CHAPTER – VII

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Introduction:

Poverty and unemployment are the two most important problems of the Indian economy, and were brought to the forefront since 1960’s both in academic and political circles. Besides, being rural in nature, much of unemployment in India is also because of structural reasons. As per the Census report in 2009-2010 Meghalaya unemployment had gone up further to 9 percent in rural areas and 55 percent in urban areas from 4 percent in rural areas and 38 percent in urban areas in the year 2004-05. The implementation of the programme like MGNREGS was all the more necessary in the state of Meghalaya not only for providing employment in seasonal but also for developing assets that can change the social and economic structure of the villages. MGNREGA is not supply but demand driven wage programme and it has the potential to transform rural economic and social relations at many levels. Since Meghalaya is having a special category status and part-IX of the constitution does not apply to it, the NREGA envisaged a provision whereby the state can mandate local councils/authorities to undertake the corresponding responsibilities of PRI institutions.

Objectives of the study area:

1) To review the magnitude and trend of unemployment in rural areas of Meghalaya and West Garo Hills District:
2) To assess the impact of NREGS on employment, and

3) To assess the impact of NREGS on income and consumption levels in the study area.

In order to study the impact of MGNREGS on the beneficiaries 4 blocks were selected based on their performance and 20 VECs were selected on random basis for focus group discussion and 300 beneficiaries’ households were selected for detailed study through structured interview schedules.

The major findings and conclusions of the present study are:

- It is observed that out of 300 respondents female population was higher than the male population. The potential workers of the population were 65.8 percent out of which 31.2 percent are male and 34.6 percent are female.

- It is seen that total illiterate was 2.6 percent whereas sample population having education status between primary to high school level was 61.3 percent. High to secondary level was 28.6 percent among the sample population and 7.3 percent of the sample population was above secondary level.

- It is inferred that most of the sample household was depending mainly on daily wage labour as their main occupation with 36 percent before the programme and 36.3 percent after the programme, which was followed by agriculture as their main occupation with 34 percent before the programme and 33.6 percent after the programme.
It is observed that both before and after the MGNREGS programme highest population dependent on daily wage labour was in Betasing block, those depending on agriculture as their main occupation was in Dadenggiri block and highest number of servicemen was in Tikirkilla block.

It is found that MGNREGS workers having no land was highest in Betasing block (16 percent), Marginal farmers was highest in Rongram block (61.3 percent) Small farmer was highest in Dadenggiri block (33.3 percent), Household belonging to Semi medium 20 percent was highest in both Tikirkilla block and Dadenggiri block (with 20 percent each), Medium farmers of 12 percent was highest in Dadenggiri block and Large farmer highest of 10.7 percent was in Betasing block.

It is found that MGNREGS workers have their own house, out of them 27 percent household have thatched roof, 54.3 percent of them are having tin roof and 18.6 percent have a concrete house.

It can be found that 20.3 percent of the respondent’s households have no access to electricity, 4.3 percent of the sample household have no access to latrine and 40.3 percent of the sample household have their drinking water source mainly from well.

Respondent in the sample block reveals that 76 percent of the respondents were male and 24 percent of the respondents were female out of which 65.6 percent were in the age group of 36 to 60 years. Only 2 percent of the respondent was illiterate. Most of the respondent was farmers and daily wage labourers.
From the overall employment generated by sample households it can be seen that, before the programme and after the programme was highest in Betasing block with 31 percent. In own farm sector household employment, Betasing block have the highest employment of 3.80 percent before the programme and highest of 31.30 percent after the programme. Whereas, in non-farm household employment also Betasing block have the highest percent of employment of 31 percent before the programme and 30 percent after the programme. In MGNREGS employment received by the household highest of 31 percent was in Rongram block followed by 28.70 in Betasing block, 21 percent in Dadenggiri block and 19 percent in Tikirkilla block.

Potential employment among the eligible sample workers of 55760 days per household in the year 2011 was highest in both Dadenggiri block and Betasing block. Actual employment of 27331 days was highest in Betasing block. Employment gap was highest among the below average performer block with highest of 49,701 days of employment gap in Tikirkilla block and 33,638 days in Dadenggiri block.

It can be observed that most of the eligible population has registered under the programme with higher number of registration among above average performer sample blocks.

Persondays generated per household shows that, the above average performer blocks namely Rongram block having the highest number of 76 days of persondays followed by 70 days in Betasing block. Whereas, below average
performer blocks have 51 days persondays in Dadenggiri block and 46 days in Tikirkilla block. Thus, MGNREGS employment have not achieved 100 days of employment per household but there has been significant increase in actual employment percent by 22 percent

- It can be noted that women workers have generated only 34 percent of persondays in 2010-11 among the sample blocks with the higher persondays among the above average performer blocks than the below average performer block.

- Regarding wage payment it has been found that wages were equally paid for both men and women under MGNREGS but wages outside MGNREGS was not equally paid

- Before and after in MGNREGS programme, the actual employment of the sample household as percent of potential employment was highest in Betasing block with 48 percent followed by 40 percent in Dadenggiri block. Dadenggiri block though selected as below average performer block have higher actual employment as percent of potential employment as they have highest number of population working mainly on own farm work.

- From the analysis it has been found that, MGNREGS employment was able provide employment against the large number of potential employment in very small percent of 11 percent in Rongram block and 8 percent in Betasing block which were selected on the basis of above average performer and 7 percent in
both Tikirkilla block and Dadenggiri block which were selected as below average performer for the study.

