CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rural development or development of rural areas and provision of better qualities of life to the rural people have been a major objective of planning in India throughout the entire planning period. Though the rural development was initially regarded as co-terminus with agricultural development, the range of activity brought under the ambit of rural development programmes has been expanding and by the early 1980's amelioration of poverty became the prime objective of India's rural development strategy. Target group oriented programmes for resources and income development, special area development programmes for drought prone area and wage employment schemes for rural workers constitute the core of this strategy. In the 1990's the primary focus was given to the various programmes and strategies adopted in the successive plans to provide the basic necessities to the rural poor. The strategy was to develop the entire rural area, which would take care of improved productivity, increased employment, higher income for the target groups as well as the minimum acceptable levels of food, shelter, education and healthy surroundings. These are conducive to the development of rural people with a high value system and character.

During the first two decades of economic planning, emphasis was laid on the need to maximise the rate of growth of the Gross National Product and the strategy being followed in this period seemed more to be production oriented than welfare oriented. During the 1960's, emphasis was, however, shifted to a more intensive development of rural economy through various programmes, which were mostly area specific. By 1970, it was realised that the various development programmes undertaken in the economy had not improved the socio-economic conditions of a large majority of the rural people and that public investment in the rural sector could not mitigate the incidence of poverty and unemployment. Thus, the realities of the rural situation dictated the adoption of different strategies at different periods. In order to realise the goals of increased production, alleviation of poverty and employment generation, several self and wage employment programmes or public works programmes have been launched from time to time out of which programmes like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) intend to improve the earlier employment programmes by first providing employment on
a sustained realisable basis and secondly by linking up employment works closely with the various development programmes. During 1980's another target oriented programme called Integrated Rural Development Programme(IRDP) was launched to mitigate the rural poverty as well as employment and to generate income so as to raise the standard of living of the rural people.

1.2 THE PROBLEM UNDER STUDY

The economy of Assam is predominantly agrarian and hence the rural economy has a vital role to play for the economic development of this region. The generation of employment in rural areas is very much important for the economic welfare of the rural masses. At the time of independence, the economy of the country as a whole and also the economies of the various states of India including Assam were in a stagnant condition. The rural economy became standstill, which called for urgent solution.

During the last five decades of planning, various programmes aiming at the removal of rural poverty and unemployment have been launched. The present problem of our study is to analyse the impact of select rural employment programmes namely, Integrated Rural Development Programme(IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna(JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS) on the generation of employment in the Kamrup district of Assam under the Five Year Plans. As the creation of employment opportunities is the instrument of generation of income, the study of impact of rural development programmes in the Five Year Plans on rural employment is of great significance.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The basic objective of the study is to examine and analyse the effects of the Rural Employment Programmes viz. IRDP, JRY and EAS in generating employment to the rural people of Kamrup district in Assam and also to the rural people of India in general and the hindrances these programmes confront with.

Some other objectives are:

i) To study the impact of IRDP and JRY programmes on various communities in respect of employment generation;
ii) To study the employment generating effects of IRDP programme on various occupation groups;

iii) To study income generating effects of IRDP programme occupation wise and castewise or communitywise and employment generating effect of JRY castewise;

iv) To study the repayment performance of the IRDP beneficiaries.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

Our work is based on both the secondary and the primary sources of information.

A. So far as the sources of secondary information are concerned we have collected data from various sources as mentioned below:

i) Government sources – Govt. of Assam: Economic Surveys conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1985-86, 1989-90, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000; Statistical Handbooks published by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Assam, on various years from 1981-82 to 1999-2000; documents containing rural developmental performances, achievements etc. published by the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Govt. of Assam; District Rural Development Agency’s(DRDA) documents containing achievements performances of the Rural Development Programmes in the State of Assam and in the Kamrup District; Reports from the State Institute of Rural Development(SIRD), Govt. of Assam regarding the achievements and performances of the Rural Development Programmes, their evaluation, monitoring etc; various Plan Documents of the Govt. of Assam.

