

Evaluation of National Rural Employment
Programme (NREP) in Perianaickenpalayam
Block, Coimbatore District

BY

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

Rural employment is a very important subject which is engaging the attention not only of development planners, the Government and the people in India but of all governments throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries. Experience of implementation of plans over the past two decades has, however, brought it out very clearly that, whatever be the rate of economic growth, increase in the employment opportunities is not always commensurate with the requirements of the growing population (Barnala, 1977).

The central and state governments experimenting with a variety of programmes for rural reconstruction programmes such as community development, employment creation, etc., were undertaken with this objective in view. But experience showed that these programmes did not succeed both in removing poverty and unemployment and creating productive assets (Kumar, 1984).

Consequently a new programme, popularly known as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), was designed which gives special emphasis to the development of people belonging to the weaker sections such as small and marginal farmers, tenants and share croppers, landless labourers, rural artisans, members of scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) communities (Kumar, 1984).

The strategy of integrated rural development was a systematic and scientific mobilization of rural resources and utilizing them in an integrated manner, so that everyone in the village will engage himself in a productive and socially useful occupation and earn income to increase his standard of living by meeting his minimum basic needs (Sankaran, 1984).

The IRDP was extended to all the villages in the country in 1980. Beneficiaries are identified on the basis of a household survey conducted in all blocks. The programme is intended to assist target groups to get gainful employment to improve their standard of living and lift them above the poverty line (Kumar, 1984).

Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment/under employment had been one of the principal objectives of successive Five Year Plans. The assumption that economic growth will result in increasing the employment opportunities and that accelerated economic growth will be able to meet substantially the employment requirements of growing labour force has not been validated by the Indian Planning Experience. Realisation of this leads to increasing emphasis on taking up schemes for providing additional employment opportunities. The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) is the culmination of previous experience in implementing employment schemes like 'Rural Programme' (Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme and

'Food for Work Programme' (Mohan, 1985).

The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) was launched in October 1980 replacing the food^{For} work programme. From April 1, 1981 it was included in the Sixth Plan and is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between centre and states. It envisaged generation of additional employment opportunities in the rural areas to the order of 300-400 million mandays every year of the sixth plan together with the creation of durable community assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure and improvement in the nutritional standards of the rural poor (Lakshmanan, 1985).

Objectives of NREP:

The objectives of the NREP are:

- a. Generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons in the rural areas.
- b. Creation of productive community assets for strengthening rural economy and social infrastructure and,
- c. Improvement in overall quality of life in the rural areas.

NREP has substantial impact in stabilising wages in the rural areas, containing prices of food grains, creating

wide variety of community assets and raising the levels of living of rural population.

Benefits of NREP:

The benefits of NREP to the rural people are:

a. Supply of foodgrains at cheap^{rate} thereby raising the real wages of workers.

b. Help in ensuring payment of minimum wages to rural labour.

c. Provide relief to rural labourers by creation of employment opportunities and thus help in improving rural socio-economic infrastructure (Mohan, 1987).

Functioning of NREP:

The NREP is implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on a fifty-fifty sharing basis between the centre and the states. The centre provides its share in the form of food grains to the extent the surplus food grains are available, and the rest in cash. Item-state allocation of foodgrains are made on rational criteria related to the population size of the target group, i.e. states' population or marginal farmers and agricultural labourers, and its rural population living below the poverty line. The states are encouraged to procure sorghum, millets and other locally grown foodgrains

and utilise them under the scheme. Suitable financial and operational arrangements are worked out in each state in the NREP. This helps in ensuring the producers from the uneconomical sale of their products from the uneconomical savings in the cost of the movement of food grains from distant godown to the work sites. For the storage of food grains so procured; the rural godowns programme and other programmes for building up storage capacity in rural areas, e.g. co-operative societies, godowns, are suitably used.

The wage paid under the programme are on par with the minimum agricultural wage prescribed for the area. The quantum of food grains, as part of the wage, should be such as to be adequate for the family's needs. It would be adequate if the two components of the wage (food grains and cash) are in equal proportion. In any case, the food grains component should not exceed 2 kgs. per head per day.

Efforts are made to organise mobile fair price shops at the centres where rural works are in progress so that cloth, vegetable oil, salt and other essential items of consumptions are easily available for the rural folk. The distribution of food grains is been entrusted to middle men or constructors (Desai, 1983).

The NREP Programme had been in existence from 1980 in Tamil Nadu. Since, NREP has been functioning for nearly 8 years; it is worthwhile to investigate the impact of the NREP on the villagers and the community in terms of certain parameters with the following objectives To study

1. the socio-economic status of the selected areas
2. the generation of gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons and,
3. the creation of durable community assets for strengthening rural infrastructures, minor irrigation works, formation and improvements of rural roads, drainage, construction of school building and group housing, panchayat office buildings, community centres, supply channels, afforestation etc., the items of work taken up under this scheme.

The NREP programme had been carried out in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. The present study limits its area of investigation to one block, namely Perianaickenpalayam block in Coimbatore District, due to paucity of time and financial constrains.

It is hoped that the findings of the study will help to further improve the NREP for the attainment of its goals.

Review of Literature

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature pertaining to the study, "Evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme" is reviewed under the following headings:

- A. National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
- B. Types of NREP Projects
- C. Allocation and Implementation of NREP
- D. Evaluation of NREP
- E. Studies related to NREP and allied Programmes.

A. National Rural Employment Programme:

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) is a centrally sponsored scheme. The expenditure on the programme is being shared equally by the state and centre. The aim of the scheme is to generate gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons and to create durable community assets, for strengthening rural infrastructure, minor irrigation works, formation and improvements of rural roads, drainage, construction of school buildings, panchayat office buildings, community centres, supply channels, afforestation etc, the items of work taken under this scheme (Antony, 1985).

B. Types of NREP Projects:

Under NREP, all types of works which results in creating

durable community assets are allowed to be taken up. In the case of scheduled caste/tribe beneficiaries, works benefiting individuals are permitted. Shelf of projects is prepared on the basis of identified work projects reflecting the felt needs of the rural community as ascertained in the gramsabha meetings. Out of the shelf of projects, annual action plan for each year is drawn by the District Rural Development Agencies with due regard to the availability of funds (India, 1986).

As regards specific type of assets reported to have been constructed, the reviews have brought out certain features which would have to be considered for the future:

- i. The growing propensity to take up all kinds of building works in increasing measure suggests local pulls and pressures geared to a desire for a very wide and thin coverage and easier implementability of such works as compared, example, with water-shed-based land development works which require expertise among the field planners. In the process, material costs have tended to be high with subsequent higher maintenance requirements, durability of assets in some has been suspect and long-term income generation and employment effects have been limited.

ii. In the case of social forestry which constituted an important component of the programme (10 percent of the resources were earmarked for this purpose) it was found that in addition to road-side plantation which has been generally popular, projects in some states included growing of nurseries for distribution of saplings to all farmers, big and small, and in some cases plantation in small village lots without adherence to appropriate cost and physical norms.

iii. Ten percent of the outlays had been earmarked for works of direct benefit to members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who are among the poorest of the poor. Such works could include drinking water wells, housing, on-farm works, etc., Although the number of such works showed an increase over the years, many states were not able to spend the earmarked outlays. Moreover, sufficient details of the types of works, taken up in this category have also not been available.

iv. Projects for roads which have accounted for a substantial percentage of funds under NREP in many cases have not been found to have a meaningful relationship with priorities arising from the Minimum Needs Programme (Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90).

The basic priorities for the 7th Plan are 'Food', 'Work' and 'Productivity'. The emphasis on NREP which encompasses all the 3 objectives continues with the better planning, closer monitoring and higher organisation during the 7th plan. An outlay of Rs. 2,487.47 crores including state's share has been provided for the 7th Plan under NREP and it is envisaged to generate about 290 million mandays annually (Mohan, 1987).

