CHAPTER – VII

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
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7.1 General

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act has come into force with effect from February, 2006 in 200 districts initially and later on extended to all the rural districts of India from the financial year 2008-09.

The NREGS, involves participatory planning and implementation of the scheme through (i) proactive role of Gram Sabha, (ii) rigorous & continuous monitoring by way of social audit, and (iii) involvement of ordinary people at the grass-roots level. It addresses (i) chronic poverty, (ii) drought, (iii) deforestation, (iv) soil erosion etc. It also aims at (i) generating productive assets, (ii) protecting the environment, (iii) empowering rural women, (iv) arresting rural-urban migration. The scheme is implemented through collaborative partnership right from Grama Sabha to Central Government Community participation by way of (i) Grama Sabha, (ii) local vigilance & monitoring committees, and (iii) Self Help Groups, and ensures active role by Civil Society Organisations. At official level, the scheme was embedded with inbuilt monitoring & evaluation mechanism at
every layer of implementation including online monitoring through Monitoring and Information System (MIS).

The scheme is implicitly strengthened by mandatory and active participation of local community, and complete transparency in all operations and record keeping. Nevertheless, due to massive funding, extensive coverage of beneficiaries, there is a necessity to identify and assess the ground realities, channelizing labour-intensive activities into sustainable assets at village level, besides, studying the impact of the scheme on migration, quality of life etc. Since the scheme is going to be in place for an undefined period of time, and is being enlarged in terms of scope and geographical coverage, there are many challenges like non-homogeneity in its effectiveness, region specific disparities and outcomes etc. It is exactly due to this reason, few NGOs have already done some surveys. However, they are very much confined to one or two districts, and more importantly centered around systemic defects, rather than probing the impact on beneficiaries. Against this background there is a need to carry out an empirical study taking into account all comprehensive coverage of all objectives and clauses enshrined in the NREGA in a broad manner.

7.2 Findings of the Study

7.2.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics

- The study reveals that out of the total 579 respondents, 173 respondents (29.88%) belong to Kovilpatti block, 246 respondents (42.49%) belong to
Ottapidaram block and the remaining 160 respondents (27.63%) belong to Vilathikulam block.

- Majority 29.71 per cent of the workers are in the age group of 41-50 years which is a productive age group for active participation.

- Average age of the three blocks respondents of this study is 48.20, 48.71 and 48.12 years respectively. The age of the respondent deviates from the mean age by 11.68 for Kovilpatti block, 11.27 for Ottapidaram block and 10.60 for Vilathikulam block respondents, they are calculated from the calculated standard deviations.

- Majority 56.48 per cent of the MGNREGS workers are females in the study area.

- The study reveals that 51.30 per cent of the respondents in the study area are Hindu workers. About 38.86 per cent of the respondents follow Christianity. The remaining 9.84 per cent people are Muslims.

- The study shows that 39.21 per cent of the respondents who are the members of MGNREGS belong to Scheduled Caste Community. The respondents belong to Most Backward Community form 24.35 per cent and 19.86 per cent of the respondents belong to Backward Community. Only 16.58 per cent of the respondents belong to Other Community.

- Education is an enabling tool as it facilitates access and develops rapport with media and developmental personnel. About 14.85 per cent of sample workers are illiterate and about 19.17 per cent can put only their signature
and a few 13.64 per cent have studied upto high school and above among the sample respondents. This pattern is more or less similar across the three sample blocks.

- It is inferred from the study that out of 579 MGNREGS workers selected in Thoothukudi district, 447 (77.20%) of the respondents are married, 59 (10.19%) are unmarried, 44 (7.60%) are widower and the remaining 29 (5.01%) are divorced.

- The study revealed that the greater parts of the respondents are in nuclear family. Altogether 88.77 per cent of the respondents are in this group. Joint family system is disappearing now.

- Out of 579 respondents, 48.88 per cent of them have a family size of 2-4 members followed by above 4 and below 2 members which constitute 28.50 per cent and 22.63 per cent respectively. Thus, it may be inferred from the analysis that more than 77.37 per cent of the respondents have the family size of 2-4 members in the study area.

