



An Economic Analysis of Poverty Alleviation Programme in India with Special Reference to Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

This research based on the background work for review of poverty alleviation programme in India and also special reference to achievements and challenges of rural Tamil Nadu in implementing of various welfare schemes. Government of India has framed Central level schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Indira Awaas Yojana, Swarna Jeyanthi Gram Swarazgar Yojana, Prathan Madhri Gram Sadak Yojana, Backward Regions Grant Fund, National Rural Health Mission, etc., and State level schemes like Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalrachi Thittam, Nammakku Naame Thittam, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, Various School Free Schemes, Amma Free Housing Scheme, etc., As a result, the planning exercise remains a distant goal. Hence, this research paper major objective is:

- i. *To evaluate the performance of poverty alleviation programme in India.*
- ii. *To analyse impact of poverty alleviation scheme on socio-economic empowerment in the rural Tamil Nadu.*
- iii. *To examine relationship between budgetary allocation for rural development and total budgetary*

expenditure in Government of Tamil Nadu.

- iv. *To case study of impact of various welfare schemes in Meignanapuram Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu*

The present study also attempts to examine socio-economic impact of the welfare schemes on the beneficiaries. It examines how far the programmes have helped in raising the income levels of living of the rural poor. This research work use both primary and secondary data. Primary data collected from 110 peoples in Meignanapuram village panchayat were from the survey conducted by the researcher using interview schedules relating to the socio-economic background, brief details of benefit from various government schemes and other aspects relating to implementation of welfare programmes in rural area of Tamil Nadu. Secondary data collected from Budgetary documents, Economic Survey, Economic Appraisal of Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Reports, 12th Five Year Plan Documents and Tamil Nadu Development Report.

This research methodology focus to appropriate research tools using in analysis part of this work. Frequency table to be use for understand the divergence in various levels



growth of development expenditure in central and state schemes. Linear Regression Model to be use to estimate the cause and effect relationship between the dependent and independent variable taken by researcher. Finally, this research work given broad knowledge about the welfare schemes and it also would provide a frame work to drawing suitable guidelines for the implementing welfare schemes in rural areas.

Keywords:

village panchayats; women empowerment; infrastructure; poverty

1.0. Introduction

A district of dichotomy exists between rural and urban areas. The dichotomy finds expression in terms of social dualism, technological dualism and financial dualism. The governments both at the centre and the state have been initiating a number of schemes and programmes and redoubling their efforts to make the rural sector more dynamic, vibrant and resilient. The efforts taken by the Government paid much dividend in the field of education, health, water supply, rural connectivity, tele-density, communication network, technology, distribution of banking services, poverty reduction and employment generation. Although, the rural sector is being revitalized. The idea of providing urban facilities in rural areas is gaining much currency and momentum. Provision of basic amenities in rural areas occupies a centre stage in the planning of rural development.

1.1. Scope of the Study

The present study attempts to examine the socio-economic impact of the rural welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu. It examines how far the

programmes have helped in raising the income and levels of living of the rural poor and in enabling them to overcome the poverty line. The study would provide a framework for drawing suitable guidelines for the empowerment of rural people through various welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu.

2.0. Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the performance of poverty alleviation programme in India.
2. To analyse impact of poverty alleviation scheme on socio-economic empowerment in the rural Tamil Nadu.
3. To examine relationship between budgetary allocation for rural development and total budgetary expenditure in Government of Tamil Nadu.
4. to case study of impact of various welfare schemes in Meignanapuram Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu

3.0. Methodology of this Study

The present study also attempts to examine socio-economic impact of the welfare schemes on the beneficiaries. It examines how far the programmes have helped in raising the income levels of living of the rural poor. This research work use both primary and secondary data. Primary data collected from 110 peoples in Meignanapuram village panchayat were from the survey conducted by the researcher using interview schedules relating to the socio-economic background, brief details of benefit from various government schemes and other aspects relating to implementation of welfare programmes in rural area of Tamil Nadu. Secondary data collected from budgetary documents, Economic Survey, Economic Appraisal of Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Reports, 12th Five Year Plan



Documents and Tamil Nadu Development Report. Frequency tables were used to understand the divergence in various levels of growth of MGNREGA Scheme Self Help Groups Scheme. Various functional forms of Linear Regression Model were used to estimate the cause and effect relationship between the dependent and independent variables.

