## Chapter - 4

## **Empirical Evaluation of NREGS in Sirmaur**

The present study is an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of NREGS scheme in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. There are 6 blocks in Sirmour districts. At the first stage, 4 blocks out of 6 blocks namely Rajgarh, Sangrah, Paonta and Shillai were selected on the basis of simple random sampling. From these four blocks ten Panchayats in proportion to their numbers in each block, were selected. Further 50 villages from these selected 10 Panchayts were picked up. In all 1000 beneficiary families @ 20 beneficiaries from 50 villages ensuring representation to every Panchyat were selected. While selecting the sample; social, cultural, political, economical and geographical variations were given due representation. In order to study the effectiveness of this scheme, 50 respondents i.e. community leaders, executives, administrators, NGOs and other stakeholders were also included.

#### 4.1 Profile of Head of the Families

#### a. Gender

Of the 1000 families selected in the 4 blocks of the district, 952 families are headed by the male members and the rest 48 have women as the head of the family, most of these women are widows who have survived their male heirs.

#### b. Caste

A broad classification on caste basis reveals that 260 families are from the general category or the so called upper categories. 396 are the schedule caste families and 344 are from the other backward castes.

#### c. Education

Of the 1000 families covered under the survey only 8 families claimed that none from their unit was physically fit to undertake strenuous physical work.

Table - 4.1

Profile of the Head of the Families

N = 1000

Sex	Male	952			
Jex	Female	48			
	General	260			
Caste	S.C.	396			
	O.B.C.	344			
Educational	Illiterate	548			
Profile	Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> class	213			
	Beyond 5 <sup>th</sup> class but below matric	219			
	Matric	20			
Annual	Below Rs.25,000	777			
Income	Between Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000	174			
	Between Rs.50,000 to 1,00,000				
	More than 1,00,000	7			
Land Holdings	Land less	56			
	Land upto 1 bigha	61			
	More 1 bigha but upto 5 bighas	538			
	More than 5 bighas but less 10 bighas	203			
	More than 10 bighas	147			

548 families are headed by illiterate persons, 213 head of the families have not studied beyond 5<sup>th</sup> class, only 20 head of the families have claimed to have studied upto Matric while 219 families have heads with education qualifications between 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### d. Annual Income

777 families indicated annual income below Rs.25000, 174 earn anywhere between Rs. 25000 to 50000 per annum another 42 between Rs. 50000 to 100000 and only 7 families have shown their income levels beyond 100000 per annum.

#### e.Land Holdings

56 families have claimed to be land less, another 61 have land holdings upto one bigha, 538 families have ownership upto 5 bighas of land another 203 have land more than 5 bighas but less than 10 bighas only 147 families have land holdings beyond 10 bighas.

#### f.Avocations

Agriculture is the major avocation of the 793 families. Of these 63 families indulge in other family business viz. small time trading activities, 73 families (as

compared to 56 claiming to be land landless) have claimed to be agricultural land less labourers, 22 agriculturalists supplement their income from some gainful employment outside the district while 63 families do so in the near by places.

### 4.2 Age Profile of NREGS Beneficiaries

Although family is the unit in NREGS, the 1000 respondent families in the survey has a total 5586 souls of these 2772 are males and the rest 2814 are females, males forming 49.62% and the 50.38% are females the age wise break up of the actual registered individuals on account of being the members of the families of the NREGS is as under:

Table - 4.2

Age Profile of Surveyed families

N = 5586

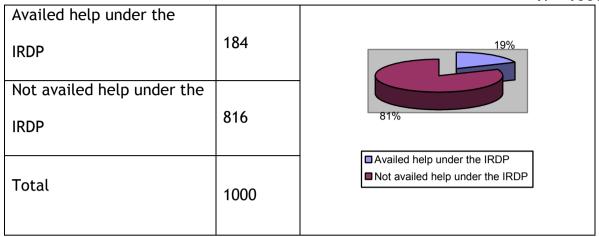
Age	Males	Females	Total
Less than 20	82	85	167
20 - 30	1239	1279	2518
30 - 40	637	682	1319
40 - 50	371	331	702
50 - 60	362	363	725
Above 60 years	81	74	155
Total	2772	2814	5586

#### 4.3 Help Under the IRDP

Of the 1000 families surveyed, 816 families had not availed any help under the Integrated Rural Development Programme only 184 families had taken benefits under the IRDP. It is evident from the statement that majority of the families had not availed any help under IRDP.

Table 4.3
Help Under the IRDP

N = 1000



$$\chi^2$$
=396.90, v=1,  $\chi^2$ .05=3.84

On the application of Chi-square, it is noted that the calculated value is higher than the table value @ 5% level of significance indicating that the number of beneficiaries under IRDP is less.

#### 4.4 Families Having Crossed Poverty Line

Out of total beneficiaries i.e. 1000, 697 (69.7 percent) beneficiaries were of the opinion that they are above poverty line and remaining 303 (30.3 percent) were of the view that they have not crossed the poverty line yet. As per the official figures against 19% below the poverty line in Sirmour District, 30.3% respondents live below the poverty line.

Table - 4.4
Families Having Crossed Poverty Line

N=1000

Whether living	No. of	Figure 1
below poverty line	Respondents	Status of Poverty in Sirmour
No	697 (69.7)	1200 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000
Yes	303 (30.3)	8 800 - 697 8 800 - 697
Total	1000 (100)	0
	, ,	No Yes Total  Response

Figures in parentheses shows percentages of the column total

$$\chi^2$$
=152.24, v=1,  $\chi^2$ .05=3.84

Since the table value of Chi-square is less than the calculated value, hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significance with 1<sup>0</sup> of freedom which concludes that there is a significance difference in the opinion of respondents as far as crossing of poverty line is concerned.

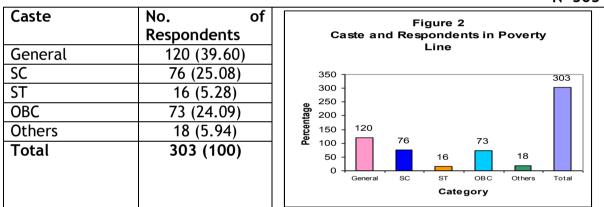
#### 4.5 Caste profile of those respondents claiming to live below poverty line

The beneficiaries who claimed to be below poverty line include 120 (39.60 percent) from general category, 76 (25.08 percent) from scheduled castes, 16 (5.28 percent) from scheduled tribes, 73 (24.09 percent) from other backward classes and 18 (5.94 percent) are others.

Table 4.5

Caste profile of those respondents claiming to live below poverty line

N=303



Figures in parentheses shows percentages of the column total

#### 4.6 Educational Status of Respondents in BPL

The educational qualifications of those heads (beneficiaries) who fall below poverty line include 137 (45.21 percent) illiterate, 74 (24.42 percent) below primary, 81 (26.73 percent) upto matric and 11 (3.63 percent) above matric.

Table 4.6
Educational Status of Respondents in BPL

N = 303

Education	No. of	
	Respondents	Figure 3
Illiterate	137 (45.21)	Education Status of Respondents in BPL
Below	74 (24.42)	
Primary		137
Upto	81 (26.73)	303
Matric		11 81
Above	11 (3.63)	
Matric	,	□ Illiterate ■ Below Primary □ Upto Matric
Total	303 (100)	☐ Above Matric ■ Total

Figures in parentheses shows percentages of the column total

302 (96.67 percent) beneficiaries have not taken any technical qualification who are below poverty line. Only one (0.33 percent) beneficiary has got technical qualification.

Table 4.7

Professional Education of Respondents who are under BPL

	N=303
Professional Education	No. of Respondents
Yes	1 (0.33)
No	302 (96.67)
Total	303 (100)

Figures in parentheses shows percentages of the column total

#### 4.7 Wage Employment under the various Rural Development Programmes

The sweep of the IRDP was much large and wage employment in various forms was while not a norm, it was being provided be it in the shape of food for work programme or in some other form. Only 32 families covered under the survey had been provided with some gainful employment under the scheme, earlier.

The main thrust of NREGS by providing wage employment is to ensure food security to the families. A study carried out in 1989 had reflected 3.08 (thousand) families in the state who were not able to secure 2 meals per day. Sirmour is admittedly one of the most backward districts of the state, a question as to

whether NREGS beneficiaries were able to get 2 square meals, the responses, (and the name and addresses of the respondents had been handed over to the district administration - no response on these had been received from the district administration) 35 respondents have come forward with the difficulty in managing 2 square meals in a day. Of these 12 are from the general category and 18 from the SC while 5 respondents are from other backward classes, as is expected all these respondents have income below 25000 per annum and 27 of these respondents had availed benefits under the IRDP also but strangely only one had availed of the wage employment. NREGS being a guaranteed 100 days employment may change the future for such families.

