

Awareness of beneficiaries regarding different provisions of MGNREGA act in Malwa region of Punjab

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ABSTRACT

The thrust of the study was to assess awareness of beneficiaries regarding *MGNREGA* provisions under *MGNREGA* in Punjab. Seven districts of the Malwa region were selected through probability proportionate to size procedure of sampling. A total of 252 respondents *i.e.* 36 from each district working under *MGNREGA* comprised the sample of the study. An interview schedule was developed to assess the awareness regarding different provisional aspect under *MGNREGA*. The awareness was measured through three point continuum scale. Overall, low level of awareness was observed in public scrutiny ($\bar{X} = 0.03$) and social audit provisions ($\bar{X} = 0.37$) and implementation procedure ($\bar{X} = 0.51$). Medium level of awareness was observed in provisions of right to employment ($\bar{X} = 0.89$), gram panchayat responsibilities ($\bar{X} = 0.87$), procedure to obtain job cards ($\bar{X} = 1.16$), work and wage rates ($\bar{X} = 0.73$) and wage disbursement ($\bar{X} = 1.10$). High awareness was not found in any provision of *MGNREGA*. Overall, in *Malwa* region, medium level of awareness was observed in Ludhiana ($\bar{X} = 0.68$), Moga ($\bar{X} = 0.76$), Sangrur ($\bar{X} = 0.80$) districts concerning different provisions under *MGNREGA*. Low level of awareness was recorded only in Mansa ($\bar{X} = 0.55$) district. It may be attributed to the fact that in Mansa district, illiteracy was more than in other districts. It was suggested that there is need to create awareness among beneficiaries so that they got all the benefits under act.

Key Words : MGNREGA awareness, Beneficiaries, Awareness, Malwa

INTRODUCTION

The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is perhaps the largest employment programme in human history and is unlike any other in its scale, architecture and thrust. Its bottom-up, people-centred, demand-driven, self-selecting, rights-based design is new and unprecedented. Never before in such a short period so many crores of poor people benefited from a government programme. The *MGNREGA* was initiated with the objective of “enhancing livelihood security

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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". Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds, wells). Labour-intensive tasks like creating infrastructure for water harvesting, drought relief and flood control are preferred. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement and its implementation is the responsibility of gram panchayats (GPs). The involvement of contractors is banned.

Apart from providing economic security and creating rural assets, *MGNREGA* can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others." The law provides many safeguards to promote its effective management and implementation. The act explicitly mentions the principles and agencies for implementation, list of allowed works, financing pattern, monitoring and evaluation, and most importantly the detailed measures to ensure transparency and accountability. Beneficiaries are primary stake holders under *MGNREGA*. It is necessary that they should know all the provisions under the act. So, keeping this in view the present study was conducted to assess level of awareness about various provisions under the *MGNREGA* act.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in *Malwa* region of Punjab. There are total of eleven districts out of which seven were covered using probability proportionate to size sampling procedure. From each district, two blocks were selected in consultation with concerned district officials. From each block two villages were selected for canvassing the schedules and collecting information from the beneficiaries. So, two blocks and four villages (two villages per block) were selected from each district taking the total to 28 villages. From each village, nine beneficiaries who have been working under *MGNREGA* for last 5 years were selected randomly. A total of 252 beneficiaries comprised the sample of the study. Awareness was measured using 3 point continuum scale *i.e.* aware, somewhat aware and not aware with score 2, 1 and 0, respectively. Mean score were worked and to ascertain level of awareness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Right to employment:

Data given in Table 1 illustrates that overall, medium level of awareness ($\bar{X}=0.89$) was observed in beneficiaries of *Malwa* region. Beneficiaries were maximally aware about provision of MGNREGA to provide employment to all adults members who are willing to do unskilled work having got ($\bar{X}=1.01$, Rank 1st) followed by registered members should get 100 days of employment in a financial year($\bar{X}=0.99$, Rank 2nd). Least awareness was observed about the provision of unemployment allowance ($\bar{X}=0.89$, Rank 4th). It may be attributed to the fact that the provision of 100 days of employment and all adult members having the right for employment were communicated through mass media but provision of