4.1. Network of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Tamil Nadu

Out of 12,620 Village Panchayats in the Tamil Nadu, 96 Village Panchayats are merged with the Municipalities / Corporations. As such there are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State with 79,394 habitations and a micro level planning at habitations level shall pave way for reducing the rural-urban divide. Migration from rural to urban areas is becoming a big problem to be tackled and this can be checked only if the amenities available in urban areas are provided in rural areas also.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is responsible for the implementation of various centrally-sponsored, state-funded and externally-aided schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, sanitation, capacity building, women's social and economic empowerments, tsunami rehabilitation, apart from provision of basic amenities and services. The department is also entrusted with the responsibility of enabling the various Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to function as effective units of the local self government.

The main function of the Rural Development Department is to provide overall policy guidance in formulation of plans and programmes for rural development. This is a nodal division for the implementation of different schemes relating to poverty

mitigation, education and employment generation in rural areas and development of watershed and degraded land. Some of the specific activities undertaken by the Department of Rural Development are such as to assist in the formulation of rural development programmes to be included in the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans and to make periodic assessment of progress achieved in the field of infrastructure development and to assist the Central Ministry of Rural Development in carrying out all the programmes in the State towards development of rural areas.

4.2. Infrastructure Development

The village panchayats are vested with powers to develop infrastructural facilities in the villages to bridge the urban rural divide in respect of standard of living, availability of facilities like education, health, basic amenities and housing. The target group being the rural poor, efforts is taken up to get them out of the miasma of poverty by providing all their needs. To improve the infrastructure development of the villages in the State as a whole, Government of India has framed Central and State schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Indira Awaas Yojana, like Swarna Jeyanth Gram Swarazgar Yojana (SGSY) and Anaithu Grama Marumalarchi Thittam (AGMT), etc.

5.0. Review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

5.1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

This is one of the flagship programmes of Government of India. The main objective of this scheme is to enhance the livelihood security in rural areas by providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult

members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The MGNREGA was launched in Tamil Nadu in 2nd February 2005 as per provisions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. The scheme had been implemented in the State in phased manner covering all the 30

districts. The phase – I covers six district in the state. The phase – II was introduced and implemented covering four districts from 1st April 2008. In the phase – III, the remaining 20 districts were covered except in the Chennai in the state.

Table – 1 : MGNREGA Funds Released, Expenditure and Mandays Generated

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	Number of Mandays		% of Achievement
			Target	Achievement	
2008-2009	1757.76	1005.15	2152.00	1203.60	55.90
2009-2010	2355.08	1676.37	2391.95	1963.00	82.10
2010-2011	2997.10	2354.56	2895.00	2685.63	92.80

Source : Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (various reports), Chennai.

The MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu which is a wage employment programme has been getting a higher allocation year after year and the expenditure incurred for this scheme was also on the increase. This scheme is intended to generate employment the target had been fully achieved during 2012-23. As of March 2012, a total number of 77.47 lakh households were cumulatively registered and job cards were issued by the village panchayat council's concerned. A total number of 49.69 lakh households had received wage employment under this scheme. Nearly, a sizeable portion of 83 per cent of total employment generated under MGNREGA was shared by women during 2010-11.

5.2. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

The IAY is a scheme for rural BPL families and has been in operation since May 1985. Initially the IAY was under the Jawagar Rozgar Yojana (JAY) as a sub scheme and became independent since 1997-98. The basic objective of the scheme is to help construction of new dwelling units as

well as conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses into pacca/semi pacca houses to the marginalized sections of the society who are living below the poverty line by extending them grants-in-aid. The scheme is funded by the central and state in the ratio of 75:25. This unit cost each house is fixed by the Government of India Rs.33,750 and state contribute Rs. 11,250. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu gives an addition amount of Rs. 55,000 for cement concrete roofing of the house form 2010-11. Thus, the unit cost of the house had been increased from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 and also subsidy of Rs. 2,200 out of the total sanitation funds provided to enable each beneficiary to construct a toilet in the IAY house. This scheme had gone a long way in reducing the problem of acute housing shortage in rural areas.

5.3. Swarna Jeyanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

This is implemented since April 1999 as a major anti-poverty and self-employment

scheme for the rural poor, by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs), providing them the skill development training and helping them to get credit linkage with financial institutions, to make them self-employed and providing infrastructure and marketing support for the products produced by them. The Government of India and State Government share the cost in the ratio of 75:25.

