

A Study on Social Forestry Programme
in: Operation in Periyannayakan palayam Block,
Coimbatore District

BY

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

"The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life activity; It affords protection to all beings offering shade even to the axeman who destroys it".

(Gautama Buddha)

In ancient times a large part of India was covered with trees. As the demand for tree-products and agricultural land rose, the forests were cut down to an accelerated extent. Today only 21.5 per cent of the area of India is classified as forest and the condition of that land varies from barren and degraded in most of India, are suitable for tree cultivation. For the people, trees have always been necessary as a source of firewood, material for making tools, cattle fodder and shade on hot days. Today there is also a rapidly growing industrial demand for wood. This accentuates the human dependence on the forests and trees even more (Malmer, 1987).

Forests are of vital importance in maintaining the eco-system. They have pronounced micro-climatic effects for they reduce the range of daily temperature variations, help retain a layer of cool moist air and enhance the local climate. Their overall impact with consequent widespread

benefits to mankind is to safen the interaction of elements that comprise the ecological system (Joshi,1982).

Forestry is a means of producing certain goods and services which are useful to mankind. Forestry starts not with the forest and its problems but with the people and their problems. Forest that was formerly practised according to the extensive method has now to give rise to intensive methods of cultivation (Sagwal,1985).

Forests play an important role in agriculture employment and rural development besides maintaining the ecological balance of the area. Not only trees provide greenery and shades but also act as a source of fuel, fodder, fruit and a host of major and minor products that provide the requisite raw materials for industries, defence communications etc. (Jeelani,1985).

The history of deforestation from 1950 onwards is distressing as will be clear from the official statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, the net area of 118 million hectares in the cultivated area (Negi,1986).

Social forestry is a new concept of forest creation, management and judicious utilisation of goods and services generated therefrom. It aims at combining the idle land, labourer and water resources to optimise production of farm manure, firewood, fodder food, small constructional timber and to stabilise soil. It calls for a monolithic, integration of agriculture forestry and animal husbandry. Social forestry embodies the gandhian philosophy of self sufficiency economic growth and community development (Srivastava,1979).

Social forestry is forestry of the people by the people and for the people. Each day as more and more trees are fielded for timber, forests cleared for agriculture and industries, fuelwood extracted for the rural hearths fodder, removed for cattle. The condition of our forests continues to decline while viewing the forest of today and yesterday a very pertinent question comes to the mind as to where the forests have gone (Tiwari,1987).

Making social forestry a way of social life is the need of the hour. For this the people's participation is a must. The programme should be published widely to motivate people and educate them about its urgency and the benefits that will accrue to them and the community as a whole. (Boraiyan,1985).

The term social forestry is applied to the growth of trees on land not under the direct control of the state forest department. Hence plantation of trees only on panchayat lands by the side of all type of roads, railway tracks and canals is covered by the term social forestry (Vijayalakshmi, 1985).

Social forestry means creating and managing forestry of the society by the society for the society. India has 75 million hectares of forests. But the needs of the forest produce for its 684 million people are too much. The people who live in a country which is depending upon agriculture as its main vocation and the people who are living up to 75 per cent in villages under rural conditions require lot of forest produce in the form of green-manure, agricultural implements like plough-shares-cart, handles etc. Also India has a very large number of cattle which is an essential part of agriculture. There are nearly 350 million heads to be provided with grazing facilities. If we have to allow these cattle in the reserved forest, it will be too heavy (Padmanabhan, 1987).

Social forestry covers farm forestry, extension forestry, reforestation, degraded forests and recreation forestry. It also covers waste lands, panchayat lands, village commons and lands on the sides of roads, canal banks and railway lines which may be brought under forest plantations, shelter belts and mixed forestry on which gross and leaf fodder may be raised and on which fruit-trees and fuel wood trees may be grown (Desai, 1986).

New forests every year, the continued deforestation leading to ecological and socio-economic crisis today poses a major problem to the country. The Prime Minister has rightly called for a^forestation of five million hectares of wasteland each year primarily with fuel and fodder species. It is to be achieved through a people's movement of a^forestation supported by technical and physical inputs from official agencies (Ravindran, 1986).

For the success of Social Forestry Programmes a change in the attitudes of the forester, villager, politician, decision maker and all other involved is inevitable. Through integrated land use planning and extensive Social Forestry Programmes alone, sustained flood control and environmental stability can be achieved economically.

Having all these in mind, this study on "Social Forestry Programme in operation, in Periyānāyākāṇṇ Palayam block, Coimbatore District", was undertaken with a view to find out the impact of the programme on a selected sample.

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Review of Literature

II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature pertaining to this study on "The Social Forestry Programme in operation, in Periyayanayakan Palayam Block, Coimbatore District" is reviewed under the following headings:

- A. Energy crisis in India.
 - B. Significance of social forestry.
 - C. Perspective programmes for the development of social forestry.
- and
- D. Studies conducted in the field of social forestry.

A. ENERGY CRISIS IN INDIA:-

India lives in her villages. Seventy per cent of the population live in villages. They use firewood as a fuel. Now a days the firewood collection is very difficult. There are four primary sources of energy. They are petroleum, natural gas, coal and wood, which are non renewable sources (Pandey,1982).

Energy is now one of the major inputes in every activity from growing food grains in developing economics to the manufacture of sophisticated equipments. The problem of finding new and cheap sources of energy has become acute in developing countries with oil becoming scarce and costlier and increasing pressure on coal reserves. The forests in India have to play a vital role in our energy programme (Gupta,1985).

Rural households meet their energy needs mostly from firewood, agricultural residue and animal waste. In many parts of the third world countries, there is an acute scarcity of firewood. Nearly 1,000 million people are experiencing shortage of firewood. In rural areas, the near by land is being denuded of forests or trees by the people for meeting their fuel requirements. As a result, now the people have to travel longer distances for wood. This consumes a large amount of time and human energy (Singal,1987).

Seventy five per cent of the population of under developed and developing countries use firewood as fuel. Eightly per cent of their wood production is consumed as fuel. One hundred and fifty million people of these countries fulfil 90 per cent of their energy requirements of wood. In India in 2560 cubic meter which will become 3000 lakhs cubic feet by 1990. By the end of this country 25,000 lakh more people will be unable of get firewood for their minimum requirement of cooking (Malmer,1987).

