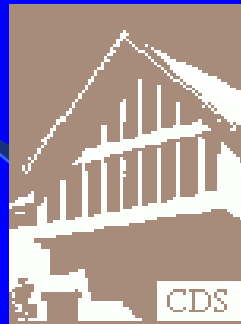


Do those who need employment get it? A Study of NREGA in a Gram Panchayat in Wayanad, Kerala



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Employment Conference, 3-5 April 2008



The Argument

- NREGA different from other employment schemes
- Universal, demand driven
- Expect needy- poor, landless, agrl labour- to come
- Need not happen
- Employment within an employee- employer relation, within family, community setting
- Especially, women's work – low work participation rates



The Dataset

- Unique dataset- complete survey of GP
- Characteristics of social groups
- Select NREGA beneficiaries from the work register
- Register incomplete, so copy from job cards at work sites
- Identified in the baseline
- Some interviewed



Table 2. Distribution of households by social group in Kottathara Panchayat

Social group	SC/ST	OBC	FC	Total
Paniya	393			393
Other ST/SC	642			642
OBC Non-Muslim		411		411
OBC Muslim		738		738
FC Non Christian			440	440
FC Christian			728	728
Total	1035	1149	1168	3352



Figure 1. Employment activities of males and females engaged in the workforce (%)* (15 to 59 years)