- The average size of the family in the study area is 3.21 in Kovilpatti block, 3.26 in Ottapidram block and 3.98 in Vilathikulam block. The family size of the respondents deviates from the mean size by 1.21 in Kovilpatti block, 1.28 in Ottapidaram block and 1.26 in Vilathikulam block as seen from the calculated standard deviation. The minimum family size of the respondent is one, two and one and the maximum is five, five and six respectively.
The study reveals that most of them 50.44 per cent are engaged in agriculture and related activities but only few of them are holding own land and cultivating agricultural product like banana, cotton, paddy and groundnut. The primary sector ratio is greater than the other sector workers. This is because of the availability of more agriculture land and less industrialization in these blocks.

Majority 61.66 per cent of the MGNREGS workers are living in their own houses.

The study discloses that, majority of them are living in tiled houses which constitute 49.38 per cent and it is followed by concrete, thatched and tent houses which constitute 32.50 per cent, 11.25 per cent and 6.88 per cent respectively.

The lower size of household (4) in the study area is observed and is a good sign of economic development. It is interesting to note that in Ottapidaram sample households have more number of workers (272) and less ED (2.95) compared to Vilathikulam. The data also indicate the inclusion of women in the workforce. The EDRs in Ottapidaram block further confirm that many young women previously confined to own agriculture or household chores are now participating in MGNREGS to earn additional income to family. After MGNREGS, the EDR is marginally reduced.

The study estimated that 8.12 per cent of households have disabled persons among all sample households. However, the participation of disabled
persons in MGNREGS is much lower (0.65%) in all three blocks against the provision made by the state government. It cannot be construed as failure of the state since it is demand led. This 8.12 per cent of households are provided 12 days employment on an average in a year.

7.2.2 Wage Structure, Working Condition and Problems

- The study understood that at the beginning stages less number of persons are enrolled in the scheme. Then slowly it increased up to 2010. That is before 2010, 32.64 per cent respondents are enrolled. In the year 2011, only 21.42 per cent are enrolled. In the year 2012, only 19.34 per cent of the respondents were enrolled. So after 2011 the enrolment started declining. This is due to the enrolment of the one household from each family and there is less availability of labour to join in MGNREGS after 2011.

- The study reveals that among MGNREGS workers, majority of the respondents give ‘guaranteed employment for 100 days’ (42.31%) as the reasons for joining this work, followed by 20.21 per cent of the respondents opine that primary wage earning opportunity is the main reason for joining this work. About 15.20 per cent of the respondents said that work was available at doorstep and 9.50 per cent of the respondents said that government provided employment. Work not requiring special skills and wages are equal for men and women and these are the reasons for joining MGNREGS work in the study area.
The study reveals that the average wages paid to workers in the study area with special reference to Thoothukudi district are less than the minimum wages in all the five years. Further the paid wages are less in all three sample blocks during the study period. The paid wage rates includes the charges for sharpening of tools or implements and travel allowance (if any worksite is beyond 5 kms), indicates that the real wages earned by the workers are less than the wage rates prescribed under MGNREGA.

It is evident from the study that 50 per cent of the MGNREGS workers receive weekly wages, followed by daily wage payments and monthly wage payments which constituted 27.12 per cent and 20.90 per cent respectively.

In Kovilpatti, Ottapidaram and Vilathikulam blocks, the information reaches mostly (45.94%) to workers through field assistants.

The study revealed that 27.12 per cent of the respondents know about the MGNREG schemes through radio, 21.59 per cent of the respondents have come to know of the schemes through pamphlets. It is also inferred from the study that, 14.51 per cent of the respondents have come to know of the schemes through news papers. In all sample Panchayats, Gram Sabhas are conducted, but the participation of workers is negligible.

The study points out that the situation on this front is very encouraging in Thoothukudi district compared to many other districts as most of the workers are aware of guaranteed days of employment (97.24%) and about minimum wage rate (78.24%) in the study area.
It is delightful to know that the awareness levels regarding worksite facilities are significant among the workers of Ottapidaram block with a score of 84.95 followed by Vilathikulam block 78.54. It is assumed that, this knowledge on worksite facilities are mainly due to provision of such facilities at least in some worksites.

The study reveals that the understanding of the process of getting medical compensation was negligible among all the workers.

The study observes that few women workers (6.04%) do not know that it is their entitlement to get equal wages and they think it is due to computerization process that they are being paid equally with others. The need for job card (89.46%) and the need for application for employment (84.11%) are known to more than two-three of the workers of three blocks of the districts. The workers of Kovilpatti block are well informed about the equal wages (94.80%), the need for job card (84.39%) and application for work (76.88%).

