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Women's satisfaction with Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

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Abstract

Providing LPG connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. This measure will empower women and protect their health. It will reduce drudgery and the time spent on cooking. LPG connections have increased no doubt, but PMUY beneficiaries do not seem to be using their LPG cylinders, a large number of PMUY beneficiaries have not come back for refills. To know the reason of not come back for refills, present study was carried out Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. 110 women beneficiaries of PMUY (age group 35-65 years) from the two blocks (Kanti & Mushahari) were selected. Interview schedule was constructed to record the data obtained. In this study a self-designed 5 Likert scale survey instrument was employed in collecting data. The questionnaire covered demographic and seven variables of the satisfaction. Data showed that beneficiaries were highly satisfied with simplification of kitchen work and leisure of time in cooking. However, some beneficiaries were satisfied with connection documentation and process. Finding also indicates that PMUY beneficiaries were satisfied with the connection subsidy, LPG refill availability and training programme. Finally, it is concluded that Due to low refill subsidy and high cost of refill, majority of beneficiaries was not satisfied with the PMUY.

Keywords: Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana, LPG, satisfaction, beneficiary

1. Introduction

India is home to more than 24 Crore households out of which about 10 Crore households are still deprived of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as cooking fuel and have to rely on firewood, coal, dung – cakes etc. as primary source of cooking. The smoke from burning such fuels causes alarming household pollution and adversely affects the health of Women & children causing several respiratory diseases/ disorders. As per a WHO report, smoke inhaled by women from unclean fuel is equivalent to burning 400 cigarettes in an hour. In addition, women and children have to go through the drudgery of collecting firewood because the poor have limited access to cooking gas. The spread of LPG cylinders has been predominantly in the urban and semi-urban areas with the coverage mostly in middle class and affluent households. However, there are serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuels. According to the new study from research institute for compassionate economics (R.I.C.E) shows that:

85 percent of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries in rural Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan still use solid fuels for cooking due to financial reasons as well as gender inequalities. In the four states surveyed, there has indeed been a substantial increase in LPG ownership due to the scheme, with 76 percent of households now owing an LPG connection. More than 98 percent of these households also owns a chulha. (R.I.C.E, 2018)

According to WHO estimates, about five lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuels. Most of these premature deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Indoor air pollution is also responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children. Keeping in the view of the health & empowerment condition of the women, Prime minister of India launched PMUY 1 may 2016 in Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. PMUY is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women (BPL household) for empower and protect their health because it is true fact that development of any society or country is not possible without the empowerment of the women.

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Providing LPG connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. This measure will empower women and protect their health. It will reduce drudgery and the time spent on cooking. It will also provide employment for rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved PMUY - Scheme for Providing Free LPG connections to Women from BPL Households. Under the scheme, Rs 8000 crore has been earmarked for providing five crore LPG connections to BPL households. The Scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest free loan to purchase stove and refill by Oil Marketing Companies. The administrative cost of Rs. 1600 per connection, which includes a cylinder, pressure regulator, booklet, safety hose, etc. would be borne by the Government. The identification of eligible BPL families will be made in consultation with the State Governments and the Union Territories. This Scheme would be implemented over three years, namely, the FY 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Keeping in view of the above said purpose of this research was identified the PMUY beneficiary satisfaction level about scheme. It has been researched whether satisfaction levels show any differences in terms of various variables i.e. Connection documentation & process, connection subsidy, LPG refill availability, refill subsidy/cost, training

programme, simplification of kitchen work and leisure of time in cooking, because if the beneficiary will not satisfied with the variables of PMUY, the scheme will not achieve their goal i.e., empowerment of women and protect their health.

2. Methodology

Present study was conducted in the Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. 110 women beneficiaries of PMUY (age group 35-65 years) from the two blocks (Kanti & Mushahari) were selected from Muzaffarpur district by systematic randomly sampling. The design of this research is a descriptive survey research.. Interview schedule was constructed to record the data obtained. In this study a self-designed 5 Likert scale survey instrument was employed in collecting data. The instrument consisted two parts, the first part consists of 6 questions related to socio-demographic and second part of the survey was satisfaction survey, which consisted of 7 questions. The Likert scale range (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree & 5= strongly agree) was used for the collection of data. The interview questions were analyzed using descriptive narrations. Further, appropriate statistical techniques were applied to derive the results of the present study.

