



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN UTTARAKHAND-INDIA A CASE OF MNREGA

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Abstract

The participation of stakeholders is very crucial for any program to make it a success. In this sequence, a study was carried out to check the participation of local communities of hilly rural area in Garhwal Uttarakhand in the management of rural development program (MNREGA). The management was divided into four main categories namely Planning, Operating activities, Financing, Monitoring and Evaluation. The study revealed the participation of local communities from low to moderate level across the four management dimensions. Moreover, various background characteristics of local people were also interpreted to get an understanding of their impacts on the participation level in the programme that yield further insights to policy making.

Keywords: Community Participation, Rural Development Programmes, Stakeholders.

1. Introduction

Rural development programmes forms an important aspect of providing means of livelihood for the resident of rural areas and moreover when it comes to hilly rural areas, the significance of these programmes becomes more relevant. It is because in hilly areas there is a dearth of life sustaining means and resources due to which it becomes imperative that some rural development programmes must be launched in those secluded hilly areas. It is heartening to know that lot of rural development schemes have been launched by the central government as well as from ample initiatives can be seen from the NGO's working in the rural areas of Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. But in Pauri district where the NGO's activities were found less active than the other districts of Uttarakhand, it becomes necessary that government schemes should be properly managed so that the local communities can be provided employment in their near vicinity. One such programme can be named as 'MNREGA' which calls for guaranteed jobs to local people near their villages. More importantly in such programme, it is the local people that should impart maximum efforts in development of their localities in an eco-friendly manner so as to sustain their livelihood; preserving their culture and maintaining the beauty of the area. The area under study was Pauri district in Garhwal Uttarakhand which represents one of the hilliest areas in entire Uttarakhand providing a breath taking view of the Himalayan ranges and the surrounding areas. The present research paper try to bring out the local people participation at different levels of management of MNREGA and to investigate whether the current participation helping them in their economic and social upliftment. The local people participation was checked under four categories namely Planning, Operating activities, Financing and Monitoring and Evaluation.

2. Review of Literature

Participation of local people for management of rural development programmes is the key to sustain the success of the programme which also plays a vital role in context of the economy, society, culture and environment. There are many researchers across the globe, which have stressed upon the need and importance of participation of local people in managing of developmental activities in rural areas and thus have categorised such activities under various headings. By reviewing already available literature, lot of studies can be found from tourism perspective also which relates the local people participation in developing their tourist destinations. There is one large group of studies which involved local people in tourism activities by exploration of their attitudes towards development of tourism through empirical studies by conducting surveys and interviews, and hence contribute in consolidating the needs of local communities of the tourist area into planning destinations and framing policies accordingly (Simmons, 1994; Jamal & Getz, 1995; Hibbard & Lurie, 2000; Harrill, 2004; Oviedo-Garcia, Castellanos-Verdugo, & Martin-Ruiz, 2008; Jamal & Stronza, 2009; Jamwal. M, 2014).

A substantial number of studies subsequently appraised the existing advances that take account of local communities in tourism development (Timothy, 1999; Yuksel, F., Bramwell, & Yuksel, A., 1999). Cohen and Uphoff (1977) defined the participation must involve local people's participation in decision-making builds ups, enforcing programs at ground level, dividing the profits of development programs, and measuring the effectiveness of such programmes from time to time. Longhman et al. (2011) stressed on community-based management which is basically the involvement of the beneficiary communities in the managing the sustainable rural development facilities. Ndegwa et al. (2013) stressed that role of beneficiaries in anti-poverty initiatives, is an imperative if the objectives are to be achieved.



Pandey, A.C, et al. (2013)emphasised that asignificant shift has taken place in the focus of new economic policies of India in the last few years, with issues of unprejudiced growth getting more importance. Policymakers and economists are trying that economy should maintain the pace of its growth but also it should spread the benefits of growth to all sections of the society and equally amongst all parts of the nation.

3. Research Methodology

The aim of the study is to find out the level of resident’s participation in management of rural development program named MNREGA.To achieve the framed objectives of the present study, a total number of 200 respondents (beneficiaries of MNREGA) have been interviewed with the help of structured questionnaire.