Energy consumption is an index of a country's economic development as there exists a direct correlation between per capita income and energy consumption. It has been found that the per capita income and energy use in India is only 150 and 15 million BTU which is lowest as compared to other developed nations like U.S.A., France, Japan etc., (Upendra,1985).

Energy is also well known that cooking in Indian villages is done entirely with fuel wood, dung cakes and agricultural waste and the ever increasing demand of firewood is denuding our forest, causing considerable environmental determination. The problem has further been accentuated by out pulp and timber industry which have started using miscellaneous species, thus creating scarcity of fuel wood. It is therefore imperative to grow fuel wood trees for satisfying the increasing demand, failing which there will be a serious energy and environmental crisis (Vijayalakshmi,1985).

Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has very aptly initiated a bold step to set up National wasteland Development Board and bring every year 5 million hectares of wasteland under plantation (Patel,1987).

The National Planning Commission's working group on energy policy reported in 1979 on the overall energy picture in India. It distinguished between energy use by urban and rural population. For the rural people constituting 80 per cent of the total population almost all their energy requirements (98 per cent) is met from non-commercial source of which 70 per cent in fire wood (Mathew, 1987).

In the recent past there has been a greater awareness regarding rural energy problems. Rural energy crisis has come to be identified with firewood crisis with the increasing pressure on land, biogas fuel, particularly firewood is becoming increasingly scarce (Ravindaran, 1986).

The supply of wood is fast depleting because of indiscriminate felling of trees in the rural areas. There is hardly any planned effort to plant new trees. As a result people both in the rural and urban areas are facing great scarcity of domestic fuel. It is therefore, necessary to learn with a sense of utmost urgency to maximum use of meagre energy source which are often allowed to go waste (Ramarao, 1985).

Fuel wood accounts for 93 per cent of total energy consumption - Gathering fuel wood is contributing to deforestation and erosion - shortage of fuel wood is the undisputed energy crisis affecting most of the world's poorer countries (Devandran, 1984).

The demand for fuelwood has grown faster than supply, the report of the Fuelwood Study Committee (planning commission) 1982, has estimated that in order to meet the demand for fuel wood it would be necessary to raise fuelwood plantations at the rate of 1.5 million hectares annually and to distribute 800 million seedlings per year to the public (Sathianathan, 1985).

Social forestry plantations can help in a big way by meeting the energy requirements of the local people. This will reduce the pressure on traditional forests and also help in solving the energy problem. Besides it will also have precious dung which is burnt in the rural hearths instead of being applied to the fields as farm yard manure (Bandhu, 1986).

The energy plantation programme is proposed to be started in Bunde Khand areas near Jhansi, U.P. The authorities both in the administration and in the Indian

Grass land and Fodder Research Institute located locally are fully involved and have given all support to the programme (Sharma,1985).

B. SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIAL FORESTRY:-

Forests play an important role in the economy of a country. The development of forest resources is an integral part of the programme for optimum land utilisation.

Forests provide fodder for livestock, fuel and timber for the rural population and they protect soils from erosion. They produce the requisite raw materials for industries, defence communications, other public purposes and domestic uses, contribute to the country's export earnings and create a large volume of employment in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors (Desai,1986).

Social forestry has come of age with its inclusion in the Prime Minister's New 20 Point Programme. The 1894 and 1952, forest policy resolutions also laid greater emphasis on the provision of basic village needs such as small timber fuelwood and fodder, than on the commercial aspects of the forestry. The social forestry should not only aim at creating protection and recreation benefits

to the community, but should also include the activities concerned with growing fuelwood and fodder needs of the community in future (Garg, 1986).

Forests play an important role in agriculture, employment, and rural development besides maintaining the ecological balance of the area. Not only trees provide greenery and shade but also act as a source of fuel fodder, fruit and a host of major and minor products that provide the requisite raw materials for industries, defence communication etc. Under new 20 point programme, social forestry is given greater importance in view of the expected fuel shortage. Under the programme, farmers are encouraged to grow trees in their marginal and waste lands by distributing to them free seedlings (Jeelani, 1985).

The social Forestry Schemes can help to a larger extent. These schemes can generate impressive economic and employment potential. Therefore it is necessary to draw Social Forestry Scheme keeping in view the practical problems of the rural areas. Taken for granted the identification of the area and men, the success of the Social Forestry Schemes, largely depend upon the modus operandi utilization of the end products. (Satyanarayanan, 1984).

The villages need, not only fuel and fodder but also employment during agricultural off season-carpenters, basket makers, palmyre leaf workers - small scale cottage industries patters etc., they also require raw materials for their vocation,so, in the village forest species which will provide such materials should be planted (Padmanabhan, 1984).

Social forestry or forestry for community development is a new concept of forest creation, management and utilisation of goods and services generated. Therefore for the benefit of the society, the advantages mentioned by Vijayalakshmi (1985) are at birth men sleeps in credle made from wood and on his death at crematoria the wooden logs look after his body. Fruits for man, fodder for animals, seeds for birds, sector and honey for bees, and to million of micro-life livelihood are all given by forestry. Trees give medicine for sick and wodder drugs for oilments and raw material for industry. A mature tree gives 1712 kgs. of oxygen per day for all our uses. The tree is an important factor, in the maintenance of the ecological balance. The balance between the animal world and the urgentable worl-d is a happy one they support each other.

Social forestry is primarily a rural development project and local community is both the implementing agent as well as the beneficiary. Socio-economic benefits, agricultural, small timber and fuel wood should be made available to the rural population at a reasonable price considering that the viability of the rural economy is greatly dependent upon the ready supply of the timber, required for agricultural implements, housing and of fuel wood as a source of domestic energy (Boraiyan,1985). Increased employment potential is one of the greatest advantages of social forestry plantation. A direct benefit occurs to the poorest section of our society as in only plantation programme. The labour component accounts for about 60 to 70 per cent of the total expenditure. Moreover bulk of the labour component is of unskilled/semi skilled type such as nursery works, sowing preparation works like pit, digging, fencing, planting etc., (Negi,1986).

