

**AWARENESS AND OPINION ABOUT MGNREG PROGRAMME AMONG RURAL WOMEN- WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MGNREG WOMEN WORKERS IN THRISSUR DIST.**



**Commerce**

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**ABSTRACT**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India has been passed in the year 2005 in the Parliament, and it was enacted in 2006. The programme is self-targeted to provide 100 days of employment to rural households who have unskilled and to serve as safety net. The findings of the study revealed that the awareness about the programme among rural women in the study area.

**Introduction**

MGNREGP aims at better 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 in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. It is applicable in all the 615 districts of the country.

**Objectives**

1. To know about the awareness level of MGNREG Scheme among rural women workers.
2. To investigate the opinion about the MGNREG scheme among rural women.

**Methodology**

Primary data were collected from Mathilakam Block in Thrissur District. In the Block two panchayats( Sree Narayanapuram and Edavilungue) were purposively chosen for the study because of the effective implementation of MGNREG scheme there in for the last seven years. 100 sample beneficiaries are selected randomly, 50 each from each panchayats. Secondary data were collected from the rural development agencies, reports, periodicals, websites etc.

**Review of Literature**

Krishnamurthy,(2006), stated that MGNREGS, was excessive involvement of affluent local people (landlords), and political leaders in the implementation and selection of worksites. Their influence is evident in matters such as the number of job cards to be issued, job card allocation, number of workers allowed from a household, number of work days, daily wage rates and work project allotment. Chhabra et al. (2009), pointed that there was rampant manipulation of records pertaining to muster rolls, accounts, number of worked days, wage payments and the number of work completed under the MGNREG scheme.

Chathakulam and Gireesan(2007), noted that, under the MGNREG Scheme, demand generation has been low in Palakkad due to poor awareness and publicity and the women's participation in the initial phase was high and presence of ADS members is a positive factor in drawing workers. They also illustrate the difficulties of the tribal people in assessing the scheme. They concluded that MGNEGA economically empowers women and increases the well-being of their families.

Herbert Sruthy,(2011), revealed that in Kerala , Kudumbasree , the network of women's Self Help Groups aimed at poverty eradication plays a key role in implementation of the MNREGA. The tie-up between the Kudumbasree and the MGNREGP in Kerala's Panchayats are now help to achieve a considerable gain in terms of implementation. Evaluation study (Kerala State Planning Board-2011), suggests that the greater participation of women is related to the larger gender wage gaps in other works, as against equal wages to men and women in the MGNREGA. They argue that women empowerment has increased because of the boost in the earnings of women, through increased social contacts, and opening bank accounts and post office accounts. They concluded that there is awareness about the rights and claims guaranteed by the Act.

**Data analysis and interpretation**

**Table-1 Awareness about the Programme**

Awareness About	Attributes	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Submitting Form- A	Fully aware	50	50.0
	Moderately aware	41	41.0
	Unaware	9	9.0
100 days of employment	Fully aware	81	81.0
	Moderately aware	19	19.0
Knowledge about minimum wages	Fully aware	58	58.0
	Moderately aware	40	40.0
	Unaware	2	2.0
Equal wages for men and women	Fully aware	58	58.0
	Moderately aware	35	35.0
	Unaware	7	7.0
Work within radius	Fully aware	36	36.0
	Moderately aware	49	49.0
	Unaware	15	15.0
Compensation for delayed payment	Fully Aware	17	17.0
	Moderately aware	40	40.0
	Unaware	43	43.0
Role of Grama Sabha	Fully Aware	37	37.0
	Moderately aware	51	51.0
	Unaware	12	12.0
Eligibility for unemployment allowances	Fully aware	13	13.0
	Moderately aware	44	44.0
	Unaware	43	43.0
About social audit	Fully aware	31	31.0

	Moderately aware	50	50.0
	Unaware	19	19.0

Source: Primary data

The awareness about the objectives of the programme, that is for getting 100 days employment in a financial year, about minimum wages, equal wage for men and women, work within the radius of 5 km, compensation for delayed payment, role of Grama Sabha, about social audit etc are, 81%, 58%, 58%, 36%, 17%, 37%, 31 percentages respectively. But the workers are unaware about for getting the registration the Form-A is submitted is 9 percentages and they are eligible for unemployment allowances is 43 percentages, and 43 percentages of workers are not aware about the compensation for delayed payment. 19 percentages of the workers do not know the social audit, 12 percentages unaware about the role of Grama Sabha and 15 percentages of workers are not aware about the work is getting the 5 km within the radius etc.

**Table-2 Opinion about the infrastructural facilities about the Programme N=100**

Opinion	Attributes	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Opinion about Drinking water facilities	Don't know	3	3
	Adequate	97	97
about Shed for dressing	Don't know	11	11.0
	Inadequate	69	69.0
	Adequate	20	20.0
about sanitation facilities	Don't know	9	9.0
	inadequate	65	65.0
	adequate	26	26.0
about Crèche facilities	Don't know	25	25.0
	inadequate	67	67.0
	adequate	8	8.0
about Aaya or helper	Don't know	11	11.0
	inadequate	55	55.0
	adequate	34	34.0
about First Aid Box	Don't know	5	5.0
	inadequate	19	19.0
	adequate	76	76.0

Source: Primary data

The opinions about the infrastructural facilities are 97 percentages of the respondents have adequate drinking water facilities and 76 percentages of workers have adequate first aid facilities. It is clear that there are certain problems facing the work-site. 69 percentages of workers reported that they have inadequate facilities for dressing shed, 65 percentages have replied that they have inadequate sanitation facilities at work-site, 67 percentages of respondents have no crèche facilities for their child care, 25 percentages of workers have no heard about the crèche facilities and 55 percentages have no helper.

