

Awareness of MGNREGA among rural women of Faizabad district

■ NEHA TIWARI AND RAJSHREE UPADHYAY

Received: 18.10.2012; Revised: 25.02.2013; Accepted: 29.04.2013

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

NEHA TIWARI

Department of Home Science
Extension and Communication
Management, College of Home
Science, Maharana Pratap
University of Agriculture and
Technology, UDAIPUR
(RAJASTHAN) INDIA
Email:nanhu31988@gmail.com

■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was conducted in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the study was to find out the awareness of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) among rural women. The sample consisted of 100 randomly selected beneficiaries from two Panchayat samities. Personal interview technique was used for collecting data. Findings of the study revealed that awareness of the respondents about different aspect of MGNREGA ranged between 29.66 to 86.11 MPS (mean per cent score).

■ **KEY WORDS** : Job card, Selection process, Rural women, Mean per cent score

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Tiwari, Neha and Upadhyay, Rajshree (2013). Awareness of MGNREGA among rural women of Faizabad district. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 8 (1): 86-89.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which has now been renamed as 'Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was notified on 7th September, 2005 by the Government of India. This Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The choice of works suggested in the Act addresses the causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion etc., so that the process of employment generation could be maintained on a sustainable basis. The MGNREGA promises wage employment to every adult person who resides in any rural area and is willing to do casual manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The employment seeker has to register with the Gram Panchayat for a job card that will be valid for a minimum of 5 years.

From a gender perspective, the MGNREGA holds great promise especially with its clause for protecting women's access to the scheme through proactive inclusion. Priority is given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries are women.

Some minimal worksite facilities and social security are provided by way of childcare (if there are five or more children under the age of six) at a worksite, safe drinking water, shade during rest period, first-aid, hospitalization in case of injury,

ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25,000 and so on. Apart from employment, the Act can generate works that address gender needs. The MGNREGA has the potential of addressing women's "practical interests" through generation of income by way of wage employment and the creation of assets that address basic needs of food, water, fuel, fodder and so on.

If the women are aware about the benefits of the development programme, it helps to ensure their participation, improve socio-economic profile of women and place them in main stream of development. Keeping these facts in mind the present study has been planned to study the awareness of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act among rural women.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in two purposively selected Panchayat samities of Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh State in 2011, namely Palpur and Mewapur having maximum number of women beneficiaries of MGNREGA. Two villages from each Panchayat samiti *i.e.* Palpur, Tulsampur from Palpur Panchayat samiti and Mutalke Rasulpur Leleha and Belambhi ka Purwa from Mewapur Panchayat samiti having maximum women enrolled were selected. A separate list of women beneficiaries was prepared for all the four villages and 25 women were randomly selected from each village constituting the total sample of 100 rural women for the present study. For collection

of data, personal interview technique was used. Data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Frequencies, percentage and mean per cent score were used for analyzing the data statistically.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Back ground information :

Socio- economic status :

On the basis of scores obtained by the respondents in different aspects of socio-economic status scale, the respondents were categorized in high, medium and low socio-economic status. Data in Table 1 point out that all the

respondents (100%) were from low socio-economic status. None of the respondents had medium and high socio-economic status as all of them were agriculture labourers.

Awareness regarding mahatma gandhi national rural employment guarantee act among rural women :

Awareness is the most important component of behaviour. It plays a major role in the covert and overt behaviour of the human beings. It helps to develop favourable attitude to take certain action in accepting any new thing. Any government programme to be effective, it is important that public should be informed about it (Anshuman and Mistry, 2007). Before enrolment in the MGNREGA programme, women were made aware about programme.

Data in Table 2 depict the awareness regarding starting

Sr. No.	Categories	F / %
1.	High socio-economic status	0
2.	Medium socio-economic status	0
3.	Low socio-economic status	100

Sr. No.	Items	f / %
1.	Starting years of MGNREGA in sample village	
i.	2006	75
ii.	2007	25
2.	Enroled as a beneficiaries of the programme in 2009-2010	100
3.	Sources of information	
i.	Sarpanch	88
ii.	Secretary	38
4.	Decision for working under MGNREGA	
i.	Self	91
ii.	Head of family	3
iii.	All family members	5
iv.	Sarpanch	1

Sr. No.	Component	Mean per cent scores
1.	Objectives and beneficiaries	42.42
2.	Selection process	79.33
3.	Job card	86.11
4.	Wage payment	83.33
5.	Work under MGNREGA	85.62
6.	Facilities	29.66
7.	Muster roll	43.33
8.	Committee under MGNREGA	33.33

year of MGNREGA in respective villages, enrollment of beneficiaries, source of information and decision for working in the programme. Out of four villages, in three villages *i.e.* Palpur, Tulsapur, Mutalke Rassulepur Lellaha, the respondents reported that they were aware about MGNREGA started in their villages in the year 2006, whereas only in one village *i.e.* Belambhi ka Purva, the respondents reported that MGNREGA started in their village in 2007, although Govt. launched it in September 2006. Table reveals that all the respondents were beneficiaries of the programme since 2009-2010. Majority of the respondents (88%) reported that they got information regarding MGNREGA through Sarpanch whereas 38 per cent respondents reported Secretary as a source of information.