The SGSY fund is used to provide subsidy for revolving fund assistance and

economic loan assistance to Self Help Groups. Part of the scheme component is also utilized for formation of groups and conduct of training for capacity-building and skill upgradation. After the first grading, the SHGs are provided with a revolving fund of Rs. 10,000 for first linkage, Rs. 1,00,000 for second linkage and Rs. 1,50,000 for third and subsequent linkages; after the second grading, the successful SHGs are provided with economic loan assistance.

Table – 2: Year- wise Allotment under SGSY in Government of Tamil Nadu

Year	Financial Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
2005-2006	62.56
2006-2007	69.39
2007-2008	105.87
2008-2009	125.16
2009-2010	128.14
2010-2011	148.04

Source : Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department Report, 2011.

In 2010-11, a sum of Rs. 148.04 cores was allocated for the implementation of this scheme with a credit target of Rs. 243.936 crores. A major portion of the scheme component was utilized for the disbursement of the subsidy component of revolving fund to the eligible SHGs formed under Mahalir Thittam. Encouragement was provided for the marketing of products produced by SHGs. There were 5.35 lakh SHGs with 82.84 lakh members having a total savings of Rs. 3,225 crores in Tamil Nadu. They obtained Rs. 15,015 crores of assistance under Mahalir Thittam.

5.4. Pradhan Mantri Garam Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) – Rural Road Connectivity

This was launched in 2000 to provide all weather access to unconnected habitations. PMGSY is a centrally sponsored scheme. The objective programmes are to provide round the year connectivity by all weather roads with necessary culverts and cross drainage structures. In the year of 2001 to 2008 for 4,949 roads had been taken up for a length of 9,984.32 kilometer at a cost of Rs. 2,204 crores. Out of this 4801 works had been completed. The remaining works would compete shortly in various villages around Tamil Nadu.

6.0. Review Government of Tamil Nadu Rural Development Schemes

6.1. Annaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam - AGAMT (All Villages Mr. Anna Development Scheme)

This is a State scheme which aims at a substantial injection resource into the Village

Panchayats in the state in five years so that they can provide the statutory services and provide infrastructure in rural areas. The scheme was formally inaugurated in 2007.

Table – 3 : AGAMT Fund Allotment in Year-wise

Year	Funds Allotted (Rs.in crores)	Village Covered (in numbers)
2006-07	513.08	2540
2007-08	511.87	2534
2008-09	509.04	2520
2009-10	507.02	2510
2010-11	507.83	2514

Source : Tamil Nadu Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Report : 2012-13.

Under this scheme, priority is given to the poorest village panchayats in terms of per capita income. In the year 2009-10, the scheme was taken up in 2,520 villages at an outlay of Rs. 507.02 crores. During the year 2010-11, the scheme was implemented in 2,514 village panchayats at an outlay of Rs. 507.83 crores.

6.2. Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)

This is a scheme fully funded by the State Government. The main objective of the scheme is to take up works to bridge the critical infrastructural gaps in the Assembly Constituencies. Under this scheme, each MLA proposes the works that are to be executed in his constituency. The District Collector gives administrative sanction for the works. The allocation per consistency was Rs. 1.70 crores, 50 per cent of the allocation is earmarked for priority works specified by government. Out of remaining 50 per cent MLA can choose works of their choice not falling within the negative list prescribed in the guidelines. During the year

2011-12, a sum of Rs. 470.54 crores had been allotted under this scheme and 13,776 works had been taken up.

6.3. Namakku Naame Thittam

This is being implemented as a state sponsored scheme with a minimum of one third amount as public contribution and two third contributions from government as grants in both rural and urban areas. Under this scheme, the public themselves can select works as they need and execute it as per the provisions and guidelines of the scheme. Constriction of local body Government School buildings, Libraries, Primary Health Centers (PHCs), etc., are some of the predominant works. A worth of Rs. 50 crores work completed for financial year of 2011-12.

6.4. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

Tamil Nadu Corporation for development of women was established in 1983 which aims at the socio-economic empowerment of women. As a prelude, the corporation is implementing the 'Mahalir Thittam' among poor rural women to promote saving habits, nurture entrepreneurial

skills and aptitudes, promote exposure to banking transactions and to free them from the clutches of local money lenders. The scheme is being implemented in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Banks. Under this scheme, SHGs are formed and monitored through NGOs affiliated with the Tamil Nadu Corporations for Development of Women Limited.