Forestry is seen throughout the world as growing in importance as a form of national development. The current world strategy for development of forestry in rural areas of the developing countries reflects the following priorities:

1. Eradication of poverty, on the basis of greater access of rural people to benefits generated by forestry activities.

ii. Equitable participation of the rural people in forestry and forest based activities and

iii. Integration of per cents of wise environmental management and performance of the forest resource base required to secure optimal flow of benefits for the present and future (Bandhu,1986).

The objectives of social forestry are not physical but human, They are:-

1. To fulfil\$ fodder, fuel wood and small timber demands.
2. To provide employment opportunities and to increase family income considerably.
3. To tap dormant energies and forestry skills of the villagers.
4. To popularise economic tree farming along with crop farming.
5. To integrate economic gains in distribution of benefits to the life behind people (Bandhu,1986).

In the field of employment the major objective\$ of the plan is to ensure that the growth of employment opportunities is foster than the growth of the labour force, rapid agricultural development, expansion of irrigation facilities, more intensive cropping and continuation of the

employment oriented programmes, such as the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme would contribute significantly to the generation of additional employment opportunities in rural areas (Nayak,1986).

A forest policy has to fulfil three sets of needs:
Ecological security, fuel, fodder, and other domestic needs of the population and the needs of village, small scale and large scale industries (Mag,1986).

C. PERSPECTIVE PROGRAMMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL FORESTRY.

The perspective programmes for the development of Social Forestry include,

1. Social Forestry Scheme in Tamil Nadu.
2. Various Programmes under Social Forestry:
This includes,
 - a. Farm Forestry
 - b. Extension Forestry.
3. Massive Programme of Afforestation:
This includes,
 - a. Production forestry.
 - b. Social forestry.
4. The wastelands Development programme;
This includes,
 - a. Rural forestry
 - and b. Urban forestry

1. Social Forestry Scheme in Tamil Nadu:-

Social Forestry Scheme in Tamil Nadu was started in 1981 with the help of Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). A control sponsored Social Forestry Project for rural fuel wood plantations was also started functioning from the same year in the rural areas in all available lands out side the reserved forests in order to meet the increasing demands of fuel, fodder, small timber and green leaf manure.

For the successful implementation of the programme and for bringing about the maximum involvement of the rural people, efforts are made to organise village social forestry committee in every village.

Since 1981-82 the village social forestry workers have been involved in convincing the villagers that it is their own responsibility to grow more fuelwood trees, so that their fuel needs could be met by their own initiative. The village social forestry workers are being given interest, training in their job at reputed institutions (Varmudy, 1987).

2. Various Programme; Under Social Forestry:-

A good number of programmes have emerged and are emerging for social forestry with the help of the World Bank and Foreign aid. A major umbrella Social Forestry Project is being worked out to cover all or most states for extensive and intensive tree plantation drive in private lands and government degraded (Agarwala, 1985).

Following three broad types of beneficiary programmes in forestry sector can improve economy of the poor and may bring them above the poverty line within a stipulated period.

- a. Land based activities viz - development of forest villages, settlement of shifting cultivation etc.,
- b. Forest development based activities inside as well as outside the forest areas.
- c. Minor forest produce based activities, the scope of social forestry programme included.

There are other programmes such as,

- a. Farm forestry
- and b. Extension forestry.

a. Farm forestry:-

The basic component of the operations is the organisation of a substantial programme of the planting of trees on the bunds and boundaries of fields of the farmers to be taken up by the farmers, themselves, the basic objective of Vanamahotsav

accepted in the planned development of forestry was to encourage farmers to participate in this programme and regenerate forests for their own benefit.

b. Extension forestry:-

This covers,

1. Mixed forestry on wastelands, Panchayat lands, village commons etc.,
2. Raising of shelter belts and arid regions.
3. Raising of plantations of different quick growing species and landed on the sides of roads, canal basket and railway lines (Desai,1986).

Under social forestry scheme we propose to use all available vacant land, scientifically too poor for cultivation, being in an advanced state of erosion such as road sides, railway verges, community lands, degraded forests, marginal lands and the edges of farm lands to plant fast growing wood species. Wood consuming industry should raise raw materials in partnership with the forest department (Sangwal,1985).

3. Massive Programme of Afforestation:-

A massive programme of afforestation is to be undertaken by the government for bringing wasteland under productive use. India has nearly half of its area in the form of degraded wasteland. Proper utilisation of this area is essential for taking care of the basic needs of our growing population.

Following programmes for the development of forestry in the region should be taken immediately supporting of marginal farmers and women's groups in raising nurseries, extensive use must be made of the possibility of school nurseries. In part of India where experiment has been tried such school nurseries have been extremely successful (Nair,1986).

The social forestry programme will generate rural employment to the tune of 7000 million mandays by the year 2000. A Rural integrated development scheme based on the forest produce should be chalked out. Suitable forest trees may be taken up for plantation on barren, fallan, degraded, marginal, private lands etc., under Social and Community Forestry Schemes with the close- co-operation of the local villages (Prasad,1985).

For the success of the Social Forestry Programme the attitude of the forester, villager, politician and decision maker and all those involved with creation, maintenance, and utilization of the natural resources must change. It may also need some institutional changes in education, training and motivation of the rural masses, research and administration (Srivastava,1979).

This also includes,

- a. Production forestry
- and b. Social forestry.

a. Production Forestry:-

Under production forestry there are two schemes:

1. Raising of plantations of economic and industrial importance to meet the increasing demand of raw material for wood based like match wood, plywood, fibre board, packing cases, katha, etc.
- and 2. Plantation of fast growing species for meeting the demand of raw material for pulp and paper industries from pulpable species, should be implemented.

b. Social Forestry:-

In order to meet the basic requirements of fuel, fodder, and small timber for rural population this scheme has special importance. This scheme is being implemented in Uttarpradesh with World Bank aid, the scheme was first started in 1976-77 (Giriappan, 1985).

4. THE WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:-

The wasteland development efforts will be channelised through a number of developments and such existing programmes as the National Rural Employment Programme, The Rural Landless Employment, Guarantee Programme, The Drought Prone Areas Programme etc.,

Its Main Components are:

- a. Rural Forestry
- b. Urban Forestry.

a. Rural Forestry:

It is also called Extension Forestry. It encompassed forestry on community and panchayat lands, degraded forest road, and railwaysides, canal banks etc., for meeting the needs of the rural people. It also includes restoration of derelict areas bearing scars of quarrying, mining, road construction, brick manufacture, time burning etc.

b. Urban Forestry:

Urban Forestry aims at bringing trees to the door of the urban people. Broadly speaking this concept lays emphasis on the asthetic development of urban areas. Flower and fruit trees of environmental variety which flower and fruit at different seasons are planted along road sides and canal banks near towns, villages and cities (Pant, 1979).