ii) Government sources – Govt. of India: Plan Documents of the Planning Commission (1st Five-Year Plan to Ninth Five Year Plan); Annual Reports – Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment/Rural Development with effect from 1980-81 to 1998-99, Govt. of India; National Sample Survey Reports (various rounds); Rural Development Statistics published by National Institute of Rural Development(NIRD), Hyderabad in various years from 1982-83 to 1999-2000;

iii) Journals: Economic and Political Weekly volumes with effect from 1980-81 to 1999-2000; Yojna issues in the 80’s and 90’s; various issues of
iv) Secondary data and information are also collected by consulting the libraries of some of the prestigious institutions in the country like Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi; Indian Council of Social Science and Research, Documentation Centre, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad and Guwahati; Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad; State Institute of Rural Development Hyderabad; Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati; State Institute of Rural Development, Guwahati; K.K.Handique Library (Central Library) of Gauhati University; Library of Administrative staff college Khanapara; Guwahati.

v) Publications made by renowned private researchers like, India Development Report – Kirit. S. Parikh and others;

vi) International Sources : Human Development Reports by UNDP in various years in the 1990's, World Development Report, Oxford University Press etc.

For secondary source of information, we have also visited block offices, district offices and various Ministries of the Govt. of Assam as well as the Planning and Development Department;

B. Primary data have been collected from sample households. So far as the study of IRDP and JRY are concerned the study has been made using two stage stratified random sampling method. In the first stage, blocks, and in the second stage, beneficiary households have been selected by applying simple random sampling (without replacement) technique. The blocks in the district have been stratified into 3 groups viz. developed, moderately developed and less developed on the basis of some selected economic indicators as informed by the DRDA and block officials. Accordingly, 4 development blocks have been selected in the first stage for studying the employment generation effects of the programmes. Of these four blocks, Dimoria block belongs to the developed group of blocks. While Sualkuchi block is moderately developed, Hajo and Boko are less-developed blocks. The reason for taking two blocks from less developed blocks is that the proportion of less developed blocks in the district is the highest.
So far as the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is concerned 10 per cent of the household beneficiaries from each block have been selected at random. Accordingly, we have selected 79 beneficiary households from Dimoria block, 69 from Soalkuchi block, 42 from Boko block and 40 from Hajo block. Thus, our second and final stage sample consists of 230 households. So far as EAS is concerned, our sample blocks comprise of Rani, Chandrapur, Chayagaon and Rangia development blocks which have been selected purposively. The impact of EAS on employment generation to the rural people in Kamrup District has been analysed on the basis of the information obtained from those blocks.

C. Information have been collected personally from the households of sample beneficiaries with special emphasis on employment generation, with the help of schedules prepared for the purpose.

D. Data collected from primary as well as secondary sources have been classified, tabulated and analysed with the help of quantitative techniques like:
   i) Paired t test to measure the variations in income and employment at two periods viz. base-year and post-project year;
   ii) Regression analysis to estimate the various elasticity co-efficients;
   iii) Gini co-efficient to measure the inequality in income and employment.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS INVESTIGATED
The following research questions have been investigated:
   i) Whether the select rural development programmes have encouraged employment generation in rural areas;
   ii) Whether rural development programmes under the various Five Year Plans have been able to cover significantly the poorer section of the rural people;
   iii) Whether the various programmes launched under the Five Year Plans for upliftment of the rural people are suitable.

1.6 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY
Poverty plagues a developing country like India. With independence, India inherited acute poverty. Almost half of its population was poor. From the
beginning of the planned era, much effort has been made to eradicate poverty and promote economic growth with social justice but it could meet with a limited success.

"India accounts for nearly 14 percent of humanity but in terms of its share in poverty it accounts for nearly 30 per cent" (Bhagawati and Srinavasa, 1993). Though there is an indication of decline in the proportion of the people below poverty line over the years, yet in absolute term the number of poor has been increasing. An astonishing number of 250 million people are below poverty line in India. Thus the present number of poor exceeds the figure at the time of independence. However, the population is also increasing at a rapid rate. The number of poor today is more but at the same time a large number of poor people have crossed the poverty line. While the overall scenario of poverty in the country is such a distressing one, the poverty scenario of the state of Assam is no better. The intensity of poverty is higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas.

