



Socio-economic profile of women empowerment through MGNREGA in Anand district

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Abstract

The present research was conducted in Anand district to assess the impact of MNREGA on women empowerment. The data was collected through personal interview with help of interview schedule. The data finalized and tabulated was done with the use of percentage, mean and standard deviation for drawing the inferences with variables on the basis of data it was observed that the MNREGA job holder. The results revealed that Age maximum number of the women respondents belongs to 35-50 years age group that is (38%). Maximum numbers of the respondents were got primary level (42%) while the percentage of illiterate women working under MGNREGs was 39% respectively. The residing in medium family system (64.4%) respondents followed by small family system (30%). That maximum (60%) of the respondents were found in the income categories of (Rs.1000-2500). Majority of the beneficiaries reside in their own house since 15 years. Moreover, 62% of the respondents has received helped in various household activities followed by 38% respondents did not receive any help in household chores. Moreover, it is interesting to observe that other than necessity for employment which is 40%, the second highest reason for joining the scheme was that they work their nearby home and can go back whenever needed at home and half of the beneficiaries have 2-5 years work experience in this scheme.

Keywords: empowerment, women empowerment, MGNREGs

1. Introduction

The Government of India Has Passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (NREGA) 2005 guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The law was initially called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and was renamed with the prefix "Mahatma Gandhi" on 2 October 2009, Gandhi's birth anniversary (Anonymous, 2009) [1]. MNREGA is a job guarantee scheme for rural Indians. It was enacted by legislation on 25 August 2005, but the act was come into force on 2 February, 2006 and implemented in phased manner. In phase one; it was introduced from the Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh in 200 districts of the most backward Districts of the country (Das *et al.*, 2013; Kumar, 2011; Patel, 2008) [2, 3, 4]. It was implemented in an additional 130 Districts in phase two during 2007-08. MNREGA covers the entire country with the exception of Districts that have a cent percent urban population. The scheme provides a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of paid employment in every financial year to adult members of any household willing to do unskilled manual work related to public work at the statutory minimum wage of Rs.142 /day in 2013-14. If they fail to do so the government has to pay the salary at their homes. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in September 2005 (Pratapmal, 2007) [5]. It addresses mainly to rural poor and their fundamental right to work and dignity. It also empowers local citizens to play an active role in the implementation of employment guarantee schemes through Grama Sabha, Social Audit, Participatory planning and other means. It is consider being a land mark in the history of poverty reduction

strategies in India. This scheme intends to provide employment to the rural poor during lean agricultural season and aims to create village asset and bring sustainable development. Further, the attempt is to provide adequate employment to women at equal wage. The program there for requires 2/3 of all workers are women so many studies reveal that MGNREGA was implemented for the growth and development of rural area by ensuring 100 days of employment. There is 33% reservation for women and there are expectations that 40% of the employment benefits would go to women. The scheme would benefit the BPL families in that the income of at least one member and per capita expenditure will go up. When a detailed study conducted regarding this topic by selecting 100 samples from a panchayat, it is clear that, most of the panchayat has taken initiative to implement this scheme. The main objective of this study is to evaluate and understand the impact of MGNREG in socioeconomic development and women empowerment.

2. Material and methods

The present study is intended to identify the impact of MNREGA on socio- economic development and women empowerment. The various methods and procedures that are used in the selection of area, locale of study, sampling designs and procedures of data collection, different variables under study Anand district was selected purposively for the study because its close familiarity to investigator with respect to area, respondents and its easy accessibility. The population of the present study consisted of all the women who actively participation in MGNREGs, out of which 2% women were selected as the part of the sample population for the present

research. Out of 8 blocks 3 blocks were selected namely Sojitra, Tarapur and Umreth. These blocks (Sojitra, Tarapur & Umreth) were selected on the basis of highly concentrated women participation in MGNREGs activities as revealed from the five years data of MGNREGs procured from the District Rural Development office (DRDO). Villages were selected from 3 blocks i.e. from Sojitra block: Batva, Limabali, Trambavad, Tarapur block: Tol, Malpur, Ishanpur, and from Umreth block: Umreth, Jhakhhal and Fatepur villages were purposively selected. These 9 villages were selected as District Rural Development office officer claimed that during our field survey, these villages will have MGNREGs activities going on in full swing. In the fourth stage, the selection of MGNREGs beneficiaries were made by preparing a list of all the women working at these selected worksites. Through random sampling method, 35 women were chosen from each village (Batva, Limbali, Trmbavad, Umreth, Jhakhala, Fatepur, Tol, Malpur & Ishanpur) for being the part of the

sample population. So the total sample for the present study came out to be 315 MGNREGs beneficiaries selected from 9 villages of 3 blocks from Anand district. A structured schedule for data collection was designed and exercised by interviewing with few respondents for pre-testing. Then, the suitable modification were made according to need of this study. There after data were collected from the MNREGA respondent through personal interview method.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Socio economic profile of women respondents in MGNREGs

To have a realistic understanding about the status of participation of women and factors influencing their participation in MGNREGS, the socio-economic and demographic profiles of the respondents were given in the below table;

Table 1: Socio economic profile of women respondents in MGNREGs

Socio-Economic profile of the respondents	N	%
Age (in yrs)		
18 to 25	68	22
25 to35	101	35
35 to50	102	38
Above 50	13	5
Education level		
Illiterate	106	37.3
Primary level	120	42
Middle school	47	16
Secondary level	05	1.7
Higher Secondary & Above	06	2.11
Family Size		
Small family (1 -5)	86	30.2
Medium family (5-10)	183	64.4
Large family (10-15)	12	4.2
Very large family (Above 15)	03	1
Personal Income (in Rs.)		
<1000	88	30.9
1000-2500	169	59
>2500	33	11.6
Help received in Household chores		
Yes	112	39.4
No	172	60
Members of SHG		
Yes	91	32
No	193	67.9
Reasons for joining MGNREGS		
For Employment	115	40.4
Restricted Mobility	90	31
For Child Education	02	2.4
Improve Financial Condition	68	22
Work Experience in MGNREGs		
< 2 years	75	26
2-5 years	145	51
>5 years	64	23

The above result revealed that majority of respondents i.e. 38 percent women working in MGNREGS belonged to the 36-45 years aged groups followed by 22 percent women in 18 to 25 years age group. The education status revealed that less than

half of women respondents who had got primary level of education while 39 percentage of women were working in MGNREGS were illiterate. The majority 64.4 percent women respondents of MNREGA belonging to medium size were

having 5 to 10 members in a family. Although least 1 percent women MGNREGS workers was observed having very larger family size i.e. above 15 members. It is evidence from table 1 that the percentage of personal income group of Rs.1000-2500 per month i.e 59 percent followed by 11.6 percent lied in the income group of Rs. more than 2500. The participation of SHGs indicate that 32 percent of the total respondents were associated with the SHGs for more than 5 years. Moreover, it is interesting to observe that other than necessity for employment which is 40%, the second highest reason for joining the scheme was that they work their nearby home and can go back whenever needed at home and half of the beneficiaries have 2-5 years work experience in this scheme. The studies on the impact of MGNREGs on women empowerment, the data pertaining to MGNREGs in the study area have been analyzed in the following pages. Data presented in table 1 showed that socio economic status of women respondents of MNREGA.

4. References

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