CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Unemployment is measured as one of the key grounds of poverty in developing countries resembling India. The number of unemployed and underemployed has been increasing over time. In excess of 44 million families existing in rural India are accounted to beneath the poverty line and the main reason behind this is lack of employment or less work and low efficiency. Employment prospects in rural province for labour are largely limited to agriculture oriented and development is achievable, if special efforts are made to generate work. In goals of planning of India, suppression of poverty and hunger through employment in the community has been one of the main objectives. To achieve this objective, various rural improvement strategies have been intended by the government to get better socio economic life of the poorer segments of the society. To deal with the twin problem of unemployment and poverty, generation of employment opportunities and equality in income distribution are the two solution factors that are of paramount importance.

1.1 INDIA’S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate is a measure of the prevalence of unemployment and it is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labour force (Wikipedia). The Labour Bureau of the Government of India carried out for the first time ever a survey on employment – unemployment in 2009-10 and came up with an
unemployment rate based on that. *(Report on Employment and Unemployment Survey 2009-10)*

The latest Annual Employment and Unemployment Survey are accomplished in 2011-12 and report of this survey is released on 19th July 2012. During the survey, data is collected from a sample of 1, 28,298 households, out of which 81,430 households are in the rural sector and the remaining 46,868 households in the urban sector. A fixed reference period of Agriculture Year 2010-11 i.e. July, 2010 to June, 2011 is used to derive the estimates based on usual status approach. The labour force estimates are derived for the persons of age 15 years and above. The unemployment rate is estimated to be 3.8 per cent at all India level. *(Report on Employment and Unemployment Survey 2011-12)*

**Statement showing details and outcome of the second annual employment and unemployment survey 2011-12.**

- At all India level, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) *(percentage of working-age persons in an economy who are employed or are unemployed but looking for a job)* is approximated to be 52.9 per cent.
- The LFPR in the rural sector is estimated 54.8 per cent as measure up to 47.2 per cent in the urban sector.
- If compared according to sex, Female LFPR is considerably lesser as compared to male LFPR. Female LFPR is approximately 25.4 per cent as matched up to 77.4 per cent in male group.
- The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) *(number of persons employed per...*
thousand persons) is estimated to be 50.8 per cent. The WPR is estimated
to be 52.9 per cent in rural areas whereas it is 44.9 percent in the urban
areas.

- The female WPR is assessed 23.6 per cent while male WPR is
  approximated as 75.1 per cent.

- In case of unemployment rate (percentage of total workforce who
  are unemployed and are looking for a paid job), it is estimated as 3.4 per
  cent while the same is 5.0 per cent in urban areas.

- Despite relatively low LFPR, the unemployment rate is significantly higher
  among females as compared to males. The female unemployment rates
  work out to be 6.9 per cent whereas for males, the unemployment rate is
  2.9 per cent.

- The female being without a job rate is approximated as 12.5 per cent in
  urban areas and 5.6 percent in rural areas. Alike, rates of unemployment
  for males in urban areas are estimated to be 3.4 per cent and 2.7 per cent
  in rural areas.

- The unemployment rates with regard to community cluster which are
  measured to be at disadvantage are lesser than the unemployment rate
  with reference to the general category. The unemployment rate regarding
  Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes work out to be 3.2 per
  cent, for Scheduled Tribes, it is 2.6 percent and for General category it is
  5.5 percent.

- At all India level, commonly, working persons are found to be freelance.
  Seeing that 48.6 per cent persons are estimated to be self employed
pursued by wage/salary earners as 19.7 per cent persons and left over 31.7 per cent persons belongs to casual labour category.

- In primary sector (agriculture, forestry and fishing), mainstream of the working persons i.e. 52.9 percent are engaged, subsequently, 27.8 per cent in tertiary or services sector along with 19.3 per cent persons in manufacturing and building sector that is secondary sector.