Despite a number of efforts made in the past, poverty still continues to be a serious problem for the policy makers in India. One of the main reasons cited often for the poor performance of poverty alleviation programmes is the allocated funds not reaching the poor due to wrong identification of the target groups. Besides, the administrative cost of these programmes is too high. Hence identification of the genuine beneficiaries and the cost effectiveness of the poverty alleviation programmes are the need of the hour.

While designing a poverty alleviation programme emphasis is often given to symptoms of poverty rather than the courses. In general, calorie intake and income are most commonly used indicators of poverty. But often it is difficult to get reliable estimates of these indicators as they are subject to sharp fluctuations across seasons, time and locations. Also a single poverty indicator may not fully provide the complete profile of poor families. This is owing to diversity in their requirements and the level of development of their respective regions. 'Poor' is not a homogeneous character. Though they may have common characteristics they often differ a lot in their response to policy interventions. "Poverty indicators based on household characteristics offer some promise of quickly and cheaply identifying rural poor without the need for detailed household income and expenditure surveys" (Singh and Hazell, 1994).

There are possibly two routes to rural poverty reduction, i.e. economic growth (farm and non-farm) and human resource development. Evidence
shows that the growth in farm and non-farm sectors could help in reducing poverty. But human resource development is equally important to check poverty even if there is no significant growth in the domestic economy.

India has followed two approaches to overcome poverty.  

i) Large reliance on “Trickle down” or “Spread effect” of rapid growth and  
ii) Direct public intervention.  

The first approach was based on the assumption that the overall growth in the economy, particularly in the agricultural sector, will have a spread or trickle down effect and the poor would be automatically benefitted. This is partly true as the poor get benefited when the growth in the economy is very high i.e. 8 to 10 per cent per annum resulting in a sound asset base of the poor - not only physical ones like land but also skills, stamina and knowledge. But if the poor donot have these asset bases, they might not be able to respond to the growth stimuli. Hence growth alone will not alleviate poverty but also the composition of growth plays an important role in this regard. (Vyas, 1991).  

In the initial planning period, major emphasis for rural development was on community development (multi-sectoral and multi-purpose with people’s participation) but in the later years it was shifted to a single purpose single-sector individual proprietorship. Development of agriculture received priority that could considerably increase agricultural production. Since agriculture becomes more profitable, many large farmers took back the leased land from the landless and small farmers leaving a large number of tenants as agricultural labours. This triggered a sharp decline in share cropping. Besides, heavy emphasis was placed on technocratic and entrepreneurial development. The concern of community development and people’s participation declined. On the other hand, interpersonal and inter-regional inequality in income increased because a large segment of society with no productive assets at all or with less productive assets could not get the benefit of the development achieved. To correct this imbalance, the emphasis was shifted to individual target and the area development approach to attack poverty directly. Though the main idea behind this approach was to link development of man and area with the general development process, yet it largely remained as a mere poverty alleviation programme without any sharp focus on the human and natural resource development.
In the past, huge sum was spent by the central and the state governments for eradicating rural poverty. Experience shows that the rate of growth of public spending by the states and the various employments and income generation programmes could help in reducing poverty in India.

The people in rural India are poverty-prone because the country is wage-based economy, which does not have sufficient capital resources or assured employment.

The rural unemployed labour force is large and growing larger, resulting in their migration to the urban areas. Therefore, income generating programmes advocated in the successive Five Year Plans came to stay in some form or the other. Although strategies of employment programmes during the first 25 years since the lunching of the First Five Year Plan yielded some positive gains, yet these were far behind what were expected. Most of these rural employment programmes were not planned meticulously and hence been criticised as ad-hoc in nature. As a result, they could not ensure continuity of employment to a vast army of under-employed and unemployed people. These programmes remained as a relief measure rather than a permanent solution to unemployment or reduction of poverty. Many studies provide a discouraging picture of the wage employment programmes in terms of intensive coverage of target groups and the quality of assets acquired.

With the main objective of increasing the asset base of the poor, a major programme, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was initiated. The scheme has been in operation since 1980 and is said to have covered more than 53 million families by the end of 1998-99. “In terms of the scale of operation this programme is exemplary, but its cost-effectiveness can be seriously questioned. This programme fared better in developed regions compared to backward and remote regions and helped more those poor households which were nearer to the poverty line”. (Hirway, 1990). Similarly, other wage and self-employment programmes like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) etc, have been initiated and are in operation and these ought to be studied in the light of generation of rural income and employment. Region wise and area specific study relating to the impact of various rural employment programmes is necessary because such studies highlight the implications of the programmes concerning the region or the area under study. A study at the state or at the country level cannot bring to light the implications of the various rural development programmes on
employment and income of the poor people of a particular area or region. Here lies the importance of our present study.

