



PROCESS AND PATTERN OF MGNREGP POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES AMONG THE RURAL POOR IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT - TAMILNADU

Social Science

Mrs. S. Jayanthi

M.A., B.Ed., M.Phil., Full time Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Economics, Urumu Dhanalakshmi College, Tiruchirappali – 620019. Tamil Nadu.

Dr. P. Soundararajan

M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed., Phd., Assistant Professor in Economics, PG & Research Department of Economics, Urumu Dhanalakshmi College, Tiruchirappali – 620019. Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

The development programme should identify the problems and options to solve these problems, based on the available resources and technologies. The agricultural development programme should identify the availability of resources such as quality of the land, quantity of water, weather conditions and select suitable crops which are most productive. The project should ensure timely supply of inputs, finance and identify a suitable market where price recovery for the produce will be maximum. This has been the key to success of many voluntary agencies engaged in rural development.

There is plenty of scope for introducing various employment generation activities in rural areas. The activities can be divided into agrobased and non-agro based activities. It is easier to generate employment in agro based areas as most of the farmers have access to various resources and skills. However, land-based programmes have a serious limitation of carrying capacity. Keeping this in view, employment potential of non-agrobased areas should be tapped, preferably after initiating the agro-based activities.

Agro-based Activities include crop production, using high yielding varieties and improvement in land productivity through soil erosion control, watershed management, run-off water harvest, saline soil reclamation, introduction of new production techniques and improved implements, post-production and processing of the produce and marketing. In addition to the arable crops, introduction of fruit crops, cash crops, sericulture, apiculture can also be introduced, which have tremendous employment potential, ability to withstand natural calamities and high profitability. On marginal and wastelands, where crop production is uneconomical, afforestation can be viable alternative. **Afforestation** can generate cash income by providing commodity outputs like fodder, fuel, timber, gum, rubber, wax, lac and raw material for paper, pulp and ayurvedic medicines. In addition, forestry can help in improving the crop production through soil and moisture conservation and improve the environment and ecosystem.

Non-agro based Employment Opportunities are very limited in rural areas. However, certain small scale units can be set by the Self Help Groups or by the community through cooperatives. Some of them worth listing are agricultural implement and handtool production units, agro-service centres, food processing and packing, tailoring and garment making, handloom units, fibre extraction and rope making, handicrafts, carpentry, etc. In the absence of assured jobs in the industries, villagers will have to depend more on self-employment and the success of people's participation in such a programme, depends on the nature of the activities present.

The criteria for the selection of suitable development are programmes dependent on the following factors:

1. Social acceptability of the participants;
2. Availability of natural resource and external inputs;
3. Skills to operate the programme without depending too much on external technology;
4. Ability of the participants to operate at low risk;
5. Easy marketability of the produce;
6. Economic viability and higher profitability;
7. Short gestation period;
8. Year-round employment.

It is also necessary to develop the capacity of the target groups through establishment of local organisations. Such organisations can organise procurement and distribution of necessary inputs and marketing of the produce, even after the project is terminated and the services of outside resource persons are withdrawn. Availability of labour and their level of education to adopt necessary skills is also an important consideration. However in most of the villages, idle labour is available in plenty and skills required for implementing agrobased projects are less sophisticated. Hence the labour availability is not a critical factor, but motivating them to take active part in the programme is the key to success.

To sort out the above problems, we need to develop a strong infrastructure at various levels. Apart from mobilising people, infrastructure is also necessary to organise input supply, finance, post production processing and marketing of the produce. Inadequate marketing network is another major bottleneck in agriculture. The farmers should be oriented to make a swift forecast of the demand for various commodities and exploit the opportunities. There is good scope for setting up market outlets to reach the customers without involving too many middlemen. Such agencies can support farmers with seeds of improved varieties, finance and other critical inputs for optimising their crop yields.

People's Initiatives for Progress

Farmers in several states have established cooperatives for processing sugarcane, oil-seeds, milk, fruits and vegetables. With professional management and application of modern technologies, these organisations have brought economic stability and eliminated exploitation by intermediary traders. Encouragement is being given to strengthen such organisations throughout the country.

Under a nationwide programme for water resource development, involvement of NGOs as facilitators and formation of water users' organisations have been encouraged to prepare the micro-level plan and implement the project directly. This programme has made a significant impact on the supply of drinking water and greater awareness is being created on the need to conserve water and energy resources. There is scope for promoting such people's organisations in other fields as well to develop necessary infrastructure required to enhance economic prosperity. Considering the need for promoting people's initiatives and local organisations, Self Help Groups, comprising of poor families have been promoted under the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), through the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in 1999. SHGs consisting of 10-20 members belonging to backward socio-economic status encourage the participants to meet regularly to collect their savings and disburse it as loan to needy members. During this process, they also discuss their problems and find suitable solutions. Finally, it is the people's initiative which can sustain the development. The government has the will to support people's movement and this is the only ray of hope for sustainable development of the rural poor in India.