- By means of the results of the analysis, approximated unemployment rate amongst the illiterate persons aged 15 years and above was near to 1.2 per cent as measure up to 9.4 per cent among the graduates during 2010-2011. (Employment and Unemployment Survey Report, 2011-12)

1.2 MOST ESSENTIAL CAUSES OF RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

A huge figure of unemployed people resides in India. Condition is similar in rural as well as urban pitch. The difference is that urban ground consists of large figure of educated unemployed, while this is factual for all the groups of public. According to the report of Rural Agricultural Commission, Indian agriculturalists are unemployed for about 6 months in a year. In rural areas, there are landless people who are also unemployed. This number is about 10 to 50 crore. All these things prove that there is a good deal of unemployment in the rural areas. (Parmar, Jain, Modi, 2013) There are various factors responsible for these situations such as: extreme increase in population or outburst of population, due to limited land and excessive pressure on land, dependency of agriculture on season, lack of subsidiary and other village industries, excessive dependency on nature, traditional outlook in agriculture, unawareness regarding scientific and modern means of agriculture,
dependency on monsoon along with lack of adequate means of irrigation, and small holdings and fragmentation of land.

1.3 PRECEDING RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

The Government of India initiated during the early seventies several schemes for increasing employment opportunities in the country. The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) which spanned from 1971-72 to 1973-74 was one among them. The aim of scheme was direct generation of employment in all the districts of the country at the rate of 2.5 lakh man days per annum per district all the way through the implementation of labour intensive projects and creation of durable assets in consonance with local development plans.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a rural development program of the Government of India launched in Financial Year 1978 and extended throughout India by 1980. It was a self-employment program intended to raise the income-generation capacity of target groups among the poor. The program was implemented in all the blocks in the country as a centrally sponsored scheme funded on 50:50 basis by the Centre and State. A number of other allied programmes were introduced to supplement IRDP efforts in poverty alleviation through implementation of IRDP. These programmes were: (i) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) started in 1979 intended to take care of the training requirement of the people who were selected under IRDP; (ii) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was started in 1982 to focus particularly on the rural poor women; (iii) Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) was started in 1992 to look after the modernization and improving the efficiency
and productivity of the poor rural artisans; and, (iv) The Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) introduced during 1996-97 in order to focus on the land based activities particularly the irrigation requirement of the small and marginal farmers (Government of India, 2001). The Scheme was merged with another Scheme named Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) since 1st April 1999.

**The National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)** was started in 1980 and became a regular Plan programme from April, 1981. The programme was expected to generate additional gainful employment in the rural areas, to the extent of 300-400 million man days per annum, create durable community assets, and improve nutritional status and living standards of the poor. (Planning Commission)

**The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)** came in 1983. This was the first initiative towards central government sponsored schemes for wage employment. While most of the objectives and stipulations under this were similar to those of NREP, it was limited only to the landless, with guaranteed employment of 100 days. Moreover, there was earmarking of funds specifically for certain activities- 25 per cent for social forestry, 10 per cent for works benefiting only the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and 20 per cent for housing under Indira Awaas Yojana. (Planning Commission)

**The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)** was launched on 2 October 1993 covering 1,778 drought-prone, desert, tribal and hill area blocks. It was later extended to all the blocks in 1997-98. The EAS was designed to provide employment in the form of manual work in the lean agricultural season.
Initially, the scheme was demand-driven but from 1999, resources were allocated to states based on the incidence of poverty. *(Planning Commission)*

The JRY was revamped from 1 April 1999 as the **Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)**. It was the restructured, streamlined and comprehensive version of the erstwhile Jawahar Rozagar Yojana. Designed to improve the quality of life of the poor, JGSY was launched on 1st April, 1999. The primary objective of JGSY was creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. The secondary objective was generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. *(GOI, 2001)*

The earlier self employment programmes like TRYSEM, SITRA, GKY, DWCRA, IRDP and MWS were merged and a new self employment programme viz.; **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** was launched w.e.f.1-4-1999. The main objective of the programme was to bring the existing poor families above the poverty line. Among the rural poor, special emphasis will be given for the welfare of SCs/STs, women and disabled. The programme lays emphasis on organization of poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building. *(GOI, 2001)*

