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Impact of MNREGA and level of awareness on Socio – economic profile of rural women in Faizabad district

Sadhana Gupta, Subodh Kumar and Manoj Kumar

Abstract

The study was conducted in purposely selected Milkipur block of Faizabad district (U.P.) selected purposively. A total number of 120 respondent *i.e.* 60 beneficiaries women & 60 non-beneficiaries women were selected through random sampling. Finding that majority of the beneficiaries women (43.33%) were observed in high category awareness awareness whereas the majority of non-beneficiaries women (38.33%) were observed in high category awareness Out of 18 variables studied, 11 namely *viz*- education, housing pattern, occupation, annual income, social participation, material possession, extension contact, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation and level of awareness were found to be highly significant difference between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries women. Whereas 7 variables, *i.e.*- age, caste, family type, family size, type of worker, landholding area and marital status were shown non- significant difference between MNREGA beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

Keywords: MNREGA beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries

1. Introduction

Social and economic development is the main aim of rural development for rural people, especially to bring about sustained improvement in their living condition through an increase in their income and access to social goods. The status of women is intimately connected with their economic status, which in turn, depends upon rights, roles and opportunity for the participation in economic activities. The economic status of women is now accepted as an indicator of a societal development. However, all development does not result in improving women economic activities. Pattern of women activities are affected by the prevailing social ideology and are also linked with the stage of economic development. Government implements different programmes to improve the social and economic development in rural India.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is the first tangible commitment to the poor. The scheme aims at providing employment as a source of income by ensuring their dignity. Thus, it was considered a unique scheme, which provides them Right to Work, trend in the Constitution under directive principles of state policy. In this sense the scheme was supposed to be the most unique scheme after independence as it provides them statutory right to employment. The government has a statutory obligation to provide employment to every rural household in a financial year.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is a beneficial program for rural adult men and Women. MNREGA which was implemented by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. MNREGA is the flagship program of the Government that directly touches lives of poor and promotes inclusive growth. It provides a right for guarantee employment of the rural population through an act of parliament.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was launched in 25 August, 2005. The Act received the assent of President on September 5, 2005 and was notified on September 7, 2005. It was implemented in India "s most backward districts on February 2, 2006. The law was initially called the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) but was renamed on 2 October 2009 as MNREGA. The MNREGA is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted by legislation. MNREGA is a social security legislation with a right based framework. The purpose of the Act is to make resilient resources and enhance the income source platform of the rural inadequate. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do skilled and unskilled manual work.

This programme is effective targeting of marginalized groups (scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, BPL and women) and use of MNREGA as a supplementary income source during

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non-agricultural season. A very important thing is that the MNREGA is not only providing legal guarantee of work but also protecting and upholding the Right to live of crores of Indians standing on social margins. The idea of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is not new. It is based on Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS), and many other wage employment schemes. MNREGA ranks among the most powerful initiatives ever undertaken for rural transformation of rural livelihoods in India.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is the Government employment and rural development programme in India. In the last 7 years, MNREGA has been an important and fall-back source of income for millions of rural households; on an average 25 per cent of the rural households seek employment under the Act, annually. MNREGA has contributed to increased rural wages across the country, empowerment of marginalized sections and improved natural resource management.

History of MNREGA

NREGA has come after almost 56 years of experience of other rural employment programmes, which include both Centrally Sponsored Schemes and those launched by State Govt. These comprise the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) 1980-89; Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) 1983-89; Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) 1989-1990; Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) 1993-99; Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) 1999-2002; Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)

from 2001; National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) from 2004 were national rural employment schemes. Among these, the SGRY and NFFWP have been merged with NREGA in 2005.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in purposely selected Milkipur block of Faizabad district (U.P.) selected purposively. The list of job card holder families was prepared 15 MNREGA women beneficiaries from all the four selected villages and 15 non-beneficiaries women from each of the selected villages were selected randomly. A total number of 120 respondent *i.e.* 60 beneficiaries women & 60 non-beneficiaries women were selected through random sampling. 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. Thereafter, data was collected from the MNREGA respondents through personal interview method. The structured schedule was developed keeping in view, the variables:- independent Variables- age, education, caste, family type, family size, housing pattern, land holding, family annual income, social participation, material possession, extension contact, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation. The scale developed by Supe, (1969) was used to measure the economic motivation with some modification

