IMPACT OF MISSION BHAGIRATHA ON SAFE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO ITS BENEFICIARIES IN NIZAMABAD DISTRICT OF TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been conducted in the Bheemgal mandal of Nizamabad district of Telangana state. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the study i.e., 60 beneficiaries and 60 non-beneficiaries. Independent variables like age, education, annual income, occupation, operational land holding, type of house, decision making, mass media exposure, extension participation, social participation were taken into the study. While dependent variables like knowledge and attitude were taken into consideration for the study. From the study it can be concluded that the most of the beneficiaries (41.66%) have medium levels of socio-economic status while most of the non-beneficiaries (40.00%) were found to have low levels of socio-economic status. Most of the beneficiaries (46.67%) were found to have medium levels of knowledge and most of the non-beneficiaries (45.00%) were found to have low levels of knowledge about the Mission Bhagiratha scheme. Most of the beneficiaries (43.33%) have medium levels of attitude while most of the non-beneficiaries (38.33%) have low levels of attitude regarding the Mission Bhagiratha scheme. Co-relation analysis was performed to find if there was a significant relationship between the socio-economic status with the knowledge and attitude of the beneficiaries. There was found to be a positive and significant relationship at 1 per cent level of significance between the age, education, annual income, occupation, type of house, extension participation and social participation and the knowledge of the beneficiaries regarding Mission Bhagiratha. There was found to be a positive and significant relationship at 1 per cent significance between the age, education, annual income, occupation, type of house, extension participation, social participation and mass media exposure.

KEYWORDS: *Beneficiaries, Non-Beneficiaries, Socio-Economic Status, Knowledge and Attitude*

INTRODUCTION

Water is the basic need for the survival of human beings and is part of right of life and human rights as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India and can be served only by providing source of water where there is none. The Resolution of the UNO in 1977 to which India is a signatory, during the United Nations Water Conference resolved unanimously inter alia as under: All people, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantum and of a quality equal to their basic needs. This is a consequence of the narrow interpretation of the right to water or treating it in isolation from other uses, users and ecosystems. (Madhnure et al., 2016).

Globally over 2 billion people live in countries suffering from high levels of water stress, with 22 countries being in a situation of serious water stress. An estimated 4 billion people suffer from severe water stress for at least one month a year. Demand for water will continue to increase, and it has been estimated that by 2030 nearly half of the population will live in areas of high-water stress, which will result in the displacement of populations. Water is recognized as a human right that "entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses". The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the role of water in eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable green growth as essential. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) '6' on clean water and sanitation aims to put the right to water in practice and to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Many other SDGs are closely linked to water-related issues, and water can be considered as a fundamental driver of green growth. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas recognizes that their access to natural and productive resources such as water is an increasing challenge, and underscores the importance of the right to access to water and sanitation. Water is an essential component to ensure equitable, sustainable and productive rural economies. It is required for guaranteeing food security, health and personal hygiene, as well as for agricultural production and energy supply, among others. (Rolston Alec and Suzanne Linnane, 2020).

Mission Bhagiratha is a project to supply safe drinking water for every village and city household in the Telangana State. The project was launched on 6th August 2016, by the present Telangana Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao to provide safe and drinking water to the Telangana people. Under this project clean drinking water is being supplied to all households in the state through water sourced from River Godavari and River Krishna. A budget of Rs. 43,791 crores have been allocated exclusively to the scheme for the construction of pipe lines, reservoirs and tanks needed in this project. This project not only helps in providing safe and drinking water but also helps in providing rural employment and in the improvement of sanitation facilities in villages.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Ex-Post facto research design has been followed for the present study. Ex-Post facto research is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. Ex-post facto research design is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behaviour of the subject without influencing anyway. An ex-post facto research design is a method in which groups with qualities that already exist are compared on some dependent variable, also known as "after the fact" research. The present study was conducted in Nizamabad district of Telangana state, from Nizamabad district Bheemgal mandal was selected purposively based on considerable number of respondents. From Bheemgal mandal a total of five villages i.e., Sikindrapur, Pedda Bheemgal, Bejjora, Bheemgal and Changal were selected for the present study. Through quota sampling method 12 beneficiaries along with 12 non-beneficiaries were selected at random, thus a total 120 respondents were selected from five villages.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To determine the knowledge of the respondent regarding Mission Bhagiratha.

