, the data suggests that participants generally hold positive attitudes towards the program, perceive their roles moderately positively, express a strong desire for control, and demonstrate a moderate to high level of psychological empowerment. However, there is variability in role perception, highlighting the need for further exploration and clarification of individual roles within the program.

15. Table No- 5 Shapiro-Wilk Normality Distribution. Good.

16. Table. No-6 One Way ANOVA Results. Good.

17. Table 6.1 : Tukey Post-Hoc Test - SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT. Good.

The hypothesis tests if social empowerment among the beneficiaries differs across different categories to which they belong. Participants were divided into SC/ST, OBC, General, and Minority. The ANOVA results shows that

the Social Empowerment scores among different categories of respondents

.do not differ significantly.

18. Table.No-7 One Way ANOVA Results. Good.

19. Table 7.1: Tukey Post-Hoc Test for Economic Empowerment. Good.

The hypothesis tests if Economic empowerment among the beneficiaries differs across different categories to which they belong. Participants were divided into SC/ST, OBC, General, and Minority. The ANOVA results shows that the Economic Empowerment scores among different categories of respondents do not differ significantly.

20. Table.No-8 One Way ANOVA Results. Good.

21. Tukey Post-Hoc Test - PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT. Good.

The One-Way ANOVA did not detect statistically significant differences in psychological empowerment scores among the four categories, despite the violation of the assumption of homogeneity of variances. This suggests that while the variances of psychological empowerment scores differ across categories, the means of psychological empowerment are not significantly different.

Therefore, based on this analysis, there is no evidence of significant disparities in psychological empowerment among the different categories. .

Further post-hoc tests or a pairwise comparison was conducted to identify which specific categories differ significantly from each other.

22. Illuminating Empowerment through the Lens of Social Work Perspective. Good.

23. Empowerment Scores: Good.

24. Policy Recommendations: Good.

25. Conclusion: Good.

The analysis of the demographic profiles and empowerment scores has revealed important insights into the specific characteristics and needs of the target population. While there is diversity in the demographics, the study did not identify significant disparities in empowerment across various categories.

26. References: Good.

### **Editor's Details:**

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