The study discloses that, awareness on Vigilance and Monitoring Committees is negligible and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are also not formed in the study area. About 36.96 per cent of the sample workers are aware of social audit in the study area.

Most of the workers (73.23%) know that they should sign on the application. Recently the postal department made Know Your Customer (KYC) norms compulsory.
➢ Out of the 579 respondents, 279 respondents i.e. 48.19 per cent of the respondents did not know that there was provision for grievance redressal.

➢ The overall awareness levels are more or less equal among all three blocks with a score of 63 per cent at combined level and one could say the awareness levels of sample workers is above average. One can presume that the higher awareness among the workers may lead to high accessibility to MGNREGS work and other entitlements.

➢ The study reveals that, 41.62 per cent of the respondents work under the MGNREGS in improvement of ponds, tanks and channels, 22.11 per cent of the respondents for improvement of road side berms, 14.16 per cent of the respondents in plantation of trees and another 14.16 per cent of the workers in formation of farm pond. About 6.74 per cent of the respondents in construction of buildings and the remaining 6.56 per cent of the respondents are involved in horticulture.

➢ The majority 35.23 per cent of the MGNREGS workers have worked for a period of less than 100 days which can be considered stable. This objective of 100 days work to a household per year is not achieved in the study area.

➢ It is observed that 54.92 per cent of the MGNREGS workers work for eight hours and it is followed by those working for less than eight hours and more than eight hours which constitute 36.10 per cent and 8.98 per cent respectively.
 Majority 49.05 per cent of the workers have an experience of 3-6 years and is followed by those having below three years and above six years constituting 33.51 per cent and 17.44 per cent respectively.

The study finds that among the total 579 MGNREGS workers 88.26 per cent of them are non-migrated workers and only 11.74 per cent of them are migrated workers. The reason for migration is lack of employment opportunities, low fertility of soil and lack of irrigation and indebtedness.

Majority of the workers 61.31 per cent are in good health condition. The remaining 38.69 per cent of the workers are in a condition of ill health. Thus it is clear that unhealthy workers are so because of their lifestyle, using liquor and intoxicating stuff.

Out of 244 ill-health respondents, 32.38 per cent, 20.08 per cent, 18.44 per cent, 16.80 per cent and 12.30 per cent of the MGNREGS workers are ill because of the following reasons namely, hard work, heat, noise, dust and unhealthy working environment respectively. Thus it is found that majority of the workers suffer from over work.

The study reveals that 26.23 percent sample MGNREGS workers are having headaches and they also followed by 19.67 per cent having tiredness and 14.75 per cent of them having eye problem.

This study clearly states that due to the non accessibility of government hospital in rural areas and the low quality of services provided there, a
majority of 45.49 per cent of people prefer private hospitals for their health issues.

- The problems identified by the MGNREGS workers in Thoothukudi district, ‘involvement of the contractors’ (54.07%) is found to be the major problem among the respondents. It is assigned the first rank and followed by ‘delayed payment of wages’ (50.68%), ‘job card not issued’ (49.21%), ‘inadequate drinking water facilities’ (48.35%), ‘Little information regarding the rules of payment’ (47.71%) and the last one ‘probability of accident too high at times’ (46.58%) are assigned second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth rank respectively.

- The study reveals that payments without pass book cannot be received are also important problems in the withdrawal of wages and they occupy fourth (59%) and fifth (58.13%) ranks respectively. Natural calamities also affect banana cultivation and this scores seventh position.

**Impact of MGNREGS in Thoothukudi District**

- The study shows that there is an increase of employment to an average of 87 days (42.64%) during the post-MGNREGS compared to the pre-MGNREGS (204). The overall average number of workers per household in the MGNREGS comes to 1.38. It is minimum (1.06) in low income group. It is because of over dependence on other works due to earning more money.
The impact of MGNREGS on employment in the income groups the researcher started with the null hypothesis and employed the Z test. The result shows that the calculated Z-values are greater than the table values and they are significant at five per cent level. Hence the first hypothesis is rejected and concluded that there is significant increase in the number of persons employed per household after the emergence of MGNREG schemes.

