

Chapter 3

Methodology

Method/Design

The survey method was employed for this study with the help of a structured questionnaire followed by in-depth interviews.

Study universe and sample size

The universe of the study is Barak Valley and 3 (three) development blocks of the three districts (Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi) and two villages from each block were selected for the study. The number of respondents from each block is 200, making it a total of 600.

Justification for area selection

The researcher has selected the area for this study keeping in view the amount of fund allocation for a particular scheme in which more than eight lakh rupees sanctioned, and more number of workers engaged at work place, and the area which was mostly reported in the local newspapers for MGNREGS related problems and prospect.

Sampling technique

A convenient sampling method has been followed for this study. The researcher used convenient sampling technique for choosing one development block within the district and had selected those villages where the panchayat utilized more amount of money for MGNREGS work. While interviewing the beneficiaries of the village, the researcher also used convenient sampling for determining people for the interview.

Questionnaire formation and pre-testing

The researcher framed a questionnaire in Bengali and conducted a pre-testing of it among the fifteen beneficiaries of the scheme to make the data collection tool more effective and convenient for the respondents. The result of the pre-test had shown that majority of the respondents were not able to understand it properly and hesitant to give demographic information, they also asked to make it more precise and easy by lessening the number of question for time sake. Finally, a well structured and precise questionnaire was designed

by the researcher with some alteration incorporating elements and sub features in it and had distributed it to the respondents for data collection and found it effective tool. The questionnaire consisted of two parts that is part-A and part-B. Part-A deals with demographic data and part-B deals with statement based questions. There were 17 (seventeen) statement type questions.

Merits and demerits of sample survey method

Merits

- This method allows the researcher to investigate the problem in realistic settings.
- The cost factor is reasonable considering the amount of information obtained through survey.
- Survey is a convenient method for collecting data from a big universe.
- Relatively easy to administer.
- Survey can be administered remotely through online, email and telephone wherever possible.
- Capable of collecting data from a large number of respondents.
- Numerous questions can be asked about a subject, giving extensive flexibility in data analysis.
- Advanced statistical techniques can be utilized to analyze the survey data to determine validity, reliability, and statistical significance.
- A broad range of data can be collected (e.g., attitudes, opinions, beliefs, values, behavior, factual).
- Standardized surveys are relatively free from several types of errors.

Demerits

- Independent variables cannot be manipulated and therefore the researcher cannot determine the causes behind a particular phenomenon.
- Structure of the questionnaire, wordings and placement of questions can create bias in the survey method.

- It is very difficult to choose an error free or unbiased sampling technique in this method since all kinds of sampling techniques have certain amount of error.
- Respondents may not feel encouraged to provide accurate and honest answers.
- Respondents may not be fully aware of their reasons for any given answer because of lack of information.
- Surveys with closed-ended questions may have a lower validity rate than other question types.
- Survey question answer options could lead to unclear data because certain answer options may be interpreted differently by respondents.

Justification for selecting survey design

The survey is described by Edwards and Talbot (1999, p. 88) as being like an onion, with data from questionnaires similar to peeling off some outer layers of skin, but being supplemented by interviews to get to the in-depth layers.

Bell (1987, p. 13) has suggested that a representative selection of the population can be targeted by a survey.

Survey research involves the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions. Survey is an efficient method for systematically collecting data from a broad spectrum of individuals in a realistic settings and this study demand it. It has been observed from the literature review that many researchers had preferred this method of data collection for investigating and resolving the same nature of problems relating to MGNREGS. In fact, surveys have become such a vital part of our social fabric that we cannot assess much of what we read in the newspaper or watch on television without having some understanding of survey research.

Survey research owes its continued popularity to its versatility, efficiency, and generalizability. Although, survey is not only the ideal method for learning about problems but a well designed survey can enhance our understanding on various social issues.

Surveys are efficient in that many variables can be measured without substantially increasing the time or cost. Survey method allows researcher for convenient or probability sampling from large populations. In fact, survey research is often the only means available for developing a representative picture of the attitudes, opinions, perceptions and characteristics of a large population. However, keeping in view the research problem and objectives, advantage and disadvantages of the survey design, the researcher has adopted this method for data collection and found fit its application to the nature of research problem. It is found that method is helpful and effective for resolving the research problem dealing with a large universe and sample size.

