

Final Report: Research Study

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee
Scheme (MGNREGS): A Study of Socio-Economic
Empowerment of Women in Andhra Pradesh**

**Submitted by
Noble Social and Educational Society**

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(SADHANA)
Secretary

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ABBREVIATIONS

APD	:	Additional Project Director
APDC	:	Additional District programme Coordinator
APO	:	Additional Programme Officer
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
Cu.	:	Cubic
DPC	:	District Programme Coordinator
DRS	:	District Resource Person
DWMA	:	District Water Management Agency
EGS	:	Employment Guarantee Scheme
FA	:	Field Assistant
GP	:	Gram Panchayat
HH	:	Household
IAY	:	Indira Aawas Yojana
LR	:	Land reforms
MB	:	Measurement Book
MCC	:	Mandal computer Center
MEGA	:	Maharastra Employment Guarantee Act
MGNREGS	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MPDO	:	Mandal Parishad Development Officer
MORD	:	Ministry of Rural Development
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHG	:	Neighbourhood Group

NIRD	:	National Institute of Rural Development
OBC	:	Other Backward Caste
PRI	:	Panchayat Raj Institutions
RWS&S	:	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
SC	:	Scheduled Caste
SGSY	:	Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana
SHG	:	Self Help Group
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SRP	:	State Resource Person
ST	:	Scheduled Tribe
SSG	:	Shram Shakti Group
TA	:	Technical Assistant
UPA	:	United progressive Alliance
VMC	:	Village Monitoring Committee
WBM	:	Water Bound Macadam Road
WGMC	:	Works Grounding Monitoring Committee
ZP	:	Zilla Parishad

Research Team

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Chapter-1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background information of NREGS, its aims and objectives, institutional mechanism, total number of workers participated in NREGS work particularly women with reference to the state of Andhra Pradesh, objectives of the study, research methodology including sample of the study, sources of data and method of data collection, data processing and analysis etc.

India is an agricultural country where, 72.20% of the population lives in rural areas (2001 census). Though India has completed more than 60 years of Independence poverty in rural India continues to increase day by day and people are increasingly migrating to the urban areas to earn their living. In other words, even after completing 60 years of Independence we have more than 40 per cent people living below poverty line. Every Five Year Plan and many other poverty alleviation programmes for the rural poor have come up with different income generation and Employment Guarantee Schemes but their result seems to be unsatisfactory.

In the past public wage programmes attracted more than expected participation from women. Between 1970 and 2005, India implemented 17 major programmes with focus on employment or self-employment. By 2000, employment programmes— like the National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Employment Assurance Scheme—saw women accounting for a fourth of the total employment created. Self-employment generation programmes, like the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the Training for Rural Youth in Self-employment attracted more women participants.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is one of the most progressive legislations enacted since independence. Its significance is evident from a variety of perspectives. First, it is a bold and unique experiment in the provision of rural employment in India and indeed in the World at large. Second, it is the first expression of the right to work as an enforceable legal entitlement. In a Country where labour is the only economic asset for millions of people, gainful employment is a prerequisite for the fulfillment of other basic rights - the right to life, the right to food, and the right to education.

A component of the Government's Common Minimum Programme, the NREGA-now MGNREGS was launched in February 2006 in 200 most backward districts of the Country. During the year 2007, the scheme was extended to another 130 districts. The remaining districts have been notified under the MGNREGS with effect from April 1, 2008. Thus MGNREGS covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population. The scheme was expected to create wage work during the lean agricultural season through public works programme available on demand as guaranteed by the Act, In addition to providing a floor to income, it was hoped that distress migration would be checked, village assets created and a process of sustainable development initiated. The rural employment guarantee legally enshrines the right to work for 100 days, is demand driven, now has national coverage and in-built mechanisms for accountability and shows a measure of gender sensitivity in its design.

Significantly, NREGS is a rights-based programme, unlike earlier employment schemes. The rights of NREGS workers include employment on demand, minimum wages, gender parity of wages, and payment of wages within 15 days, as well as the provision of basic worksite facilities, among others. There is a legal guarantee of 100 days employment in a financial year to a registered household. That the Government is legally bound to provide employment within 15 days of the application for work by a job seeker; in case of delay or failure to provide employment to the job seeker, there is provision of unemployment allowance. That a person seeking such employment is to be registered with the Gram Panchayat (village administration council), after due verification, the household is to be provided a job card.

Specific characteristics of NREGS

- NREGS is based on the assumption that every adult has a right to basic employment opportunities at the statutory minimum wages.
- NREGS' aim is to end food insecurity, empower village communities and create useful assets in rural areas.
- Complete participation of Gram Panchayat in choice and selection of employment work, its planning and implementation.
- Complete transparency and Social Audits.
- Registration of rural and Social Audits.
- Registration of rural household workers and giving of employment cards.

Key Features of NREGS

- ❖ People get not only guarantee but also the right to employment'.
- ❖ Each family would get work for 100 days in a year.
- ❖ Daily Minimum wages recommended not less than Rs.60/-
- ❖ Extra wages if the worksite is more than 5 kms away from village.
- ❖ Unemployment allowance in case work is not provided.
- ❖ Compensation in case of accident or death of the labour on site.
- ❖ Onsite facilities as drinking water, first aid, shelter, creches for children of women labour.
- ❖ Village development is focused.
- ❖ Long-term assets are insisted.
- ❖ Appointment of Gram Rojgar Sevak is suggested.
- ❖ Powers to Gram sabha and people.

The main purpose of this scheme is to alleviate unemployment and poverty. This scheme provides 60 per cent opportunities to unskilled and 40 percent for skilled. It is implemented through Zilla Parishad, Gram Panchayat and NGOs. This scheme is funded by Government and the proportion of contribution is 90 percent Central Government and 10 percent State Government. For the purpose of the peoples participation scheme suggests councils on National and State level, Gram Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and NGOs. The scheme also has suggested social audit through Gram Sabha.

Types of work to be undertaken under NREGS

The NREGS document envisaged that focus of the scheme shall be on the following works in their order of priority:

- Water conservation and water harvesting
- Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation)
- Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works
- Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY)
- Renovation of traditional water bodies, including desilting of tanks
- Land development

- Flood control and protection works, including drainage in water logged areas rural connectivity to provide all-weather access; and
- Any other work, which may be notified by the central government in consultation with the state government.

NREGA in India and in Andhra Pradesh

According to the information of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India with regard to status of NREGS across India for the year 2011-12, a total of 12,36,78,008 households have been issued job cards and out of them 3,35,00,842 households have been provided employment. A total of 10089.52 lakhs of person days of employment was provided, of them Scheduled Caste are 2313.06, Scheduled Tribes 1504.92, women 5484.03 and others 6271.51. So far 5,99,682 works have been completed out of the 7165538 works undertaken.

The programme of NREGS was first launched in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February, 2006 by the Honorable Prime Minister of India. At present NREGS is being implemented in 22 districts (excluding Hyderabad).

As per the information provided by the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh (2011-2012), in 22 districts of the state (excluding Hyderabad) 2,91,28,697 persons were registered in the NREGS, of them 1,49,53,158 are males and 1,41,75,539 are females. Further of the total males and females who registered, 37,40,802 and 46,20,375 are respectively working. Out of the total female workers in the state highest number of them are found in Nalgonda district followed by Warangal, Vizianagarm, Srikakulam, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam (Table No.1).

Table No. 1: Gender wise work and wage earning in Andhra Pradesh- District wise (for the year 2011-2012)

S No	District	Male registered	Female registered	Male working	Female working	Male wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	Female wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	Male average	Female average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Adilabad	5,68,332	5,69,505	2,03,632	2,21,653	6364.99	6997.75	107.97	104.99
2	Anantapur	9,48,255	8,73,625	2,24,266	2,33,772	9740.98	10793.46	108.32	105.53
3	Chittoor	7,43,754	6,86,444	1,31,125	1,55,334	4595.82	5926.60	96.91	92.99
4	East Godavari	6,85,609	5,53,195	2,28,455	2,15,197	7272.02	8027.92	104.35	103.26
5	Guntur	6,80,419	6,35,848	1,44,025	1,53,611	3545.72	3748.78	111.05	107.66
6	Kadapa	6,03,925	5,82,609	1,22,137	1,71,582	4008.24	6645.41	92.86	90.18
7	Karimnagar	7,42,120	7,40,849	1,56,692	2,61,815	2988.01	6084.41	100.57	99.35
8	Khammam	7,00,892	6,84,290	1,69,241	2,07,994	4804.95	6179.28	99.27	95.39
9	Krishna	5,97,952	5,58,188	1,52,311	1,61,956	3226.10	3852.15	106.11	102.94
10	Kurnool	8,96,750	8,17,377	2,48,588	2,77,570	7977.25	9565.21	96.02	94.39
11	Mahabubnagar	10,37,303	9,59,473	2,20,811	2,96,649	6103.90	9118.03	95.67	95.01
12	Medak	6,49,615	5,98,329	1,70,748	2,09,626	4256.27	5981.71	98.46	96.62
13	Nalgonda	10,16,939	9,76,429	2,31,675	3,67,363	5226.61	9615.26	92.69	92.65
14	Nizamabad	5,41,082	5,53,902	1,32,539	1,87,466	3039.65	4726.66	97.91	95.12
15	Prakasam	6,52,400	6,46,325	1,08,283	2,59,897	5259.73	7808.96	87.97	86.82
16	Ranga Reddy	3,80,996	3,45,423	1,12,369	1,21,982	4113.87	4931.85	104.33	103.62
17	S.P.S Nellore	5,92,906	5,49,796	1,45,331	1,59,078	5978.97	4922.09	100.29	96.33
18	Srikakulam	5,46,424	5,87,085	2,12,845	3,00,533	8288.65	13547.33	92.57	89.84
19	Visakhapatnam	5,87,627	5,60,390	2,52,922	2,59,281	10120.14	10816.73	107.97	104.29
20	Vizianagaram	5,81,274	5,99,916	2,47,902	3,01,017	10524.03	14328.92	91.29	87.25
21	Warangal	8,83,223	8,84,212	2,53,507	3,41,037	4972.90	7602.30	94.69	92.83
22	West Godavari	6,39,912	5,51,796	1,49,206	1,40,083	3613.52	3741.09	104.11	100.99
-	Total	1,53,00,910	1,45,14,926	41,08,610	50,03,496	124019.29	165151.92	99.07	95.82

Source:Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development,
Government of the A.P

Table No.2: MGNREGS in Andhra Pradesh at a glance (as on 1st Feb, 2012)

S.No	Details	2011-12	Cumulative
1	Total job cards issued	2.4 (in Lakhs)	1.23 (in crore)
2	Number of works completed (in Lakhs)	2.8	18.30
3	Total expenditure (in crores)	3494	17,786
4	Number of households provided wage employment (in lakhs)	45.80	91.30
5	Number of individuals provided wage employment (in lakhs)	82.50	183.00
6	Total person days generated (in crores)	22.40	144.60
7	Total number of households completed 100 days (in lakhs)	5.80	38.30
8	Average number of days employment provided per household	48.80	-
9	Average wage rate per day per person	97.30	90.70

Source: Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh (2011-2012),

Table No.3: Gender wise work and wage earning in Kurnool – Mandal wise (for the year 2011-2012)

S No	Mandal	Male registered	Female registered	Male working	Female working	Male wage (Rs.2n Lakh)	Female wage (Rs.2n Lakh)	Male average	Female average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Adoni	26,285	25,025	8,200	8,949	324.43	274.59	95.75	92.83
2	Alagadda	15,640	14,583	3,137	4,354	63.18	95.35	92.27	88.67
3	Alur	13,643	12,825	4,062	4,346	230.87	265.21	106.75	103.2
4	Asperu	22,900	21,014	7,535	7,692	271.85	275.64	100.29	97.88
5	Atmakur	17,293	16,198	3,762	4,491	104.27	141.07	92.22	91.89
6	Banaganapalle	17,468	17,121	3,261	4,835	84.58	147.11	99.19	87.63
7	Bandi Atmakur	13,470	12,955	2,841	3,065	68.28	111.48	100.69	108.26
8	Botthamcherla	16,378	16,075	2,960	3,601	109.64	235.41	102.15	101.94
9	C. Belegu	21,907	20,585	8,215	6,156	198.76	201.63	92.38	89.8
10	Chagalamarri	12,287	12,449	2,485	3,067	81.76	71.01	86.9	85.18
11	Chippagiri	10,829	9,211	4,166	4,548	236.90	258.75	107.81	104.65
12	Davanakonda	25,317	23,225	8,922	6,460	265.22	249.60	93.91	91.9
13	Dhona	25,621	22,556	8,921	7,205	208.42	232.72	97.77	95.48
14	Dornipadu	10,020	8,782	3,669	3,670	98.67	98.99	95.7	92.28
15	Gachipada	13,173	10,347	3,140	3,563	103.83	136.89	98.29	92.23
16	Goneganalla	25,764	23,499	8,548	8,073	232.17	199.55	94.38	82.15
17	Gopada	10,836	10,230	3,636	4,120	78.69	93.48	109.04	105.52
18	Gurur	12,120	12,440	4,127	4,584	124.67	135.00	98.44	95.23
19	Halehara	14,931	13,512	4,901	3,176	283.85	329.74	101.76	98.15
20	Holeganada	13,088	12,733	5,011	5,374	169.09	192.76	96.63	93.86
21	Jupadu Bangalaw	14,664	11,511	3,599	3,810	114.70	131.77	106.55	103.81
22	Kallur	21,767	18,624	5,214	6,904	154.47	247.72	96.77	94.77
23	Kodamur	23,030	20,334	8,103	7,069	184.58	216.60	80.78	78.72
24	Kollur	9,253	8,484	1,881	2,782	44.52	85.47	91.88	90.04
25	Kollingur	11,850	12,782	2,885	6,162	89.95	214.82	92.18	96.88
26	Koosgi	20,777	19,213	4,699	4,663	153.56	141.26	93.43	88.41
27	Kothapalle	12,706	10,706	2,796	3,015	86.40	98.26	108.65	107.8
28	Kovvhalam	22,881	21,672	6,154	6,427	253.32	268.11	91.84	89.81
29	Krishnagiri	22,690	17,830	6,884	6,702	173.96	173.62	101.73	99.01
30	Kurnool	26,776	22,720	3,029	4,066	93.30	160.78	97.58	92.71
31	Maddur East	14,840	11,795	4,293	4,266	178.66	199.67	90.64	92.77
32	Mahanandi	7,588	6,662	1,096	1,265	29.92	41.50	111.38	110.09
33	Mantrelayam	17,846	16,189	4,773	5,241	114.51	132.09	84.86	82.03
34	Midhur	15,358	15,768	3,884	3,897	135.51	105.83	105.56	104.02
35	Nandavaram	19,003	18,746	9,187	9,714	228.70	239.53	78.8	76.88
36	Nasir Kollur	18,780	18,261	2,189	3,568	89.69	115.29	96.49	96.74
37	Nandyal	13,741	12,047	2,480	3,221	70.14	117.47	117.86	116.3
38	Orval	19,062	18,550	5,129	6,367	173.94	260.35	104.04	101.78
39	Oval	13,211	13,082	3,331	3,217	90.17	156.40	103.78	100.75
40	Pajiyala	12,339	10,762	2,193	2,217	54.45	86.27	96.27	93.67
41	Pavulapadu	16,911	15,321	4,317	4,775	99.04	116.01	108.12	106.48
42	Pilrayam	12,660	10,369	2,801	3,207	96.17	154.82	100.76	100.65
43	Pottikonda	20,129	18,817	8,106	8,667	299.50	293.58	93.39	89.74
44	Poosully	28,120	25,788	8,407	6,779	234.61	269.23	102.33	101.28
45	Podda Kadabur	22,158	18,330	7,744	7,469	247.98	234.93	89.18	85.97
46	Radravaram	14,011	16,127	2,988	3,470	69.37	41.43	113.64	111.45
47	Sanjamala	11,348	10,489	2,467	3,693	69.57	123.85	98.55	95.71
48	Sirvi	12,614	10,940	2,999	2,969	56.62	85.75	102.85	99.38
49	Tuggali	22,065	21,373	10,649	10,448	363.35	358.77	90.44	87.95
50	Uyyalawada	9,678	9,901	2,744	3,119	70.26	87.98	97.61	95.42
51	Veldurthi	22,052	19,476	5,980	6,467	229.46	276.90	92.18	91.18
52	Velugala	12,600	12,564	5,190	5,740	189.55	232.99	105.73	104.13
53	Yemmiganur	20,881	18,295	8,971	8,113	251.86	213.69	85.42	84.92
-	Total	8,96,759	8,17,377	2,48,588	2,77,578	7977.25	9565.21	94.02	94.39

Source:Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development, Government of the A.P

**Table No.4:Gender wise work and wage earning in Vizianagaram – Mandal wise
(for the year 2011-2012)**

S No	Mandal	Male registered	Female registered	Male working	Female working	Male wage (Rs.In Lakhs)	Female wage (Rs.In Lakhs)	Male average	Female average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Badangi	15,116	15,004	5,440	6,031	194.76	230.38	88.66	86.59
2	Balajipeta	20,109	20,644	8,487	9,691	204.13	331.75	83.89	81.62
3	Bhoghpuram	9,646	10,948	5,298	5,269	156.54	170.73	90.37	85.48
4	Bobbili	20,887	22,270	8,025	10,240	256.09	357.81	80.96	77.52
5	Bondapalle	18,586	18,968	7,821	10,098	342.24	508.57	88.01	85.48
6	Cheepurupalle	19,292	19,328	8,496	10,139	316.43	445.88	91.43	88.21
7	Dattatreya	19,648	19,920	9,325	10,838	351.36	410.23	87.75	83.60
8	Denkada	12,164	12,775	2,967	5,229	124.08	200.30	87.08	81.72
9	Gejapattnagararam	16,738	17,465	7,689	8,891	266.09	328.86	80.98	76.82
10	Gariyada	21,600	21,818	10,289	11,967	433.72	599.70	89.22	83.8
11	Gariyadi	19,695	19,658	8,326	10,100	342.70	406.56	92.16	90.07
12	Garupubilli	16,628	17,107	6,871	8,238	194.96	253.96	81.51	76.82
13	Gummakolohmpuram	14,808	15,560	8,841	8,204	566.71	546.27	100.46	99.05
14	Guruk	22,263	22,871	7,938	11,883	367.70	652.21	97.81	90.6
15	Jani	18,685	18,285	6,991	8,494	198.20	272.31	85.15	80.74
16	Jayarama Valasa	19,375	20,120	9,641	9,699	477.21	494.39	97.56	95.79
17	Komarada	16,730	17,031	7,540	9,211	318.26	415.37	92.11	88.99
18	Kothavalasa	12,950	14,288	5,144	6,126	180.92	460.76	103.96	98.31
19	Kurupam	15,770	16,105	8,803	8,227	391.53	539.58	102.33	101.18
20	Lakshavarapukota	13,884	14,448	5,839	6,129	206.44	344.18	84.39	81.29
21	Makkuvu	12,525	13,087	6,211	6,777	272.21	321.71	93.26	90.18
22	Mentada	14,689	15,248	7,913	8,783	290.21	339.11	91.15	87.56
23	Narainasuddam	19,763	20,773	9,228	10,629	338.23	425.06	82.47	80.28
24	Nellimarla	19,593	20,271	8,309	10,939	297.23	563.55	74.44	72.2
25	Pachipenta	14,626	14,933	6,394	6,267	367.51	347.76	101.52	98.63
26	Parvatipuram	19,587	20,531	8,498	10,597	429.96	536.85	97.83	93.87
27	Puzospattinga	17,903	19,541	6,983	10,173	196.18	464.84	85.19	83.38
28	Ramabhadrapuram	12,815	13,550	5,244	6,365	245.78	309.33	100.91	96.58
29	Saku	17,382	16,281	6,288	5,573	299.10	286.51	97.71	95.98
30	Sethunagararam	19,161	20,727	10,428	12,568	404.31	539.97	86.43	83.26
31	Sranganarapukota	20,293	19,288	7,701	8,644	278.29	330.26	95.06	90.64
32	Theerlam	20,158	21,138	10,346	11,889	500.06	601.67	92.63	90.25
33	Vepada	16,292	16,330	6,397	7,241	279.53	357.35	92.44	88.5
34	Vidyanagararam	11,510	12,799	5,430	7,198	145.34	421.76	92.4	90.18
=	Total	5,61,274	5,99,918	2,47,902	3,01,017	18824.03	14328.92	91.29	87.25