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unemployment allowance was not advertised/published either by media or by government officials. Further the table also revealed the comparison among districts. It was noticed that in Moga district, the beneficiaries were most aware about the provision of right to employment ($\bar{X}=1.36$, Rank 1st) followed by Bathinda district ($\bar{X}=1.03$, Rank 2nd) and Mansa ($\bar{X}=0.83$, Rank 3rd). Beneficiaries from the Sangrur district were least aware about this provision ($\bar{X}=0.66$, Rank=7th). The statistical procedure “Kruskal-Wallis one way anova” was employed to find out districts wise difference in awareness. The K-statistic (39.81) showed that there was a significant difference ($p=0.05$) in the extent of awareness of beneficiaries of different districts of *Malwa* region.

Gram panchayat responsibilities:

Table 2 depicts the awareness of beneficiaries about gram Panchayat responsibilities. The data given in Table 2 showed that medium level of awareness ($\bar{X}=0.87$) was observed amongst beneficiaries. In all the districts of this region, beneficiaries had maximum awareness about the provision of ‘maintenance of 1/3rd participation of women’ ($\bar{X}=1.42$, Rank 1st), ‘ensuring regular planning and monitoring by GP’ ($\bar{X}=1.28$, Rank=2nd) and ‘maintenance of 60:40 wage material ratio’ ($\bar{X}=1.15$, Rank=3rd). Beneficiaries were least aware about the provision of ‘inbuilt incentive and disincentive structure under the scheme’ ($\bar{X}=0.25$, Rank=6th) and ‘no provision of contractors and labour-displacing machinery for execution of works’ ($\bar{X}=0.53$, Rank 5th). Their ignorance betrayed that they have never availed these incentives under the scheme and thus the awareness about advance preparation of annual

Table 1: Awareness about the right to employment amongst beneficiaries in *Malwa* region of Punjab (n=252)

Awareness about right to employment	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean		
All adult members are entitled for employment	1.00	1.02	1.11	0.72	0.94	0.72	1.55	1.01	1	39.81*
Entitlement of maximum of 100 days of work for members	0.97	1.94	0.72	0.50	2.00	0.50	0.33	0.99	2	
Employment must be provided within 15 days after submission of application.	0.58	1.27	0.63	1.33	0.66	1.33	0.94	0.96	3	
Entitlement of unemployment allowance if employment is not offered within 15 days.	0.52	1.22	0.19	0.61	0.50	0.77	0.33	0.59	4	
Overall	0.77	1.36	0.66	0.79	1.03	0.83	0.79			
Rank	6	1	7	4.5	2	3	4.5			

Awareness about gram panchayat responsibilities	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean		
Ensure regular planning, monitoring and implementation	1.75	0.55	1.41	1.41	1.55	0.72	1.55	1.28	2	48.49*
Advance preparation of annual work schedule	0.47	0.38	0.88	1.08	0.33	0.50	0.33	0.57	4	
Maintaining a ratio of 60:40 for wage and material costs	0.83	1.30	1.94	0.80	0.94	1.33	0.94	1.15	3	
No provision of contractors and labour-displacing machinery	0.22	0.86	0.94	0.72	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.53	5	
Participation of at least 1/3 rd of the women workers.	1.77	0.58	1.66	1.50	1.83	0.77	1.83	1.42	1	
Inbuilt system of incentives-disincentives structure	0.27	0.63	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.25	6	
Overall	0.89	0.72	1.14	0.93	0.83	0.74	0.83			
Rank	3	6	1	2	4.5	7	4.5			

work schedule also got low score ($\bar{X}=0.57$, Rank 4th) as the beneficiaries were not involved in preparation of annual schedule. Data further revealed that overall awareness regarding provisions of gram panchayat responsibilities was more among the beneficiaries of Sangrur districts (Rank=1) whereas, least awareness was found in Mansa district ($\bar{X}=0.74$, Rank=7th). The K-statistic (48.49) showed that there was a significant difference ($p=0.05$) in the awareness of beneficiaries of different districts of *Malwa* region.

