CHAPTER III
DESIGN OF THE STUDY

Overview

In this chapter an attempt has been made to examine the statement of the problem, objectives of the study and methodology of the study.

Statement of the Problem

Under Community Development Programme launched in early 50s, many basic extension and development services were created which paved the road to adopt technological advances introduced in sixties and seventies. A special programme for the development of drought-prone areas was introduced in the mid 70s and ‘Food for Work’ programme was launched in 1977 which was redesigned as National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) in October, 1980. The National Scheme for Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) was initiated in 1979 with a view to remove unemployment in rural areas. With a view of encouraging, promoting and assisting voluntary action in rural development and with focus on injecting new technologies inputs for the enhancement of rural prosperity, the Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was set up in 1986, by merging two autonomous bodies, namely People’s Action for Development India (PADI) and Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CART). It has a set up a nine Regional Committees/Regional Centres. Upto 31 December 1999, the Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology has sanctioned 18,622 projects of RS.519.74 crore.

The Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) has been under implementation since 1989-1990. Upto 25 States with a total outlay of Rs.778.12 crore to treat total project area of 15.98 lakh hectares. During 1998-1999 an amount of Rs.804 lakh had been spent for the project
implementation. An antipoverty programme called Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was launched on 15th August 1983. To provide social assistance to the households below poverty line, a social security scheme known as National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) came into effect from 15 August 1995 throughout the country.

Launched on 1st April 1999, Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is the single self employment programme for the rural poor. It replaces the earlier self-employment and allied programmes – Integrated Rural Development Programme, Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Tool-kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS). Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana takes into account all the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier, Self-Employment Programmes. It aims at establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas. Every family assisted under this programme will be brought about the poverty-line in 3 years. The programmes have been designed to provide proper support and encouragement to tap the inherent talents and capabilities of the rural poor. It will target at least 50 percent Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 40 percent women, and 3 percent disabled.

Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana is a Credit-Cum-Subsidy Programme. Funds under the Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana will be shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. The programme will be implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies through the Panchayati Samities.

An expenditure of Rs.955 crore was incurred and a credit of Rs.1,028 crore was mobilized during 1999-2000. A total of 2.89 lakh self help groups were formed and 9.31 lakh Swarozgaris assisted. The budget for the year 2000-2001 is Rs.1,000 crore.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which came into effect from 15 August 1995, in a centrally sponsored Programme. A
provision of Rs.715 crore has been made for the programme in the budget for 2000-2001. It has three components, namely, National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), all of which provide for social security in case of old age, death of the primary breadwinner and during maternity. National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) – Central assistance is available at the rate of Rs.75 per month to persons who are aged 65 years or more and are destitutes.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) is the restructured, streamlined and comprehensive version of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Launched on 1st April 1999, it aims at improving the quality of life of the rural poor by providing them additional gainful employment. The objectives of the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana are: creation of demand driven village infrastructure including durable assets for increasing the opportunities for sustained employment, and generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana is being implemented entirely at the Village Panchayat Level, District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads will release the funds directly to Village Panchayats. The Building Centre Movement popularly known as the Nirmithi Movement was started in 1985 in Kerala with the aim of technology transfer, information dissemination and skill upgradation through training Samagra Awaas Yojana is a comprehensive housing scheme launched recently with a view to ensuring integrated provision of shelter, sanitation and drinking water, Centrally-sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) was launched in 1983. During 1989-99, the Central allocation was Rs.67 crore as against the State MNP provision of Rs.213.34 crore and 8,24,520 household latrines were constructed upto January 1999.

Annapurna Scheme: The Annapurna Scheme has been launched with effect from 1st April 2000 to provide food security to those senior citizens who though eligible have remained uncovered under the
National Old Age Pension Scheme. Under the Scheme, each beneficiary is provided 10 kg of foodgrains per month free of cost. A budgetary provision of Rs.100 crore has been made for the scheme during 2000-2001.