**The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)** was launched on 25 September, 2001 by merging the on-going schemes of EAS and the JGSY with the objective of providing additional wage employment and food security, alongside creation of durable community assets in rural areas. *(GOI, 2001)*
The **Food for Work Programme** was started in 2000-01 as a component of the EAS in eight notified drought-affected states. The programme aims at augmenting food security through wage employment. Food grains are supplied to states free of cost. This programme is now subsumed under the MNREGP. *(Ministry of Rural Development)*

The preceding employment programmes like the National Food for Work Programme, etc. generated much needed wage employment for the unemployed and poor. However, they have suffered from *shortcomings* which may be summarized as follows:

- The allocation of funds was low and utilization even lower.
- The number of person-days of wage employment provided per family was also very low, inadequate to help the beneficiaries to derive a sustainable livelihood and become non-poor.
- Minimum wages were not paid due to high productivity norms.
- There were also huge delays in wage payment.
- The worksites were devoid of any facilities.
- Village level monitoring and vigilance committees were usually not constituted in most places, which results in very little accountability and transparency.
- No attention was given to capacity building of the PRI functionaries and workers at the village level. Where the works were executed by contractors, the problem of non-payment of minimum wages and delayed wage payment were even more severe.
- There was a top-down bureaucratic approach and centralized character of implementation and planning.
Women’s participation in planning and works was low and their tasks at worksites were invisible, unpaid and subsumed under the overall labour process.

These were supply-driven programmes and not a right.

Considering shortcomings of all previous programmes, MNREGA, one of the flag ship schemes of the Government initially started in 200 villages in 2005 and has been expanded to cover all the 614 districts across the country. Since its inception, the program has benefited over 10 crore rural households.

1.4 MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MNREGA)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) was notified on September 7, 2005. The mandate of the Act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. (Operational Guidelines, MNREGS, 2012). The Act was initially reported in 200 districts of the country in the first phase with effect from February 2, 2006 and then extended to further 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008 (113 districts were notified with effect from April 1, 2007, and 17 districts in Uttar Pradesh (UP) were notified with effect from May 15, 2007). The left over districts have been notified under MGNREGA with effect from April 1, 2008. (nrega.nic.in). Thus, the MGNREGA covers the entire country, except of those districts, that have a hundred percent population residing in urban area.
**(A) MNREGA Goals**

- To provide social security for the most susceptible people living in rural India by providing employment opportunity.
- Livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity.
- Drought-proofing and flood management in rural India.
- Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Schedules Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation.
- Strengthening decentralised, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.
- Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.  
  *(MNREGA Guidelines, 2012)*

By taking such goals which place its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment, MGNREGA is a significant instrument for warranting comprehensive growth in rural India.

**(B) Conceptual Move from Preceding Wage Employment Programmes**

MNREGA marks a conceptual move in contrast to all preceding wage employment programs of government. The significant aspects of this move are confined below:

- Different from any other wage employment programme in human history, MNREGA has specified rise to the largest employment agenda in its range,
structural design and thrust. Its bottom-up, people centred, demand-driven, self-selecting, and right-based design is distinctive and extraordinary.

- The MGNREGA offers a permissible assurance for wage employment.
- It is a demand-driven programme where condition of work is activated by the requirement for work by wage seekers.
- In case of failure in providing of work on demand or delays in payment of wages, there are legal provisions for allowance and reimbursement.
- Since a large proportion of the poor and marginalized look for employment under the Scheme, the MGNREGA conquers problems of aiming through its self-targeting method of beneficiary selection.
- For the reason, that 100 per cent of the unskilled labour cost and 75 per cent of the material cost of the programme is borne by the Centre, the Act encourages states to provide employment.
- MGNREGA is not only demand driven scheme, but also resource transfer from Centre to States depends upon demand for employment in each State. This offers a bonus encouragement for States to influence the Act to get together the employment requirements of the rural poor.
- There is also a simultaneous discouragement or penalty for weakening to make available work within prescribed time, as the States then have to tolerate the cost of the unemployment allowance.
- An extraordinary command for Gram Panchayat (GPs) to decentralize financial resources is to put into practice at least 50 per cent of the works in terms of cost.
The salient features of MNREGS are summarized in Table 1.1 as follows.