6.5. Chief Minister Solar Power Green House Scheme

This scheme is for the benefit of the poor in the rural area. Under this scheme, each house with a plinth area about 300 square feet is constructed with an unit cost of Rs. 1.80 lakhs inclusive of an amount of Rs. 30,000/- made available for installation of Solar Powered Home Lighting System. The Government of Tamil Nadu had provided an overall budget of Rs. 1080 crores in 2013-14 for the construction of 60,000 Amma Green Housing Scheme.

6.6. Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme

The Government have launched the Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme (CSIDS) during 2012-13 with an objective to provide better infrastructural facilities like new building, kitchen shed, water supply, toilet etc. in the Panchayat Union primary and middle schools in rural areas. Repair and renovation of the existing facilities would also be taken up wherever necessary.

New school building with concrete roof and with weathering course on the basis of the strength of students is made. The space available in the school premises is used for the new construction. If adequate space is not available, a new floor would be added to the existing concrete building after assessing the structural stability of the building.

New kitchen sheds are built where kitchen sheds are not available and damaged existing kitchen sheds are taken up for repair and renovation. Existing water supply system in the schools which are damaged is taking up for repairs. Extension of pipeline is also provided wherever necessary. New water supply connection for the panchayat and a new bore well is also being provided wherever necessary.

Committees are constituted at district level to take up a detailed survey to ascertain the infrastructure needs of schools. For the year 2013-14 and a sum of Rs. 200 crores were spends to this scheme and benefits all the rural areas in Tamil Nadu.

6.7. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme

A cash assistance of Rs. 12,000/- is given to pregnant women living below poverty line to compensate the wage loss during pregnancy. Total of 6,79,831 pregnant women had received the assistance from 2011-2012. In 2012-2013, a sum of Rs. 350 cores was sanctioned and 5,79,821 pregnant women were benefited. For the year of 2013-2014 a sum of Rs. 360 crores were spend covering 4,51,719 pregnant women.

6.8. Public Distribution System (PDS)

The PDS is a major state intervention in the country, which aims at ensuring food security to all the people, especially the poor. The PDS operates through a large distribution network through fair price shops and is supplemental in nature. Under the PDS, the Central Government is responsible for the procurement and transportation of food grains up to the Principal Distribution Centers of the Food Corporation of India while the State Government are responsible for the identification of families living below the poverty line, the issue of ration cards, and the

distribution of food grains to the vulnerable sections through fair price shops. Tamil Nadu has been operating universal PDS. Public Distribution System provides a comfortable

cushion against ill-effects of inflationary spiral one of the objectives of the PDS is to ensure price stabilization in the country by transferring grains from cereal-surplus to cereals-deficit regions.

Table - 4: Network of Fair Price Shops in Tamil Nadu (in numbers)

Sl.No.	Types of Organizations	2010	2013
1	Co-operatives	28,752	31,076
2	TNSCSC	1,251	1,394
3	Other Shops	138	142
4	Mobile Shops	10	14
5	Women Shops	630	596
	Total	30,781	33,222

Source : Economic Appraisal 2012-2013, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Fair shops in Tamil are run by different bodies, though most of them are being run by co-operatives. TNSCSC manages 1,394 fair price shops and women self help groups are taking care of 596 shops throughout the state.

The monthly off take of rice under PDS in 2012 was 3,17,000 tones, though the central allotment is only 2,96,000 tones. The additional quantity of rice needed is being met from the Open Market Sale Scheme, allotment by the Food Corporation of India and also from other State civil supplies corporation. In case of sugar, the requirement is of the order of 33,055 tones as against the central allotment of 10,832 tones. The central allotment of sugar for cardholders in Tamil Nadu is not sufficient and hence the Government of Tamil Nadu is purchasing sugar from open market at prevailing rate and controls the market prices. Tamil Nadu is facing scarcity of kerosene due to lower allotment by central government as well as high demand in supply side.

The success of PDS in Tamil Nadu relies heavily on ground work laid. The task of minimizing diversion and reaching 3,17,439 outlets in 32 districts to 1.97 crore cardholders involves technological interventions, with innovative fool proof delivery mechanisms and surprise checks. The movement of stock from the 310 warehouses across the state to the PDS (outlets) begins from the 20th of the preceding month. By the end of the month, 60 per cent of the stock for the next month has to reach the shop.