3. Results & Discussion

Part-1 Socio-demographic

Table 1: Socio-demographic Status of Respondents

Sr. No.	Socio-demographic Status	Respondents		
		n=110	%	
1	Age			
	• 35-44 years	51	46.36	
	• 45-49 years	45	40.91	
	• 50-65 years	14	12.73	
2	Caste			
	• Gen.	16	14.55	
	• OBC	41	37.27	
	• SC/ST	53	48.18	
3	Religion			
	• Hindu	67	60.91	
	• Muslim	39	35.45	
	• Sikh	01	00.91	
	• Christian	03	02.73	
4	Family Income (Rs./Month)			
	• <3000	59	53.64	
	• 3001-5000	38	34.54	
	• >5000	13	11.82	
5	Daily expenditure on food (Rs./Day)			
	• <20	31	28.18	
	• 20-50	39	35.45	
	• 51-75	29	26.36	
	• >75	11	10.00	
6	Education			
	• illiterate	60	54.55	
	• Below Primary	33	30.00	
	• Above Primary	17	15.45	

Table-1 revealed the data on Socio-demographic and general profile of the women beneficiaries of PMUY. According to the table, majority of the respondents were SC/ST followed by the OBC & general caste. More than half (60.91 percent) of the beneficiaries were Hindu while 35.45 percent of them were Muslim, Sikh (0.91 percent) and Christian (2.73 percent). However, more than half of family earned below Rs

3000, only 11.82 percent of them earned more than Rs. 5000. Table also indicates that the 28.18 percent of the beneficiaries expend below Rs. 20 on food per day, very few of them (10 percent) expend more than Rs. 75 on food. More than half (54.55 percent) of the beneficiaries were illiterate.

Part-2 Satisfaction

Table 2: Connection documentation & process

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St. Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2= disagree	3=neutral	4= agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with connection documentation & process	38	28	25	13	6	2.28	1.21256

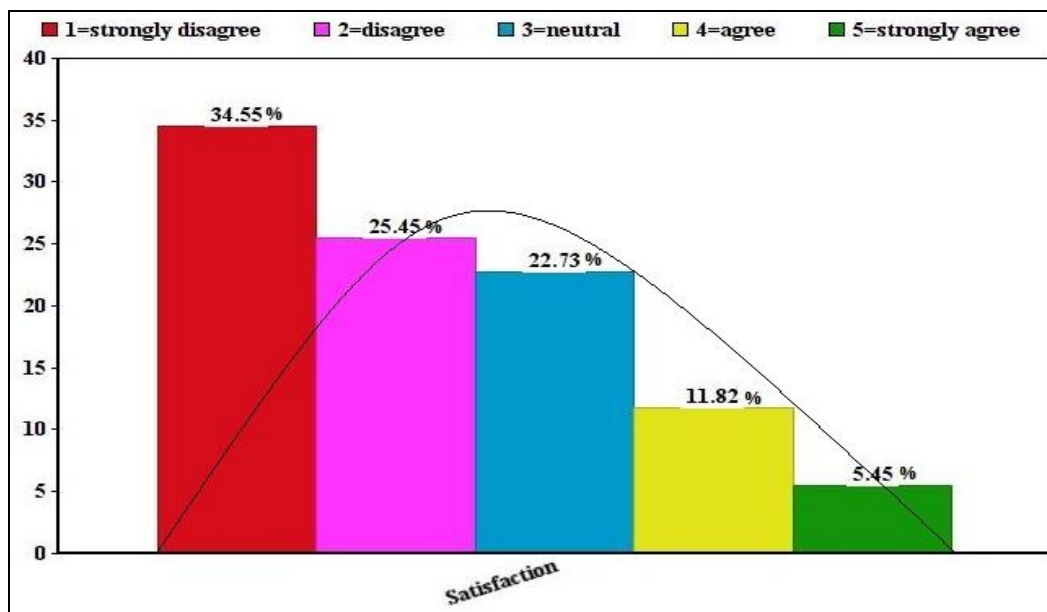


Fig 1: Connection documentation & process

Table-2 revealed the data of satisfaction with connection documentation and process. According to the table -2 (Mean=2.28 & St.Dev.= 1.21) indicated neutral satisfaction

with connection documentation and process. The curve is skewed toward slightly middle indicating neutral satisfaction with above indicator of satisfaction (figure -1).