Table 4.8

Managing two square meals a day

 $\chi^2$ =864.90, v=1,  $\chi^2$ .05=3.84

The null hypothesis is rejected.

No. of

Respondents

965 (96.5)

35 (3.5)

1000

Managing

meals

day

Yes

No

Total

two square

per

Table 4.9

Difficulty in Managing Two Square Meals Caste Profile

		N=35
Caste	No. of	
	Respondents	201
General	12 (34.29)	
SC	18 (51.43)	15 General
ST	-	IS.C.
OBC	4 (11.43)	10 S.T.
Others	1 (2.81)	5 Others
Total	35 (100)	
		1st Qtr

More than 50% of those finding it difficult are from the scheduled caste.

Table 4.10

Difficulty in 2 square meals - Land Holdings

Land Holdings

Upto 1 Bigha

Upto 5 Bigha

Total

Upto 10 Bigha

Above 10 Bigha

No. of

Respondents

8 (22.86)

20 (57.15)

6 (17.14)

1 (2.85)

35 (100)

N= 35

□ Upto 10 Bigha □ Above 10 Bigha

80% of those finding it difficult to manage two square meals per day have land holdings less than 5 bighas, only 1 family respondent with land holding more than 10 bighas has found it difficult to earn two square meals in a day, more than 85% of the respondents are engaged in agricultural operations.

Table 4.11
Occupation of those Finding Two meals with Difficulty

Business/
Occupation
Agriculture
Samily Business
Total

No. of
Respondents
32 (91.43)
9%

Pamily Business
3 (8.74)
Total

Pagriculture
Family Business

91%

**Table 4.12** Availed Help under IRDP by those who have two square meals with difficulty.

Help and IRDP	No. of Respondents	30 27
Yes	27 (77.14)	25
No	8 (22.86)	20 15
Total	35 (100)	15 10 5 0
		Help and IRDP

 $\chi^2=10.32$ , v=1,  $\chi^2.05=3.84$ 

The Chi-square value of table 4.12 i.e. 10.32 @ 5% level of significance with 10 of freedom is more than the table value i.e. 3.84, hence, the null hypothesis is rejected leading to the inference that perceptions of those availing help under IRDP and still not managing two square meals a day differ.

Since more than 75% of the respondents had availed help under IRDP and still are not in a position to manage two square meals a day, reflects upon the success of the IRDP.

#### 4.8 Occupations of NREGS Applicants

One of the guestions which was asked in order to see the contribution of NREGS in broader prospective of unemployment, was to know the areas in which the respondents were working, 54.60% of the respondents work only in the agriculture sector - agricultural labours etc. but since the agricultural is a seasonal work NREGS has come handy to supplement their wages. This is in contrast to what Reddy et al (1958: 238) had found out in Andhra Pradesh that under the policy for the development of small farmers that agricultural labourer were not only by passed but were put to great misery. 29.2% of the respondents are working in other casual avocations like construction activities etc. here it may be mentioned that labour gets paid more in such activities but of course the input is generally more strenuous as compared to any activity in NREGS and working hours are also decidedly longer.

Table - 4.13
Occupations of NREGS Applicant

N=1000

OCCUPATION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	
Agriculture	546 (54.60)	
Casual Work with in the district	292 (29.20)	
Casual Work outside the district	29 (2.90)	
No Indication	133 (13.30)	
Total	1000 (100)	

Of the 1000 respondents only 2.9% indicated their place of work outside the district - the responses probably don't convey the popular perception and which very closely approximates with the reality - a very big chunk of able bodied natives from Sirmour do go to other places in search of work. As an auxiliary exercise, of the total registered labourers with the local Municipal Corporation Shimla, 50% are from Sirmour, another relative exercise which was carried out in support of the hypothesis that awareness and efforts are related, survey of Sirmour coolies was undertaken and a whopping 60% of the respondents did not know about NREGS implementation in Sirmour district thus proving the hypothesis. It is also true that the wages which a collie earns in Shimla is much higher as compared to the payments under NREGS corresponding to the hypothesis that efforts and achievements are related. This reflects on the publicity aspect of the NREGS. The publicity aspect of the scheme reminds of what Mohan Sundaram (1988: 9) had inferred after evaluating the working of IRDP schemes in Tamil Nadu 'that very low perception of the rural poor indicates the dire need for increasing awareness among them about the special schemes meant for their welfare. A fairly large 13.30% of respondents did not indicate whether they were working anywhere apart from NREGS.

Table - 4.14

Awareness of Sirmouri Labourers Working in Shimla about NREGS

N = 50

	Yes	No	No response
Whether Aware of NREGS in Sirmour	20	21	9

# 4.9 Caste Profile of NREGS Applicants Engaged in activities other than NREGS

Of the 546 respondents working in agriculture are also working under NREGS, the caste composition reveals that 138 are from the general category, 201 are from the scheduled caste, OBC and others constitute the rest. Further of the 138 from the general category 69 are engaged in casual employment available locally, only 7 respondents have indicated some work outside the district, 50 respondents form the general category did not indicate whether they were working on other jobs apart from NREGS.

Table - 4.15

Caste Profile of NREGS Applicants Engaged in activities other than NREGS

N=1000

Category	Agriculture	Casual Work Within The District	Outside the Distt.	No Response	Total
General	138	69	07	50	264
S.C.	201	147	16	37	401
S.T.	-	-	-	-	
O.B.C.	207	76	06	46	335
Total	546	292	29	133	1000

The percentage of respondents in general category taking advantage of NREGS and simultaneously working on other avenues is 26.4%. The percentage of the respondents working apart from NREGS is slightly above 40 and more than 33.5 of the respondents are from other category.

Table - 4.16

Dependency of NREGS beneficiaries on Other Sectors

N = 1000

Sex	Agriculture	Casual Work Within The District	Outside The Dist.	No Response	Total
Males	516	284	27	126	953
Females	30	08	02	07	47
Total	546	292	29	133	1000

NREGS since guarantees work for only 100 days in a year 95.3% of the male respondents don't depend upon NREGS alone. 4.7% of the remaining females also work in other areas with agriculture accounting for a majority of jobs only 2 females out of 47 female respondents do work outside the home district.

Table - 4.17
Physical Status of those working under NREGS

N=1000

Physical Status	Agriculture	Casual Work Within The District	Outside The Dist.	No Response	Total
Valid	541	290	29	132	992
Invalid	5	2	-	1	08
Total	546	292	29	133	1000

$$\chi^2$$
=0.252, v=3  $\chi^2$ .05=7.81

NREGS statutorily warrants deployment of physically challenged persons in accordance with their capacity to work, only 8 physically challenged workers are finding work under NREGS and of these 7 work in other areas also, (doubts to be absolutely correct.)

On the application of Chi-square test in table 4.17, it is noted that the table value is higher than the calculated value @ 5% level of significance, hence

the null-hypothesis is accepted with the conclusion that physical status does not matter amongst the respondents working under NREGS.

Table - 4.18
Educational Profile of NREGS Applicants

N = 1000

Education Qualification	Agriculture	Casual Work Within The District	Outside The Dist.	No Response	Total
Illiterate	307	157	17	52	533
Below - 5	119	73	04	32	228
Up to -10	114	60	07	47	228
Above - 10	06	02	01	02	11
Total	546	292	29	133	1000

Another revealing piece of information warrants when one considers the educational profile of the respondents working under the NREGS and supplementing the same with other jobs. NREGS involves manual work only, of the 1000 respondents 533 are illiterate and supplement their income by working as agricultural labourer (307) in other form of casual labourers (157) and only 17 seek employment opportunities outside the district in Sirmour district a fairly large number i.e. 22.8% are those literates who have not gone beyond class V and of these 119 work as agricultural labour and 73 work on other available jobs only a miniscule minority i.e. 4 persons have indicated their educational qualification between 5 and 10 show almost the same trend, those who have crossed the threshold of matriculation are only 11 in number, who supplement their NREGS earnings with same work outside NREGS. The reluctance of educated people to work with their own hands has been pointed out in Nawanshahr district of Punjab (Aulakh, 2007).

Table - 4.19
Income Profile of NERGS applicants

N=1000

Income	Agriculture	Casual Work Within The District	Outside The Dist.	No Response	Total
Up to 25000	406	247	19	105	777
25000 to 50000	111	39	04	20	174
50000 to 100000	25	06	05	06	42
Above 100000	04	00	01	02	07
Total	546	292	29	133	1000

It is obvious that the households with lower incomes look forward to earn outside the NREGS 77.7% of those who are below annual income range of Rs. 25000 and 17.4% who have an annual income between Rs. 25000 to 5000. 4.2% who have their income ranging between 50,000 to 1,00,000 and less than 1% above income of Rs.1,00,000 supplement their income with other errands.