6.9. Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu

Manifold activities of SHGs have paved the way for improving village economy. Creating avenues for skill development, including leadership qualities and enabling economic independence are major functions of the “Mhalir Thittam”, a project of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited (TNCDW) which aimed at empowerment of women.

Table – 5: Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu – An Overview

Factors Indicators	Strong Criteria Indicators	
	2001-02	2012-13
Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu		
No. of SHGs	85,983	5.56 lakhs
No. of members in rural SHGs	73,540	3.72 lakhs
No. of members in urban SHGs	12,443	1.84 lakhs
Total no. of SHGs members (in lakhs)	14.83	85.70
No. of SHGs members in rural	12,73,874	28.33 lakhs
No. of sSHGs members in urban	2,09,858	28.33 lakhs
Credit linkage (in crore)	97.91	15,633.83
	2001-02	2011-2012
Revolving fund (no. of SHGs)	8285	13,461
Total savings of SHGs (in crores)	1382	3,374.60
As on 31.12.2012		
No. of Banks Involved	-	21
No. of Bank Branches	-	6300
No. of NGOs Affiliated	-	448
No. of PLFs Affiliated	-	306
No. of Training Institutes	-	256

Source : Economic Appraisal (2012), Government of Tamil Nadu.

SHGs started in the year 1989 in Salem District. Tamil Nadu doing well on the SHG front resulted in the boasting of more than 1.2 million women on 2001-02 it is increased 2.8 million on 2012-13. Table – 5 shown 5.56 lakhs self help groups registered in Tamil Nadu were 3.72 lakhs in rural areas and 1.84 in urban areas on 2012-13. In the terms of funding agencies 21 banks are involved and 6300 bank branches are financing to various self help groups in Tamil Nadu. There were 5.56 lakh SHGs 85.70 lakh members having a total savings of Rs. 3374.60 crores in Tamil Nadu. They obtained Rs. 15,015 crores of assistance under Mahaliar Thittam.

7.0. Public Expenditure on Rural Development

The endeavor of both state and central Governments has been to alleviate poverty and uplift the poorest of the poor through various programmes of income generation, wage employment and asset building. The strategies for providing self-employment generation income imparting technology and skill upgradation constitute the core of the rural development programmes. The state is providing substantial funds in addition to central allocation to rural areas to carry out rural development activities.

Table – 6: Budgetary Expenditure on Rural Development (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Rural Development	Total Expenditure	Year	Rural Development	Total Expenditure
2001-02	60851	531890	2006-07	145327	1243926
2002-03	56381	584105	2008-09	178006	1627510
2003-04	84918	708832	2009-10	202935	1783350

2004-05	75091	828584	2010-11	359254	2046477
2005-06	117258	967585	2011-12	300620	2353502

Source : Annual Financial Statement (various reports), Government of Tamil Nadu.

The state budgetary expenditure for rural development for the year 2001-02 constituted Rs. 60,851 lakhs which accounted for 11.44 per cent of the total budgetary allocation. This trend increased to for the year of 2011-12 in rural development expenditure Rs. 3,00,620 which contribute for 12.7 per cent of the total budgetary allocation.

Table - 7 : Budgetary and Rural Development Expenditure – Linear Regression Results

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig	R ²	F
	B	Std.Error	Beta				
(constant)	-33708.846	26137.1	-	-1.290	0.233	0.893	66.517
Butoexp	.151	.019	.945	8.156	0.001		

Dependent Variable : Budgetary Rural Development Expenditure (in Rs. Lakhs).

Independent Variable : Butoexp : Budgetary Total expenditure (in Rs. Lakhs).

$$Y_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X_i + U_i$$

$$\widehat{RuDe_Exp}_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 (Butoexp) + e_i$$

$$\widehat{RuDe_Exp}_i = -33708.846 + 0.151(Butoexp) + e_i$$

$$t \quad (8.156) \quad r^2 = 0.89$$

$$sig \quad (0.001) \quad F = 66.57$$

First, let us interpret this regression. As expected, there are no perfect linear relationships between total budgetary expenditure and rural development expenditure by Government of Tamil Nadu. If total expenditure went up by additional rupees one lakh in total budgetary expenditure, the estimated increase in the mean or average rural development expenditure amounts to Rs. 15,000. If total budgetary expenditure were zero, the average rural development expenditure would be about Rs. -33708.84 lakhs. Because of zero budgetary expenditure value is out of the range of values, government are working with many development projects in rural area if budgetary expenditure goes to zero the rural development works need to additional amount for Rs. 33,708.84 lakhs in subsequent years. Of course, this mechanical

interpretation of the intercept may not make much economic sense. The value of r^2 of 0.89 means that about 89 per cent of the variation in the rural development expenditure and budgetary expenditure is highly positively correlated.