Source:Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development,
Government of the A.P

**Table No.5: Gender wise work and wage earning in Nalgonda – Mandal wise
(for the year 2011-2012)**

S No	Mandal	Male registered	Female registered	Male working	Female working	Male wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	Female wage(Rs.In Lakhs)	Male average	Female average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Aler	17,542	12,279	1,645	5,117	34.37	101.69	100.03	99.21
2	Arumala	21,273	20,175	4,072	6,020	60.18	107.43	80.21	82.73
3	Aynalur (N)	19,732	18,888	3,210	5,029	36.70	94.94	81.34	82.94
4	Aynalur (M)	24,526	13,761	3,023	6,136	82.87	132.47	112.18	109.68
5	Bhuvanagiri	14,432	11,620	1,942	6,264	46.54	158.29	106.62	104.45
6	Bhimegar	5,662	8,740	460	2,249	3.08	43.67	107.23	104.05
7	Bonnabaramanam	8,500	8,320	661	2,756	26.44	128.08	111.79	111.2
8	Chandam Pot	22,969	21,087	5,618	5,960	81.72	95.51	81.13	79.28
9	Chandur	15,961	14,725	2,722	5,113	67.62	175.42	98.81	96.04
10	Chilukur	15,347	15,107	4,874	6,650	60.60	86.55	95.72	93.44
11	Chinthu Pale	18,106	16,860	5,569	7,577	213.79	321.20	98.11	97.54
12	Chityala	19,440	18,232	1,076	4,652	19.59	119.08	105.9	104.48
13	Chilveena	18,976	18,154	4,762	7,102	107.48	207.52	92.96	90.61
14	Choutuppal	15,616	15,157	1,640	6,359	40.27	247.21	105.69	106.23
15	Dameracherla	23,810	23,798	8,160	9,619	281.27	377.94	94.89	94.87
16	Devarekondu	27,421	24,006	6,662	11,614	340.67	558.67	87.15	85.15
17	Garkle Pale	19,233	18,872	3,319	5,277	30.12	48.80	91.06	90.73
18	Guntala	11,860	12,898	4,867	6,677	96.34	179.75	102.05	99.11
19	Gundla Pale	17,123	16,200	5,206	6,741	129.69	179.71	86.61	82.54
20	Gurrapadu	17,526	16,966	5,006	6,730	158.50	246.54	89.98	86.13
21	Hazarnagar	11,941	10,173	2,892	5,258	17.28	34.69	81.42	80.85
22	Jaji Reddi Gudem	26,072	13,133	3,236	5,281	64.65	129.28	94.07	90.2
23	Kangal	16,315	15,729	5,028	7,152	84.80	151.79	88.67	88.79
24	Kattapogor	17,921	16,216	2,491	5,182	49.28	137.69	97.12	96.21
25	Kathapalle	14,604	14,059	3,601	5,498	57.31	85.06	83.86	79.67
26	Kodam	28,310	28,374	4,857	9,005	54.65	125.40	82.70	81.11
27	M Turkapalle	10,322	9,599	2,010	3,893	33.04	118.22	102.96	99.04
28	Mari Bada	15,910	14,330	6,444	7,480	293.34	360.86	93.96	89.37
29	Mattapalle	15,358	14,965	3,213	4,706	49.02	82.87	86.70	83.90
30	Mella Charvu	24,549	23,598	5,265	6,565	115.92	142.66	108.43	102.35
31	Miryalaguda	21,399	20,019	3,538	5,950	51.85	104.37	96	93.36
32	Mothey	17,443	16,589	3,801	5,251	70.81	104.48	90.5	93.67
33	Mothkur	19,496	17,846	4,993	7,490	136.28	249.12	100.48	97.63
34	Munugala	16,810	16,378	4,961	6,804	75.41	122.47	87.08	84.93
35	Munugode	14,327	13,706	3,192	5,366	96.27	102.20	122.47	116.52
36	Nadigudem	13,536	14,765	6,043	7,383	107.14	148.19	80.82	78.4
37	Nakrethi	13,964	13,311	3,064	4,792	69.57	121.55	93.63	92.95
38	Nalgonda	17,694	16,913	2,129	5,035	37.44	129.98	107.38	109.57
39	Nannala	17,000	15,283	5,241	7,649	180.09	362.34	91.35	89.82
40	Narayanapur	14,516	13,427	3,022	5,728	84.16	189.96	113.72	110.34
41	Narotipalle	15,815	14,324	2,617	5,500	65.34	103.69	104.12	101.06
42	Nered Cherla	19,388	19,373	6,535	6,732	102.47	143.53	93.93	90.74
43	Nilavaram	15,879	15,214	4,925	6,788	136.84	213.63	92.36	90.25
44	Nuthukal	19,270	18,769	4,201	6,901	83.23	141.01	105.78	101.35
45	Podda Adinaripalle	18,894	18,736	6,474	7,772	158.79	218.06	74.59	74.54
46	Poddavuru	20,101	19,318	5,776	6,472	198.75	238.12	78.25	75.09
47	Ponpahad	18,130	18,048	3,827	7,536	96.89	153.79	85.78	83.05
48	Pothampalle	10,913	10,736	768	3,829	13.67	95.95	109.81	107.13
49	Rajapet	12,863	11,669	2,774	4,577	50.53	84.86	100.23	97.73
50	Ramannapeta	14,984	14,623	2,771	6,634	50.57	158.15	95.32	94.53
51	Seligsuram	17,814	16,854	4,531	6,464	94.08	142.55	109.43	103.82
52	Suryapet	17,710	17,210	5,022	8,337	92.60	188.29	72.86	71.61
53	Thippenthi	19,394	18,868	2,597	5,873	52.88	136.25	101.98	100.72
-	Total	10,18,938	8,78,428	2,31,675	3,67,383	8228.61	9815.26	92.88	92.88

Source:Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development,
Government of the A.P

Institutional Arrangements for works implementation

At the district level, Zilla Parishad is the agency responsible for finalizing the district plans and monitoring and supervising the Employment Guarantee Scheme in the district. The Zilla Parishad prepares (ZP), Employment Guarantee Scheme plans not exceeding 10 per cent of the value of the works. The District Collector has been designated as the District Programme Coordinator (DPC). The DPC is responsible for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the scheme in the district. As per the guidelines, the District Programme Co-ordination Office, called 'Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) unit is established in the district and this unit is headed by Additional District Programme Co-ordinator and Project Director (DWMA) and the unit has three functional wings namely Works, MIS and Funds.

The Additional District Programme Co-ordinator (APDC) works under the direction and control of the DPC and as the head of EGS unit at the district level, he is responsible for overall programme management at the district level. His specific responsibilities include disseminate all government orders and instructions from Commissionerate of Rural Development relating to the scheme to all the line departments and his own staff at the mandal level, manage information system, assist DPC in the management of funds, co-ordinate with line departments etc.

The EGS-unit established in the office of APDC has Additional Project Director (APD) and he is responsible for capacity building and financial matters. The APD also performs the role of system administrator for the Mandal Computer Centres (MCCs) and here the task of the APD is to maintain the database as required by state level administrator for the computer programme.

The EGS-unit at the district level also has programme managers-one for five or six mandals and the main job of the programme manager is to liaise between the Programme Officer at the mandal level and APDC.

At the mandal level, the MPDO is the overall in-charge of NREGS implementation and he is assisted by Assistant Programme Officer (APO) and a computer operator to look after the MCC. The Mandal Engineer serves as the EGS Engineer and he is responsible for preparation of detailed estimates for works worth more than Rs. 2 lakh, give technical sanction for works up to Rs. 2 lakh and super

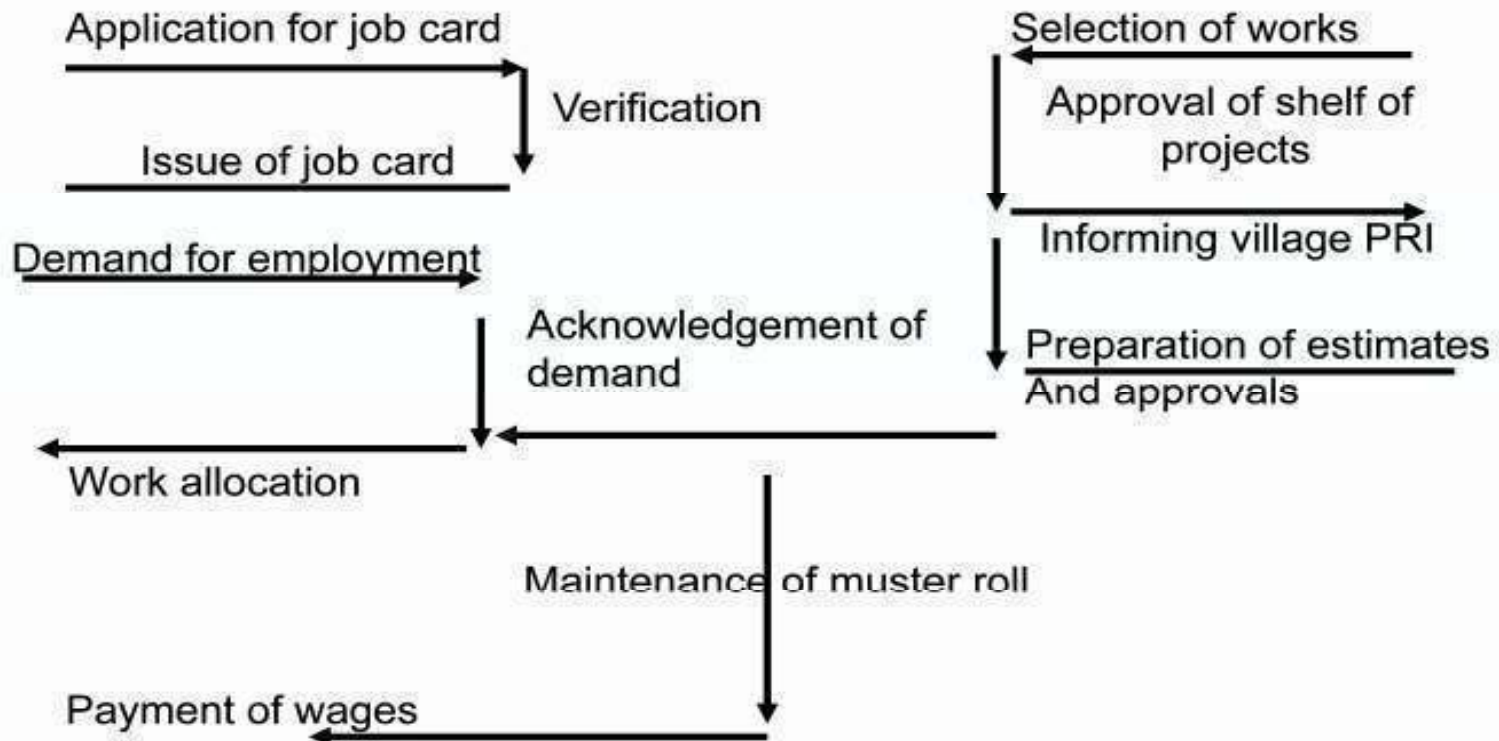
check all the works for final payment. Below the mandal level, the posts created are that of Technical Assistant (TA) and Field Assistant (FA). The jurisdiction of the Technical Assistant who is attached to the EGS Engineer at the mandal level, is a cluster of Gram panchayats ranging from three to nine (GPs) and his main responsibilities include preparation of estimates for works up to Rs. 2 lakh in the standard templates, supervision of works and support the field assistants of the gram panchayats, check measurement (100 per cent) on alternate weeks. Another important function of the technical assistant is to ensure the quality of works undertaken under NREGS besides to check measure the work done and muster roll every alternate week.

The field assistant at the GP level assists the panchayat secretary in the implementation of NREGS. His responsibilities include the measurement of work done and record in measurement book and close the muster roll at the end of each week. He /she reads out the entries in the measurement book and muster roll to the workers at the worksite.

'Mate' is a person elected from the Shram Shakti groups of the workers of NREGS. The responsibilities of 'Mates' consists of mobilizing the labour force, taking attendance, supervising the work and assisting field assistants . Further the 'Mate' also has to work along with the labour.

The labour who are working in NREGS works is formed into groups called 'shram shakti groups'. The group members consists of local villagers. To become a member in this group from SCs and STs one should have participated for a minimum of 10 days in NREGS work in a year, for others minimum number of days of work is 20. The shram shakti groups now and then organize their own meetings to discuss about their plan of work and problems.

Key Processes



Women in NREGS

Women's empowerment was not among the original intention of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), and is not among its main aims. However, provisions like priority for women in the ratio of one-third of total workers, equal wages for men and women and creches for the children of women workers were made in the Act, with the view of ensuring that rural women benefit from the scheme in a certain manner. Provisions like work within a radius of five kilometres from the house, absence of supervisor and contractor, and flexibility in terms of choosing period and months of employment were not made exclusively for women, but have, nevertheless, been conducive for rural women.

Women's participation in NREGS is much more than previous employment generation programmes like Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS). Further participation of women in NREGS is much more than the 33% share and this seems to have occurred spontaneously. Women's participation in NREGS varies across states. Their participation in terms of person days is relatively high in states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Orissa and in other states.

The Present study

After India's Independence MGNREGS could be considered as the most important poverty alleviation programme in rural India as it envisages 100 days of employment to any one seeking for it within this rule that one-third of the employed under the scheme should be women with equal wages greatly helps the independence of the women and its consequences leading to their well being as well as empowerment. Due to this programme the women not only earn their own income but also likely to have control over the income leading to significant empowerment.

Further it gives them confidence to participate in decision making not only in their families but also outside. It is time to evaluate impact of NREGS on various aspects of women's participation in this programme besides evaluating their nature of work, day's of employment, equal wages, facilities at work sites etc. The present study is directed at understanding the nature of impact on women workers leading to empowerment.

Objectives of the present study

Following are the Objectives of the study

- To understand the socio-economic and demographic profile of the women engaged in NREGS and their families in the study area.
- To study the benefits accruing from the assets created through NREGS scheme and its impact on the socio-economic empowerment of women.
- To study the impact of wage parity on decision making capacity of rural women within the households as well as in the community.
- To examine the incidence of migration of women and their families before and after the introduction of NREGS in their areas.
- To suggest corrective measures for the social and economic development of women through NREGS in particular and effective implementation in general.

Methodology

Universe of the study

The present study was carried in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Sample of the study

The state of Andhra Pradesh is socially and culturally divided into 3 regions – Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and Telangana. As per the information provided by the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh (2011-2012), all the NREGS implementation (22) districts region wise in the state were ranked on the basis of women participants in the NREGS. Accordingly one district with highest number of women workers were selected from each region namely Kurnool from Rayalaseema region, Nalgonda from Telangana and Vizianagaram from Coastal Andhra. In the second stage from each of the selected district, two mandals with highest number of women workers were selected. In the third stage from each of the selected mandal five gram panchayats with highest number of women workers were selected and finally from each of the selected gram panchayat 20 women NREGS workers were randomly selected for the present study. The total sample frame of the present study is presented in table No.6.

Sources of data collection

Both primary and secondary data were collected and used in the study.

Method of data collection

❖ Tools used for collection of primary data

Structured interview schedule was developed and used to collect information from the selected sample respondents for the present study. The schedule deals with the socio-economic and demographic profile of the selected respondents and the impact of NREGS on the empowerment of women (copy of the schedule is enclosed in appendix).

In addition to the above, observation and focus group discussion was also carried out.

❖ Secondary data

Secondary data was collected from the websites of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Commissioner, Dept. of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, offices of the District Water Management Association (DWMA) of Vizianagaram, Kurnool and Nalgonda etc., for the study. Besides, literature and other relevant information were collected from various reports, books, journals, etc., for the study.

Data processing and analysis

The collected data was analysed keeping in view of the objectives of the present study. Simple statistical methods like 'Frequency of Percentage', were used in the analysis of the data.

Organization of the report

The report of the present study is divided into six chapters. First chapter deals with the background information of NREGS, its aims and objectives, institutional mechanism, status of NREGS in India and in Andhra Pradesh, total number of workers participated in NREGS work particularly women with reference to the state of Andhra Pradesh, objectives of the study, research methodology including sample of the study, sources of data and method of data collection, data processing and analysis etc. Second chapter presents a brief review of literature of the previous studies with reference to women participation in NREGS. Third chapter presents socio-economic profile of the respondents families. Fourth chapter deals with the profile of the respondents and impact of NREGS on the socio-economic conditions of women. Fifth chapter presents the summary and conclusions and last chapter (sixth) presents recommendations.

Table No.6: Total sample of the present study

S.No.	Name of the region	Name of the districts	Name of the mandals	Name of gram panchayats	Women workers selected				
1	Rayalaseema	Kurnool	1. Nandavaram	1.Muguthi	20				
				2.Kanakaveedu	20				
				3.Halaharvi	20				
				4.Nandavaram	20				
				5.Ibrahimpuram	20				
			2.Tuggali	1.Pagidiroy	20				
				2.Jonnagiri	20				
				3.Tuggali	20				
				4.Ratana	20				
				5.Subhashpuram	20				
				2.Total	100				
				2	Telangana	Nalgonda	1.Damerlacherla	1.Mulkacherla	20
								2. Adavi devula palli	20
3. K.J.Reddy colony	20								
4.Kalle pally	20								
5.Kesawapur	20								
2.Devarakonda	1.Mudigonda	20							
	2.Tatikole	20							
	3.Kolmunthala pahad	20							
	4. Turupu palli	20							
	5. Serepalli	20							
	3	Coastal Andhra	Vizianagaram				1.Gantyada	1.Narava	20
								2.Lakidam	20
								3.Budathana palli	20
4.Ramavaram				20					
5.Madhupada				20					
2.Sethanagaram				1.Pedabhoglia	20				
				2.Nidagallu	20				
				3.Lakshmipuram	20				
				4.Burga	20				
				5.Antipeta	20				
				Total	600				

Chapter - 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Few studies on participation of women in NREGS carried out by the scholars, social scientists, social activists, freelance journalists etc. are briefly reviewed in the following pages.