- To determine the attitude of the respondent regarding Mission Bhagiratha.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Knowledge Level of Respondents about Mission Bhagiratha

The knowledge score of each respondent was calculated and converted into percentage. The respondents were classified into three categories viz. a) low knowledge level b) medium knowledge level and c) high knowledge level the results are presented in the table

Table 1: Knowledge Levels of the Respondents Towards Mission Bhagiratha

N=120

S.No.	Knowledge Level	Beneficiaries		Non-Beneficiaries	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	6	10.00	27	45.00
2	Medium	28	46.67	23	38.33
3	High	26	43.33	10	16.67
	Total	60	100.00	60	100.00

From the above table it can be observed that among the beneficiaries most(46.67%) of the respondents have medium levels regarding the knowledge level towards Mission Bhagiratha, followed by 43.33 per cent of the respondents with high levels of knowledge and 10.00 per cent of the respondents with low levels of knowledge towards Mission Bhagiratha. Similarly, among non-beneficiaries most (45.00%) of the respondents were found to have lowlevels of knowledge regarding the Mission Bhagiratha followed by 38.33 percent of medium levels of knowledge and 16.67 percent of the respondents with high levels of knowledge towards Mission Bhagiratha
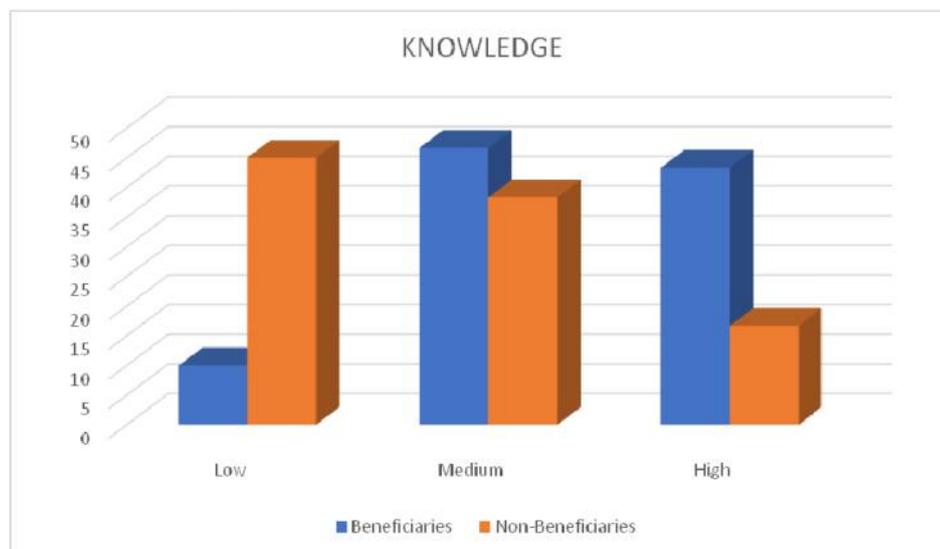
Figure 1.

Table 2: Relationship between the Selected Independent Variables and the Knowledge of the Respondent

S.No.	Independent Variable	Co-relation Coefficient
1	Age	0.964**
2	Education	0.721**
3	Annual Income	0.852**
4	Occupation	0.744**
5	Operational Landholding	0.208*
6	Type of House	0.613**

Table 2 Contd.,

7	Decision Making	0.214^{*}
8	Extension Participation	0.950^{**}
9	Social Participation	0.597^{**}
10	Mass Media Exposure	0.650^{**}

significant at 0.05 level
significant at 0.01 level
N.S: Not Significant

Theco-efficient of co-relation between the age (0.964), education (0.721), annual income (0.852), occupation (0.744), type of house (0.613), extension participation (0.950), social participation (0.597), mass media exposure (0.650) and knowledge of the respondents was more than the table value "r"at 1 per cent level of significance. The co-efficient of co-relation between operational land holding (0.208) and decision making (0.214) and knowledge of the respondents was more than the table value "r" at 5 per cent level of significance. It can be inferred that there is a positive and significant relationship between the age and knowledge of the respondents.

3. Attitude level of respondents about Mission Bhagiratha

The attitude score of each respondent was calculated and converted in to percentage. The respondents were classified in to three categories viz., a) low attitude level, b) medium attitude level and c) high attitude level the results are presented in the below table

Table 3: Attitude Levels of the Respondents Towards Mission Bhagiratha

N=120

S. No.	Attitude Levels	Beneficiaries		Non-Beneficiaries	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	11	18.33	23	38.33
2	Medium	26	43.33	21	35.00
3	High	23	38.34	16	26.67
	Total	60	100.00	60	100.00

From the above table it can be observed that among beneficiaries most of the respondents (43.33%) have medium levels of attitude followed by 38.34 per cent of the respondents with high levels and 18.33 per cent of the respondents with low levels of attitude towards the Mission Bhagiratha.