#### 4.10 Mandays generated

As per the information gathered from the NREGS beneficiaries a total of 32007 mandays have been generated of these only 32 families had been provided employment for more than 100 days of these 12 families have been shown to have worked for more than 100 days. 80 job cards reflected nil entries i.e.no employment had been availed off. Of these 54 persons after getting themselves registered did not want to undertake the manual work. 26 families were not going to the work sites which according to the respondents were not suitable to them.

Since any member of the family can contribute in 100 days of manual work, the age profile of the workers engaged under NREGS 13.3% are between 25-50 years and 29.2% are between 50-75 whereas 14.6% are above 75 years. This is startling information around 44% of the surveyed and working under NREGS are 50

or above. The youths don't show the kind of enthusiasm for the scheme or the scheme with all its short comings does not attract the people from the young age group. The situation is similar to Nawanshahr (Aulakh2007)<sup>49</sup>. The young appear to be reluctant to work in their own backyard as manual workers, a comparison which may warrant some conclusion is that the majority of Sirmour labourer, outside the district working in Shimla are in the age group of 30-50.

Table - 4.20

Caste Profile of IRDP Beneficiaries under NREGS

Total = 184

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
General	45 (24.46)
SC	84 (45.65)
ST	0
OBC	40 (21.74)
Other	15 (7.65)
Total	184(100)

Of the 1000 households covered under the survey. 184 families had availed of benefits under IRDP earlier, this one hand implies about the broader sweep of NREGS, on the other hand a deeper implied introspective interpretation may be on the success/failure of the programme. Hirway (1988:17)<sup>34</sup> had interpreted that 'too much emphasis on self employment under IRDP as one of weaknesses, this assumption was not realistic as many of the poor are illiterate, have low risk capacity, possess little entrepreneurial abilities and have low or very little assets and, therefore, they are not credit worthy. They are not capable of managing enterprises independently. Many of them would be better off if they are given wage employment... it appears. Of these 184 families 151 are agriculturists, 11 are working on some locally available paid work and 22 households earn outside the district. These 184 families consists of 45 from general 84 from scheduled caste and 54 are OBC's.

#### 4.11 PHYSICAL STATUS AND PERIODICITY OF GETTING WORK

It is obligatory on the state agencies to provide job to the applicants within 15 days of applying for the same. Of the 1000 respondent 10.7 percent did not get any work.

Table - 4.21
Physical Status and Periodicity of Getting Work

N =1000

NUMBER OF DAYS	PHYSICAL FIT	PHYSICAL CHALLENGED	Total	
Not got work	104	3	107	
1 - 7	678	3	681	
7 - 15	137	1	138	☐ Physical Fit ☐ Physical Challenged
Above 15	73	1	74	
Total	992 (99.70)	8 (.90)	1000	
		2 4 0 5 2 2 0	7.04	

 $\chi^2$ =4.85, v=3  $\chi^2$ .05=7.81

Whereas 7.4 percent did not get work with in the stipulated period of 15 days. A large majority of respondents i.e. 68.10 percent got within a week and 13.8% after a period of 7 days but before the 15 days. Chi-square value confirming that there is insignificant relationship between Physical status and periodicity of getting work.

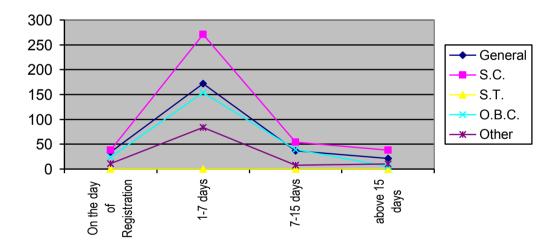
#### 4.12 PERIODICITY OF JOB CARD DISTRIBUTION

Table - 4.22
Periodicity of Job Card Distribution

**Total = 1000** 

Category	On The Day Of Registration	1 -7 Days	7 - 15 Days	Above - 15 Days	Total
General	34	172	37	21	264
S.C.	38	271	54	38	401
S.T.	-	-	-	-	-
O.B.C.	24	154	39	05	222
Other	11	84	08	10	113
Total	107	681	138	74	1000

 $\chi^2$ =19.37, v=3  $\chi^2$ .05=21.0



Applicants are to be given job cards within 15 days of the applications and it should be done in the presence of the community members. In Sirmour district of the 1000 respondents 10.7% were supplied card on the day of their application, 68.1% within a week 13.8% with in the stipulated period of 15 days. Further it is

also observed that there exists a significant difference in the opinion of different categories of respondents over periodicity of job card distribution.

Table - 4.23
Gender Wise Periodicity of Distribution of Job Cards

**Total = 1000** 

SEX	On The Day of Registration	Within 1 - 7 days	7 - 15 days	ABOVE - 15 days	TOTAL
Male	98	662	124	69	953
Female	09	19	14	05	47
Total	107	681	138	74	1000

$$\chi^2$$
=21.44, v=3,  $\chi^2$ .05=7.81

Thus more than 90% of the applicants got their job cards within the statutorily prescribed period only 7.4% got their cards after 15 days. Notwithstanding the responses given by the applicants, When the survey teams entered Sirmour district a flurry of activities was noticed in almost all the Panchayats wherever the Survey party was camping, one of such activities was the distribution of the job cards. More than 65% of the job cards in respect of each category had been distributed within the same week when the survey team was comparing in. The same holds good for both the genders and also for the various income groups. No discrimination whatsoever is made out in the distribution of the job cards. So far as the periodicity of distribution of job cards I concerned, male and female respondents have significant difference in their opinion.

Table - 4.24
Periodicity of Distribution of Job Cards Income wise Profile

**Total = 1000** 

INCOME	On The Day of Registration	1 -7	7 - 15	ABOVE - 15	TOTAL
0 - 25000	89	502	116	70	777
25000 - 50000	14	141	15	04	174
50000 - 100000	01	34	07	-	42
Above 100000	03	04	0	-	7
Total	107	681	138	74	1000

#### 4.13 Periodicity of actual deployment on Job Sites

After registering the applicants for work under NREGS it is obligatory on the part of the Panchayat to provide work to the registered applicants within fifteen days. 68.1 percent of the applicants claimed to have been engaged on work within seven days of registration, another 15.1 percent within the statutory limit of 15 days i.e. more than 83 percent of the applicants who had been registered were provided work. Of the remaining 162, 72 were not willing to work and the remaining 90 have not responded to this query.

It appears that no one has been paid any unemployment doles and this appears to be the conscious decision of the state as a whole.

#### 4.14 Difficulty in Registration

An overwhelming 95.4 percent of the surveyed applicants have categorically denied have come across any difficulties in getting registered for work under the scheme only 1 beneficiary in written stated having had to bribe the local Panchayat officials for getting registered, 1 more individual finds the paper work too large while 2 have stated about the non cooperative attitude of the Panchayat officials. According to 9 respondents they had to visit Panchayat officials time and again before succeeding in getting the registration.

Notwithstanding whatever the beneficiaries have chosen to reply the survey team had been told by almost 15 to 20 percent of the beneficiaries of the harassments to which they had been subjected to at the hands of the Panchayat Pradhans/local officials. The popular perception of the people at large was some kinds of doles under the scheme hence the enthusiasm as well as the stiff neck approach of the Panchayat officials also. Allegations of discrimination on the lines of political affiliations, caste considerations and other related favoritism were also mentioned in hush-hush tones but no one was willing to say the same on record.

#### 4.15 Social Audit

Cross checking of job cards with the muster rolls, since the previous muster rolls were not available on site, current entries in 174 muster rolls were got tallied with ones made in the job cards, a general observation of the survey team that the beneficiaries were loath to say anything on the scheme as a whole but more particularly on the job cards, some of the beneficiaries admitted in private having worked on the contracts undertaken by the Pradhans and while the entries did not match with the entries in the muster rolls, most of the muster rolls were not available on the site. The distribution of the job cards also picked up momentum after the survey team had entered the district.

#### 4.15 Lure of Government Jobs

The question which had been posed in the survey related to the preference for a low paid government job as compared to the better paid job in some private concern, the responses are as under:-

Table - 4.25
Lure of Government Jobs

N=1000

RESPONSE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
Yes, prefer low paid Government job vis-à-vis	877 (87.70)
well paid private job	, ,
No	123 (12.30)
Total	1000 (100)

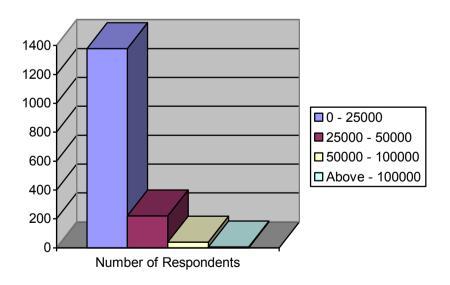
Government job and that too a regular government job is what everyone aspires for in the state, expectedly 87.70% of the respondents families want a government job for at lest one member in the family and even in those families where some or the other persons was employed only 12.3% families and there also only those families don't aspire for government job where there is no probability of joining the government job, if it comes their way i.e. family of elderly people etc.