The data collected from the survey is percentage analysed. For convenience, frequencies use in the columns and the percentage are recorded within the bracket. As the study is like many studies done previously, the work does not need any statistical validation. The tool used is valid for the purpose identified.

Information about Barak Valley

Barak Valley is situated in the southern part of the Indian state of Assam. The place is named after the Barak river. The official language of Barak Valley is Bengali. Majority of the people speak a dialect of Bengali, which is known as Sylheti. Religious composition of the Valley population is Hindu (50%), Muslim (46%) and others (4%). Hindus are in majority in Cachar district (60)% while Muslims are in majority in Karimganj (53%) and Hailakandi districts (57%). Apart from Bengalis, Barak Valley is the home land of Kacharis, Hmar, Manipuris (both Bishnupriya and Meitei), Rongmei Nagas and tea garden labourers.

Cachar is the administrative district of Barak Valley. The district headquarter is located at Silchar which is the main city of the valley and the economic gateway to the state of Mizoram and part of Manipur. According to 2011 India census, Cachar district occupies an area of 3786 square kilometers and has a population of 17,36,319 of which male and female were 08,86,616 and 08,49,703 respectively.

Karimganj, the district headquarter of Karimganj district, is the second largest town in the Valley. It is considered as the cultural center of Barak Valley. The Karimganj district occupies an area of 1809 square kilometers. It is bound on the northeast by Cachar district, on the east by Hailakandi district, on the south by Mizoram state, on the southwest by Tripura state, and on the west and northwest by Bangladesh. Karimganj town is located on the northern fringe of the district adjoining Bangladesh, by the river Kushiara. Its distance from Guwahati, the state capital of Assam, is approximately 330 kilometer by road and about 350 km by rail. Distance of other important places are : Silchar - 55 kilometer, Shillong - 220 kilometer, Agartala - 250 kilometer. The district has a population of 12,17,002 of which male and female were 06,20,722 and 05,96,280 respectively (as of 2011 census).

Hailakandi is one of the administrative districts of Barak Valley. The district headquarter is located at Hailakandi. The district occupies an area of 1327 square kilometers, out of this 50% is reserve forest and the district has a population of 06,59,260 of which male and female were 03,38,766 and 03,20,494 respectively (as of 2011 census).

Demographic Information of the Respondents

Table: 1.1 Sex wise distribution of respondents

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Gender		
				Men	Women	Total
1	Katigora	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	95 (95%)	5 (5%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	94 (94%)	6 (6%)	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	77 (77%)	23(23%)	100
			Digirpar	85 (85%)	15(15%)	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	67 (67%)	33(33%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	95 (95%)	5 (5%)	100
4	Total			513(85.5%)	87(14.5%)	600

In table 1.1, data reveals that 95% are men and 5% are women from village Shibnarainpur, 94% are men and 6% are women from village Gobindapur, 77% are men and 23% are women from village Bundashill, 85% are men and 15% are women from village Digirpar, 67% are men and 33% are women from village Uttat KanchanpurPt-II, 95% are men and 5% are women from village BakriawarPt-II, which makes a total of 513 men that is 85.5% and 87 women that is 14.5% .

Inference : In the study, out of 600 respondents we find 85.5% respondents are men and 14.5% are women. The participation of men beneficiaries was more in comparison to women beneficiaries.

Table 1.2 Community wise distribution of respondents

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Community		
				Hindu	Muslim	Total
1	Katigorah	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	9 (9%)	91 (91%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	60 (60%)	40 (40%)	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	3 (3%)	97 (97%)	100
			Digirpar	1 (1%)	99 (99%)	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt II	55 (55%)	45 (45%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	66 (66%)	34 (34%)	100
4	Total			194(32.33%)	406(67.67%)	600

In table 1.2, data shows that 9% are Hindus and 91% are Muslims from village Shibnarainpur, 60% are Hindus and 40% are Muslims at village Gobindapur Pt-II, 3% Hindus and 97% Muslims from village bundashill, 1% Hindus and 99% Muslims from village Digirpar, 55% Hindus and 45% Muslims from village Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II, 66% Hindus and 34% Muslims from village Bakriawar Pt-II, which makes a total of 32.33% Hindus and 67.67% Muslims.