Institute of Social Studies Trust, Delhi conducted a study in the year 2006 on “Women and NREGA, in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa”. The study revealed that the proportion of eligible men and women are roughly the same, but in Rajasthan there are more women workers than men on the NREGA sites. A very high level of illiteracy was found among the females. The level of mobilization among the villagers has been studied through their affiliation with the membership groups. As far as awareness about NREGA is concerned, in Sirohi 50% of the sample came to know about the scheme through word of mouth and in Dhar it is 30%. In Sundargarh, 80% said they got to know from others. In Gulbarga all but one respondent said that this information had come from sarpanch.

In another study, in Dungarpur, Rajasthan, Kiran Bhatta (2006) noted that ‘since the men have migrated and the women are now at the work sites, where there are no childcare facilities, children are simply left at home alone.

Pradeep Baisakh (2007) in his article titled “ In Orissa NREGA is still a ray of hope” reported that an old woman named Uma Kahanr, Tarbha village of Boud District, Orissa who is engaged in NREGA scheme revealed that she got Rs.1850 for working about 20 to 25 days. From the earnings, she was able to repay some debts and met some consumption expenditure. Because of the regular work, she did not need to collect and sell wood everyday – a practice that was her major source of livelihood in the past.

Wada Na Todo Ahiyan (March, 2007) reviewing the Women’s Agenda in the National Common Minimum Programme –“Gender and Governance” concluded that NREGA provides women an opportunity to earn minimum wage, and lessens their largely unrecognized role in providing for and sustaining their families. The recognition of the problems they face in accessing the employment guarantee and

some creative thinking about how to deal with these would go a long way in extending the benefits of the Act to this fundamental section of the society. The Employment Guarantee Act if implemented well can serve as an important instrument to empower rural women. In spite of all its shortcomings, it is crucial that women make optimum use of NREGA.

Workshop on women's participation in NREGS organized at NIRD, Hyderabad in the year June, 18-19, 2007 by Dr. M.Thaha and Dr.A.V.Yadappanavar following are the recommendations have been made.

- The programme needs to ensure and redefine the definition of 'Household' by ensuring deserted women, widows, unmarried adult women/daughters in a family. They should also be considered as a part of the nuclear family and given an opportunity to participate in the programme.
- Separate Gram Sabhas may be organised for women to ensure their participation in planning and monitoring process.
- The VMCs may be constituted with 50 per cent of women in order to ensure women's participation in NREGS, involvement of Self-Help Groups/CBOs both regarding community mobilisation and creating awareness needs to taken up in a big way.
- Self-Help Groups which are structurally linked up from the gram panchayats to district may be involved in the issue of job cards, arrange for distribution of work related notices, arrange project meetings, maintain muster rolls, act as a mate, arrange work-site facilities, maintain repairs and sustain the supply and upkeep of implements, ensure maximum women's participation in works, creating awareness and active during social audit.

Ratna Bharali Talukdar (2008) in her study titled "NREGA Shines for Tripura Women" found that ever since the NREGA schemes have been implemented (Jirania block of West Tripura) the women have been able to augment their family income. Lack of job opportunities for women in the area in the past has made them remain at home. In such a situation, the NREGA projects have provided relief.

Studies undertaken by scholars like Narayanan (2008), Vijayanand (2008) and Sharif (2008) show that in spite of many limitations the National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has become a women's programme. Narayanan and Vijayanand have restricted their study to one state each, but Sharif has studied seven states. Their common conclusion is that the Act has a positive impact on women's employment opportunities and intra-house hold bargaining power.

Navjyoti Jandu (2008) in the study "Employment Guarantee and Women's Empowerment in Rural India" found that Employment at NREGA worksites seems to have raised both enthusiasm and expectations among women workers. Women workers unanimously affirmed that the benefits from NREGA employment were high and that they would like to get more days of work in a year. The study indicates that women workers are more confident about their role as contributors to family expenditure and in decision making. They are also becoming more assertive about their space in the public sphere. Women workers were, by and large, receiving their wages in person, rather than through husbands or other proxies. The increased income locally available through NREGA work, they felt, was helping ensure at least two regular meals a day. One of the most positive trends in all the districts studied has been the impact of NREGA on migration patterns. 73 percent of the respondents said that neither they nor their family members had migrated in 2007. NREGA seems to have created reasons and opportunities for people to work and remain in their own villages. The strengthening of this perception in rural areas can have significant impact on questions of security, health and children's education, all of which are often compromised in one way or another during migration.

'Kudumbasree', a sub set of Panchayat, provides useful lessons in implementation of NREGA programme in Kerala. Under Kudumbasree every household below poverty line is organized into a Neighbourhood Group (NHG) at the local level consisting of 15 to 40 households, with each household being represented only by a woman. These NHGs help in better achievement of NREGA schemes. For example, a systematic effort is made at promotion of transparency, explaining the nature of work, expected out turn, and the likely wages when the work is under taken (Vijayananda and Jithendra, 2008: Vijaykumar and Thomas, 2008, Abraham, 2008).

A number of studies reported a drastic reduction in distress migration of women and men as a result of available NREGA employment in their villages (Jha,

Gaiha, Shankar, 2008; Ambasta, Shankar, Shah, 2008). In Jharkhand, one of the worst performing states in NREGA, it was observed that "the transition to a rights-based framework has led to a major decline in labour exploitation in rural public works. Wages are higher than they used to be, delays in wage payment are shorter, productivity norms are more reasonable, and complaints of worksite harassment are rare. NREGA is a valuable and valued opportunity for the rural poor, and particularly for women, to earn a living wage in a dignified manner", (Dreze, The Hindu, 19th July 2008).

Ram Lubhaya, Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Govt. of Rajasthan in his article, "The Implementation of NREGA Experience" (www.rdprd.gov.in, 15th sept, 2008) presents the following findings.

- ❖ 69% workers are women.
- ❖ Women feel empowered: better food, nutrition, clothes.
- ❖ Women receive equal wage as men.
- ❖ NREGA assets would address women related issues such as fuel wood, water, fodder etc.

National Federation of Indian Women (2008) conducted a study titled "A study on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act," and its conclusions are:

- ❖ Women workers are getting empowered through NREGS as visible in the form of growing contributions to household expenditure, bearing cost of children's education and health care.
- ❖ Women have also started to appear more actively in the rural public spheres as they take up their work and responsibilities.
- ❖ There is a general trend of low migration in the areas where assessment was carried out and workers have started to repay their debts.

The study further reveals that despite numerous problems, NREGA is a programme that has begun to make a difference in the lives of women. Further it is popular among the workers, who routinely ask if more work could be made available to them under the NREGA. Clearly, there is a massive demand for NREGA work, and the administration should respond to it by increasing the scale of employment.

With the exception of awareness about guaranteed employment for 100 days a year to each rural household, there is limited knowledge of operational guidelines for NREGA schemes, such as household registration, the job card distribution process, application for work and entitlement of worksite facilities tend to make NREGA provisions ineffective for the villagers in general, and women in particular. This gets further complicated by the strict segregation of tasks on a worksite; "women generally do the work of lifting (not digging) and they have dependence on men in the group"(Banerjee,2008:9).

C.Dheeraja, A.V.Yadappanvar, and N.Leelavathy (2008) carried out a study entitled "Gender sensitivity analysis of NREGS in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal". The conclusions of the study are presented below.

- ❖ Participation in the work plan, participation in gram sabhas and social audit, in men's participation is good but women's participation is less. On the whole the participation levels are high in relation with the awareness levels.
- ❖ With regard to discrimination, 7.70% percent women reported that they are facing discrimination, in the allocation of work.
- ❖ Harassment by the officials was reported by 1.3 percent men but not by women.
- ❖ Other than drinking water facility all other facilities which are mandatory are neglected. By design also there are no extra provisions for pregnant women in the programme and the respondents also reported the same.
- ❖ Special provisions may be made to provide opportunities for pregnant, single, differently abled and elderly women seeking employment,
- ❖ Banks/ Post Offices have not been involved in payment of wages in all the parts of the study area. However, female workers have preferred institutional payments.
- ❖ Most of women workers enjoyed a better status in the areas of food, clothing, health and education. However, they have little control over income and investment decisions
- ❖ Women are having lesser access and much lesser control over the resources. Gender Sensitivity programmes especially through culture and folk media to be taken up.

- ❖ In all the parts of the study area neither woman friendly works have been identified by the GP nor were SHG members informed to take part in planning process, which makes the programme gender insensitive
- ❖ There is no reservation / priority for women to work as POs, Supervisors or GRS under NREGS. It is essential to make the programme more gender sensitive and to increase the participation of women in the programme.
- ❖ Impact assessment of the programme should be done periodically with gender focus.

A survey of NREGA participants conducted by Sudha Narayanan (2008) in Villupuram district, Chennai, reveals that seventy percent of women respondents stated that, there were no child care facilities at the work sites, and eighty percent of mothers who left their children at home said that

- They would certainly bring their children to the worksite if a crèche was provided to them.
- The survey also reveals that while the anganwadi caters to the older children, it creates problems for women with infants, only five percent of surveyed women said that they left infants in anganwadis.
- Though NREGA plays an important role in providing employment to women, low level of awareness and absence of worksite facilities especially toilets and crèches can adversely affect women's participation.

M.Venugopal, who was a special reporter to the National Human Rights Commission, has carried out a study in the year 2009 in one of the districts of Andhra Pradesh the implementation of NREGA. According to him the single woman does indeed lose out for the reason that she is often isolated. It is not easy to find a male partner for work - something worksite officials demand.

All India Democratic Women Association (AIDWA) has setup a commission in the year 2009 related to women's participation in the NREGA. The commission expressed concern over high productivity norms under NREGA, which failed to provide women even with minimum wages. The commission also took note of the fact that unlike in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, where there is 40 percent presence of women in local bodies, in many other parts of the country the role of the women functionaries in panchayats was greatly undermined.

Anita Panot (2009) in her study entitled “Inclusion of Women in NREGA: The Challenges Ahead” concluded that the NREGA can never meet its objectives without the active participation of people in its implementation and it is here, that the Right to Information Act 2005 is an indispensable tool in the hands of the poor - to fight leakages, claim entitlements and make the NREGA meaningful for themselves. The gap between progressive laws and their implementation lay some possibilities of containing the fear, genuine or otherwise, of the NREGA becoming a victim of systematic corruption, thereby defeating the very purpose for which it was implemented. The NREGA can become a major instrument for galvanising panchyati raj institutions in India. But how far this actually happens will depend a great deal on the mobilization of disadvantaged groups like women, dalits, adivasis, and the poor. Without their mobilization and empowerment, the full socio- political potential of the act will not be realized.

Reetika Khera and Nandini Nayak (2009) in their article entitled “What works against women” published in “Front line” in the year 2009 (Volume 26 – issue 01, Jan, 03-16) reveals five important barriers to womens participation in NREGA.

- First, in many areas there are tenacious social norms against women working outside the home. Women in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, reported that when there were more applicants than could be accommodated at a worksite, they were turned away to make way for men. Some of them also faced verbal sexual harassment – they were teased, ridiculed or verbally abused by male labourers and other villagers.
- The second big hurdle is the lack of child-care facilities. Lack of these facilities can be crippling for women, especially those with breastfeeding babies.
- Third, the continued illegal presence of contractors at many worksites affects the availability of work and its benefits for women. In some places, the presence of contractors actively impacted women’s participation in NREGA work.
- Fourth, in some States productivity norms are too exacting because the “schedule of rates” is yet to be revised in line with NREGA norms.

- Fifth, delayed payments also come in the way of participation of poor women. Delays in wage payments make things particularly difficult for single women, who cannot afford to wait as they are the sole earners in the family. When the wages do not come on time, they are often forced to return to previous, less-preferred forms of employment.

Much of this is changing, and participation of women in the NREGA is certainly improving. But there are also new challenges. One of them is the introduction of wage payments through banks. In most places, only one bank account is opened per job card, and generally the account is opened in the name of a male member of the family. This means women will have to rely on men to withdraw their wages. Ideally, there should be one account per registered NREGA worker or at least joint bank accounts instead of men-only accounts. Even better would be for every individual worker (man or woman) to have his or her own job card, bank account, and entitlement to 100 days of work.

Institute for Human Development and UNIFEM organized workshop on “Engendering NREGA Womens Empowerment through Guaranteed Employment” on 31st August, 2009 in New Delhi, following points emerged from the workshop.

- ❖ NREGA was not envisioned as a women’s empowerment programme but still women took advantage of this programme.
- ❖ The opportunity taken by a large number of women indicates a preference for “government work” which provides dignity and higher wages than available in the market.
- ❖ NREGA implementation in the ongoing phase could be strengthened by providing worksite facilities, e.g., shade, safe drinking water and to some extent child care facilities.
- ❖ Some “gender-neutral measures” such as increase in participation of women in planning and social audits of NREGA implementation, in turn, will create an opportunity for women in the management of assets.

According to a study carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Public Interest Foundation (PIF) (2009) on “NREGS”, in many cases, there was discrimination against Scheduled Caste Women and

Disabled. The northern region of the country in particular, has extremely low levels of women participation.

Varsha Joshi of Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (2009) “Evaluated the scheme of NREGA in Rajasthan”. The study was commissioned by the Union Ministry for Rural Development in the year 2008. The findings of the study reveal that the Act has shown great results in the rural areas in the fields of economic empowerment, team work, encouraged women in villages to come out of their veil and work, it has also made a difference by bridging the caste bias in rural areas. The study brings forth an interesting fact that women outnumber men when it comes to participation in NREGA. Women account for 68% of NREGA workforce outnumbering the men who stand at 32%. With the money they earn, a large chunk said they use it for the development of their girl child by investing in their education, healthcare or even saving for their future. “Though this is not a direct benefit of the scheme but is a major contribution in girl child development. In regions like Ajmer a lot of girls from the Muslim Community, who otherwise prefer to stay indoors are coming forward to work as ‘Mates’ who are the first level supervisors on field”.

Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad (2009) carried out a study on NREGS in three districts of Andhra Pradesh. This study was sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and UNDP. The study found that except Guntur district where the women wage seekers preferred farm work, in the other two districts, they accounted for more than 30% of the active wage seekers, the participation of gram panchayats and intermediate PRIs remains marginal and unemployment allowance is out of reckoning.

WASSAN - Bhoomikendram (2009) conducted study on NREGS and presented their findings through the article entitled “Listening to Women’s Voices in NREGS”. This study was done based on the recognition that the NREGS as a scheme is itself being implemented in a context which is already marked by interlocking dimensions of inequality in terms of caste, class and gender relations. Therefore any attempt to enhance women’s participation in this scheme must necessarily address this reality. Participation of women in the programme in terms of numbers alone therefore does not necessarily indicate significant changes in the system. One needs to move beyond and look at various aspects like identification and planning of works, tools, work site facilities, representation of women in the

programme functionaries, building their capacities and ensuring their participation in review and monitoring systems etc., The findings from the study further reinforces that reality, as the participation, role and convenience of women is relatively less in the above aspects. Hence, specific efforts are to be made to address those constraints and gaps (www.wassan.org).

Subhasish Dey, Arjun, S.Bedi (2010) conducted study entitled “The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Birbhum”. This study studied the functioning of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme between February 2006 and July 2009 in Birbhum district, West Bengal reveals that in order to serve as an effective “employer of last resort”, the programme should provide proportionately more job-days during the agricultural lean season and wages should be paid in a timely manner. Further the study scrutinises selected aspects of the functioning of NREGS in Birbhum district of West Bengal. The analysis shows that, in Birbhum, there is universal awareness about the NREGS, job cards have been made available to all those who have applied and NREGS-related information is well-maintained and relatively accessible. While there were long delays in wage payments during the first year of the programme, since then, the payment lag has declined and it is now in the range of 20 days. While this delay is not consistent with the provisions of the Act, it is a clear improvement from the 42-day lag observed in the first year. Notwithstanding these positive aspects, with respect to one of the main goals of the Act, that is, the provision of work when alternative employment opportunities are scarce, the NREGS is not fulfilling its role. The total number of employment days generated is about 20% of the legally mandated minimum and the days that are created are not more likely to be generated during the agricultural lean season. Indeed, the main concern in the case of Birbhum as in the case of the state is the limited capacity to generate employment.

Ashok Pankaj, Rukmini Tankha (2010) “Empowerment Effects of the NREGS on Women Workers: A Study in Four States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh)” concluded that empowerment of rural women has emerged as an unintended consequence of NREGS. Women have benefited more as workers than as a community. Women as individuals have gained because of their ability to earn independently, made possible due to the paid employment opportunity under NREGS. Independent and monetised earnings have increased consumption choices

and reduced economic dependence. This has helped women in registering their tangible contribution to the household's income. The overall effects of these have translated into an increased say for women in household affairs. Nevertheless, their increased presence in the gram sabha, the increasing number of women speaking out in the gram sabha, frequent interactions with government officials and PRI representatives, and access to banks and post offices are new developments. Additionally, the female mate system has reversed the traditional gender roles, albeit in a limited manner. Timely payment of wages through individual accounts of women workers encourages participation, and greater control over earnings. A daily wage system instead of wages as per the SOR has been helpful in realising minimum wages.

Ratna M. Sudarshan, Rina Bhattacharya and Grace Fernandez (2010) in their study entitled "Women's Participation in the NREGA: Some Observations from Fieldwork in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan" said that the broad objective of this study was to understand the reasons behind the wide variations in participation by women in the NREGA and the policy implications that follow. Based on fieldwork states where women form a high proportion of the workers in Kerala and Rajasthan, and one where the proportion was low, Himachal Pradesh, emerging policy implications include the need to develop a wider range of activities that acknowledge life cycle issues and bodily ability, in sparsely populated and remote areas a different design or even a cash transfer programme may be better able to meet the objective of assuring minimum income; creation of spaces that allow non-governmental local groups to be participants in implementation and outreach work and not just watchdogs; immediate revision of the schedule of rates and implementing the revised rates to allow better earning, or else payment on a daily wage basis.

Dr. C. Dheeraja and Dr.N.V.Madhuri (2010-11), carried out a research study entitled "Factors Facilitating Participation of Women in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS" in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar and West Bengal. The findings of the study are

- ❖ There are few factors which encourage and motivate the respondents to participate in MGNREGS. They are, support from the family, group arrangement, equal wages, minimum wages, timely wages, work taken up in

- their own land, higher than market wages, institutional payment, worksite facilities, timely employment, sensitivity of the officials, SHG membership etc.
- ❖ There are few factors which form as constraints or obstacles for the respondents to participate in MGNREGS even though they are willing to work. Out of such factors, untimely employment, delayed payments, health problems, rigid timings are few. Household work load, own agricultural works, wages less than market wages, unequal wages, gender and caste discrimination, worksite harassment, insensitivity of the officials, problems in getting employment, officials not able to provide employment, lack of mandatory worksite facilities, hard work and distance to worksite etc.
 - ❖ In all the parameters of quality of life, majority of the respondents reported moderate change; however the outcomes varied across the sample districts.
 - ❖ Any development programme will impact not only the quality of living of the beneficiary but also the factors contributing to the empowerment within and outside the environment women deal with. Few indicators of empowerment like leadership qualities, mobilising skills, negotiation skills, decision making skills, financial management skills, resource mobilisation, political participation, mobility, membership in VDOs, self-confidence, competence and self-esteem were measured posing few questions before the participation in MGNREGS. An attempt was made to score the responses of the respondents for the outcomes and the changes that took place within and outside environment of women due to participation in MGNREGS. The average score was 11.9 per cent before participation in MGNREGS and increased to 47.4 per cent with participation in MGNREGS.