Procedure to obtain job cards:

Data given in Table 3 revealed that, the beneficiaries had medium level of awareness ($\bar{X}=1.16$) about procedure to obtain job cards. Maximum awareness was observed about the provision of job card must carries the photograph of adult workers who volunteer to do unskilled labour in every household and the card should remain in the custody of the household ($\bar{X}=1.26$, Rank= 1.5th) and job card holders must apply for work to gram panchayat ($\bar{X}=1.21$, Rank=3rd). The beneficiaries were not aware about the registration, verification of particulars and submitting application for work to GP and getting receipt of the same ($\bar{X}=1.07$, Rank=6th). This perhaps may be the reason that majority did not submit written request and obtained receipt of the same. Further, it was observed from the district wise comparison that, Ludhiana

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beneficiaries were more aware about the procedure to obtain job cards than beneficiaries of other districts. However, least awareness was noticed in Mansa district of *Malwa* region. The “Kruskal-Wallis one way Anova” was further computed to check the district wise difference in awareness and it was found significant at 0.05 level of significance. In other words, difference in awareness about the procedure to obtain job cards in different districts of *Malwa* region were significant.

Awareness issuance of job card	Awareness regarding issuance procedure of job card amongst beneficiaries in <i>Malwa</i> region of Punjab (n=252)							Rank	K statistic
	Ludhiana n ₁ =36 Mean	Moga n ₂ =36 Mean	Sangrur n ₃ =36 Mean	Ropar n ₄ =36 Mean	Bathinda n ₅ =36 Mean	Mansa n ₆ =36 Mean	Ferozepur n ₇ =36 Mean		
Households must apply for registration	1.80	0.63	1.52	1.52	1.55	0.61	0.00	1.09	4 15.86*
GP issued the job cards after proper verification	1.83	1.25	0.66	1.58	1.69	0.33	0.25	1.08	5
Job card should carry photographs of all adult members in the family	1.88	1.27	1.80	1.69	1.83	0.05	0.27	1.26	1.5
The Job card must remain in the custody of the household	1.41	1.94	0.94	1.83	1.44	0.05	1.22	1.26	1.5
Job card holder must apply for work to the Gram Panchayat	1.13	1.75	1.44	1.22	1.11	0.30	1.50	1.21	3
Gram Panchayat has to issue him/her a dated receipt of the work application submitted	1.44	1.50	0.94	0.77	0.83	0.88	1.11	1.07	6
Overall	1.58	1.39	1.22	1.44	1.41	0.37	0.73		
Rank	1	4	5	2	3	7	6		

Work and wage rates:

Table 4 depicts the medium level of awareness ($\bar{X}=0.73$) was observed about work and wage rates amongst beneficiaries. The data revealed, overall awareness of beneficiaries about the provision of ‘facilities such as crèche, drinking water, child care facility and first aid’ at all worksites was maximum ($\bar{X}=1.16$, Rank 1st) followed by ‘weekly disbursement of wages to be extendable only upto fortnight’ ($\bar{X}=1.04$, Rank 2nd) and ‘wages must be paid at the minimum prescribed wage rate to the wage earners’ ($\bar{X}=1.03$, Rank 3rd). However, least awareness was observed about prominent display of work related information at a common place ($\bar{X}=0.09$, Rank=8th). It may be attributed to the fact that gram panchayats neither display this information nor ever informed beneficiaries about this provision. Further, the table illustrates that beneficiaries from Sangrur and Ferozepur districts were more aware

Table 4 : Awareness regarding work procedure and wage rates amongst beneficiaries in Malwa region of Punjab (n=252)