The extent of universe in these study waspecially rural and hilly areas of the state. The sampling method was non probabilistic, that is, convenience sampling method. The above mentioned rural development program run by government operating in Pauri district of Uttarakhand was taken under consideration for the study.

Since the Pauri districts marked with diversity in the context of language, literacy level, customs, life styles and economic growth, geographical area. This heterogeneity holds many implications to the policy makers especially to those who want to study the growth and distributive justice. Therefore, the selection of these areas represents atrue perspective for the study.

Objectives of the study

The study was directed by three objectives:

1. To find out the level of participation of beneficiaries of MNREGA in Pauri district.
2. To determine the various problems encounter by authorities in management of rural development programmes.
3. To impart various recommendations to the government for effectively running these development programmes.

Hypothesis framed for the study

Various hypotheses were tested during the research study that guided to the fulfilment of research objectives. These are given as under:

- 1) The level of people’s participation in management of selected rural development programmes in Pauri district is low for four categories- Planning, Operating activities, Financing and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- 2) The participation of local people in tourism management in Pauri district will vary according to independent demographic variables like Gender, Age, Marital status, education qualification, Occupation and Income.

Reliability Statistics

The questionnaire was tested using the reliability statistic known as Cronbach’s Alpha and the reliability quotient was significantly greater than 0.60. From four constructs were studied under management of MNRGA, the reliability of the questionnaire pertaining to each construct of management was found satisfactorily as presented below in the table 1.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics

Construct	No. of items	Cronbach’s alpha
Planning	4	0.834
Operating activities	4	0.812
Financing	3	0.764
Monitoring and Evaluation	4	0.782

4. Sample Characteristics

From a total sample of 200 respondents, various demographic data was taken. A total of 122 (61.0%) respondents were males while 78 (39.0%) were females. Also, 169 (84.5%) of the respondents were married and 31 (15.5%) were unmarried. Most (41.5%) of the respondents were below matric, 24.0% were matric passed, 18.5% were intermediates, 11.0% were graduates followed by 5.0% as others. The age distribution of respondents was evenly poised with mean 2.0728 while majority (43.2%) of the respondents were included in the income group of 3-6 lakh as depicted in the table 1 shown below:

Table: 1. Demographic Characteristics of sample

Sample variables	Items	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	122	61.0
	Female	78	39.0
Marital Status	Married	169	84.5



	Unmarried	31	15.5
Education	Below matric	83	41.5
	Matric	48	24.0
	Intermediate	37	18.5
	Graduate	22	11.0
	Other	10	5.0
Age	<30 years	36	18.0
	30-40 years	86	43.0
	40-50 years	59	29.5
	>50 years	19	9.5
Income	Less than 1 lakh	97	48.5
	1 lakh-3 lakh	68	34.0
	3 lakh-5 lakh	28	14.0
	More than 5 lakh	7	3.5
Occupation	Public Employee	26	13.0
	Private Employee	21	10.5
	Farmer	97	48.5
	Owned Business	25	12.5
	Others	31	15.5

As per income level of respondents, most (48.5%) of the respondents were earning less than one lakh per year followed by 34.0% as of 1 lakh-3 lakh income group while 14.0% respondents were in 3 lakh to 5 lakh income group and a mere 3.5% were in more than five lakh income group category. Moreover, most of the respondents were farmers (48.5%) followed by others that include animal rearers etc., while 13.0% were public employees and 12.5% were having their owned business and 10.5% were private employees.

5. Results and Discussions

The participation level of local people in management of different projects under the under studied rural management programmes are represented in table below. The participation level of local people ranged between 'low' to 'moderate' in different aspects of management of programmes in rural areas having Mean and Standard deviation the deciding criteria; Planning ($x = 2.5340$, S.D. = .94317, Operating Activities ($x = 2.35177$, S.D. = 1.32756, Monitoring and Evaluation ($x = 2.2657$, S.D. = 1.00922) were found as moderate level of participation. However, the financial activities issue was ($x = 1.7333$, S.D. = .99192) which was low participation. The test of independent variables with the level of people participation was analysed by ANOVA summarised in the table below.

