

**People Participatory Approach: A Study Of Drought Management Programmes  
Through Mnrega In Mewat Region, Haryana**

(\*Satpal Singh)

---

ABSTRACT

*The paper examines the people participatory approach towards executive process of drought management programmes of Mewat region of Haryana. It is an empirical study, based on 93 respondents, taken from three villages, who have been engaged in varied drought management activities within these villages. The study has thrown an adequate light on various levels of benefits and varied degree of satisfaction, derived from the drought management projects, executed in these villages, characterized with different topographical attributes. On the basis of findings of the study, varied inferences have been drawn from the study. This participatory approach has also been testified with correlation technique which shows the results in accordance with responses, responded by the people; belonged to various strata of rural society in their respective villages of Mewat region.*

*Key words: Participatory approach; drought management; project activities; varied level of satisfaction.*

**INTRODUCTION:** A *Participatory approach* is an inter-disciplinary approach on the specific contents of each discipline in making possible a holistic and balanced perspective. The *community approach* has its vital significance gives an insight in to drought management programmes; executed in accordance with prevailing local conditions. The participatory approach enables the community to play a vital role in formulating planning; and provides an opportunity for making a judicious decisions and accepting their results. A *participatory approach* is related to *disaster sensitivity*, knowledge; problem solving; skill and value clarification to every stage but with special focus on disaster sensitivity to learners own community in the early years. This approach has been proved to know the complexity of disasters like 'drought' and thus need to develop critical thinking and its '*mitigative skills*' and its feasibility in accordance with local conditions. A '*Top-down approach*' to managing the disaster risk which is not sufficient in holistically addressing and localized vulnerabilities of communities. A community led approach is the "*Last mile of connectivity*" (Rakshit Roopa, 2009). The community approach helps and individual and social groups to acquire awareness and sensitivity to total environment, and motivation for actively participation in its protection; and its mitigation (Jommila Watson & at. el, 2016).

---

\*Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences,

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067 (India).

The community approach has a vital significance which also helps to acquire awareness and sensitivity to total environment, created by different disasters. It also assists an individual and social group to social values strong feelings of concern for the disasters and motivation for actively participation in its protection and its mitigation. It also helps developing skills, evaluating ability of human resources, and help to take periodic *feedback* from an individual as well as community. It has discussed the significance of participatory approach for sustainable agriculture for sustainable agricultural technology transfer in a project, executed by DFID, started a rain-fed farming project; called *Kribhco Indo-British Rain-fed Farming Project (East)* in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in the western part of India. In order to get the desired results of the project, a *participatory approach*; particularly the women participation has been adopted to ameliorate the lively hood status of the rural areas. In this study, Paul has made a pin-point to the farmers' preference, acceptance and achievement in relation to sustainable development of agriculture (Paul, S.K.2006).

Uphoff, N.P, & et. al. (1985) has tried to highlight the vital significance of irrigation water management which has been proved conducive to improve the policies and programme through farmer's organization. In this study, the authors have tried to justify the participatory approach in accordance with prevailing local conditions. Similarly, Artikelkar, Kambete Harshvardhan Dhwan (2016) has reported the outcome of water management through participatory ground water management in the drought prone areas of Maharashtra; as a result a considerable improvement in ground water has been observed to meet the growing demand of water in drought like conditions.

In order to address the '*Grim-situation*' created by drought, the people participation through '*Participatory Ground Water Management*' (PGWM) become a significant approach in context as it looks at ground water as a common pool resource. In this context, '*Ground Water Survey and Development Agency* and *Arghyam*, an NGO have discussed the matter by incorporating the long term planning of initiatives; such as *Jalayukt Shivar Yojana*, aimed at handle the depleting ground water situation in Maharashtra. Hence, it is obvious that the community approach towards mitigate the effect of drought like conditions, particularly in rural areas, has been proved conducive to managing the '*Grim-situation*' in an effective ways. This

approach has become more effective, responsive, relatively *cost-effective* and feasible in accordance with prevailing local conditions of the drought affected areas.