Samarthan Center for Development Support, Bhopal (2010) conducted study entitled "Impact Assessment of MGNREGS in Madhya Pradesh" sponsored by Poverty Monitoring and Policy Support Unit (PMPSU), State Planning Commission, Madhya Pradesh. The study concluded that the majority of the women respondents are in favour of continuation of MGNREGS and also support the suggestion that increase in facilities and appropriate provision of prescribed support services such as Creche, shelter, timely break, less labour intensive tasks and user-friendly tools etc would further encourage them to come forward and participate in the scheme with

greater motivation.

Amitava Roy (2010) in his article in 'Outlook' weekly magazine reported that a woman named Bhamori, a native of Sribalaji Village in Nagaur district of Rajasthan told that she earned Rs. 100 per day under NREGA scheme and she opened savings account at the local post office. "Over 67% of total days of work generated by NREGA in Rajasthan were utilized a minimum of 33% work for them", CEO of Nagaur District Rural Development Authority S.S. Pawa said that earlier villagers had to migrate to states like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka to work in fields and could save very little, now women can stay at home and afford two square meals by working under the Central Rojgar Yojana Projects. 'Manju Parihar', a woman, aged 30 working under NREGA scheme saved some money in a bank and can plan for the education of her son.

NDTV correspondent (November 29, 2010) reported that Farm workers, 80% of who are women now prefer to work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme that pays much better. Large percentage of the women are preferring NREGA works than farms in Tamil Nadu because of low wages in farm work compared to NREGA.

Soumyendra Kishore Datta and Krishna Singh (2012) in their study of "Women's Job Participation in and Efficiency of NREGA Programme - Case Study of a Poor District in India" concluded that NREGA programme in India offers a lucrative opportunity for the rural women to participate in job market, earn income, and have control over life events. However women's decision for participation as well as share in NREGA jobs are influenced by various socio-economic factors like education, caste, religion, alternative income, health-related achievements, and fund availability.

A Parliamentary committee on 'Empowerment of Women in Rural Areas' in the year 2012 reported (outlook India, 18.05.2012) the following

- ❖ There was confusion over definition of the term 'households' in MGNREGA scheme which was being twisted to suit male heads of families which should be corrected.
- ❖ Due to this confusion the scheme was not reaching its targeted beneficiaries.
- ❖ Participation of women under the scheme was high in certain states but abysmally low in others and has also recommended for an inter-state

comparison-based study to evaluate the participation of women under the scheme.

- ❖ Government should sort out problems related to wage disbursement and shortage of technical staff related to MGNREGA. The committee suggested the central government to provide facilities like drinking water, shade for kids and first aid, as envisaged under MGNREGA.
- ❖ It also pushed for a greater proportion of women as 'mates' under the scheme as they were the ones who looked after the on-ground execution of the scheme. The parliamentary panel also suggested better monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Dr.S.M Jawed Akthar, N.P. Abdul Azeez and Md. Masroor Alam carried out a study entitled “Rural Women Empowerment through MNREGS work in the state of Kerala”. The study concluded that the concept of women’s empowerment got wider popularity and acceptance in Kerala with the launching of decentralized planning in the state. In Kerala, ‘Kudumbashree’ is playing a critical role in the implementation of the NREGS. Not only are women accessing the scheme in much larger proportions in all districts than the stipulated percentage (almost 80 percent of the workers in the scheme are women), ‘Kudumbashree’ groups are active in implementing the scheme with women ‘Mates’ and responsibility of overall supervision. ‘Kudumbashree’ and Panchayats have been very vigilant in spreading awareness about NREGA through radio, poster, television, notice board on gram sabhas, etc. The manifold functions taken up by ‘Kudumbasree’ members range from identification of projects to supervision of works and submission of records for wage disbursement. Women participation during the scheme execution in Kerala has been very high, considering the provisions of earmarking a minimum of 33 percent of employment generated to them. Out of total employment generated in the State, the women beneficiaries were included 65.8 percent in 2006-07 increased to 85.01 percent in 2008-09, 88.19 percent in 2009-10 and 90.36 percent in 2010-11. Empowerment of rural women has emerged as an unintended consequence of NREGS. Women have benefited more as workers than as a community. Women as individuals have gained because of their ability to earn independently, made possible due to the paid employment opportunity under NREGS.

Chapter – 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS FAMILIES

This chapter briefly presents the socio – economic profile of the respondents families in the sample districts of vizianagaram, Kurnool and Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh. The profile consists of age, sex, level of education, marital status, total number of members in the family, type of family, occupation, approximate annual income and expenditure, land ownership, household savings, size of savings, household debt position, size of debt and sources of credit, ownership of house, type of house, basic facilities such as number of rooms, bathrooms, toilets, electricity, sources of drinking water, medium of cooking etc., available in the houses of the sample families.

It may be mentioned here that as stated in the research methodology in the introduction chapter, the total sample of the study is 600 women respondents who are from the above mentioned three districts of Andhra Pradesh. Of the total 600 respondents 200 each are from vizianagaram, Kurnool and Nalgonda districts.

Sex

Table No. 1 presents sex wise distribution of total population of the 600 sample families. The total population of the sample respondents families is 2398. Out of the total 53.09% are males and the rest of 46.91% are females. Seen district wise sex wise division more or less similar in the 3 districts (Table No.1).

Age

Age wise distribution of the total population of the sample families is presented in Table No.2. The total population is distributed between below 10 years of age and 60 and above years. Out of the total population overwhelming majority i.e., 91.28% are found in the age group between below 10 to 40-50 years. Rest of them (8.72%) are found in the age group between 50-60 and 60 and above years. Seen district wise only small variation is noticed between the three districts (table No.2).

Table No.1: Sex wise distribution of the total population of the sample families

Sex	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Male	399	52.43	441	52.56	433	54.26	1273	53.09
female	362	47.57	398	47.44	365	45.74	1125	46.91
Total	761	100.00	839	100.00	798	100.00	2398	100.00

Table No.2: Age wise distribution of the total population of the sample families

Age (years)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 10	114	14.98	141	16.81	162	20.30	417	17.39
10-20	164	21.55	176	20.98	187	23.43	527	21.98
20-30	149	19.58	194	23.12	169	21.18	512	21.35
30-40	151	19.84	135	16.09	132	16.54	418	17.43
40-50	98	10.88	122	14.54	95	11.90	315	13.14
50-60	54	7.10	54	6.44	39	4.89	147	6.13
60 and above	31	4.07	17	2.03	14	1.75	62	2.59
Total	761	100.00	839	100.00	798	100.00	2398	100.00

Marital Status

Table No. 3 shows the marital status wise distribution of the total population. As seen from the table 56.34% of the total are married, seen district wise more than 50% are married in all the 3 districts. 40.03% of the total are unmarried and more or less same status is found in the three districts (Table No. 3).

Number of members in the families

Table No. 4 presents the information on number of members in the families of the respondents. Out of the total families 35% have four members each followed by 22.83% five members, 18% have three members, 11.83% have two members and 9.50% have six members. Only a negligible percentage of the families have seven members, of them one each from Vizianagaram and Nalgonda and the rest 6 are from Kurnool district. Three, four and five member families are large in percentage in the total sample as well as in the three districts (Table No. 4).

When examined average size of the family for the total sample families comes to four persons and the same for Vizianagaram is 3.81, Kurnool is 4.20 and 3.99 for Nalgonda. It is clear from the above that in average size of the family Kurnool district tops with 4.20 persons than in other two districts.

Type of family

With regard to the type of family (table no.5), out of the total 600 sample families nearly 80% of them are nuclear families and 19.50% are Joint families. A small percentage of extended families are found in the sample of Vizianagaram and Nalgonda districts. Seen districts wise more than 70% of the families in all the 3 districts are nuclear and in the case of joint families more percentage (26%) of them are found in the sample of Kurnool when compared to Vizianagaram (18.50%) and Nalgonda districts (14%).

Level of education

Table No. 6 presents the level of education among the total population of the respondents families. Out of the total population 50.63% are illiterate and the rest are literate and educated distributed over primary, secondary level of education, intermediate, degree etc. Of the total literates 21.23% have secondary level of education followed by 18.56% primary level of education, 5.09% have intermediate level of education and nearly 4% are graduates. Seen district wise, illiterates are more i.e. 55.54% in Kurnool district than in Viziagnagaram (48.36%) and Nalgonda (42.62%). In both primary and secondary level of education in all the 3 districts more

or less similar situation is noticed with minor variations. It may be mentioned here that who are in graduation and other category of education majority are pursuing their studies at present (Table No. 6).

Occupation

Table No. 7 presents the occupational division of the total population of the sample families. Out of the total population 36.20% are non-workers constituting children, house wives, aged people etc. 63.80% of them are engaged in different occupations such as wage work, agriculture labour, cultivation, other activities including petty business, employees in both government and private establishments, automobile servicing, tailoring etc. It is interesting to note that more or less same percentage of them are engaged in wage work and agriculture labour in the 3 districts (Table No. 7).

Land ownership

When land ownership pattern among the sample families is examined, out of the total 600 families 38.67% are landless. Seen district wise in the category of landless more percentage of the families (72%) are found in Vizianagaram district than in Kurnool (27.50%) and Nalgonda (16.50%). Of the total land owning families a large percentage of the families are owning between one to three acres of land (Table No. 8).

Annual income

Approximate annual income of the sample families is shown in table no. 9. It is clear from the table that the range of annual income is below Rs. 10,000 to Rs.80,000-90,000. As seen from the table that only 4.33% of the total families are found in the annual income of below Rs. 10,000. Seen district wise in this range of income, more percentage of them are found in the district of Vizianagaram than in other 2 districts. Out of the total 85.33% of them are found in the income range of Rs. 10,000-20,000 to Rs. 30,000 – 40,000. Seen district wise sample families in this range of income more percentage of them are found in Nalgonda district than in other two districts. Rest of the families i.e. 10.33% are distributed over the income range of Rs. 40,000-50,000 to Rs. 80,000-90,000. It is disheartening to note that no family is found in the annual income range of Rs. 60,000-70,000 to 80000-90000 in Vizianagaram district and no family from Kurnool in the income range of Rs.70,000-80,000 and no family from Nalgonda in the annual income range of Rs.80,000-90,000 (Table No. 9).

Table No.3: Marital Status wise distribution of total population of the sample families

Marital Status	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Married	421	55.32	505	60.19	425	53.26	1351	56.34
Unmarried	293	38.50	313	37.31	354	44.36	960	40.03
Widow/widowed	43	5.65	17	2.03	18	2.26	78	3.25
Divorced	4	0.53	4	0.48	1	0.13	9	0.38
Total	761	100.00	839	100.00	798	100.00	2398	100.00

Table No.4: Number of members in the total sample families

Number	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	7	3.50	2	1.00	-	-	9	1.50
2	23	11.50	22	11.00	26	13.00	71	11.83
3	39	19.50	35	17.50	34	17.00	108	18.00
4	83	41.50	53	26.50	74	37.00	210	35.00
5	30	15.00	58	29.00	49	24.50	137	22.83
6	17	8.50	24	12.00	16	8.00	57	9.50
7	1	0.50	6	3.00	1	0.50	8	1.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.5: Type of family

Type of family	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Nuclear	159	79.50	148	74.00	171	85.50	478	79.67
Joint	37	18.50	52	26.00	28	14.00	117	19.50
Extended	4	2.00	-	-	1	0.50	5	0.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.6: Level of education among the total population of the sample families

Education	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Illiterate	368	48.36	466	55.54	380	47.62	1214	50.63
Primary edu	124	16.29	148	17.64	173	21.68	445	18.56
Secondary edu	177	23.26	147	17.52	185	23.18	509	21.23
Intermediate	55	7.23	33	3.93	34	4.26	122	5.09
Graduation	28	3.68	41	4.89	25	3.13	94	3.92
Other	9	1.18	4	0.48	1	0.13	14	0.58
Total	761	100.00	839	100.00	798	100.00	2398	100.00

Table No.7: Occupation wise distribution of total population of the sample families

Occupation	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Workers								
a.wage labour	250	32.85	231	27.53	247	30.95	728	30.36
b.agri.labour	175	23.00	241	28.72	147	18.42	563	23.48
c.Agriculture	47	6.18	69	8.22	108	13.53	224	9.34
d.Other	9	1.18	5	0.60	1	0.13	15	0.63
Non-workers	280	36.79	293	34.92	295	36.97	868	36.20
Total	761	100.00	839	100.00	798	100.00	2398	100.00

Table No.8: Land ownership

Land (in acres)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	45	22.50	39	19.50	57	28.50	141	23.50
2	11	5.50	40	20.00	60	30.00	111	18.50
3	-	-	26	13.00	29	14.50	55	9.17
4	-	-	16	8.00	14	7.00	30	5.00
5	-	-	17	8.00	4	2.00	21	3.50
6	-	-	4	2.00	1	0.50	5	0.83
7	-	-	1	0.50	1	0.50	2	0.33
8	-	-	1	0.50	-	-	1	0.17
9	-	-	1	0.50	1	0.50	2	0.33
No land	144	72.00	55	27.50	33	16.50	232	38.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.9: Annual income of the sample families (approximate)

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 10,000	20	10.00	4	2.00	2	1.00	26	4.33
10,000-20,000	108	54.00	80	40.00	55	27.50	243	40.50
20,000-30,000	45	22.50	49	24.50	70	35.00	164	27.33
30,000-40,000	20	10.00	42	21.00	43	21.50	105	17.50
40,000-50,000	6	3.00	16	8.00	19	9.50	41	6.83
50,000-60,000	1	0.50	7	3.50	8	4.00	16	2.67
60,000-70,000	-	-	1	0.50	1	0.50	2	0.33
70,000-80,000	-	-	-	-	2	1.00	2	0.33
80,000-90,000	-	-	1	0.50	-	-	1	0.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Annual Expenditure

All the sample families are found in the annual expenditure range of Rs. below 10,000 to Rs. 80,000-90,000. As seen from table No. 10 it is clear that majority of the sample families are found in the expenditure range of Rs. 20,000-30,000 to Rs. 50,000-60,000. Rest are distributed below Rs. 10,000 (1.67%) and Rs. 60,000-70,000 to Rs. 80,000-90,000 (7.16%). Seen district wise more than 50% of the families in the three districts are found in the expenditure range of Rs. 20,000-30,000 to Rs. 30,000-40,000. It is interesting to note that slightly more than one-fourth of the total families in the district of Nalgonda are found in the expenditure range of Rs. 40,000- 50,000 (Table No. 10).

Household savings

When the household savings are examined, 54.17% of the total families have no savings. Seen in this aspect in all the 3 districts more than 50% of the families have no savings. Out of the total who have savings 48% are from Vizianagaram district, 45.50% from Kurnool and 44% from Nalgonda districts (Table No. 11).

Size of savings

An attempt was made to know the size of the savings among the families who have savings (No:275), of them 96 are from Vizianagaram district, 91 from Kurnool and 88 are from Nalgonda districts and they are distributed between below Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000- 40,000. Out of the total, 41.82% of them are found in the range of Rs. 20,000-30,000 followed by Rs. 10,000-20,000 (35.64%), 18.91% in Rs. 30,000-40,000 range and 3.64% in below Rs.10,000 (Table No.12).

Household debt

In debt position 51.50% of the total families are in debt and 48.50% have no debt. Examined district wise 54% in Vizianagaram district followed by 52% in Nalgonda district and 48.50% in Kurnool district are in debt. Though more than 50% in the two districts sample are in debt but in Kurnool sample percentage of respondents in debt is less compared to the other two districts (Table No. 13).

Size of debt

With regard to the size of debt, all the indebted families are distributed between below Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 60,000-70,000 and 70,000 and above. Out of the total indebted families majority of them i.e 91.58% are found in the range of below Rs.10,000 to 50,000-60,000. The rest of them are found in the income range of Rs.60,000-70,000 and 70,000 and above i.e 8.42% (Table No.14).

Table No.10: Annual expenditure of the sample families (approximate)

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 10,000	10	5.00	-	-	-	-	10	1.67
10,000-20,000	19	9.50	6	3.00	2	1.00	27	4.50
20,000-30,000	92	46.00	36	18.00	43	21.50	171	28.50
30,000-40,000	49	24.50	86	43.00	60	30.00	195	32.50
40,000-50,000	18	9.00	34	17.00	53	26.50	105	17.50
50,000-60,000	11	5.50	19	9.50	19	9.50	49	8.17
60,000-70,000	1	0.50	14	7.00	15	7.50	30	5.00
70,000-80,000	-	-	3	1.50	5	2.50	8	1.33
80,000-90,000	-	-	2	1.00	3	1.50	5	0.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.11: Household savings

Savings (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	96	48.00	91	45.50	88	44.00	275	45.83
No	104	52.00	109	54.50	122	66.00	325	54.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.12: Size of savings

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 10,000	5	5.21	3	3.30	2	2.27	10	3.64
10,000-20,000	38	39.58	32	35.16	28	31.82	98	35.64
20,000-30,000	42	43.75	37	40.66	36	40.91	115	41.82
30,000-40,000	11	11.46	19	20.88	22	25.00	52	18.91
Total	96	100.00	91	100.00	88	100.00	275	100.00

Table No.13: Household debt

Debt (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	108	54.00	97	48.50	104	52.00	309	51.50
No	92	46.00	103	51.50	96	48.00	291	48.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.14: Size of debt

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 10,000	14	12.96	10	10.31	8	7.69	32	10.35
10,000-20,000	12	11.11	10	10.31	11	10.58	33	10.68
20,000-30,000	16	14.81	15	15.46	13	12.50	44	14.24
30,000-40,000	21	19.44	13	13.40	16	15.38	50	16.18
40,000-50,000	25	23.15	21	21.65	18	17.30	64	20.71
50,000-60,000	12	11.11	24	24.74	24	23.08	60	19.42
60,000-70,000	5	4.63	4	4.12	5	4.81	14	4.53
70,000 and above	3	2.78	-	-	9	8.65	12	3.88
Total	108	100.00	97	100.00	104	100.00	309	100.00

Sources of credit

As seen from table no. 15 it is clear that 34.95% raised loans from their SHGs followed by 30.74% from money lenders, 21.68% from banks, 12.62% from their friends and relatives. In comparison 37.11% in Kurnool, 35.18% in Vizianagaram and 32.69% in Nalgonda districts raised credit from Banks. It is interesting to note that SHGs and banks seems to be playing an active role in advancing the credit to the sample families to a certain extent. Further during discussions with respondents it is observed that majority of them borrowed loans from Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS) for agricultural and allied activities (Table No. 15).

Ownership of house

95.67% from the total respondents families live in their own houses and the rest (4.33%) live in rented houses. District wise range of families living in their own houses is between 93% in Vizianagaram and 97.50% in Nalgonda (Table No.16).

