Preface

Social Security Measures like Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana, launched in India for the generation of productive and gainful employment with decent working conditions on a sufficient scale to absorb the growing labour force of the nation, form critical elements in the strategy for attaining inclusive growth. But PMRY, in spite of several modifications and amendments made to the original scheme during the past fifteen years, was facing many problems including those in disseminating information and awareness about the scheme among the public, in the attainment of targets, in identification and selection of beneficiaries, in the time taken for recommending, sanctioning and disbursing loans to beneficiaries, misutilisation of loans, insufficiency of loan amounts, non repayment of loans, generation of employment opportunities and the premature closure of large number of PMRY units.

The present study on the performance of PMRY in Kerala was designed with the main objectives of examining the changes occurred in the family income and standard of living of PMRY beneficiaries, assessing the extent of employment opportunities generated by PMRY micro enterprises, ascertaining the possibility for repaying the PMRY loans with the income generated from PMRY projects and to asses the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries with the attitude and assistance of implementing agencies. Based on secondary data available from different sources, a field survey was conducted among 367 PMRY beneficiaries and thirty six officials of the implementing agencies. Analysis of survey results revealed that the programme reduced aggregate unemployment and its general performance as a measure of providing employment to educated youth was satisfactory.