The study shows that, there is a significant increase in income per family after moving to MGNREG scheme. Income has increased by 33.83 per cent in low income group followed by middle income group (18%). This situation may be attributed first, to the shift of male and female workforce to MGNEEGS scheme due to continuous work in these three blocks and second, employment of female workforce in MGNREG scheme, which provides employment for 100 days per year.

The study shows that the calculated Z-values are greater than the table values. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and concluded that there is significant increase in income of the sample households after joining MGNREGS. The increase in income is statistically significant. Thus, the results of Z-test given in Table 6.4 have disproved the hypothesis that there is significant increase in employment and income after moving to MGNREGS. Therefore the first hypothesis namely ‘There is no significant
increase in income of the sample households after moving to MGNREGS’ is invalid.

- The study reveals that only 95 (16.41%) out of 579 households have effect on their income due to work in MGNREG schemes. So a comparison between income before and after MGNREGS has been made to find the degree of inequality in numerical form.

- The study implies that the inequality in income among the three groups after MGNREGS of households is very less. On the whole, the data suggests that the income distribution among the three groups of households does not show wider variations.

- It is observed that the Gini ratio is 0.27 (1-0.27) which indicates that a low income inequality is existing among the respondents before joining the MGNREGS works. After joining MGNREGS work, inequality of income among respondents has been reduced to a large extent. The Gini ratio is 0.12 (1-0.12). This may be attributed to their increase in income, savings and borrowings.

- The study shows that, there is a significant increase in expenditure per family after moving to MGNREG scheme. Expenditure has increased by 30.64 per cent in low income group followed by middle income group (17.96 per cent). Expenditure has increased by 12.43 per cent in high income group.
The study shows that the calculated Z-values are greater than the table values. Hence the first hypothesis is rejected and concluded that there is significant increase in expenditure of the sample households after joining MGNREGS. The increase in expenditure is statistically significant. Therefore the first hypothesis is invalid and rejected.

The study reveals that only 88 (15.20 per cent) out of 579 households have effect on their expenditure due to MGNREG scheme employment. So a comparison between expenditure before and after MGNREGS has been made to find the degree of inequality in numerical form.

It is observed that the Gini ratio is 0.27 (1-0.27) which indicates that a low income inequality existed among the respondents before joining the MGNREGS works in expenditure. After joining MGNREGS work, inequality of income among respondents has been reduced to a large extent. The Gini ratio is 0.16 (1-0.16). This may be attributed to their increase in savings.

The study discloses that only 46 out of 579 households have effect on their savings due to MGNREG scheme employment. In the table, the last category, before joining the MGNREGS, 42 members had saving but after joining the MGNREGS 46 members have savings. There is a significant increase in the fourth category which is 130 before joining the MGNREGS which shoots up to 148 after joining the MGNREGS.
- The study reveals that 187 out of 579 households have reduced their loan amount by joining in MGNREG scheme. The borrowed amount may be used for consumption or for other purposes. Before MGNREG scheme workers in general borrowed heavy amount of money irrespective of their income.

- A simple regression equation is fitted with wage earnings per household as dependent variable and awareness score as independent variable. The result reveals that the model is not significant. Thus, employment days or wage earnings are unrelated to awareness levels. In the field, the employment is provided to all wage seekers irrespective of their knowledge about the rights and entitlements, procedures etc. This while confirming the pro-activeness of the delivery system in providing work, it defeats the main concern of the scheme i.e. making it a ‘Rights’ based scheme. Therefore, the second hypothesis namely ‘The wage earnings from MGNREGS are positively associated with awareness score’ is insignificant and rejected.

- The poverty line at current price for 2009-2010 is calculated on the basis of CPIRL. The consumer price index for rural labour for 2013-14 is ₹777. The contribution of MGNREGS to the household income and poverty reduction is analysed and estimated by using Consumer Price Index for Rural Labour (CPIRL).

- It is evident that, 77.55 per cent of the households are below poverty line, while the rest 22.45 per cent of the households are above poverty line based
on the per capita income limit of ₹9,715 before joining MGNREGS. It is found that about 77.55 per cent of sample households are destitutes, very very poor, very poor and poor before MGNREGS. This share has come down to 40.41 per cent due to additional income from MGNREGS wage. This indicates that about 47.88 per cent of destitute, very very poor, very poor and poor category sample households have crossed poverty line.