1.7 PERIODICITY OF THE STUDY

Our study relates to the impact of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) on the generation of rural employment. So far as IRDP is concerned our work pertains to the period from 1980-81 to 1998-99. In respect of JRY the period is from 1989-90 to 1998-99 and in respect of EAS, the period is from 1993-94 to 1998-99. It is to be mentioned that each select programme covers the entire period of operation of the programme.

1.8 REVIEW OF THE RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES-IRDP, JRY AND EAS

The rural poverty alleviation programmes initiated by the Central Government (Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment) can broadly be categorised as follows:

i) Wage Employment schemes,
ii) Self Employment schemes,
iii) Land Reforms, Area Development and Land Development schemes and
iv) The Social Benefit schemes.

A brief profile of the various programmes initiated in the past to eradicate poverty and generate employment is given chronologically in chapter-IV of this thesis. However, some of the major programmes selected for our study have been reviewed in this context.

1.8.1 A REVIEW OF THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (IRDP)

It is a known fact that most of the poor are assetless and lack of access to productive resources - both physical and economic. With the main objective of improving the asset base of the poor IRDP was initiated. Since 2nd Oct'1980, the programme is reported to have covered a significant proportion of population. The programme in terms of scale of operation and clarity in objective is exemplary. But cost-effectiveness can be seriously questioned.

In a study made by Hirway, (1990)^5, it is found that over a period of 15 years of this programme only 16 per cent of the poor households could cross the poverty line. The poor households who were near the poverty line could
receive more benefits than those who were extremely poor. However, the programme fared better in developed regions compared to backward and remote regions. In her study, Hirway examined the adequacy of target group approach in eradicating rural poverty and concluded that nearly 55 per cent to 75 per cent of the beneficiaries of the IRDP were non-poor. Again, the benefits received by the beneficiaries are not always substantial mainly due to faulty design of the schemes.

M. L. Dantwala (1987)\(^6\), in his study on the Integrated Rural Development Programme basically focussing on the philosophy of the policies and programmes stated that enquiry-oriented policies and programmes pursued will not only be self defeating, but may prove counter productive through a 'trickle-up'. More simply, a direct attack on poverty without an equal and direct attack on structure has bred poverty. The IRDP has led to the total dependence of the poor on the employers. It has achieved very little and may have been misconceived, but this does not prove that the strategy of generating assets for the poor and upgrading their skills is wrong.

Nilakantha Rath (1985)\(^7\), in his study has focussed on the main theme that the IRDP approach which is based on the distribution of assets to the poor for creating self-employment is not going to deliver the goods. IRDP does not integrate resource-based or sectoral planning with household based planning and it is merely a household based plan and this approach is not realistic. The subsidy element of IRDP has encouraged corruption in rural areas and has raised indebtedness of the poor in many cases. Hardly 18.70 per cent of the total beneficiaries has crossed the poverty line on IRDP strategy is largely misconceived.

As per the most reliable estimates of the 43\(^{rd}\) round of survey of National Sample Survey organisation (NSSO)\(^8\), based on 83,000 households in selected 8321 villages, it was found that the participation per 1000 population was less than 100 in 14 major states except Haryana.

In another study by Swaminathan (1997)\(^9\), it was found that the participation by the people in the programme is distributed overall monthly expenditure classes and that the two are not inversely co-related. The lack of proper targeting of the poor in the scheme was also evident from the distribution by the size of land holding. The phenomenon of IRDP beneficiary households with over 4 hectares of holding occurs in all states. Thus, the scheme in operation has not shown any preference for the poor.
Sundaram and Jain (1993) while reviewing IRDP observed three sets of problems arising from the centralised character of the design and implementation of the programme. In an attempt at apparent fairness, the financial allocation to each development block was the same and each block was targeted to cover the same number of beneficiary households. There was considerable mismatch between the incidence of poverty and the coverage of beneficiaries under the programme. The coverage of beneficiary households determined by central targets impose a near impossible burden on the local development administration. On an average, one village worker has to identify, assist and monitor the progress of roughly more than 100 beneficiary households in successive years.

