

**Socio-Economic Empowerment of Tribal Women under the Employment Scheme
(MGNREGA) in Udaipur**

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Abstract

The Study was undertaken to find out Socio-economic empowerment of women under the employment Scheme (MGNREGA) .A Purposive sample of 36 tribal women who worked for 100 days in MGNREGA from three panchyats of Udaipur district were interviewed.

Finding of the study focus on the Empowerment of tribal women .The average annual income of respondents from 100 days MGNREGA participation was 5803/- .One third of Participants should be women and it was provided as their right . No Gender Difference was made in allotment of work. Women were Provided Crèche Facilities at worksites. Respondents like MGNREGA work because the work was within 5 km's distance of heir residence; work with household, agriculture and with young children; work during lean season; energy, time and cost required in transportation can be saved .It is helpful to respondents in terms of increasing their resources like material and non-material resources, food consumption, clothing, awareness, decision –making and housing. According to respondent economic benefit is the main reason for women work participation in MGNREGA but indirectly it leads to other benefits also such as Awareness generation, Capacity Building, Food Security, Health and Competence etc.

Thus more important is achieving improvement of women status which is due to secure employment, which brings eradication of poverty and Empowerment of women.

Keywords: MGNREGA, Empowerment of women

Introduction:

Unemployment and Poverty, both these problems have continued to be a matter of concern for the Government. After independence, the Government at the Centre and the States has launched a large number of schemes under the broad framework of rural development. Rural Development is the primary objective for a democratic form of Government like- India. So, the Government has endeavored to formulate rural development programmes for socio-economic upliftment of the rural population.

The Ministry of Rural Development spearheading the frontal attack on rural poverty and endeavored to reach out to the last and most disadvantaged sections of society through its various programmes schemes- National Rural Employment Programme (NREP:1980), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP:1983), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY:1989), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS:1993), Jawahar Gramin Samradh Yojana (JGSY:1999), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY:2001) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and the most important Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act . The NREGA differs from all the other schemes in that the legal provision under this scheme to prevent corruption is much stronger and several steps have been taken to ensure greater transparency of operation. The NREGA, 2005 was passed unanimously by the Lok Sabha on August in 23 and notified on 7th September 2005. The NREGA was renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2 October 2009. It came into force in 200 Districts on February 2, 2006. The implementation of this programme is in 595 Districts out of 614 Districts in all the States in India with effect from April 1, 2008

Research Methodology:

Objective:

1. To critically analyze the role of NREGA in promoting the decision making power in Women for Empowerment.
2. To analyze facilities provided by NREGA is helpful for work enhancement, which empower them
3. **Location of study:** Girwa, Jhadol, kotada of Udaipur district
4. **Research tool:** Interview Schedule for beneficiaries
 1. General Information of Respondents
 2. Social-economic factor of MNREGA affecting women

Selection of Blocks: This was first step of Sampling Design, for the selection of data. Blocks and Site were work was running where selected and was obtained from the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)

Udaipur and also from Atal Seva Kendras with the help of Block Development officer and work place the block were selected namely Girwa, jadhhol and kotada. 36 questioner were filled by respondent

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Descriptive Statistics: The information gathered from respondent was analyzed by using frequency, Percentage, Mean Score; mean percent Score and Standard deviation

- Frequency = is the number of occurrences of a repeating event
- Valid Percent: The column labeled "percent" lists the actual percentages of the total sample who answered either "yes" or "no."
- Cumulative percentage is another way of expressing frequency distribution. It calculates the percentage of the cumulative frequency within each interval, much as relative frequency distribution calculates the percentage of frequency.
- Mean Score: It is calculated by adding the weight given to item and dividing by number of respondents.
- Mean percent scores: To measure the economic and social impact of MNREGA on different resource mean percent scores were calculated with the help of following formula.
- $MPS = \frac{\text{Average Sum of mean Score obtained by a respondent}}{\text{Maximum possible score}} * 100$

Maximum possible score

Table 1.