Table 3: Connection subsidy

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with connection subsidy	03	08	19	51	29	3.86	0.98127.

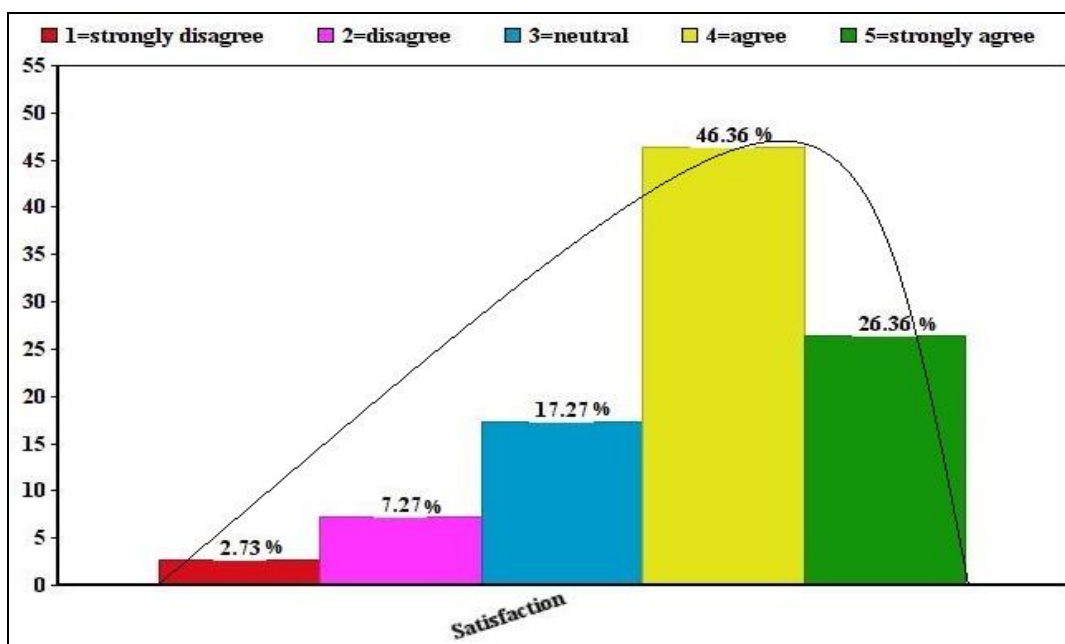


Fig 2: Connection subsidy

Descriptive statistics were calculated & they indicated that the majority of the PMUY beneficiaries were satisfied (Mean=3.86 & St.Dev.=0.98) with the connection subsidy

provide by Indian government (Table-3). The curve is skewed toward the right side (figure-2) showed that the beneficiaries are satisfied with the connection subsidy.

Table 4: LPG refill availability

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with LPG refill availability	15	19	37	25	14	3.04	1.21101