Table - 4.25

Number of Respondent who want Govt. Job under different income group

N=1644

INCOME GROUP	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
0 - 25000	1378 (83.82)
25000 - 50000	221 (13.44)
50000 - 100000	39 (2.37)
Above 100000	06 (0.37)
Total	1644 (100)



#### 4.16 Rate of payment

852 respondents vouched for Rs.70 as the wages per day whereas 25 stated that they were getting more than Rs.70 per day while the rest did not reply.

#### 4.17 Period of Payment

700 respondents agreed to have received the payment of wages within 15 days of the completion of work another 112 received it between 15 to 30 days and 45 beneficiaries had received it even after a month, the rest of those surveyed either had not worked or they did not respond.

#### 4.18 Facilities at the Work sites

515 beneficiaries attested to the fact of having clean drinking water and facility of shady area for resting. Another 154 vouched for the availability of community help (not specified), 10 beneficiaries vouched for the availability of first aid at the work site and only 5 beneficiaries stated that crèche for children was available.

#### 4.19 NREGS and School Education

More than 90% of the respondents have admitted their children in school, more than 5% have not admitted their children while slightly less than 3% are in the process of taking a decision.

TABLE - 4.26
NREGS & School Education

N=1000

Status of School age group students	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Admitted	916 (91.60)
Not Admitted	56 (5.60)
Un-decided	28 (2.80)
Total	1000 (100)

 $\chi^2$ =1185.95, v=2,  $\chi^2$ .05=5.99

TABLE - 4.27

Category wise - NREGS & School Education

N=1000

CATEGORY	ADMITTED	NOT ADMITTED	Undecided	TOTAL
General	234	24	06	264
S.C.	363	25	13	401
S.T.	-	-	-	-
O.B.C.	213	04	05	222
Other	106	03	04	113
Total	916	56	28	1000

More significantly, the children of the scheduled caste are highest who have not been sent to the school. Of the parent's education, more number children are from the category whose parents are illiterate but the percentage of the children not going to the school is maximum in the income group of 25000-50000 and further the majority of those not admitted to the schools came from the agricultural background.

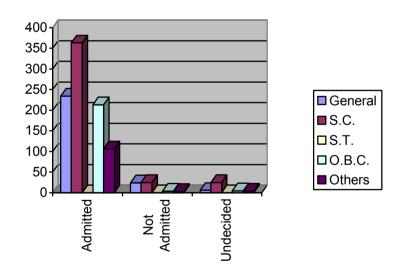


TABLE - 4.28

Educational Profile of Parents and Sending of Children to School
N=1000

EDUCATIONS	ADMITTED	NOT ADMITTED	UN-DECIDED	TOTAL
Illiterate	490	30	13	533
Bellow - 5	207	10	11	228
class	207			
Upto 10 <sup>th</sup>	209	15	04	228
years	207			
Above Matric	10	01	-	11
Total	916	56	28	1000

TABLE - 4.29

Sending of Children to School & Income Profile of Parents

N=1000

INCOME	ADMITTED	NOT ADMITTED	UN-DECIDED	TOTAL
0 - 25000	729	20	28	777
25000 - 50000	138	36	-	174
50000 - 100000	42	0	-	42
Above 100000	07	0	-	07
Total	916	56	28	1000

Sending of the children to the schools by the NREGS beneficiaries reveals that better off parents are prompt in sending their children to schools, also the parents with educational qualifications beyond matric also send their children to the schools. The major hypothesis about education is met by these findings.

#### 4.20 NREGS & Family Planning

Table - 4.30

NREGS & Family Planning

N=1000

FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES ACCEPTED	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Yes	781 (7.81)
No	162 (16.20)
Un-Decided	57 (5.70)
Total	1000 (100)

More than 20% of the families have not adopted family planning and this percentage goes beyond 25% in respect of scheduled caste families. 46% of the illiterate families have not taken to family planning and almost similar percentage of families not opting for any of the family planning techniques are in the lowest income group and having agriculture as their main avocation.

Table - 4.31
Adoption of Family Planning Measures

N=1000

CATEGORY	ADOPTTED FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES	NOT ADOPTTED	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
General	215	38	11	264
S.C.	295	80	26	401
S.T.	0	-	-	0
O.B.C.	179	33	10	222
Other	92	11	10	113
Total	781	162	57	1000

Table - 4.32
Family Planning and Educational Profile of NREGS Applicants

N=1000

EDUCATION	ADOPTTED FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES	NOT ADOPTTED	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
Illiterate	417	82	34	533
Below - 5	175	40	13	228
Up to - 10	186	36	06	228
Above - 10	05	04	02	11
Total	781	162	57	1000

 $\chi^2 = 9.96$ , v=4,  $\chi^2 . 05 = 12.6$ 

Table - 4.34
Family Planning and Income Profile of NREGS Applicants

N=1000

EDUCATION	ADOPTTED FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES	NOT ADOPTTED	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
0 - 25000	608	131	38	777
25000 - 50000	137	23	14	174
50000 - 100000	31	06	05	42
Above 100000	05	02	0	07
Total	781	162	57	1000

Family Planning and Vocational Profile of NREGS Applicants

**TABLE - 4.35** 

N = 1000

FAMILY BUSINESS	ADOPTTED FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES	NOT ADOPTTED	NO RESPONSE	TOTAL
Agriculture	707	143	48	898
Family	22	09	05	36
Business				
Business out		10	04	66
side the	52			
district				
Total	781	162	57	1000

$$\chi^2$$
=7.64, v=4,  $\chi^2$ .05=9.49

Adoption of family planning measures which are on a lower side in respect of those families which are socially and economically backward.

#### Periodicity of availability of work to the beneficiaries

68.9% of the respondents claim to have got the work within 7 days of getting themselves registered. Whereas 24.4% of the respondents get it after 7 days but before the outer limit of 15 days. 6.7% did not opt to go far the work.

#### NREGS in the Eyes of the respondents

4 advantages of NREGS as compared to other schemes had been listed out and explained to the beneficiaries, these are:-

- 1. Flexibility in sending any of the family members to work.
- 2. Provision of unemployment doles.
- 3. Assured work of 100 hundred days.
- 4. Least government interference.

#### 5. Transparency in the scheme.

572 of the respondents have agreed to all the five points whereas 680 respondents have concurred with 1 & 3 other 180 while appreciating the provisions of unemployment doles have lamented the fact that the unemployment doles where not being paid for. Strangely transparency in the scheme has the nod of only 483 beneficiaries.

#### Contribution of NREGS in Rural Development

652 families feel that NREGS would result in increasing the family incomes whereas 703 persons feel that this scheme would strengthen the infrastructure in the rural areas. 512 respondents have stated that this scheme would ensure the better utilization of other government ongoing schemes. 452 respondents have vouched for increase in family income as well as the strengthening of the infrastructure in rural areas. 381 people have vouched for the better utilization of ongoing government schemes as well as the strengthening of the infrastructure in the rural areas.

#### **Decentralization and Qualitative Improvement**

National Rural Employment Act 2005 with the avowed purpose of 'enhancement of livehood security of the households in rural areas of the country'- warrants functional autonomy to Panachayats. Himachal has a 3 tier Panchayati Raj System and as such they have also been made a part of the chain actually executing the scheme. The actual functioning of the scheme more or less resembles the ongoing rural development schemes.

- 1) The funds under the scheme have been released to the district.
- 2) The shelf of the schemes has been approved at the district level and schemes out of this shelf have been executed at the block level.
- 3) The block development officers as the programme officers under the Act (Section 15) have been made the gurantor for providing the jobs or to pay unemployment dates.
- 4) Deputy Commissioner releases the funds without any set pattern.

- 5) The statutory obligations under the Act as listed under Section 15 of the Act and in the absence of any thing contrary to 16(7) the BDOs are performing all the obligations of the from Panchayats also i.e. which practically means that the BDO is responsible for the preparation of the schemes for all the panchayats consolidation of the schemes and ensuring executions through the respective pachayats, although the guidelines issued by the State government made it obligatory on the parts of the Panchayats to formulate the schemes, in practice the blocks had constituted teams which attended the ward meetings, the schemes were consolidated and the gram sabhas finally came up with the shelf of schemes, the schemes were further recommended by the respective panchayat samitis without any deletion but the schemes were added both by the panchayats samitis/zila partishad. The priority of the schemes as envisaged/passed by the individual panchayats (Gram Sabha) and after addition both at the level of the panchayat samitis and at the level of the Zila Parishads, the priorities were drastically changed.
- The 'need-based' schemes of the panchayats were further ignored at the district level i.e. whenever the BDO's received any demand for job the same was faxed to the District Programme Officer, DC, after receipt of the same the DC would give a go ahead by selecting one of the schemes (shelf for each Panchayat as referred to in point numbers being available with the DC) so as to match the financial requirement of the demand. Instead of being the priority of the panchayats it is the priority of the DC which is more in consonance with the requirements of the schemes viz., maintaining 60:40 ratio in respect of man and material. The schemes are sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioned on his own will and on the basis of benchmarks fixed by the DC for various works viz. Rs. 50,000/- for widening the path and Rs. 25,000/- for Johar.
- No works for the benefit of IRDP/IAY beneficiaries have been taken up exclusively. Land improvement schemes could have been taken up. The only favour which the blocks are doing is to recommend the BPL families for job at the earliest.