Decision Power Household Decision					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely helpful	8	22.2	23.5	23.5
	very Helpful	25	69.4	73.5	97.1
	Somewhat helpful	2	2.8	2.9	100.0
	Total	36	94.4	100.0	

Table 1: Decision making is an important indicator in determining one’s status within the family (Lodh 2003). Household decision taken by head of the family but after joining MNREGA decision making power of women increased, 97% feels it is helpful after employment.

Table 2.

Financial Decisions		Frequency	P%	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely helpfull	9	25.0	25.7	25.7
	very Helpful	25	69.4	71.4	97.1
	Somewhat helpful	1	2.8	2.9	
	Total	35	97.2	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.8		
Total		36	100.0		

Table 2. Financial decision is also important factor which affect the status of women. 97 percent of respondent feel helpful in taking financial decision.

Table 3.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely helpfull	9	25.0	25.7	25.7
	very Helpful	25	69.4	71.4	97.1
	Somewhat helpful	1	2.8	2.9	100.0
	Total	35	97.2	100.0	
Missing	System	1	2.8		
Total		36	100.0		

Table 3. Women is directly and indirectly relate to child and its development .where when it come to take decisions related to their children they have less power in family but after good employ ment and having

financial strength they are also allowed to take all child care decisions above data clearly tell 97 % are successfully taking child care decision after MNREGA.

Decision making determines the status of women. The average decision making Score of the respondents was 7.15(SD 2.19). There was significant correlation between decision making ($r=0.859$, significant at 0.01 level) and overall income of the respondents household.

Table 4. N=36

Sr.No	Particulars	F	%
1 Facilities	Drinking water	36	100
	Toilet	6	17
	First aid	30	83
	Shed	27	75
	Creche	27	75
	2 Awareness about Facilities	Aware	25
Not aware		11	30

Table 4. Revealed that drinking water was available at all worksites where respondents were filled by them. First aid kit (83%) was there at the worksite or at the Panchayat but some of the important medicines were lacking in it. Moreover other facilities like crèche (75%) and Shed (75%) were available on some of worksites whereas toilet (17%) facility was only at few sites. Resting place for the workers and crèches had been not provided adequately. Women with small children have been badly hurt by this omission while the lack of first aid has endangered the workers since earth works do involve the possibility of injuries.

Finding

Capacity building: 97% feels it is helpful in taking their household decision after employment (MNREGA), 91 percent of respondent feel helpful in taking financial decision. 97 % are successfully taking child care decision after MNREGA. Employment with Power and independency bring empowered women.

Worksite facilities: The MGNREGA is committed to ensuring a workplace conducive to productivity and worker's welfare. But there are no any facilities at the worksites. 99 per cent of worksites had drinking

water facility according to the respondents. Crèche Facility- Respondents having infants or young children need help of some body to look after them, so that they can work. Clearly indicated Tabulated data that two third of respondents were aware regarding crèche facility to be provided under MNREGA at worksite. One third reported that one extra worker was kept to look after the children at worksite with some playing material also rooms.

Work Decision-Making: When asked about their decision to work under the MGNREGA works, 53 percent women said that the decision to work at worksites was their own. 47 per cent women said that they receive fewer days' work because they are not allocated all the types of work available and are often assigned soft work, such as moving soil dug out of wells which requires less time. They said that if women are less than men then female workers faced discrimination in doing works. Example- Earth works is high demand for men, but the respondent said that we are also able to work.

Recommendations: The overall impact of MG-NREGA on women's lives is quite positive in many ways. Such as-

- There should have some provision for different types of work only for Women. And also, there should have some provision for pregnant, nursing women and for older women. Women should attend the community meetings and take part in decision making process.
- Lack of childcare facilities prevented many of these women from claiming their entitlement under the work. So, Childcare facilities should provide in MNREGA worksites.
- Awareness level of women should increase and acceptance on the part of their families to their participation on MGNREGA works.

Conclusion: MGNREGA is a programme that has begun to make a difference in the lives of women. In each of the three survey GPs, most of the women felt that the Act is very important for them and it would impact socio-economic status of each and every households. Now, women workers are more confident about their roles as contributors to family expenditure and taking part in the family decision and also spend some earning money by their own hand. The Scheme act as a tool of women's empowerment deserves much more attention than it has received so far.

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