D. STUDIES CONDUCTED IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL FORESTRY:-

A case study of Tree Forming in Kovilur Village, Tamil Nadu, by Pernilla Malmer (1987) brought out the intention of the Government of India to increase the forest area in the country to 30 per cent of total area. The social forestry programme aided by Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) was introduced in 1981/82. This study deals with the

socio-economic conditions in one of the villages involved in the Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project. Planting trees is not a new thing in the area. The people often take small naturally grown seedlings and plant them in their backyards.

A social forestry committee was formed with people who shown an early interest in tree planting. One of the ideas for the future of the village is to form a Tree growers Association in order to make it easier for the farmers to sell their new products. Still very few of the plantations have given an income to the farmers.

Social forestry under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) by Devandran(1984) expressed that 16.5 sq. k.m., of forests are destroyed everyday: The Government of India has earmarked 20 per cent of the total allocation to this programme under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, during 1985-86 and 25 per cent of the total allocation during 1986-87. About Rs.19 crores would be made available for the programme for 1986-87 and it is expected to raise and plant about 150 million plants, so it is quiet necessary for the participants to go indepth, the various factors, technical, administrative, financial and maintenance of the

programme, so that the rich experiences gained by them will be transmitted to the lower level staff who are at the grass root level.

A study on "Social Forestry in Srikalkulam District" was studied by Rao, (1985). Under the afforestation of communal lands, 12,000 acres of casuarina, shelter belt plantations have been raised all along the coast to protect the land and the people from natural calamities like cyclone and floods. For the first time in the state under a new scheme of leasing out degraded reserve forest to weaker section, 150 acres of such land were leased out to tribals in 1984. It was proposed to lease out another 250 acres during 1985.

Pant (1979) conducted a pilot project on Social Forestry in Gujarat State. Gujarat State has adapted social forestry in a big way. Educational Institutions such as schools, colleges, universities and polytechnics have created vidyarthi vans, a vacant land in and around their institutions. The forest department has introduced schemes for raising nursery plants through voluntary efforts of school activities. In 1987 about 54 schools scattered in eight districts of Gujarat raised 4,66,500 seedlings. During the year 1978 about 84 schools were pursuing this programme.

Devaraj (1987) submitted the report on "Periyar water, only for raising nurseries". In June 1987 the average rainfall recorded in Madurai District was 35 mm as against 50 mm in 1986. From Periyar Dam, water was released on July 6 to cultivate 5,145 hectares of which 2,960 hectares had been raised with nurseries. For small farmers, chemical fertilisers were distributed at subsidised rates.

Methodology

III METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the study includes the following aspects:

- A. Planning the programme
- B. Implementing the programme
- and C. Evaluating the programme

A. Planning the Programme:

The planning of the programme covered the following steps:

- I. Selecting the area for the study
- and II. Locating the samples

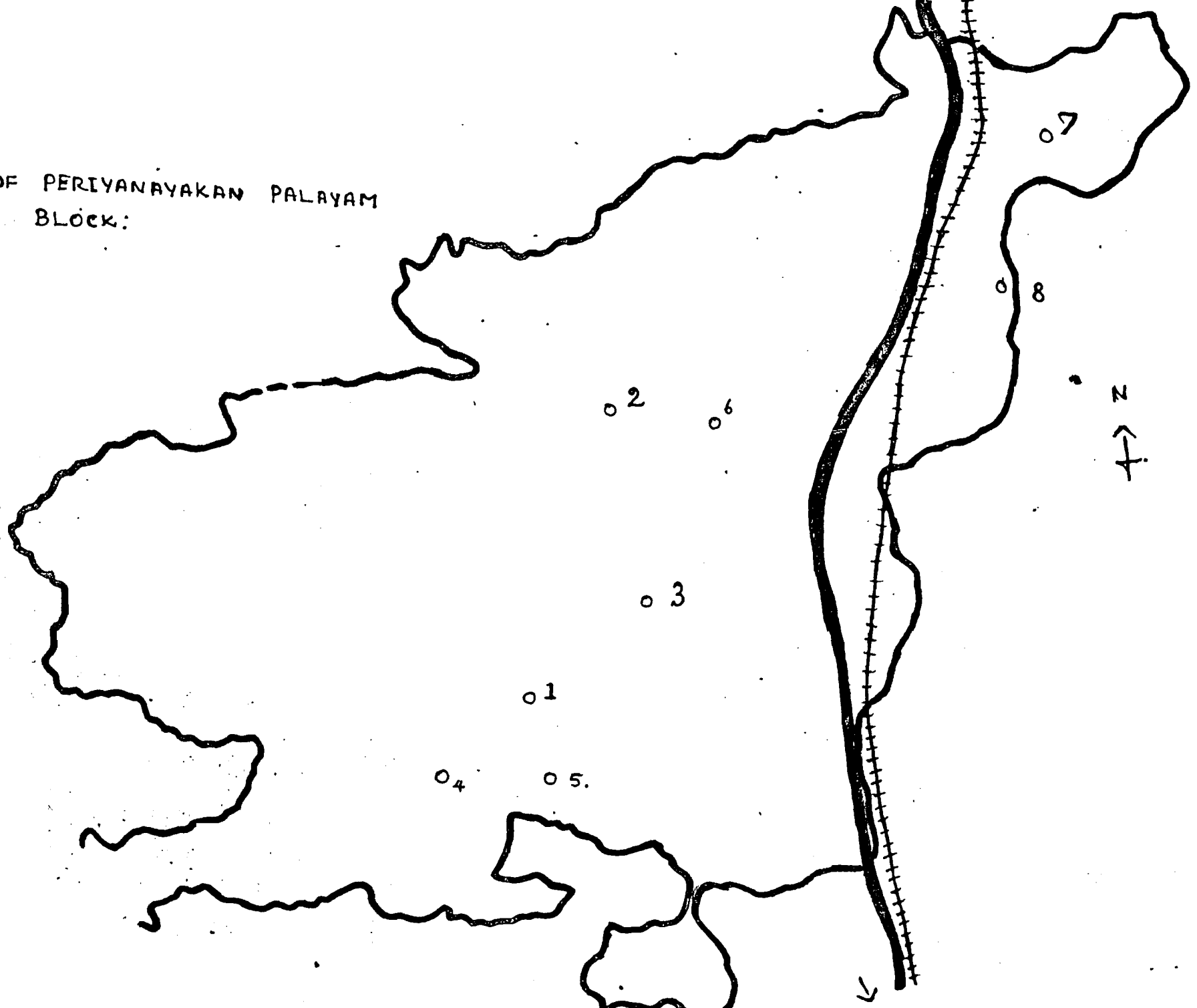
I. Selecting the area for the Study:

The Periyannayakan Palayam block of Coimbatore District was selected for the study owing to the availability of the following supporting features:

- a. Easy approachability
- b. Co-operation of local people and block staff
- and c. Good rapport created by Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institutions in their earlier programmes.

The programme was in operation in eight of the villages in that block. All the eight villages were selected for the study (Figure - I).

MAP OF PERIYANAYAKAN PALAYAM
BLOCK:



(Figure-1).

COIMBATORE:

The Selected Villages were:

1. Chinna Thadagam
2. Govanur
3. Kathiranaickenpalayam
4. Kalappanaickenpalayam
5. Kasthurinaickenpalayam
6. Naickenpalayam
7. Onnipalayam
- and 8. No.4. Veerapandi.

II. Locating the Samples:

There were 165 samples all together in all the eight villages in that block who were involved in the programme. Of the 165 samples, 150 samples were located randomly as samples for the study. Those located 150 samples were interviewed by the investigator.

B. Implementing the Programme:

The implementation of the programme involved the following steps:

1. Preparing the schedule for interview
2. Pre-testing the schedule
3. Finalising the schedule
- and 4. Interviewing the samples.

1. Preparing the Schedule for Interview:

Interview schedule is the face to face method of collecting information. The interview is an important tool used to supplement the ordinary objective evidence about a sample and a first hand knowledge of such things as his feelings and point of view* (Bhatia,1985). An interview schedule was prepared to administer on the selected sample, so as to collect the required information on social forestry.

2. Pre-testing the Schedule:

Schedule is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked and filled in by an interviewer in a face to face relationship (Good and Hatt,1985). The prepared schedule was pre-tested with 15 samples, selected randomly.

3. Finalising the Schedule:

Based on the findings of the pre-test, the schedule was modified and finalised, which is given in Appendix - I.

4. Interviewing the Samples:

In the interview for investigational purpose, the research work is gathering data directly from other in face to face contacts (Good, Bar and Seates,1985).

The social forestry programme was in operation in these villages for the past three years (1985-86, 86-87, 87-88) under NREP and RLEGP . The located 150 samples were interviewed by the investigator and the informations were recorded. The samples constituted 50 per cent under NREP and another 50 per cent under RLEGP.

(c) Evaluating the Programme:

"Evaluation" in its broadest sense means judging the value of something. It may be informal or formal (Reddy,1984).

The evaluation of the programme was done in terms of the quantitative out come of the programme, general background of the samples, extent of involvement of the samples in the programme, problems faced by the samples and suggestions given by the samples for future improvement of the programme. All these are discussed in detail in the next chapter.

Results and Discussion

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study are discussed under the heads listed below:

- A. The quantitative out come of the programme.
- B. General back-ground of the samples.
- C. Extent of involvement of the samples in the programme.
- D. Problems faced by the samples.
- and E. Suggestions given by the samples for the future improvement of the programme.

A. The quantitative out come of the programme:

The major quantitative out come of the programme was the successful implementation of the programme, that is in respect of planting and maintaining the trees on the part of the samples. (Figure - II)

TABLE - I

THE QUANTITATIVE OUT COME OF THE PROGRAMME

S.No.	Year	No.of Villages covered	No.of trees planted	Total land covered (in acres)	Number of trees in good condition	Percentage of trees in good condition
1.	1985	2	2000	2	1700	85
2.	1986	5	1450	7	1050	72
3.	1987	1	759	1	650	86

Of the 4200 saplings planted, 3,400 trees were found to be maintained properly, that is 81 per cent of the trees planted were found to be well maintained. No doubt, this is a great achievement of the programme in that locality. But they were still waiting for the produce to be utilised.

B. General background of the samples:

All the 150 samples selected were harijans. The general background of the samples is discussed as under:

1. Sex and age of the samples.
2. Educational level of the samples.
3. Occupation of the samples
- and 4. Total income of the families of the samples.

1. Sex and Age of the Samples:

Of the 150 samples selected, 80 were males and the remaining 70 were females. The age wise distribution of the samples is given below:

TABLE - II

AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Age group (in years)	Male		Female	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1.	15 - 30	17	11.4	9	6.0
2.	31 - 50	43	28.6	46	30.7
3.	50 and above	20	13.3	15	10.0



GROWTH OF TREES:
(Figure-II)

Fifty nine per cent of the samples chosen were in the age range between 31 and 50 years. Of that 59 per cent, 31 per cent, of them were women. Next to this group was the age group 50 and above. It seems that with increasing of age their family and social responsibilities also improve to a considerable extent.

2. Educational level of the Samples:

Table - III shows the educational level of the samples

TABLE - III
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Aspect	Male		Female	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1.	Literates (Only upto V standard)	63	42.0	37	24.6
2.	Illiterates	17	11.4	33	22.6

About two third of the samples had education upto V standard. This is an encouraging factor to implement any programme since education forms the basis for better understanding and adoption.

3. Occupation of the Samples:

Table IV illustrates the occupation of the samples.

TABLE - IV

OCCUPATION OF THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Occupation	Number	Occupation
1.	Agricultural Labourers	127	85
2.	Building Construction Workers	20	13
3.	Workshop Workers	3	2

As shown in the figure, living in villages gives employment mainly in the agricultural fields. About 85 per cent of the samples were agricultural labourers. Agriculture gives only seasonal employment. Programmes like social forestry can give them income during off seasons also. All the samples had taken up social forestry work, as a part time job.

4. Total income of the families of the Samples:

Table - V presents the total income of the families of the samples.

