CHAPTER - IV

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Introduction

Creation of employment opportunity has always been one of the important objectives of development planning in India. Because of higher growth of population and the volume of unemployment, the Tenth Five year plan (2002-2007) made efforts in this direction and reviewed already existing employment generation programmes and a new programme viz National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched in 2005. The basic objective of the scheme is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose men and women willing to do unskilled manual work. This employment guarantee can also serve the purpose of other objectives of creating productive asset, protecting the environment, reducing rural-urban migration, and fasting social equity among others. It has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on 2nd October 2009. The MGNREGS has invested an amount of Rs 40,000 crores to generate jobs to the tune of 216.34 crore person-days during the financial year 2011-12. The MGNREGS has covered 626 districts by end of March 2012. Around 5.04 crore households have been provided employment by issuing 12.39 crores of job cards.
The present study is an attempt to analyse socio-economic impact of the rural worker in MGNREGS, role of MGNREGS in empowerment of rural people, reduction of rural urban migration, promotion of social equity, problems faced by the rural worker. The study has also attempted to analyse the sustainable measures taken for problem solving and effective implementation of the programme.

The MGNREGS has a provision for equal work opportunity to both men and women. The question arises whether this equal opportunity to both the male and female to promote “Gender Justice” given by Act ‘equal wage for equal work’ is utilised by the people in the villages. What is the gender perception among the men and women working under the MGNREG scheme regarding the provision? Does it enable the rural people to have better livelihood options? Hence, in the present research study, attempts have been made to understand existing situation at village level about applicability and utilisation of the above provisions of the MGNREGS.

**Statement of the Problem**

The MGNREGS is an instrument for ensuring livelihood security for the rural masses. There is a policy shift in India towards rural employment generation which has made the government to ensure employment as one of “Rights” of the people. The public policy of Right to employment has provided the people to participate in the government offered employment programme and manage income. The present study is focused on people’s participation in this right based programme as beneficiaries and its effects on income, migration, change in the consumption and expenditure pattern of the
rural households. The study is also focused on analysis of the gender
difference in participation and variation across different social groups and caste
groups in their participation. Mainly the study attempted to examine the effects
of the MGNREGS on employment and income among various section of the
rural community.

The study also attempted to identify the problems faced by the rural
worker under MGNREGS, The analysis covered the changes in the income
pattern, consumption and investment levels of those who have participated and
benefited out of the programme.

**Objectives of the Study**

1. To study the socio-economic profile of workers enrolled under
   MGNREGS;

2. To examine the socio-economic level of the workers regarding the role
   of MGNREGS in empowering rural people in terms of reducing
   migration, increasing participation in employment and earnings and
   fostering social equity (equal opportunities for all social groups and
   gender participation);

3. To identify the changes in the income pattern, consumption and
   investment levels; and

4. To identify the problems of the rural people under MGNREGS and
   suggest suitable measures.
Scope of the Study

The present study helps to understand the improvement of rural economic and employment scenario. The implications of the “equal wage for equal work” given under MGNREGS in the society also help to perceive the generated socialisation process on wage concept in society. Sustainable development of rural worker, the satisfaction of workers need’s and aspiration is the major development. The essential needs for food, clothing, jobs are not being met beyond their basic needs. These people have legitimate aspiration for an improved quality of life.

Methodology

The study has based its strength on Descriptive research design. The study has explored to enlist the possible effects of the MGNREGS on various sections of the rural community. In this process, study has analysed a given environment in the rural area of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, to bring out the situation analysis a descriptive methodology is used.

Sampling

The study is based on a sample survey methodology and it has adapted the multi-stage purposive sampling. The study is confined to the Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. The sample district is selected as the Dindigul district is one of the districts where MGNREGS was piloted during the first phase in 2006. Hence, the researcher purposively selected the district for conducting the study.
In the second stage, Reddiarchatram block in the Dindigul district was chosen in which highest number of persons were issued with job-cards and also more number of persons were provided with employment during the year 2010-11.

In the third stage, by using the same criteria, a Village Panchayat from Reddiarchatram block was selected for the study – that is Dharmathupatti Panchayat. Which is having seven villages / hamlets in its area. At the time of finalisation of the sample (May-June 2011), there were 2661 persons who have registered for employment and holding job-cards under the MGNREGS.