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) started in 1973, it aims at reducing the severity of impact of drought, stabilizing the income of the people, and restoration of the ecological balance. Since 1995-1996, a new approach based on watershed development has been adopted. At present 5,965 watershed projects out of 6,465 are under implementation at various stages. Desert Development Programmes (DDP) started in 1977-1978 aims at controlling desertification and creation of conditions for raising level of production. The Desert Development Programmes covers both hot and cold arid areas. The programme is being implemented on watershed basis since 1995-1996 and 2,206 watershed projects sanctioned so far are at various stages of implementation.

An outlay of Rs.740 crore has been provided under the Central Sector and Rs.48.15 crore by the states in 1993-1994 Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment was launched in 1979 with the main object of training rural youth in the 18-35 age group from the target group families of the rural areas having income of less than Rs.3,500 per annum. The training is provided in technical skills to enable them to take up self employment in different vocations. During 1991-1992, 3.01 lakh rural youths were trained. During the year 1992-1993, 2.75 lakh, 1993-1994, 3.03 lakh, 1994-1995, 2.81 lakh, 1995-1996, 2.87 lakh rural youth were trained. During 1996-1997, 2.64 lakhs, 1997-1998, 1.75 lakh rural youth were trained.

The National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad is an apex Training and Research Institute conducting research and training programmes in all aspects of rural development. So far, 25 State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDS) and 87 Extension Training Centres (ETCs) have been set up for intensifying training-related activities. In 1983, the NIRD North Eastern Regional Centre was established.
Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana: A new initiative in the form of Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) has been introduced during the year 2000 to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. Total allocation for the scheme is Rs.5,000 crore in the annual plan 2000-2001. It has two components, viz., Rural Roads having an allocation of Rs.2,500 crore and the other component covering five programmes for primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and nutrition, having a total allocation of Rs.2,500 crore.

Prime Minister’s Rural Roads Scheme: The Central Government has devised a well-conceived and time-bound programme for rural roads which aims at connecting within the next three years, every village that has a population of more than 1,000 through good all-weather roads. By 2007, every village with a population of more than 500 will be similarly connected, Government allocation for the project in its first year is Rs.5,000 crore.

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was started in May 1985 as a sub scheme of JRY. Since 1st January 1996, it is being implemented as an independent scheme. Indira Awaas Yojana aims at helping rural people below poverty line in construction and upgradation of dwelling units. Selection of beneficiaries is done by the Gram Sabha. Around 53 lakh houses have been constructed from 1985-1986 to 1998-1999 under the scheme. The Central allocation for 2000-2001 Indira Awaas Yojana is Rs.1,613.69 crore with a target of about 12.44 lakh houses.

The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) was introduced in 1972-1973 to accelerate the pace of coverage of drinking water supply. It was given a missionary approach with the launch of the Technology National Drinking Water and Related Water Management, also called the National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) in 1986. The National Drinking Water Mission was renamed as the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991. Out of 1.43 million rural habitations in the country, 1.40 million habitations have not access to safe drinking water.
The Ministry of Rural Development is constantly endeavoring to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions in terms of functions, powers and finance. The Gram Sabha being potentially the most significant institution for participatory democracy and decentralization, it has been decided to observe 1999-2000 as the “Year of Gram Sabha”.

The Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing has been conceived for rural households having annual income upto Rs.32,000. The scheme has been launched with effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1999. During 2000-2001 an allocation of Rs.150 crore has been made for this scheme.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was commenced on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 1993 in 1,778 blocks of 23 states. The scheme has been restructured from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1999. EAS is now the single wage employment programme being implemented at the district/block level throughout the country with focus on areas suffering from endemic labour exodus. A maximum of two adults per family would be provided wage employment, subject to availability of funds. The scheme and central allocation of Rs.1,736.42 crore during 1999-2000. Over 5.12 crore persons have been registered under this scheme by July 2000. Upto March 2000, 202.4 million mandays of employment have been generated with an expenditure of Rs.1,592.54 crore. For 2000-2001, Rs.1,300 crore is allotted.