Result Discussion

Level of awareness

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Level of Awareness

S. No.	Categories (score)	Beneficiaries (n =60)	Non- Beneficiaries (n =60)	Total (N=120)
1.	Low (30-38)	24 (40.00)	22 (36.67)	46 (38.34)
2.	Medium (39-47)	10 (16.67)	15 (25.00)	25 (20.83)
3.	High (48-56)	26 (43.33)	23 (38.33)	49 (40.83)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

It is obvious from Table 1. That majority of the beneficiaries women (43.33%) were observed in high category followed by 40.00% in low and 16.67% in medium category of awareness whereas the majority of non-beneficiaries women (38.33%)

were observed in high category followed by 36.67% in low and 25.00% in medium category respectively.

Pooled figures indicates that majority of the respondents (40.83%) were in high category of awareness whereas 38.34% and 20.83% were in low and medium categories, respectively.

Table 2: Impact of MNREGA on socio – economic profile of rural women N= 120

S. No.	Variables	Respondents				Z - Value
		Beneficiaries n =60		Non- Beneficiaries n =60		
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
1.	Age	36.03	5.629	35.46	4.192	0.625 NS
2.	Education	3.23	1.184	2.3	1.225	4.242**
3.	Caste	2.13	0.535	2.18	0.700	-0.439 NS
4.	Family type	1.6	15.685	1.48	11.239	1.280 NS
5.	Family size	5.75	1.846	6.15	2.833	-0.916 NS
6.	Type of worker	1.55	0.501	1.53	0.503	0.181 NS
7.	Housing pattern	2.31	0.724	1.96	0.712	2.668**
8.	Landholding area (acre)	0.46	0.595	0.33	0.475	1.357 NS
9.	Marital Status	1.05	0.219	1.03	0.181	0.456 NS
10.	Occupation	2.31	0.567	1.83	0.668	4.274**
11.	Annual income	55686.67	3957.291	35766.66	4537.477	25.628**
12.	Social participation	0.86	0.566	0.58	0.497	2.914**
13.	Material possession	16.50	6.528	11.61	5.684	4.369**
14.	Extension contact	29.63	5.128	22.68	6.634	6.419**
15.	Economic motivation	20.95	2.976	17.20	2.427	7.562**
16.	Risk orientation	21.58	2.877	17.46	2.547	8.470**
17.	Scientific orientation	21.10	3.090	17.03	3.209	7.069**
18.	Level of awareness	47.68	4.308	40.18	4.014	9.865**

** Significance at 1% probability level.

Z tab. 0.257, N.S. = Non Significance

It is apparent from Table 2. that the impact of MNREGA on socio economic profile of rural women z- test was applied, The data indicated statistically significant differ once between the groups regarding education 4.242, housing pattern 2.668, occupation 4.274, annual income 25.628, social participation 2.914, material possession 4.369, extension contact 6.419, economic motivation 7.562, risk orientation 8.470, scientific orientation 7.069 and level of awareness 9.865. These variables are highly significance and age, caste, family type, family size, type of worker, landholding and marital status are non-significant. Thus, it is indicated that out 18 selected variables related to socio-economic profile of the rural women, the significant influence of MNREGA was observed on 11 of them, whereas it influences other variable also but the influence was not found significant. So for improving the socio-economic profile of rural women participation of women in MNREGA should be encouraged and ensured.

Conclusion

MNREGA is an employment assurance scheme helpful in improving the socio-economic profile of the rural poor, specially, women. It provides a sources of additional income where results livelihood security, improvement in child education and health status of rural families. It also helps in creation of valuable infrastructure at village level conservation of natural resources and environment. MNREGA can play a pivotal role involving the problems of unemployment and migration for rural to urban. The problems limited the rural women accessibility towards achieving the benefits optimally. To improve the life of rural women, a smooth path- way is necessary for gaining the maximum number of benefits. Thus to achieve the goal of programme, government must plan some policy which will be helpful in proper readdressed of the constraints and effective implementation of the programme.

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