CHAPTER 1

1.1: INTRODUCTION:

India lives in her villages, majority of Indian population is living in rural areas and about 50% of the villages are under poor socio-economic conditions. Since independence, many efforts have been made to uplift the living standard of rural masses. The most crucial challenge on the eve of India’s Independence was to formulate an effective development strategy which was powerful enough to banish poverty and transform the economy. As such rural development as a factor of growth and poverty elimination has been given importance in every Five Year Plans. Government of India formulates many policies and programmes for poverty alleviation and rural development which are being implemented in the various states. Thus rural development is an integral part of the entire development process and growth strategy.

The First Five Year Plan launched on April 1951, emphasized the need for modernising rural India. Development programme of rural areas started as early as 1950s starting with Community Development Programme in 1952, it was intended to develop the rural areas intensively and to organise village people. It was conceived and delivered by functionaries from above and consequently did not enlist the involvement of grassroot level people. In order to overcome this shortcoming, the National Extension Service Programme was launched in 1953 which encouraged popular participation of villagers in formulating rural development programmes. The two programmes ran in parallel for a couple of years only to pinpoint that they were identical in nature and did not have many material differences. The Government of India (GOI) envisioned a clear need to link these programmes to the political apparatus. On the recommendation of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957), these programmes were later merged to become a part of the ‘Panchayati Raj Programme’ launched in 1959. A typology of Indian rural development policy since Independence classifies policies mainly by its nature of target group- the community or particular sections. Policies oriented towards the community may be generalised or restricted to particular areas, those targeted at particular groups may affect their incomes through affecting or not affecting the ownership of assets.

There were two phases in rural development policy the first extended from Independence to the end of 1960s and the second from 1971 until now. The crucial
distinction rests on the respective developmental emphasis in these phases. In the first phase, the primary emphasis was on eradicating social ills (underdevelopment) till the eradication of economic handicaps and in the second phase poverty per se overtook it in the 1970s.

In this light, policies of land reform and even minimum wages were more social in character than oriented towards economically emancipating poor groups. The Community Development Programme (CDP) and Panchayati Raj (PR) were of course, aimed towards comprehensive uplift of rural society. The 1962 Panchayati Raj was also close to Gandhi’s conception of self government and decentralisation to the grassroots.

However, GOI evaluations found out that the CD cooperatives and PR had all been failures: the rural elite had monopolised the gains and had effectively established control over PR institutions and cooperatives. Gandhi’s vision of cooperative and benevolent society had to be abandoned in the face of highly unequal, caste and class-ridden heterogeneous mass where the rural oligarchs held the key to development benefits. Rural poverty, therefore, forced itself on to the political agenda towards the end of 1960s. From attention to rural under-development and social uplift, the GOI thus moved towards the alleviation of poverty in the early 1970s and initiated various policies directly targeting the poorer sections of the community.

1.2: BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH:

The word Development can be defined as a change, a shift from one stage to another which is better than the former stage. It may also be defined as improvement in the quality of life which includes health, education, equality, freedom, social security and so on. There are different views on the concept of Development. One group of scholars has equated development with growth, another group has thought of it as a quality of life and a third one has equated it with the advancement in science and technology. It basically means ‘unfolding’, ‘revealing’ or ‘opening up’ something which is latent. Development is a dynamic process which changes an economy and society from a backward state to a more advanced state. Generally speaking, the term development implies a change that is desirable; it could be conceptualized as a set of desirable societal objective which a society seeks to achieve.

Development Administration received attention since the 1950s; a number of literatures have been produced on development administration and the study of principles, problems, concepts and issues pertaining to it. Development Administration is for the large
part, a by-product of public administration; it is generally used in two interrelated senses. First, it refers to the administration of development programmes, to the methods used by large scale organizations, notably governments, to implement plans and policies designed to meet their developmental objectives. Secondly, it involves the strengthening of administrative capabilities.