Desai (1983) quotes that, a direct level employment plan aggregated block-wise, will be formulated. This plan will estimate, separately for skilled and unskilled workers. The number of people likely to be seeking work and the work opportunities likely available under various plan and non-plan works in the district. The work opportunities and shortfalls will be identified, preferably in terms of blocks and the programme of works under the NREP formulated accordingly. The aim of the NREP should be to provide employment opportunities during the lean agricultural period.

State Governments should have a scheme of projects on a sufficiently dispersed scale for each block so that the programme may be implemented on a planned and systematic basis and the technical soundness of the works ensured. The preparation of projects will have to strengthen/build up

adequate technical personnel at the block level, but considering the size and spread of the programme, it is quite inadequate and some states have none at all. It is necessary that each block should have a reasonable compliment of technical staff. To ensure effective monitoring of the programme, a suitable strengthening of staff will be necessary at all levels. The locally available expertise of technical institutions, such as the IIT, the Agricultural Universities and Engineering Colleges, as well as voluntary organisations should be fully utilised. Block level project preparation on monitoring groups may be set up, wherever the size of the programme warrants it (Desai,1983).

C. Allocation and Implementation of NREP:

The programme is implemented through District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), funds to the state were allocated earlier on the basis of a formula by giving 75 percent weightage to the number of agricultural labourers and marginal farmers and 25 percent to the incidence of rural poverty. This criteria has since been revised to giving 50 percent weightage to number of agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, and 50 percent weightage to the incidence of poverty in rural areas. Similar criteria is applicable to district-wise allocation. Where district-wise poverty

ratio is not available, weightage is given to ^{the} size of scheduled caste/scheduled tribe population. At the district level, at least 50 percent of expenditure should be on wage component. Ten percent of the allocation is earmarked for works directly benefiting scheduled castes/scheduled tribes including targetted utilisation of Rs.6 crore on rural sanitary latrines. The earlier earmarking of 10 percent funds for social forestry has been revised to 20 percent from 1985-86 and further to 25 percent from 1986-87 with five percent in the form of foodgrains. Ten percent of the allocations has been permitted to be utilised for maintenance of assets for which no regular arrangement could be made. Workers engaged under the programme are paid according to minimum wages. Part of the wages are paid in the form of food grains valued at subsidized rate of Rs.1.50 per kg. for wheat and Rs.1.85 for common rice. Since 1986-87, 50 percent of wages are required to be paid in ~~the~~ form of food grains which are provided to states free of cost (India, 1986).

As against sixth plan allocation of Rs.1,620 crores, Rs.1,873 crore were actually provided and Rs.1,834 crore were utilised in generating 17,750 each mandays of employment in plan period. During seventh plan, an outlay of Rs.2,487.47 crore has been provided under NREP with the target of generating 14,450 lakh mandays of employment (India, 1986).

The programme has generated additional employment and created durable community assets. It has helped in ensuring payment of minimum wages to the rural labourers and in improving their nutritional standards. It has also proved helpful in arresting the exodus of rural population to the cities and towns to some extent. The implementation of the programme has resulted in providing great relief to the rural poor. The improvement in communications due to construction of roads has provided facilities in trade and commerce(India, 1986).

The State Government/UT Administration should communicate their need for the additional quantity of wheat allocated to them to the Central Government. In case it is possible to absorb more food grains, the further requirement may also be intimated. No rice or cash funds will be given to a state/UT in lieu of the additional quantity of wheat. (Khuma, 1985).

Twenty percent of the allocation (Rs.91.50 crores) under NREP is earmarked for social forestry and the entire earmarked allocation from the central share has been released along with the first instalment. A decision has been taken to fix targets under social forestry sector and the states have been requested to work out appropriate targets for 1985-86 and monitor the progress periodically (Khuma, 1985).

The social forestry sector has been given fresh impetus with raising the earmarked allocation from 20 percent to 25 percent during 1986-87. During the 6th plan about 4.69 lakh hec. have been covered under social forestry. The coverage during the first 2 years of the 7th plan is about 3.1 lakh hec, which is about 2/3rd achievement of the coverage in the 5 years of 6th plan (Mohan, 1986).

Ten percent of the allocation is earmarked for works directly benefitting scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The earmarked allocation for 1985-86 is Rs.45.75 crores (Khuma, 1985).

Utilisation of funds under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) also increased by 14 percent during 1986-87. It rose from Rs.533 crores in 1985-86 to Rs.607 crores in 1986-87. Food grains utilisation under NREP also improved to 71 percent during 1986-87 from 60 percent of the preceding year. The distribution of food grains per manday also went up from 2 kg. in 1985-86 to 3.15 kg. per manday in 1986-87 (Lakshmanan, 1987).

The employment generation expected as a result of this sharp increase in allocation is 1240 million mandays by the end of the seventh plan. This would mean that programmes would generate 620 million mandays each by 1989-90.

A special sub-group on rural employment set by the Planning Commission working group on rural development in the seventh plan has estimated that about 12 million households need to be provided with supplementary employment opportunities. In addition, some people assisted under the IRDP would require supplementary wage employment. Thus, about 18 million households need to be provided through special measures. The group has estimated that the outlay required for both NREP and RIEGP would be Rs. 5,250 crores each for the seventh plan period. This would involve a gradual increase in the number of mandays generated from 440 million mandays for each programme in 1985-86 to 620 million mandays each by 1988-89. Similarly, there would be progressive increase in funding for the two schemes. From Rs. 700 crores each in 1985-86, the outlay would be raised to Rs.1,500 crores each by 1989-90 (Joshi, 1985).

Employment generation is of the order of slightly above 900 lakh mandays which is 119 percent of the six-monthly target of about 756 lakh mandays and 43 percent of the annual target of about 2098 lakh mandays. The states which have performed better than the national level are Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. It is also seen that employment generation during the quarter ending September, 1985 is

higher by 34.44 percent than the previous quarter and higher by about 68 percent of the employment generated during the corresponding quarter of the last year. The states which have reported higher employment generation during the quarter ending September, 1985 than the employment generated during the corresponding quarter of the last year are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In employment generation the performance is ahead by more than two months, as the reported employment generation of about 900 lakh mandays is higher than the employment generated upto November last year which was about 806.

The break-up of employment generation in terms of SC/ST is available for about 726 lakh mandays. Employment provided to SC is about 198 lakh mandays which is 27.27 percent and to those of STs is about 127 lakh mandays which is 17.54 percent. Thus, a total of about 45 percent of employment has been provided to SCs/STs. The employment provided to the landless is around 354 lakh mandays which is about 42 percent (Lakshmanan, 1985).

The Central Committee at its meeting held on 29th August, 1985 reviewed the performance of the programme and also reviewed the progress made by the State Governments of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. In addition to

this, the area officers also undertook visits to states/ UT's for monitoring the programme during the quarter ending September, 1985.

In its assessment of the implementation of the 20 point programme, the Planning Commission has rated the performance of NREP and RIEGP during the first two quarters of the current financial year as very good (Khuma, 1985).

Under India Awas Yojana too, the achievement has been nearly 90 percent of the target even within the short span of 15 months during which the Yojana has been under implementation. Under the scheme 81 percent of the funds had been utilised and approximately 2 lakh houses completed by the end of 1986-87. These were free houses for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The scheme offers opportunity to the poorest of the poor to own a dwelling unit.

The year 1986-87 also saw distribution of 90.517 acres of ceiling surplus land to the rural poor, which was 110 percent of the target fixed (Mohan, 1987).

Nathapadiyur Harijan Colony, about 35 km, from Erode is an ideal colony with most of the basic amenities fulfilled all due to the co-operative effort of the residents. All the families residing here are agricultural labourers. By sheer dint of hard work and co-operation, they planned to have decent houses for themselves. With the help of the panchayat

union and local labour under the National Rural Employment Programme, 36 pucca houses were built in record time.

