



## A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMMES ON RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN MADURAI DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

Traditionally agriculture is the main source of employment for the people in rural areas. Now the share of agriculture to overall GDP in India has come down to 14 percent, while 66.2 percent of rural males and 81.6 percent rural females are engaged in agriculture as cultivators or Labourers. Inadequate diversification has taken place in rural occupations as many 66.2 percent of rural males and 88.6 percent of rural females, reporting agriculture as their principal economic activity. Rural India remains as a main focus of policy makers as 10.1 percent of its labour force is unemployed compared with 7.3 percent in urban areas. In rural areas, agriculture continues to be the dominant employer (52 percent), followed by construction (7.2 percent), manufacturing (6.7 percent), and community services (6.3 percent). Although there is a case for strengthening well – conceived schemes guaranteeing minimum wage and employment they could be the best bridge solutions. Besides, to achieve the growth with equity and social justice, the Government of India (GOI) has been implementing specific poverty removal programmes since the fifth five year plan (1974-79). This direct attack on poverty was spear-headed by a two – long strategy of wages and self - employment programmes. Poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes have been re- structured and re- designed time to time to make them more effective.

**KEYWORDS:** Agriculture, Cultivators, Gram Panchayats, Cash Programme, Employment