Rural development basically means development of the rural areas; in India it includes increase in agricultural production, extension of irrigation facilities, improvement in the techniques of cultivation, provision of educational facilities, construction of link roads, health care, etc. It is described as a process aimed at improving the well being of the people living outside the urbanized area. It takes into account the forward and backward linkages between the rural and urban areas. In short, Rural Development can be defined as a process leading to sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people, especially the poor.

Rural development has attained attention especially among the developing nations. At present, the strategy of rural development in India mainly focuses on alleviation of poverty, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic services, better communication and transportation facilities through innovative programmes of wage and self-employment.

Over the years rural development has emerged as a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor men and women in rural areas, to achieve for themselves and their children more of what they want and need. It involves helping those economically backward groups of people who seek a livelihood in the rural areas to demand and control more of the benefits of rural development. Small scale farmers, tenants and the landless are included in these groups.

The very concept of rural development has undergone a tremendous change and is not confined just to farming or production of food grains but under the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP), the main thrust has been on achieving enhanced rural production and productivity, greater socio-economic equity, a regional uniformity in social and economic development process. India’s rural development focus had always been on the problem of poverty alleviation and providing employment can possibly be achieved if the bureaucracy is effective, cooperative and more responsive to the people. The secret of success in rural development lies in identifying the problems and developing a suitable means to tackle those identified problems, favourably with the most needed people.
1.3: PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The Panchayats have been considered the best suited agencies of the state government to carry out rural development activities in the rural areas. Therefore the Panchayats were established by almost all states in the country after independence, except a few states in North East India. The major thrust to Panchayati Raj system was given after the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee’s Report in 1957, which recommends 3 tier Panchayati Raj System in India. On the other hand, Ashok Mehta Committee (1977) recommended two tier structure of Panchayati Raj and emphasised the developmental role for PRIs.

In the eighties, due to the expansion of anti-poverty programmes and the creation of District Rural Development Agencies and other organisations for Rural Development purposes at lower levels, it was required to integrate the Panchayati Raj System with development programmes. As a result, various committees were appointed- the C.H. Hanumantha Rao (1983), the GVK Rao Committee (1985) and the LM Singhvi Committee (1986).

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 intends to provide meaningful Panchayati Raj bodies in the country to promote decentralization of powers to the people by creating responsive village panchayats to the Gram Sabha, regular elections, sufficient representation to the weaker sections of society such as SC/ST and women (33% reservation for each). Even though the Panchayati Raj system in the country was not producing desired goal, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act is certainly an attempt to revitalize Panchayati Raj for decentralization of rural development. It also stated the need for Constitution of district planning committees to prepare development plans for the districts as a whole.

1.4: RURAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES:

The Government of India has implemented several employment generation schemes even before the advent of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), we can point them out as follows:

These were the employment generation schemes implemented in the seventies Crash Scheme of Rural Development (1971) aimed to production of assets or works of a durable nature, totally unemployed persons are given preference. Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (1972-1976) was an action-cum-pilot study project on the characteristics of employment in the particular selected areas. Food For Work Programme (FFWP, 1976-77),
the basic objective of the programme was to create additional employment in rural areas through utilisation of surplus food grains available in the buffer stock for payment as wages and to create thereby durable community assets. Employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra, (1977) aimed at giving gainful and productive employment, gainful to the individual and productive to the economy, in approved works to all unskilled persons in rural areas who are in need of work and are prepared to do manual work. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (1979) gives through training necessary skills and technical knowledge to rural youth in the age group 18 to 35 years, enabling them to take up gainful vocation. The objective is to train two lakh youth per year, at an average of 40 persons per block.

The eighties experienced another set of employment programmes like, National Rural Employment Programme (NREP, 1980-81), FFWP was reviewed and restructured as NREP. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)-1983, the programme aims to improve and expand employment opportunities for the rural landless, aiming to provide a guarantee of employment to at-least one member of every landless labour household up to 100 days in a year. The landless labourers schedule castes/tribes are given preference in particular.