As fourth stage of sampling, out of 2661 persons with job-cards, 10 percent has been selected as sample for the study. In the fifth stage, 266 job-card holders have been selected by using probability proportionate sampling with replacement among all caste groups in the sample village and covered all hamlets of the sample village panchayat area.

**Sample Respondents**

The study is based on a sample of 266 respondents who were selected from the sample village - Dharmathupatti Panchayat of Reddiarchatram block in the Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. The sample respondents were selected using simple random sampling method.

**Sources of Data**

The sources for this study were of two kinds such as primary and secondary sources. The secondary data have mostly collected from the Government Published Reports and information disseminated in the journals and other printed materials. Additionally, secondary data were collected
from the website of the MGNREGS for national, state and district levels. The primary data were collected from the job-card holding households through the interview schedule.

a) **Primary Source**

The primary data were obtained directly from the respondents using an interview schedule, group discussion, observation method during the period between February 2011 to May 2011. The data were collected by administering a pre-tested interview schedule.

b) **Secondary Source**

The secondary data have been collected from books, Journals, Government records and other studies conducted earlier.

**Tools Used for the Study**

The tool used for the data collection for this study is interview schedule. The interview schedules have administered to the respondents through formal interviews and discussion to elicit information relating to the gender perception on equal wage concept, socio-economic condition, women empowerment, migration, employment generation, income pattern and problems among people working under MGNREGS in Dharmathupatti Panchayat.

**Limitations of the Study**

This study’s limitations have the socio economic condition of the MGNREGS workers, and role of the scheme. This study has dealt as to how unemployment and under employment problems in the rural areas got reduced, and empowerment of rural people and reducing the rural- urban migration and the income level of beneficiary under the scheme.
Chapterisation

The thesis is divided and presented in seven chapters. The first chapter presents a comprehensive account on the Rural Wage Employment Programmes in India. The second chapter provides an analysis on Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Review of Literature and earlier studies are presented in the chapter three. Design of the study and methodological details are explained in the fourth chapter. Data analyses and discussions are presented in the fifth chapter. Major findings and its summary is given in the sixth chapter. The Conclusions and Suggestions were presented in the seventh chapter.

The Profile of the Study area Dindigul District

Dindigul district located between 10°. 05’ and 10°. 09’ North latitude and 77°. 30’ and 78°. 20’ East longitude and its mean sea level are (+) 280.11m. Dindigul district in bound by Erode, Coimbatore, Karur and Trichy districts on the North, by Sivaganga and Trichy districts on the East, by Madurai district on the South and by Theni and Coimbatore districts and Kerala state on the West. It is spread over on area of 6266.64 Sq.km.

The district comprises of three revenue division – a) Dindigul, b) Palani, c) Kodaikanal; and seven taluks a) Dindigul, b) Kodaikanal, c) Natham, d) Nilakottai, e) Oddanchatram, f) Palani, g) Vedasandur. The district includes, fourteen blocks, namely Athur, Batalagundu, Dindigul, Gujilamparai, Kodaikanal, Natham, Nilakotti, Oddanchatram, Palani, Reddiarchatram, Shanrapatti, Thoppampatti, Vadamadurai, Vedasandur.
Population Distribution of the Study Area

The majority of the people were registered in Dharmathupatti panchayat. The total number of 2257 household have registered and the total number of 2661 person have registered under the MGNREGS in Dharmathupatti panchayat. The total registered of the household under the schemes to get employment in 100 percent, (total of registered household -2257, to get the employment in SCs and Others household wise 454, 1803 = 2257). The total number of person 2661 have registered to get employment in SCs and Other wise 550, 2111 persons.

Dharmathupatti Panchayat Profile

Dharmathupatti panchayat is located in Reddiarchatram block, Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu state. It's nearly 28 kilometers from the Dindigul district. Dharmathupatti panchayat landscape is 588.52 meter. In this panchayat more than 7752 thousand people are living, males 3908, female are 3844. And some of the important villages are under the Dharmathupatti panchayat; those are Dharmathupatti, Suraikkaipatti, Bodampatti, Palaniur, Sevanagaraiynpatti, Kamarajarpuram, T.Pudur, except one panchayat having the 7 hamlet in this panchayat of Dharmathupatti.