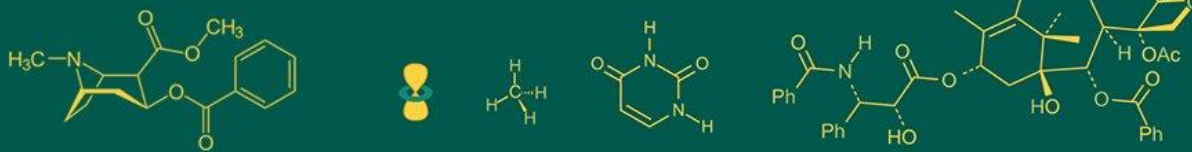


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## The national rural livelihood mission advantages and awareness among rural women in Udaipur district

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate rural women's awareness of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The current investigation was carried out in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan in a specifically chosen Salubar and Sarada Panchayat Samiti. One hundred women were chosen at random to make up the sample. With the aid of an interview plan that was created, data was gathered through interview technique. It was found that half of the respondents (56%) were married (81%), belonged to joint households (55%) with 5-8 people, and were in the 18-30 age range. It was discovered that half of respondents (61%) belonged to low socio-economic status whereas rest of the respondents (39%) had medium socio-economic status. It was discovered that half of the respondents (52%) knew averagely about several NRLM topics, while the remaining respondents (48%) knew very well about them.

**Keywords:** NRLM, economic variables, media ownership, socio-economic status, rural women

### Introduction

Despite India's GDP growing at a rapid pace, a sizable portion of the rural populace remains below the poverty line (BPL). The rate of rural poverty was calculated in many researches at various levels (Rajpoot *et al.*, 2023) [20]. Rural poverty is a significant concern for government at all levels, despite a lot of efforts in 2010; the Ministry of Rural Development introduced a programme National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), to combat the issue of rural poverty, with effect from March 29, 2016, NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission). It aims to make a multidimensional impact on the lives of India's rural poor by mobilizing them, particularly the women, into robust grassroots institutions of their own where, with the strength of the group behind them, they will be able to exert voice and accountability over providers of educational, health, nutritional and financial services. This is expected to have a transformational social and economic impact, supporting India's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on nutrition, gender and poverty. This scheme was launched in 12 states that account for 85% of the rural poor in India. The scheme has been partly funded by the World Bank which has contributed \$1 billion and the central government has invested \$5.1 billion (Gautam, 2012) [7]. Recommendation of the Planning Commission working group on NRLM highlighted the problem in going with the BPL list as it has large exclusion errors. NRLM has adopted identification of poor by a participatory process at the level of the community. The participatory process aims at covering the vulnerable groups such as tribal groups, SC and ST groups, women headed households, persons with disabilities and destitute Diwan *et al.*, 2022 [3]. NRLM works on three pillars - enhancing and expanding existing livelihood options of the poor; building skills for the job market outside; and nurturing self-employed and entrepreneurs (for micro-enterprises).

India's rural areas, where 69% of the country's population lives, are key to realizing the aim of sustainable development. Acknowledging the importance of rural development, India has implemented a range of inventive tactics and methods to guarantee the fundamental rights of the rural populace (Diwan *et al.*, 2017) [4]. In this regard, the Government has implemented National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to support rural people living below poverty line. This scheme was launched in 2011 and is one of the flagship programmes of Ministry of Rural Development. This is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihood of poor. It aims to make a multidimensional impact on the lives of India's rural poor by

mobilizing them, particularly the women, into robust grassroots institutions of their own where, with the strength of the group behind them, they will be able to exert voice and accountability over providers of educational, health, nutritional and financial services. This is expected to have a transformational social and economic impact, supporting India's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on Nutrition, Gender, and Poverty.