Another Harijan Colony nearby has electricity connection to individual houses under the 'two rupee per head scheme' with an initial deposit of Rs.12/-. Most of the harijans in this colony have availed of this benefit. The harijans of these colonies have shown that living can be made easier and more comfortable, provided one has the will to work in unison (Juneja, 1981).

In Kangeyam block of the Periyar District, 48 midday meal centres for school children have been constructed under the National Rural Employment Programme involving local labour. Pucca construction for mid-day meal centres were found necessary in this area because of dry windy conditions, where open air cooking was unhygienic. Thanks to the local people's effort, the students of elementary and higher elementary schools in Kangeyam block are now having nutritious mid-day meal cooked in pucca buildings. Each centre was constructed at a cost of Rs.3,000(Juneja, 1981).

Construction/improvement of school building is one of the important works taken up under the programme. During the 6th plan, 1,11, 130 school buildings, have been constructed/

repaired are 20833 and 3169, respectively. As a supportive of Government's New Education Policy, NREP guidelines have been revised to give higher priority, for the construction of primary school buildings, particularly in those revenue villages which have primary school without buildings (Mohan, 1987).

Besides construction of houses for SC/ST families, social forestry schemes are to be taken up under NREP. NREP has kept a target of generating 2,300 lakh mandays of employment out of which 82.24 lakh mandays of employment has already been generated (Juneja, 1985).

The centre has provided one million tonnes of food grains in 1985-86 to States as grants for extending the coverage of the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), resulting in the creation of 62 million mandays of employment, according to official figures.

In 1986-87, this was increased to two million tonnes leading to the creating employment of 128 million mandays. The programme would be continued this year also, the Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said recently (Capart, 1987).

NREP has generally been observed that the women workers at NREP work sites range from 30 to 40 percent except in areas where there are inhibiting social factors.

Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and some other states have already created assets for women out of NREP funds to strengthen the infrastructure of rural development (Omkarseth, 1985).

The programme guidelines emphasise full involvement of rural population in the implementation of the programme which should be on the basis of the felt needs of the people to be ascertained by holding meetings of the gram sabhas. The people's representatives like MPs and MLAs are also represented in the DRDA which is responsible for planning, coordination and monitoring of the programme at the district level and formulating the annual action plan for the district. Similarly the execution of works is to be done through the Panchayati Raj institutions, as far as possible. It is expected that involvement of the panchayat bodies will result in mobilisation of local resources which can be utilised to meet the excess requirement on material component and for maintenance of assets created under the programme (Khuma, 1985).

Only about half the states had involved Panchayati Raj institution in the National Rural Employment programmes. Given proper technical and administrative supervision, these

institution have the capacity to plan and execute works which correspond to the local needs at a comparatively low cost. The Programme Executive Officer Evaluation Study of the Food for Work Programme has highlighted this fact. It is, therefore, desirable that these institutions are, as far as possible, involved in the planning and execution works under the NREP in all the states in the line of local conditions and the nature of the work. The educational research and technical institutions in the block will be associated with the Panchayati Raj institutions to prepare shelf of project, which will help to ensure that the assets created are at least equal in value to the wages paid (Desai, 1983).

Khuma (1985) had given the salient features of the NREP as:

i. The programme is being implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which prepare the shelf of projects on the basis of felt needs of the rural people and approve the annual action plan as well.

ii. Panchayati Raj institutions are involved in the execution of works so as to ensure involvement of the people.

iii. Resources are allocated to States/UTs on the .

basis of the criteria giving 75 percent weightage to number of marginal farmers and agricultural labourers and 25 percentage weightage to incidence of poverty.

iv. 10 percent resources are earmarked for works of direct and exclusive benefit to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. With effect from 1981-82, 10 percent of the allocations were earmarked for social forestry.

v. One kg. of food grains per head per day is distributed to workers at subsidised rates as part of wages.

vi. In order to achieve the twin objectives of providing employment as well as creating durable assets, the permissible limit of the material component is 50 percent for the district as a whole.

vii. Contractors are not permitted for execution of works under the programme.

viii. Only works which result in the creation of durable community assets are permitted to be taken up. Works benefitting individuals are permitted in case of SCs/STs and bonded labour as an exception (Khuma, 1985).

D. Evaluation of NREP:

Evaluation studies either concurrent or ex-post contain basic parameters and the performance has to be assessed in both qualitative and quantitative terms. The extent

to which the envisaged goals of the programme have been realised has to be adjudged with macro perspectives. NREP being a well-knit (tied) programme, it is relatively easier to assess the performance in quantitative terms right from the block level to state level and with appropriate weighting diagrams even at national level. The key indicators like unit cost of employment, wage rate, per capita food grain distributions, wage non-wage ratio, resource utilisation percentage, share of expenditure on SC/ST works and social forestry schemes are all relevant at district level as well as national level. An assessment based on these indicators would have an advantage of lending themselves for a macro assessment. An analysis of sectoral distribution of expenditure would indicate the project-mix and priority works. Derivation of unit cost and implicit wage-rate from sectoral distribution of expenditure under various categories of works would clearly indicate the capital/labour intensity of the works. By and large, there is no data gap in respect of key indicators as these are derived on basic information available with the implementing agencies.

For the year 1985, an employment target of 228 million mandays has been fixed. The half-yearly target upto September, 1985 was 82 million mandays which corresponds to 36 percent of the annual target. The reported employment generation upto September, 1985 stands at over 92 million

mandays which accounts for over 40 percent of the annual target and exceeds the half yearly target by 12.3 percent. For the corresponding period last year, the reported employment generation was 99.2 million mandays. The year's achievement is marginally lower than that of the last year's corresponding period. However, it may be mentioned that the employment target for the year has been reduced by 26 percent from last year's target of 309.13 million mandays as a result of escalation in cost of materials and increase in wage rate for the workers employed under the programme. The actual employment generation will be higher when complete reports are received from all the states.

Analysis of employment generation upto September 1985 indicates that performance in 11 states (Assam 41 percent, Gujarat 61 percent, Karnataka 56 percent, Meghalaya 76 percent, Nagaland 94 percent, Orissa 45 percent, Rajasthan 138 percent, Tamil Nadu 42 percent), and almost all UTs have been above the National average.

Orissa, which had lagged behind the target in the last years has showed creditable performance. As against last year's employment generation of over 35 lakh mandays, the current year's achievement is over 56 lakh mandays. The performance in Rajasthan has also been quite impressive

during the current year. It has recorded about 62 lakh mandays against the target of generating 45 lakh mandays giving a percentage achievement of 138 percent. Last year's achievement in the state for the corresponding period was only about thirteen and a half lakh mandays (Khuma, 1985).

The Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission has conducted evaluation studies in 9 states viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarpradesh, West Bengal, Tripura, Karnataka and Kerala. Evaluation studies are also being conducted in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar etc. by the Department of Rural Development through reported institutions. These studies are in various stages of finalisation. Final reports in respect of two studies have now become available. These studies have highlighted both positive points as well as areas of concern. Some of the positive aspects of the NREP are as under:

- i. Works are being undertaken now mainly by the DRUAs through Panchayati Raj institutions. Earlier they were being done through the departments.
- ii. The durable assets created have strengthened the socio-economic infrastructures in the rural areas and

iii. Payment of the wages to the labourers is more prompt and higher than the prevailing market wage rates.

As against this, the studies have highlighted certain areas of concern which are as under:

- i. The employment being provided under the programme is for very small duration to the beneficiaries,
- ii. The element of proper planning and co-ordination, is inadequate,
- iii. The selection of beneficiaries is not proper in as much as the poorest of the poor for whom the programme is meant are some times left out and
- iv. There is no provision for maintenance of the assets created under the programme.

In the light of the major observations made in the studies and also on the basis of field monitoring of NREP by officials, the programme guidelines have been modified during 1986-87. The revised guidelines specify that preference shall be given to landless labour for employment in all works and amongst landless, the preference shall be given to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and women. Further, instead of spending resources too thinly, attempts are required to be made to provide reasonable quantum of employment to the

needy households. On maintenance the revised guidelines permit utilisation upto 100 percent of the allocation (Mohan, 1987).