The NREP and RLEG were merged and named Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, which was commenced in 1989, the funds for its implementation were directly distributed to village institutions accounts; the responsibility of planning and creation of employment were in their hands. Unfortunately after a few years of its establishment there arose problems like irregular flow of fund, implementation problem at the village level and also political apathy. This led to the emergence of another scheme in the form of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in 1993 with top-down approach whereby fund allocation was centralized which proved to restraint development of rural employment prospects. JRY and EAS were blended into one programme named Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana. And the year 2004 saw the birth of the National Food for Work Programme with focus on 150 districts which were identified as most backward districts.

Finally, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was notified on September 7, 2005 by the central government and was launched with effect from 2nd February 2006 in 200 selected backward districts of the country. The remaining districts have been notified under the NREGA with effect from April 1, 2008, so NREGA covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population. On 2nd October 2009,
NREGA has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA).

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is one of the Rural Development programmes, where the funds are shared between central government and state government in the proportion of 70:30. The objective is to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work.

1.5: SALIENT FEATURES OF MGNREGA:

Some of the salient features of MGNREGA are:

1) Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat.

2) The Gram Panchayat will issue a Job Card after due verification. The photograph of the adult members of the household who are willing to work under NREGA should be pasted in the Job Card and the Job Card should be free of cost.

3) A Job Card holder may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration for which work is sought. At least fourteen days of employment should be given.

4) As per the Act, employment will be given within 15 days of application for work, if it is not, then daily unemployment allowance, has to be paid. Payment of unemployment allowance should be borne by the States.

5) Work should be provided within 5 km radius of the village. If the work is given beyond that, extra wage of 10% is to be paid towards transportation and living expenses.

6) At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested to work under the scheme.

7) Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided.

8) The Gram Sabha must do Social Audit.

9) All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny.

10) Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers in the State; the wage rate should not be less than Rs. 60/ per day unless the Centre notifies otherwise. Equal wages must be provided to both men and women.
1.6: BRIEF PROFILE OF STUDY AREA:

The present study is on the state of Mizoram, from which two districts are selected namely Lunglei district and Kolasib district.

Mizoram is in the southernmost of the north eastern border of India; the total geographical area of Mizoram is 21,087 sq.km. Mizoram is the fifth smallest state of India with the tropic of cancer runs through the state nearly at its middle.

The population of Mizoram according to 2011 census is 1,091,014; with density of population 52/km² (130/sq mi). It is the 2nd least populous state in the country. Mizoram has the second highest literacy among all the states of India. About 52% of Mizoram population lives in urban areas which is much higher than India's average. The state has the highest concentration of tribal people among all states of India and they are presently protected under Indian Constitution as Scheduled Tribe. Mizoram is one of the three states of India with 87% of Christian majority.

Mizoram was given a full fledged Statehood in 1987 becoming the 24th state of the Indian Union. The Village Councils are the grassroots of democracy and leadership in Mizoram; there are Village Councils in 710 villages. Rural development programmes in the state are implemented by District Rural Development Agency in every district.

The social life Mizo society has undergone tremendous change over the years. The Mizo code of ethics or Dharma moved round “Tlawmngaihna”, which is difficult to translate in one word. The concept of Tlawmngaihna is the moral of being helpful to others, whether or not one knows the person whom he is helping. It is an ethic of being hospitable, humble, and helping others without expecting anything in return. “Tlawmngaihna” to a Mizo stands for that undeniable moral force which finds manifestation in selfless sacrifice for the services for the common good. This code of ethic is still one of the guiding principles of Mizos’ life besides Christianity.

In the past, Mizos have a custom of various gatherings where the whole community is involved like birth of a child, wedding and death of a person, occasional festivals like Mim Kut, Pawl Kut and Chapchar Kut. With changes of time, the social lives of Mizos also change slowly. Death of a person is still an occasion where the whole community get together to console the family of the departed in which Christian songs are sung. Among the festivals, Chapchar Kut is the only festival which is officially celebrated till date.
Mizoram Gross State Domestic Product (GSPD) in 2011-2012 was about ₹ 6991 crore (USD 1.2 billion). Between 2004-2005 and 2012-2013, the average Gross State Domestic Product (GSPD) growth rate was at 14.8 per cent. The state offers a wide variety of enticement under its various policies. Special incentives for promoting export-oriented industries and other important sectors are also provided. Industries in Mizoram enjoy a unique location-specific advantage. Since it shares border with Myanmar and Bangladesh, it offers an opportunity for engaging in international trade with Southeast Asian countries8.