Similarly, among the non-beneficiaries 38.33 per cent of the respondents have medium levels of attitude followed by 35.00 per cent of the respondents with low levels and26.67 per cent of the respondents with high levels of attitude towards Mission Bhagiratha scheme.
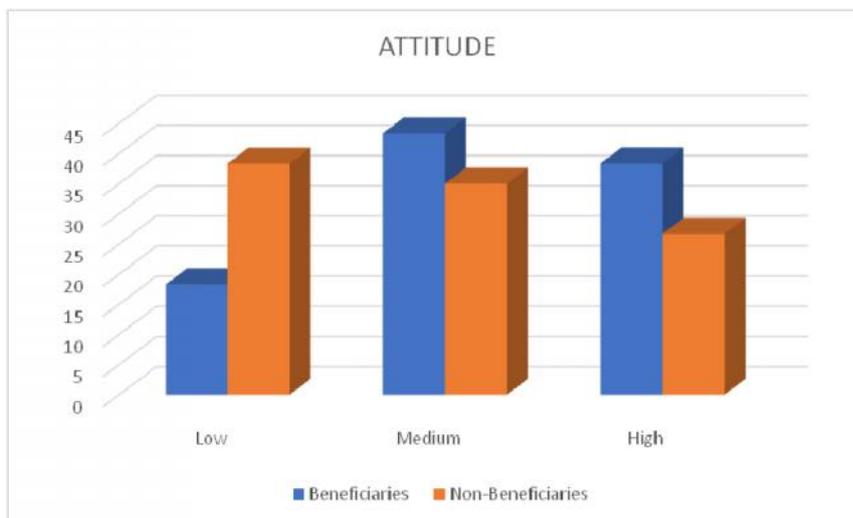
Figure 2.

Table 4: Relationship Between the Selected Independent Variables and the Attitude of the Beneficiaries

S.No.	Independent Variable	Co-relation coefficient
1	Age	0.852**
2	Education	0.741**
3	Annual Income	0.963**
4	Occupation	0.591**
5	Operational Landholding	0.252*
6	Type of House	0.753**
7	Decision Making	0.206*
8	Extension Participation	0.837**
9	Social Participation	0.394**
10	Mass Media Exposure	0.685**

significant at 0.05 level
significant at 0.01 level
N.S: Not Significant

The co-efficient of co-relation between the age(0.852), education (0.741), annual income (0.963), occupation (0.591), type of house (0.252), extension participation (0.837), social participation (0.394) and mass media exposure (0.685)and attitude of the respondents was more than the table value "r" at 1 per cent level of significance. While the co-efficient of co-relation between operational land holding (0.208) and decision making (0.206)was more than the table value "r" at 5 per cent level of significance. It can be inferred that there is a positive and significant relationship between the age, education, annual income, occupation, type of house, extension participation, social participation, operational land holding, decision making, mass media exposure and attitude of the beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

Most of the beneficiaries had medium levels of knowledge and most of the non-beneficiaries had low levels of knowledge regarding the Mission Bhagiratha. It can be said that beneficiaries had more knowledge about the benefits and working of the scheme rather than the non-beneficiaries. Hence it can be said that there exists a positive and significant relationship between the socio-economic status and knowledge levels of the respondents regarding the Mission Bhagiratha scheme.

Also, most of the beneficiaries had medium levels of attitude and most of the non-beneficiaries had low levels of attitude towards the Mission Bhagiratha scheme. Hence it can be said that beneficiaries had more favourable attitude than the non- beneficiaries towards the Mission Bhagiratha. This shows that there exists a positive and significant relationship between the socio-economic status and attitude levels of the respondents towards the Mission Bhagiratha scheme.

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7. *Mukherjee Avisek et.al., (2021) in the study has observed that most of the rural population had medium levels of knowledge on the quality of the drinking water provided. Although the government has made enormous efforts to provide sufficient measures yet, the population behavioural aspects change only when the problem has a significant impact.*

8. *Srinivasan Veena and K. J. Joy (2019) have stated that Mission Bhagiratha has reduced the drinking water problem in both the urban and rural areas of the state. The Respondents showed favourable attitude towards the scheme as it helped in the sustainability of the people especially those in the drought prone areas and in the areas with more nitrate and calcium problems*