Inference : In the study, out of 600 respondents we find 32.33% respondents are Hindus and 67.67% are Muslims. So the participation of Muslim respondents was more compared to Hindus.

Table: 1.3 Language wise distribution of respondents

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Mother tongue			
				Bengali	Hindi	Manipuri	Total
1	Katigora	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	100	-	-	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	100	-	-	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	100	-	-	100
			Digirpar	100	-	-	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	100	-	-	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	100	-	-	100
4	Total			600	-	-	600

In table 1.3, data shows that all the respondents from all the villages have Bengali as their mother tongue.

Table: 1.4 Distribution of respondents marital status wise

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Marital status		
				Married	Unmarried	Total
1	Katigora	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	82(82%)	18(18%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	78(78%)	22(22%)	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	85(85%)	15(15%)	100
			Digirpar	83(83%)	17(17%)	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	75(75%)	25(25%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	80(80%)	20(20%)	100
4	Total			483(80.5%)	117(19.5%)	600

In table 1.4, data describes that 82% are married and 18% are unmarried at village Shibnarainpur, 78% are married and 22% are unmarried respondents in village Gobindapur Pt-II, 85% are married and 15% are unmarried from village Bundashill, 83% are married and 17% are unmarried from village Digirpar, 75% are married and 25% are unmarried from village Uttar kanchanpur Pt-II, 80% are married and 20% are unmarried from village Bakriawar Pt-II.

Inference: In the study, out of 600 respondents we find 80.5% respondents are married and 19.5% are unmarried. So the participation of married respondents was more in comparison to unmarried.

Table: 1.5 Distribution of respondents according to educational qualification

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Educational qualification				Total
				Standard I-IV	Standard V-VIII	Standard IX-XII	Standard BA-MA	
1	Katigora	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	29 (29%)	41 (41%)	28 (28%)	2 (2%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	55 (55%)	36 (36%)	9 (9%)	-	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	43 (43%)	49 (49%)	8 (8%)	-	100
			Digirpar	39 (39%)	58 (58%)	3 (3%)	-	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	57 (57%)	37 (37%)	6 (6%)	-	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	50 (50%)	40 (40%)	10 (10%)	-	100
4	Total			273 (45.5%)	261 (43.5%)	64 (10.67%)	2(0.33%)	600

In table 1.5, data shows that 29% have education between standard I-IV and 41% have education between standard V-VIII and 28% are of standard IX-XII and 2 that is 2% are of BA-MA from village Shibnarainpur, 55% are of standard I-IV and 36% are of standard V-VIII and 9% are of standard IX-XII from village Gobindapur Pt-II, 43% are of standard I-

IV and 49% are of standard V-VIII and 8% are of standard IX-XII from village Bundashill, 39% are of standard I-IV and 58% are of standard V-VIII and 3% are of standard IX-XII from village Digirpar, 57% are of standard I-IV and 37% are of standard V-VIII and 6% are of standard IX-XII from village Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II, 50% are of standard I-IV and 40% are of standard V-VIII and 10 % are of standard IX-XII from village Bakriawar Pt-II.

Inference: In the study, out of 600 respondents 45.5% respondents belong to standard I to IV qualification group; 43.5% under standard V to VIII qualification group, 10.67% belong to standard X to XII qualification group and only 0.33% respondents belong to BA to MA qualification group. So the participation of respondents with minimum qualification was high in the study undertaken.

Table: 1.6 Distribution of respondents based on occupation

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Occupation		
				Skilled labourers	Unskilled labourers	Total
1	Katigorah	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	80(80%)	20(20%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	78(78%)	22(22%)	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	75(75%)	25(25%)	100
			Digirpar	77(77%)	23(23%)	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	72(72%)	28(28%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	84(84%)	16(16%)	100
4	Total			466(77.67%)	134(22.33%)	600

In table 1.6 , data shows that 80% are skilled labourers and 20% are unskilled labourers from village Shibnarainpur, 78% are skilled and 22% are unskilled from village Gobindapur Pt-II, 75% skilled and 25% are unskilled labourers from village Bundashill, 77% are skilled and 23% are unskilled labourers from village Digirpar, 72% are skilled and 28% are unskilled labourers from village Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II, 84% are skilled and 16% are unskilled labourers from village Bakriawar Pt-II.

