Chapter – I

INTRODUCTION
1.1. Introduction

In August 2005, the Indian Parliament passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), which provides for 100 days of guaranteed employment to every rural household. On February 2, 2006, amid great hype and hope, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) came into force in 200 of India's most backward districts. In 2007, it was extended to cover another 130 districts and with effect from April 1, 2008, the scheme covered in all districts of rural India. Now the NREGA is in operation in the whole country. This is the largest ever public employment programme visualized in human history.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a social and economic security for the rural poor. The NREGA is the first tangible commitment to the poor that they can expect to earn a living wage, without loss of dignity and demand this as a right.

The NREGA is the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government's flagship programme and they hope to gain political mileage in every election. That is perhaps one of the main reasons why NREGA has been fast-tracked and will be implemented throughout the country. The earlier plan was a phased one where there would be a progressive implementation. The opponents of NREGA were very critical when the Act was in the final stages of being drafted as it was felt that corruption would be rampant and scarce resources would be wiped out without any real benefit to the poor.

NREGA has placed a judicially enforceable obligation on the state. Under the provisions of the Act, State Governments are to provide unskilled, manual work within 15 days of a person making an application, within a radius of 5 kms from the
applicant's residence. Failing this, the state government is to provide an unemployment allowance. Workers are entitled to a statutory minimum wage for their labour, to be paid within 7 days after the work is done. Men and women are to be paid equal wages. This Act is based on the principle of Self-selection by focusing on unskilled, manual work.

There are strong provisions for transparency and accountability at all levels. For instance, wages are to be paid in the presence of the community on pre-specified dates, all relevant documents are to be made available for public scrutiny and regular social audit of all works has to be conducted. The NREGA has to work in tandem with another very important legislation, the Right to Information Act, 2005. NREGA, unlike other employment programmes, confers a right and an entitlement.

There is a ban on the use of contractors, because, their participation was often associated with corruption in food-for-work or other public works programmes. Since the work has to be provided directly to the people by district authorities or by gram panchayats, it is easier to hold them to account.

It is the responsibility of the district authorities to register any household that wants work and issue them Job Cards in which details of the number of days of employment provided and payment made have to be entered. The names and photographs of every household member are to be on the Job Card and this Card is to be keep by the household. Massive campaigns and social mobilization efforts were made to inform people of their rights and entitlements under the Act.
1.2. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Andhra Pradesh

The Act empowers people to play an active role in the implementation of employment guarantee schemes through gram sabhas, social audits, participatory planning and setting up of local Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. It was felt that active community participation was particularly important for ensuring transparency and public accountability. Thus, there is a role for all grassroots institutions such as workers’ associations, local beneficiary committees, self-help groups and user groups in spreading awareness, mobilizing workers and in monitoring the implementation of the Scheme.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided employment to 52,25,287 households from the inception of the programme. 83,28,238 individuals were provided employment of which 38,42,610 or 46 percent were men, 44,85,628 or 54 percent were women and 53,965 or 0.64 percent were disabled persons. Twenty-six percent of person days of employment have gone to members of the Scheduled Caste, and 11 percent to members of Scheduled Tribes between April 2007 and March 2008. Some 4,87,623 works have been initiated between 2006 and March 2008.

The Land development, road connectivity, flood control and protection, water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, desilting of ponds, minor irrigation works and provision of irrigation facilities to Scheduled Caste/Tribe families and other beneficiaries of land reform were amongst the types of works taken up.

1.3. Social Audit of NREGA and Andhra Pradesh

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized early on that if corruption was to be stemmed in NREGA, several steps would have to be taken to plug potential...
sources of leakages. For one thing, past experience with the National Food-For-
Work Programme (NFFWP) revealed that inflated budgets would be prepared by
engineers and contractors, workers would be defrauded of their wages (particularly if
they were paid in cash) and it was difficult to tract expenditure as vouchers, bills, pay
orders and sanction orders were prepared at different levels. It was virtually
impossible to assemble all the papers needed for a scrutiny.

1.4. Transparency and Accountability

Transparency, accountability and participation are important components of
good governance. Governments are facing an ever-growing demand to be more
accountable and socially responsible and the people are becoming more assertive
about their rights to be informed and to influence governments’ decision making
process. Programmes conceived in the recent past have inbuilt mechanism to promote
all these components to enable people centred policies and development. The
creation of space for social audit under NREGA is one such step in this direction.

NREGA provides for 100 days of guaranteed employment in one financial
year to all rural households, members of which are willing to do manual labour. The
Act not only guarantees wage employment as a right, but also promoted community
monitoring through vigilance and monitoring committees, social audit though gram
sabha and also makes provision for complete transparency as mandated by the Right
to Information Act, 2005.

