CHAPTER - VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This is the final chapter of the study in which the researcher enumerates the findings of the study along with conclusions of the study. MGNREGA is one of milestone employment generation programs in India. The program is right-based program for rural people and is gaining moment today. As it is outlined in the earlier texts that the program had continuously been criticized by a group of renowned economists as regards its economic rationality. Another group of attackers are local and national media, NGOs and political leaders they have also come up with scathing attacks, particularly with respect to corruption and malpractices prevailing in the scheme. Many have pointed to distortions with respect to the issue of equity and inclusion in the program. Questions are also asked about the quality of assets created under the scheme. Some of the criticisms with respect to the implementations of the program are no doubt valid. The equity and inclusivity space of MGNREGA is squeezed in a number of rural settings because of lack of initiative on the part of the government and limited awareness on the part of proable beneficiaries. The quality of assets created needs improvement. However, general examination of the operation of the scheme suggests that the scheme has tremendous scope for convergence with other government program. In reality, practical opposition to this scheme neither comes from neoclassical economists nor from the agency of civil society; it comes from many of these departments of the union and local governments. Except a few, many of these departments do not want
their program to converge with MGNREGS, as they apprehend that pressure would build on them to operationalize MGNREGA norms and process in the implementation of their projects and scheme.

Considering the above issues, the study examines the functioning and impact of the Scheme with the following objectives: analyse the functioning of the scheme in the study area; financial allocation of the scheme; impact of the scheme on the economic status of the beneficiaries; identification of the problems faced by the beneficiaries. The study adopted empirical methodology and used both primary and secondary data sources.

**Key findings of the study**

- As far as the participation of SC and ST is concerned, at the all India level, they together constitute for more than 50 percent of total employment days created.

- There is steady growth in participation of SC families over the period of time. The national scenario of the participation of SCs is concerned it increases from 25.36 percent to 30.63 percent during 2009-10 to 2014-15, and then declined.

- As far as participation of STs is concerned the national scenario shows that their proportion to the total person days shows a significant declining trend from 36.44 percent in 2009-10 to 16.73 percent in 2014-15 and varies across the states.
• The states like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh show the highest participation of STs and states like Chandigarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh show the lowest participation. An analysis of the participation of the respondents in various items of work reveals that majority of the workers (89.5 percent) were found to get involved under the label of land development; followed by renovation of traditional water bodies, road connectivity. 10 percent surveyed workers mentioned that the quality of work is very good and 49 percent argued well, 43 percent is average.

• The MGNREGA Scheme has positive impact in the creation of diverse livelihoods as reported by 76 per cent sample respondents. The MGNREGS has also improved the permanent asset position in sample households.

• The study reveals that nearly 63 per cent of the respondents accepted that the MGNREGS helped in creating the permanent assets.

• Characteristics of the households show that majority 50 percent of the respondents belong to the age group of 16-60 and in majority (65 percent) of the cases, female members are the decision makers.

• Almost 52 percent of the beneficiaries are illiterate as against 48 percent in case of the non-member.

• The overall pattern of education indicates that unskilled and uneducated people are more likely to join work under MHNREGA.

• Most of the beneficiary households belong to the SC (74.8 percent) and MBC (25.2 percent) category 28.88 percent in the non-beneficiary category.
Testing of hypotheses

- There is no significant difference in the income level of members after joining MGNREGA - It is rejected
- There is no significant difference in expenditure of members after joining MGNREGA - It is rejected
- There is no significant difference is the saving level of members after joining MGNREGA - It is rejected
- There is no significant difference in asset composition after membership in MGNREGA - It is rejected

Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher has provided here some of the suggestions for better performance of the program.

1. There should be proper monitoring of the scheme.
2. Official should visit the field periodically and examine whether works are properly discharged or not.
3. Corruption at all levels should be abolished
4. There should not be any intermediary in the process of selecting beneficiaries
5. Panchayat level Federation should involve in transparent selection
6. Wages should be properly and timely deposited to beneficiary bank account.

Avenues for Future Studies

1. Research studies may also be conducted financial analysis of MGNREGS.
2. Research studies may also be conducted to examine the economic status of women headed (Widow/Divorce/Destitute) families beneficiaries.

3. Research studies may also be conducted on awareness level of the scheme MGNREGS

Conclusions

MGNREGS is landmark program in economic history of India, launched with an aim to provide employment to rural people to uplift their socioeconomic status. The program has the provision of ensuring a critical minimum employment and income to rural households in the form of guaranteeing at least 100 days of manual work to any household whose adult volunteer to take up such work. In the process, it ensures a critical minimum of economic security to the poorest of the poor. Further, being the largest public wage employment program for the poor in the developing economics, it is based on the concept of Keynesian Macro Economics of public expenditure and therefore it is designed to provide a multiplier effect to the income generation process in the rural economy of India.

The success of the scheme thus lies in how quickly these capabilities created so that MGNREGS in its current form becomes irrelevant and embraces its own demise. Notwithstanding the attribution of a political motive to MGNREGS, the genesis and present continuity of the scheme is well grounded on the sound economics of sustainable development. If the scheme fails for whatever reasons, it would be a big jolt to our own broadened understanding of the contemporary theory and practice of development. The issue of corruption, distribution, malpractices in MGNREGS, particularly at the grass-root level, reflect the fact our local institutions
are yet to mature to take care of the imperatives of sustainable development. It is happy to note that MGNREGS has provided the much needed comprehensive ground to test our preparedness in bringing about real decentralized sustainable development. The field survey clearly portrays that the scheme has significantly improved the economic status of the beneficiaries.