However, it has been justified by the authors and scholars, belonged to various streams which show remarkable results of *participatory approach* towards the development projects like drought management in rural areas. The community based approach has a least place for creating any conflicting situation among the people; belong to different strata of rural society. This approach has also been proved most effective to *managing the change*, which are likely to arrive on implementation front of execution of any drought management policy in an area. Hence, the community approach has been proved conducive to get the desired results.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Drought is unlike anything else in human experience, it strikingly-it changes the lines of all that it touches; and its effects are left long after occurrence of disaster like drought, particularly in rural areas. The community which respond the technique or mitigating strategies, employed for the disasters like drought, in accordance with prevailing local conditions. The '*community approach*' has been proved very conducive to managing the drought related activities in an effective ways. It has been observed that the execution process faces varied conflicting situation, as a result the people often do not approve the change, taken place during execution processes. In this situation, the *community approach* is very effective to manage the change in accordance with prevailing local conditions. This approach has a significant institutional approach; expedite the entire mechanism of the administrative machinery, engaged in drought management. This *approach* is attributed with effective, responsive and *cost-effective* approach to get the desired results for managing the disasters like droughts in accordance with prevailing local conditions at a grass-root level.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- 1) To find the satisfaction level of the people-participant in drought management programme Through MNREGA;
- 2) To suggest some of recommendations for improvement in people participation in find the drought management programmes; executed in drought affected areas.

**THE STUDY AREA**

**Mewat** is one of backward region not only in Haryana, but this region is one of backward regions in India too. The Mewat region has a peculiar *regional character* than that of rest of Haryana. Mewat district was come into existence, as the twentieth district of Haryana from *Gurugram* (Gurgaon) and *Hathin* blocks of Faridabad district on April 4, 2005. Subsequently, *Hathin* block was transferred to *Palwal* district in the year 2008. Mewat district was again nomenclature as *Nuh* district. The total area of Mewat is 1859.61 Square Km. at present, the *Nuh* district comprised of *Nuh*, *Tauru*, *Firozpur Jhirka* and *Punhana* blocks. There are 431 villages with 297 *Panchayats* (Census, 2011).

If we include the villages of *Hathin* block as a result, it becomes 512 villages including 365 villages or *Gram Panchayats* of whole Mewat region of Haryana (Wikipedia, 2015). The Mewat region of Haryana comprises the six blocks which include *Nuh*, *Tauru*, *Nagina*, *Firozpur Jhirka*, *Punhana* and *Hathin*. All the first five blocks, belong to *Nuh* district and *Hathin* block belong to *Palwal* district of Haryana. The Mewat region lies between 26° 30' and 38° 32' North parallels of latitude and 76 ° and 78 ° 78 ° East Meridian of Longitude, forming the extreme south-eastern and stretches towards the outlying *Aravalli hills* of Rajasthan table-land, and is very irregular of shape (Statistical Abstract, 2016).

According to census 2011, the population of Mewat is 1089406 (Excluding *Hathin* block of *Palwal* district) which ranks 420<sup>th</sup> in India (Out of total 640 districts). The numerical strength of male is 571162 and female 518101. The population of Mewat share 4.30 % of Haryana's population. The density of population is 723 inhabitants per square Km. Growth of population between census 2001 and 2011, has been 37.94 per cent. The sex ratio is 907 female per thousand male, whereas, child sex-ratio (0-6 year age-group) is 906 female per thousand males. As per 2011 census, the literacy rate is 54.08 per cent, including 69.94 % male and 36.60 %. The religious composition shows that 79.20 % of population is *Muslim*, called *Meoes*, by their choice, followed by Hindu which is 20.27 %, Jains are 0.13%, whereas the Christian are 0.11 %, Sikh 0.05 %, Buddhist 0.05 % and others 0.09 %. (Census of Haryana 2011).