Type of house

When the type of house is examined, it is found that 70% of the total respondents families are living in pucca houses, 23.17% in semi-pucca houses and 6.83% in kachcha houses. The range of pucca houses is 59% in Kurnool district to 78.50% in Nalgonda districts. (Table No. 17).

Facilities available in the houses

An attempt has been made to understand the living conditions in terms of available space, toilets, bath rooms, electricity, sources of drinking water, medium of cooking etc, in the houses of the sample families. Perhaps this assessment is likely to give the nature and standard of living conditions of the families coming from poor and weaker sections.

Number of rooms in the houses

44% of the total houses of the respondents have only one room followed by 40.00% have two rooms, 13.33% have three rooms and only 2.17% have 4 rooms. It is interesting to note that 23.50% of the respondents houses in Vizianagaram have three rooms and the same for Kurnool is 9% and Nalgonda district is 7.50% (Table No.18).

Table No.15: Sources of credit

Sources	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Money lender	33	30.55	27	27.83	35	33.65	95	30.74
Banks	38	35.18	36	37.11	34	32.69	108	34.95
SHG	21	19.44	24	24.74	22	21.15	67	21.68
Others	16	14.81	10	10.31	13	12.50	39	12.62
Total	108	100.00	97	100.00	104	100.00	309	100.00

Table No.16: Ownership of house

Status	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Own	186	93.00	193	96.50	195	97.50	574	95.67
Rent	14	7.00	7	3.50	5	2.50	26	4.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.17: Type of house

Type	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Pucca	145	72.50	118	59.00	157	78.50	420	70.00
Semi-Pucca	33	16.50	70	35.00	36	18.00	139	23.17
Kachcha	22	11.00	12	6.00	7	3.50	41	6.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.18: Number of rooms in the houses

Number	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	82	41.00	93	46.50	89	44.50	264	44.00
2	63	31.50	87	43.50	93	46.50	243	40.00
3	47	23.50	18	9.00	15	7.50	80	13.33
4	8	4.00	2	1.00	3	1.50	13	2.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Toilets

The facility of toilets and even bath rooms in the houses of the sample families is disappointing. Only 27.83% of the houses have toilets. In this aspect, sample from Kurnool district seems to be better placed with 43% of the houses having toilets than that of Vizianagaram with 17.50% and Nalgonda with 23% (Table No.19).

Bath rooms

With regard to bath rooms 36.33% of the total houses have bath rooms and 63.67% of the houses have no bathrooms. Even in this aspect the respondents houses in Kurnool district are better placed with 57.50% of the houses having bathrooms than in Nalgonda 32.50% and Vizianagaram with only 19% (Table No. 20).

Sources of drinking water

Sources of drinking water to the sample families is presented in table No.21. 59.50% of the total houses depend on public taps provided by their gram panchayats, 35.83% accessed water from community hand pumps and only 4.67% depend on wells. In public taps 38.50% are from Nalgonda, 63% from Kurnool and 77% from Vizianagaram districts. Community hand pumps are 54% in Nalgonda, 32.50% in Kurnool and 21% in Vizianagaram districts (Table No.21).

Electricity

With regard to the facility of electricity 96.17% of the total houses have electricity and compared district wise 99.00% in Vizianagaram, 97.50% in Kurnool and 92% in Nalgonda have electricity facility (Table No.22).

Medium of cooking

Still 75.50% of the total sample families depend on fuel wood for cooking, 17.67% on LPG and 6.83% on Kerosene. State wise comparison shows that 79% in Nalgonda, 74% in Vizianagaram and 73.50% in Kurnool use fuel wood for cooking (Table No.23).

Table No.19: Toilets

Toilets	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	35	17.50	86	43.00	46	23.00	167	27.83
No	165	82.50	114	57.00	154	77.00	433	72.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.20: Bath rooms

Bath rooms	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	38	19.00	115	57.50	65	32.50	218	36.33
No	162	81.00	85	42.50	135	67.50	382	63.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.21: Sources of drinking water

Sources	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Public taps	154	77.00	126	63.00	77	38.50	357	59.50
Community hand pumps	42	21.00	65	32.50	108	54.00	215	35.83
well	4	2.00	9	4.50	15	7.50	28	4.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.22: Electricity

Electricity	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	198	99.00	195	97.50	184	92.00	577	96.17
No	2	1.00	5	2.50	16	8.00	23	3.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.23: Medium of cooking

Medium of cooking	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
LPG	43	21.50	35	17.50	28	14.00	106	17.67
Kerosene	9	4.50	18	9.00	14	7.00	41	6.83
Fuel wood	148	74.00	147	73.50	158	79.00	453	75.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Chapter – 4

IMPACT OF NREGS ON THE WOMEN

This chapter attempts to present the socio-economic and demographic profile of the sample women engaged in NREGS followed by the impact of NREGS on various facets of the sample women ranging from sources of awareness to income generation and decision making in the family. It tries to highlight not only the positive impact both on the women and on the village communities from which they come from but also the problems faced by them in terms of discrimination in the allocation of work and wages, harassment at work sites, incidence of migration, dependence on money lenders, facilities at work site, nature of spending of income in the family, problems in the collection of wages etc.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 600 women respondents working in NREGS, 200 each from Vizianagaram, Kurnool and Nalgonda districts were randomly selected for the study. A large number of the respondents were interviewed at the work sites and the rest were interviewed at their houses.

Social Group

Table No. 1 presents the social group wise distribution of the total sample respondents. Out of the total 48.17% are from BCs followed by 32.67% from SCs and 16.17% from STs and only 3.00% from OCs. Interestingly 96 respondents from STs come from the sample of Nalgonda district and 2 one from Vizianagaram district and no ST respondent is found in the sample of Kurnool district. The reason being for high percentage of ST respondents in the sample of Nalgonda district is that 2 Mandals namely Damaracherala and Devarakonda have highest number of women engaged in NREGS and within this more percentage of women in NREGS is from STs (Lambada). With regard to BC category of respondents in the sample 63% are from Vizianagaram district 57% from Kurnool district and only 24.50% from Nalgonda district. When SC group respondents are compared district wise 36% are from Vizianagaram followed by 35% from Kurnool and 27% from Nalgonda. Despite the difference in the sample majority of them come from weaker sections in the three districts. As seen from the table overwhelming majority of the sample respondents come from the 3 weaker sections of SCs, STs and BCs (Table No.1).

Caste

Table No.2 presents the caste wise information of the respondents. As seen from the table altogether 20 castes are represented among the respondents. Among the SC respondents Mala and Madiga are predominant in the 3 districts. A number of BCs have been found among the respondents in all the 3 districts and Lambada a major tribe is found only in the sample of Nalgonda district (Table No.2)

Age

Age wise distribution of the respondents shows that overwhelming majority of them are found between 21-50 years. Only 9% and 3.33% of the total are respectively found in the age groups between 50-60 years and 10-20 years. More or less similar status of the respondents age groups are found in the 3 districts (Table No.3).

Marital status

87.33% of the total respondents are married and only 1.50% are unmarried. 10% are widows and 1.17% are divorced. Seen district wise 92% of the respondents in Nalgonda are married followed by 88.50% from Kurnool and 81.50% from Vizianagaram district. Among the 9 unmarried respondents 7 are from Vizianagaram district, one each from Kurnool and Nalgonda districts (Table No.4).

Age at marriage

Approximate age at marriage of the respondents as stated by the respondents is given in table No.5. 93.40% of the total respondents got married between the ages of below 15 years age to 21 years. Within this group 11.50% were married when they were at below 15 years followed by 36.21% between 18-19 years, 30.45% between 16-17 years and 15.23% between 20-21 years. Only 6.60% of them were married when they were above 22 years. 41.95% of the marriages were child marriages because they were married between ages of below 15 years and 17 years. When 3 districts are compared a few differences are found in age at marriage (Table No.5).

Table No.1: Social Group wise distribution of sample respondents

Social group	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
SC	72	36.00	70	35.00	54	27.00	196	32.67
ST	1	0.50	-	-	96	48.00	97	16.17
BC	126	63.00	114	57.00	49	24.50	289	48.17
OC	1	0.50	16	8.00	1	0.50	18	3.00
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.2: Caste wise distribution of sample respondents

S.No	Caste	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	Madiga	37	18.50	45	22.50	33	16.50	115	19.17
2	Mala	33	16.50	25	12.50	21	10.50	79	13.17
3	Yadava	24	12.00	18	9.00	25	12.50	67	11.17
4	Kapu	49	24.50	7	3.50	4	2.00	60	10.00
5	Koppala velama	41	20.50	-	-	-	-	41	6.83
6	Pidy	2	1.00	-	-	-	-	2	0.33
7	Bewara	9	4.50	-	-	-	-	9	1.50
8	Padmasahali	2	1.00	2	1.00	-	-	4	0.67
9	Yarukula	1	0.50	-	-	-	-	1	0.17
10	Muslim	1	0.50	13	6.50	1	0.50	15	2.50

11	Mangali	1	0.50	6	3.00	-	-	7	1.17
12	Chakali	-	-	17	8.50	-	-	17	2.83
13	Boya	-	-	44	22.00	-	-	44	7.33
14	Kurava	-	-	13	6.50	-	-	13	2.17
15	Jangam	-	-	2	1.00	-	-	2	0.33
16	Kummara	-	-	5	2.50	2	2.50	7	1.17
17	Kamma	-	-	3	1.50	-	-	3	0.50
18	Lambada	-	-	-	-	96	48.00	96	16.00
19	Mudiraju	-	-	-	-	8	4.00	8	1.33
20	Gowda	-	-	-	-	10	5.00	10	1.67
	Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.3: Age wise distribution of sample respondents

Age (Years)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
10-20	6	3.00	4	2.00	10	5.00	20	3.33
20-30	57	28.50	56	28.00	69	34.50	182	30.33
30-40	68	34.00	63	31.50	63	31.50	194	32.33
40-50	50	25.00	59	29.50	41	20.50	150	25.00
50-60	19	9.50	18	9.00	17	8.50	54	9.00
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.4: Marital status wise distribution of sample respondents

Marital status	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Married	163	81.50	177	88.50	184	92.00	524	87.33
Unmarried	7	3.50	1	0.50	1	0.50	9	1.50
Widow	29	14.50	17	8.50	14	7.00	60	10.00
Divorce	1	0.50	5	2.50	1	0.50	7	1.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.5: Age at marriage of the sample respondents

Age at marriage	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 15	52	26.94	6	3.02	10	5.02	68	11.50
16-17	51	26.42	65	32.66	64	32.16	180	30.45
18-19	42	21.76	81	40.70	91	45.73	214	36.21
20-21	35	18.13	35	17.59	20	10.05	90	15.23
22 and above	13	6.74	12	6.03	14	7.04	39	6.60
Total	193	100.00	199	100.00	199	100.00	591	100.00

Education

81.33% of the total respondents are illiterate and seen district wise illiterates are more in Kurnool district with 88.50% followed by Vizianagaram with 78% and Nalgonda with 77.50%. Rest of the respondents are distributed between primary education and secondary education. 1.67% have studied upto intermediate, out of them five each from Vizianagaram and 1% from Nalgonda district. The percentage of those who have secondary education is 9.50%, within this district wise, lowest is from Kurnool district with 4% followed by Vizianagaram with 9.50% and 15% in Nalgonda district. The percentage of those who have studied in primary school in the total is 7.50%, and within this, lowest is from Nalgonda with 5% followed by 7.50% in Kurnool district and 10% in Vizianagaram district (Table No.6).

Sources of awareness about NREGS

How did the respondents come to know about the NREGS? Table No.7 presents this information. 31.33% of the total 600 respondents were able to know with their own efforts, 39.33% come to know about it from gram sabha, 20.83% from the officers, 19.67% from their SHG's, 3.67% from other members in their families. Seen district wise, more than 50% of the respondents in Vizianagaram came to know through the Gram Sabha, 38% in Kurnool from the same source and 23.50% from Nalgonda. On the other hand 40% in Nalgonda came to know from their own effort (Table No. 7).

Awareness about various provisions of NREGS

The important provisions of NREGS are, 100days of employment in a year, wages as fixed and equal wages, payment of wages within 15 days of work, facilities at work sites, provision of work within 5kms from their native places, unemployment allowance if work is not provided within 15 days from the day of application and among the workers one-third should be women workers etc.

Table no.8 provides the distribution of respondents according to the awareness on the above mentioned provisions of NREGS. Highest percentage (68.67%) in the total of 600 respondents as well as in the 3 districts were aware that there should not be any gender discrimination in the payment of wages. Next in importance is that 54.17% of the total were aware about the wages as fixed by the NREGS but there is some

Table No.6: Level of education among the sample respondents

Education	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Illiterate	156	78.00	177	88.50	155	77.50	488	81.33
Primary edu	20	10.00	15	7.50	10	5.00	45	7.50
Secondary edu	19	9.50	8	4.00	30	15.00	57	9.50
Intermediate	5	2.50	-	-	5	2.50	10	1.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.7: Sources of awareness about NREGS

S.No	Sources	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	Own efforts	58	29.00	50	25.00	80	40.00	188	31.33
2	Officers	47	23.50	42	21.00	36	18.00	125	20.83
3	SHG	5	2.50	43	21.50	70	35.00	118	19.67
4	Family members	7	3.50	5	2.50	10	5.00	22	3.67
5	Gram sabha	113	56.50	76	38.00	47	23.50	235	39.33

Note: Multiple answers

difference when the 3 districts are compared. 73.50% from Kurnool district, were aware about the daily wages followed by 49.50% in Nalgonda district and 39.50% in Vizianagaram district. 16.33% were aware of 100 days of employment provision but in this group 24% were from Vizianagaram, 19.50% were from Nalgonda and only 5.50% were from Kurnool district. With regard to the payment of wages within 15 days 31.33% of the total were aware of it and within this 42% is from Kurnool, 26.50% from Nalgonda and 25.50% from Vizianagaram district. (Table No.8).

Decision regarding participation in NREGS

It is understood that among the poor families depending on wage labour, able bodied persons participates in wage work. A question was put to the respondents who took the decision in their families about their participation in NREGS. It is clear from table no.9 that overwhelming majority (89%) of the total respondents took the decision by themselves and in the case of remaining 11% respondents that other family members decided about the respondents participation. Compared district wise 96% from Vizianagaram followed by 93.50% from Kurnool and 77.50% from Nalgonda respondents themselves decided to participate in NREGS work (Table No.9).

Number of male participants in NREGS from the families of respondents

It is observed in the field as well as according to the field officers of NREGS that any number of members from a family can participate in NREGS. Seen from this angle, out of the 600 respondents families in 69.50% of the families one male member followed by 17.67% two members, 3.50% three members and only in 0.67% four members participated in the work of NREGS. Compared district wise in all the 3 districts more than 90% in Kurnool and Nalgonda districts and 75% in Vizianagaram district one to two male members are participating in the work of NREGS (Table No.10).

Table No.8: Awareness about the various provisions of NREGS

S.No	Awareness	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
		No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	100 days of employment	48	24.00	11	5.50	39	19.50	98	16.33
2	Wages as fixed by the NREGS	79	39.50	147	73.50	99	49.50	325	54.17
3	Payment of wages within 15 days	51	25.50	84	42.00	53	26.50	188	31.33
4	Work site facilities	57	28.50	18	9.00	17	8.50	92	15.33
5	Work within 5km from native place	44	22.00	39	19.50	25	12.50	108	18.00
6	Unemployment allowance	3	1.50	12	6.00	4	2.00	19	3.17
7	One – third women should be provided with work	17	8.50	8	4.00	11	5.50	36	6.00
8	Equal wages	123	61.50	145	72.50	144	72.00	412	68.67

Note: Multiple answers

Table No.9: Decision regarding participation in NREGS

Decision	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Self/own	192	96.00	187	93.50	155	77.50	534	89.00
Family members	8	4.00	13	6.50	45	22.50	66	11.00
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.10: Number of male participants in NREGS from the families of respondents

Number	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	137	68.50	136	68.00	144	72.00	417	69.50
2	20	10.00	46	23.00	40	20.00	106	17.67
3	1	0.50	15	7.50	5	2.50	21	3.50
4	-	-	1	0.50	3	1.50	4	0.67
No members	42	21.00	2	1.00	8	4.00	52	8.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Number of female participants in NREGS from the families of respondents

With regard to the participation of women members in respondents families, in 82% of the total families only one women member participated, in 15.67% of the families 2 members participated and only in 2.33% of the families 3 members participated. Seen district wise 89% of the families in Vizianagaram district followed by 84.50% in Nalgonda district and 72.50% in Kurnool district only one women member at present is participating in NREGS (Table No.11).

Number of years worked in NREGS work

It may be mentioned here that the implementation of NREGS began during the year 2006 in the study areas of Andhra Pradesh. The range of years of participation of respondents in NREGS work is in between one to six years. However overwhelming majority from the total as well as in the districts the participation range is between 2 to 5 years. Only 3.17% all of them from Nalgonda have been working for 6 years. Of the total only 4.83% have been working for the past one year (Table No.12).

Nature of work of respondents: Pre-NREGS

What were the respondents occupation before NREGS? It is interesting to note that 41.17% of the total respondents were house wives but were assisting now and then their family members in agricultural operations and occasionally participating in wage work in their villages. 58.83% of the total were wage workers including agriculture and wage work both in their villages as well as outside the villages. Examined district wise 54% from Kurnool reported as house wives and same for Vizianagaram is 37.50% and Nalgonda 32%. Those who were engaged in wage work 68% were from Nalgonda followed by 62.50% from Vizianagaram and 46% from Kurnool. Those who were reported as house wives mentioned that they were attracted towards wage work under NREGS and their husband's and other family members encouraged them because the work is being provided regularly as well as near by to their villages (Table No.13).

Table No.11: Number of females participated in NREGS from the family of respondents

Number	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	178	89.00	145	72.50	169	84.50	492	82.00
2	21	10.50	45	22.50	28	14.00	94	15.67
3	1	0.50	10	5.00	3	1.50	14	2.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.12: Number of years worked in wage work under NREGS

Years	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
1	1	0.50	5	2.50	23	11.50	29	4.83
2	57	28.50	84	42.00	40	20.00	181	30.17
3	20	10.00	50	25.00	78	39.00	148	24.67
4	55	27.50	25	12.50	25	12.50	105	17.50
5	67	33.50	36	18.00	15	7.50	118	19.67
6	-	-	-	-	19	9.50	19	3.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.13: Nature of work of respondents: Pre-NREGS

Detials	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
House wife	75	37.50	108	54.00	64	32.00	247	41.17
Wage work	125	62.50	92	46.00	136	68.00	353	58.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Time gap between application for work and allocation

As per the norms of NREGS the wage seeker after approaching the Gram panchayat or Mandal (Block) office for wage work he/she should be provided wage work within 15 days in the same village or any other place within a radius of 5 kms. As seen from table no.14, 92.33% of the respondents did get wage work within 15 days after seeking employment. Only 6.50% and 1.17% were engaged for wage work between 16-20 days and 21 to 25 days respectively after applying. It is clear from the table that the officers did succeed more or less in providing work to majority within the stipulated time frame (Table No.14).