Financial limits of interest in different schemes are fixed centrally without reference to the actual costs which, in turn, results in the amount actually being transferred to the beneficiary bearing no relation to the investment required by the beneficiary household to become viable. Besides, there has been a mechanical transmission of a fixed set of programmes irrespective of the background of the beneficiaries. Most crucial was the neglect of forward and backward linkages. Marketing was another problem. The emergence of middleman and development administration cut substantially into the resources flowing into the hands of beneficiaries. And there is the problem of non-poor and not-so-poor gaining access to credits and subsidies under the programmes at the expense of those who are truly poor. No adequate attention has been paid about promoting crop pattern that suits the quality of land. Also the resource management aspect has been neglected.

1.8.2 A REVIEW OF JAWAHAR ROJGAR YOJANA (JRY)

In the Sixth Five Year Plan, a number of employment programmes such as the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Small Farmers Development Programme (SFDP), Marginal Farmers and Agriculture Labourers (MFAL) etc. were initiated to generate additional employment and quality. Initially the employment generation was targeted mainly during droughts but later on it was enlarged and initiated in other areas also irrespective of the performance of monsoon.
Wage employment programmes are being implemented with the twin objectives of asset creation in rural areas and providing wage employment opportunities to the rural poor. The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGp) were under implementation in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. These programmes were merged into a single programme called Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) with effect from 1st April, 1989. An important feature of this wage employment programme is the provision of foodgrains as part of the wages at subsidised rates.

The performance of JRY has been generally successful in terms of employment generation and investment made since 1989-90. In the year 1998-99, a total of 3631.11 lakh man-days were generated spending Rs.24,28.32 crores.

Obviously, it had significant impact on wage employment and asset creation in the rural economy. The evaluation studies made by concurrent evaluation (1992) showed some positive features –

i) 82 per cent of available funds were spent on community development projects,

ii) Wages paid were at par with the prescribed minimum wages,

iii) The wage, non-wage component was quite close to the prescribed norm. Majority of assets created (70 per cent) were in good condition and

iv) Nearly 80 per cent assets were created by village Panchayats themselves.

However, certain deficiencies were indicated by the evaluation study also. For instance:

a) It has been found that over 50 per cent Panchayat heads had no training in the implementation of the programme

b) The share of women employment was lower than the prescribed limit.

In one study made by Guhan(1995), it was found that maintenance of assets has been poor. Transfer of assets through wage payments is very expensive and inefficient approach to help the poor. Of one rupee spent on JRY only 14 paise are likely to reach the poor through net wage transfers. Lack of public accountability is a serious weakness of employment and income generation programme like JRY on poverty. Also families assisted with certain assets could not generate the expected incomes.
An estimate made by National Institute of Rural Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (1996-97), indicates that at least 100 days of employment to all those unemployed and under-employed workers are to be provided in the country, 7000 million person-days have to be generated annually under JRY programme. This emphasises the importance of not only continuing the wage employment programme, but also the need to enlarge and expand the programme to a much higher scale. To realise such a level of employment generation, the annual resource allocation will have to be in the order of Rs.13,000-15,000 crores on the assumption that labour cost will form 60 per cent of the (JRY norms) outlay. Their study made during 1998 on the level of employment generation reveals that the wage employment programmes are able to meet annually only about 18-20 per cent of the needed level of employment generation in the country. This shows that the gap to be filled is quite high.