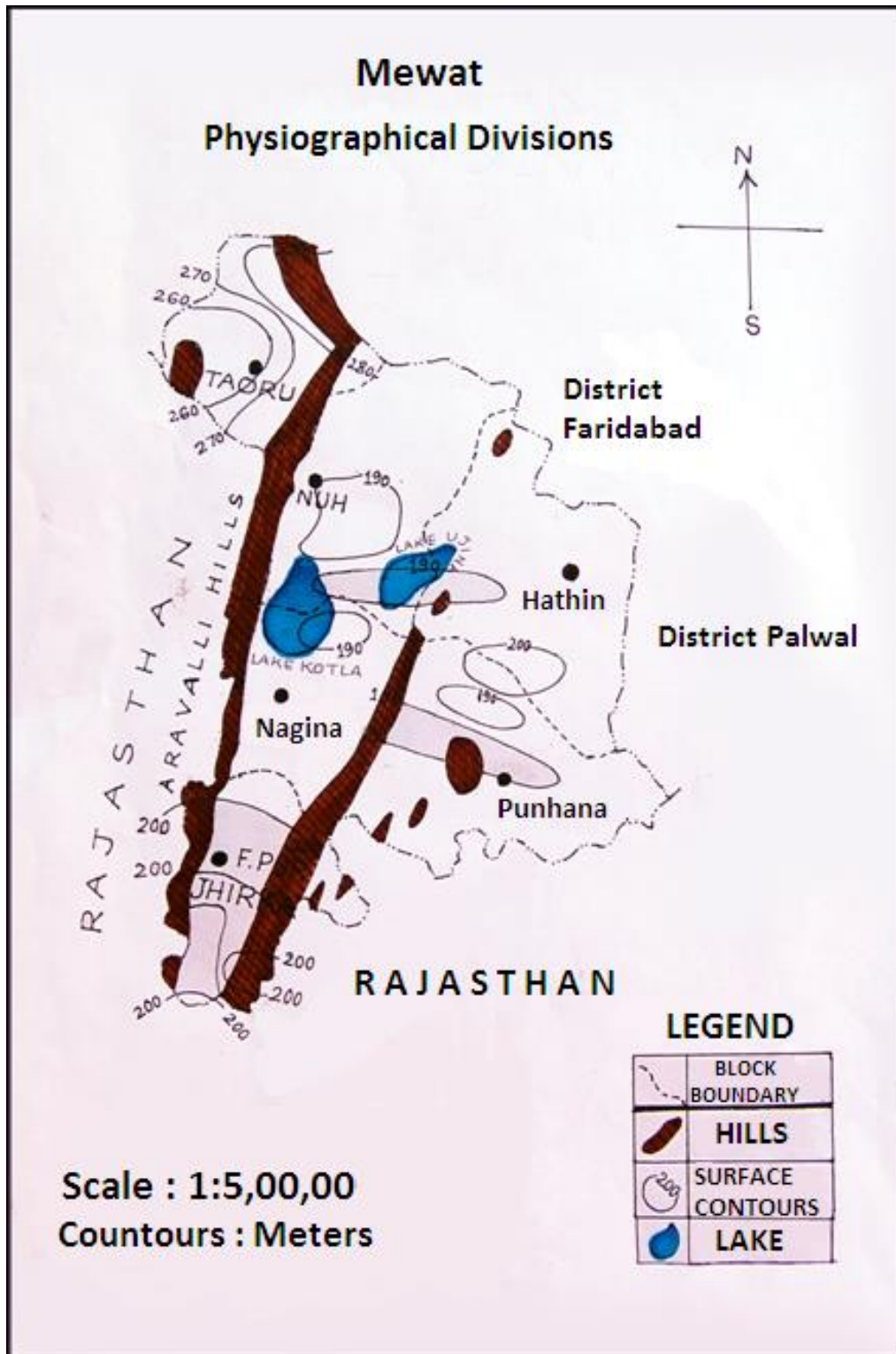
**AGRICULTURE & REGIONAL ECOLOGY:** There is 72.56 % of the people engaged in agricultural activities which is a main stay of Mewat's economy. There are two major crops in the whole

Mewat region, wheat and *Mustard* in the *Rabi crops* and *Jawar* and *Bajra* among the *Kharif* crops. The vegetables are mainly grown along with the *Aravalli hills*, where the ground water suits to the *vegetable farming*. However, only 42600 hectare land is irrigated area in Mewat, Depleting soil fertility, declining water table particularly in *Firozpur.Jhirka* and *Tauru* blocks, *salinity* and *sodicity* problems; non-judicious use of fertilizers; stagnation in yields rising costs and diminishing economic returns; rising problems of insect-pest, disease complex and weed flora; decline in factor productivity; Shift in weed flora; Inadequate availability of quality seeds particularly vegetables and fodders; inadequate availability of quality fodder; problem in large and small ruminates ;fragmented small holdings; narrow economic base; slow pace of diversification and lack of orientation in development department. All these ecological disequilibrium positions are to be addressed in accordance with prevailing socio-economic and physiographic local conditions of the areas. In order to work out the situation of people participation, there are three villages have been selected from the three blocks, namely *Ghaghas, Karheda* and *Rangala Rajpur*.