TABLE - V

TOTAL INCOME OF THE FAMILIES OF THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Income/Month	Number Earning	Percentage
1.	Rs. 200 to Rs. 300	19	13
2.	Rs. 301 to Rs. 500	92	61
3.	Rs. 501 and above	39	26

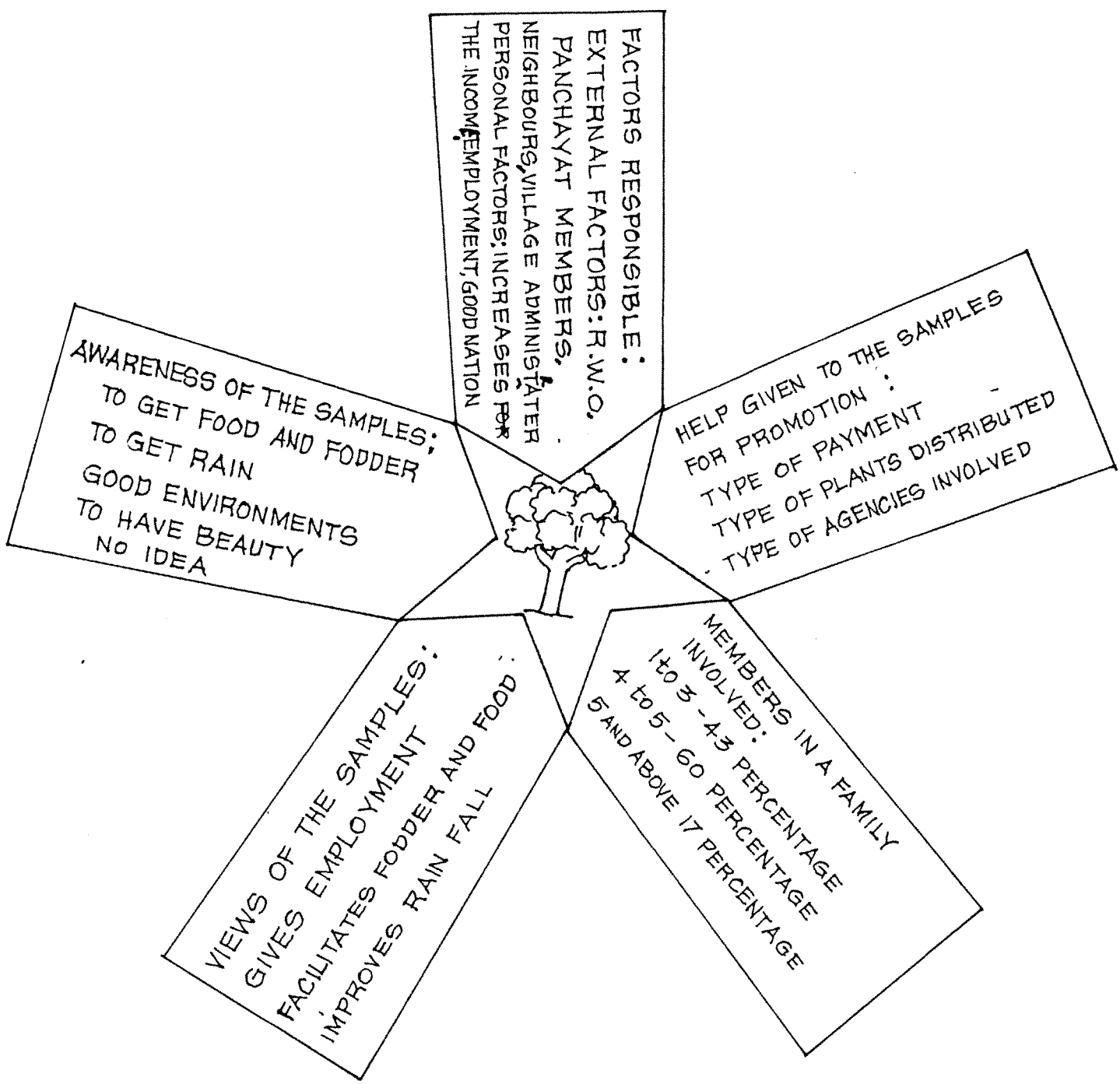
More than 87 per cent of the families of the samples earn Rs. 300 and above per month. This clearly speaks for their need to have additional income to maintain family budget.

C. Extent of involvement of the samples in the programme:

The extent of involvement of the samples in the programme is studied under the heads listed below: (Figure - III)

1. Awareness of the samples about the programme.
2. Factors responsible for the adoption of the programme.

3. Help given to the samples for the promotion of the programme.
4. Number of members involved in a family in the programme.
5. Views of the samples about the usefulness of the programme.



EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF THE SAMPLES IN THE PROGRAMME

Figure - III

1. Awareness of the samples about the programme:

Table - VI depicts the awareness of the samples about the programme and its objectives:

TABLE - VI
AWARENESS OF THE SAMPLES ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND ITS OBJECTIVES

S.No.	Aspect	Number stating	Percentage
1.	To get food and fodder	68	45
2.	To get rain	40	27
3.	To have good environments	12	8
4.	To have beauty	10	7
5.	No idea	20	13

To get food and fodder and rain were the major objectives listed by 72 per cent of the samples. About 13 per cent of them could not express any objective of the programme. The other objectives mentioned by the samples were to have good environments and beauty. (Figure - IV).



WATERING THE PLANTS AT HOME
(Figure - IV)

2. Factors responsible for the adoption of the programme:

The factors responsible for the adoption of the programme included,

a. External factors of motivation.

and b. Personal factors of motivation.

a. External factors of motivation:

Table - VII illustrates the external factors of motivation

TABLE - VII

EXTERNAL FACTORS OF MOTIVATION

S.No.	Source	Number motivated	Percentage
1.	Rural welfare officers (Gram Savak)	80	53
2.	Panchayat members	38	25
3.	Neighbours	15	10
4.	Village Administrative officer	14	9
5.	B.D.O.	3	2

The Rural welfare officer, and panchayat members were the major external sources of motivation for the samples (78 per cent) to adopt the programme.

b. Personal factors of motivation:

The personal factors which influenced the samples, were given in Table - VIII.

