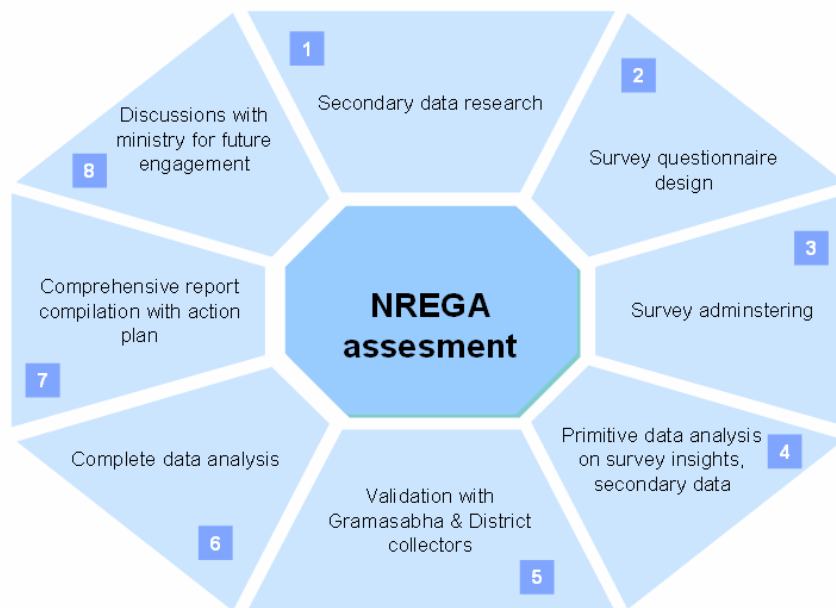


Case study : Evaluation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Tamil Nadu

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) under the 'Ministry of Rural development' strives for the enhancement of rural livelihood by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Aaum's founder (at individual capacity) spearheaded a project team consisting IIT professors, research analysts, technology experts and field officers in planning and execution of a recent NREGA impact assessment conducted in five districts of Tamil Nadu. The five districts selected were Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Dindugal, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur. In each district, two blocks were selected and in each block four gram panchayats were chosen. Selection of blocks and villages in a district are based on interactions with DRDA and the respective block officials. About fifteen NREGS beneficiaries were surveyed per work.

To meet the project objectives, Aaum has developed an eight folded methodological approach to assess NREGA in TamilNadu.





The framework consisted of well planned steps that are incorporated at each stage of the survey. The framework enabled AAUM researchers to construct survey questionnaire that fell into broad categories of Socio economic details, Awareness, Participation, Process, Monitoring and Supervision, Payment details, Transparency, Worksite facilities and Impact. Data collection was driven by innovative GPRS Mobile Technology developed by IIT technology experts.

The insights and recommendations were discussed with the Ministry of Rural Development.