Currently covering 330 districts, the National Rural Employment Guarantee
Scheme (NREGS) is to be expanded to all 600 districts from the financial year (2008–
09). A wage employment programme of such magnitude can be successful only if
transparency, accountability and participatory provisions of the Act are strictly adhered to. Several governmental and non-governmental organizations have facilitated social audit processes in NREGA in the last two years.

1.5. Employment generation programmes in India

Poverty reduction has been an important goal of development policy since the inception of planning in India. Various antipoverty, employment generation and basic services programmes have been in operation for decades in India. The ongoing reforms attach great importance to removal of poverty, and addressing specifically the wide variations across States and the rural–urban divide. Anti-poverty strategy has three broad components: promotion of economic growth; promotion of human development; and targeted programmes of poverty alleviation to address multidimensional nature of poverty. The various programmes targeted at the poor have been streamlined and strengthened in recent years, including through the NREGS. The following are the various employment generation programmes in India in operation.

1.5.1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Launched in December 2000 as a 100 per cent CSS, PMGSY aims to provide all-weather connectivity to all the eligible unconnected rural habitations. Bharat Nirman, envisages connectivity by 2009 to all the habitations with a population of 1000 or more in the plains, and of 500 or more in the hilly, desert and tribal areas. The systematic upgradation of the existing rural road network also is an integral component of the scheme, funded mainly from the accruals of diesel cess in the Central Road Fund, with support of the multilateral funding agencies and the
domestic financial institutions. Up to December 2005, with an expenditure of Rs.12,049 crore, a total length of 82,718 km. of road works had been completed.

1.5.2. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

IAY aims to provide dwelling units, free of cost, to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and freed bonded labourers, and also the non-SC/ST BPL families in rural areas. It is funded on a cost-sharing basis in the rates of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. Under IAY, the ceiling on construction assistance is Rs.25,000/- per unit in the plains and Rs.27,500/- for hilly/difficult areas; and Rs. 12,500/- on upgradation of unserviceable kutchha house to pucca/semi pucca house for all areas. Up to January 30, 2006, about 138 lakh houses had been constructed/upgraded with an expenditure of Rs.25,208 crore.

1.5.3. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

SGSY, launched in April, 1999 after restructuring the Integrated Rural Development Programme and allied schemes, is the only self-employment programme for the rural poor. The objective is to bring the self-employed above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. Up to November 2005, the Centre and States, sharing the costs on 75:25 basis, had allocated Rs.8,067 crore, of which Rs. 6,980 crore had been utilized to assist 62.75 lakh self-employed.

1.5.4. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

SGRY, launched on September 25, 2001 to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas, has a cash and food grains component, and the Centre bears 75 per cent and 100 per cent of the cost of the two with the balance borne by the
States/UTs. In 2004-05, 82.23 crore persondays were generated with the Centre releasing Rs. 4,496 crore as cash component and about 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the States/UTs. Besides, under the special component of the SGRY, with the States/UTs meeting the cash components, Centre released 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the 13 calamity affected States. In 2005-06 up to November, 2005, the number of persondays generated under SGRY was 48.75 crore, while the Centre’s contributions in terms of the cash and foodgrains components up to January, 2006 were Rs. 4651 crore and 35 lakh tonnes, respectively. Under the special component, about 11.65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been released to the 11 calamity-hit States in the current year.

1.5.5. National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)

The NFFWP was launched as a CSS in November 2004 in the 150 most backward districts to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. States receive food grains under NFFWP free of cost. The focus of the programme is on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas), and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads. In 2004-05, allocation of Rs 2,020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains generated 7.85 crore persondays of employment. In 2005-06, of the allocation of Rs 4,500 crore and 15 lakh tonnes of food grains (Revised), Rs.2,219 crore and 11.58 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains had been released up to January 27, 2006. About 17.03 lakh persondays were generated up to December 2005.
1.5.6. DPAP, DDP and IWDP

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was launched in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those areas constantly affected by severe drought conditions. Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched in 1977-78 to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) has been under implementation since 1989-90 for the development of wastelands/ degraded lands. The basis of implementation has been shifted from sectoral to watershed basis from April 1995. For 2005-06, Rs.353 crore, Rs.268 crore and Rs.485 crore have been allocated for DPAP, DDP and IWDP, respectively. So far in 2005-06 up to October, 2005, 3000 new projects covering 15 lakh ha., 2000 new projects covering 10 lakh ha. and 340 new projects covering 16 lakh ha. have been sanctioned under DPAP, DDP and IWDP, respectively.