TABLE - VIII

PERSONAL FACTORS OF MOTIVATION

S.No.	Factor	Number stated	Percentage
1.	Increases income	74	49
2.	Gives employment	56	37
3.	Good for the nation	20	13

Increasing income and getting employment were the personal factors of motivation, as this is expressed by 86 per cent of the samples. Always economic factors are the basis for any programme to be ^{accep} ~~adep~~ted.

3. Help given to the samples for the promotion of the programme:

The type of help given to the samples for the promotion of the programme is discussed under three headings:

- a. Type of payment given to the samples,
- b. Type of plants distributed
- and c. Types of agencies involved.

a. Type of payment given to the samples:

The samples were given payment both as kind and cash, the cash being Rs. 10 per month per sample and kind being 2 k.g. rice and 3 k.g. wheat per sample per month.

b. Types of plants distributed:

All the 150 samples were given atleast one coconut sapling per head, subabul and soudal were the plants distributed to all the samples in all the villages, so as to improve fodder production. In one of the eight villages (Kathirnaicken palayam) ~~only~~ pappaya trees were distributed ^aaprt from coconut saplings and subabul and soudal.

c. Types of agencies involved:

Eighty one per cent of the samples received all these help from the block-office and the rest 19 per cent from the local panchayats.

4. Number of members involved in a family in the programme:

Table IX illustrates the number of members in a family involved in the programme. (Figure - V).



GROUP WORK ON A COMMON LAND:
(Figure - V)

TABLE .- IX

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN A FAMILY INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAMME

S.No.	Number of members	Total number of families	Percentage
1.	1 to 3	65	43
2.	4 to 5	60	40
3.	6 and above	20	17

On an average upto 5 members were involved in the work in a family, in 83 per cent of the families. This means that the majority of the families were interested to be involved in the programme.

5. Views of the samples about the usefulness of the programme:

Table - X explains the views of the samples about the programme.

TABLE - X
VIEWS OF THE SAMPLES ABOUT THE USEFULNESS OF
THE PROGRAMME

S.No.	View	Number stating	Percentage
1.	Gives employment	100	67
2.	Generates income	95	63
3.	Facilitates fodder and food	90	60
4.	Improves rainfall	90	60

Getting employment, generating income, increasing food and fodder and improving rainfall were the views expressed by the samples about the usefulness of the programme.

D. Problems faced by the samples:

Table XI lists the problems faced by the samples in implementing the programme. (Figure - VI).

TABLE - VI

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Problem	Number stating	Percentage
1.	No regular wages	150	100
2.	Inadequate wages	150	100
3.	Lack of water	150	100
4.	Improper distribution of saplings	90	60
5.	Takes time to give yield	75	50

Lack of proper payment of wages, inadequate wages and water scarcity were the three major problems expressed by all the 150 samples, the other problems being improper distribution of saplings and the saplings taking long time to give yield. These problems should be given due consideration.

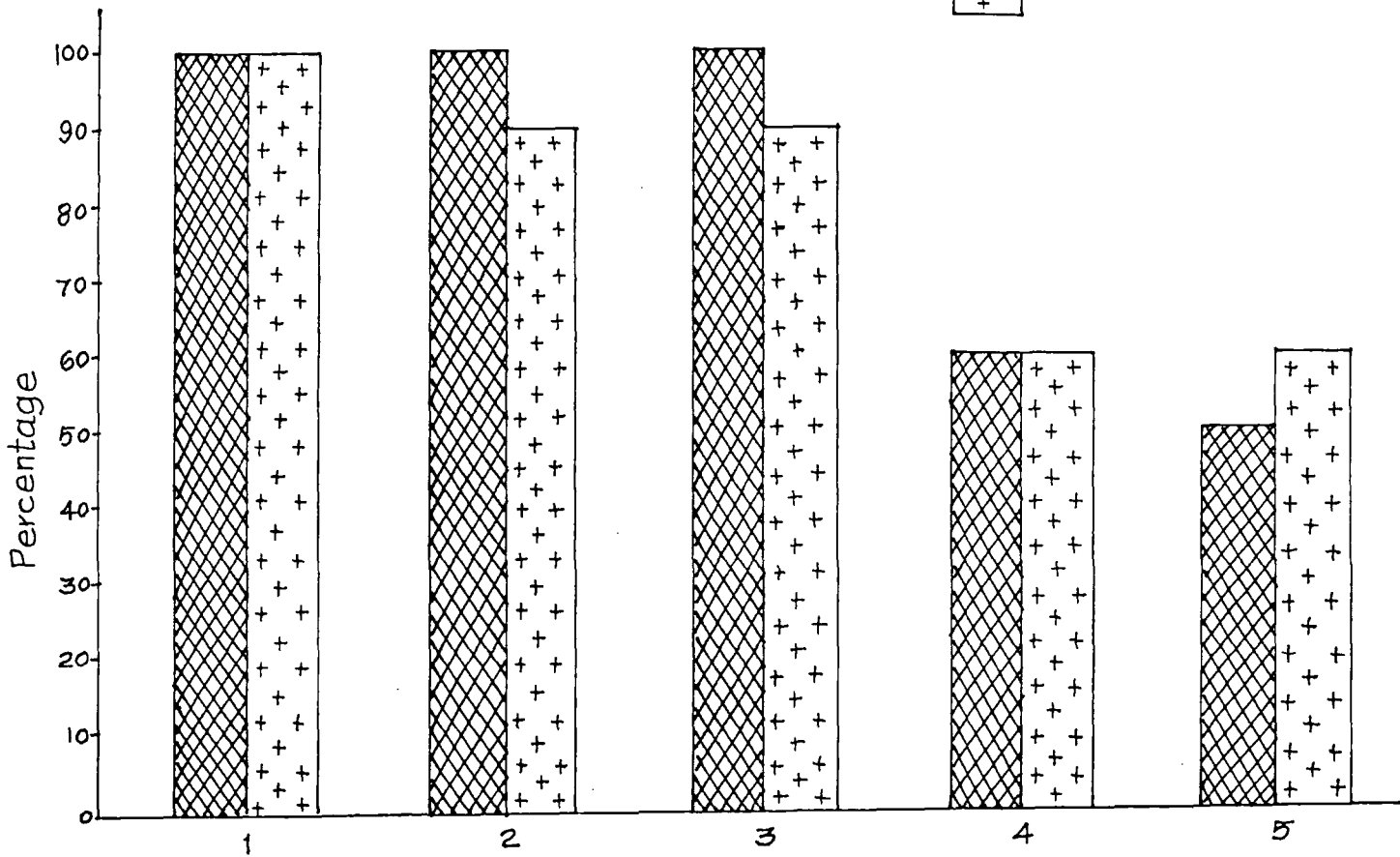
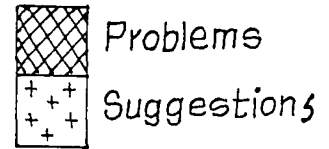
E. Suggestions given by the samples for the future improvement of the programme:

Table XII presents the suggestions given by the samples for the future improvement of the programme.