- A study of data indicates the block wise respondents’ impact of MGNREGS on rural households. It can be assessed with the help of 19 factors on a 5 point rating scale. The two-way ANOVA model is applied for further discussion. At one point, the computed ANOVA value 3.485 which is greater than its tabulated value at 5 percent level of significance. Hence, the variation among the impact components of MGNREGS is statistically identified as significant as per the realization of the respondents. In another point, the computed ANOVA value of 17.839 is greater than its tabulated value at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, the variation among the blocks is statistically identified as significant as per the realization of impact components of MGNREGS of the respondents.

- The respondents realize the very high impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme in terms of all 19 factors. Therefore the third hypothesis that is ‘There is no significant inter block variation with respect to impact of MGNREGS on rural livelihood’ is invalid.
The study concludes that, 101 out of 579 households have increased their asset value due to MGNREG schemes.

Majority of the respondents gave guaranteed employment for 100 days (42.31%) as the main reasons for joining this work, followed by 20.21 per cent of the respondents who said that primary wage earning opportunity is the main reason for joining this work. About 15.20 per cent of the respondents said that work available at doorstep and 9.50 per cent of the respondents said that government provided employment. Work not requiring special skills and equality wages for men and women also is a reason for joining MGNREGS work in the study area.

The study reveals that, 41.62 per cent of the respondents under the MGNREGS in the study area are involved in improvement of ponds, channels, tanks and 22.11 per cent of the respondent involved in improvement of road side berms, 14.16 per cent are involved in plantation of trees and another 14.16 per cent of the workers in formation of form pond. About 6.74 per cent of the respondents in construction of buildings and the remaining 6.56 per cent of the respondents are involved in horticulture.

In this study Factor Analysis is applied for identifying the job satisfaction of the MGNREGS workers and the results show that ‘Job Security’, ‘Self Confidence’, ‘Safety Work’, ‘Challenging’ and ‘Lack of Training’ have been identified as the important factors influencing the job satisfaction of the
MGNREGS workers in Kovilpatti, Ottapidaram and Vilathikulam blocks of Thoothukudi district.

- The study clears that recognition by the society after joining MGNREGS has scored the first rank (61.42%) for workers empowerment. Increase in the family contribution also plays a significant role in influencing workers empowerment, for which this variable scores the second rank (60.32%). Increase in the social contribution (60.18%) is another factor that makes considerable impact on workers empowerment.

- It is inferred from the study that the main factor on economic factors which limit increased income spent on food consumption has scored the first rank (62.14%). The second factor is increase in average assets of the enterprises (61.89%). The third factor is increase in average annual income (61.12%), average working hours per day, average savings, average contribution of other members to family income are the fourth (60.87%), fifth (60.66%) and sixth (59.23%) in the order of rank.

- The study discloses that, 30.57 per cent of MGNREGS workers want to avoid contractors. Timely wages is expected to improve the standard of living according to 26.42 per cent of MGNREGS workers. Out of the total 25.56 per cent of MGNREGS workers feel that proper issue of job card is the next necessity. The remaining 17.44 per cent of MGNREGS workers want work side facilities such water, medicine, rest room, separate latrine etc.
7.3 Conclusion

As per the socio-demographic set up of the study area, most of the households have small family size with nuclear family owing their houses and participating in the income earning for the family. Majority of the workers in the study area are women and it gives a sign of women empowerment with regard to the economic status, the depending ratio is marginally reduced and Ottapidaram taluk the first place compared to other two taluks. It is also a good sign of economic development among the respondents in the study area.

With regard to the wage structure of working condition respondents joined the schemes only because of the guaranteed 100 days of employment. The overall awareness in general is above average in the study area but the respondents are not able to claim the reduction of working hours to eight hours or the minimum wages. Mostly the workers reached the scheme through filed assistants. It is also inferred that one of the objectives of 100 days work for a household per year is not achieved in the study area.

It is also focused in the study area that there is only a small percentage of respondents who are migrated workers. This is due to the need of the rural mass in the line of wage earnings in the study area. But the real wages earned by the workers are better the wage rates prescribed under MGNREGS. Anyhow the scheme atleast made the respondents in the study area as the bread winners in the family.
Regarding the health of the respondents in the study area majority keep good health only and the rest are unhealthy due to their poor lifestyle using liquor and intoxicating drinks.