The fundamental tenet of National Rural Livelihoods Mission is that impoverished people possess intrinsic potential and a strong want to escape poverty. Unleashing their potential to create fulfilling livelihoods and help them escape poverty is the task. Success of any development effort depends on the effective participation of both men and women in the development programmes (Rajpoot *et al.*, 2023) [20]. One of the most crucial reasons for lack of participation is lack of knowledge about the programmes, their functioning and benefits. Women are too much preoccupied with domestic chores that they are starkly ignorant about the outside world. If the women are aware about the benefits of all the developmental/welfare schemes running for them, it automatically increases their active participation in programmes which not only improves the socio-economic profile of women but also places them in the mainstream of development (Kemparaju and Khan 2015) [11]. The present paper attempts to assess the knowledge of the beneficiaries about National Rural Livelihood Mission.

### Methodology

The present investigation was undertaken in Salambar and Sarada panchayat samiti in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Four villages namely Amarpura, Veerpura, Sarada and Chavand were selected purposively from this panchayat samiti. For the selection of sample, a list of SHGs which have completed at least one year, along with name of the members was prepared. From this list, 100 women were randomly selected to form the sample of the study. The data were collected personally with the help of an interview schedule.

### Statistical analysis

After collecting data, it is necessary to analyze them with the help of statistical tools to arrive at proper and adequate conclusion. Following statistical measures were used to analyze the data.

- 1. Frequency and percentage:** Frequency and percentage were used to analyze the data about the personal and socio economic characteristics of respondents, their knowledge about NRLM and constraints faced by them.
- 2. Mean percent score:** Mean percent scores were calculated to analyze data regarding constraints. Mean percent scores were obtained by dividing total scores of the respondents by the maximum obtainable score and multiplying by 100 under each constraint. The formula is as under.

$$\text{MPS} = \frac{\text{Sum of scores obtained by respondents} \times 100}{\text{Maximum obtainable scores}}$$

- 3. Paired 't' test:** In order to find out the significance of difference in income generated before and after getting the benefits of NRLM, paired t test was applied using following formula.

$$t(n-1) = \frac{[\bar{d}]}{\sqrt{S^2/n}}$$

Where

$d_i = x_i - y_i$  [Difference between the paired observation]

$d = \sum d_i/n$

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \left[ \sum d^2 - \frac{(\sum d)^2}{n} \right]$$

## Result and Discussion

### Basis of Personal Variables

This section deals with the general information of the respondents like age, education, marital status, occupation, caste, family size and type, organizational membership, land holding, housing, livestock ownership, dwelling, media ownership and their socio-economic status. More than half of the respondents (56%) belonged to the age group of 18-30 years while one third of the respondents (37%) were in the age group of 31-45 years and 7% respondents were in the age group of 46-60 years. None of the respondents were more than 60 years of age. Marital status of portrays that majority of the respondents (81%) were married while 11% were widow and 8% respondents were unmarried. Less than half of the respondents (45%) had farming as their occupation, 28% were farm laborer and 20% were nonwage earners. Few respondents (7%) were in the service sector.

### Education

Education plays vital role in human resource development. It brings about desirable change in the behavior of an individual. Table 1 reveals that more than one fourth respondents (29%) were illiterate, less than one fourth of the respondents (24%) were middle school educated, 16% could read and write and 15% respondents were primary educated. Few respondents were educated up to high school (7%) and senior secondary (9%). Priyakumari and Karthik (2017) [7] revealed that majority 32.00 percent of the respondents belong to the age group of 18-30 years. Sunitha, *et al.* (2019) [21] results explored that majority 53.33% of the farm women fall under young age groups 18-35 years followed by 38.33% middle age i.e. 36- 50 whereas only few 8.33 percent farm women are in the age group of above 50 years. The results are in accordance with Gwary *et al.*, (2011) [9], Diwan *et al.*, 2022 [3] where majority of youth fell under age group of 27-32 years.