55% to 60% of the working population in Mizoram are annually engaged in agriculture. Agriculture has traditionally been the main profession in Mizoram. It was seen as a means to generate food for one's family; its potential for commerce, growth and prosperity was ignored9.

Mizoram has one airport, Lengpui Airport near Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram and there is a rail link at Bairabi rail station but it is mainly for goods carrier.

Lunglei district is in the southern part of Mizoram and it is surrounded by Mamit and Aizawl districts on the north, Bangladesh on the west, Lawngtlai district on the south, Saiha district on the southeast, Myanmar on the east and Serchhip District on the northeast. Kolasib district is in the northern part of Mizoram and the district is surrounded on the north and northwest by Hailakandi district of Assam state, Mamit district on the west, Aizawl district on the south and east, and Cachar on the northeast.

1.7: MGNREGA IN MIZORAM:

In Mizoram the MGNREGA was first introduced in Lawngtlai district and Saiha district in 2006-07 and other two districts of Lunglei and Champhai during 2007-08. All other districts gradually implemented it from the next financial year along with entire districts of the country.

The unique feature of MGNREGA in Mizoram is that works are carried out under this scheme even in the towns and the city as the Village Council system vide The Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) Act, 1953 is followed in the state (In Mizoram the Panchayati Raj system is not followed). Areas of the towns and the city are divided into smaller areas where members of the Village Council (VC) are elected who govern such areas; so even the towns and the city are like cluster of villages in which MGNREGA can be applied as it is meant for rural areas.
1.8: STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Since its inception, MGNREGA has witnessed various incidents; success stories and break downs as well. It has been helping the rural poor in coping with unemployment and economic problems but at the same time corruption spread its roots at almost every level of implementation. The present research will probe how far the study area is affected with all these factors (positive and negative aspects). The research problem focuses on the process of employment, awareness of entitlements under the MGNREGA, payment mode and time span, worksite situation and facilities, satisfaction and grievance redressal of the beneficiaries.

The researcher also studies the transparency and disclosure of informations related with the Act, community and NGOs involvement, impact of the MGNREGA. In short the present research will try to answer the question of “Whether MGNREGA is implemented in accordance with the procedures and regulations incorporated in the Act and whether the Act helps in the living standards of the rural people of the Mizoram.”

1.9: REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

S.P Singh (2003) explicitly said that during the 50 years of development Planning, strategy development has been shifted from the growth-oriented to the welfare-oriented and further to empowerment-oriented. The major failure of all these programmes was that the people participation through PRIs was not ensured in their planning and implementation. Rural people were considered only the beneficiaries of the schemes, not the stake holders of the schemes. A large sum of money was floated in rural areas without understanding the people’s needs, aspirations and responses and without involving them in decision making. People’s participation in these programmes if ever existed was like participation of a pair of bullocks and farmer in the field. People at the bottom have to be more assertive in exercising their powers and privileges; otherwise these may slither from their hands. Dev. S. Mahendra (2004) elaborates that, most wage employment programmes have been promised on the need to ‘make work’ for agricultural labour during peak slack season, surely a true need. However this objective has over time been confused with others: a) that the assets must be durable to aid the economy’s capital formation, b) that these assets must, in turn, provide employment so that the need for such schemes reduces, c) that they must offer the Minimum Wage, d) that they should be used for organising the poor, e) that
they must provide part payment in food grains to improve the level of nutrition, f) that they should provide lighter work than earthwork and so on.\textsuperscript{11}