1.5.7. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

In December 1997, the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), which are the two special components of the SJSRY, substituted for various programmes operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. The SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis between the Centre and the States. In 2003-04, the central allocation of Rs. 94.50 crore plus Rs. 10.50 crore for North-Eastern Region including Sikkim was fully utilized. Even 2004-05 saw the release of the entire budgetary allocation of Rs. 122.00 crore. In 2005-06, out of an allocation of Rs. 160.00 crore, Rs. 84.52 crore had been utilized until November 30, 2005.
1.5.8. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)

VAMBAY, launched in December 2001, facilitates the construction and upgradation of dwelling units for the slum dwellers, and provides a healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the Scheme. The Central Government provides a subsidy of 50 per cent, with the balance provided by the State Government. Since its inception and up to December 31, 2005, Rs. 866.16 crore had been released as Central subsidy for the construction/upgradation of 4,11,478 dwelling units and 64,247 toilet seats under the Scheme. For 2005-06, out of the tentative Central allocation of Rs. 249 crore, up to December 31, 2005, an amount of Rs.96.4 crore had been released covering 60,335 dwelling units and 381 toilet seats.

1.6. Coverage of districts under NREGA in A.P.

In Andhra Pradesh, the NREGA programme was covered in 3 phases. In the first phase, 13 districts were covered. They are : Vizianagaram in Coastal Andhra region, chittoor, Kadapa and Ananapatapur in Rayalaseema region, Mahabob Nagar, Medak, Ranga Reddy, Nizamabad, Warangal, Adilabad, Karim Nagar, Khammam and Nalgonda in Telanga region. In the second phase, 6 districts were covered. They are : East Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore and Srikakulam in Coastal Andhra region and Kurnool in Rayalaseema region. In the third phase, 3 district namely West Godavari, Krishna and Visakha patnam in coastal Andhra were covered.

1.7. Non – Negotiable in implementation of NREGS-AP:

The program has been grounded in the state of Andhra Pradesh on a strong footing with the following non negotiable.

➢ Contractors and labour displacing machinery shall not be engaged
Every registered rural household shall be provided not less than 100 days of
wage employment in a financial year

Payment of wages shall be made at least once in a fortnight

Equal wages shall be paid to men and women. Works approved by the gram
panchayath (identified in the gram sabha) at village level, the Mandal Parishad
at Mandal Level and the Zilla parishad at District level only shall be taken up

1.8. Wage Payments through Post Office Accounts

To avoid middlemen and to make the payments directly to the labourers, wage
payments are being made through individual Post Office Accounts.

So far, 65 Lakh individual accounts are opened.

1.9. Major initiatives towards livelihood security under NREGS-AP:

The following are the major initiatives towards livelihood security under
NREGA in Andhra Pradesh.

1.9.1. Indiramma Cheruvulu - Comprehensive restoration MI tanks:

10,805 tanks are taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 990 crores, out of
which 9,955 tanks are in progress. So far, Rs 264 crore has been spent and 850
tanks are fully restored so far stabilizing 1 lakhs acres.

1.9.2. Horticulture:

Horticulture is taken up on the lands of the poor with 100% subsidy on 1.44
Lakh acres at an estimated cost of 440.27 Crores. Ongoing SHM & APMIP
projects are converged in this initiative.
1.9.3. Land Development:

- An extent of 1.67 Lakh acres land lying fallow belonging to SC/ST/ BPL families have been developed.
- Land Leveling, silt application, clearance of bushes, deep ploughing etc. are some of the activities.

1.9.4. Asset Creation under NREGA in Andhra Pradesh

The following assets have been created under NREGS.

Table 1.1: Assets created under NREGS in Andhra Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the asset</th>
<th>Extent/Nos</th>
<th>Expenditure (In Crores)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Land Development</td>
<td>1,67,440 Acres</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Silt Application</td>
<td>1,21,738 Acres</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Earthen Bunding</td>
<td>4,65,386 Acres</td>
<td>139.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feeder Chanel</td>
<td>9,860 Kms</td>
<td>98.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MI Tanks</td>
<td>850 No.s</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>1,31,942 Acres</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Farm Ponds</td>
<td>36,100 No.s</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pebble Bunding</td>
<td>37,000 Acres</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Restoration and Deepening of wells</td>
<td>10,764 No.s</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Stone Bund</td>
<td>12,518 Acres</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>1,668 K.m.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mini Percolation Tanks</td>
<td>7,973 No.s</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Govt. of A.P. Dept. of Rural Development

Table 1.2: Over View of NREGS in Andhra Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Job Cards issued</td>
<td>83,03,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of works sanctioned</td>
<td>9,76,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of works administratively sanctioned (in Crores)</td>
<td>8716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Works Completed</td>
<td>1,55,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure (in Crores)</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total individual postal accounts (In Lakhs)</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Households provided wage employment</td>
<td>44,89,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of individual wage employment provided</td>
<td>69,47,496</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contd.....