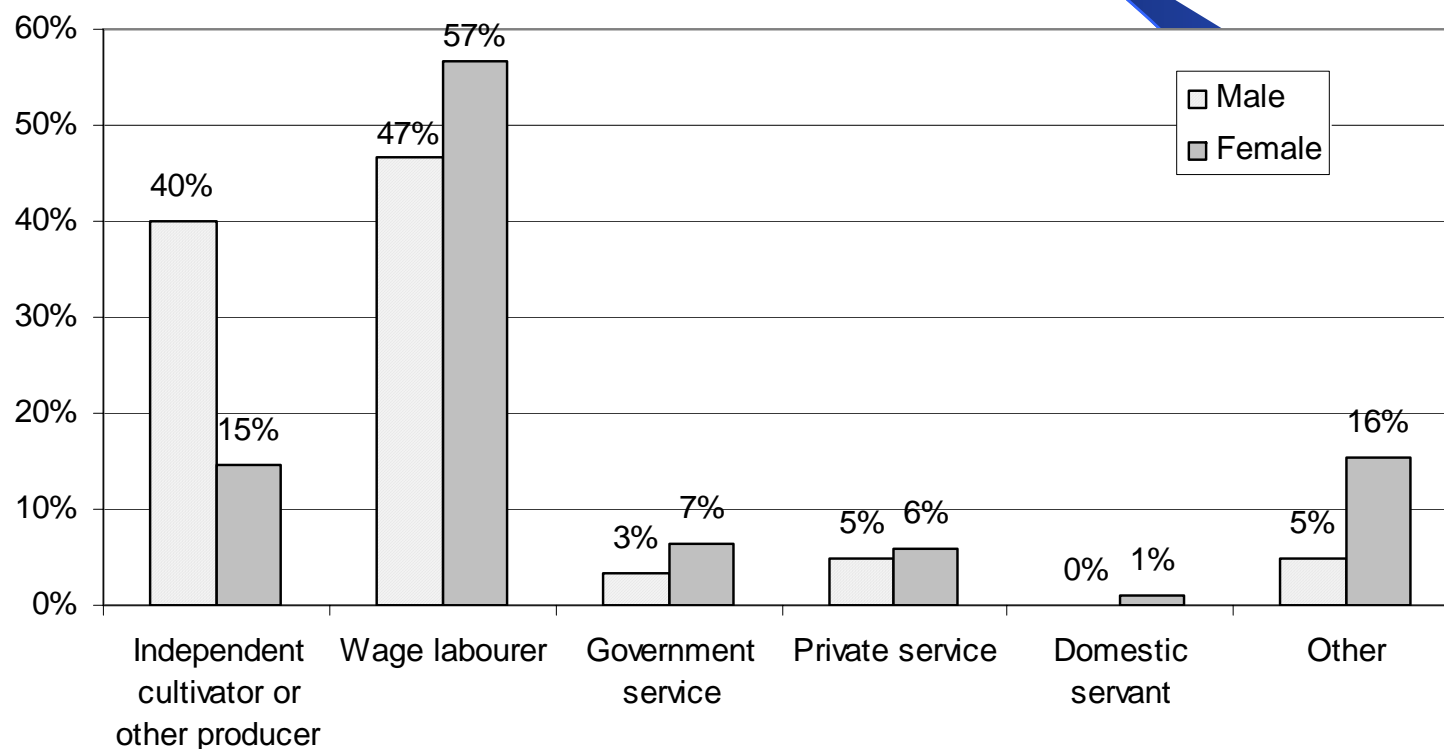




Table 6. Poverty, income and land ownership status by social group

Social Group	Number of HH	BPL	Average income	Land ownership	
		% that are BPL households	Rs. per capita per year	% not owning land	% owning 100 cents and more
Paniyas	393	83.7	Rs 4,911	13.2	1.3
Other ST/SCs	642	67.4	Rs 7,398	0.9	22.6
OBC	1,149	37.2	Rs 7,333	2.1	15.4
Forward castes	1,168	22.7	Rs 9,423	1.5	46.1
Total	3,352	43.4	Rs 7,790	3.0	25.8



Table 7. Employment under NREGA by Social Groups in Kottathara

	Employment by Social Group				
	Paniya	Other ST/SC	OBC	Forward Caste	Total
1. Total Number of Households					
	214	414	746	798	2172
2. NREGA Beneficiaries					
Number	50	115	138	123	426
Percent of Total	23.4%	27.8%	18.5%	15.4%	19.6%
3. BPL Beneficiaries					
Number	45	82	68	45	240
Percent of NREGA Beneficiaries	91.8%	71.3%	49.3%	36.6%	56.5%



Table 9. Employment under NREGA by Landholding of the Household

	Employment by Landholding of the Household			
	<10 cents	10- 50 cents	>50 cents	Total
1. Total Number of Households	622	642	908	2172
2. NREGA Beneficiaries				
Number	141	142	143	426
Percent of Total	22.7%	22.1%	15.7%	19.6%
3. BPL Beneficiaries				
Number	105	77	58	240
Percent of NREGA beneficiaries	75.0%	54.2%	40.6%	56.5%



Table 10. Employment under NREGA by Labour Force Status of the Head of the Household

	Employment by Labour Force Status of the Head of the Household					
	Inactive*	Unemployed	Cultivator/ Ind Producer	Wage Labourer	Other**	Total
1. Total Number of Households	595	19	650	734	174	2172
2. NREGA Beneficiaries						
Number	107	4	112	188	15	426
Percent of NREGA Beneficiaries	18.0%	21.1%	17.2%	25.6%	8.6%	19.6%
3. BPL Beneficiaries						
Number	61	2	46	121	10	240
Percent of NREGA Beneficiaries	57.0%	50.0%	41.1%	64.7%	66.7%	56.5%



Table 11. Employment under NREGA by the Occupation of the Individual

	Principal Occupation of the Individual					Total
	Cultivator/ Independent Producer	Wage Labourer	Housewife	Other	Do not apply	
1. Total Number of Individuals	1264	1646	1007	598	5937	10452
2. Individual NREGA Beneficiaries						
Number	121	272	98	17	330	838
Percent of Total	9.6%	16.5%	9.7%	2.8%	5.6%	8.0%
3. Persons working						
Total	121	272	98	17	330	838
Male	106	197	1	10	95	409
Female	15	75	97	7	235	429

Note: 'do not apply' refers to those who reported that they were not engaged in work during the 7 days prior to the baseline survey.



Findings

- ‘Needy’ do not come; ‘Never worked outside’ come- why?
 - ‘Needy’, especially Paniya hesitant to work alongside
 - Delayed Payment is a further problem
- Forward caste women have begun coming
 - Prevented by husband/ son initially
 - Initial apprehension gone
 - Government work; group work
 - Lump sum at the end- lot of confidence



Conclusions

- Labourers not a homogeneous mass
- Work within family, community, employee-employer relations
- Lot of Paniya do not come
 - Reduction of social distance is a problem
- Lot of forward Caste women come
 - Reduction of social distance a boon
 - Govt work
- A Social transformation in the making