Madan Mohan (2007) expounds that planners are often unaware of the work burdens of women and of their problems of time as a scare resource. The kind of integrated project women need, such as making health and training facilities available at a convenient time and place for women with small children and little access to transport, is rarely attempted. However, addressing women’s strategic needs is vital if fundamental change is to occur. The cause of ignoring the needs of women are many; uncontrolled population growth, high rate of infant and child mortality, an undermined economy, ineffective agriculture, destructive environment, a divided society. For young girls and for women it means unequal opportunities, a higher level of risk. Women by virtue of gender experience discrimination in terms of denial of equal access to the power structure that controls society and determines development issues. For true equality to become a reality, the sharing of power with men on equal terms must be a major strategy.\textsuperscript{12}

Centre for Media Studies (CMS) & Transparency International India (TII) in India Corruption Study (2007) documented that MGNREGA, like any other government scheme is not free from malpractices in many forms; right from the first step to get employment under MGNREGA, there was misconduct. In Jharkhand, around 47% of rural BPL households that interacted with the NREGA found that the officials/staffs are corrupted. Half of the households that paid bribes revealed that they gave bribes to get registered for work under the scheme. It has also been noticed that job cards have not been issued to all those who wanted it and applied for it, but only to those who are loyal to the dominant political party in the locality or those who could win the favours of the officials.\textsuperscript{13}

According to Barna Maulick (2009), MGNREGA is a ray of hope for the rural poor and unskilled labourers who are in the clutches of poverty, deprivation and discrimination, particularly on economic and social fronts. The major hindrances in efficient implementation of the Act are lack of professionals, administrative delays, lack of people’s planning, poor quality of work undertaken and poor social audit.\textsuperscript{14}

Yogendar Sharma (2009) stated that it is increasingly recognized that NREGS has the potential to transform rural economic and social relations at many levels. NREGS is completely different in conception from the earlier government employment schemes. The challenge is that NREGA would transform itself into a self sustaining programme that
benefits the poorest of the poor without becoming yet another subsidy driven programme that is a drain on taxpayers as well as a logistic administrative nightmare\textsuperscript{15}.

According to Anupam Hazra (2009), NREGS strengthens democracy, encourages natural resource management, prevents migration, controls spread of HIV/AIDS and transforms rural social and economic relations. He pointed out the main issues of the programmes as follows- financing of the scheme, types of work for which work can function, prone to be taken over by contractors, complaints of delayed payments, inadequate worksite facilities, delay in issue of job card and finally, he is of the view that there is no scope for unskilled to become skilled\textsuperscript{16}.

Dr. Sanjay Roy (2009) wrote that with the advent of MGNREGA, the agony of income uncertainty of the tribal people has withered and both tribal and non tribal rural population gets regular and assured flow of income. This scheme has lessened the incidence of poverty, emboldened the confidence of rural unskilled, aged women and widows\textsuperscript{17}.

Jean Dreze (2009) expounds that a common stalling tactic is to reject work applications or refuse to issue a receipt when people apply. Without a receipt showing that they have demanded work, they cannot apply for the unemployment allowance. The provisions of MGNREGA were hardly met anywhere in the country and the minimum span of the working days never turned out\textsuperscript{18}.

Ashok Kumar Tiwari (2010) explains that the real development is the development of man. Though the policy planners have never undermined the role of the people in the development process, the primary focus has only been on the achievement of physical targets rather than on the human factors and local variables which determine the behaviour and personality of the people. Various committees and commissions have recommended pin-pointedly that the peoples’ initiative are the sine-qua-non of development but even then, the development activities in rural areas are exclusively being carried out by the bureaucrats and technocrats with visible absence and exclusion of local people in the entire process. After over six decades of independence, it has not been able to become a people’s movement. The success of the rural development programmes has only been marginal and quantitative. It is largely because the target groups, for whom the programmes are designed, are simply unaware and ignorant of these programmes\textsuperscript{19}.  