A recent study made by K. Hanumantha Rao (2000), on the impact of employment generation, cost of per man-day, wage difference among the workers in the states of the JRY programme revealed -

i) Wide difference prevailed between wages paid to male and female workers except in Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The wage gap between male and female workers in Kerala was another disturbing event.

ii) States with concentration of poor such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal could not take much advantage from JRY.

iii) In prosperous states the average wage paid was higher than minimum wage of those states.

iv) In a chronically unemployed state like Kerala, JRY could not provide large-scale employment opportunities since market wage rates were well above the minimum wage.

v) States like Assam and Orissa could reap maximum benefit from this wage employment programmes and

vi) The employment figure per beneficiary household per annum under JRY was impressive and one can infer that this programme might have made considerable dent on the labour market.
1.8.3 A REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT ASSURANCE SCHEME (EAS)

The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched on 2nd Oct'1993 with the primary objective of providing gainful employment during the lean agricultural season to all able bodied persons in rural areas who are in need and who desire to work but cannot find it. The secondary objective of this scheme is to create economic infrastructure and community assets. Under the scheme a maximum of two adult members in a family are provided the assurance of 100 days of employment in a year and the expenditure is to be shared between the central and states on 80:20 basis. About 14,647 lakh man-days have been generated upto 1997-98 under the scheme.

We have been enlightened by some NIRD researchers and scholars that, no extensive study relating to the evaluation of this scheme has been made. However, the scheme is found successful in terms of generation of employment since its inception in 1993-94. Nevertheless, it is pointed out by the District Link Officers report of NIRD faculty members and report of Area Offices of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (1996-97), that the scheme suffers from rigidity of guideline –

i) There is no adherence between allocation of funds to states and sub-states level,

ii) The need and potential of local level for works and expenditure are not adequately accommodated,

iii) An over determined approach of earmarking for various works and within them for target and sub-target groups.

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Rural Area and Employment had shown that:

iv) The stipulated registration of workers and issuance of family cards to record the employment given are not practiced in true spirit,

v) In several districts, the allocation of funds under this scheme as per guideline is very meagre. For example, their study has found that in Bhawanagar district of Gujrat only Rs.2,800 have been allocated to each Panchayat.

They have also found that, in Bihar and in Uttar Pradesh 40 per cent allocation of funds for watershed works under EAS is not feasible in the Gangetic belts and the unspent amount cannot be allocated to any other works. The NIRD study has also documented that in EAS works heavy machineries have been employed and hardly any human labour has been
used. On the other hand, the reported figures of employment are quite high, thereby infusing doubts on the claims of employment generation by the Government.

1.9 CHAPTERISATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis contains altogether eight chapters.

Chapter - I: Introduction
It contains the introductory note, the problem under study, objectives of the study, methodology of study, research questions investigated, importance of the study, periodicity of the study, chapterisation scheme and review of the rural employment programmes, e.g. IRDP, JRY and EAS.

Chapter - II: Geographical and Economic Profiles of Assam and Kamrup District
This chapter contains the geographical and economic profiles of the state of Assam and the Kamrup district.

Chapter - III: Rural Employment: Farm and Non-farm Employment
It contains concepts of rural employment, unemployment and underemployment, regional variations in employment and unemployment, recent trends in rural employment and unemployment, women's participation in rural employment, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in rural employment, farm and non-farm rural employment.

Chapter - IV: Poverty Measures and Rural Development
The various concepts to measure poverty, alleviation of poverty and generation of employment have been discussed in this chapter. Also a profile of the rural development programmes introduced and in operation in the country since the inception of the planning era has been given chronologically.

Chapter - V: Rural Development and Rural Employment Generation in Five Year Plans in Assam
An indepth study of rural development and rural employment generation through the rural employment programmes operated in the Five Year Plans in Assam has been made in this chapter.
Chapter - VI : Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Kamrup District - Impact on income and Employment Generation

This chapter contains study of IRDP and its impact on income and employment generation in detail with the help of the statistical tools and techniques in Kamrup district.

Chapter - VII : Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) - its performance in Kamrup district

It contains the study of Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) in its implementation in Kamrup district. The study analyses the impact of the programme on employment generation in the district.

Chapter - VIII : Employment Assurance Scheme - Implementation in Kamrup district in the sphere of employment generation

This chapter contains the study of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) on the impact of Employment generation in Kamrup district.

Chapter - IX : Problems of Implementing Rural Employment Programmes

It contains the problems faced by various sections of people associated with various rural employment programmes such as; beneficiaries, bank officials, government officials etc.

Chapter - X : Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter contains the summary of findings in the preceding chapters along with conclusion and suggestions.

References:

9. Swaminathan M. S. (1997): Job Guarantee as the pivot for Poverty Alleviation, The Hindu, April 8,