**Table 1:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of personal variables n=100

S. No.	Personal variables	f/ %
1.	<b>Age</b>	
	18-30 years	56
	31-45 years	37
	46-60 years	7
	>60 years	0
2.	<b>Marital status</b>	

	Unmarried	8
	Married	81
	Widow	11
	Divorced	0
<b>3.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	
	Non-wage earner	20
	Farm labour	28
	Farming	45
	Service sector	7
<b>4.</b>	<b>Education</b>	
	Illiterate	29
	Read and write	16
	Primary school	15
	Middle school	24
	High school	7
	Post matrix diploma	9
	Graduate and above	0

### Basis of social variables

Data in Table 1 reveal that 58 percent of the respondents belonged to SC/ST category and rest of the respondents (42%) belonged to other backward caste. Family structure: Visualization of indicates that more than half of the respondents (55%) were from nuclear family and rest of the respondents (45%) had joint family. Regarding the size of family, table further reveals that 41% of the respondents had large size family, more than one third respondents (35%) had small size family, and 24% had medium size family.

### Organizational membership

Data presented show that all the respondents (100%) were member of formal organization and 8% were office bearer of formal organization i.e. self-help group. They were not member of any other organization except SHGs. The results are in accordance to results of Prosper *et al.*, (2015) [18] and Mbah *et al.*, (2016) [15], Diwan *et al.*, 2017 [4] and Diwan *et al.*, 2022 [3] where majority of the respondents in the study area were men.

**Table 2:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of social variables n=100

S. No.	Social variables	f/%
<b>1.</b>	<b>Caste</b>	
	SC/ST	58
	OBC	42
	Upper middle	0
	Upper caste	0
<b>2.</b>	<b>Family structure</b>	
	<b>I. Family type</b>	
	Nuclear	45
	Joint	55
	<b>II. Family size</b>	
	Small	35
	Medium	24
	Large	41
<b>3.</b>	<b>Organization membership</b>	
	No membership	0
	Member of formal organization	100
	Office bearer of formal organization	8
	Member of non-formal organization	0
	Office bearer of non-formal organization	0

### Economic variables - Land and Housing holding

Perusal of data in Table 3 show that less than half of the respondents (47%) had 5.1 to 10.0 acres of land, more than

one fourth respondents (27%) had more than 10 acres of land, 21% respondents had 2.6 to 5.0 acres of land and few respondents (5%) had no land. Looking into the housing of the respondents, majority of the respondents (72%) had pucca houses whereas 28% had mixed houses.

### Livestock ownership

It is evident from Table 3 that less than half of the respondents (46%) had small herd size while 37 and 17% of the respondents owned medium and large size herd respectively. The probable reason could be due to the prominence of nuclear families in the study. The results were in accordance to Laishram (2012) [14] where majority of youth had medium family size.

### Dwelling

From Table 3, it was clearly revealed that the more than half of the respondents (56%) had kutcha dwelling for their livestock, whereas more than one third of the respondents (39%) had open dwelling and only 5% respondents had pucca dwelling for their livestock.

**Table 3:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of economic variables n=100

S. No.	Economic variables	f/%
<b>1.</b>	<b>Land holding</b>	
	No land	5
	1.0 to 2.5 acres	0
	2.6 to 5.0 acres	21
	5.1 to 10.0 acres	47
	More than 10 acres	27
<b>2.</b>	<b>Housing</b>	
	Kutcha house	0
	Mixed house	28
	Pucca house	72
<b>3.</b>	<b>Livestock ownership</b>	
	Small herd	46
	Medium herd	37
	Large herd	17
<b>4.</b>	<b>Dwelling for livestock</b>	
	Open/nil	39
	Thatched/Kutcha	56
	Pucca	5

### Media ownership

Data in Table 4 reveal that 40% of the respondents had television, less than one third of the respondents (32%) had

subscribed newspaper/magazines and less than one fourth of the respondents (22%) had radio/transistor and few respondents (6%) had no media ownership. The possible reason for medium to low level of media innovativeness may be their educational level and medium to low-risk preference. The result was supported by the findings of Khan (2007) [13]. The above findings are supported by the findings of Dhavale *et al.* (2022) [2].

