CHAPTER VII

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Suggestions

This chapter presents suggestions based on primary and secondary data. Village Panchayat is being a nodal agency for implementing this programme, there were instances of poor participation of people in the Gramsabha meetings. Though the programme entrusted 100 days of wage employment through public works, only limited number of families have acquired 100 days of employment. Most of them felt the need for increasing the number of days of employment under the scheme.

Women workers engaged under the scheme felt that the wage is sufficient for them currently. However, they argued that the wage for male workers to be increased taking into account to the cultural reality

Before the introduction of NREGP at Dharmathupatti Panchayat, the people were migrating to Kerala and Thirupur for employment. Now, after the introduction of this scheme, the phenomenon of migration has drastically decreased. However, migration is not completely arrested due to implementation of NREGP.

Most of them felt that when they performed agricultural coolie work previously, they were able to get wage only below Rs.150 in a week. Now, they expressed happiness that they are able to earn at least Rs.300 per week as a result of implementation of NREGS. However, they wanted to
increase the number of days of employment and wage that they are entitled as per the scheme.

The workers were provided with facilities on the work spot such as drinking water, first-aid box and resting place. This is in accordance in with National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Majority of the sample workers wanted to get employment without waiting for long duration after registration. They have informed to the investigator that they need to wait at least 20 days after registering their names with the Panchayat. In future they wanted to avoid this.

Incorporation of some special provisions for the elderly persons within the scheme is the immediate need to mitigating problems being faced by the aged persons. To make payments smooth, a specialised section in banks and post offices to deal with MGNREGA works should be established.

Another reason for the villager’s lack of knowledge and assertion is that perhaps they do not have awareness of the long-term role of the programme and the desired intention of the programme is improving the village economy.

**Increase on the Number of Days of MGNREGA Work**

Above fifty percent of workers have demanded that they should be provided at least 100 days of work. Half of them have demanded that the maximum limit should be raised to 150 days. It is argued that since this MGNREGA work is the only employment available in the village, it is
conveniently accessible for women and local population in general to partake in MGNREGA work.

**Worksite Facilities and Assets to Reduce Women Job Card Holders**

The major demand made by 36.5 percent workers was providing child care facility on work sites. This demand was particularly very strong from non MGNREGA participating women who currently do not but would work under MGNREGA if child care is provided. In addition, about one fifth of women workers demanded drinking water at the worksite. It was also pointed out that non provision of drinking water on the worksite increases women’s work in also having to fetch water, causing overwork and adding to their work burden.

Another demand is related to alleviate the drinking water problem. In all villages needs to immediate construction of drinking water facilities through the MGNREGA works, as the lack of such a facility drains women’s time and energy. It was discussed during the focus group discussions that fetching water takes 2-4 hours everyday, significantly increasing women’s time stress. In the group discussion it was felt that worksite insurance is an important, including on-site minor dependents. There was a suggestion to make NGOs responsible for provision of worksite facilities.
Other Recommendations

Of the other demands, an important demand was made in respect of implements. Since women spend a significant portion of earnings in buying and maintaining equipment, a suggestion was made that implements to executes MGNREGA activities should be provided by the Gram Panchayat. This demand came from about 10 percent of women. Those women with deeper insight into the processes of MGNREGA also demanded (i) women’s involvement in planning for MGNREGA; (ii) improvement in supervision on MGNREGA works and in conducting social audits (iii) better selection of works, which can create further mainstream employment in the village and (iv) provision of noon meals for women on the work sites.
Conclusion

Indian government has implemented various rural development programmes. All these programmes aimed at either creating productive assets or generating employment. Among the employment programmes, MGNREGS is based on the legislation to give effect to “Right to work” leading to wage and employment guarantee for rural people. The programme aims at providing livelihood security with minimum days of employment. Through this right based programme equal wage has been ensured to men and women workers. The study carried out to make an assessment of impact of MGNREGS on the socio-economic conditions of rural workers in Dindigul district. This study has concluded that 12.39 crore job-cards were issued during the financial year 2011-2012. The level of women participants slowly increased every financial year. For example, 48 percent of women were benefited during the financial year 2011-2012.

The Central government has provided Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar award to Dindigul district for successful implementation of MGNREGS. In the selected study area socially and economically vulnerable groups benefited through this programme. It has been instrumental for uplifting the economic status in the society. The employment guarantee programme found most beneficial to for landless people, as they are utilising the source of income for children education, health care, avoiding hunger. The MGNREGS is providing only 100 days per year and it is not sufficient for 365 days of livelihood. It has helped to reduce unemployment and under employment problems. One third of female participants have benefited under the scheme and it helped to motivate women. The scheme under the present study seems to have created gender equality among the rural people.