

## **Socio- Economic Profile of Women Empowerment Through MGNREGA in Paloor Panchayat**

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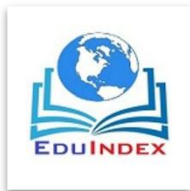
### **Abstract**

The national rural employment guarantee act, introduced in 2006 to provide 100 days of employment per financial year for adult members of any rural family who wish to perform unskilled manual work at the statutory wage rate, has been extended to the whole rural area of India. This research was conducted in paloor panchayat to assess the impact of MGNREGA on women's empowerment. The data was collected through personal interviews using the interview schedule. The finalized and tabulated data have been made with the use of the percentage, Chi-square to derive inferences with variables based on data, it has been observed that the MGNREGA job holder.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, women empowerment, MGNREGA

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The national act on guaranteeing rural employment in Mahatma Gandhi (MGNREGA) is the first concrete commitment to the poor. The scheme aims to create jobs as a source of income while guaranteeing their dignity. Therefore, it was considered as a single regime, which gives them the right to work, enshrined in the Constitution



according to the guiding principles of state policy (Part IV, Article 39 (a) and Article 41, Constitution of India. In this sense, the scheme was supposed to be the most unique scheme after independence as it provides them statutory right to employment. And the government has a legal obligation to provide work for all rural families during the academic year.

### **1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The major objectives of the study are:

- To analyze the socio-economic conditions of the women respondents in the study area.
- To study about the satisfaction level of the respondents in the study area.
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### **1.3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

There are many studies related to the role of MGNREGA on women's participation and their empowerment, most of which show a positive impact. It was endeavoured to review some of them.

Kumar Anil, Kote B, and Hommakeri P.M., (2012), "The Impact of MGNREGA Scheme on Rural-Urban Migration in Rural Economy with Reference to Gulbarga District in Karnataka State", found that 63 per cent of the respondents said that migration decreased after the implementation of MGNREGA. They also find out that the scheme has helped workers in their food security management.

Amrita Chatterjee (2011), clear in their study Employment guarantee and women's empowerment in rural India: Assessing institutional and governance need. This paper finds out that if the main members in a family get more employment opportunities, then the women workers of the families may withdraw the work and for the lack of awareness of the women participation of Gram Sabhas and PRIs is low. She also finds out that in the working place the women workers facing many problems like time payment, low-level awareness and worksite facilities etc.

Madhusudan (2009): in his paper "The Dalit, the poor and the MGNREGA", pointed out that the focus of MGNREGA 2005 is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, and hence to enhance livelihood security in rural areas as mentioned in the objective is to provide work, and as reported many times, only a minuscule percentage of people could get complete 100 day's work.



#### 1.4 NREGA (NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT)

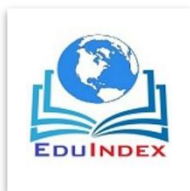
The national rural employment act (NREGA) is an employment guarantee scheme for Indians in rural areas. It was promulgated by the law on 25 August 2005. While our country is unemployment and poverty, the central government initiated the NREGA on February 2, 2006, from the district of Anantpur to Andhra Pradesh, inaugurated by our Prime Minister DR. MANMOHAN SINGH under Jawahar rojgar yojna which was launched by our former Prime Minister RAJIV GANDHI on April 28, 1989, and subsequently replaced on April 1, 1999, in Jawaharlal gram samridhi yojna, becomes sampuran gramin rojgar yojna on April 1, 2002, and was finally combined in NREGA on April 1, 2008. It is the first national employment program that guarantees employment in rural areas. It guarantees 100 days of unskilled jobs for rural families. NREGA has put Panchayati Raj institutions at its service by identifying poor families to work under NREGA. Therefore, MGNREGA covers the entire country, except districts with a 100% urban population. The program aims to improve the safety of the livelihoods of the rural poor by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed paid work for one year to each family whose adult members volunteer to perform unskilled manual work.

The act aims to create sustainable resources and strengthen the resource base for the livelihoods of the rural poor. The choice of the works proposed in the law deals with the causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation, soil erosion so that the process of creating jobs is sustainable.

#### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table 1

Socio-economic profile of the respondents	N	%
<b>Age(in yrs)</b>		
31 to 40	10	17
41 to 50	21	35
51 to 60	13	22
Above 61	16	26
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
Illiterate	7	12
Primary school (1- 5)	21	35



Middle school (6 – 8)	17	28
High school (9 – 10)	9	15
Higher Secondary school (11 – 12)	4	7
Degree	2	3
<b>Personal income(in Rs.)</b>		
<1000p.m	17	28
1000p.m-2500p.m	33	55
>2500p.m	10	17
<b>Reasons for joining MGNREGS</b>		
For employment	28	47
Restricyed mobility	13	21
For child education	01	2
Improve financial condition	18	30
<b>Work experience in MGNREGS</b>		
<2 years	18	30
2-5 years	26	43
>5 years	16	27

The above result revealed that the majority of respondents 35 per cent of women working in MGNREGS belonged to the 41-50 years aged groups followed by 26 per cent women in above 61 years. The education status revealed that the majority of respondents 35 per cent had got a primary level of education while 12 per cent of women were working in MGNREGS were illiterate. It is evident from table 1 that the percentage of personal income group of Rs.1000-2500 p.m i.e 55 per cent followed by 17 per cent lied in the income group of Rs.more than Rs.2500. Moreover, it is interesting to observe that other than necessity for employment which is 44 per cent ,the second- highest reason for joining the scheme was that they work their nearby home and can go back whenever needed at home and 40 per cent beneficiaries have 2-5 years work experience in this



scheme. The studies on the impact of MGNREGS on women empowerment, the data about mgnregs in the study area have been analyzed in the following pages. Data presented in Table 1 showed that socioeconomic status of women respondents of MGNREGS.

### **1.5 LEVEL OF SATISFACTION TOWARDS MGNREGA IN PALOOR PANCHAYAT**

The level of satisfaction towards MGNREGA program is analysed and presented in the below table.

**Table 2**

**Level of Satisfaction towards MGNREGA program in paloor panchayat**

<b>SI. No</b>	<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Highly Satisfied	5	9
2.	Satisfied	21	35
3.	Neutral	23	38
4.	Dissatisfied	11	18

Source: Primary data

The above table reveals that 38 per cent of the sample respondents are neutral in this program, 35 per cent of the sample respondents are satisfied in this program, 18 per cent are dissatisfied in this program and 9 per cent of the sample respondents are highly satisfied in this program. It is inferred that majority of the workers are satisfied in neutral.

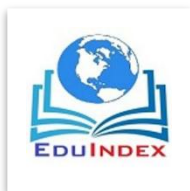
### **1.6 CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS**

Chi-square analysis is conducted to find out the relationship between demographic factors like age and satisfaction level of the respondents. The details of the analysis are stated as follows.

The relationship between the age and satisfaction level of the respondents is studied by forming the following null hypothesis.

H01: There is no significant relationship between age and satisfaction level of the respondents.

The details of the chi-square analysis of satisfaction level and age of the sample respondents are shown in the following table 3 as follows.



**TABLE 3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGE AND SATISFACTION LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Satisfaction level	Age				Total
	31-40	41-50	51-60	61 above	
Highly satisfied	1	2	1	1	5
Satisfied	3	10	4	4	21
Neutral	3	4	7	9	23
Dissatisfied	3	5	1	2	11
<b>Total</b>	10	21	13	16	60

Source: Primary data

Computed value = 8.2697

Table value = 8.343

Level of significance = 0.05

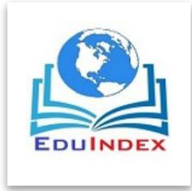
Degree of freedom = 9

Since the table value is (8.343) more than the calculated value (8.2697), the hypothesis stands accepted. Hence it is no relationship between satisfaction level and age of the respondents.

### 1.7 CONCLUSION

MGNREGA has a positive impact on not only the employment pattern of women but also their empowerment. Their improved presence in the gram sabha , the increasing number of women speaking out in the gram sabha, frequent interactions with government officials and access to banks and post offices are new achievements.

On the one side, MGNREGA has a positive impact on the unemployment pattern of women and on the other side, said scheme reduce hunger, poverty among rural women. Women have benefited both as individuals and as a community. Women are benefited individually because they can earn independently, spend some money on their own needs, contribute to family expenditure etc.



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