

## **Problems Perceived by the Women Workers under MGNREGA in Jaipur District of Rajasthan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present study was conducted in Jaipur District of Rajasthan, to find out the problems perceived by women workers in MGNREGA in 2016. For this, 120 MNREGA women workers were selected and information was collected with the help of structured interview schedule and data were analysed with the appropriate statistical tools. The major problems perceived by the women workers were lack of time to care the children in the home, undue delay in getting the job card and poor access to drinking water at work site.

**Key words:** MGNREGA, jaipur district, rajasthan and women workers.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the largest ever public programme to create rural employment for ensuring the better livelihoods. It goes beyond poverty alleviation and recognizes employment as a legal right. It creates the right to work. It is designed as a safety net to reduce migration by rural poor households in the lean period through a hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every BPL (Below Poverty Line) and APL (Above Poverty Line) household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work when demanded. Their work mainly focused on water conservation, land development and drought proofing. The unique feature of this programme is that it ensures equal wage for both men and women workers. When opportunities are given, women not only excelled in all spheres of life but also have played an important role in the development of agriculture including dairy farming (Ponnusamy *et. al.*, 2017).

The success of any development effort depends on the effective participation of women in the development programme. In the path of gaining benefits of any programme, constraints are the speed breakers which slow down the accessibility of individual towards achieving them. Women are too much preoccupied with domestic chores that they are starkly ignorant about the outside world. They are not aware about income

generating programmes which could help better in their socio-economic lot. Thus to strengthen the effectiveness of any programme, constraints in its success needs to be identified. An attempt has therefore been made to study the constraints being faced by the beneficiaries of MGNREGA.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Dudu panchayat samiti in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Dudu panchayat samiti consisted of 57 villages. Out of which 4 villages were selected on the basis of total active women workers. Four villages namely Habaspura, Hirnoda, Naraina and Mozamadad were selected for study. From every selected village, a list of all workers registered in the master roll in MNREGA during last 2 years *i.e.* 2013-14 and 2014-15 was obtained from the president of village panchayat. From this list, 30 women workers who got benefitted through MGNREGA were selected randomly. Thus a total of 120 respondents from four villages were selected for the investigation. The results were analysed using mean percent score (MPS) and ranking.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Problems perceived by women workers in MGNREGA**

Problems perceived by the women workers towards MGNREGA programme were grouped into three major categories *viz.*, personal and family problems, operational

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problems and problems on worksite. The responses were recorded as most important, important and least important.

**Personal and family problems**

Results show that the most important problems faced by the women were lack of sufficient time to take care of children at home and neglect of domestic responsibilities. This might be due to leaving the children with the family members or bringing them to the work site. Where the mothers were busy with the work, the children were unattended. The least important problems reported were non-cooperation from family members and inability to take up additional work due to fatigue and debility. The findings of this study support the findings of Ponnusamy and Sendhil (2015), Tiwari and Upadhyay (2012), Garg (2008).

**Table 1: Problems related to individual and family.**

Problems	Mean percent score					Rank
	Habaspura (n <sub>1</sub> )	Hirnodda (n <sub>2</sub> )	Naraina (n <sub>3</sub> )	Mozamabad (n <sub>4</sub> )	Overall (n=120)	
Too much workload in family	63.33	73.33	81.11	68.88	71.66	III
Non-cooperation from family members	64.44	75.55	41.11	46.66	58.38	VI
Domestic work neglected	80.00	76.66	97.77	72.22	81.66	II
No extra work can be taken up due to fatigue and debility	67.77	64.44	57.77	52.22	60.55	V
Children left uncared	74.44	83.33	96.66	75.55	83.33	I
Farm and cattle care activities not attended properly	66.66	66.66	68.66	51.11	63.33	IV

**Operational problems**

The data reveal that the most important operational problems faced by women workers were undue delay in issuing job cards and payment for the jon done, as well as non-provision of wage as per MGNREGA Act. This might be due to lengthy official procedure and difficulty in assessing the earth works taken up under MGNREGA. Least important problems faced by the workers were difference in wages and job card held by fake beneficiaries followed by non-registration of families below poverty line. MGNREGA is the only programme where equal wages are paid to men and women, maintaining the gender equality.

**Table 2: Problems related to operation of the programme**

Problems	Mean Percent Score					Rank
	Habaspura (n <sub>1</sub> )	Hirnodda (n <sub>2</sub> )	Naraina (n <sub>3</sub> )	Mozamabad (n <sub>4</sub> )	Overall (n=120)	
Delay in issuing a job card	71.11	74.44	94.44	77.77	79.44	I
Unemployment allowances not provided in case of delay in job.	65.55	70.00	60.00	52.22	61.94	VIII

Job card held by fake beneficiaries	58.88	56.66	37.77	60.00	53.34	X
Families below poverty line not registered	60.00	55.55	36.66	66.66	54.72	IX
Inability to avail 150 days of employment according to the act.	64.44	68.88	68.88	70.00	68.05	V
Wages not provided according to MGNREGA act	70.00	74.44	58.55	76.66	76.66	III
Huge delay in payment for the work	68.88	84.44	78.88	78.88	77.77	II
Difference in wage	57.77	47.77	36.66	44.44	46.94	XI
Improper measurement of earth work	61.11	67.77	65.55	70.05	66.11	VI
Behaviour of mate is not good.	72.22	61.11	67.77	68.88	76.22	IV
The measurement of work is not proper	66.66	71.11	69.25	53.33	64.44	VII

The findings of this study support the findings of Bishnoi *et. al.* (2012), Tiwari and Upadhyay (2012), Sarkar *et. al.* (2011).

**Worksite**

Data reveal that the most important problems faced by the women workers were lack of safe drinking water and lack of sufficient shade during the rest period. MGNREGA works are taken up during slack season especially during summers when water requirement is high and there is a scarcity of water in rural areas. Women not getting the extra facilities and no provision of ex-gratia payment due to injury were least important for women as this scheme has no such provision. The findings of this study support the findings of Tiwari and Upadhyay (2012), Anand (2008), Patel (2008) and Dreze *et. al.* (2007).

**Table 3: Problems related to worksite**

Problems	Mean percent score					Rank
	Habaspura (n <sub>1</sub> )	Hirnodda (n <sub>2</sub> )	Naraina (n <sub>3</sub> )	Mozamabad (n <sub>4</sub> )	Overall (n=30)	
Lack of safe drinking water	67.77	66.66	73.11	68.11	73.38	I
Lack of creche facility	63.33	71.11	62.22	52.22	62.22	IV
Ex-gratia payment not given after injury	61.33	63.33	42.22	46.66	53.33	V
No shade during rest period	65.55	81.11	72.22	72.22	72.77	II
No extra facilities are given to women	57.77	62.22	38.88	54.44	53.20	VI
Long distance provided for work	68.88	64.44	67.77	63.33	65.38	III

**CONCLUSION**

The study brought forth the problems faced by women workers of MGNREGA in terms of their severity suggesting that women and family members can be sensitized balancing of work and family, sensitizing of village panchayat president about timely provision of job card and drinking water at work site. Payment of equal wage can be raised in the village panchayat meeting.

Addressing the concerns of women workers in the MGNREGA will further strengthen their hands towards empowered society.

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