**Table-3 Work Identified by responsible authorities**

Work identification by	Frequency	Percentage
Gramasabha meeting	82	82.0
Field assistant	15	15.0
Village leaders	3	3.0

Source: Primary data

From the above table, respondents opinioned that, 82 percentages of MGNREG work is identified by GramaSabha Meeting, 15 percentages of work is identified by Field Assistant and the remaining 3 percentage is identified by Village leaders.

**Table-4 Records verified by social audit team**

Records	Frequency	Percentage
Quality of work	26	26.0
Muster verification	17	17.0
Pass book verification	27	27.0
All of the above	30	30.0

Source: Primary data

30 percentages of workers replied that the social-audit team has checking all the records like, Muster roll, Passbook and the work-site for ensuring authenticity and public confidence, 27 percentages of the workers replied that they have checked the pass book of workers, 26 percentages believed that they have checked the quality of work at work-site and 17 percentage replied that the team have checked the muster roll etc.

**Table-5 Ratings on overall MGNREG scheme**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage
Not satisfied	15	15.0
Satisfied	73	73.0
Highly satisfied	12	12.0

Source: Primary data

From the table it is clear that, out of 100 respondents, 73 percentages of workers are satisfied with the scheme, 12 percentage of women workers are highly satisfied and 15 percentages of workers are not satisfied in the study area because of the reason that they have delay in wage payment, Bank authorities are not properly interact with them, there are more formalities for getting wages through bank etc.

### Findings of the study

1. In the study, out of 100 respondents, 68 percentages of the women are belonging to the age group of 40-60, 90 percentages of the workers are included in Hindu religion and most of the respondents (89 percentages) of members living in to the nuclear family and 90 percentages are married women. Majority of respondents (73%) women workers have only small land holdings, 71 percentages of women workers have lived in concrete houses and 5 of them are in hut. 72 percentages of workers are in BPL category and 28 percentages belonging to APL category and 93 percentages of respondents have living their own houses.

2. Their educational qualification is so poor. 70 percentages of respondents have below SSLC education, 24 percentages have SSLC qualification and 6 of them have pre-degree qualification. They have income contribution from other family members like spouses, son's, Daughter's contributions and income from property. 69 respondents have spouse's income contribution for household expenses, 87 respondents have below one lakh annual income, 12 members have 1-2 lakhs and only one member have more than 2 lakhs annual income.

3. The study evaluates that the opinion regarding infrastructural facilities of the scheme at the work-site. 97 percentages of the respondents have opined that there are adequate drinking water facilities and 76 percentages of workers have adequate first aid facilities. It is clear that there are certain problems facing the work-site. 69 percentages of workers reported that they have inadequate facilities for dressing shed, 65 percentages have replied that they have inadequate sanitation facilities at work-site, 67 percentages of respondents have no crèche facilities for their child care, 25 percentages of workers have not heard about the crèche facilities and 55 percentages have no helper.

4. The study analyses the awareness about the various attributes of the scheme among its beneficiaries. The awareness about the objectives of the programme, that is for getting 100 days employment in a financial year, about minimum wages, equal wage for men and women, work within the radius of 5 km, compensation for delayed payment, role of Grama Sabha, about social audit etc are, 81%, 58%, 58%, 36%, 17%, 37%, 31 percentages respectively.

5. It revealed that the respondents are unaware about the criterion like for getting the registration the Form-A submitted is 9 percentages and they are eligible for unemployment allowances is 43 percentages, and 43 percentages of workers are not aware about the compensation for delayed payment. 19 percentages of the workers do not know about the social audit, 12 percentages do not know the role of Grama Sabha and 15 percentages of workers are not aware about the work is getting the 5 km within the radius etc.

6. From the study work is identified by Grama Sabha Meeting, Field Assistant and the Village leaders and the respondents have getting their wages through Scheduled Bank, nationalized bank and through post-office. 30 percentages of workers opined that the social-audit team has checking all the records like, Muster roll, Passbook and the work-site for ensuring authenticity and public confidence.

### Conclusion

The enactment of Act can be seen as a significant step towards the initiative to operationalise the right to work as per the directive principles of Indian Constitution. Its aim is to reduce rural poverty and vulnerability of rural women households for constituting economic growth. The study analyses the awareness about the various attributes of the scheme among its beneficiaries. All are aware about the objectives of the programme, that is for getting 100 days employment in a financial year, about minimum wages, equal wage for men and women, work within the radius of 5 km, compensation for delayed payment, role of Grama Sabha, about social audit etc. It concluded that Out of 100 respondents, 73 percentages of workers are satisfied with the scheme.

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