RURAL SCENARIO IN INDIA

Out of a billion population, over 65% people are presently living in villages and about 35-40% families, who earn less than US\$ 275 per annum are classified as poor. Presently, about 25% of the villages do not have assured source of drinking water for about 4-5 months during the year and about 70-75% of the water does not meet the standard

prescribed by WHO. Poor quality drinking water is adversely affecting the health and diarrhea is an important cause of infant mortality.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Illiteracy has also suppressed their development due to lack of communication with the outside world. They are slow in adopting new practices, which are essential with the changing times. Apart from lack of communication, social taboo has also hindered their progress. Several vested interests, both local and outsiders have exploited this situation. The rich landlords did not want any infrastructure development, which would benefit the poor, because of the fear that they would not get cheap labour to work on their farms. The local moneylenders did not want alternate financial institutions to provide cheaper credit needed by the poor. The traditional healers canvassed against modern medicine under the garb of religion and divine power. Thus, the poor continued to live in the clutches of the powerful, accepting it as their destiny. They avoided confrontation and preferred to live a voiceless and suppressed life. Tolerating the worst and hoping for better days has been their way of life.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has become a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic governance. It was implemented in an additional 130 districts in Phase II 2007-2008. The Act was notified in the remaining rural districts of the country from April 1, 2008 in Phase III. All rural districts are covered under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme and so on. The present study elaborately deals on **AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES AMONG THE RURAL POOR IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT.**

OBJECTIVES

The present study mainly tries to find out the following major objectives:

1. To study about the various poverty eradication programmes implemented in reducing poverty in this study area.
2. To throwlights the methods and mains of selecting beneficiaries covered under the various programmes.
3. To measure the socio economic impact of the poor during the pre and post implementation period of the programmes.
4. To analyze the various problems involved under the implementation of the programmes.
5. To analyze the interpersonal and intrapersonal variations of the income of the beneficiaries covered under the scheme.
6. To explore further possible avenues of increasing economic status of the poor.

HYPOTHESES TESTED

This present study will based upon the following major hypotheses:

- There is a significant association between the income of the poor between the before and after the implementation of the programmes.
- There is a larger disparity their interpersonal income distribution and consumption pattern.
- There is a significance relationship between awareness of the poverty eradication programmes and poverty ratio in the vlneral sections of the society groups.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study adapted both exploratory and descriptive research design. It describes the sociological issues involved in rural Livelihood pattern in selected blocks of Tiruchirappalli district namely **Manaparai, Marungapuri, Thottiyam and Thuraiyur blocks**, Tamil Nadu. From the total no of beneficiaries absorbed from the study about 10% will be selected as the sample size by the use of **Simple Random Technique**. Which will cover 20 villages from the above 4 blocks.

STUDY DESIGN

The number of variables related to the impact of poverty alleviation programmes will be identified and processed to establish its association with one another and also with socioeconomic status of the respondents. It means that the diagnostic and co relational research design was used by the researcher for the purpose of this study.

Unit of the study The Poor people living in the villages and towns /city areas of the district Tiruchirappalli will be considered as the unit of the study.

VARIABLES STUDIED

In the present study the following variables will be highlighted and will be studied: social status, economic status, sources of income, occupational pattern, employment status and nature, wages, political participation, availability of basic amenities, social Status, Life styles, feeling about insecurity, availability of safety nets and its utilization patterns and the impact of poverty alleviation programmes on various areas of life of the poor in India.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Multistage stratified random sampling method will be used. In the first stage sample of three blocks were selected at random. In the second Stage it was decided to select equal number of respondents from each block, keeping in mind the time and approachability to the respondents, it will be decided at later.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Primary data will be collected by interviewing the respondents with the help of predetermined sets of questions (Interview Scheduled). Similarly the data will also be collected by way of informal discussions, focused group discussion and by way of participatory observations. Secondary data will be collected from various research Journals, various reports and books.

DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

The raw data collected by the researcher will be scrutinized and entered on the computer with SPSS. Some of the variables were regrouped so as to suit the data for the SPSS system. Descriptive statics such as mean, mode, median, standard deviation, and quartiles were used.

CONCLUSION

The study will be explored and highlighted some of the facts and figures about impact of globalization on a marginalized community like Poor in India. The facts brought out by this study could make significant contribution to the social work knowledge base in terms of developing the new models and techniques of social work interventions so as to face the challenges of poverty alleviation programmes in Tiruchirappalli District.

REFERENCES:

1. Paul Choudhary, D. 1990. Voluntary effort in social welfare and development. Siddhartha Publishers, New Delhi : 86-110.
2. Sachidananda. 1988. Social Change in Village India. Concept Publishing Co. New Delhi : 71-84.