The scheme is extended to all other districts in a phased manner. It is expected to enhance people's livelihood on sustained basis by developing economic and social infrastructure in rural areas. It is a direct attack on the causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion. The scheme is different from the earlier wage employment programmes in different ways:

- It provides legal guarantee of 100 days work to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do un-skilled manual work
- If an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days he / she shall be entitled to unemployment allowance
- Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is demand-driven instead of being supply-driven
The focus of the NREGA scheme shall be on:

- Water conservation and water harvesting
- Drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation
- Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works, Provision of irrigation facilities to land owned by households belonging to SC/ST or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under IAY

1.11. Main features of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The focus of the scheme shall be on the following works in their order of priority:

- Water conservation and water harvesting
- Drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation
- Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works
- Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the IAH of Govt. of India
- Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks
- Land Development
- Flood control and protection works including drainage in waterlogged areas
- Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access and
- Any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State government
- Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor shall be an important object of the scheme
- The works taken up under the scheme shall be in rural areas
The scheme shall not permit engaging any contractor for implementation of
the projects under it

1.12. Conditions for Guaranteed Rural Employment under the Scheme and
Minimum Entitlements of Labourers

The adult members of every household who reside in any rural areas; and are
willing to do unskilled manual work, may submit their names, age and the address of
the household to the Gram Panchayat at the village level (hereafter in this Schedule
referred to as the Gram Panchayat) in the jurisdiction of which they reside for
registration of their household for issuance of a job card.

Every adult member of a registered household whose name appears in the job
card shall be entitled to apply for unskilled manual work under the Scheme. All
registered persons belonging to a household shall be entitled to employment in
accordance with the Scheme made under the provisions of this Act, for ashlany days
as each applicant may request, subject to a maximum of one hundred days per
household in a given financial year. There shall be no limit on the number of days of
employment for which a person may apply, or on the number of days of employment
actually provided to him subject to the aggregate entitlement of the household.

The facilities of safe drinking water, shade for children and periods of rest,
first-aid box with adequate material for emergency treatment for minor injuries and
other health hazards connected with the work being performed shall be provided at
the work site. In case the number of children below the age of six years
accompanying the women working at any site are five or more, provisions shall be
made to depute one of such women worker to look after such children.
1.13. Importance of Study

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act gives legal guarantee of providing at least 100 days of wage employment to rural households whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual labour.

Providing 100 days of employment to the rural-poor especially during the lean agricultural season improves the socio-economic status of the labour force in rural area. For this purpose, it is necessary to study whether the labourers are getting 100 days of employment through NREGA.

In NREGA, there is a ban on contractors. So, the present study helps to know whether there is any involvement of contractors or not. The study had also an importance to understand and identify the issues like issue of job cars in time, to know that is there any wage discrimination among the men and labourers, to know whether the officials are providing minimum facilities at the work spot, like drinking water, child care facilities at the work site, shade and floor shed for the workers etc.

The NREGA Act provided a statutory minimum wage for NREGA workers. The Act also provided extra wage, where the work is available in the radius of 5 kms. The study is useful to observe the facts for the above provision.

To land development, road connectivity, flood control and protection, water conservation, drought proofing, distilling of ponds, minor irrigation works and provision of irrigation facilities to SC and ST families and other beneficiaries of land reform are amongst the type of works undertaken under NREGA programme. To
know the effective implementation of above programmes a detailed study at the grass root level is necessary and for this reason, the present study has its own significance.

1.14. Review of Literature

The NREGA programme was in operation in India from 2006 onwards. There are few studies on the evaluation of NREGA programs in India in general and in Andhra Pradesh in particular. The study Arindo Banerjee of Prascin (2007), on NREGA – Across – country Appraisal at the end of eight months observed key lessons from various parts of India on NREGA programme relating to initiation of the scheme and its implementation.

It also observed the issues with case studies. Sohini Paul's report (2008) concentrated strengthening grassroots democracy through the NREGA and the Right to Information Act. Two years of NREGA : The Road Ahead by Pramathesh Ambasta, P.S. Vijay Shankar and Mihir Shah (2008), studies show why NREGA has raised expectation like no other rural development programme and how it can and must be made to deliver on its massive and unrealized potential.