E. Studies related to NREP and allied programmes:

Chandrika, S.(1980) conducted the study on "Evaluation of the Food for Work Programme" in the year 1978-79 at Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and other states namely, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.

The salient findings of the study are:

The utilisation of food grains during 1978-79 was as high as 100 percent in five states, namely, Andhrapradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and 90 percent in other states, namely Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. The community assets worth Rs.20 lakhs were created and 3.7 lakh mandays of employment was generated in the villages. The most sought-after programme was the construction or repair of village roads or streets on which 2,28,733 mandays were employed. This about constituted 61.4 percent of the total mandays generated. The next in importance was minor irrigation work, followed by construction of community assets, like school buildings, dispensary buildings,

panchayat ghars, drinking water wells and harijan houses etc. The study brought out the importance of planning from below with the involvement of the rural poor.

In the light of the findings, the study has suggested that the scope of the programme might be expanded to cover other activities like social forestry, plantation etc., that the programme should include nutritional food items like milk, cheese, fish, pulses etc., that payment of wages be done either on daily or weekly basis, and that the number of outlets for distribution of food grains be increased.

Chatterjee conducted the study on Food for Work Programme in the year 1979 at Madhya Pradesh and the study reveals that:

'Food for Work' Programme has touched new horizens of success in Madhya Pradesh, Under it 10,000 development works have been executed, providing work for four lakh persons including 90,000 persons employed under the Rural Employment Guarrantee Scheme.

The centre has allotted the state 1.01 lakh tonnes of wheat and 24.000 tonnes of rice for carrying on the 'Food for Work' programme during the current financial year. All of this wheat and more than half of the rice was utilised. The centre had given another 25,000 tonnes of wehat, as per the request of the State Government.

Hassan conducted the study on "National Rural Employment Programme" in the year 1981 at Mathadiyur village, near Erode in Tamilnadu. The salient findings of the study are:

In the sleepy Nathadiyur village near Erode in Tamil Nadu, the dilapidated mud huts housing the families of scheduled caste, agricultural labourers have been changed to tiled-roofed modern tenements with kitchen and bath room facilities, thanks to the incentive given by the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP). Thingalur and other 15 villages has been out off from each other. Here again the NREP bridged the financial gap. The wage component was taken care of by the programme and the panchayat union mustered Rs.27,000 from various sources resulting in the laying of a mortable road. A Rajasthan village had been ravaged by floods every year. The food-for-work (FFW) programme came to their rescue. A simple bund was constructed at a cost of Rs. 50,000. Now the village is pregnant with lush green fields.

Examples like these can be multiplied. During its four years of operation, the scheme created assets worth several lacks and crores. Recognising its value, the programme has been placed on a firmer footing as a Rs.1000 crore Sixth Five Year Plan Scheme. It is no longer a mere food-for-work programme, operating in a year of good harvest but has become the National Rural Employment Programme (Hussam, 1981).

Lingamoorthy conducted the study on "Employment Generation in Rural Sector" in the year 1987 at Andhra Pradesh. The salient findings of the study are,

The main functions of the steering committee was to plan the works to be taken up under the scheme and see that the progress of these works did not suffer for any reason. In this Block, four types of activities, namely, minor irrigation works, well digging, building construction and road construction were taken-up under the "Food-for-Work Programme".

Rao, S, conducted the study on "Employment Generation in Rural Sector" in the year 1987 at Maharashtra. The salient findings of the study are:

The employment generated by the programme reached 440 million mandays in 1985-86 as against a target of over 600 million mandays. During 1985-86, the plan outlay for NREP and the RIEGP has been kept at the same level. The central share for NREP has finalised at Rs.250 crore while for RIEGP the resources available are 400 crores. Along with the state contribution to the NREP, the total funds provided for these two programmes will be only Rs.860 crores. Basically, it is an antipoverty programme of the Government of India. Sixth Plan and the Seventh Plan outlays will be

Rs.5253 crores. The main theme of the programme is to generate additional gainful employment for the unemployed men and women in rural areas and to create durable community assets to strengthen the rural infrastructure, steady rise in the income level of the rural poor and an improvement in their nutritional status and living standards. The programme is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme shared between the centre and the states on 50:50 basis. The implementation part is entrusted to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) which have been set up all over the country.

To eradicate old and massive rural poverty it is the time to recognise the National Rural Employment Programme to provide round employment in the lines of massive wage employment opportunities in rural areas.

Rayudu conducted the study on "New Milestones" in the year 1985 at Andhra Pradesh. The salient find^{ing}s of the study are:

Under National Rural Employment Programme, jobs like construction of buildings, roads and drinking water scheme are taken up in scheduled areas through Tribal Welfare Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The Minister of State for Programme Implementation, Mr. Sukh Ram, told the Lok Sabha as reported in the daily news paper "The Hindu" August, 19th 1987, that

twenty three states' achievements exceeded their targets in implementing the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during 1986-87. In a written answer, he said the states included Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Manipur. Those states which achieved their targets in implementing dry-land farming included Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Orissa. In implementing the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) under the 20 point programme, 21 states achieved their target, during the period. They included Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As regards the surplus land distribution programme, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur and Punjab were among the 13 states which achieved their targets.

Methodology

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III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for the study, "Evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme" in selected villages of Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union, Coimbatore District is presented under the following headings:

- A. Selection of the Area
- B. Selection of the Sample
- C. Selection of the Method
- D. Collection of the Data

and E. Analysis and interpretation of the data.

A. Selection of the Area:

The Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union, Coimbatore District was selected for study due to the reachability and previous rapport developed by the institution, Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institution, Coimbatore where the investigator is attached to. Ten villages of Perinaickenpalayam Panchayat Union, namely, Billichi, Chinna-thadagam, Kathiranaickenpalayam, Kovanur, Kalappanaickenpalayam, Kasthurinaickenpalayam, Naickenpalayam, Pappanaickenpalayam, Tudiyalur, No.4, Veerapandi were randomly selected for the study.

B. Selection of the Sample:

According to Vatsyayan (1954) random sampling used in the method of selection assures each individual or element in the universe an equal chance of being chosen.

Ten samples were selected from each village/area using random sampling technique. The total size of the sample for the study was 100 (60 men and 40 women).

C. Selection of the Method:

According to Bhatia (1984), in general, the word questionnaire refers to a device for securing answers to questions by using a form which the respondent fills himself.

To collect particulars about the NREP in the Panchayat Union, a questionnaire was evolved for administering to the engineer (Union overseer) who was in charge for implementing NREP Projects for getting particulars related to the details of the villages and the particulars about NREP (Appended as Appendix I).

According to Aggarwal (1925), the merits of a schedule are the investigator gets an opportunity to establish rapport with the respondent, gets an opportunity to explain the meaning of items and this tool enables the investigator to get relatively complete and usable returns and it economizes time and expenditure.

The rural people being illiterates or semiliterates, the investigator chose the interview method for collecting the information related to the NREP works in which they and

the members of their families had involved and for this an interview schedule was prepared, as the guidelines for conducting the interview (Appended as Appendix-II).

D. Collection of the Data:

The investigator personally met the union overseer and administered the questionnaire after explaining the objectives of the study. The investigator personally contacted 100 community people (60 men and 40 women) selected randomly from the 10 villages at the rate of 10 from each village after creating rapport with them and interviewed them with the help of the interview schedule and the responses were recorded.

E. Analysis and Interpretation of the Data:

The data obtained from the questionnaire and interview schedule were consolidated, tabulated and analysed. The details of analysis and interpretation are discussed in Chapter IV.

Results and Discussion

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study are discussed under the following headings:

A. Responses to questionnaire by the Panchayat Union Engineer who was incharge of the NREP Projects.

B. Responses to interview schedule by the village people.

A. Responses to questionnaire by the Panchayat Union Engineer:

The investigator selected 10 villages in Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union in Coimbatore District.