Type of work

As per the guidelines of the NREGS the works which contribute to the well being of the community as well as which help productivity and sustainability should be taken up. According to the present study the respondents participated in five different types of works which are beneficial to the community. It is not that all the respondents participated in all the works but many of them participated in different works out of the five recorded in the study. These five works are re-excavation of existing ponds and tanks, digging of irrigation channels, village approach roads, social forestry and land development. As seen from table no. 15, 63.33% of the total 600 respondents participated in the work related to re-excavation of ponds and tanks, followed by 59.17% in the digging of irrigation channels, 24.33% in land development activities, 12.33% in village approach roads and only 2.50% in social forestry. When the 3 districts are compared 77% from Vizianagaram and 73% from Kurnool participated in the re-excavation of ponds and tanks and the same for Nalgonda is 40%. Like wise more percentage of respondents from Kurnool (85%) and Vizianagaram (56.50%) participated in digging of irrigation channels when compared to Nalgonda where the percentage of participation is 36%. On the other hand 56.50% of the respondents from Nalgonda took part in land development when compared to 12.50% in Kurnool and 4% in Vizianagaram. In social forestry only a small percentage of respondents from Nalgonda and Vizianagaram districts worked. Even in laying of village approach roads the percentage of participation ranged from 8% in Nalgonda and 16% in Kurnool districts (Table No.15).

Table No.14: Time gap between application for work and allocation

Time taken	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Below 15 days	174	87.00	186	93.00	194	97.00	554	92.33
16-20 days	26	13.00	7	3.50	6	3.00	39	6.50
21-25 days	-	-	7	3.50	-	-	7	1.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.15: Type of work

Type of work	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Re-excavation of ponds and tanks	154	77.00	146	73.00	80	40.00	380	63.33
Digging of irrigation supply channels	113	56.50	170	85.00	72	36.00	355	59.17
Land development	8	4.00	25	12.50	113	56.50	146	24.33
Village approach roads	32	16.00	26	13.00	16	8.00	74	12.33
Social forestry	3	1.50	-	-	12	6.00	15	2.50

Note: multiple answers

Gender discrimination in the allocation of work

The general practice in wage work related to manual work is that work which requires physical strength and endurance is allocated to the men labour and the work which is considered easy with less exertion is allocated to women. Seen from this perspective in the allocation of work according to gender, it is interesting to note that 82.83% of the total respondents felt that there was gender discrimination in the allocation of work by the field assistant and 'Mate' at work site. When asked on the kind of discrimination faced by the respondents, all of them were unanimous in saying that they were assigned work without giving any consideration of difficulty in carrying out the work by the women. Further the field assistants were more strict towards women labour than towards men labour. Compared district wise the respondents from Vizianagaram and Kurnool seems to be different from that of Nalgonda. In Kurnool 99% said there is discrimination, on the other hand in Vizianagaram 39% said there is no discrimination and in Nalgonda only 11.50% expressed the same opinion (Table No.16).

As per the norms of NREGS those who did not get wage work within 15 days have to be compensated with unemployment allowance. During the discussion with the respondents who did not get work within 15 days revealed that they were not provided with unemployment allowance. However they did not feel sorry for not getting unemployment allowance and on the other hand they were happy to get work within 10 or 15 day's after the prescribed period of 15 days.

Working place

As stated in the preceding pages as per the norm of NREGS the work has to be provided to the wage seekers within their villages, if not possible within a radius of 5 kms. If the allotment of work is beyond 5 kms the workers have to receive 10% more than the actual wage. It is clear from the table No.17 that overwhelming majority of the respondents in the total were provided work within their villages while 14.67% said they were provided work beyond the radius of 5 kms (Table No. 17).

Table No.16: Opinion on gender discrimination in the allocation of work

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Discrimination	122	61.00	198	99.00	177	88.00	497	82.83
No discrimination	78	39.00	2	1.00	23	11.50	103	17.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.17: Working place

Working place	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Same village	138	69.00	199	99.50	175	87.50	512	85.33
Outside the radius of 5Kms	62	31.0	1	0.50	25	12.50	88	14.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Actual working hours (in a day)

As per the norms of NREGS the 'Mate' who is the leader of the group is responsible for collecting the labour at the worksites to work from 8.00 AM to 1.00 PM. However the usual practice is that a particular work will be assigned to a group of workers and they have to complete it as per the norm of NREGS. The average working hours of the respondents in the work site are presented in table No.18. As seen from table no.18 out of the total respondents 34.50% worked 5 hours per day. Compared district wise in this group 33.50% from Vizianagaram worked an average of 5 hours a day while the same for Kurnool is 35.50% and Nalgonda 34.50%. 31.33% of the total on an average worked 4 hours a day and within this 34% are from Nalgonda, 31% from Kurnool and 29% from Vizianagaram. Next 17.83% worked an average of 3 hours per a day, within this 18% from Kurnool, 33.50% from Nalgonda and 17% from Vizianagaram. Interestingly 9.16% and 4.50% worked an average of 6 and 7 hours a day and percentage of respondents in this category is more in Vizianagaram district with 19% when compared to Nalgonda (11.50%) and Kurnool districts (10.50%). Only 2.67% of them worked an average two hours in a day. More or less similar situation is noticed in the three districts (Table No.18).

Number of days worked in NREGS (Last year)

Though as per the norms of the NREGS 100 days of work has to be provided to the wage seekers but actually when the number of days of work by the respondents is examined, it is found it ranged between 50 days to 100 days in a year. However those who worked between 50-60 days is only 6.67% of the total. In this group 10% are from Nalgonda, 2% from Kurnool and 8 % from Vizianagaram districts. 13.17% of the total respondents have worked between 61-70 days, of them 16% are from Vizianagaram district, 15% from Nalgonda and 8.50% from Kurnool district. 13% of the total worked between 71-80 day's and of them 16.50% from Kurnool followed by 16% from Vizianagaram and 6.50% from Nalgonda district. 35.83% worked between 81-90 days, of them 45% are from Vizianagaram district followed by 34.50% from Kurnool and 28% from Nalgonda. 31.33% worked between 91-100 day's, of them 40.50% are from Nalgonda followed by 38.50% from Kurnool and only 15% from Vizianagaram district. It

Table No.18: Actual working hours (in day)

Number of hours	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
2	3	1.50	8	4.00	5	2.50	16	2.67
3	34	17.00	36	18.00	37	33.50	107	17.83
4	58	29.00	62	31.00	68	34.00	188	31.33
5	67	33.50	71	35.50	69	34.50	207	34.50
6	24	12.00	13	6.50	18	9.00	55	9.16
7	14	7.00	10	5.50	3	1.50	27	4.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

is clear from the table that nearly 70% of the respondents worked below 100 days last year. Three factors seems to have played in determining the number of working day's of the respondents in the NREGS work. These factors emerged during the discussion's with the respondents as well as with the officers. They are (1) some of them did not attend the work for a number of days because of their personal reasons, (2) In some cases the number of day's of work depend on the check measurement and (3) In some of the cases the officials could not show work for stipulated 100 days to the respondents (Table No. 19)

Wage per Day

What was the wage per day paid to the respondents from the NREGS in the past year. As per the guidelines of the scheme Rs.125 per day and it is equal to both gender had to be paid to the workers. However it does not mean that every worker gets the full wage of Rs.125 each day worked for. It is clear from table No.20 only 3.67% of the total respondents received between Rs.110/- Rs.125/-. 6.50% earned between Rs.100-110, in these 2 category of wages in the 3 districts only a small percentage of respondents are found. The rest of them earned between Rs.50–60 to 90-100 per day. Even here the percentage of those who are earning between Rs.90-100 is 9.67% and between Rs.80-90 is 10.50%, 69.67% of the respondents are earning between Rs. 50-60, 60-70 and Rs.70–80 per day. The per day earning distribution is more or less similar in all the 3 districts (Table No. 20).

Why majority of the respondents did not get the fixed wage of Rs.125 per day? Answers given by the respondents differ from that of officials incharge of NREGS work at the work sites. The respondents believe that there is some miss management of funds and corruption in the funds received. Not only this, officials many times miscalculated working hours put in daily by them. On the other hand the officials at the work sites explain that the wage paid to the workers whether it is men or women depends on the completion of the allotted work in stipulated period as well as on measurement. If the workers were not able to complete the work in stipulated period and quantum of work is less as per check measurement the wage per day comes down.

Table No.19: Number of days worked in NREGS (Last year)

No. of days worked	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
50-60	16	8.00	4	2.00	20	10.00	40	6.67
61-70	32	16.00	17	8.50	30	15.00	79	13.17
71-80	32	16.00	33	16.50	13	6.50	78	13.00
81-90	90	45.00	69	34.50	56	28.00	215	35.83
91-100	30	15.00	77	38.50	81	40.00	188	31.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.20: Wage per day

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
50-60	39	19.50	44	22.00	47	23.50	130	21.67
60-70	49	24.50	52	26.00	52	26.00	153	25.50
70-80	45	22.50	41	20.50	49	24.50	135	22.50
80-90	26	13.00	18	9.00	19	9.50	63	10.50
90-100	22	11.00	15	7.50	21	10.50	58	9.67
100-110	12	6.00	18	9.00	9	4.50	39	6.50
110-125	7	3.50	12	6.00	3	1.50	22	3.37
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Wages earned from NREGS (last year)

The range of total earnings of the respondents from NREGS for the previous year is between Rs.2000-3000 to 9000-10,000. In this range 28.83% have earned between Rs.3000-4000, 17.50% between Rs. 5000-6000, 15.67% between Rs.2000-3000 and another 15.67% between 4000-5000 and 12.33% between Rs.6000-7000. The percentage of those who have earned between Rs.7000-10,000 from the total and in the three districts is only 10%. In this group 20% are from Nalgonda, 7% are from Kurnool and 2.50% are Vizianagaram districts. Overall it is clear that the quantum of income earned from NREGS is not encouraging. The women respondents say that the wages paid to them is less than that of men and a number of working days is also less than 100. Further they complained that their hours of per day were wrongly calculated, hence their total earnings from NREGS in the year is not so encouraging (Table No.21).

Payment of wages in time

According to the guidelines of NREGS wages have to be paid every 15 day's. Seem from this angle 78.17% of the total respondents said that they did receive the wages within the stipulated period while 21.83% said payment of their wages were delayed. Seen district wise sample the respondents who received wages in time ranges between 66% in Vizianagaram district to 90% in Kurnool district (Table No. 22).

Mode of Payment

In order to avoid misappropriation and under payment of the wages, wages are deposited either in banks or in post offices where the workers has account. 42.67% of the total respondents accessed their wages from Banks and 57.33% accessed from post offices. In all the 3 districts more than 50% of the respondents are receiving their wages from Post Offices (Table No. 23).

Gender Discrimination in the payment of wages

Despite the NREGS guidelines that there should not be any gender discrimination in wages, it is interesting to note that 58.50% of the total respondents did say there is discrimination in the wages between men and women, women getting less daily wage than that of men. 41.50% said that there is no discrimination between genders in wages. In all the 3 districts more than 50% did say that there is discrimination in the wages between men and women (Table No. 24).

Table No.21: Wages earned from NREGS (last year)

Amount (Rs)	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
2000-3000	46	23.00	30	15.00	18	9.00	94	15.67
3000-4000	69	34.50	58	29.00	46	23.00	173	28.83
4000-5000	29	24.50	34	17.00	31	15.50	94	15.67
5000-6000	31	15.50	38	19.00	36	18.00	105	17.50
6000-7000	20	10.00	26	13.00	28	14.00	74	12.33
7000-8000	3	1.50	10	5.00	16	8.00	29	4.83
8000-9000	2	1.00	4	2.00	12	6.00	18	3.00
9000-10000	-	-	-	-	13	6.50	13	2.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.22: Payment of wages in time

Payment	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	132	66.00	180	90.00	157	78.50	469	78.17
No	68	34.00	20	10.00	43	21.50	131	21.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.23: Mode of Payment

Mode of Payment	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Bank	71	35.50	98	49.00	87	43.50	256	42.67
Post office	129	64.50	102	51.00	113	56.50	344	57.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.24: Gender Discrimination in payment of wages

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Discrimination	117	58.50	110	55.00	124	62.00	351	58.50
No Discrimination	83	41.50	90	45.00	76	38.00	249	41.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Is there is any misunderstanding and confusion on gender discrimination in the payment of wages? The respondents who said that there is discrimination say that they always get less than the men for the same work because the officials of NREGS being men always think negatively about women and their capacity to work. Further the women workers said daily wage is based on the measurement of work done by the men like digging the earth, which mainly depend on the type of soil. On the other hand work done by women like carrying load of earth, stones and bricks etc, is never considered. For example one respondent in Vizianagaram district explained that if digging work is carried out by three men and loads are carried by six women, the total wage earned on the bases of measurement is divided into two halves and one half is equally shared by the three men and the other half is equally shared by six women, so naturally women workers get less wage than the men workers. On the other hand the officials as reported during the discussions with them say that most of the women workers work less than the stipulated hours and they come late to the work site and leave early than the men workers. All most all the women respondents did say before coming to NREGS work they need to complete their domestic chores in their houses but they did not agree with the opinion of officials that they came late to the work. The respondents claim they are late to the work site only occasionally.

Satisfaction about the wages earned from NREGS

On the satisfaction of the wages 56.83% of the total expressed satisfaction while 43.17% expressed dissatisfaction. It is interesting to note that in the districts of Kurnool and Nalgonda 60% and 71% respectively expressed satisfaction while in the district of Vizianagaram 60.50% expressed dissatisfaction over the daily wages (Table No. 25).

Retention of earnings

Do the women workers engaged in NREGS work retain some amount from their wages for meeting their personal needs? In terms of approximate retention 51.17% keep 20% of the total wages with themselves followed by 24% between 25-50% of the wages and 12.33% between 50-75% of the wages and only 3.67% between 75-100%. 8.33% of the total reported they do not keep any part of their wage with them and all of them come from Vizianagaram district i.e. 26.50% (Table No.26).

Table No.25: Satisfaction about the wages earned from NREGS

Satisfaction	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Satisfied	79	39.50	120	60.00	142	71.00	341	56.83
Not Satisfied	121	60.50	80	40.00	58	29.00	259	43.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.26: Retention of earnings

Retention	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Up to 25 %	77	38.50	117	58.50	113	56.50	307	51.17
25-50%	40	20.00	37	18.50	67	33.50	144	24.00
50-75%	29	14.50	25	12.50	20	10.00	74	12.33
75-100%	1	0.50	21	10.50	-	-	22	3.67
No retention	53	26.50	-	-	-	-	53	8.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Expenditure from NREGS income on personal needs

A large percentage of the respondents as seen in table No.26, reported they keep certain part of wages for their own needs and the amount they keep is being used for multiple purposes. As seen from table No.27, 29.33% of the respondents used a part of it for the purchase of cloths, bangles etc., 41% reported that they spend some amount on the purchase of utensils. These women do have small borrowings from neighbours, friends etc, hence 54.83% of them clear their own small debts from their wages. 43.50% also used a part of it for meeting minor health needs like purchase of medicines. 9.33% contribute small amounts from their wages when their families purchase small assets. 2.17% spent a little amount while visiting relatives in neighbouring villages (Table No.27).

Savings from NREGS earnings

The respondents also do save some amount from their earnings from their wage work for future use or purpose. 40.17% of the total saved and 59.83% did not save. As seen from the districts, highest percentage of those who saved is 43% from Kurnool district followed by 40.50% from Nalgonda district and 37% from Vizianagaram district. it is interesting to note that out of no saved respondents, a large percentage of them are found in Vizianagaram district (63%), 59.60% in Nalgonda and 57% in Kurnool district (Table No.28).

Work site facilities

Besides equal wages, the NREGS programme envisages the provision of certain facilities at work sites, like provision of drinking water, shelter for rest, first aid box and helper/aya to look after small children of women workers. Seen in this perspective in the study area, only 36.33% of the total respondents reported that there was facility for drinking water at the work site, 8.50% of the total reported the availability of first aid box and 5.33% said there was a shed for taking rest. Only one percent of the respondents reported that a helper was engaged to look after the small children. This one percent comes from the sample of Nalgonda and Kurnool districts and no one from Vizianagaram district. It is quite clear that the existing facilities at work sites are negligible and grossly inadequate and almost all the respondents have complained about this. There is immediate need to provide and improve the facilities at work sites (Table No. 29).

Table No.27: Expenditure from NREGS income on personal needs

Details	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Payment of old debts	87	43.50	138	69.00	104	52.00	329	54.83
Health care	68	34.00	100	50.00	93	46.50	261	43.50
Purchase of Utensils	38	19.00	128	6.40	80	40.00	246	41.00
Purchase of clothes, cosmetics, bangles, etc.	79	39.50	31	15.50	66	33.00	176	29.33
Adding household assets	13	6.50	10	5.00	33	16.50	56	9.33
Visiting relatives and friends	12	6.00	-	-	1	0.50	13	2.17
Not spend	53	26.50	-	-	-	-	53	8.83

Note: Multiple answers

Table No.28: Savings from NREGS earnings

Savings	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	74	37.00	86	43.00	81	40.50	241	40.17
No	126	63.00	114	57.00	119	59.50	359	59.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.29: Work site facilities

Facilities	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Drinking water	76	33.00	70	35.00	72	36.00	218	36.33
Shed for rest	12	6.00	9	4.50	11	5.50	32	5.33
First aid box	7	3.50	18	9.00	26	13.00	51	8.50
Child care	-	-	2	1.00	4	2.00	6	1.00

Note: Multiple answers

Small children of the respondents

Out of the total respondents 47.17% have small children and 52.83% of the respondents have no small children. Seen district wise 53% are from Nalgonda district followed by 46.50% from Kurnool district and 42% from Vizianagaram district have small children (Table No: 30).

Care about small children during the work

24.03% of the total respondents (No.283) who have small children leave them with their elders at their houses when they go to work. In the case of 69.61%, their children are either attending anganwadi centers or school. Only 6.36% carry their children along with them to work sites. Compared district wise, it is interesting to note that 46.43% from Vizianagaram followed by 17.20% from Kurnool and 12.26% from Nalgonda leave their children at home. Out of those who carry their children to the work site 12.26% are from Nalgonda and 5.38% from Kurnool and no one is found in this category from Vizianagaram. More percentage of children go to Anganwadi and primary schools in Nalgonda and Kurnool districts than in Vizianagaram district (Table No. 31).

Harassment at work site

Only a small percentage i.e 4.33% of the total workers reported that they experienced harassment at work site. Even seen district wise the percentage experiencing harassment is small. It is interesting to note that those who said that they face harassment at work site face it from their groups 'Mates'. 'Mate' is a person elected from the Shram Shakti groups of the workers of NREGS. The responsibilities of 'Mates' consists of mobilizing the labour force, taking attendance, supervising the work and assisting field assistants. Further the 'Mate' also has to work along with the labour.

Bank Account: Pre and Post-NREGS

Before the participation of respondents in NREGS only 5.17% of the total had bank accounts and the rest had no accounts. After they started working in NREGAS 73.83% opened bank accounts, the rest still have no bank accounts. Those who have bank accounts after NREGS 87% is from Kurnool followed by 78.50% from Vizianagaram and 56% from Nalgonda districts (Table No. 32 and Table No.33).