**TEMPERATURE & RAINFALL:**

In the *Mewat* region, an average temperature in the May-June is higher which goes up to above 45°C and the average winter temperature (Dec-Jan) below 10 °C. It is because of semi-arid type of climate, affected by the dryness, scanty rainfall, sandy-soil, low humidity and re-radiation by the rocks of *Aravalli hills* at nights are the factors which have given rise to semi-arid type of climate of *Mewat* region of *Haryana*. Average rainfall in the *Mewat* region is 551 mm. Though there is considerable regional variability within the whole *Mewat* region. For example, in *Tauru*, 653 mm, *Nuh* -620 mm, *Nagina*-390 mm, *Firozpur Jhirka*-713 mm, *Punhana*-433mm, and *Hathin*-498 mm (Ground Water Survey of Haryana Gurugram, 2016). The rainfall and the temperature directly affect the probability of occurring drought like conditions in the areas, undertaken for the study.

The physiographic divisions of *Mewat* area is characterized with some of regional topographical characteristics including water bodies with contours with the other vicinal location along with other neighbouring districts/ states which are shown in the drawn map as follows:



Source: Drawn by Researcher

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

DATA COLLECTION: The study is based on primary data, and it is therefore collected from the respondents, belonged to the participated villagers, taken from three villages, taken for the study. In this context, a structured questionnaire was employed to get the desired results. Amongst these sample villages, *Ghaghas* and *Karheda* belonged to *Nagina* block and *Rangala Rajpur*, belonged to *Firozpur Jhirka* block of Mewat. Amongst the sample villages, undertaken for the study enjoy the *locational* advantages, as these villages are located under the foothills of *Aravalli* range; as a result continuously recharging the ground water flow down during the rainy season. The ground water of the selected villages is relatively far better than that of interior part of the area. Further, the Correlation has been worked out the correlation between the levels of satisfaction of the respondents and participant of the people to be taken from the different villages to be taken for the study. For measuring the level of participation, deriving benefits and satisfaction, **weightage mean**, has used to get the desired result. In order to know the opinion of the people, the **LIKERT SCALE** technique, is often used for varied nature of public opinion formation for socio-economic and political survey. In this context, the LIKERT SCALE is to be used by showing the varied levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, as follows:

Strongly disagree (Index Value below 1.5), Agreed (Index Value between 1.5 to 2.5), Undecided (Index Value greater than 4.5). The Index Value greater than 3.5 confirm the degree of participation of the people, which is as follows:

$$W_{mi} = \frac{(W_1 f_1 + W_2 f_2 + W_3 f_3 + \dots + W_n f_n)}{(f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + \dots + f_n)} = \frac{\sum W_i f_i}{\sum f_i}$$

Where  $W_1$  is the assigned weight for a particular class under the agreement scale, and  $f_1$  is the corresponding frequency of that class in this study. The **weightage means** is to be employed for assessing the benefits to be received by the local people. The benefits are to be categorized as  $W=1$ , when there is 'No benefit', Marginal  $W=2$ , Low  $W=3$ , High  $W=4$ , and Very High  $W=5$ . Similarly  $F$ =Total frequency

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION:** The observed values of varied respondents are tabulated to get the desired results which are as follows:

**VARIABLES SHOWING PEOPLE PARTICIPATION WITH VARIED LEVEL OF SATISFACTION**

Sr. No	Variables Explaining participation	Name of village	Strongly Disagree W=1	Disagree W=2	Undecided W=3	Agree W=4	Strongly disagree W=5	Total Frequency	WW1	Remarks
1.	Well informed about on-going activities	Ghaghas	0	0	2	08	14	24	4.5	H.S.
		Karheda	1	2	4	14	17	38	4.1	H.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	0	1	3	15	12	31	4.2	H.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>H.S.</b>
2.	Participation in the village meeting	Ghaghas	0	0	2	9	13	24	4.2	H.S.
		Karheda	0	0	3	15	20	38	4.4	H.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	0	1	2	18	10	31	4.1	H.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>H.S.</b>
3.	Consulted for land development activities	Ghaghas	0	1	3	10	14	24	4.1	H.S.
		Karheda	4	7	8	11	17	38	3.1	M.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	2	2	4	12	12	31	3.7	H.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>M.S.</b>
4.	Take as partner land related projects	Ghaghas	4	4	2	9	5	24	3.3	M.S.
		Karheda	4	6	13	12	3	38	3.2	M.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	3	2	12	6	8	31	3.1	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>M.S.</b>
5.	Village is delegated power by project authority	Ghaghas	1	2	5	11	5	28	3.2	H.S.
		Karheda	4	5	11	13	5	38	3.7	M.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	1	2	13	10	5	31	3.2	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>H.S.</b>
6.	Participating indecision making meeting of user group	Ghaghas	2	1	3	6	12	24	3.7	M.S.
		Karheda	3	10	8	8	9	38	3.2	H.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	2	6	4	9	10	31	3.5	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>H.S.</b>
7.	Involvement in project conceptualization & designing	Ghaghas	1	5	5	6	7	24	4.0	H.S.
		Karheda	6	9	8	11	4	38	3.2	M.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	2	11	10	5	3	31	3.6	H.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>H.S.</b>
8.	Involvement in execution project	Ghaghas	5	1	2	6	2	24	3.5	M.S.
		Karheda	5	9	12	11	4	38	3.2	H.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	7	6	9	5	6	31	2.8	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>M.S.</b>
9.	Contribution For partial project funding	Ghaghas	3	3	6	10	2	24	4.3	M.S.
		Karheda	7	12	8	7	4	38	2.8	M.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	2	9	7	7	6	31	2.7	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>M.S.</b>
10.	Participation in conflicting resolution	Ghaghas	2	0	6	12	4	24	3.6	H.S.
		Karheda	12	7	7	8	4	31	2.3	L.S.
		Rangala-Rajpur	10	3	4	8	6	38	2.9	M.S.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>M.S.</b>

Source: Field Survey

Legend: Strongly agree (Below 1.5), Disagree (1.5 to 2.5), Undecided (2.5 to 3.5),

Key: HS =Highly Satisfied, M.S. = Moderately Satisfied, L.S.= Low Satisfied / Agree (3.5 to 4.5), strongly disagree (Above 4.5)



On the basis of tabulated figures of observed data which shows a varied response of people participants by the numbers of villagers, of the three villagers, namely *Ghaghas*, *Karheda* and *Rangala Rajpur*, belonged to *Nagina* and *Firozpur Jhirka* blocks respectively. The respondents have equally expressed that they were consulted for their land development activities, as shown by higher index value 3.5. *Ghaghas* appears relatively better as compared to two other settlements. Participation in decision making meeting of the user group is satisfactory with **agreement index value** is 3.2.

In other relating aspects of participation, including participation in land relating projects, delegation of power of villages by the project authority, by involvement of project execution process, contribution to partial funding for project and participating in conflict resolution and the respondents were undecided meaning that the participation is very weak or almost non existence. These are related to low level of education with higher group of income, responded better to executing process, contributed to partial project funding and participating in conflict resolution. This shows that there is wider anomaly in the level of participation of the local people in the different project activities which enjoy relatively proximity of the project undertaken by the **MNREGA** project authority in the sample villages taken for the study. The correlation values show that there is significant level of satisfaction and the people participation which are as follows:

Correlation	R-Value	Significance
Name of the sample village		
Ghaghas	+ 0.45	0.027
Karheda	+ 0.54	0.000
Rangala Rajpur	+ 0.50	0.003
<b>Total MNREGA Project</b>	+ 0.48	0.000

On the basis of correlation values of the people participation in drought management programme through execution of the projects, undertaken by the MNREGA programme indicate the varied values at the individual as well as total MNREGA project level in all the sample villages, undertaken for the study. All correlation values show significant values between the two variables, taken for the study.

#### **STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH FOR DROUGHT MANAGEMENT UNDER MNREGA:**

On the basis of this study, it has evidently proved that the level of people participation for drought management programme under *MNREGA* ensured the local people participation by adopting the participatory approach to get the desired results. The intensification of participation ensures to take the structured measures for drought management, under this national rural employment generating programme. The study throws an adequate light on the participatory approach by identifying the driving force for intensifying the participatory management system. The ongoing drought management project under MNREGA provided an opportunity to extending directly or indirectly benefits under this participatory approach applied on the local people for drought management programs, executed under MNREGA.