Awareness regarding work procedure and wage rates	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean		
Work related information displayed at a common place.	0.02	0.02	0.19	0.05	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.09	8	67.26*
No entitlement of unemployment allowance if job-card holder refuses to do the assigned work.	0.05	0.02	0.33	0.11	0.13	0.72	0.25	0.23	7	
Programme officer is responsible to provide work if gram panchayat fails to do so.	0.25	0.11	0.47	0.63	0.16	1.05	0.27	0.42		
Employment provided within a radius of 5 km from the place of residence.	0.36	0.88	1.16	0.77	0.63	1.11	1.22	0.88	5	
Additional allowances @ 10% of the wage rate has to be paid in case he/she offered work beyond 5 km radius	0.38	1.52	1.36	0.91	0.80	0.55	1.50	1.00	4	
Unemployment allowance need be paid in case the State Government fails to provide wage employment on time.	0.22	0.16	1.66	0.61	0.61	0.94	1.11	0.76	6	
mandatory facilities such as crèche, drinking water, child care facility and first aid provided at all worksites.	0.55	1.05	1.66	1.22	1.00	0.66	1.97	1.16	1	
Wages must be paid at the minimum prescribed wage rate.	0.58	0.69	1.66	1.27	1.00	0.05	1.94	1.03	3	
Weekly disbursement of wages and else it must never extend beyond a fortnight.	0.55	0.44	1.66	1.22	1.00	0.50	1.94	1.04	2	
Overall mean	0.33	0.54	1.13	0.75	0.59	0.66	1.13			
Ranks	7	6	1.5	3	5	4	1.5			

related to work and wage rates (' \bar{X} =1.13, Rank 1.5th) over their counterparts. Whereas, Ludhiana beneficiaries were least aware about this provision (' \bar{X} =0.33, Rank 7th). This can be supported with the reason that beneficiaries neither ever got work beyond 5km nor ever received unemployment allowances, so they were least aware about this provision. It was also found that there was a significant district wise difference ($p=0.05$) in awareness about work and wage rates among beneficiaries of *Malwa* region. Sivasankari and Bharathi 2012 reported the same about awareness regarding minimum wages and other provisions was low in both the states. Also, people were unaware of the procedural details required for availing of the rights-based guaranteed employment.

Implementation procedure:

Data given in Table 5 depicts the low level of awareness ($\bar{X}=0.51$) of beneficiaries regarding implementation procedure of MGNREGA in this region of Punjab. It was observed that in Malwa region respondents were moderately aware about the provision of workers having to sign on muster roll for each employment day ($\bar{X}=1.21$, Rank= 1st). This was followed by awareness about completing the assigned work each day ($\bar{X}=0.74$, Rank=2nd), maintenance of muster roll at work place ($\bar{X}=0.71$, Rank= 3rd). They were aware about this aspect because every day they signed on muster roll to mark their attendance. The respondents were least aware about the provision whereby a team of five members is selected every week to check the expenses while work is in progress. Also, the awareness regarding the provision of the state government having meetto the expenses, if the child the employee brings to the worksite meets with an accident($\bar{X}=0.23$, Rank =14.5th). The ignorance about this provision can be attributed to the fact that not a lone beneficiary claimed are got benefit of this provision. These provisions were neither availed nor communicated by any of the functionaries. From the overall mean it was evident that in Moga district, beneficiaries were more aware about the implementation over their counterparts from other districts (Ranked 1th) followed by Sangrur ($\bar{X}=0.64$, Rank= 2nd) and Ropar ($\bar{X} =0.51$, Rank= 3rd). Whereas, beneficiaries from the Ludhiana district were least aware about the implementation procedure ($\bar{X}=0.27$, Rank =7th). The K statistic (43.35) was significant at 0.05% level of significance revealing significant difference in the awareness level of beneficiaries of different districts.

Wage payments:

Table 6 shows that medium level of awareness ($\bar{X} = 1.10$) of beneficiaries in *Malwa* region of Punjab. They were maximum regarding ‘mention of payment records on the job cards’($\bar{X}=1.33$, Rank 1st). This was followed by awareness about payments being based on actual work performed ($\bar{X}=1.26$, Rank= 2nd). However, the beneficiaries were least aware about the revelation of information regarding work output measurement to beneficiaries at the time of payment ($\bar{X}=1.07$, Rank =4th) and recording of work on the muster roll ($\bar{X}=0.68$, Rank 5th). It can be inferred thatthe records of measurement of work performed not being mentioned on the muster roll, because one *Gram Rozgar Sewaki*s covering around 30-40 villages and it is not possible for him to visit all villages in a single day and measure the work output of each worker daily. From district wise comparisons, it was clear that the beneficiaries from Bathinda were more aware about this provision with overall mean 1.37 (rank 1st) followed by Ludhiana district ($\bar{X}=1.32$, Rank 2nd)and Sangrur ($\bar{X}=1.24$, Rank 3rd). However, least awareness was observed in Mansa district. TheK statistic (70.62) was found significant at 0.05 level of significance which depicted that significant difference in awareness across districts in *Malwa* region. Ulvin (2011) found that the challenges faced in implementation of *MGNREGA* was lack of awareness about the rights provided by the *MGNREGA*.