Table No.30: Small children of the respondents

Small children	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	84	42.00	93	46.50	106	53.00	283	47.17
No	116	58.00	107	53.50	94	47.00	317	52.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.31: Care about small children during the work

Care	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Left at home with elders	39	46.43	16	17.20	13	12.26	68	24.03
Accompany to work site	-	-	5	5.38	13	12.26	18	6.36
Attending school	45	53.57	72	77.42	80	75.47	197	69.61
Total	84	100.00	93	100.00	106	100.00	283	100.00

Table No.32: Bank Account: Pre-NREGS

Bank account	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	9	4.50	13	6.50	9	4.50	31	5.17
No	191	95.50	187	93.50	191	95.50	569	94.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.33: Bank Account: Post-NREGS

Bank account	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	157	78.50	174	87.00	112	56.00	443	73.83
No	43	21.50	26	13.00	88	44.00	157	26.17
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Access to Post office: before and after NREGS

During pre NREGS period only 9% of the total respondents had savings accounts in post offices and the rest did not have account in post offices. Compared district wise in this aspect 10.50% from Vizianagaram followed by 8.50% from Nalgonda and 8% from Kurnool had accounts in post office in pre NREGS period (Table No. 34).

During post NREGA period 69.67% of the total opened accounts in post offices and in all the 3 districts more than 50% now have accounts in post offices (Table No. 35).

Decision making

In a patriarchal societies like India male domination is common and the role played by women in decision making in their families is limited. Did participation of women in NREGS make any difference in decision making to the participants in the families. If tables 36 and 37 are examined it is clear that there is positive impact in decision making on the respondents after their participation in NREGS work. Prior to the NREGS only 38.50% of the respondents had some say in decision making in their families while during the post NREGS the percentage of participation in decision making increased to 50.30%. Interestingly the percentage of participation in kurnool district is 48%, in Nalgonda it is 41.50% and in Vizianagaram it is 62%. In all the 3 districts increased number of respondents are now participating in decision making (Table No.36 and 37).

Gram Sabha

The gram sabhas are supposed to play an important role in the identification of works benefiting the village community as well as in organising them. Majority of the respondents (81.33%) believed that gram sabha is important in carrying out the works of NREGS in their villages. However there is a difference in the district wise opinion of the of respondents in the study area. While more than 90% of the respondents in Kurnool and Nalgonda believe in the importance of gram sabha, in Vizianagaram district only 55% adhere to this belief (Table No.38).

Table No.34: Access to Post office: before NREGS

Post office	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	21	10.50	16	8.00	17	8.50	54	9.00
No	179	89.50	184	92.00	183	91.50	546	91.00
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.35: Access to Post office: after NREGS

Post office	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	150	75.00	118	59.00	150	75.00	418	69.67
No	50	25.00	82	41.00	50	25.00	182	30.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.36: Decision making in the family: Pre NREGS

Participation	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	98	49.00	72	36.00	61	30.50	231	38.50
No	102	51.00	128	64.00	139	69.50	369	61.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.37: Decision making in the family: Post NREGS

Participation	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	124	62.00	96	48.00	83	41.50	303	50.30
No	76	38.00	104	52.00	117	58.50	297	49.50
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.38: Gram Sabha

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	110	55.00	193	96.50	185	92.50	488	81.33
No	90	45.00	7	3.50	15	7.50	112	18.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Participation in Gram Sabha

As far as their participation in gram sabha is concerned only 12.17% participated and the participation level is more or less similar in the 3 districts (Table No.39).

Out of those who participated in gram sabha (No:73), 78.08% participated in deliberations in gram sabha about NREGS selection of work, wages, problems, facilities etc, and in all the 3 districts more than 70% did speak in gram sabha. Under the NREGA before the works are taken up they have to be identified and approved by the gram sabhas so that maximum benefits accrue after the completion of the works to the village community (Table No.40).

Identification of works in gram sabha

Ideally NREGS a well thought about programme not only to improve the condition of rural poor but also to improve the village common property resources like tanks, ponds and facilities like approach road, soil conservation etc. hence works to be taken up have to be selected carefully so that maximum benefit is reaped by the community. How many of the respondents are aware of this process of selection, and how many works in which they participated were identified in gram sabhas. Table No.41 provides the distribution of this information. 86.67% of the total respondents reported that the works were identified in the gram sabha and in all the 3 districts more than 80% reported the same. Only 13.33% were of the opinion that no such identification was made by their gram sabhas (Table No.41).

Identification of works

The question now is if gram sabhas did not identify the work who identified them? The answers to this question is given in table No.42. Out of the 80 respondents who said that works were not identified by the gram sabhas, 72.50% reported that the shram shakti groups identified the works to be carried out. In the case of 18.75% officers of NREGS identified by them, 7.50% were identified by the public and only 1.25% were identified by political leaders. Seen district wise, shram shakti groups played an important role in Vizianagaram district followed by Kurnool and Nalgonda districts (Table No.42).

Social audit

According to the norms of NREGS Social audit of the completed works in the districts has to be carried out every six months. The purpose of social audit is to find out the relationship between expenditure and quantum of work, verification of works,

Table No.39: Participation in Gram Sabha

Participation	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	29	14.50	21	10.50	23	11.50	73	12.17
No	171	85.50	179	89.50	177	88.50	527	87.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.40: Participation in deliberations in Gram Sabha

Participation in deliberation	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	22	75.86	17	80.95	18	78.26	57	78.08
No	7	24.14	4	19.05	5	21.74	16	21.92
Total	29	100.00	21	100.00	23	100.00	73	100.00

Table No.41: Identification of works in gram sabha

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Works identified in Gram Sabha	166	83.00	182	91.00	172	86.00	520	86.67
Not identified in Gram sabha	34	17.00	18	9.00	28	14.00	80	13.33
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

timely payment of wages and misuse of funds and verification of records. Besides, the team has to interact with labour which participated in the works. In NREGA work the social audit team consists of State Resource Person (SRP), 5 District Resource Persons (DRP), Village Social Audit Members (VSAM) and locally educated people. Whether the social audit team visited their villages and interacted with NREGA participants is examined, 56.83% of the respondents did say that the social audit team not only visited their villages but also contacted them and 43.17% answered negatively.

Usefulness and durability of NREGS works

As mentioned earlier the works under NREGS should be useful to the community and sustainable. This aspect of NREGS has been receiving much criticism from different sections of the society and frequently seen in both print and electronic media. What do the respondents think about the utility of the works completed in which they participated? It is interesting to note that 45.67% of the total respondents are doubtful about the usefulness of the works completed. 54.33% of them believe that the works are more or less useful to the community. Examined district wise 58% in Vizianagaram followed by 54% in Nalgonda and 51% in Kurnool said the works carried out by them are useful to the community. On the other hand 49% in Kurnool followed by 46% in Nalgonda and 42% in Vizianagaram opined the works carried out by them are not so useful and sustainable. The later respondents felt that the works were carried out half-hazardly because there was neither supervision from the officials nor the labourers worked sincerity in carrying out the works (Table No.42).

Dependence on the money lenders in post NREGS

The purpose of NREGS is two fold, one is to provide substantial number of working day's to the poor people and secondly there by to make them earn substantial amount of wages. Prior to the introduction of the NREGS the respondents suffered with under and unemployment forcing them to borrow money from money lenders and landlords for their sustenance. Did this situation change after the introduction of NREGS? The information collected from the field clearly indicates positive impact of the scheme on the poor people. As seen from table No. 44 that a little less than 70% did agree that their dependence on money lenders and landlords has come down in post NREGS. Only 31.67% of the total respondents reported that they still largely depend on

Table No.42: Usefulness and durability of NREGS works

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Useful	116	58.00	102	51.00	108	54.00	326	54.33
Not useful	84	42.00	98	49.00	92	46.00	274	45.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.43: Dependence on the money lenders in post NREGS

Opinion	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Decreased	133	66.50	108	54.00	169	84.50	410	68.33
Not Decreased	67	33.50	92	46.00	31	15.50	190	31.67
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

money lenders for loans. Compared districts wise 84.50% respondents from Nalgonda said the dependence on money lenders has decreased followed by 66.50% in Vizianagaram district and 54% in Kurnool district (Table No.43).

Incidence of migration of family members: Pre-NREGS and Post - NREGS

Pre NREGS

Due to unemployment and under employment among the poorer families in the rural areas migration in search of employment and wage labour is not a new phenomena has been going on for centuries. Probably in modern and industrial era the rate of migration increased manyfolds due to both 'push' as 'pull' factors and the present respondents are not an exception to this rule prior to the introduction of NREGS. The aim of NREGS is not only to provide livelihood source but also to stop migration.

Table No.45 presents the opinion of the respondents on the migration from their families in search of work before NREGS. 46.17% of the total respondents reported that some members from their families migrated in search work and 53.83% reported no one from their families took to migration. Compared district wise 51.50% from Kurnool migrated followed by 47% from Nalgonda and 40% from Vizianagaram district (Table No.44).

Post NREGS

As seen from Table No. 44, that 277 respondents of the total reported that one or two members from their families took to seasonal migration in neighbouring districts and elsewhere in the state in search of work. Out of them 39.35% reported their family members were engaged in agriculture work which is seasonal and 60.65% reported that their migrant family members were engaged in non agricultural work. Seen district wise, majority of the families with migrants in the sample districts were mostly engaged in non agricultural works in the places of migration (table No. 45).

Out of the total 277 sample respondents families whose members took to migration during the pre NREGS period in 175 families migration came to an end after the introduction of the NREGS period, where as in 102 families (32.82%) seasonal migration of their members still continues. Similar trends have been observed in the selected 3 districts. It may be said that on the whole the incidence of migration even during pre NREGS was less than 50% (46.17%) among the families of the respondents. Within this group of migrant families it is clear that

impact of NREGS is clearly perceptible because in 63% of these families no migration takes place in post NREGS period (Table No. 46).

By and large NREGS seems to have created reasons and opportunities for people to work and remain in their own villages. The strengthening of this perception in rural areas can have significant impacts on questions of security, health and childrens education, all of which are often compromised, in one way or another, during migration.

Interaction with the officers: before and after NREGS

Opening and operation of bank and post office accounts by the NREGS workers today is a must because their wages are being paid through bank and post offices to avoid misappropriation of wages. Operating bank and post office accounts by the respondents did have some additional benefits like experience in bank and post office operations and in interacting with the officials. This interaction with banks, post offices are likely to widen their mental horizons. Further opening the bank accounts has led to the saving habit as well as control over their earnings. One other benefit from the experience in NREGS work is that the women have gained confidence in interacting not only with officials of NREGS but also with other officials like block and PRI's. Seen from this angle only 21% of the total respondents had some experience of interaction with the officials in pre NREGS period. On the other hand 61.17% of the total respondents in post NREGS period have gained experience to interact with officers from different departments. The positive impact is more or less similar among the respondents of the 3 districts.

Usefulness of NREGS

Despite the draw-backs and the problems in executing the NREGS the overall opinion of the experts particularly the economists in the country is that the poor people have been benefitted both in terms of increase in the number of day's of employment, and in annual income thus showing positive impact on the lives of the poor. Did the respondents also feel the same?. The answer is, overwhelming majority of them despite dissatisfaction over daily wages (96.33%) felt that this programme has been useful to themselves as well as to their families. It is interesting to note 100% from Nalgonda, 99.50% form Vizianagaram and 89.50% from Kurnool districts felt the same.

Table No.44: Migration of family members pre-NREGS

Migration	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Yes	80	40.00	103	51.50	94	47.00	277	46.17
No	120	60.00	97	48.50	106	53.00	323	53.83
Total	200	100.00	200	100.00	200	100.00	600	100.00

Table No.45: Nature of work and incidence of migration : pre NREGS

Type of work	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
Agriculture	36	45.00	39	37.86	34	36.17	109	39.35
Non agriculture	44	55.00	64	62.14	60	63.83	168	60.65
Total	80	100.00	103	100.00	94	100.00	277	100.00

Table No.46: Status of migration among the respondents families : post NREGS

Status	Vizianagaram		Kurnool		Nalgonda		Total	
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
No migration	54	67.50	64	62.14	57	60.64	175	63.17
Migration continues	26	32.50	39	32.86	37	39.36	102	36.82
Total	80	100.00	103	100.00	94	100.00	277	100.00

Assets created from NREGS

It is unfortunate and disappointing that the assets created from the wages earned from NREGS both by the respondents as well as by the other members of their families is negligible. It is because most of the families come from below poverty line even fulfilling the basic needs was difficult prior to the introduction of NREGS. Even after the introduction of NREGS their earnings from NREGS as seen from Table No.21, is not much because of various reasons like irregular attendance to the work, inability of the officials to provide 100 days of work etc. overwhelming majority of the respondents and other members of their family engaged in NREGS spent their wages earned on fulfilling their basic needs like food, clothing, health care, clearance of old debts etc., rather than acquiring assets. As seen from table No.27, only 9.33% of the total respondents did spent little amount on acquiring small assets like purchase of cycle to their children, T.V., mobile phone etc., besides little amount spent on house repairs, construction, land development etc.

It is clear from the above exposition of asset creation from NREGS wages is not so important in the process of socio-economic empowerment because assets created are of low quality and of less durability and they cannot be said as productive assets.

As seen from Table No. 42, 54.33% felt that community assets created under NREGS were useful to their families as well as to the community.

Besides the benefits accrued to the families of the respondents, the works taken up by the respondents have brought considerable changes. The road works carried out improved connectivity between the villages and the urban centers. The soil and water conservation activities helped in recharging the ground water which inturn resulted in improved irrigation facilities. The land development of SC and ST families did help them in cultivation.

It is clearly indicate that the scheme has impacted on the income, expenditure pattern, savings, migration, status of women and social relationship. The scheme has also brought in to the households as well as to the community.

Expenditure from NREGS income

There is no doubt that the income of the respondents as well as other members in a family working in NREGS has increased and stable to a certain extent. Consequently the assumption is that their expenditure on various items like food, children's education, health, clothing, socio-religious ceremonies etc. should have increased.

➤ **Food**

Seen from this angle 80.83% of the respondents felt that expenditure on food in their families increased compared to pre NREGS, in all the 3 districts similar results emerged. 19.17% of the total said no increase in expenditure on this item.

➤ **Health**

58.33% of the total respondents did say that they are spending more expenditure now towards health care.

➤ **Education**

With regard to children's education 58% reported they are spending more now on this aspect while 42% said the expenditure remains as it was in pre NREGS.

➤ **Clothing**

Increased expenditure on clothing was reported by 75.33% of the total respondents. It is interesting to note that 90% in Nalgonda and 97% from Vizianagaram reported increased expenditure on clothing in post NREGS while in Kurnool district only 39% reported increased expenditure in post NREGS period.

➤ **Socio-religious ceremonies**

73% of the total respondents said that expenditure on socio-religious ceremonies increased in post NREGS period. In this more percentage is from Vizianagaram (89.50%) and Nalgonda (82%) expressed than among the respondents in Kurnool(47.50%).

Impact of wage priority on decision making : within the households and in community

One of the objectives of NREGS is to bring about gender equality in wages. This objective of NREGS and its practice in the field definitely put an idea in the men that the women are no more less than themselves in the view of the Govt. of India as well as in

the state Govt's. Most importantly as per our discussions with the respondents, they feel happy and empowered due to wage parity in NREGS. They were happy that atleast govts both at the state and Center felt that women should be treated equally in wages along with the men. The respondents themselves expressed that they are not inferior to men in any aspect. The idea of women not inferior to men is strongly embedded in the minds of respondents is itself one positive aspect of the empowerment which created self confidence which may further lead to more empowerment in future.

A comparison of improvement in decision making between pre and post NREGs period (Table No's 36 and 37) clearly indicate that more percentage of women i.e., 50.30% expressed that their role in decision making in their families has improved in post NREGS period when compared to pre NREGS period (38.50%).

The fact that nearly 90% of the respondents retained a part of wages from NREGS for their personal use clearly indicate that they are more free now to manage the finances in their respective households (Table No.26).

It is also clear from Table No. 9, nearly 90% of the respondents of the total decided by themselves to participate in the NREGS. It is interesting to note that a number of respondents who were purely housewives during pre NREGS period decided to participate in NREGS by their own free choice. When it comes to participation of respondents in gram sabhas its impact is disappointing because only 12.17% of the total participated in the gram sabha's. Of them (70.80%) did participate in the deliberations of gram sabhas such as identification of works, wages, work site facilities, maintenance of works completed and related problems etc.

It may be said that participation of the respondents in the decision making in the households did improve to a certain extent. However their frequency of interaction with the officials, banks and post offices did increase, this itself is one aspect of social empowerment. But the same is wanting outside the household i.e. in community and grama sabhas.

Chapter - 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter briefly presents summary and conclusions.

The most important land mark in the upliftment of poor in the country is the enactment and implementation of NREGA in the year 2005. This programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), Government of India, which directly touches the lives of the poor for promoting inclusive growth. It provides livelihood security to the poor families in the rural areas of the Country. Besides other norms of this Act, the two important norms are (1) Provision of 100 day's of wage employment for those who are seeking it and (2) among the employed one-third of them should be women.

The MGNREGS basically is not to empower the poor women but to create livelihood opportunities to the poor households. However one of the by products of this programe could be empowerment of poor women by envisaging equal number of work days and equal wages along with men. Since the wages are paid directly to the workers through banks and post offices the women workers are likely to have not only control over their earnings but also increased the say in decision making in their households. If the above mentioned are correct at least to a certain extent it can be assumed that the women are likely achieve empowerment at least partially.

The NREGS was implemented in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2006 in a phased manner and presently it covers all the 22 districts excluding Hyderabad. Till 2011-12, 2,91,28,696 persons were registered in NREGS in the state, of them 1,49,53,158 are males and 1,41,75,539 are females.

The present study is directed at understanding the impact of NREGS on the empowerment of women participants in Andhra Pradesh. It also enquires into the facilities provided at the work site like drinking water, shed for rest, first aid box, crèche to the small of children of working mothers etc.

The state of Andhra Pradesh is divided into three regions namely Rayalaseema, Telangana and Coastal Andhra. From Rayalaseema region Kurnool district, from Telangana Nalgonda district and from Coastal Andhra Vizianagaram

district were selected on the basis of highest number of women participants in NREGS. In each selected district two mandals were selected and from each of the selected mandal 5 gram pachayats were selected applying the same criteria as mentioned above. From each of the selected gram panchayat 20 women who are participating in wage work under NREGS were randomly selected for the study. Thus the total respondents comes to 600, 200 each from the selected three districts.

In order to collect the data an interview schedule was constructed and used. In addition Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and observation method were used to supplement the data collected through interview schedule.

The total population of the 600 respondents families is 2398, of them 53.09% are males and 46.91% are females. The age wise distribution of the total population more or less adheres to population pyramid. Out of the total population of the respondents families 56.34% are married and 40.03% are unmarried. The rest are distributed among widows/widowed and divorced. Out of the total families 79.67% are nuclear families, 19.50% are joint families and only 0.83% are extended families. In the category of nuclear families more percentage is found in the sample of Nalgonda district than in the samples of Kurnool and Vizianagaram districts. A very high percentage of families in the total as well as in the districts have 3 to 5 members and average size of the family is four.