The study shows that the critical factor for intensifying an active people participation in the awareness of the meetings, consultation and involvement in project design and their implementation. It is therefore, strongly recommended that the future drought management projects on drought management, which are to executed under MNREGA to utilize the local human resources in a best way by taking structural measures for drought management in the areas like *Mewat* of Haryana. This will also ensure to enable the long term substance of the people *participatory approach* to earn their livelihood as well taking structural measures for drought management in the recurring drought management areas. Hence, it is obvious that the participatory approach in drought management programme under MNREGA, has a vital significant for satisfactory level to varied extent, as a result they receive an opportunity to ensure their livelihood on sustainable basis and taking curative measures for

drought management, under MNREGA in the recurring drought prone areas. This approach has also been proved conducive more responsive in accordance with prevailing local conditions.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

A Participatory approach is an *inter-disciplinary approach* on the specific contents of each discipline in making possible a holistic and balanced perspective. The *community approach* has its vital significance gives an insight in to drought management programmes; executed in accordance with prevailing local conditions. The *participatory approach* enables the community to play a vital role in formulating planning; and provides an opportunity for making a judicious decisions and accepting their results. A *participatory approach* is related to *disaster sensitivity*, knowledge; problem solving; skill and value clarification to every stage but with special focus on disaster sensitivity to learners own community in the early years. This approach has been proved to know the complexity of disasters like '*drought*' and thus need to develop critical thinking and its '*mitigative skills*' and its feasibility in accordance with local conditions.

The present study shows that the people participation in the sample villages of the *Mewat areas* shows that the people with varied levels of satisfaction, taken participated in drought management programme, under MNREGA. In this study, the participatory approach in various drought management programs by taking "*structural and non-structural*" related activities are positively correlated with the two variables, taken for the study. The study shows that the critical factor for intensifying an active people participation in the awareness of the meetings, consultation and involvement in project design and their implementation. It is therefore, strongly recommended that the future drought management projects on drought management, which are to executed under MNREGA to utilize the local human resources in a best way by taking structural measures for drought management in the areas like *Mewat* of Haryana. This will also ensure to enable the long term substance of the people *participatory approach* to earn their livelihood as well taking structural measures for drought management in the recurring drought management areas.

Hence, it obvious that the participatory approach in the drought management programme, under *Mahtama Gandhi National Rural Employment Act*, has been proved very

conducive to execute the drought management programmes in a better responsive and cost-effective way in accordance with prevailing local conditions.

## REFERENCES:

- Agrawal, A. and Gibson, C.C. (1999), *"Enchantment and disenchantment: The role of Community in Natural resource Conservation."* World Development 27, (4): 629-649.
- Anderson Carpenter (2016), *"Participatory Approach for Conducting Community Needs & Resource Assessment"* SAGE Publication, Singapore.
- Ahmad, Furqan (2017), *"People's participation in Development Administration: Problems & Prospects."* Indian Journal of Public Administration, New Delhi. Vol.58 Issue: 4 page 698-698.
- Ashok K. & Poonam Prakash (2016), *"Public Participation in Planning in India."* Cambridge scholars Publishing, Lady Stephen Library, New Delhi.
- Datta, Brij (2014), *"People's participation in Rural Development: A Case study in Dibrugarh District of Assam."* Prabandhan : Indian Journal of Management, Vol. 5, Issue 7, July 12
- Gupta, Manu & Chawda, Shinghawi (2009), *"Community based Disaster Management"* Yojana, June 2009.
- Majumdar, D.K, and Saikia (2006), *"People participation and Constraints in Watershed Development Programme"* Agricultural Situation in India, July 2006.
- Narwani, G.S. (2005), *"Community Water Management"* Rawat Publication, Delhi-11002.
- Paul, Surjeet Kumar (2006), *"Participatory Approach for Sustainable Agricultural Technology Transfer"* Prasharshika, Vol. XXX III, Nov. 2, July –Dec. 2006.
- Sergei Yurievich Zudin & et. al.(2012), *" Participatory Approach in Rural Development."* RUDECO Vocational Training in Rural Development and Ecology, M.2012, 108 p.
- Singh, Parmod K. & Singh, Harpal (2017), *"Pathways for Drought Resilient Livelihoods based on People's participation Perception."* Climate Change, Nov. 2017, Springer link.springer.com/ journal /10584.
- Sunder Raj (2006), *"Peoples' participation in Rural Development Reforms"* (Ed.) S.B.Verma, U.P.Singh and S.K. Jakhoda, Deep & Deep Publications, Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.
- Yadav, Ram P (1980), *"Rural Development and Change in India"* D.K. Publishers & Distributors (P) Ltd, Nargera Park, Delhi.
- Hand Book of Mewat

**Contribution:** The contribution of Sh. B.R.Punia, Programme Leader- Community Mobilization is highly appreciated.

---