Table: Resident's participation in development activities

Level of resident's participation	Mean	Standard deviation	Independent Variables					
			Gender	Age	Marital Status	Education Qualification	Occupation	Income
1. Planning	2.5340	.94317						
▪ Examine problems & their causes	2.5364	1.06386	.674	.513	.041*	.531	.373	.562
▪ Suggest strategies to overcome prevailing problems	2.6364	1.04362	.448	.045*	.304	.416	.807	.322
▪ Mutual planning for infrastructural development	2.6091	.72615	.034*	.329	.671	.313	.356	.675
▪ Planning for project execution	2.3545	.93652	.003*	.536	.335	.025*	.407	.567
2. Operating activities	2.35177	1.32756						
▪ Procuring sources for development around the area	2.9445	1.48902	.284	.315	.457	.981	.898	.011*
			.375	.867	.429	.354	.992	.713



▪ Forming self-help groups	1.9548	1.16828							
▪ Forming a group to set guidelines for residents	2.2805	1.38468	.196	.297	.350	.681	.118	.1281	
▪ Adjusting development activities	2.2273	1.26824	.484	.139	.039*	.782	.811	.032*	
3. Financing the programmes	1.7333	.99192							
▪ Sponsoring a project	1.5727	.86905	.339	.175	.720	.062	.474	.796	
▪ Financial Resource Contribution (eg. Land)	1.1909	1.08514	.318	.238	.650	.654	.130	.342	
▪ Material and Equipment Contribution	2.4364	1.02158	.946	.606	.769	.144	.826	.433	
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	2.2657	1.00922							
▪ Rectifying problems in development activities	1.8714	1.00254	.892	.004*	.121	.023*	.460	.354	
▪ Seeing potential benefits to the community from development activities	2.2642	1.00431	.410	.457	.549	.707	.344	.932	
▪ Checking the operational activities			.076*	.605	.706	.773	.875	.094	
▪ Seeing impacts from development activities towards the local community	2.4152	.904045	.735	.438	.125	.579	.653	.724	
	2.5121	1.12600							

Note: The average of the people's participation divided into 3 degrees; 1.00-2.33 = the 'low' participation, 2.34-3.66 = the 'moderate' participation, and 3.67-5.00 = the 'high' participation.

*resented the statistical significantly level reached to $p < 0.05$.

The test of independent variables with the attitude of people's participation analysed by t-test and one way ANOVA also illustrated in table IV. The different groups of respondents presented the statistic significant difference in levels of the attitude among key participative indicators. It could be identified by the P-value that was not over 0.05. Gender showed significant differences in planning and monitoring level of management programmes. They were significantly participating in making project plans for infrastructural development then how to executing those plans besides checking the operational activities and judging the impacts of developmental activities on the local community. Moreover, the older people too participated more than the younger ones in planning and monitoring front. They were more involved in suggesting strategies to overcome prevailing problems and rectifying the problems that arise after project executions.

As such, marital status does not contributed higher in presenting surprisingly distinction in management of rural development programmes among local community but their tendency of examining problems & their causes besides adjusting various development activities do showed some statistically differences. Moreover, highly educated people were found more likely to participate than less educated ones in context of suggesting plans for project implementation and rectifying problems in already going on developmental activities Whereas occupation didn't show any statistical differences with regard to participation in management of projects and developmental activities. Furthermore, highly income group people were found to procure more resources for carrying out the developmental activities in the areas.

6. Conclusions

It can be concluded from the study that management of rural development programmes in context of Garhwal region in Uttarakhand, India, connotes an activity which addresses all important aspects on the interests of the local communities. To effectively manage the rural development programmes, the participation of local community must be high so that they could get more benefit from the schemes of the government. Although, in the region of study conducted, the participation of people is appreciable but lot has to be done to ensure the participation in every aspect of the programme. The place of rural development programmes in Garhwal region of Uttarakhand requires the effective participation of community in planning, operating, financing and monitoring activities. Therefore, it remains mandatory for the local administration to identify the potential key players among the stakeholders and provide them necessary awareness campaigns so that the local communities get highly motivated and participate to the fullest to their potential.

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