Abstract

Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere” The magnitude of poverty is essentially linked to unemployment. Governments of India have initiated various social security measures including the introduction of self-employment and wage-employment programmes for eradicating poverty. Prime Minister’s Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was one such self-employment scheme. In this study the researcher made an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of PMRY as a measure to reduce unemployment and poverty among the educated youth of Kerala. 367 beneficiaries belonging to three districts, thirty three bank officials and three general managers or PMRY managers of the district industries centres of those three districts were identified as sample for the purpose. Stratified sampling technique was used to select the sample giving proper representation to geographical coverage, extent of units financed, and mode of implementation.

The study was based on those factors that influence the ability of beneficiaries in attaining their expected income from their units, their saving habits, extent of repayment of loans, extent of employment opportunities generated and the level of their satisfaction. Simple statistical tools like averages, ratios, weighted mean, correlation test, and likert scale test were used to analyse the data collected from sample through personal interview, discussions and observation with the help of schedules structured in accordance with the research objectives and hypotheses. Performance was assessed on the basis of gender, sector of activities undertaken, number of dependents, prior experience, extent of loan availed, amount of additional external debts, habits of saving and loan-repayment and attitude of the implementing agencies.
Prior experience, educational qualification, and proportion of loan sanctioned against the applied amount had significant influence on the success or failure of PMRY units, whereas the extent of extra external debts and association of beneficiaries with willful defaulters have influence on the repayment habit of beneficiaries.

Inefficiency was explicit in attaining the target and identification of beneficiaries. Absence of rigid and rigorous implementation of the scheme criteria has caused for inclusion of illegal and ineligible persons under the scheme and exclusion of eligible ones from the scheme. The scheme greatly helped existing business firms, and earning of expected income by the beneficiaries did not ensure prompt repayment of their PMRY loans.

The study also highlighted the need for making amendments in the scheme criteria to suit the needs of time.

Key words: Social security, PMRY, expected income, saving habit, additional debts, prior experience, prompt repayment, satisfaction.