Social audit procedure:

Table 7 depicts low level of awareness ($\bar{X} =0.37$) of beneficiaries about the social

Table 5 : Awareness about implementing procedure of MGNREGA amongst beneficiaries in Malwa region of Punjab (n=252)

Awareness about implementing procedure	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	
Every worker must sign on the muster roll	1.47	0.94	1.33	1.11	1.72	0.55	1.33	1.21	1	43.35*
Notice board should contain:										
- Work related information	0.05	1.27	0.44	0.25	0.22	1.00	0.41	0.52	6	
- Work division	0.00	1.22	0.25	0.05	0.05	0.44	0.13	0.31	12	
- Receipt of funds	0.05	1.25	0.44	0.22	0.25	0.33	0.57	0.44	9	
- The expenditure details	0.11	1.30	0.58	0.36	0.36	0.50	0.72	0.56	7	
The workers must complete the assigned work	0.47	1.00	1.16	1.13	0.41	0.16	0.86	0.71	2	
A muster roll duly signed by the programme officer is maintained at the place of work	0.44	0.97	1.16	1.08	0.41	0.05	0.86	0.71	3	
Muster roll without bearing the number considered illegal.	0.33	0.86	0.63	0.75	0.44	0.27	0.81	0.58	5	
Mate must tell about the entries made in the muster roll to the workers everyday	0.47	1.02	0.72	1.11	0.33	0.22	0.55	0.63	4	
Work orders and work measurement records book must also be available at the work site	0.13	0.075	0.38	0.44	0.33	0.11	0.55	0.29	13	
Selection of a five members team every week to check the expenses while work is in progress.	0.02	0.63	0.38	0.05	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.23	14.5	
If the employee meets with an accident then he/she is entitled for free medical assistance.	0.25	0.80	0.50	0.50	0.13	0.61	0.25	0.43	10	
If the employee dies or gets handicapped during work then family gets assistance as per rules of the state government.	0.22	0.77	0.69	0.44	0.13	0.19	0.27	0.39	11	
Entitlement of an employee for the medical assistance if he meets with an accident during work.	0.08	1.27	0.52	0.16	0.13	0.77	0.30	0.46	8	
The state government meets all the expenses, if the employee brings his/her children and the child meets with an accident.	0.02	0.02	0.38	0.05	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.23	14.5	
Overall mean	0.27	0.89	0.64	0.51	0.33	0.46	0.50			
Rank	7	1	2	3	6	5	4			

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Table 6 : Awareness about wage disbursement related information amongst beneficiaries in <i>Malwa</i> region of Punjab (n=252)										
Awareness about wage disbursement	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Rank	
Payment is based on the actual work performed.	1.63	1.11	1.08	1.27	1.41	1.22	1.13	1.26	2	70.62*
The muster roll must include measurement of the work performed by the worker.	0.69	0.77	0.88	0.58	0.94	0.33	0.58	0.68	5	
The work output measurement must be revealed to the beneficiary at the time of payment.	1.33	0.86	0.94	0.72	1.33	0.66	1.63	1.07	4	
The payment of work should be made through the bank or post office.	1.19	1.13	1.63	1.36	1.33	0.55	0.94	1.16	3	
Records of payments must be available on job cards.	1.75	1.19	1.69	1.50	1.86	0.66	0.66	1.33	1	
Overall mean	1.32	1.01	1.24	1.09	1.37	0.68	0.99			
Rank	2	5	3	4	1	7	6			