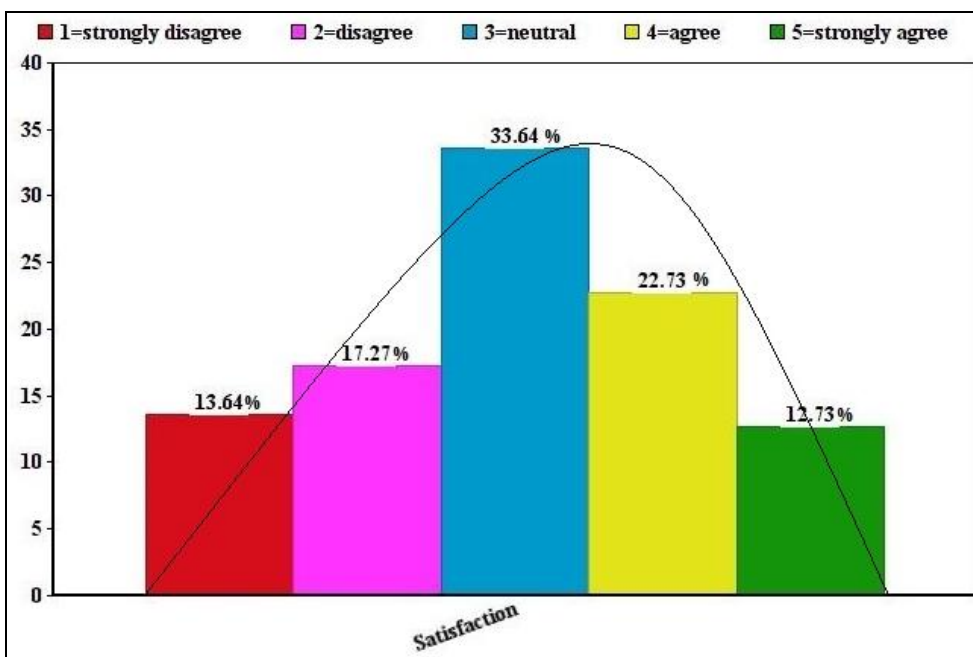


Fig 3: LPG refill availability

PMUY beneficiaries response indicated that the majority of the them were satisfied (Mean=3.04 & St.Dev.=1.21) with the availability of LPG refill (Table-4). The curve is skewed

toward the little right (figure-3) indicating that the women were satisfied with the LPG refill availability.

Table 5: Refill subsidy/cost

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with Refill subsidy/caste	51	35	12	09	03	1.89	1.06956

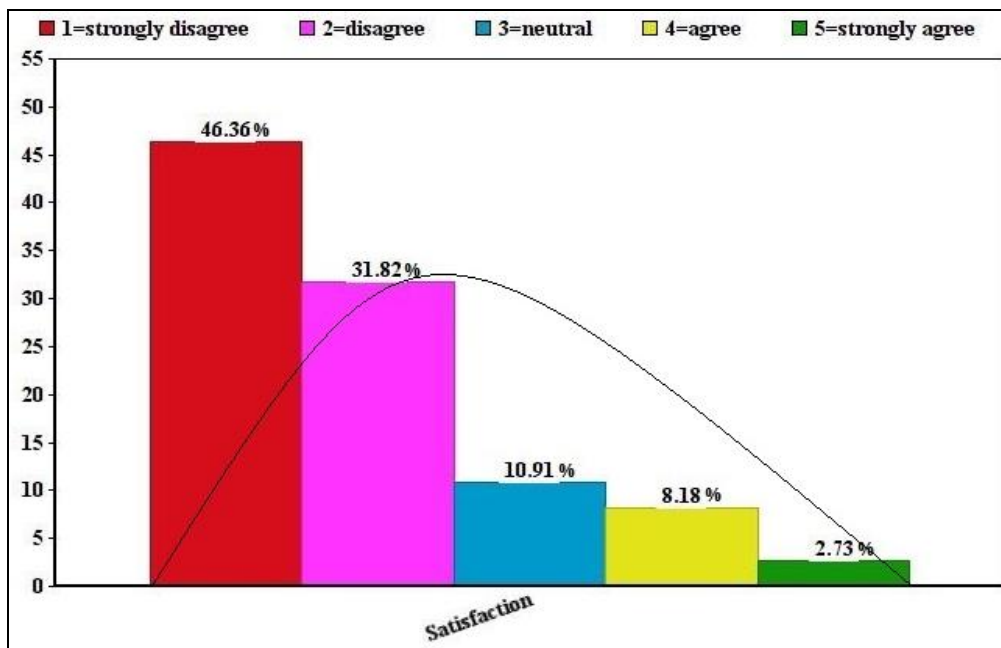


Fig 4: Refill subsidy/cost

Table-5 showed the response of the PMUY beneficiaries towards cost of refill/subsidy for refill. Data revealed that the majority of the beneficiaries indicated low satisfaction (Mean 1.89 & St. Dev. 1.06) about the refill subsidy/cost. The curve

is slightly skewed toward the left (figure-4) indicating very low satisfaction. Only 2.73 percent beneficiaries were not satisfied with the refill subsidy/cost. It shows the insufficient fund for LPG subsidy.