The objective of NREP as given by the Panchayat Union Engineer is to generate additional gainful employment opportunities in the rural areas.

In Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union, National Rural Employment Programme was successfully carried out. The Panchayat Union decides the works to be taken up under NREP as per the needs and resources of the people and locality and plans for carrying out the work. The Panchayat Union selects people for the work (mostly local people belonging to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and the poor and needy unemployed people). It implements the programme and disburses the wages in the form of cash and food grains or cash. The activities undertaken by the Perianaickenpalayam

Panchayat Union were, construction of tanks, minor irrigation works, noon meal centres, community centre, school buildings, bridge (culverts), drainage, well construction and repair works.

The total allocation of funds for NREP for Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union was Rs.1,56,000 for 1985-86 and Rs.4,02,000 for 1986-87. The mode of payments were supply of food grains like wheat, rice and payment of cash. The rural people were benefitted under NREP as it generated gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed rural people and also created durable community assets. The overseer had suggested that the NREP will take up the following programmes in the future: protected drinking water supply, road and transport facilities and schools for the tribal people, sanitation and public hygiene and library.

B. Responses of the interview schedule by the village people:

Hundred community people of the villages of Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union at the rate of 10 samples from each of the 10 villages selected for the study were taken and their responses to the interview schedule are hereunder given:

The investigator interviewed 100 community people of whom 40 were women and 60 men. Castewise distribution

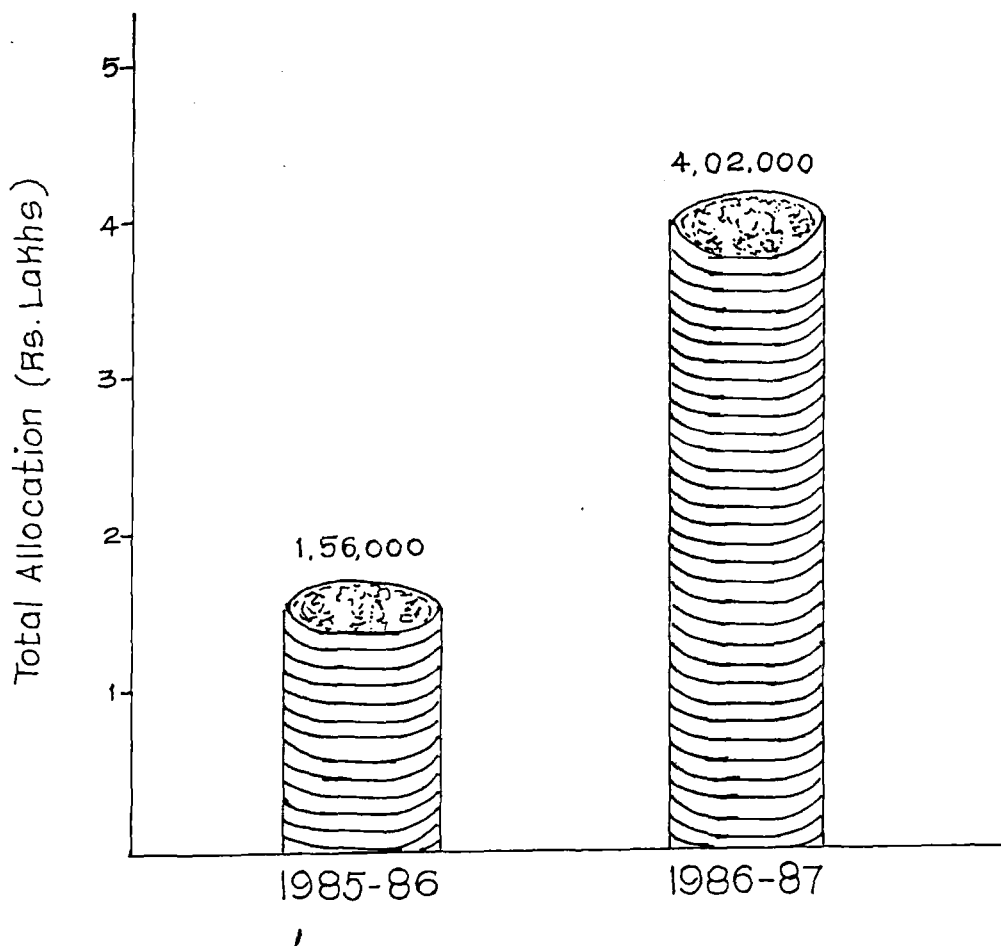


Figure. I TOTAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR PANCHAYAT UNION FOR NREP

of the sample is 40 belonged to Scheduled Caste and 60 belong to Scheduled Tribe. Of the 100 community people interviewed, 86 had 2-4 members in the family and 14 had 5-7 members. 27 among them were literates (20 men, 7 women) and 73 were illiterates (45 men and 28 women).

Monthly income:

The monthly income of the respondents are presented in Table I.

TABLE I
MONTHLY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Monthly income	Per cent
1.	200 - 300	10
2.	301 - 500	50
3.	501 and above	40

From the above table it could be seen that 10 percent of the respondents were in the monthly income group Rs. 200-300, 50 percent in Rs.301-500 range and 40 were getting above Rs.501.

2. Involvement of respondents in NREP:

Of the 100 interviewed by the investigator, 90 members had involved themselves in the National Rural Employment Programmes and 10 had not participated in National Rural Employment Programme in their villages.

3. Community Development Programme:

The community people were asked to give their knowledge about the community development programme and the responses are given in Table II.

TABLE II

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

S.No.	Knowledge	Respondents
1.	Increasing the employment opportunities	30
2.	Improvement of standard of living	20
3.	Reducing the poverty	15
4.	Agricultural Improvement	5
5.	Not aware of community development programme	70

Out of the 100 interviewed, only 30 respondents were aware of the community development programme when they were asked to spellout what they knew about community development programme, each one gave 2 or 3 answers, which are tabulated in the above table.

All of them had said that the community development programme increased the employment opportunities of the people; 20 respondents were of the view that it improved the standard of living of the people. It reduces the poverty of the village people is given by 15 respondents.

All the 100 interviewed had known about National Rural Employment Programme as they get employment and wages through NREP, even though only 30 percent of the people knew about community development programme.

Source of Information about NREP:

The source of information about the National Rural Employment Programme as given by the respondents are presented in Table III.

TABLE III
SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT NREP

S.No.	Source	Percent
1.	Village President	35
2.	Panchayat member	20
3.	Gram Sevak	20
4.	Neighbours	10
5.	Tahsildar	10
6.	Rural Welfare Officer	5

The table reveals that 35 percent of the sample became aware of the NREP through the village presidents, 20 percent through Gram Sevak and another 20 percent through Panchayat members and 10 percent knew about NREP through their neighbours.

Objectives of NREP:

The objectives of the NREP as given by the community people taken for the study are presented in Table IV.

TABLE IV
OBJECTIVES OF NREP

S.No.	Objectives	Per cent
1.	Providing employment opportunities	55
2.	Reduces poverty	30
3.	Improvements in standard of living	10
4.	Village improvements	5





From the above table it could be seen that 55 percent of the sample had said that NREP provides employment opportunities for them and earn money; 30 percent had said that NREP reduces the poverty by giving them wages for the work they do under the NREP.

6. Target involved in NREP:

Of the 100 interviewed 40 percent had said that mostly the employment under the NREP is given to the scheduled caste and 60 percent had said that scheduled tribe were given preference while selecting people for NREP projects.

Number of family members participated:

The number of members in their families had participated in the NREP are indicated in Table V.