### Table 1.1
SALIENT FEATURES OF MNREGS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>DETAILS ABOUT FEATURES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Right Based Framework</strong></td>
<td>1. All adult members of a rural household willing to do unskilled manual work have the right to demand employment.</td>
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<td>2. Such households will apply for the Job Card to the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat will verify the age and local domicile of the applicant.</td>
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<td>3. After verification, the Gram Panchayat will issue a Job Card to the household with photograph free of cost.</td>
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<td>4. The Job Card must remain in the custody of the household.</td>
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<td>5. Job Cardholder can apply for work to the Gram Panchayat which will issue him/her a dated receipt of the work application.</td>
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<td><strong>Time Bound Guarantee Of Employment</strong></td>
<td>1. Employment will be provided by the Gram Panchayat (local self governing body) within 15 days of work application, else unemployment allowance will be paid.</td>
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<td>2. A household may avail up to 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year, depending on its need.</td>
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<td><strong>Permissible Works</strong></td>
<td>1. Water conservation; drought proofing (including plantation and afforestation); flood protection; land development; minor irrigation.</td>
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<td>2. An annual shelf of works to be prepared in advance of each year.</td>
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<td><strong>Labor Intensive Works</strong></td>
<td>1. A ratio of 60:40 will be maintained between wage and material.</td>
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<td>2. Contractors/machinery is not permitted.</td>
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<td><strong>Payment Of Wages</strong></td>
<td>1. Wages will be paid at the wage earners through their Bank / Post Office accounts.</td>
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<td>2. Payment of wages to be made every week and in any case not later than a fortnight.</td>
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<td><strong>Decentralization</strong></td>
<td>1. Gram Sabha (local community) will recommend works to be taken up. Gram Panchayat will execute at least 50% of works.</td>
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<td>2. Panchayati Raj institutions will have a principal role in planning, monitoring and implementation.</td>
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<td><strong>Work Site Management and Facilities</strong></td>
<td>1. Citizen Information Boards with details of work are to be put at the work sites.</td>
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<td>2. Crèche, drinking water, first aid and shade are to be provided on the work sites.</td>
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<td>3. Muster rolls to be maintained and open to inspection.</td>
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<td>4. Timely measurement to be ensured.</td>
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<td><strong>Women Empowerment</strong></td>
<td>1. At least one-third of the workers should be women.</td>
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<td><strong>Transparency &amp; Accountability</strong></td>
<td>1. Proactive disclosure of information.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Social Audit by the Gram Sabha is mandatory.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Regular Monitoring at all levels.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Grievance Redressal Mechanism is to be set up.</td>
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<td><strong>Use Of Information Technology</strong></td>
<td>1. A web enabled MIS <a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a> for monitoring, decision making and transparency.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>1. 90% borne by Central Government and 10% by State Government.</td>
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</table>
Gram Panchayat plays an important role in taking decisions regarding nature and variety of works to be carried out, the order in which all work are to be activated, selection of site etc. through in open assemblies of the Gram Sabha (GS). Before administrative approval, those works, which are introduced at Intermediate Panchayat (IP) and District Panchayat (DP) level, have also to be approved and allocated a right of way by the GS. The GS has a right to allow, make improvements or refuse them.

The decisions carried out at GS level cannot be reversed by higher powers, apart from the degree of certifying conformity with the requirements of the Act and its operational Guidelines.

MGNREGA also marks a smash from the previous support programmes in the direction of an incorporated natural resource management and livelihoods invention outlook.