TABLE - XII
SUGGESTIONS GIVEN BY THE SAMPLES

S.No.	Suggestion	Number stating	Percentage
1.	Regular Payment of wages	150	100
2.	Adequate wages	120	80
3.	Good water supply	120	80
4.	Proper distribution of saplings	90	60
5.	Distribution of quick yielding plants	90	60

Cent per cent of samples suggested regular payment of wages, 80 per cent, adequate wages and good water supply and 60 per cent, proper distribution of saplings and quick yielding plants. These are useful suggestions given by the experienced samples. If these are given due waitage, the future programmes will be successful in every aspect.



Problems

1. No regular wages
2. Inadequate wages
3. Lack of water
4. Improper distribution of saplings
5. Takes time to give yield

Suggestions

1. Regular payment of wages
2. Adequate wages
3. Good water supply
4. Proper distribution of saplings
5. Distribution of quick yielding plants

PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTION GIVEN BY THE SAMPLES

Figure - VI

Summary and Conclusion

V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A study on Social Forestry Programme in operation in Periyayanayakan Palayam block in Coimbatore District was carried out with a sample of 150 members in eight villages, who were involved in the programme. The findings are summarised below:

1. There were 165 members enrolled in the programme. Of these 165 members, 150 were selected as samples for the study.
2. The method selected for the study was interview.
3. The major quantitative out come of the programme was the successful implementation of the programme, that is 81 per cent of the trees planted were found to be well maintained by the samples.
4. All the 150 samples selected for the study were harijans. Of the 150 samples, 80 were males and the remaining 70 were females. The age range of the samples were 15 years and above that age.
5. About 66 per cent of samples had education up to V standard.
6. Eighty five per cent of the samples were agricultural labourers. All the samples had taken up this, as a part time job.

7. More than 87 per cent of the families were earning Rs.300 and above per month.
8. To get food and fodder and rain were the major objectives listed by 72 per cent of the samples.
9. The rural welfare officers, Panchayat Members, Neighbours and B.D.O. were the major external and increasing income *and* getting employment were the personal factors of motivation for the samples to ~~accept~~^{accept} this work.
10. No training was given to the samples. The other types of help given were, payment of wages as kind and cash and distribution of saplings to the samples. The agencies involved in this work were the block and the local panchayats.
11. Apart from the samples themselves, all their family members were also involved in the programme.
12. Getting employment, generating income, facilitating the production of food and fodder and rainfall were the views expressed by the samples, as the uses of the programme.
13. Lack of proper payment of wages, inadequate wages, lack of water, improper distribution of saplings and saplings taking long time to give yield were some of the problems expressed by the samples.
14. All the samples suggested regular payment of wages, 80 per cent adequate wages and good water supply and 60 per cent proper distribution of quick yielding saplings.

Based on the findings of the study the investigator recommends the following, to be considered while planning the future programmes:

- a. The wages should be given in time, so as to improve the efficiency of work.
- b. Proper training on how to plant and maintain trees, is a requirement for the efficient functioning of the programme.
- c. Based on the existing conditions, adequate wages should be given to those who are involved in the programme.
- d. Not only harijans, the other people in the villages can also be considered and given chance to grow trees as social forestry is a people's programme.
- e. The local voluntary agencies, schools, women's clubs and other such agencies should also be included in social forestry, so as to give a wholistic approach to the programme.
- f. There ~~was~~ is no Social Forestry Committee in any of the villages. It is of the view of the investigator that each village should have a social forestry committee for the promotion of social forestry.
- g. It is helpful if the saplings are given during rainy seasons, So that the growth and maintainence of trees become easy.

The investigator hopes that these recommendations are given due consideration while planning future programmes regarding social forestry. She also wishes better involvement of all the agencies at local level in the programme. An integrated approach involving health, economic, educational and social aspects, is a must for the success of the programme.

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Appendices

III. Information on social forestry:-

1. What are the objectives of social forestry?
2. When was it started?
3. When did you join?
 - a. Date of enrolment?
 - b. Date of re-shift of the assistance?
4. What made you to adopt this work?
5. From where did you get the information on social forestry?
6. Are you doing it, as
 - a. Part time ()
 - b. Full time ()If part time, what is your full time occupation?
7. Give the details of operation of the scheme.

Date of starting the work	Type of plants planted
---------------------------	------------------------
8. From where did you get the saplings?
9. Did you get any training in raising/planting the samplings?

10. Who gave you the training?

11. Where did you plant the samplings?

a. House

b. Land

12. Why did you select that place?

13. What type of assistance did you get from the block for raising, planting and maintaining the plants?

14. Is it an individual work or a group work?

15. How many members from your family are involved in this work?

specify

Member

Activity

Frequency

Time given

16. How many members/families are involved in this work in your village?

17. How is the work distributed?

18. Is there a village social forestry Committee in your village?

19. What are its functions?
20. When did you plant the samplings?
- a. Year and month
 - b. Area
 - c. No.of plants planted
 - d. Categories (Types)
 - e. Distance from home
21. Who is responsible for choosing this type of plants?
22. Who will get the income of the plantations on common land?
23. Did you get any yield from the saplings planted in your house?

If yes, give details.

24. Do you think that this is useful?
- a. To you ()
 - b. To your family ()
 - c. To your village ()
 - d. To your nation as a whole ()

If yes, in what way?

25. Do you think the panchayat will be able to manage the plantation in the future?
26. What are the benefits you enjoy?
27. What are your problems in maintaining the social forestry?
28. Give suitable suggestions for the future improvement of the programme?