- It is revealed that majority of the work was done on road construction which has able to bring positive effect on their various spheres of life. Besides, road construction other works were also concentrated on the works related with soil and water conservation for regenerating of natural resource base.

- It has been found that income source of the respondent shows that, both before and after the implementation of the programme agriculture and daily wage labour was the highest source of income after service as 36 percent of the sample household before the programme and 35 percent after the programme were mainly dependent on agriculture which was followed by daily wage labour 33 percent before the programme and 34 after the programme.

- Block wise income distribution of highest agriculture income in percent before the programme of 47 percent and after the programme 46 percent was in Dadenggiri block. Rongram block have the highest percent of 36 percent before the programme and 35 percent after the programme income in livestock. Daily wage labourer income before the programme of 41 percent and 36 percent after the programme was highest in Betasing block. Service men was highest in Tikirkilla block both before and after the programme and among the income source from Business and others before and after the programme of 45 percent, respectively was highest in Betasing block. Since Betasing block and Rongram
block have higher persondays generated they have higher MGNREGS income then Tikirkilla block and Dadenggiri block.

- It is revealed that, most of the population belongs to the income group of below Rs. 30000 (57%), income group of Rs.30, 001 and 60,001 (26%) before the programme and after the programme it was income group of Rs.30001 (47%) and 60001(26%).

- Among the sample block income group percent shows that among sample blocks before the implementation of the programme Rongram block and Tikirkilla block both have the highest of 61.30 percent, respectively which has reduced to 15 percent in Tikirkilla block after the programme. In the income group of Rs. 30001 to Rs. 60001 was highest in Betasing block with 44 percent before the programme and 60 percent in Rongram block after the programme. Tikirkilla block has the highest percent of 8 in the income group of Rs.60001 to Rs. 100000 and 4.6 percent in Betasing block after the programme. The income group of Rs. 100000 to Rs. 200000 was highest in Tikirkilla block with 22 percent and 10.7 percent after the programme in Betasing block. A household having highest income above Rs. 200000 was highest in Tikirkilla block with 2.7 percent before the programme which has changed to 25.3 percent after the programme.

- It can noted from the findings that contribution by the MGNREGS in terms of income to the total annual income was negligible. Rongram block and Betasing block have MGNREGS wages contribution to the total income of the household of 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Whereas, Dadenggiri blocks and
Tikirkilla blocks have the contribution of MGNREGS wages to the total income by 7 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

- Percent change of income shows that, in agriculture highest percent change of 19 percent was in Dadenggiri block. In livestock percent change of 20 percent was in Betasing block. Among daily wage income highest percent change of 16 percent was in both Rongram block and Betasing block. Income from business and others have the highest percent change of 18 percent in Rongram block.

- It is seen that per capita monthly income gap was highest in Tikirkilla block with Rs. 1182 before the programme and after the implementation of MGNREGS programme per capita monthly income gap of Rs. 1522 was highest in Dadenggiri block. Per capita monthly income was highest in Tikirkilla block and the least was in Dadenggiri block both before and after the programme.

- It can be noted that expenditure on food was highest in Rongram block with 46 percent and on non food highest of 67 percent in Tikirkilla block before the implementation of the programme. After the programme in Tikirkilla block and Rongram block the expenditure on nonfood percent was 53 percent respectively. Betasing block sample household’s food expenditure was 48 percent.

- It is seen that, before the programme per capita monthly consumption on food and non-food of Rs. 494 and Rs.1061 was highest in Tikirkilla block, whereas, least per capita monthly consumption on food of Rs. 354 was in Dadenggiri block and Rs. 452 on nonfood expenditure was in Rongram block. After the
implementation of the MGNREGS programme, highest per capita monthly expenditure on food and nonfood was spent by Tikirkilla block with Rs. 920 and Rs. 999. The least per capita monthly consumption of Rs. 695 on food and Rs. 738 was in Rongram block.

- It can be seen that significant increase of MGNREGS household with Rs.816 before the programme and Rs.1302 after the programme. Among the blocks the highest expenditure gap of Rs.1182 in Tikirkilla block and the least of 679 in Betasing block, for households in MGNREGS after highest expenditure gap of Rs.1522 was in Dadenggiri block and lowest of Rs.1197 was in Rongram block.

- It can be seen that, most of the household assets generated by the MGNREGS households were availed before the implementation of the programme except for few items. Tikirkilla block and Rongram block have more assets than the other two blocks.
Conclusions

India has been attempting to tackle the unemployment and poverty problem. In 2005, NREGA Act was notified having a legal framework and right-based approach to all. The deprived and weaker sections from all the states of India have the opportunity to demand and get employment under the Act. We have found the performance of the programme to give employment to all the different sections of society and are attracting poor women of the society. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has also been found to be generating income along with employment to the rural poor. The rural infrastructure created among the villages has been benefitting the rural poor which can create direct or indirect impact in every activity of life. Thus, MGNREGS has provided a fall back employment source, when others employment alternatives were not sufficient. There were some problems in the implementation of the programme, unavailable of timely release of fund by the central government, delay in banking process, timely unavailability to update of MIS, lack of staff etc. The implementation programme can be made more effective if, the community awareness of the programme is improved among the villagers, strengthening VEC secretary/president by giving adequate training, timely release of fund, improving the role and participation of VMC workers, improving banking facilities for MGNREGS works, etc. MGNREGS can help in creating sustainable rural livelihood and thereby strengthen the economy of the country if all the measures were taken care of regarding hindrance in the implementation process.