Social audit is an innovative trait, which is a vital part of MGNREGA. Potentially, this feature produces extraordinary answerability of presentation, in particular on the way to immediate stakeholders.

An Annual Report prepared by the Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC), on the outcomes of MGNREGA is required to be presented annually by the Central Government to Parliament. Likewise, the annual reports prepared by State Employment Guarantee Councils (SEGC) are to be presented to State Legislatures by the State Governments, facilitating oversight by elected representatives. (MNREGA: Operational Guidelines)

The fundamentally new nature of the plan necessitates pioneering move towards effectual working. This will make sure that the original basics of the
MGNREGA are realised properly on the field; at the forward-looking level of its performance or execution.

1.5. ABOUT THE STUDY

The current study while taking the earlier studies decides to address to the MNREGA process in Rohtak. This part of the chapter gives details about the study.

(A) Purpose of the Study

The scheme was launched in the beginning of 2006. Almost seven years have elapsed since the inception of the scheme. The argument started then and continues till date about the feasibility, the real impact of the Act on the lives and occupation of the people, and usefulness of the MNREGA. The question arises: How does the scheme perform? Do the requirements of MNREGA and the guidelines developed under the schemes provide a decent method for effectual implementation of the scheme? Has the process been followed in proper way? What are the hurdles faced by receivers and stakeholders at grassroots level of the process? What are the outputs and upshots of the scheme? To what degree, has the scheme been proficient to bring changes in the living circumstances of the people? These are extent of the main concerns which necessitate a thinking and profound analysis. Such a study would throw enough glows on the performance of the scheme, the real or authentic upshot in opposition to the common outcome, the troubles that happen in put into practice this programme and so on. This study attempts to solve above said questions.
Mostly in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand and some southern states, there have been a number of studies that examined for the implementation of the Act in by considering number of day’s employment created as well as issues of wages, procedure of carrying out scheme, observation machinery, etc. However, with the MNREGA after completing its seven years, rarely any of the studies have attempted to look into the actual performance and its contribution towards long term development and sustained employment generation in the villages of Haryana. It is against this backdrop, the present study has been taken up to know the performance and impact of MNREGA in Rohtak district of Haryana.

The basic purpose of the study is to build up, a perceptive of the local dynamics and augmentation condition with view of MNREGS, so as to find out, if the performance or execution of the Scheme is meeting its objectives or not. The major parts of the study comprise: review the systems and processes followed in the implementation of MNREGS, impact assessment of the scheme on various development indicators, so as to make it a far more powerful tool of rural development. Although all the mainstay concerns being undertaken for this study, as stated above, are very important, the impact assessment is most important of them as it is promising to make available justification for judgment making about possible plan, development opportunity, strategy involvement, as well as, maximizing benefits. It can put forward whether the MNREGS impacts are able to provide food security to rural poor, able to check distress migration from these areas, help the poor to save and generate women empowerment. In order to make sure that the
scheme helps to understand all the benefits predicted, this analysis may make known if further strategy involvements are required or not.

**B) Objectives of the Study**

The main focus of the study is on analysing the performance and socio economic impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. More specifically, the study seeks to:

- Review the systems and processes followed in the implementation of MNREGS at GP, block and district level;
- Critically examine the various provisions of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;
- Overview the Performance of MNREGA at National and State level in general and district level in particular;
- Critically analyse the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the following broad development indicators:
  - Employment, Income and Expenditure
  - Migration of workers
  - Socio-economic empowerment of women workers
- To identify emerging strengths and weaknesses for a wider dialogue for improvement.
- Suggest measures to improve the usefulness and effectiveness of the systems and processes and ensure significant impact of the scheme on the people’s livelihood.
(C) Research Methodology

The success of a study mainly depends upon the methodology, adopted by the researcher. Methodology grossly means the method applied to check the hypothesis. The method adopted should be reliable as well as modern, so that effective results for the present may be obtained. The major components of methodology for the study are discussed below.

- The research is based on primary and secondary sources of information.