The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection under the Ministry of Agriculture advises Central and State Governments on agricultural marketing policies and programmes. It enforces quality control before export on as many as 41 agricultural commodities. There are many items graded under Agmark for internal consumption. To ensure purity and quality under Agmark, 22 laboratories have been set up in the country. In order to regulate the markets, many steps have been set up in the country. In order to regulate the markets, many steps were taken. A cotton classing centre was established at Surat in 1969-70 as a pilot project. Now five more centres are sanctioned. A special programme for establishing a national grid
or rural growths is in operation since 1979-1980. These godowns will meet the storage requirements of the agricultural produce and perishable goods.

Under the policy of Land Reforms, the old feudal structure was smashed by abolishing intermediaries. An outlay of Rs.43 crore has been earmarked for Land Reform Schemes during the financial year 1999-2000, Comprehensive amendments in Land Acquisition Act, 1894 have been proposed so as to make it more farmer friendly. As a result, an estimated 12.42 million cultivators have been conferred ownership rights on 6.32 million hectares of land. As a result of several land ceiling laws, 30.4 lakh hectares of land were taken and a total areas of 21.5 lakh hectare has been distributed to 55.4 lakh landless poor till September 1998. Financial assistance to revamp and cultivate the lands so allotted is also available for the rural poor. Consolidation of fragmented land holdings is an important requirement to use modern agricultural methods. About 640.8 lakh hectares have been consolidated so far. The development of roads mainly forms part of the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Sixth Plan envisaged provision of roads to all villages having population over 1500 and 50 per cent of the villages with population between 1000 and 1500 by 1990. The Eighth Plan provided Rs.2,178 crore for Rural Roads Programme.

The Programme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) focused attention on women members of families below poverty line. The income generating activities of this programme were financed by the State, Centre and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Panchayati Raj System is a scheme, exemplifying the decentralization of democracy. With a view to grant Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institution in the country and to bring about uniformity, the Parliament passed the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 in December 1992. The Act has come to effect from 24 April, 1993 and established Panchayat as units of local self government in all states and almost all Union Territories. It is a three tier system of local self government
representing villages, block and district levels where population exceeds 20 lakh. Elected directly by the respective villages, the panchayats are responsible for promotion of agricultural, rural industries and other socio-economic activities. The Panchayats, the co-operatives and the school are the basic institutions at the village level for carrying out programmes of rural development. The Panchayati Raj Institutions have been given statutory authority in many states for raising finance. Nyaya Panchayats or village courts which provide a speedy and inexpensive system of justice to the villages are functioning in some of the states. The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution entrusts 29 subjectary functions to Panchayati Raj System. About 25 lakhs of people are expected to be in position in the Panchayati Raj with one third women candidates.

With the introduction of the New Panchayati Raj system, it is believed that the Poverty Alleviation Programmes could be properly implemented in rural areas and real rural development could be realized. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act has provided for the setting up of District Planning Committee to prepare bottom up planning. But so far this Committee has not been provided with sufficient powers for the formulation and implementation of Planning at the District level. Therefore, the real responsibility relating to the formulation and implementation of planning in Tamil Nadu is entrusted to the State Planning Commission. Therefore, the State Planning Commission is responsible to prepare and implement the Poverty Alleviation Programmes at the District level through the District Rural Development Agency. So far, no attempt has been made to analyze the Poverty Alleviation Programmes in rural areas after the implementation of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. A study on the Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Rural Development with special reference to Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana in Tamil Nadu could bring to light the impact of the Programme on Rural Development. Therefore, the Researcher thought it appropriate to take up a research study on the Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Rural Development under the State Planning Commission of
Tamil Nadu with special reference to Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

**Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to analyze:

1. The theoretical background of the study;
2. The area profile of Theni District, Tamil Nadu;
3. The personal particulars of the respondents;
4. The awareness of the respondents about the Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana for its effective implementation; and
5. The impact of Swarnjayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on rural development on the basis of the responses of the respondents about their awareness and participation.