8) In Andhra the state government has evolved norms for executing the schemes, in case such norms are evolved in the state, instead of BDOs referring the individual demands to the DC, the execution could be more expeditious and also in line with the priorities fixed by the Panchayats themselves.

To conclude in Sirmour district the execution of NREGS has become totally centralized which is in total disregard to the spirit of the NREGA 2005. The element of wage employment has given the IRDP a fillip which could have been much higher had the district not adopted the execution model as is being followed.

#### STATUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SIRMOUR

Sirmour has a population of 4,58,593 persons and 2,25,872 workers including 1,61,598 cultivators, 5767 agricultural labours, 2595 engaged in household industry and 55912 other workers. There were 9,06,074 candidates registered with the various employment exchanges of the State in year ending 31.12.2002 and the figure as on 31.3.2007 has come down to 7,56,980. As per the official statistics the State between the year 2001 to 2007 in no year was able to place more than 6500 persons in employment either in public or private sector<sup>1</sup> in Sirmour district there are 50739 candidates registered with the employment exchanges which include 101 illiterate, 10347 9th pass, 33211 matriculates, 5117 graduates and 1903 postgraduates. 60 The district has 210 factories employing 16426 workers as on December, 2006 (The figure has increased to 17562 as on 31.8.2007).<sup>61</sup> In Sirmour district there are 70439 families of which as per the figures of Rural Development department 13695 families have been identified as living below the poverty line which means 19% of the families are below the poverty line, % wise only Kullu and Una districts has a lower % of families living below the poverty line. 60

Poverty and unemployment are co-related. Those registered with the employment exchanges are basically those striving for Govt. jobs. NREGS involves physical labour, 44% of those actually working on NREGS are above the age of 50 years. Although the comparisons may be inappropriate (As the population of Sirmour labour may not be representative) 50% of the collies

belonging to Sirmour district and working in Shimla are between the age group of 20-30 years----- i.e. youths are more enthusiastic to work as labour than to work on NREGS at their native place. The plausible explanation may lie in the estimated earnings exceeding the maximum amount of Rs.7,000/- (at the minimum wages) which the family may earn under NREGS.

Agriculture being a seasonal activity, leaves people with enough time for other puisuits 29.2% of the respondents have vouched for working on construction activities in district Sirmour under NREGS very few construction activities have been undertaken. The Survey team found only one panchayat bhawan under construction and a couple of boundry walls. Construction activities of other department should have been beneficiral not only to the villages but also the utilization of the labour would have been more appropriate and efficient, under the agriculture sector also around 19% (Ta 4.19) respondent families are working with in the district as some or the other casual works and other 1.9% work on any jobs outside Sirmour. The migration aspects is not reflected fully in the survey.

Apart from the fact that under NREGS, for a family making optimum utilization of the scheme, the family is bound to get Rs.7,000, whereas any one working slightly over three months individually can get that much of the amount. Sirmour is comparatively better industrialized district, Panchayats in and around the industrial area of Paona and Nahan are finding it difficult to execute NREGS e.g. Phulpur Panchayat in Paonta is a case in point. An industrial workers gets paid Rupees 150 per day in comparison to Rupees 70 under the NERGS in Sirmour district. The Survey team came across labourers outside the State working on a number of activities i.e. agriculture, constructions, mettaling, tarring, mining and industries. Without any quantum analysis it is observed:

(i) A number of Panchayat Pradhan (at least 30%), who are at the helm of the execution operations under the NERGS are engaged as contractors and find the labour outside the State, easier on many accounts i.e. suitability for hazardous works viz mining metalling and tarring, longer working hours, accretion of women/children to the actual work force

at a nominal price. No hassles whatsoever, which are attached to the local labour are there. While the utilization of the labour engaged on NERGS by the Pradhan on their contractual works is there, it was not openly reported but in a hushed tone, the rumblings were clearly audible.

- (ii) The reluctance of the educated youngs to work under the NERGS is also clearly established.
- (iii) While the Panchayats adjoining the industrial areas are finding it difficult to execute the scheme, the backward panchayats where the scope for NERGS is tremendous are statutorily treated at par with the comparatively well off panchayats.
- (iv) Lure of the government jobs already appear to act as a deterrent and the publicity of the schemes (that the educated youths would be provided with the white colour jobs) has only made the execution more difficult and has not addressed the unemployment problem. The unemployment in the district, symptomatic of the state is reflected in:
  - (a) less number of educated individual working on the NERGS
  - (b) 'status-related' reluctantance to work on manual work women folks have been discouraged - pointed towards the social conditions

There are 184 families who had taken the benefits under the IRDP, only 32 families had been deployed on some wage employment as per the responses received from the IRDP respondents, while there has been no mention about the types of wage employment and the periodicity of the same, despite repeated pestering the respondent were not able to recollect the name of the programmes under which wages had been received by them. 30 families have counted themselves amongst the 697 families who feel that they were not below the poverty line.

Wage employment and crossing of poverty line has a very close relationship and the findings support Karunakaran (1998).

1000 families under the NREGS have actually worked for 32007 days, i.e. around 32 days per family. The present study is in the direction of what Rath (1998) had arrived at i.e. reduction in length of real work done per person (ii) more labour force sharing the same work.

The problem of unemployment in Sirmour needs more in-depth study.

#### Flaws in the Previous Schemes

Earlier the emphasis had been on the 'self-employment' and for the purpose productive assets in respect of Himachal mostly in the shape of milch cattles had been given to the beneficiaries. Some of the beneficiaries were able to repay back the debts while the others did not payback, availment of subsidy coupled with the low per capita investment per family did not help the cause of the individual beneficiaries. The seasonal availability of work in the agriculture sector also did not help. The sporadic efforts of the state government by way of desperate employment measures under various schemes - crash programme, food for work, drought measures etc. did not address this problem in its entirety.

NREGS which is an improvement on the previous schemes and for the first time 'Right to Work' has been accepted and this enforceable right in the event of failure to provide employment as per the act entitles one to unemployment allowance apart from the freedom to the family in choosing 100 days i.e. who would work, obligation to provide work has also been entrusted to local bodies (BDO's in Sirmour district). Notwithstanding all these apparently full-proof provision the actual execution of the scheme has thrown up a number of issues, warranting attention, some suggestions have been voiced alongside these.

- 1. **Publicity of the Scheme:** The scheme as such has been publicized well in the district from the first hand report it appears.
  - ii) The publicity, the effective one has been through the local leaders, even if the administrative machinery were involved in the same, the

finer points of the schemes and the impression about the scheme which one makes out when the execution is in full swing is that this scheme is a gift of the ruling party to the villagers - uptill this there is nothing wrong - instead of remaining a scheme of guaranteed manual employment, the villagers have been given this popular impression that the jobs would be provided in accordance with the educational qualifications i.e. the 'status-consciousness' has crept into this scheme also, beyond a particular education level, young persons are reluctant to work.

- to be explained to them in its totality in some of the villages there were suggestions that the administration should hold camps preferably even during the rights which according to the villagers would enable them to question the official-Dom about the scheme. The 'raw-publicity' about the scheme has not fulfilled the purpose and the emphasis on the issue of transparency/social audit, remains un-addressed.
- iv) Although it was not the intention, yet it emerged that more than 30% of the Pradhans in some way or the other were performing the dual role of a contractor as well as the Pradhan, the labour was being utilized on the contractual works also, the Pradhans on their parts were ensuring payment to the workers under NREGS within the time framework, the assessment is invariably getting delayed, the most obvious reason being that of the staff shortages.
- v) In the absence of standard construction parameters, each and every work has to be measured and the output cannot be arrived at without the physical measurements in the state of Andhra standard parameters have been fixed well publicized and the execution are assessed on the basis of those standards. The state government may be well served if similar workable parameters district wise, area wise are made out.
- vi) While no case of discrimination with the Panchayats only on the basis of the political affiliation of the Pradhan came to the notice of

the survey team, the unmistakable impression about the institution of the Pradhan is that the Pradhans by and large have become very powerful, in the total essence of transparency/social audit the scheme has added to the already existing powerful stature of the Pradhans. The responsibility for providing jobs has been entrusted to the BDO's who are then dependent upon the Pradhans for the execution of not only NREGS but other schemes also. Pradhans are themselves political animals coupled with their proximity with politicians of ruling party who depend upon the Pradhans for their support during elections, now with financial muscles acquired by the majority of Pradhans, no political party can ignore them. district administration by releasing the money without any pattern and Pradhans bailing out the BDO's by making payments to the NREGS beneficiaries has added to the authority of the Pradhans. It is high time that the veneer of secrecy and routine wrappings attached to other programmes which uptill now have been imparted into NREGS are removed by adhering to the transparency/social audit provided under the Act itself rather than the district administration trying to enforce authority by withholding the funds under NREGS

- vii) There is acute shortage of staff dealing with the NREGS, on need basis, the blocks ought to be provided adequate technical personnels and panchayat secretaries. The dove-tailing of the ongoing schemes can to some extent solve this problem. At a number of places complaints regarding the non-availability of equipments for labour was a routine, the beneficiaries had been asked to bring the same from their homes. At almost all places there was no store to keep these equipment. Equipments should be purchased out of the contingency provided under the schemes, concerned panchayats should be entrusted with the custody of the instruments.
- viii) Social-audit/the absence of the same may not be reflected anywhere more frequently there in the absence of the entries on

the job cards and the non-availability of the muster rolls at the job sites.