-  Provides the employment opportunities
-  Reducing poverty
-  Improvement of standard of living
-  Village improvement

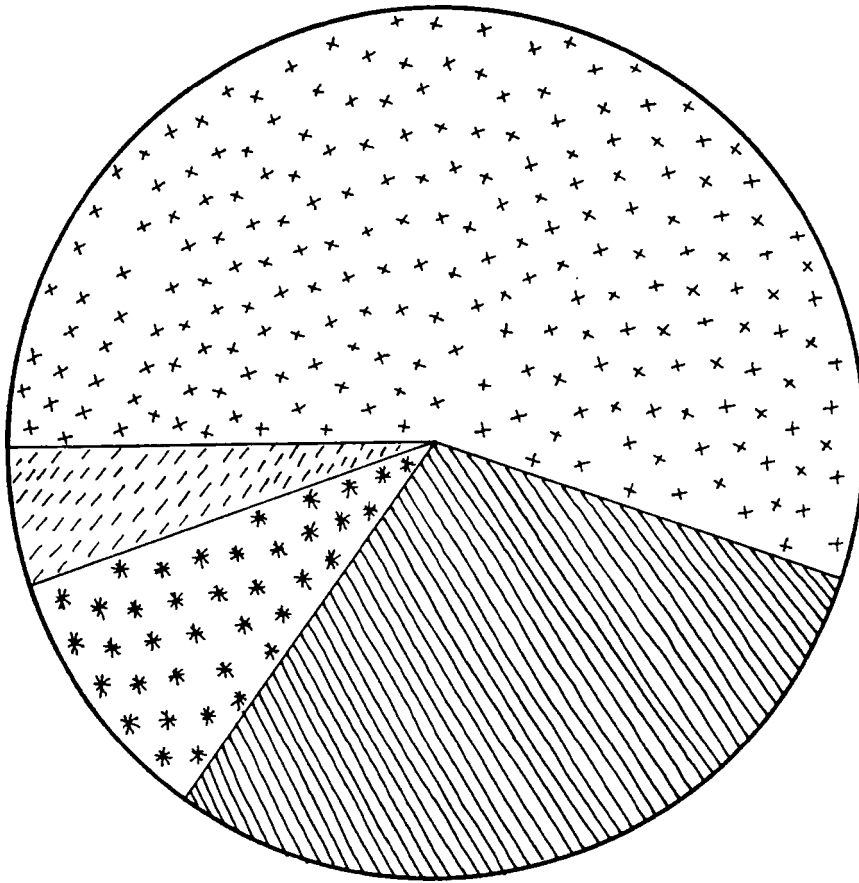


Figure. II OBJECTIVES OF NREP

TABLE V

PARTICIPATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS IN NREP

S.No.	Number of members	Per cent
1.	One member	50
2.	Two members	40
3.	Two and above members	10

The investigator interviewed 90 persons who had involved themselves in the NREP and 10 persons who had not involved themselves in the NREP, even though a member from their family would have involved in the NREP. The table shows that among the 100 interviewed, 50 had stated that only one member from their family had benefitted by the NREP; 40 had said that 2 members from their family and 10 had said that more than 2 from their family had involved in the NREP.

To the question as to the age range of the persons who were involved in the NREP works, the responses from the 100 interviewed are presented in Table VI.

TABLE VI
AGE RANGE OF THE PERSONS SELECTED

S.No.	Age range	Per cent
1.	18-20 years	12
2.	21-30 years	48
3.	31 and above years	40

It could be seen from the table that 48 had stated that the age range of the people employed under the NREP was 21-30 years; 40 had said that it was above 31 years and 12 had said that those who were selected for the NREP projects were of the age range 18-20 years.

Types of Projects:

The different types of projects in which the interviewees had involved themselves are given in table VII sex-wise as given by the respondents.

TABLE VII
DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROJECTS

S.No.	Projects	New construction			Repair work		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1.	Social Forestry	4	3	7	-	-	-
2.	Tanks	4	1	5	4	-	4
3.	Minor irrigation works	3	-	3	-	-	-
4.	Noon meal centres	2	1	3	3	1	4
5.	Community centre	2	2	4	3	2	5
6.	School building	6	2	8	5	1	6
7.	Bridge (culvert)	2	-	2	-	-	-
8.	Drainage	9	11	20	-	-	-
9.	Wall construction	3	-	3	2	-	2
10.	Group housing	18	7	25	-	-	-
11.	Roads	27	8	35	7	8	15

From the above table it could be seen that 35 community people (27 women and 8 men), 25 (18 men and 7 women) and 20 (9 men and 11 women) had been engaged in the road laying, groups housing and drainage work respectively in the NREP. In the minor irrigation work, wall construction and bridge (culvert) works, only men had involved themselves in the NREP.