50.63% of the total population is illiterate, compared district wise more percentage of illiterates are found in the sample of Kurnool district than in other two districts. Among the literates in the total as well as in the districts nearly 40% of them are distributed between primary and secondary education.

63.80% are workers and 36.20% are non-workers in the total population of the sample families. Overwhelming majority of the workers are distributed in the occupations of wage labour, agriculture labour and farming. 38.67% of the total families are landless and the rest are distributed between the ownership of one to nine acres of land. However a large percentage of them in the three districts own between one to three acres of land.

Majority of the total families approximate annual income is between Rs.10,000-20,000 to Rs. 30,000 – 40,000. The rest of the families are found in the

annual income ranges of below Rs.10,000 and Rs. 80,000-90,000. The approximate annual expenditure of the 600 families ranges between below Rs 10,000 to 90,000. However more than 60% of the families in the total as well as in the three districts are found in the approximate annual expenditure of Rs. 20,000 to 50,000.

54.17% have no savings and 45.83% have savings. Overwhelming majority of those who have saved ranges between Rs.10,000-40,000. 51.50% of the families are indebted and the rest have no debt. Major sources of credit are SHGs followed by money lenders and Banks. With regard to size of debt overwhelming majority of them are indebted between Rs 10,000-60,000.

Overwhelming majority of the respondents families in the total as well as in the districts live in their own houses and the rest live in rented houses. 70% of the total families live in pucca houses, compared district wise in this group more than 70% in Vizianagaram and Nalgonda live in pucca houses and the same for Kurnool is 59%. A large majority of the houses in the total and in the districts have one to two rooms in their houses. 72.17% of the houses have no toilets. In this group, samples from Kurnool is in better position in the provision of toilets, 57% of them have no toilets compared to Vizianagaram (82.50%) and Nalgonda (77%). Same could said in the provision of bath rooms. A little more than 60% of the houses have no bath rooms, in this category Vizianagaram district tops with 81% followed by Nalgonda (67.50%) and Kurnool (42.50%). Close to 60% of the total houses are depending on public taps for drinking water, 35.82% are depending on community hand pumps and the rest are on wells. Overwhelming majority of the houses in the total as well as in the 3 districts have electricity facility. A large majority of the families in the total and in the districts depend on fuel wood for cooking.

A total of 20 castes have been recorded in the sample of women respondents, of them nearly 50% come from BC followed by SC, ST and OC. However majority of them are from weaker sections in the total as well as in the three districts. Age wise distribution of respondents ranges between 10-60 years but overwhelming majority of them in the total and in the districts are found between 20 to 50 years. Out of the total respondents 87.33% are married, 1.50% are unmarried, the rest are widows and divorced. Out of the married 41.95% are married when they were at the age of below 15-17 years. It means a large percentage were child marriages among the

respondents. Rest of them got married between to 18 to above 22 years. Illiterates are high among the total respondents (81.33%), seen district wise 88.50% are in Kurnool followed by 78% in Vizianagaram and 72.50% in Nalgonda district.

39.33% of the total respondents came to know the NREGS through gram sabha followed by 31.33% from self efforts, 20.83% from officers and 19.67% from SHGs. Only a small percentage came to know from their family members. With regard to the awareness among the respondents about various provisions of the NREGS, it ranges between 6% on norms of provision of work to one-third of the women to 54.17% about the wages fixed per day in NREGS work. Only 16.33% were aware of the provision of the 100 days of work, 31.33% about the wages to be paid within 15 days, 18% about providing work in the village or within a radius of 5 kms, 15.33% have knowledge about facilities to be provided at work site and 3.17% about unemployment allowance.

A large percentage of the respondents in the total and in the districts took decision individually to participate in NREGS work. From slightly in more than 90% of the respondents families men also participated in the wage work under NREGS. In 69.50% of the families only one male participated in the work. Obviously in all the 600 families women also participated but in majority of the families only a single women participated. The range of participation of the respondents in terms of years is between one to six years. Overwhelming majority of them have participated in NREGS between two to five years.

58.83% of the total respondents before they were engaged in work under NREGS were also working as wage labour 41.17% were house wives but some of them occasionally went for wage work and also assisted their families in farm related activities.

Overwhelming percentage of the respondents in the total and in the districts did get employment within 15 days after application. Respondents participated in 5 types of works under NREGS. They are re-excavation of traditional water bodies, irrigation supply channels, land development, village approach roads and social forestry. 82.83% of the total respondents did say that they faced discrimination in the allocation of work.

According to the norm of NREGS, work should be provided either within the village or near by villages but within the radius of 5 kms. Only 14.67% have been provided work out side the radius of 5 kms of the village. The rest of the respondents have been provided work in their own villages. With regard to working hours, actual hours of work of the respondents ranged between 2 to 7 hours. However majority of them in the total worked between 3 to 5 hours, only 9.16% and 4.50% worked between 6 to 7 hours respectively.

In the case of number of working days provided in the previous year the range is between 50 to 100 days. Majority of the respondents worked between 81 to 100 days, within this 35.83% worked between 81 to 90 days and 31.33% worked between 91 to 100 days. Even district wise the same situation is found with minor variations. Wage per day paid to the respondents ranges between Rs.50 to 125. However majority of them in the total and in the 3 districts received between Rs.50-90. 78.17% were paid wages in time and for 21.83% it was delayed. Majority of the respondents both in the total and also in 3 districts received their wages from post offices and the rest through banks.

The total earnings from NREGS of the respondents in the previous year range between Rs.2000-10,000. However majority of them in the total and in three districts earn between Rs.2000-7000.

Interestingly 58.50% of the total and above 50% in all the 3 districts, respondents claimed discrimination in wages between men and women. But the officials do not agree with this and said that the quantum of wages paid depends both on the number of hours worked per day and the check measurement. Despite claiming discrimination in wages more than 50% of the respondents are satisfied with what they earned and 43.17% are not satisfied. But there is some difference between the districts, in Vizianagaram 60.50% are not satisfied, same for Kurnool is 40% and Nalgonda 29%.

Only 8.83% all them from Vizianagaram district are not in the habit of retaining any part of their wages but handover it to their families. On the other hand rest of them retain a part of their wages with them ranging between 25% to 75% to 100%. Only 3.67% of the total retain between 75% - 100%.

The amount retained from their wages is being used for various purposes ranging from repayment of old bets, to visiting friends and relatives for attending socio-religious ceremonies. However only 40.17% of the respondents save a small part of amount from their earning even after incurring some expenditure.

Facilities at worksites seem to be most inadequate. Even in the case of drinking water only 36.33% of the respondents reported the availability of drinking water at work sites. Out of the total respondents 47.17% have small children, of them close to 70% of the respondents children are attending school, 24% leave their children at home in the care of elders and 6.36% of the respondents take their children to the work sites.

During pre NREGS period 94.83% and 91.00% of the total respondents did not have accounts in the banks and post offices respectively. On the other hand in post NREGS period 73.83% and 69.67% have opened accounts in banks and post offices respectively, indicating all the respondents have now accounts either in banks and post offices and some of them have accounts in both.

Gram sabhas not only play an important role in the development of villages but also in the implementation of NREGS. 81.33% of the total respondents recognized the importance of gram sabha in the implementation of NREGS. In Kurnool and Nalgonda 96.50% and 92.50% respectively recognized the importance of gram sabha but the same for vizianagaram is 55%. However only a small of percentage of respondents (12.17%) participated in gram sabha and of them majority did participate in the actual deliberations. The gram sabhs are expected to identify the works under NREGS in their villages. 86.67% of the respondents said the works were identified by gram sabhas and the rest said they were identified by shram sakti groups, officials and local political leaders and public.

Asset creation in the families of the respondents from the wages accrued due to NREGS is not encouraging at all.

In the case of creation of community assets little more than 50% of the total respondents felt the work useful to their community as well as to their families.

During the post NREGS period majority of the respondents believe that they are spending more now than in pre NREGS period on food, health, clothing, children's education, socio-religious ceremonies etc.

Majority of the respondents in the total and in the 3 districts did agree that in post NREGS period their families dependence on money lenders has come down.

During pre NREGS 46.17% of the total respondents reported that some of their family members migrated seasonally in search of work both within the district and outside the district. Of them majority migrants participated in non-farm wage work and nearly 40% were engaged in agriculture and allied activities. In the post NREGS the incidence of migration has drastically come down.

At present seasonal migration takes place only in 102 families while in Pre NREGS period migration took place in 277 families.

The role of respondents in decision making in their families did increase at least in some cases during the post NREGS period. In pre NREGS period only 38.50% of the total respondents said that they played some role in decision making while in the post NREGS period 50.30% said their role in this aspect has increased.

However participation of respondents in decision making in gram sabhas and in the community improved only marginally.

Despite gender discrimination in the allocation of work, in wages and dissatisfaction over the total wages earned in the previous year and other problems 96.33% of the respondents feel that NREGS is a beneficial programme useful to themselves and to their families in improving the standard of living as well as in empowering them.

Conclusions

Socio-economic profile of the respondents families

- ❖ Majority of the families of the respondents are nuclear families and average size of the family is four persons.
- ❖ Out of the total population of the respondents families slightly above 50% are illiterate and rest are literate.

- ❖ One-third of total population are non-workers and the rest are mainly distributed among wage labour, agricultural labour and cultivation.
- ❖ Majority of them own some land and most of them are small and marginal land owners.
- ❖ A large number of families approximate annual income is between Rs.10,000-40,000.
- ❖ A little over 50% families have savings and nearly half of the families are in debt. Money lenders, SHGs, Banks acted as sources of credit.

Profile of respondents and impact of NREGS

- ❖ Overwhelming majority of the respondents come from weaker sections like SC, ST and BCs.
- ❖ Illiteracy is very high among the respondents.
- ❖ Awareness of respondents on the provisions of NREGS is inadequate except on equal wages, fixed per day etc.
- ❖ Both men and women from a number of families are participating in NREGS work.
- ❖ Majority of the respondents have been participating for 2 to 5 years in NREGS work.
- ❖ Respondents participated in different types of works namely Re-excavation of ponds and tanks, digging of irrigation supply channels, land development, village approach roads and social forestry, but participation in social forestry is negligible.
- ❖ There seems to be gender discrimination in the allocation of work and also in the payment of wages.
- ❖ Before taking up NREGS work, a large percentage of women were wage workers.
- ❖ For overwhelming majority of the workers work was provided within 15 days.

- ❖ Majority of the respondents were not provided 100 days, of work. Whatever may be the wage fixed in the act but majority received their wages in time and all the workers accessed their wages from banks and post offices. In pre NREGS period very few of the women had accounts in post offices and banks.
- ❖ The total earnings from NREGS have gone against the expectations of the respondents.
- ❖ Majority of the workers were not only satisfied with the wages but also felt the role of money lenders has come down.
- ❖ Most of the women enjoy freedom in retaining a part of their wages earned for spending on their personal needs compared to Pre-NREGS. It clearly indicates one aspect of empowerment.
- ❖ The incidence of migration from poorer families has come down in post NREGS period compared to pre NREGS period.
- ❖ Work site facilities are most inadequate.
- ❖ Very little harassment of women workers at worksites.
- ❖ Interaction with the various officials increased to a certain extent indicating increase in their level of self confidence.
- ❖ The role of decision making in their families did increased.
- ❖ In majority of the respondents families expenditure on food, health, education, clothing and socio-religious ceremonies increased.
- ❖ Despite many drawbacks like negative opinion on equal wages, discrimination in work allocation, less number of working days, low wages and less total wages earned in pervious years and lack of facilities at work sites 96.33% of the total respondents were in favour of NREGS programme because of its usefulness both in terms of wages and economic empowerment of women to a certain extent.

Chapter - 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following recommendations may be carried out through the agencies suggested below:

For Government of India

- Strict implementation of the provision of 100 day's of work to every job card holder in a year.

❖ **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.**

- There is still a need to decrease the incidence of migration.

❖ **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.**

- Works completed under NREGS needs evaluation.

❖ **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.**

- Revision of Schedule of rates.

❖ **Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.**

For Government of Andhra Pradesh.

- Awareness on the various provisions of NREGS may be improved among stakeholders.

❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**

- Gender discrimination in the allocation of work and in the payment of wages may be looked into.

❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**

- Strict implementation of the provision of 100 day's of work to every job card holder in a year.

❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**

- There is still a need to decrease the incidence of migration.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- Facilities at work sites requires improvement.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh**
- The women participating in NREGS may be encouraged to participate not only in gram sabha but also participate in the deliberations of the gram sabha.
 - ❖ **Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- A few literate women workers may be included as members of social audit team.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- Works completed under NREGS needs evaluation.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- The women workers in general, the aged, pregnant and mother's with small infants may be allotted lighter manual work which is easy to carry out.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- Revision of schedule of rates.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**
- Payment of extra wages may be paid to those who have been provided work beyond the radius of 5 kms.
 - ❖ **Department of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.**

For Other Agencies

- Awareness on the various provisions of NREGS may be improved among stakeholders.
- ❖ Non-Governmental Organizations, Workers Unions, Self Help Groups, farmers associations etc.

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Title of the Research Study: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) : A Study of Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women in Andhra Pradesh sponsored by National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, New Delhi-110002 study carried out by Noble Social and Educational Society, Tirupati.

**SCHEDULE
PART-A**

Profile of the Respondent women and their families

1.	Name of the respondent	:	
2.	Name of the District	:	
3.	Social Category	:	SC / ST / BC / OC
4.	Details of the family	:	

S.No.	Name	Relationship to the Respondent	Sex	Age	Marital status	Education
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

Occupation	Approximate annual income (Rs.)	Approximate annual expenditure (Rs.)	Land holding (in acres)
8	9	10	11

5.	Household Savings	:	Yes / No
6.	If yes, amount	:	
7.	Household Debt	:	Yes / No
8.	If yes, amount	:	
9.	Sources of credit	:	Money lender / bank / SHG / friends, relatives etc.,
10.	Status of House	:	Own / Rented
11.	Type of House	:	Pucca / Semi Pucca / Kachcha
12.	Facilities available in the house	:	
	a. Electricity	:	Yes / No
	b. Main sources of drinking water	:	Piped / Hand pump / well
	c. cooking medium	:	LPG / Kerosene / Fuel wood
	d. No. of rooms	:	
	e. Toilets	:	Yes / No
	f. Bathrooms	:	Yes / No

Part-B
Impact of Income earned from MGNREGS on the respondent women

1	Name	:	
2	Age	:	
3	Education	:	
4	Name of the Sub Caste	:	
5	Marital Status	:	Married / Unmarried / Widow / Divorced
6	Age at marriage	:	
7	How did you come to know about the MGNREGA ?	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Self b. Sarpanch c. Officials d. SHG e. Family members f. Friends g. Media h. Gram Sabha
8	Awareness about MGNREGS Provisions	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Up to 100 days of employment b. Minimum wages c. Equal wages d. Payment of wages with in 15 days e. Work site facilities f. Work within 5 kms from residence g. Unemployment allowance h. One – third women workers to be engaged
9	Who takes decision about your participation in NREGS	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Own b. Family members
10	How many members in your family are engaged in NREGS work at present	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Male - b. Female - c. Total -
11	How long have you been engaged in NREGS work	:	
12	Type of work	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Re-excavation of pond b. Digging irrigation channel

			c. Village roads / rural connectivity d. Social Forestry e. Land shaping and development f. Any other
13	Is there gender discrimination in the allocation of work	:	Yes / No
14	Pre NREGs work mention	:	House wife / Wage worker / No work
15	Time gap between application for work and allocation	:	a. Below 15 days b. 16 - 20 days c. 21 – 25 days d. 26 and above
16	If you did not get work within 15 days, did you get an employment allowance	:	Yes / No
17	Mention the amount of Unemployment allowance received	:	
18	Actual working hours of the respondent in a day	:	
19	Working place	:	a. Same village b. Near by Village
20	Status of facilities at work site	:	
	a. Drinking water	:	Yes / No
	b. Shelter for periods of rest	:	Yes / No
	c. First aid box	:	Yes / No
	d. Child care / Creche	:	Yes / No
21	Do you have small children	:	Yes / No
22	If yes, what is their status when you attend to NREGS work	:	a. Left at home with elders b. Carried to work site c. Go to school
23	Wage per day	:	
24	Did you receive wages in time	:	Yes / No

25	Mode of payment of wages	:	a. Bank b. Post Office c. Cash
26	How many days did you work in NREGS last year	:	
27	What was the total wages received for NREGS last year	:	
28	Satisfaction about the wages earned	:	Yes / No
29	Is the NREGs reduces the dependence on local money lenders	:	Yes / No
30	Is there gender discrimination in the payment of wages	:	Yes / No
31	Is there any harassment at work site	:	Yes / No
32	If yes who harassed you	:	a. Mate b. Co workers (male / female) c. Field Assistant d. Any other
33	Retention of earnings by the women	:	a. Up to 25% b. 25% - 50% c. 50% - 75% d. 75% - 100% e. Nil
34	Did you spend any amount from your earnings on your personal needs	:	a. Purchase of clothes, cosmetics, bangles, etc., b. Purchase of utensils c. Payment of old debts d. Health care e. Adding household assets f. Visiting relatives and friends g. Any other
35	Do you have savings from NREGs earnings	:	Yes / No
36	Purpose of savings	:	a. Girl child marriage

			b. Children's education c. Payment of old debts d. Purchase of assets e. Any other
37	Migration for employment of your family before NREGS work	:	Yes / No
38	Incidence of Migration of family (Post NREGA)	:	a. Decreased b. Increased c. Stable
39	Do you have bank account (Pre NREGS)	:	Yes / No
40	Do you have bank account (Post NREGS)	:	Yes / No
41	Access to post office before NREGS	:	Yes / No
42	Access to post office after NREGS	:	Yes / No
43	Interaction with the Officers before NREGS	:	Yes / No
44	Interaction with the Officers after NREGS	:	Yes / No
45	Did you participate in decision making on various aspects of your family before participation in NREGS	:	Yes / No
46	Did you participate in decision making on various aspects of your family at present (post NREGS)	:	Yes / No
47	Do you believe the Gram Sabha is important for you and to the village	:	Yes / No
48	Do you participate in Gram Sabha	:	Yes / No
49	If yes, did you speak in the Gram Sabha	:	Yes / No
50	Did social audit carried out in your village	:	Yes / No

51	Did identification of works take place in Gram Sabha	:	Yes / No
52	If No, who identified the works	:	a. Self b. Officers c. Public d. Political leaders
53	What are the issues discussed in the Shram Shakti Group meetings	:	a. Plan of work b. Wages c. Attitude of Officers d. Any other
54	Do you believe that officer managing NREGS are honest	:	Yes / No/ No response
55	Works completed by you / engaged in NREGS are useful to the community	:	Yes / No
56	Expenditure on the following (Post NREG)	:	
	a. Food	:	Increased / Decreased /Stable
	b. Health	:	Increased / Decreased /Stable
	c. Children's education	:	Increased / Decreased /Stable
	d. Clothing	:	Increased / Decreased /Stable
	e. Social ceremonies	:	Increased / Decreased /Stable
57	Is the NREGS is useful for economic well being of your household	:	Yes / No
58	Suggestions	:	1. 2. 3.