audit procedure in *Malwa* region of Punjab. It was noticed that beneficiaries were aware that social audit is mandatory once in six months ($\bar{X}=0.86$, Rank 1st) followed by awareness about the provision for announcement about social audit to be made one month in advance by the District Project Officer ($\bar{X}=0.63$, Rank =2nd) and the social audit committee must consist of 1/3rd women ($\bar{X}=0.51$, Rank=3rd). Beneficiaries were least aware about reporting of any discrepancies in work related entries reported as complaints to social audit team ($\bar{X}=0.0$, Rank= 10th) Further, the overall mean score shows that the beneficiaries were not much aware about the social audit process due to the fact that it was not being conducted as per guidelines of MGNREGA. Further, the comparative mean of districts revealed that in Ferozepur the beneficiaries were better aware($\bar{X}=0.52$) about social audit process over beneficiaries from other districts. The K-statistic was found significant at 0.05% level of significance which can be interpreted as significant difference in extent of awareness across different districts of *Malwa* region.

Table 8 illustrates the low level of awareness ($\bar{X} = 0.03$) of beneficiaries in *Malwa* region of Punjab about the public scrutiny provision of the scheme. It was observed that negligible awareness existed as far as access of all work related documents to the beneficiaries ($\bar{X}=0.14$) followed by lodging complaints in compliant register ($\bar{X}=0.07$) were concerned. About the remaining provisions concerning this category, there was cent per cent ignorance observed among respondents. District wise comparison revealed that except Mansa district

Table 7: Awareness about social audit amongst beneficiaries in Malwa region of Punjab (n=252)

	Awareness about social audit procedure		Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall n=252	Rank	K statistic
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	
Social audit is mandatory at least once in six months	0.80	0.83	0.86	0.72	1.11	0.66	1.05	0.86	1.05	0.86	1	15.14*
Announcement about social audit must be made by district project officer about a month in advance.	1.19	0.11	0.33	0.36	1.30	0.61	0.52	0.63	0.52	0.63	2	
Committee for social audit is formulated by gram sabha on six monthly bases.	0.05	0.05	0.38	0.19	0.16	1.16	0.27	0.27	0.32	0.32	7	
Members of social audit committee are chosen from amongst the job card holders	0.16	0.13	0.72	0.50	0.47	0.11	0.80	0.80	0.41	0.41	4.5	
At least one third members of social audit committee should be women.	0.16	0.13	0.52	0.50	0.47	1.00	0.80	0.80	0.51	0.51	3	
The programme officer must present all work related documents first to gram sabha for verification.	0.11	0.05	0.27	0.22	0.27	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.35	0.35	6	
The documents must be handed over to social audit team for cross checking after verification by gram sabha.	0.16	0.11	0.47	0.41	0.44	0.50	0.77	0.77	0.41	0.41	4.5	
Social audit committee after examining all the documents must submit the report within one month back to the gram sabha	0.11	0.05	0.27	0.22	0.27	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.20	0.20	8	
Work register containing all work related records must be presented to the social audit committee.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9	
Any discrepancies observed in work related entries must be reported as complaints to vigilance committee.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	
Overall mean	0.27	0.15	0.38	0.31	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.52				
Rank	7	6	4	5	3	2	1					

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Awareness about public scrutiny	Malwa region of Punjab (n=252)							Overall Rank	K statistic
	Ludhiana n ₁ =36 Mean	Moga n ₂ =36 Mean	Sangrur n ₃ =36 Mean	Ropar n ₄ =36 Mean	Bathinda n ₅ =36 Mean	Mansa n ₆ =36 Mean	Ferozepur n ₇ =36 Mean		
There is a provision for Vigilance and supervisory committee to supervise all works of MGNREGA.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Local residents/ people must have access to all the work related records lying with the gram sabha.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.14	1
All the complaints must be lodged in the complaint register and solved within a specified time frame	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.07	2
The person filing complaint should receive a written answer by way of action taken	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
Lodging and resolving of all complaints must be checked by higher authorities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
All complaints must get printed in <i>Khetri Smachar Pattar</i> .	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
Toll free help line must exist for maintaining transparency of records.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
A state level officer must be appointed for taking punitive action in case of irregularities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Overall mean	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00		
Rank						1			

there was no awareness about this provision in any of the districts. In the Mansa district negligible awareness existed regarding 'access to all work related to public, complaints must be logged in the complaint registers, the person filing complaint should receive a written answer by way of action taken and Toll free help line must exist for maintaining transparency of records. This can be explained with the reason that in Mansa district complaints registers were being maintained during implementation. All the complaints were resolved by higher authorities and *KhetriSmacharPattar* got them printed and thus some awareness existed among beneficiaries. In other districts, complaint register was not maintained and beneficiaries were not aware that they can file complaints against any discrepancy in recordkeeping and demand written answer of these complaints. They were also not aware about the availability of toll free helpline facility available for maintain transparency of complaint records.