Hence the working of the staff scheme doesn’t affect the health of the respondents much and only the wage payment has to be properly fixed and dispersed.

With regard to the problems encountered by the MGNREGS workers in the study area, involvement of the contractors is the major one and the next problem is ‘wages are not paid in time’. It is only the government that can solve the problems by forming restrictions and rules in the course of implementation of the MGNREGS.

With regard to impact of MGNREGS in the study are, the researcher could verify the fact the there is significant increase in the number of persons employed per household after the emergence of MGNREGS. It is also concluded that there is significant increase in income of the sample households after joining MGNREGS.

The study also concludes that the inequality of income among the respondents has been reduced to a larger extent after joining MGNREGS work and this is due to the increase in income, saving and borrowings of the respondents.

It is also concluded that there is significant increase in expenditure of the sampled households after joining MGNREGS. The researcher also concludes that there is no positive relation between wage earners and awareness about the
schemes; that is all wage seekers irrespective of their knowledge about the rights and entitlement, producers etc., are provided with employment. It is also concluded that 52.12 per cent of destitute, very very poor, very poor and poor category of sampled households crossed the poverty line. It is a welcome sign of income growth in the study area.

The researcher also conclude that there is significant inter block variation with respect to impact of MGNREGS on rural livelihood. It is also inferred that the main factor that reveals the empowerment of the sampled households is the ‘recognition from the society’. The main economic impact of the scheme is the decrease in the amount of income spent on food consumption. The researcher also identified the wish of the majority of the household who insisted on avoiding contractor in the function of the scheme.

Thus the researcher concludes that the adverse effects of such a heavy incidence of poverty on the country’s development are obvious. In this context the self employment programmes assume significance for they alone can provide income to the rural poor at sustainable basis. The rural worker has emerged as an unintended consequence of MGNREGS. Workers as individuals have gained because of their ability to earn independently are made possible due to the paid employment opportunity under MGNREGS. Independent and monetized earnings have increased consumption choices and reduced economic dependence. This has helped workers in registering their tangible contribution to the household’s
income. The overall effects of these have translated into an increased say for workers in household affairs.

7.4 Suggestions of the Study

- Awareness on Vigilance and Monitoring Committees was negligible and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees were also not formed in the study area. About 77 per cent of the workers do not know the committees. The beneficiaries of this scheme should know everything about this scheme for that a special awareness camp or an orientation programme can be conducted for the beneficiaries.

- About 50.68 per cent of the workers faced the problem of non-payment of wages on time. Therefore, the government should take necessary action and cash salary payment should be stopped completely and payment should be made through banks only.

- The study clearly states that due to the non-accessibility of government hospital in rural areas and the low quality of services provided there, a majority 45.49 per cent of people prefer private hospitals for their health issues. Therefore, the government must start the Primary Health Centres in the rural areas especially in the MGNREGS work areas and see that they are running effectively.

- Types of work, working hours, necessity of the work and all the important aspects of the schemes should be explained to the beneficiaries.
The local government leaders and officials should co-operate with the union government in changing the rural India.

The beneficiaries of the schemes may be utilized in the works like planting trees on the road sides.

The problem identified by the MGNREGS workers is the involvement of the contractors (54.07%). It was found to be the major problem among the respondents. Therefore should take necessary action to avoid the contractors and sub-contractors.

The study area is lacking in transport facilitates. This causes inconvenience to the workers. It affects the enrolment too. Therefore steps should be taken to improve transport facilitates in the study area.

As the rural people are getting work for 100 days only, they are not in a position to get loans from any scheduled bank. So, the Government must provide loan at low interest level to those people.

In most places, medical, drinking water and restroom facilities are not provided properly. Even if these facilities are provided, they are far away from the work place. Thus, this inconvenience should be addressed.

MGNREGS should be implemented as per law. It is suggested that there should be a separate department dealing with MGNREGS to ensure timely payment of wages and transparency. There should be more officials dealing with such issues.
7.5 Scope for Further Research

1. Rural Poverty Alleviation in Thoothukudi District: A Contribution of MGNREGS.

2. Empowerment Effect of the MGNREGS on Women Workers with Special Reference to Thoothukudi District.