Table 6: Training Programme

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with training Programme	13	19	32	27	19	3.18	1.25019

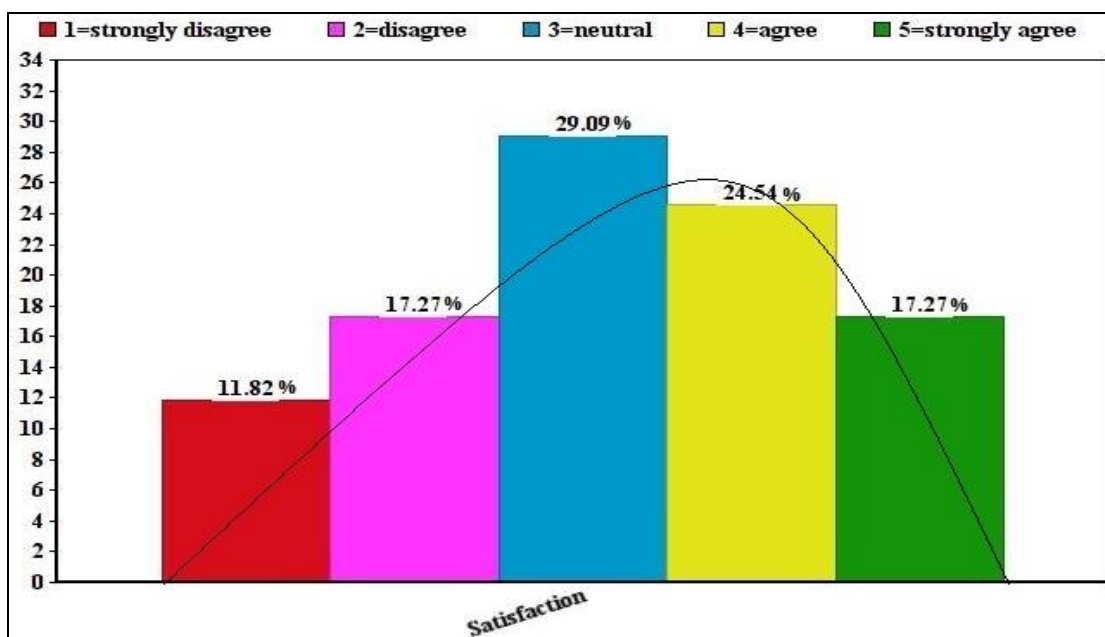


Fig 5. Training Programme

Table-6 showed the data about satisfaction with the training programme. PMUY beneficiaries indicated satisfaction (Mean=3.18, St.Dev=1.25) with the training programme. The curve is skewed toward right side indicating satisfaction with

the training programme (figure-5). However, 29.09 percent of the beneficiaries were not satisfied with training programme, while 29.09 percent respond neutral satisfaction about training programme.

Table 7: Simplification of kitchen work

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5= strongly agree		
Satisfaction with simplification of kitchen work	02	01	09	24	74	4.52	0.83206