Level of awareness in *Malwa* region of Punjab :

Perusal of data in Table 9 revealed that overall, medium level of awareness was observed

Table 9 : Districtwise comparison of awareness about different provisional aspects of MGNREGA amongst beneficiaries of Malwa region. (n=252)								
Awareness about different provisions	Level of awareness (0-2)							
	Ludhiana n ₁ =36	Moga n ₂ =36	Sangrur n ₃ =36	Ropar n ₄ =36	Bathinda n ₅ =36	Mansa n ₆ =36	Ferozepur n ₇ =36	Overall
Right to employment	0.77	1.36	0.66	0.79	1.03	0.83	0.79	0.89
Gram Panchayat responsibilities	0.88	0.72	1.14	0.93	0.83	0.74	0.83	0.87
Procedure of obtain job cards	1.58	1.39	1.22	1.43	1.41	0.37	0.72	1.16
Work and wage rates	0.33	0.54	1.13	0.75	0.59	0.66	1.13	0.73
Implementation process	0.27	0.89	0.64	0.51	0.33	0.46	0.50	0.51
Wage disbursement	1.32	1.01	1.24	1.08	1.37	0.68	0.99	1.10
Social audit	0.27	0.15	0.38	0.31	0.45	0.50	0.52	0.37
Public scrutiny	0	0	0	0	0	0.18	0	0.03
Mean	0.68	0.76	0.80	0.73	0.75	0.55	0.69	0.71
Ranks	6	2	1	4	3	7	5	

(Range of mean score: Low 0.0-0.66, Medium 0.66-1.33, High 1.33-2.0)

in provisions of right to employment ($\bar{X}=0.89$), gram panchayat responsibilities ($\bar{X}=0.87$), procedure to obtain job cards ($\bar{X}=1.16$), work and wage rates ($\bar{X}=0.73$) and wage disbursement ($\bar{X} = 1.10$). High awareness was not found in any provision of MGNREGA. low level of awareness was observed in public scrutiny ($\bar{X} = 0.03$) and social audit provisions ($\bar{X} = 0.37$) and implementation procedure ($\bar{X}=0.51$). In Ludhiana district, high awareness was found regarding procedure of obtaining job cards, medium level of awareness in case of right to employment, wage disbursement and gram panchayat responsibilities and low level of awareness was observed pertaining to categories: work and wage rates and social audit and no awareness about public scrutiny provision. Overall in Ludhiana district, awareness was of medium level. In Moga district, beneficiaries were highly aware about their right to employment and procedure to obtain job cards however, low level of awareness was recorded in case of social audit, work and wage rates and public scrutiny areas. In Sangrur district, procedure to obtain job cards, implementation of the scheme, work and wage rates aspects had medium level of awareness. Overall, in Malwa region, medium level of awareness was observed in Ludhiana, Moga, Sangrur, Ropar and Ferozepur districts concerning different provisions under MGNREGA. Low level of awareness was recorded only in Mansa district. Bipul and Jana (2013)also reported that even after six years of implementation of NREGA the study reveals that people know very little about the law and different facilities available under it.

Conclusion:

To make the scheme successful in empowering rural poor, it was necessary that they should aware about all legal entitlements and provision under act. All though the medium

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level of awareness was found, but the beneficiaries were not aware about their rights under the act. Awareness about legal entitlements under act, improve their participation of beneficiaries and make the scheme successful. It improves their quality of life. So there is needed to communicate all the provisions under the act so they got all the benefits of the scheme through mass media. The government official should also involve in awareness campaign of scheme which make scheme successful.

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