

## **Association of Socio-economic Status on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of Rural Women in Alwar District of Rajasthan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is an important wage employment programme. MNREGA was notified in September 2005 and was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. MNREGA is designed as a safety net to reduce migration by rural poor household in the lean period through a one hundred days of guaranteed unskilled manual labour provided, when demanded at minimum wage on works focused on water conservation, land development and drought proofing. The present study was conducted in Alwar district of Rajasthan because Alwar district has second highest women population in Rajasthan. Four panchayat samities namely, Reni, Rajgarh, Umren, Thanagazi were selected for the study purpose based on higher number of women who had completed hundred days employment under MNREGA in the year 2008-09. Total sample size was 160 consisting of 80 beneficiary and 80 non-beneficiary respondents. The data were collected through personal interview method. Study revealed that there is significant association between age and socio-economic status of respondents. Achievement motivation level and source of information utilized by respondent's exerted significant effect in development of socio-economic status of respondents.

**Keywords :** MNREGA, guaranteed labour, minimum wage, achievement motivation, socio-economic

### **INTRODUCTION**

MNREGA is the first ever law internationally, that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was notified in September 2005 and was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. The name of NREGA was changed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009. MNREGA is the flagship programme of central government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. Registration is open throughout the year, no contractor is allowed to work under the scheme.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was conducted in Alwar district of Rajasthan as Alwar district has second highest women population in Rajasthan. Alwar district comprises of 14 panchayat samities, out of which four panchayat samities namely, Reni, Rajgarh, Umren, Thanagazi were selected for the study purpose based on higher number of women who had completed hundred days employment under MNREGA in the year 2008-09. One village was selected from each panchayat samiti on the basis of maximum women benefited by MNREGA, thus a total of four villages were selected. A total of 80 rural women respondents were selected by 10 per cent probability proportionate to the total number of beneficiary women from four selected villages and were called as beneficiary

respondent. Further, for the selection of non-beneficiary respondents, equal number of respondents were selected randomly from the same village who had not been benefited under MNREGA. Thus, total sample size for the study was 160 consisting of 80 beneficiary and 80 non-beneficiary respondents.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Association of socio-economic status of beneficiary and non-beneficiary women with age**

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that calculated chi-square value was 15.54 for beneficiary and 14.68 for non-beneficiary respondents which was highly significant at 1 per cent level of significance respectively. Thus, null hypothesis  $H_0-2$  which asserts that, there is no association between age and socio-economic status of respondents was rejected. This indicated that there is significant association between age and socio-economic status of respondents.

Nowadays scenario of education has changed. School girls do not get enough time to go to MNREGA. Married women need extra income to pull their family. Thus, they search for job. MNREGA is hope for them. This could be the probable reason of aforesaid finding.

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**Table 1: Association of socio-economic status of beneficiary and non-beneficiary with age****n=160**

Age	Socio-economic status Beneficiary (n=80)			X <sup>2</sup> and 'C' value	Socio-economic status Non-beneficiary (n=80)			X <sup>2</sup> and 'C' value
	Low (<47 score)	Medium+ High (>47 score)	Total		Low (<47 score)	Medium+ High (>47 score)	Total	
Young (<26 years)	12	13	25	15.54** (0.16)	15	13	28	14.68** (0.15)
Old (>26 years)	5	50	55		7	45	52	
Total	17	63	80		22	58	80	

\*\*Significant at 1 per cent level of significance, X<sup>2</sup>=Calculated chi-square value, 'C'=Contingency coefficient

### Association of socio-economic status of beneficiary and non-beneficiary women with achievement motivation

Achievement motivation is an important factor which could play an important role in socio-economic status improvement. Based on the score obtained by the respondents, median score and standard deviation were computed for the purpose of classification of achievement motivation of the respondents.

Achievement motivation of respondents was then classified into three categories namely; low, medium and high level. The data achievement motivation of the respondents have been presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Frequency and percentage of the respondents under different categories of achievement motivation****n=160**

Achievement motivation	Beneficiary (n=80)		Non-beneficiary (n=80)		Total respondents (n=160)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Low (<4 score)	21	26.25	20	25.00	41	25.63
Medium (4-5 score)	28	35.00	40	50.00	68	42.50
High (>5 score)	31	38.75	20	25.00	51	31.87

f= Frequency, %= Percentage

It is evident from Table 2 that majority of beneficiary women (38.75%) had high level of achievement motivation followed by 35.00 per cent of medium level and 26.25 per cent in low level of achievement motivation category respectively. In case of non-beneficiary women, majority (50.00%) of the respondents were of medium level of achievement motivation followed by 25.00 per cent at high level and 25.00 per cent at low level of achievement motivation category respectively. It may be concluded from the above narration that in case of beneficiary majority of respondents were having high level of achievement motivation.