Inference: In the study, out of 600 respondents 77.67% respondents are skilled labourers and only 22.33% are unskilled labourers. Hence, the participation of skilled labourers is more in comparison to unskilled labourers.

Table: 1.7 Age wise distribution of respondents

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Age				Total
				20-30 years	30-40 years	40-50 years	50 years and above	
1	Katigorah	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	20 (20%)	38 (38%)	31 (31%)	11 (11%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	18 (18%)	31 (31%)	45 (45%)	6 (6%)	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	32 (32%)	40 (40%)	21 (21%)	7 (7%)	100
			Digirpar	24 (24%)	48 (48%)	20 (20%)	8 (8%)	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	28 (28%)	59 (59%)	3 (3%)	10 (10%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	26 (26%)	52 (52%)	7 (7%)	15 (15%)	100
4	Total			148 (24.67%)	268 (44.67%)	127 (21.16%)	57 (9.5%)	600

In table 1.7, data reveals that 20% belong to the age group of 20-30 years and 38% belong to the group of 30-40 years and 31% belong to 40-50 years and 11% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Shibnarainpur, 18% belong to 20-30 years and 31% belong to 30-40 years and 45% belong to 40-50 years and 6% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Gobindapur Pt-II, 32% belong to 20-30 years and 40% belong to 30-40 years and 21% belong to 40-50 years and 7% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Bundashill, 24% belong to 20-30 years and 48% belong to 30-40 years and 20% belong to 40-50 years and 8% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Digirpar, 28% belong to 20-30 years and 59% belong to 30-40 years and 3% belong to 40-50 years and 10% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II, 26% belong to 20-30 years and 52% belong to 30-40 years and 7% belong to 40-50 years and 15% belong to 50 years and above age group in village Bakriawar Pt-II.

Inference : In the study, out of 600 respondents we find 24.67% respondents fall under 20 to 30 years age group; 44.67% under 30 to 40 years age group, 21.16% belong to 40 to 50 years age group and 9.5% respondents belong to the age group of 50 years and above.

Table: 1.8 Income wise distribution of respondents

Sl no	Block	GP	Villages	Monthly family income				
				Rs 3000-4000	Rs 4000-6000	Rs 6000-10000	Rs 10000 and above	Total
1	Katigorah	Gobimdapur	Shibnarainpur	70(70%)	25(25%)	3(3%)	2(2%)	100
			Gobindapur Pt-II	72(72%)	23(23%)	5(5%)	-	100
2	Badarpur	Bundashill	Bundashill	76(76%)	21(21%)	2(2%)	1(1%)	100
			Digirpar	83(83%)	14(14%)	3(3%)	-	100
3	Algapur	Uttar Kanchanpur	Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II	74(74%)	20(20%)	5(5%)	1(1%)	100
			Bakriawar Pt-II	83(83%)	13(13%)	4(4%)	-	100
4	Total			458 (76%)	116 (19.33%)	22 (3.67%)	4 (0.67%)	600

In table 1.8, data shows that 70% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 25% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 3% belong to Rs 6000-10000 and 2% belong to Rs 10000 and above income group in village Shibnarainpur, 72% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 23% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 5% belong to Rs 6000-10000 income group in village Gobindapur pt-II, 76% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 21% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 2% belong to Rs 6000-10000 and 1% belong to Rs 10000 and above income group in village Bundashill, 83% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 14% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 3% belong to Rs 6000-10000 income group in village Digirpar, 74% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 20% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 5% belong to Rs 6000-10000 and 1% belong to Rs 10000 and above income group in village

Uttar Kanchanpur Pt-II, 83% belong to Rs 3000-4000 income group and 13% belong to Rs 4000-6000 and 4% belong to Rs 6000-10000 income group in village Bakriawar Pt-II.

Inference : In the study, out of 600 respondents we find 76.33% respondents belong to Rs 3000 to 4000 income group; 19.33% under Rs 4000 to 6000 income group, 3.67% belong to Rs 6000 to 10000 income group and only 0.67% respondents belong to Rs 10000 and above income group.

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