

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

The women in India had enjoyed considerable respect and wisdom to participate as per to their choice in different social, cultural, political, religious functions and economic activities and had enjoyed a very respectable position and honour in the prevailing socio-cultural system during Vedic period. In fact the presence of women along with their better offs was regarded compulsory for the success of performing various social and religious functions. However, it was after 500 BC the social status of women started deteriorating due to the sudden development of various social evils. The changing socio-cultural system during the post Vedic period had disturbed and increasingly reduced the participation of women in carrying out certain activities and were largely deprived the opportunities of education, participating in outdoor socioeconomic and cultural activities. Since last decade, in our country has been implemented several programme by government for rural development. MGNREGS is well known programme for rural development, it is known as a large flagship programme of UPA government. The Act's success or failure will have an impact on the entire in rural community in India. An attempt to removing the hindrance in improving the socio-economic condition of them through produce employment for this unique programme is developed which Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is focused on the regeneration of village economy in the long term and mostly focuses on welfare of rural areas with produces an opportunities for rural development which improving qualities of people worker under MGNREGS an opportunity in rural areas.

Since the introduction of first five-year plan in India, several development programmes and welfare schemes have also been initiated especially to improve the socio-economic status of women. At policy level, different legal provisions and resolutions in the forms of acts have been introduced to achieve the favourable changes in the status and to strengthen the empowerment of women. Provisions have also been made to maximize the participation of girls in different level of educational systems with the notion that educating women would be an instrumental measure for awaking them about their rights, social standings and responsibilities as prime elements for maximizing their

participation in different developmental programmes, welfare schemes, socio-cultural activities and in different categories of remunerative occupations of employment. In this regard, initiatives have been taken to provide educational facilities for girls on a priority basis according to the needs and requirements of girls, recruitment of women teachers and developing different social infrastructural facilities for the girls' schools

In India unemployment is a crucial problem .Due to unemployment a lot of problems are arising in our country. Poverty, illiteracy, underdeveloped agriculture sector etc. are the results of unemployment. In order to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and to develop agriculture sector Government has undertaken different schemes. This lead to the emergence of Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

The MGNREGA is an Indian law that aims to guarantee the right to work and ensure livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household. It was notified on SEPTEMBER 7, 2005. According to 11th 5 year plan(2007-2012),the plan targeted poverty through MGNREGA which promised employment as an entitlement. Previous Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) were “Sampoorna Grameen RozgarYogana” (SGRY) or Rural Employment Program and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). Both SGRY and NFFWP merged with MGNREGA for providing short term unskilled employment to poor, assured food and job security. The unemployment allowances must be paid if the work is not provided with in the statutory limit of 15 days. It is a recent employment scheme in India for providing 100 days guaranteed wage employment for all employment seekers above 18 years of age and willing to do work.

While MGNREGA is a landmark legislation that promotes decentralization, transparency, accountability and participation of marginalized sections. It also faces challenges due to its large scale focus and spread across the country, and other institutional constraints depending on the state/district of implementation.

This bottom up people centered, demand driven architecture also means that a great share of the responsibility for the success of the MGNREGA lies with wage seekers, Grama Sabhas and Grama Panchayaths (GSs and GPs). The MGNREGA is

implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on a cost sharing basis between the center and the state as determined by the Act. Implementation of MGNREGA involves role and responsibilities of a large number of stake holders from the village to the national level.

This is a rural wage employment program in India. It provides for a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year to rural households whose adult members are willing to engage in unskilled manual work at a pre-determined minimum wage rate.

The objectives of the Act are: To enhance the livelihood security of the rural poor by generating wage employment opportunities; and to create a rural asset base which would enhance productive ways of employment, augment and sustain rural household income.

The NREGS is mostly emphasis on labour intensive creating asset works which could tackle the problem of unemployment as well as agricultural growth. The NREGA-2005 is being considered as one of the important components of the inclusive growth strategy of 11th Five year plan. Through this present study made to attempt taking aims at to know the extent to which the intended programme has reached at tribal people in terms of employment generation, poverty alleviation and reduce migration in rural areas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand the response of ordinary people towards the MGNREGA.
- To understand the benefits enjoyed by the employees through MGNREGA.
- To analyses the success of MGNREGA in women empowerment
 - To find the working of MGNREGA in Noopuzha Panchayath of Wayanad District
- To find the draw backs of the programme

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The major limitations of the study are;

- ❖ The study is confined to 100 individuals, thus finding may have limited applications.

- ❖ A detailed study could not be carried out owing to the time limit.
- ❖ The study depends entirely on the response of rural people.
- ❖ Prejudicial attitude of certain people to supply correct information.

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