- The primary data has been collected through a self well thought-out feedback form, including both open and close ended questions. The questionnaire was controlled upon purposely selected beneficiaries and stakeholders of the scheme. Interview schedule was the essential and most significant instrument used during the data collection. It helped in gathering the beneficiary’s purpose and thoughts, etc.

- The Rohtak District for Quick Appraisal of MNREGS was selected in consultation with the government officials, based on the criteria that district which has experienced significant good impact under MNREGA in terms of number of man day’s employment generated. It is the closest district of state from capital Delhi, thus receiving the maximum influence of the neighbourhood of the metropolitan city.

- The selection of villages was done in discussion with District administration where beneficiaries have done work under this scheme for at least two years, so that clear picture of impact can come. Some of these villages are those that have designated or experienced encouraging impact on the different levels of social inference and some which have experienced
limitations in the best possible performance of the scheme. The selection of
the villages was based on the following overarching parameters:

1. Must be implementing MNREGA since March 2009. This is to allow at least
one year of MNREGA implementation for an objective assessment.
2. Must have agriculture as the primary source of livelihood.
3. Must have dominance of agricultural workers in the workforce.

The secondary data was collected from a variety of sources such as basic
physical and financial data of the selected sample area and Monthly
Progress Reports of Gram Panchayat by Block Development Office, Report
to the People 2006-2012, Working Papers by various government
CAG on NREGA, Census 2011, Bank Record related to MNREGS of
Rohtak district, Official site of Haryana etc.

The data was also collected from the relevant Government of India
websites like http://www.agricoop.nic.in/ and

The period of field survey is from October, 2010- March, 2011, so primary
data mainly belongs to this period while secondary data has been used up
to December 2012 as and where available.

The research methodology which has been used to find out the impact of
MNREGS on poverty, income and employment, women empowerment and
workers migration in detail has been described in the respective chapters.
(D) Hypotheses

Before starting a research or study some suppositions are taken i.e. something assumed for the purpose of argument. Dictionary meaning of hypothesis is a theory assumed to account for what is not understood. The function of the hypothesis is to state a specific relationship between the phenomena in such a way that this relationship can be empirically tested. These hypotheses like all well stated hypotheses are specific predictions of a single research outcome.

After knowing the general meaning of hypothesis it will now be proper to know the hypothesis assumed for this research work. After studying the various information and data, null Hypothesis assumed for this research work are-

\( H_1: \) There is no significance difference between observed and expected frequencies regarding impact on income.

\( H_2: \) There is no significance difference between observed and expected frequencies regarding impact on savings.

\( H_3: \) There is no significance difference between observed and expected frequencies regarding impact on expenditure.

\( H_4: \) There is no significant impact of MNREGS on migration.

\( H_5: \) There is no significance difference between observed and expected frequencies regarding women empowerment.
(E) Research Tool

For analysing the findings and to draw the inferences, the statistical and mathematical tools have been used like Mean Average, $\chi^2$ Test and Paired T Test analysis etc.

(F) Limitations of the Study

- While criticizing a massive program like MNREGS it becomes vital to consider this limitation. Prior scheduling is useful only up to the selection of district, blocks and panchayat, but selection of beneficiaries was based on random sampling of people available at the work site. To know the actual impact, it was must to interview those beneficiaries who had done work for sufficient number of days. On worksite, it became very difficult to find such category.

- Government schemes in the past have not given so considerable experience, so it makes most of the people to think MNREGA in the same category of previous schemes. Therefore, the opinion given by beneficiaries may be the expression of past initiatives taken.

- Recall/ memory bias and illiteracy of workers were also one of the restrictions in giving correct details of the number of days of work and wages received. However, the efforts have been made to improve the reliability of such data by cross checking information with other family members of the same household.

- The secondary data analysed in some chapters have been downloaded from website http://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/home.aspx. These data are not consistent. The same data not available for period 2008-2010. So these
inconsistencies and inter conflicts are observed in the downloaded data, which created confusion in making comparison.

- All other limits of surveys apply to this study as well.

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