8.0. Economic Status of the Meignanapuram Village Panchayat

Meignanapuram lies in the southern side of Thoothukudi District in Tamil Nadu at about 6 km east of Sattankulam and 11 km south of Nazareth. The nearest railway is Nazareth railway station. By road, it is accessible from Tirunelveli (41 km north-west), Tuticorin and Nagercoil. Meignanapuram Village Panchayat having an area of 4.2 sq.km, out of the total area, 70 per cent of land is utilized for agriculture purposes and 30 per cent of land is used for the non – agricultural activities.

The percentage of the literates in the Village Panchayat is 72.85. This is higher than to other nearby Village Panchayats.

Agriculture is the main stay of the Village Panchayat. The cultivators and agricultural labourers both together accounts for 35.45 per cent of the total work force of the Panchayat. Meignanapuram has been identified as the most ideal place for banana cultivation.

In Meignanapuram Village Panchayat 20 per cent of the population are working under the various government institutions in around Tamil

Nadu. This is due to the increase in the awareness of the people for education.

The Panchayat accounts for 5 per cent of the district total area under Banana cultivation. The cultivation of horticultural crops, fruits and a vegetable is in an upward trend, as the local farmers show interest in earning of profits.

The large number of existence of Palmyra and Coconut trees in the Panchayat has bright prospects for development of industries based on these to improve the rural economy

Table - 8: Demographical Profile of the Respondents

Age Group	Years	No. of Persons	Percentage
	Below 25	02	1.90
	25-35	22	20.00
	35-45	60	54.50
	45-55	18	16.40
	Above 55	08	7.30
Marital status	Married - 98		Unmarried - 12
Types of Family	Joint - 34		Nuclear - 76
Gender	Male - 55		Female - 55
Level of Education	Qualification	No. of Persons	Percentage
	Primary	73	66.40
	Secondary	14	12.70
	Higher Secondary	11	10.00
	Diploma	04	3.60
	Graduate	08	7.30
Employment Status	Category	No. of Persons	Percentage
	Self Employed	14	12.80
	Daily Wage Earners	54	49.10
	House Wife	42	38.10
Community	Classification	No. of Persons	Percentage
	Upper Caste	12	11.00
	Backward Caste	22	20.00
	Most Backward Caste	32	29.00
	Schedule Caste	44	40.00

Source : Primary Data – 2013.

This research taken field survey of 110 members from Meignanapuram Village Panchayat.

Table – 8, showed that Demographic profile of 110 members by gender classification given equal

sampling distribution to 50 per cent in each gender. This research reveals that women in the age group of 35-45, who constitute 54.50 per cent, have shown keen interest to working various schemes in panchayat level. This study also analyse of level of education in the respondents. There was just 8 per cent of the respondents completed graduate level of education. Nearly 73 per cent of the respondents completed primary level of education. Another significant aspect of the level of education in the study area is there were no illiterates. Among the respondents, 14 per cent of the respondents engaged in self employment, 54 per cent of the respondents were wage earners. The wage earners are both labourers and coolies. These types of respondents are in large numbers in the study area. In this study found that 84 per cent of the women engaged in home makers. Because of their husband not allow to regular work. So

majority of the home makers are engaged in Self Help Groups and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The study revealed that 40 per cent of the respondents from schedule caste and 29 per cent of the respondents from most backward caste. This work shows that 11 per cent are higher community. Because, this research based on rural Tamil Nadu, more marginalized people are living in rural India. So, Government of India introduced many welfare schemes in rural based population.

8.1. Performance of Welfare Scheme in Meignanapuram Village Panchayat

This study review to all welfare schemes funded by state and central government. The ground level work check to the performance of welfare scheme to the people of Meignanapuram Village Panchayat.