Decision-making is an important indicator in determining one's status within the family (Lodha, 2003). It was quite astounding that 91 per cent of the respondents took self-decision to work under MGNREGA, however, only 5 per cent of the decisions were taken collectively by all the family members.

Data in Table 3 depict the mean per cent scores of awareness of beneficiaries regarding different aspects of MGNREGA like objectives and beneficiaries, selection process, job card, wage payment, work under programme, facilities, muster roll and committee under MGNREGA. Regarding objectives and beneficiaries of the programme, the respondents reported that they were aware about MGNREGA programme going on within their villages. The respondents knew about the objective *i.e.* guaranteed wage employment of 100 days in a financial year, though they were unable to specify that it is to enhance the livelihood security (42.42 MPS). The respondents correctly reported adult member to be the beneficiaries of the programme. The similar findings were reported by Poorest Area Civil Society (2006) which revealed that the community members in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh had extremely low level of awareness about objectives of the MGNREGA.

Awareness regarding other component of programme *i.e.* selection process, job card, wage payment and work under MGNREGA ranged between 79.33 - 85.62 MPS. The respondents knew that every adult applicant gets selected who demand work under MGNREGA and process of MGNREGA registration *i.e.* the adult member desiring to get enrolled in the programme need to first submit the application to gram panchayat after which they were then registered by gram panchayat. Rest of the respondents were unaware as such formalities were performed by the male members of their family. About job card, it was revealed that the respondents were aware about job card *i.e.* the job card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing to work under MGNREGA and is free of cost. Job cards are issued by Gram panchayat and to get employment job cards are necessary. The respondents knew that job card is given by

Gram panchayat whereas, none of them knew that it can also be taken through web site because of low level of education and lack of resources. Regarding facilities (*i.e.* one third beneficiaries should be women, childcare facilities at a worksite, safe drinking water, shade during rest period, first-aid, hospitalization in case of injury, *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 25,000), muster roll and committee under MGNREGA, the women were aware up to the extent of 29.66-43.33 MPS. Narayanan and Vijayanand (2008) revealed that the implementation of act suffered from various shortcomings. Women of Madhya Pradesh, for example, complained that child care facilities were almost non-existence and children were either left with the family members or were brought to the work site and remained unattended. If the child is sick, the women may not even come for work. Some children are sent to Anganwadi centres where the timing was different from the work schedule. Children were also left at home with a girl child.

Conclusion :

It can be concluded that the respondents possessed average awareness about different aspects of MGNREGA *i.e.* source of information, selection process, objectives etc. Therefore, awareness should be generated among rural women to understand the significance of the programme which in fact brings the improvement in their status by providing employment opportunity to them. This will help to obtain desired results of change in life of rural communities. It also helps to enhance the awareness of women regarding different development programme.

Authors' affiliations:

RAJSHREE UPADHYAY, Department of Home Science Extension and Communication Management, College of Home Science, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, UDAIPUR (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

■ REFERENCES

- Ambasta, Pramathesh, P.S., Vijay Sankar and Shah, Mihir** (2008). Two years of NREGA: The Road Ahead. Economic and Political Weekly, February 23, 2008 pp.4.
- Dreze, J.** (2007). *Act fair, give rural worker their due*. The Times of India, April 4, 2008 p. 12.
- Raghunathan, S.** (2009). AREGA is a Promise half Kept. The Times of India, July 12, 2009.
- Shah** (2004). Socio-economic transformation in rural India. *The Hindu* March 5, 2005.
- Singh, A.** (2009). Awareness on the development of tribals, *Kurukshetra*, March, 2009, p.18.
- Swaminathan, M.S.** (2009). The second generation issues of MNREGA. *The Hindu*, September, 5, 2009, p.21.

Tiwari, N. (2011). Employment generation among women beneficiaries through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. M.Sc. Thesis, Mahrana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, RAJASTHAN (INDIA).

■ WEBLIOGRAPHY

Ansuman and Mistery (2007). Awareness generation among rural women. <http://gkspecialist.blogspot.in/2011/02/important-govt-programme-and-policies.html>.

Lodha (2003). Decision for working under MGNREGA. [http://blog.livemint.com/budget2010/02/18/nrega-scheme-check-villagers % E2% 80% 99- exodus-to-cities](http://blog.livemint.com/budget2010/02/18/nrega-scheme-check-villagers%E2%80%99-exodus-to-cities).

Narayanan and Vijayanand (2008). NREGA: A women programme. <http://knowledge.nrega.net/2011/nrega>.

Poorest Area Civil Society (2006). Goals, purpose and the expected output of the NREGP. <http://www.empowerpoor.org>.

8th
Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★