#### 2. Relevancy of schemes

In Phoolpur panchayat of Paonta Sahib block irrigation channel has reached the tail end of the fields according to a local farmer Sh. Zalim Singh this work was pending for the last 27 years. Such works have earned the respect of the people and has directly added to the mouth publicity of the scheme - if more and more works which directly benefit the populace rather than the top down approach which unfortunately has became the norm in NREGS works the purpose would be fulfilled to a large extent, also in Dugana Panchayat, the lady Pradhan openly admitted of her failure to persuade the other members, majority of whom are male members to go in for the improvement of water tank rather than the bridal path.

The choice of the works is also not based on 'utility priority' i.e. the bridal path connecting the motorable road with the Nainidhar panchayat is a very treacherous path way, instead of improving this pathway, which is definitely used by more people than any other path including the one which the panchayat has finally constructed between Kainchi to Kolog, Pradhan, Smt. Sheela Devi despite her intention to have the more frequently used path improved. Majority of the works executed are those which are scattered in a majority of works i.e. bridal/mule paths etc.

In Redli Panchayat, a water tank has been constructed by the four families only whereas the well was alleged to have been shown in the name of more than 4 families, effects to get hold of the muster roll proved to be futile. Pradhan of Ghandhuri Panchayat complained about the inadequacy of the time period for which muster rolls are being issued.

The Pradhan of Ludhiana gram panchayat Smt. Kamlesh Devi expressed her dis-satisfaction with the performance of lady workers, according to the pradhan, the female workers were not giving the desired output and thus resulting in practical difficulties. Some of the panchayat Pradhans advocated allotment of

works exclusively for the ladies. In Seri Kiari panchayat a village bridal path has exclusively been constructed by a group of ladies engaged under NREGS.

Sainj Panchayat has advocated for more money, the backward panchayat feels discriminated and instead of the circuitous route, the money should be sent directly to the panchayats. The version of the state government that 100 days work would be provided no family could work for the statutorily guaranteed period of 100 days. Another backward panchayat, Dugana has pleaded for more wages as compared to other panchayat. In Chandni Panchayat, worst possible discrimination was witnessed, the scheduled caste persons were not allowed inside the panchayat house. The overbearing attitude of the panchayat officials which is an extension of the social discrimination prevalent in the districts; the beneficiaries as in other places had not received the job cards, a murmur but very clear indicator that the labour engaged in NREGS were working in the contracted work of the panchayat pradhan also.

Instead of getting money on the basis of population under the scheme some panchayat pradhans have pleaded for funding based upon the area of the panchayats i.e. larger panchayat in area should get more money, which would ensure execution of works in each ward and a major irritant which acts as a dampner in the execution of the schemes, would be removed, says Mohan Lal Chauhan, pradhan of the comparatively bigger panchayat, Churah. The pradhan asserted of having made payments out of his own pocket to avoid delay under the NREGS.

In Sataun panchayat the youngsters were not very enthusiastic about the scheme, in fact most of the youngsters are interested to get unemployment doles -an impression partly attributable to the flawed publicity of the scheme unleashed by the local leaders ostensibly for garnering the votes of youngsters and this has definitely held back comparatively educated youths from working under the scheme. A fairly large percentage of the workers under the scheme are on the wrong side of 50 years. Some of the panchayat pradhans have advocated for fixing the upper age limit for working under NREGS.

Pardhan of Khodri majri had advocated for less government interference in this scheme, the lady pardhan has further advocated for minimum 200 days of work to those families who are not able to secure two square meals per day.

An illustrative list of the work being executed in the panchayats is enclosed at annexure 'A'

#### Perception of Individuals Towards NERGS

The responses of those individuals belonging to the beneficiary families under the NERGS, who have studied beyond matriculation makes a very interesting material as under:

Sh. Tara Dutt, age, 40, Job Card No. 104, a matriculate of village Chandesh has not worked on the scheme whereas Shri Chaman Lal, age 29 of the same village having same qualification and falling within Nairpab- Panchayat has shown ignorance about the scheme. Same is the case with Sh. Jabbar Singh age 40, Job card No. 29, belonging to village Bhog in Haven Panchayat. Another residents of the same panchayat Shri Davinder, who is also matriculate and whose Job Cards No. is 89 has also not applied under the scheme whereas Shri Ram Swarup age, 50 and Job Card No. is 67 of Haven Panchayat is recultant that his graduate son and daughter who is a Plus-II qualified should work on this scheme. On the other hand Smt. Nirmala Devi a widow of Haven Madechi village in Haven Panchayat, Job Card No. 72 has not been provided any work and appears to be a case of gender discrimination.

Sh. Kalyan, Age 48, Job Card No. 76 and who has claimed his annual income below Rs.25000 has preferred not to work citing lower wages as the reasons. Shri Narinder Kumar, age 45, Job Card No. 80 has also cited the same reasons for not working under the scheme, whereas Sh. Surat Ram, age 65, Job Card No. 144 of Haven Panchayat only decline to work since the work was not suitable for his age. Another illiterate family/semi-literate family of Smt.Shankri Devi, age 70 Job Card No. 105 of village Chandhor Panchayat Haven did not apply for the job as she was not aware of the scheme, gender discrimination appears to be somewhere there.

Shri Ram Lal of village and panchayat Sangrah,. Age 36 claimed that he had not been provided the Job Card nor any job. Shri Laik Ram age 28, Job Card No.

119, who is a matriculate and belongs to Schedule Caste category of village Banlog panchayat Radily claimed that he had not been given any job.

One Mela Ram, aged 46, of Panchayat Kakocg Baunal claimed that he had not been provided with work and worked under the scheme being executed through the contracts and JEs and Pradhans but taking commissions.

Shri Hira Singh, age 40, Job Card No. 178 did not work on account of lower minimum wages and also because of the facts the women folks were also working on the same scheme he is from village and panchayat Ludhiana.

Shri Mast Ram, aged 50, Job Card No. 34 whose one son is a Plus+I pass did not work himself and h NERGS as ridiculed the scheme being without any provisions for the educated people. He belongs to village and panchayat Ghanduri

Shri Man Singh aged 73, Job Card No. 127 of village and panchayat Ghanduri has a wife of 70 years and despite interested in working was denied work on account of his age limitation, whereas Shri Jagdish, aged 26, Job Card No. 92 and who is a matriculate has chosen not to work as the wages are too low. Shri Rajinder, aged 29 and who is a matriculate of village Bag panchayat Minagarel claimed that he was not informed about the scheme by the panchayat and hence could not avail the benefits of the scheme.

Sh. Tapinder, age 25 of village Dahr panchayat Ludhiana complained that there was not proper publicity about the scheme and being a vocal Youngman his photographs has not been taken and had been denied the benefits of the schemes.

Shri Asha Ram, aged 53, of village and panchayat Nainidar who is a graduate calimed that he did not apply as the work was not near his house. Same is the case with Shri Shupa Ram of village and panchayat Shillai. Another literate person Shri Hira Singh, aged 58, of the same village and panchayat did not apply under the scheme.

From the above respondents were mostly matric and beyond the reasons given by them and caused in different languages lead only to one conclusion the literate persons are not very enthusiastic about manual work.