**Scope of the Study**

As it has been already mentioned the main focus of the study is on the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the major thrust is on the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

**Period of Study**

Since the Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana was implemented from 1999-2000, the study period has to be restricted from the year 2001-2002 to 2007-2008. Therefore, the scholar has collected necessary data through interview schedule from the respondents who represented the Panchayati Raj Institutions from 2001-2002 to 2007-2008.

**Limitations of Research**

The topic of research is on the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the present study confine to the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu.
**Method of Research**

Since the study is based on the data collected from the responses of the respondents of Theni District, social survey method has been made use of in this study.

**Sources of Data**

The data for this study have been collected both from primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data were collected from the schedules furnished to the respondents of the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Theni District, Tamil Nadu. The secondary sources of data have been collected from the Books, Articles, Reports, Acts and Monographs.

**Study Design**

The primary purpose of the study is not the testing of any hypothesis. Being an exploratory-cum-descriptive study, its basic thrust is to gain familiarity and insight into the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

**Sampling Design**

Representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Theni District form the Universe of the study. The Panchayat Raj System is organized in three tiers at the District level. They are the District Panchayat at the top level, Panchayat Union Councils at the intermediary level and Village Panchayats at the bottom level. The scholar has selected 11 out of 21 Chairman and Councilors from Theni District Panchayat and 88 Panchayat Union Chairmen and Councilors from 11 Panchayat Unions and selected a sample of 264 Presidents and Members from 22 Village Panchayats at the rate of two Village Panchayats located in 11 Blocks of Theni District. The questions in the schedule have been framed in such a way that impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu could be elicited.
Selection of the Respondents

Since the present research work is impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu, the respondents have been selected from the different levels of the Panchayati Raj Institutions namely District Panchayat, Panchayat Union Councils and Village Panchayats of Theni District.

Interview Schedule

The Interview schedule was designed to collect the information from the respondents of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The interview schedule consisted of the following items:

1. The personal particulars of the respondents;
2. The awareness of the respondents about the Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana for its effective implementation; and
3. The impact of Swarnjayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on rural development on the basis of the responses of the respondents about their awareness and participation.

Though the interview schedule seems to be lengthy, sufficient time was taken to collect the information systematically.

Data Collection

Collection of data was an important and rich experience in the whole of this research process. It took part-time fieldwork for almost six months. Since the Panchayati Raj Institutions were scattered in Theni District, traveling took quite a lot of time and effort. Once all the respondents had been selected the researcher had sought prior permission from the respondents through letters and telephones. This approach was found to be very useful and practical, as the respondents were well informed of the purpose of the study and well assured of its confidential nature.

It took almost about three hours to interview each respondent of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. They took more time because very often during the interview they were deviating from the topic while freely sharing their experience of their participation in the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
Despite various difficulties, this experience was very enriching and rewarding in terms of understanding the various aspects of impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

**Method of Data Collection**

Personal interview with the help of the structured interview schedule was the main method used for the collection of primary data from the respondents. This approach in data collection helped the researcher in many ways. Initially, most of the respondents of the Panchayati Raj Institutions were skeptic about this study. But person-to-person approach provided sufficient room for clarifying their doubts and explaining the purpose of the study.

The researcher got an opportunity to stay with the respondents during data collection. It was a very helpful exposure where he got an ample chance to observe and discuss the impact of Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana on Rural Development with reference to Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

**Pretest**

Having prepared the interview schedule, pre testing was done in order to ensure against difficulties of comprehension and ambiguities of questions. Responses had been coded and a preliminary analysis had been done to see whether the interview schedule would yield required data. The necessary changes were done in the interview schedule accordingly.

**Data Processing**

The data were processed manually and were reported mostly in the form of percentage.

**Data Analysis**

Descriptive, analytical and empirical methods have been made use of to analyze the data. The researcher also has made use of simple statistical tools in the analysis of the data.
Presentation of the Report

After processing and analyzing the raw data the report writing work was undertaken. Sufficient care was taken to present the report as per the requirement of the study designed earlier.