Table - 9: Performance of Various Welfare Schemes by Government

Sl.No.	Function of Welfare Schemes	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
1	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act	63	24	13
2	Self Help Groups	89	11	-
3	Public Distribution System	78	12	10
4	Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme	97	03	-
5	Chief Minister Solar Power Green House Scheme	69	18	13
6	Various School Oriented Schemes	98	02	-
7	Indira Awas Yojana	67	24	09
8	Pradham Mantri Garam Sadak Yojana	94	06	-

Source : Primary Data – 2013. (Value in Per Cent)

This research conducted survey to 110 respondents from Meignanapuram Village Panchayat. Field survey analysis to performance of various welfare scheme introduced by state and central government in different regime. Table - 9 shows that 63 per cent of the respondents opine that MGNREGA scheme successfully functioning in their villages and 13 per cent of the beneficiaries feel that poor performance this scheme. Because of they are facing lack of payment, lack of co-ordination and

improper work place. Self Help Groups are performance very good manner. 89 per cent of the respondents are opinions about SHGs are successfully functioning in this village panchayat and 11 per cent are satisfied to the Self Help Groups activity. SHGs are helpful for the members improve their economic development.

Public Distribution System is well organized in Tamil Nadu. This service is available to all card holders and also it is very helpful to poverty peoples. In this study found



that 78 per cent of the respondents are feeling that Public Distribution System is successfully running their villages. Only 10 per cent of the people are opinion to lack of time management, lack of planning and lack of quality of the services in PDS.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme is one the major scheme pregnant women. In this study found that 97 per cent of the respondents are opines that the scheme are functioning very good manner and 3 per cent of the respondents are satisfaction of this scheme. Chief Minister Solar Power Green Scheme introduced on June 2011. This scheme is very helpful for vulnerable groups. In this survey revealed that 69 per cent of the respondents are feeling that this scheme is functioning very good manner in Meignanapuram Village Panchayat. Only 13 per cent of the respondents are facing problems for approval of housing plan and delay of finance.

Government of Tamil Nadu introduced many social development schemes in schools. All the development schemes are increase to enrollment rate in government and government-aided schools. In this research work check this schemes are improving to students community as well as reducing finance burden to parents. Our research area found that 98 per cent of the parents are arguing about to the school welfare schemes available in right time to the students. These schemes reduce to parents' burden and show that equality society to the school students. Indira Awas Yojana programme concentrate to homeless people. In this scheme are providing house to marginalized groups. In the survey found that 67 per cent of the respondents are opinion that successfully functioning to this scheme. Only 9 per cent of the respondents are opinion about poor performance to Indira Awas Yojana in their region. Majority of the respondents (94 per cent) are feel that Pradham Mantri Garam Sadak Yojana is helpful to agricultural marketing purpose. All the respondents agree to this scheme is improving

their village infrastructure, connectivity to urban area and access to medical facility.

9.0. Recommendations

1. On the lines of industrial estate development, Government should develop SHGs estates so that infrastructure like building, water, electricity, warehouse etc., should be made available to the SHGs.
2. To bring more land under cultivation in rural areas.
3. The government should remove the exploitation of tenants, and should distribute surplus land small marginal farmers in such a way that there would be some degree of equality and justice in the rural areas.
4. Banking sector should be ensuring timely and adequate flow of credit to the self help groups.
5. It should be extent on the linkages between MGNREGA and other development programme.
6. Priority given to more concentration to improving on health care facility to all the villages of Tamil Nadu.
7. Providing only unskilled manual labor work through the scheme does not seem to be a health idea in the long-run. Provision for the semi-skilled and skilled workers should be incorporated into the Scheme. Some mechanism should be evolved to restrict political interface in the programme and the 100 days ceiling limit may be re-considered for the benefit of workers regularly engaged with MGNREGA.

10.0. Conclusion

The health of the whole economy depends on the rural participation. Going by the socio economic indicators, urban sector is well placed as compared to rural sector. Proactive strategy includes convergence and synergy in programme implementation through dovetailing of programmes, pumping of sizeable resources



into the rural sector by the Government, public private sector partnership and involvement of the people in programme implementation, honouring of the salient features of the 73rd constitutional amendment in letter and spirit, tackling of waste lands which is heart of the ecosystem for productive farming, establishment of knowledge centers for the villages and rural connectivity, building up of sound social and economic infrastructure, changing of the negative mindset of the people, translation of the PURA into practice, etc.,

Every village has to possess knowledge centre. This will ensure connectivity, the key to empowering rural India. Horizontal connectivity is needed between villages to harness and share local resources and best practices. Vertical connectivity is indispensable at the administrative level. Links are to be created between villages and the information and communication technology is to be pervasive.

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