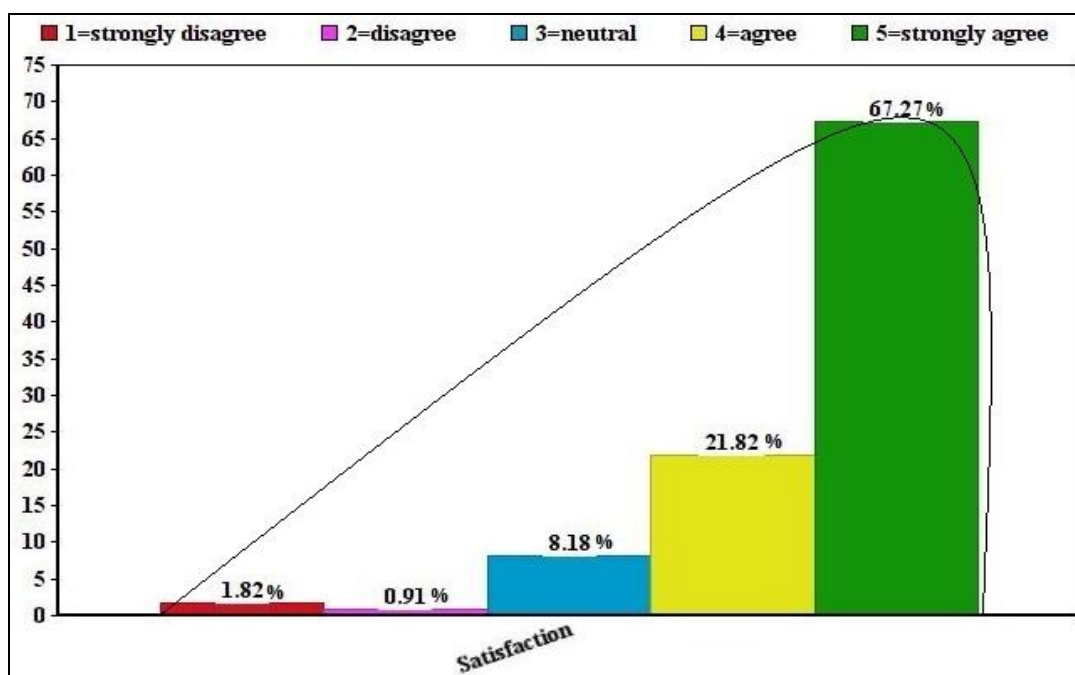


Fig 6: Simplification of kitchen work

Table-7 indicated that the majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied (Mean=4.52 & St.Dev.=0.83) with the simplification of the kitchen work with the help of LPG cylinder. The curve

is skewed toward the highly right (figure-6) indicating that the PMUY beneficiaries are highly satisfied with the simplification of kitchen work.

Table 8: Leisure of time in cooking

Characteristic	Response					Mean	St.Dev.
	1=strongly disagree	2=disagree	3=neutral	4=agree	5=strongly agree		
Satisfaction with leisure of time in cooking	02	05	11	22	70	4.39	0.96826.

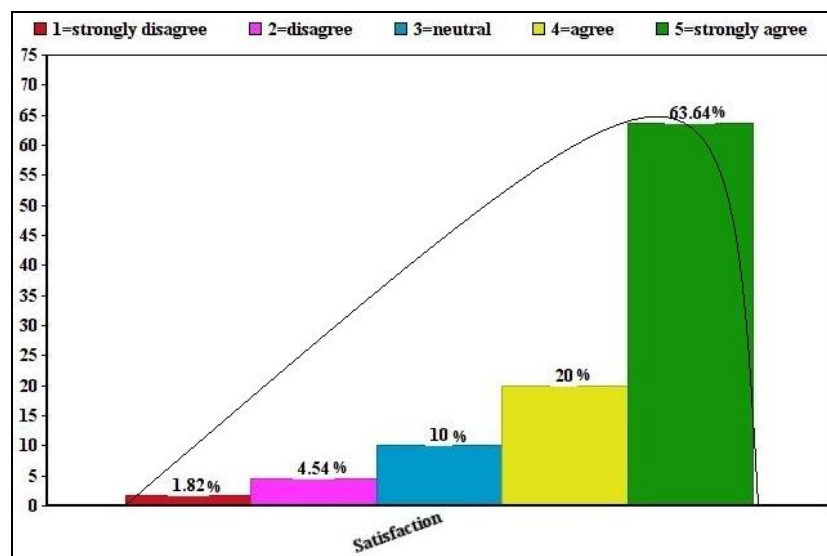
**Fig 7:** Leisure of time in cooking

Table-8 indicated that the majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied (Mean=4.39 & St.Dev.=0.96) with the leisure of time in cooking with the help of LPG cylinder. The curve is skewed toward the very right (figure-7) indicating that the PMUY beneficiaries are highly satisfied with the above indicator of satisfaction. More than half (63.64 percent) of beneficiaries were strongly satisfied with the leisure of time in cooking; only 1.82 percent of the beneficiaries were strongly disagree with above indicator.

4. Conclusion

The study finding revealed that PMUY beneficiaries are not satisfied with the LPG refill subsidy/cost. Study also revealed that beneficiaries are highly satisfied with simplification of kitchen work and leisure of time in cooking. However some beneficiaries are satisfied with connection documentation and process but some are not satisfied, overall beneficiaries showed neutral satisfaction about connection documentation and process. Finding also indicates that PMUY beneficiaries are satisfied with the connection subsidy, LPG refill availability and training programme. Finally, it is concluded that Due to low refill subsidy and high cost of refill, majority of beneficiaries was not satisfied with the PMUY.

5. Recommendations

The government should make an effort to increase refill subsidy especially in BPL households for sustainability of PMUY.

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