**Table 4:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of media ownership n=100

S. No.	Media ownership	f/%
1.	Nil	6
2.	Newspaper/magazines	32
3.	Radio/transistor	22
4.	Television	40

### Socio economic status

On the basis of scores obtained by the respondents in the different aspects of socio-economic status scale, the respondents were categorized as having high, medium and low socio-economic status. Data in Table 5 point out that majority of the respondents (61%) were from low socio-economic status whereas 39% of the respondents had medium socio-economic status. None of the respondents had high socio economic status as the beneficiaries of NRLM are below poverty line. Dropouts after middle school and illiterates observed might be due to poor socioeconomic condition, to support their family, help their parents in agriculture and dairying. The research findings are in concurrence with that of Laishram (2012) [14], where majority youth in dairy farming received high school education. The possible reason for medium to low-risk preference due to their medium socio-economic status, marginal land holding etc. These above findings are supported by findings of Pradhan *et al.* (2021) [16].

**Table 5:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of their socio-economic status n = 100

S. No.	Socio Economic Status	f/%
1.	Low	61
2.	Medium	39
3.	High	0

### General information about NRLM programme

This section deals with the general information regarding different aspects related to NRLM i.e. time of enrollment in the programme, sources of information and motivation, reasons for participation in the programme and trainings received. In the study area, the NRLM started in beginning of the year 2016. Data in Table 6 reveal that all the respondents (100%) were enrolled as beneficiary of the programme only one year back. Table reveals that majority of the respondents reported programme personnel as the source of information while nearly half of the respondents also mentioned that they got information regarding NRLM through neighbours (51%) and friends (49%). None of the respondents got the information from T.V., radio and newspaper. These above findings are supported by findings of Raghav *et al.*, (2021) [19] and Diwan *et al.* (2022) [3]. Moringa oleifera can be eaten fresh, cooked, and stored as a dried powder use for many months without any major loss of its nutritional value of women's Dautaniya *et al.* (2022) [1].

**Table 6:** General information of the respondents about NRLM n=100

S. No.	Variables	f/%
1.	Time of enrollment as beneficiary (1 year)	100
2.	Time of enrollment as beneficiary (1 year)	
	Programme personnel	72
	Neighbors	51
	Friends	49
	T.V./radio/ Newspaper	0
3.	Sources of Motivation	
	Programme personnel	72
	Friends/relatives	28
	Sarpanch	0
4.	Reasons for participation in NRLM	
	To earn money	87
	For raising the standard of living	7
	For skill development	6
	Utilization of leisure time	0
5.	Trainings attended	
	SHG concept & management, leadership development and Bank operation	44
	VO concept & management	31
	SHG book keeping	34
	Skill development	35

Regarding sources of motivation to participate in the programme, the table depicts that majority of the respondents (72%) were motivated by personnel of the programme while 28% respondents were motivated by friends and relatives and none of the respondents were motivated by Sarpanch. Table 6 reveals that the major reason reported by the respondents for participation in NRLM was to earn money (87%) while 6-7% respondents participated for skill development and raising the standard of living and none of the respondents mentioned utilization of leisure time as the reason for their participation. Data in the Table 6 depicts that 31-44% respondents attended the trainings under this programme i.e. on SHG concept and management, leadership development and bank operation, VO concept and management, SHG book keeping and skill development Jagadeeswari (2015) [10]. Goswami *et al.* (2021) [8] found that there is 40.00% of social empowerment of the women as compared to 36.20% before joining. Psychologically they were empowered 35.00%, before joining of the DAY-NRLM they were only 32.75% empowered Dreze and Khare (2009) [5]. Garg (2008) [6] economically they showed a rise of 25.00% in respect to 19.00% after joining the scheme.

### Conclusion

It can be concluded that the rural women were aware of the programme but lacked information about the procedural aspects. Therefore, awareness should be generated among rural women beneficiaries to understand the significance of the programme *viz.* Personal Variables, Social Variables, Economic Variables, Media Ownership, Socio-Economic Status and SHG which in turn result in effective participation in the programme, improvement in their socio-economic profile, and bring them in the mainstream of NRLM development.

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