The study identified under staffing, delays in administration, lack of peoples planning poor quality of works, inappropriate wage rates, mockery of social audit etc. The Report (2008) by Soweaj Pragati Sahayog concentrated on the field issues of NREGA regarding partners of the National Consortium of CSOs.

The Social Audit in Andhra Pradesh (2007) by Aakella and Sowmya studied on the implementation process of NREGA in A.P. The study of Arora S.C (2003) analysed the Good Governance and Panchayati Raj, focused on the role of Panchayati
Raj Institution in the implementation of NREGA. The public accountability and transparency in employment programmes was studied by Godbole in (2003).

The unpublished document of Dreze & K have studied the loopholes in the implementation of NREGA scheme in India. An Evaluation study of the NREGS in Vijianagaram district is a study by G. Ramachandrudu and others find the follows. They observed that the NREGS workers are earning an annual income of Rs 17,872. The study shows that a considerable reduction happened in migration, 47 per cent of the workers are female, ale the castes are involved in NREGA works. The study also revealed that muster rolls are promptly maintained and 85% of the respondents are satisfied with NREGS. Similarly the study focused on social audit, asset creation and also other loopholes in the NREGA programme.


In this content, the present study is mainly concentrated to study the problem and prospect of the NREGA workers in a drought prone district of Anantapur in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. The present study mainly focused for the evaluation of NREGA programme in four selected gram panchayats in BK Samdram mandal in Anantapur district.

1.15. Scope of the Study

The presenta study, after revering various earlier studies, uses the most suitable methodology with utmost conceptual clarity in analyzing the evaluation of national Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which provide 100 mandays of employment for the job seekers to prove the economic station of the rural poor in Bukkaraya samudram (BK Samudram) mandal of Anantapur district in general and in four selected gram panchayats in particular.

To study the socio-economic characteristics of the NREGA workers, to know their awareness about NREGA programme and to know its impact on job seekers one
mandal in the district was selected. The study confines only four gram panchayats of BK Samudram mandal.

The study, besides suggesting a prescriptive policy, also attempts to highlight the awareness of NREGA workers on NREGA Act, socioeconomic conditions of the NREGA house hold respondents before and after the NREGA Programme in the mandal. The study cover from 2006-2009 and the economic data, wage particulars are confined to the financial year 2007-2008.

The study also covered various aspects relations to the income and employment generation, asset creation among the sample households. The social audit, works undertaken, facilities available at work spot, increase of purchasing power were also studied and analysed.

The saving levels, consumption particulars were also studied and made suitable suggestion to improve their savings income and overall employment, among the NREGA workers in BK Samudram mandal of Anantapur district.

1.16. Objectives

The following are the major objectives of the present study

- To study the structure of National Rural Employment Scheme
- To examine the transparency and accountability in NREGS in Andhra Pradesh
- To analyse socio-economic characteristics of NREGA workers in the selected grampanchayath in BK Samudram mandal.
- To assess the awareness of NREGS sample house holds on Various provisions in NREGS Act.
• To estimate the income and employment generation among the NREGA sample house holds
• To examine the consumption behavior and asset creation of the NREGA workers.

1.17. Methodology

For the purpose of the present study, Bukkaraya Samudram mandal in Anantapur district of Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh was selected on the basis of simple random sampling method. After selecting the mandal, four gram panchayats, namely BK Samudram, Danduvaripalli, Reddy palli and Korrapadu were selected for the purpose of selecting the NREGA workers. Form the four gram panchayats, 85 beneficiaries covering 25 in BK Samudram Panchayat 20 each from the remaining three gram panchayath were selected and interviewed with a well designed questionnaire.

1.18. Data Sources

The data required for the study are mainly collected from the secondary data sources from gram panchayats, mandal office and the concerned. The primary data was collected from the sample NREGA workers to assess the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, to understand their awareness, their participation, asset creation, income and employment from NREGA wages. With the help of the well. Structured questionnaire, the sample beneficiaries of NREGA were interviewed and analysed the data by using the simple statistical techniques.
1.19. Chapterization

The present study is presented in five chapters. The introductory first chapter explains the emergence of NREGA programme, importance of the study, review of literature, scope, objectives and methodology adopted in the present study. The structural of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is presented in the second chapter. The third chapter analyses the transparency and accountability of NREGS in Andhra Pradesh.

The socio-economic characteristics of NREGS workers, their awareness on NREGS, the facilities available at work site, consumption pattern, income and employment generation of NREGS workers, after the implementation of the scheme along with the social audit are presented and discussed in the fourth chapter. The summary of the findings of the study are presented in the last chapter.