FIGURE III GROUP WORK ON A COMMON LAND SOCIAL FORESTRY



FIGUR IV COMMUNITY HALL UNDER NREP



FIGURE V CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE UNDER NREP

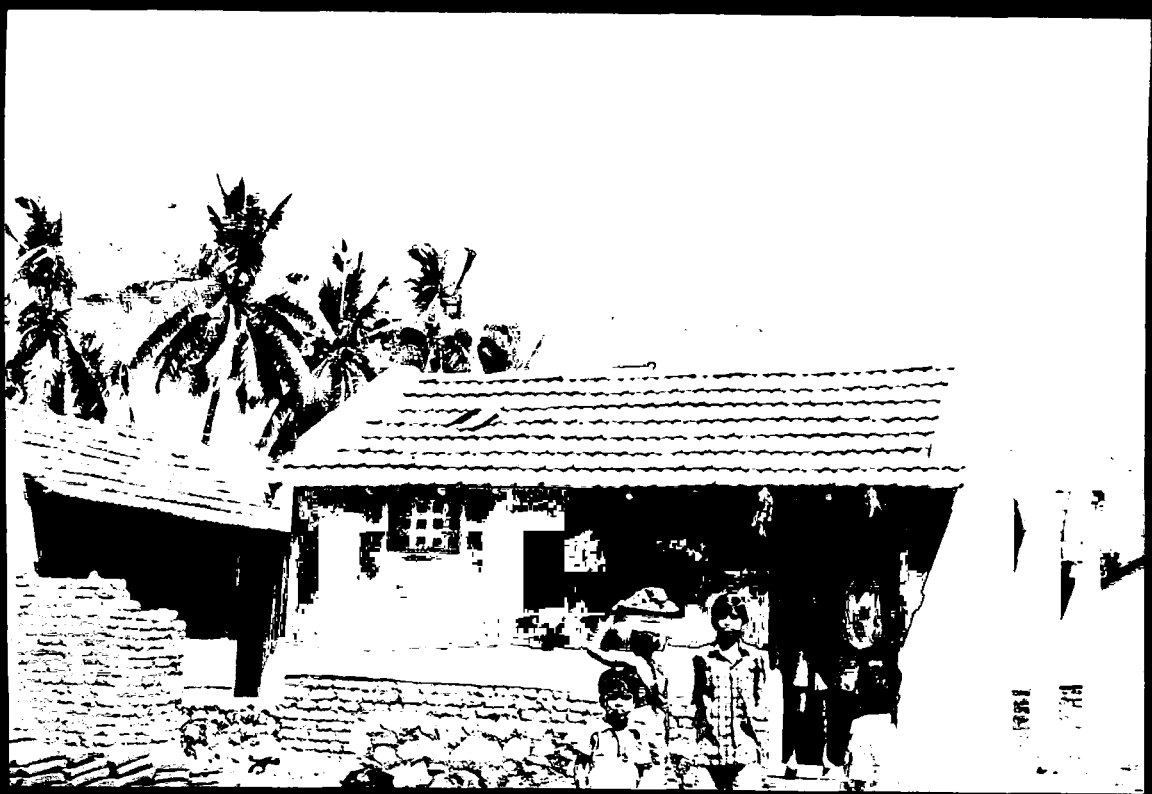


FIGURE VI GROUP HOUSING CONTRIBUTION UNDER NREP

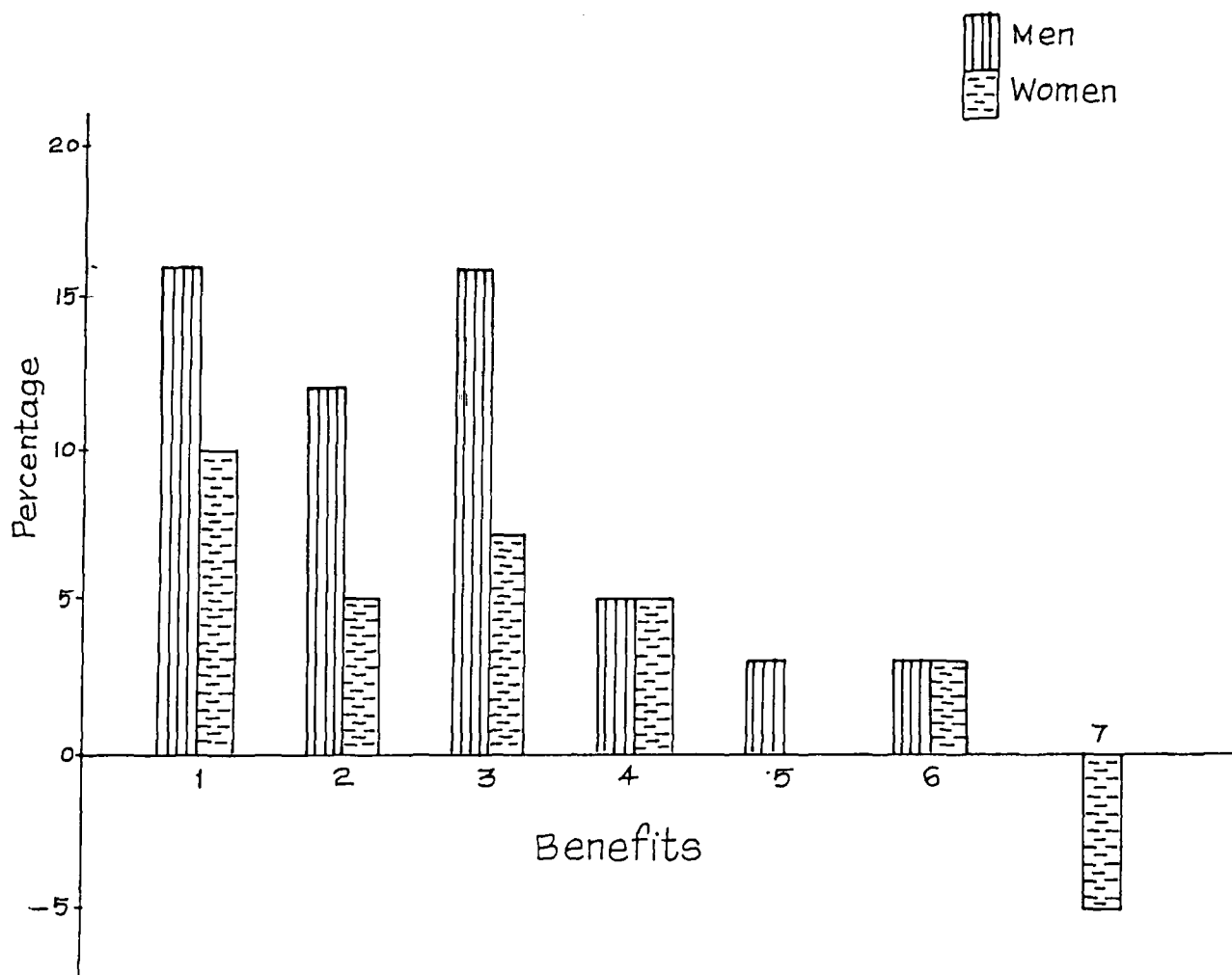
Benefits gained by the respondent:

Some of the benefits gained by the respondents are given in the Table VIII.

TABLE VIII
BENEFITS GAINED BY THE RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Benefits	Respondents		
		Men	Women	Total
1.	Getting employment	16	20	26
2.	Improvement of standard of living	12	5	7
3.	Increasing the income	16	7	23
4.	Reduce poverty	5	5	10
5.	Skill development	3	-	3
6.	Development of Rural Areas	3	3	6
7.	Not much benefits	-	5	5

From the table it is clear that the community people had benefited individually/personally to some extent because of their involvement in the NREP works. 26 (16 men and 10 women) had stated that the benefit that they had acquired "getting employment"; 23 (16 men and 7 women) had said that because of NREP their income had increased and 3 men had stated that they had developed skill development. It is interesting to note that 5 women had stated "no much of benefits".



1. Getting employment
2. Improvement of standard of living
3. Increasing the income
4. Reducing poverty
5. Skill development
6. Development of rural areas
7. Not much of benefits

Figure. VII BENEFITS GAINED BY THE RESPONDENTS

Period of employment:

Table IX gives the period in which the sample had engaged themselves in the NREP.

TABLE IX
PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE NREP

S.No.	Period	Respondents		
		Men	Women	Total
1.	1 - 2 weeks	1	3	4
2.	3 - 4 weeks	2	4	6
3.	1 - 2 months	29	15	44
4.	3 - 4 months	23	13	36

From the above table it could be seen that 44 of the sample (Men 29 and women 15) had engaged themselves and the other members of the family in the NREP for 1-2 months; 36 (Men 23, Women 13) for 3-4 months and 4 (Man 1 and Women 3) for 1-2 weeks.

Mode of Payment:

Eighty five (Men 53 and women 32) out of the 100 interviewed had said that the wages of those employed under the NREP were given in the form of cash and food grains, at the ratio of 50:50. Five (Men 2, Women 3) had said the wages were given only in the form of cash.

Engaging labourers for the work:

When the NREP projects were taken up in the villages, the local needy people especially SCs and STs were given preference while engaging labourers for the work under the food for work National Rural Employment Programme. The wages were normally paid in the form of cash and food grains in the ration of 50:50.

Knowledge about other programmes under NREP:

30 (men 20, Women 10) out of 100 interviewed and 12 (Men 10, Women 2) had said that home for homeless and social forestry were the other programmes that come under NREP. Majority of the respondents 58 percent (Men 30, Women 28) of the sample had no idea of the other programmes under NREP except in those programmes in which they were engaged and benefitted.

Views about Rural Improvement under NREP:

16 percent of the respondents (Men 10, Women 6) had said that the programme of construction of public latrines in their areas is an important necessity that could be taken up under NREP whereas 84 percent (Men 50, Women 34) had no idea in giving suggestions.

Summary and Conclusion

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study is an attempt to Evaluate the impact of National Rural Employment Programme. Data were collected from the different samples, namely, from the Panchayat Union Office (Engineer/Overseer incharge of the NREP Projects) and the representatives of the community using specially constructed questionnaire and interview schedule.

A sample of the Panchayat Union authority (Engineer/Overseer incharge of the NREP Projects) in the Panchayat Union and 100 persons from the community drawn from the villages selected for the study constituted the sample for the study.

The responses as given by the Panchayat Union Engineer/Overseer:

The investigator selected 10 villages in Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union in Coimbatore District.

The objective of NREP as given by the Panchayat Union Engineer is to generate additional gainful employment opportunities in the rural areas.

In Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union, National Rural Employment Programme was successfully carried out. The activities undertaken by the Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union were, construction of tanks, minor irrigation works, noon meal centres, community centre, school buildings, bridge (culverts), drainage, well construction and repair works.

The total allocation of funds for NREP for Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union was Rs.1,56,000 lakhs for the year 1985-86 and Rs.4,02,000 lakhs for the year 1986-87. The mode of payments were supply of food grains like wheat, rice and payment of cash. The rural people were benefitted under NREP as it generated gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed rural people and also created durable community assets.

The responses as given by the community people are:

1. Hundred community people of the village of Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union at the rate of 10 samples from each of the 10 villages were selected for the study.
2. The investigator interviewed 100 community people of whom 40 were women and 60 men. Castewise distribution of the sample is 40 belonged to scheduled caste and 60 belong to scheduled tribes. Of the 100 community people interviewed 86 had 2-4 members in the family and 14 had 5-7 members. 27 among them were literates (20 Men, 7 Women) and 73 were illiterates (45 Men and 28 Women).
3. 10 per cent of the respondents were in the monthly income group Rs.200-300; 50 percent in Rs.301-500 range and 40 were getting above Rs.501.