There were cases who had their Job Card prepared yet did not work as they were getting higher wages in the private sectors. Case of Smt. Shano Devi village Thanadar of Wheera Panchayat and Shri Padam Dev aged 38 from the same place and of Shri Ganu Ram aged 54 Job Card No. 192 of village Codebhawan in Haven panchayat also assigned the same reasons. Similarly Shri Jagdish, aged 30, Job Card No. 43 of Bhag village in Maina panchayat is getting higher wages. The detailed responses are as under:

Reasons For Not Working And Broader Perception About The Scheme (Kam Kyon Nahin Kiya)

S.N.	Job Card No.	Head of the Family	Age	Education	No. of Males	No. of Female	Total No.	Caste	Family Annual Income	Name of the village	Name of the Panchayat	Reasons for not working
1.	71	Sagar Devi	56	5 <sup>th</sup>	4	2	6	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Haven Machdi	Habban	Less minimum wages work not available in the ward
2.	93	Nathu Ram	50	5 <sup>th</sup>	4	2	6	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhoj	Habban	Less and irregular wages
3.	56	Sanno Devi	60	Illiterate	0	3	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Thanadar	Bheura	Not applied for work Getting more wages in private sector
4.	62	Dalip Singh	27	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	3	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Thanadar	Bheura	Less minimum wages
5.	-	Hukma Devi	60	Illiterate	2	4	6	SC	50000 to 100000	Chandesh	Nehar Pab	Regular job of the son
6.	-	Jaivinder	35	7 <sup>th</sup>	1	3	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandesh	Nehar Pab	Lack of crèche and hence not applied for job card
7.	-	Satya Varat Sharma	40	MA	3	1	4	Gen.	More than 100000	Jubbal Chandesh	Nehar Pab	Cynical about the scheme
8.	-	Anand Kumar	48	<b>7</b> <sup>th</sup>	1	0	1	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag Bhet	Bhuera	Not selected in NREGS by the Panchayat according to the applicant
9.	-	Pradeep Kumar	35	Illiterate	1	1	2	SC	Less than 25000/-	Behar	Shalana	Non-inclusion of name by the Panchayat
10.	48	Som Dutt	38	6 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Nalog	Nehar Pab	No work was made available.
11.	46	Jai Prakash	36	8 <sup>th</sup>	2	5	7	Gen.	50000 to 100000	Nalog	Nehar Pab	Instruments for work are not available No unemployment allowance
12.	31	Prakash Chand	45	Illiterate	3	2	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Deedaj	Deedaj	-
13.	-	Jai Prakash	34	8 <sup>th</sup>	3	1	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Deedaj	Deedaj	Not aware about the scheme
14.	104	Tara Dutt	40	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandesh	Nehar Pab	Is yet to work on the scheme
15.	-	Chaman Lal	29	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandesh	Nahar Pab	Not aware about the scheme
16.	121	Devinder	35	8 <sup>th</sup>	2	4	6	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Thanadar	Bhuera	Not applied for job
17.	55	Jiwan Devi	50	Illiterate	0	1	1	SC	Less than 25000/-	Thanadar	Bhuera	No reasons assigned
18.	57	Padam Dev	38	Illiterate	2	1	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Thanadar	Bhuera	Low wages in NREGS, hence not applied
19.	111	Sunita Devi	34	4 <sup>th</sup>	1	4	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Thanadar	Bhuera	Not applied for a
20.	3	Geeta Ram	56	<b>7</b> th	2	3	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Habban Bhadchi	Habban	No work in accordance with the women workers Irregular and work not at the residential place

21.	-	Attar Singh	70	5 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Palu	Habban	Lower minimum wages and no provision for higher wages to Mistri/skilled labour
22.	-	Roop Singh	45	Illiterate	3	2	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	Lower minimum wages
23.	122	Shudri Devi	60	Illiterate	0	2	2	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	The widows of the same late husband are living alone and the children are living separately
24.	79	Ramesh	45	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	5	7	Gen. (OBC )	Less than 25000/-	Habban Bhadchi	Habban	Reason not assigned
25.	69	Partistha Devi	45	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	2	4	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Habban Bhadchi	Habban	Working days should be increased
26.	192	Ganu Ram	54	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	0	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	CodBagana	Habban	Less minimum wages for less duration
27.	220	Ajay Kumar	22	8 <sup>th</sup>	1	0	1	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Pallu	Habban	Lower minimum wages
28.	135	Kaushiya	52	5 <sup>th</sup>	0	2	2	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	Work should be near the house and has not applied for the same
29.	6	Prabhu Ram	63	Illiterate (none beyond matric in the family)	5	2	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Habban Hadech	Habban	Lower and irregular wage hence not applied
30.	116	Ram Swaroop	50	5th, Son (10th) Daughter (+2)	4	2	6	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Chandol	Habban	Lower and irregular wage hence not applied
31.	29	Jabbar Singh	40	5 <sup>th</sup> , All children matriculate	2	3	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhog	Habban	Not aware of the scheme
32.	89	Devinder	32	10 <sup>th</sup>	3	1	4	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ritav	Habban	Not applied for under this scheme
33.	67	Ram Swaroop	50	8th, Graduate son and +2 daughter	3	2	5	OBC	25000 to 50000	Habban Badechi	Habban	Lower wage and availability of work for less days
34.	72	Nirmala Devi	36	4th, Daughter matriculate	1	2	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Habban Badechi	Habban	Work not provided
35.	76	Kalyan	48	8 <sup>th</sup> , one graduate one matriculate	5	2	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Habban Badechi	Habban	Lower minimum wages
36.	80	Narinder Kumar	45	+2	3	1	4	Gen.	50000 to 100000	Habban Badechi	Habban	Less minimum wages
37.	170	Ranvir Singh	35	6 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Habban Badech	Habban	Not applied under the scheme
38.	74	Shakuntla	55	Illiterate, Son matriculate	2	1	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Habban Badechi	Habban	Children working somewhere else
39.	144	Surat Ram	65	Illiterate, all below matric	3	4	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Shalogini	Habban	Work not according to the age of the applicant
40.	123	Kaushiya	46	Illiterate,	0	2	2	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Bhog Kashmali	Habban	Work not according to the age of the applicant
41.	-	Ravi Dutt	42	IlliterateDaugh ter BA	3	2	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	Not aware about the scheme and lower wages
42.	-	Nog	60	Illiterate,	1	1	2	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Habban Badechi	Habban	Lower wages and work not available in accordance with the capacity of the applicant
43.	105	Shankri Devi	70	Illiterate, all are under matric	2	5	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	Not applied for job and being not aware
46.	109	Karam Dass	50	5 <sup>th</sup> ,	2	1	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Chandol	Habban	Lower minimum wages

47.		Sugna	57	Illiterate, all	3	2	5	Gen.	Less than	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Non-availability of work and had not applied under the scheme Job card
		Ougna		are below matric					25000/-	Ludillalla	Ludillalla	prompted by this survey
48.	27	Chet Singh	60	4th, all are below matric	4	4	8	SC	Less than 25000/-	Dhamarana	Ludhiana	Wages are less
49.	30	Manti Devi	45	Illiterate,	3	7	10	SC	Less than 25000/-	Raidli	Raidli	Reason not assigned
50.	66	Dai Ram	55	Illiterate	1	1	2	SC	Less than 25000/-	Raidli	Raidli	Reason not assigned
51.	104	Mangat Ram	55	8th, son +2	4	2	6	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Maina	Maina	Not demanded work because of the illness in the family
52.	-	Mamraj	24	7 <sup>th</sup>	5	2	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Kakog	Kakog	Despite in December job card was not provided due to non-availability of the same
53.	-	Ram Lal	36	10 <sup>th</sup>	1	4	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Sangrah	Sangrah	Neither provided any job card nor any work
54.	116	Som Parkash	48	Illiterate	2	1	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Lana Mashor	Raidli	This physical handicapped man was not provided work in the Panchayat allegedly on the interference of ward Member of Panchayat Raidley. His son was forced to work at other place. This is a case of high headedness at the Panchayat level and non-effective monitoring.
55.	119	Laiq Ram	28	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	3	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Banlog	Raidli	Not given any job
56.	43	Jagdish	30	5 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag	Maina Gharel	Not taking benefit of the scheme. Engaged in manual labourer in limestone query getting a higher wage.
57.	-	Hira Singh	50	Illiterate	2	2	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag	Maina Gharel	Job card not provided by the Panchayat despite applying for the same
58.	-	Shanti Devi	45	Illiterate	3	2	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	Dahr	Sangrah	Job card not provided
59.	-	Sunder Singh	50	7 <sup>th</sup>	1	2	3	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Sangrah	Sangrah	Job card not provided
60.	35	Donu Ram	65	5 <sup>th</sup>	10	2	12	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Baunal	Kakog Baunal	Not availed any labour manual employment
61.	-	Hari Ram	50	5 <sup>th</sup>	5	2	7	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Baunal	Kakog Baunal	Lower wages and engaged in agriculture operations
62.	-	Mela Ram	46	10 <sup>th</sup>	4	2	6	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Baunal	Kakog Baunal	Work not provided as there is absolute nepotism under this scheme. Work being