It is evident from Table 3 that calculated Chi-square value was 11.83 for beneficiary respondents and 10.11 for non-beneficiary respondents which were significantly associated with the socio-economic status of respondents at 1 per cent level of significance, thus the null hypothesis H<sub>0</sub>-3 was rejected. It means achievement motivation level of respondent's exerted significant effect in improvement of socio-economic status of respondents.

**Table 3: Association of socio-economic status of beneficiary and non-beneficiary with achievement motivation****n=160**

Achievement Motivation	Socio-economic status Beneficiary (n=80)			X <sup>2</sup> and 'C' value	Socio-economic status Non-beneficiary (n=80)			X <sup>2</sup> and 'C' value
	Low (<47 score)	Medium+ High (>47 score)	Total		Low (<47 score)	Medium+ High (>47 score)	Total	
Low (<4 score)	10	11	21	11.83** (0.12)	11	9	20	10.11** (0.11)
Medium+ high (>4 score)	7	52	59		11	49	60	
Total	17	63	80		22	58	80	

\*\*Significant at 1 per cent level of significance, X<sup>2</sup>=Calculated chi-square value, 'C'=Contingency coefficient

Achievement motivation was found to be significant due to the reason that the accomplishment was directly related with socio-economic conditions of the people. Findings of Kumawat and Sharma (1997), Singh (2002) are in line with the above result.

### Association of socio-economic status of beneficiary and non-beneficiary with their extent of information utilized

Extent of information utilized is a factor which influences respondents participation in MNREGA and affect the socio-economic status of respondents. Based on the score obtained by the respondents mean score and standard deviation were computed for the purpose of classifying extent of information utilized by the respondents.

Extent of information utilized by the respondents was then classified into three categories namely; Low, Medium and High level. The data regarding extent of information utilized by the respondents have been presented in Table 4

**Table 4: Frequency and percentage of the respondents under different categories of extent of information utilized**  
n=160

Extent of information utilized	Beneficiary (n=80)		Non-beneficiary (n=80)		Total respondents (n=160)	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Low (<21 score)	22	27.50	29	36.25	51	31.87
Medium (21-27 score)	45	56.25	43	53.75	88	55.00
High (>27 score)	13	16.25	8	10.00	21	13.13

f = Frequency, %= Percentage

It is evident from Table 4 that majority of beneficiary (56.25%) had medium level of utilization of information followed by 27.50 per cent with low level and 16.25 per cent high level respectively. With regard to non-beneficiary, majority (53.75%) of the respondents had medium level of utilization of information followed by 36.25 per cent with low level and 10.00 per cent with high level respectively. It may be concluded from the above narration that in case of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary, majority of respondents were having medium level of utilization of information.

**Table 5: Association of socio- economic status of beneficiary and non- beneficiary with their extent of information utilized**  
n=160

Extent of information utilized	Socio-economic status Beneficiary (n=80)				Socio-economic status Non-beneficiary (n=80)			
	Low (<47 score)	Medium +High (>47 score)	Total	X <sup>2</sup> and C' value	Low (<47 score)	Medium +High (>47 score)	Total	X <sup>2</sup> and C' value
Low (<21 score)	11	11	22	14.98** (0.39)	14	15	29	9.84** (0.10)
Medium+	6	52	58		8	43	51	
High (> 21 score)								
Total	17	63	80		22	58	80	

\*\*Significant at 1 per cent level of significance  
X<sup>2</sup>=Calculated chi-square value'C'=Contingency coefficient

The data incorporated in Table 5 shows that the calculated chi- square value was 14.98 for beneficiary respondents and 9.84 for non-beneficiary respondents which is highly significantly associated with the socio-economic status of respondents at 1 per cent level of significance, thus the null hypothesis H<sub>0-4</sub> was rejected. It means that the extent of information utilized by respondent's effect significantly on the socio-economic status of respondents. This might be due to the fact that beneficiary women possess more knowledge and wider interaction with, panchayat, relatives and friends and neighbour. These Findings are supported by Choudhary (1991), Kumawat and Sharma (1997).

## CONCLUSION

Calculated chi-square value was 15.54 for beneficiary and 14.68 for non-beneficiary respondents which were significant at 1 per cent level of significance. This reveals that there is significant association between age and socio-economic status of respondents.

Calculated chi-square value was 11.83 for beneficiary respondents and 10.11 for non-beneficiary respondents which were significantly associated with the socio-economic status of respondents at 1 per cent level of significance. It means achievement motivation level of respondents exerted significant effect in improvement of socio-economic status of respondents.

Calculated chi-square value was 14.98 for beneficiary respondents and 9.84 for non-beneficiary respondents which were highly significantly associated with the socio-economic status of respondents at 1 per cent level of significance. It means that the extent of information utilized by respondent's effect significantly on the socio-economic status of respondents.

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