4. Of the 100 interviewed by the investigator 90 members had involved themselves in the National Rural Employment Programme in their village.
5. Out of the 100 interviewed, only 30 respondents were aware of the community development programme when they were asked to spellout what they knew about community development programme, each one gave 2 or 3 answers. All of them had said that the community development programme increased the employment opportunities of the people; 20 respondents were of the view that it improved the standard of living of the people. It reduces the poverty of the village people is given by 15 respondents.

All the 100 interviewed had known about National Rural Employment Programme as they get employment and wages through NREP, even though only 30 percent of the people knew about Community Development Programme.
6. 35 percent of the sample became aware of the NREP through the village presidents, 20 percent through Gram Sevak and another 20 percent through Panchayat members and 10 percent through their neighbours.
7. 55 percent of the sample had said that NREP provides employment opportunities for them and earn money. 30 percent had said that NREP reduces the poverty by giving them wages for the work they do under NREP.

8. Of the 100 interviewed, 40 percent had said that mostly the employment under the NREP is given to scheduled caste and 60 percent had said for scheduled tribe.
9. 48 had stated that the age range the people employed under the NREP is 21-30 years; 40 had said that it was above 31 years and 12 had said that those who were selected for the NREP projects were of the age range 18-20 years.
10. 35 community people (27 men and 8 Women), 25 (18 men and 7 women) and 20 (9 men, 11 women) had been engaged in the road laying, group housing and drainage work respectively in the NREP. In the minor irrigation work, wall construction and bridge (culvert) works, only men had involved themselves in the NREP.
11. 26 (16 men, and 10 women) had stated that the benefit that they had acquired "Getting employment"; 23 (16 men and 7 women) had said that because of NREP their income has raised and 3 men had stated that they had developed skill development. It is interesting to note that 5 women had stated "no much of benefits".
12. 44 of the sample (men 29 and women 15) had engaged themselves and the other members of the family in the NREP for 1-2 months; 36 (Men 23, women 13) for 3-4 months and 4 (man 1, Women 3) for 1-2 weeks.

13. Eighty five (Men 53, and women 32) out of the 100 interviewed had said that the wages of those employed under the NREP were given in the form of cash and food grains, at the ratio of 50:50. Five (Men 2, Women 3) had said the wages were given only in the form of cash.
14. When the NREP project were taken up in the villages, the local needy people especially SCs and STs were given preference while engaging labourers for the work under food for work/ National Rural Employment Programme. The wages were normally paid in the form of cash and food grains in the ratio of 50:50.
15. 30 (Men 20, Women 10) out of 100 interviewed and 12 (men 10, women 2) had said that home for homeless and social forestry were the other programmes that come under NREP. Majority of the respondents 58 percent (men 30, women 28) of the sample had no idea of the other programmes in which they ^{were} engaged and benefitted.
16. 16 percent of the respondents (Men 10, Women 6) had said that the programme of construction of public latrines in their areas is an important necessity that could be taken up under NREP whereas 84 percent (Men 50, Women 34) had no idea in giving suggestions.

The community had participated in, and given co-operation for the NREP projects carried out in their villages. The community felt that the NREP projects had helped them and their communities to develop. NREP generated employment opportunities for the unemployed and provided them an opportunity to earn and thus raise their standard of living. NREP also created permanent assets to the communities. The permanent assets created by the NREP projects in the villages had imparted favourable attitudes in the community people that NREP was a service agency, serving for the welfare of the people. The following recommendations emerge out of this study.

The village committee at the district level should make regular visits to be NREP work spots. It is of the prime importance, to curb corruption among officials. The DRDA should be entrusted with the work of planning and implementation of the programme at the block level. It is also pointed out that, instead of spending money on repairing of roads, it may be better to undertake such schemes like minor irrigation and housing programmes for the rural poor. In the case of housing programmes it is suggested that the beneficiaries should be insisted to make some contribution in the form of labour. The another noteworthy ^{suggestion} is to provide training to the personnel involved in the implementation of NREP project.

Keeping in view of the unemployment and under-employment situation in rural India, the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) should be reorganised in such a way as to provide full time employment to the rural wage labourers throughout the year. The year round employment creation may achieve to some extent the desired objectives of planning process in India.

To eradicate old and massive rural poverty, it is the time to reorganise the National Rural Employment Programme to provide year round employment in the lines of massive wage employment opportunities, in rural areas.

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Appendices

APPENDIX I

An Interview Schedule to elicit information about the effect of National Rural Employment Programme projects on the community by the community people:

General Information:

1. Name of the interviewer :
2. Address :
3. Caste : SC/ST/Others
4. Type of family : Joint family/Nuclear family

Family Background:

S.No.	Name of the family members	Relation to the head of the family	Age	Sex ----- Male Fe- male	Educational level ----- Lit- Illi- erate terate	Occu- pa- tion	Income/ month Rs.

-
1. Did you involve yourself under National Rural Employment Programme?

Yes/No

2. Do you know about community development programme?

Yes/No

If yes, what do you know about it?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Improvement of standard of living | () |
| b. Reducing the poverty | () |
| c. Agricultural improvement | () |
| d. Increasing the employment | () |
| e. Removing the ignorance | () |
| f. Improvement of education | () |

3. Are you aware of National Rural Employment programme?

Yes/No

If yes, what is your's source of information?

4. Does the National Rural Employment Programme projects cater to the needs of the village and village people?

Yes/No

5. What is the age range of people who were selected for NREP Projects?

6. Types of works:

In which of the following projects, you were employed under NREP?

S.No.	Works	New construction	Repair work
1.	Social forestry		
2.	Tanks		
3.	Minor irrigation works		
4.	Noon Meal Centre		
5.	Community hall		
6.	School buildings		
7.	Bridge (culverts)		
8.	Drainage		
9.	Group housing		
10.	Roads		
11.	Others (Explain)		

7. What benefits did you acquire because of the NREP involvement?

1. Getting employment ()
2. Improvement of standard of living ()
3. Increasing the income ()
4. Reducing poverty ()
5. Skill development ()

6. Development of rural areas ()

7. No benefits ()

8. How many days did you work under this programme?

Mode of Payment:

9. What is the mode of payment in NREP?

1. Foodgrains ()

2. Cash ()

3. Both ()

10. To whom does the NREP provide employment?

1. Only local ()

2. Local people and from other villages ()

3. Other villages ()

11. Are you satisfied with the work given to you under NREP?

Yes/No

12. Were the objective of the NREP in the village fulfilled?

13. Do you have any other special programme in the village under NREP?

Yes/No

If yes, what are they?

14. Suggest the other items of work that could be taken up for the improvement of the village under NREP?

APPENDIX II

A Questionnaire to elicit information on Evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme by Panchayat Union Officer (Engineer/ Overseer incharge of NREP)

General Information:

1. Name of the interviewer :
 2. Name of the Panchayat Union:
 3. Name and designation of the interviewee :
1. How many village/town panchayats are there in the panchayat union?
 2. Has the panchayat union taken up the NREP projects?
- Yes/No
1. If yes, from which year on wards?
 3. What is your main role in this programme?
 4. What are the main objectives of this programme?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

5. Was there any other such programmes earlier?
Yes/No
If yes, what is the name?
6. Has the basic amenities fulfilled in the panchayat union area?
Yes/No
7. Do you involved the local village people in the NREP Projects?
8. What is the total allocation for the NREP?
1985-86
1986-87
9. In what basis do you select NREP projects in the villages?
10. From where do you get fund for this and how do you get it?
11. What are the different items of work takenup in the village under NREP?
12. How do you pay the wages?
1. Foodgrains
2. Cash
3. Both

13. What is the basis for the selection of people for the NREP Project?

14. Have the village people benefitted because of the NREP?

15. What are the suggestions for furthering the NREP?