												executed through contracts. Panchayat Pradhan and JE taking
63.	128	Bassi Ram	45	5th	4	3	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag	Maina Garel	commissions.  NAREGA is being used for engaging the elderly persons and malpractices are taking place.  We were not adequately informed about this scheme.
64.	181	Sahi Ram	65	5 <sup>th</sup>	7	3	10	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Not aware about the scheme
65.	160	Hari Chand	40	5 <sup>th</sup>	2	4	6	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Not aware about the scheme
66.	178	Hira Singh	40	10 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	6	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Lower minimum wages. Separate work for the women
67.	188	Rajinder	42	5 <sup>th</sup>	2	3	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Not interested to work
68.	134	Hari Chand	45	10 <sup>th</sup>	3	4	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Father in govt. service not applied
69.	34	Mast Ram	50	+1	3	4	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Educated persons should get work apart from the manual labour
70.	127	Maan Singh	73	Illiterate	1	1	2	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Interested to work but age limitations
71.	107	Kanku Ram	59	5 <sup>th</sup>	3	1	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Lower wages won't unemployment allowance without working
72.	71	Tulsi	60	Illiterate	4	4	8	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Minimum wages should be Rs.150/- then only he will work.
73.	92	Jagdish	26	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	1	3	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Minimum wages too less
74.	61	Jathi Ram	60	Illiterate	3	5	8	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Lesser daily wages hence not interested
75.	48	Tulsi Ram	55	Illiterate	5	3	8	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Did not avail
76.	135	Tulsi Ram	42	7 <sup>th</sup>	4	3	7	SC	Less than 25000/-	Ghanduri	Ghanduri	Work was not provided
77.	97	Mela Ram	40	Illiterate	3	4	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Maina Gharel	M aina Gharel	Not aware about the scheme
78.	-	Geeta Ram	50	7 <sup>th</sup>	7	2	9	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag	Mainda Gharel	Not aware about the scheme
79.	-	Rajinder	29	10 <sup>th</sup>	1	3	4	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Bhag	Mainda Gharel	Not informed by the Panchayat and not aware about the scheme and lower wages
80.	-	Ishwar	35	8 <sup>th</sup>	3	7	10	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Bhaunal	Bhaunal	Applied for the job but no information was given about work
81.	-	Chet Ram	63	Illiterate	4	3	7	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Bhaunal	Bhaunal	Job card made but with the Panchayat
82.	-	Rati Ram	60	Illiterate	6	3	9	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Kalria	Maind Gharel	Not aware about the scheme
83.	-	Balak Ram	55	8 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Dahar	Ludhiana	Not aware about the scheme and photo was not

												taken
84.	-	Tapinder	25	10 <sup>th</sup>	2	3	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dahar	Ludhiana	Not aware about the scheme and photo was not taken
85.	-	Mehar Singh	65	Illiterate	4	2	6	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dahar	Ludhiana	Not aware about scheme that we have to apply for making card
86.	183	Rama Nand	40	5 <sup>th</sup>	4	3	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dahar	Ludhiana	Not applied for job due to lower wages
87.	60	Roop Singh	45	5 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	6	SC	Less than 25000/-	Dahar	Ludhiana	Not applied for job due to lower wages as the person is Mistri
88.	105	Kalyan Singh	50	4 <sup>th</sup>	3	6	9	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Unable to work due to epilepsy
89.	113	Rattan Singh	42	8 <sup>th</sup>	2	3	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Not applied for job due to lower wages
90.	118	Hira Singh	55	Illiterate	4	5	9	SC	Less than 25000/-	Gamaroo	Ludhiana	Not applied for job due to lower wages
91.	190	Durgi	46	Illiterate	2	4	6	SC	Less than 25000/-	Gamaroon	Ludhaina	Not aware about the scheme
92.	-	Jeewan Singh	35	5 <sup>th</sup>	1	6	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Ludhiana	Ludhiana	Not able to work with men, ladies be provided separate work
93.	-	Jitender	28	8th	2	2	4	SC	Less than 25000/-	Phoolpur	Phoolpur	Working in mine due to lower wages and less working days in this scheme
94.	-	Dharam Singh	37	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1	4	5	OBC	50000 to 100000	Bhabi	Shiva	Less wages and less working days
95.	-	Jami Devi	60	Illiterate	4	2	6	Other s	Less than 25000/-	Chandni	Chandni	Working days are less
96.	-	Kalyan	46	Illiterate	2	2	4	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Chandni	Chandni	Less wages and less working days
97.	-	Kalyan Singh	46	Illiterate	1	1	2	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Chandi	Anayan	Working with Contractor
98.	-	Raghuvir Singh	38	Illiterate	3	2	5	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dugana	Dugana	Not applied for job due to less wages
99.	107	Puran Chand	35	Illiterate	3	3	6	SC	Less than 25000/-	Dugana	Dugana	Work was not provided nearby house
100.	198	Hira Singh	87	Illiterate	4	5	9	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dugana	Kando	Less wages and less working days
101.	-	Kalyan Singh	50	Illiterate	7	4	11	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Dunana	Kando	Less wages and less working days
102.	-	Mohri Ram	71	Illiterate	4	4	8	Not Menti oned	Less than 25000/-	Dabara	Bukalapa	Working should be provided nearby house
103.	90	Daulat Ram	90	Illiterate	4	2	6	OBC	50000 to 100000	Dabara	Bukalapa	Not at home and less wages
104.	-	Sukh Dev	35	5 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	Not menti oned	Less than 25000/-	Chandpur	Bias	According to the panchyat official no job was created
105.	5	Gurdass	52	Illiterate	3	2	5	Other	25000 to 50000	Chandpur	Kotri	Less wages
106.	180	Suleman	28	Illiterate	2	3	5	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Kundion	Kundion	Working with contractor
107.	141	Raghuvir	40	8 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	4	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Kot-Nagala	Kundion	Less wages
108.	-	Gyan Chand	40	Illiterate	3	2	5	Not menti oned	Less than 25000/-	Bhatawali	Bhatawali	Less wages
109.	-	Chet Ram	26	+2	2	2	4	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Rasat	Rasat	-
110.	11	Valiya Ram	63	Illiterate	3	4	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Rasat	Rasat	Working in Post Office
111.	-	Kundan	50	7 <sup>th</sup>	1	0	1	Gen.	50000 to	Naunidhar	Naunidhar	Service and

		Singh							100000			agriculture
112.	-	Asha Ram	53	BA	1	0	1	OBC	More than 100000	Naunidhar	Naunidhar	Work should be nearby house
113.	-	Khajan	32	10 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	5	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Naunidhar	Naunidhar	Less wages and work should be nearby house
114.	-	Guman Singh	45	Illiterate	5	5	10	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Pabmanal	Gangtoli	Photo has been taken but it was informed that beneficiary complete, hence, card cannot be made
115.	-	Jeet Singh	51	8 <sup>th</sup>	5	1	6	Other s	25000 to 50000	Pabmanal	Gangtoli	Less wages
116.	5	Rati Ram	57	Illiterate	1	1	2	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Pabmanal	Gangtoli	Not at home
117.	-	Liaq Ram	35	Illiterate	3	2	5	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Pabmanal	Gangtoli	Less wages
118.	-	Atar Singh	40	Illiterate	3	3	6	OBC	Less than 25000/-	Pabmanal	Gangtoli	Less wages
119.	-	Kalyan	32	Illiterate	2	3	5	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Kandari	Bali-Koti	Panchayat Assistant
120.	-	Shupa Ram	52	+2	1	3	4	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Less wages and less working days
121.	51	Hira Singh	70	Illiterate	5	5	10	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Not at home and less wages
122.	-	Jaati Ram	35	Illiterate	2	3	5	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Shilai	Shilai	Working as Mistri and wages are very less
123.	-	Rajinder	37	Illiterate	3	2	5	Not menti oned	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Not one is free to work in this scheme
124.	-	Hira Singh	58	10 <sup>th</sup>	3	3	6	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Not applied for job card
125.	-	Rati Ram	50	8 <sup>th</sup>	6	3	9	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Not applied
126.	-	Hari Ram	65	Illiterate	4	2	6	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Shilai	Shilai	-
127.	-	Jagat Singh	65	Illiterate	5	1	6	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Shilai	Shilai	Work not allotted
128.	81	Waru Ram	45	Illiterate	3	4	7	Gen.	Less than 25000/-	Shilai	Shilai	Less wages
129.	45	Hira Singh	50	Illiterate	2	4	6	Other s	25000 to 50000	Shilai	Shilai	Not aware about scheme
130.	-	Vija Ram	46	Illiterate	5	1	6	Gen.	25000 to 50000	Shilai	Shilai	Not aware about scheme
131.	69	Ghasia	47	Illiterate	1	2	3	SC	25000 to 50000	Achati	Shilai	No work has been allotted
132	91	Netar Singh	29	Illiterate	2	3	5	SC	Less than 25000/-	China	Shilai	Working somewhere else