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Dr P Anandharaja Kumar (2010) based on the study conducted in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, explains how Migration has stopped in five panchayats with the implementation of the scheme (MGNREGA), while migration still continued in another seven panchayats due to very less working days provided in these panchayats. A mere 25-30 days only in a financial year were provided. In the other two panchayats beneficiaries yet migrate even though they were given 100 days of employment in a financial year. This is due to unavailability of employment in their home villages for the rest of the days where they do not work on MGNREGA jobs. But the number of migration days decreased, with the implementation of MGNREGA. They concluded that MGNREGA has an impact on reducing rural migration\textsuperscript{20}.

Amrit Patel (2010) elaborates the various survey reports on the hindrance of capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions who were, according to him, for the first time after independence, directly involved in planning, implementing and social audit of rural development programmes. He points out the reports of prolonged delays in wage payments for months together that they have been pouring in from all over the country, improper record-keeping (non maintenance of muster rolls and job cards) and hurdles related to bank payments. He stated that under NREG scheme efforts for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions should address to issues pertaining to creation of awareness among the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and elected representatives on the legal aspects of NREG Act and guidelines on the implementation of NREG scheme; identify the various types of works included in NREGS, understand various issues involved in measuring the executed works and expenditure in the NREGS in order to make timely payment, understand various stages in the social audit process to prevent malpractices and fraud, seek active participation of all rural households, particularly women and other marginalized groups in Panchayati Raj Institutions meetings and their involvement in discussion leading to decision making progress\textsuperscript{21}.

BK Pattanaik, Hans Lal (2011) explicated that Social Audit is a governance instrument meant for raising transparency and accountability and minimising corruption. It will prevent scepticism of corruption against panchayats and at the same time make the Panchayati raj institutions accountable to the people. MGNREGA has strengthened the social auditing through various mechanisms adopted by the scheme which is mandated to be implemented by the village panchayats. Based on their field survey in 2008-09 in Sirsa district, Hyderabad, the authors are of the view that NREGS has provided rudimentary knowledge about the management information system. The empowerment of panchayats and
its functionaries on social audit system is an important contribution of MGNREGA. They also elaborated that MGNREGA has provided an opportunity for e-Governance at the village level in panchayats, connecting with computer and internet facilities\textsuperscript{22}.

Dr S Vijay Kumar (2011) expounds that independent studies and research indicate that NREGA has aided in enhancement of agricultural productivity (through rain water harvesting, check dams, ground water recharging, improve moisture content, check in soil erosion and micro-irrigation), stemming of distress migration, increased access to markets and services through rural connectivity works, enhance household incomes, increase in women workforce participation of natural resources. He highlighted some of the criticisms of MGNREGA like- lower wages than the stipulated rate paid to the workers, which is forced labour according to the Supreme Court judgement, misuse of funds in some states according the report of Controller Auditor General of India, wealthy sections of the society overtaking public works, construction of roads, flood control etc, delay in payment of wages and pay in Rs 50 by the workers to get their job cards, poor quality of works wherein most of the works are confined to papers only, lack of uniformity in case of MGNREGA policy\textsuperscript{23}.

Amitendra Singh (2012) expounds that MGNREGA with its rights- based framework and demand driven approach, marks a paradigm shift from the previous wage programmes. The Act is also significant vehicle for strengthening decentralization and intensifies processes of democracy by giving a key role to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in planning, monitoring and implementation\textsuperscript{24}.

\textbf{1.10: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:}

As majority of the Indian population lives in the rural areas, development of the country depends heavily on the development of these areas. MGNREGA is one of the drives in achieving this important task which is said to be the largest rural employment scheme ever launched; it covers all the rural areas of the Indian union. It is one of the means to accomplish the Right to Food, giving employment to the rural people that give them economic accessibility to food. It also helps in the realization of other rights such as the right to work, right to health, and right to education.

Through MGNREGA, even the unskilled labourers earn money to feed themselves and are able to care for their health, they can also send their children to schools which they cannot do so without this scheme. As per the Act it also stands for ‘Equality’ as it gives equal
pay for equal work, empowerment of women and backward classes especially ST/SC as it gives clear provisions for these.

It does not only address immediate problems of unemployment but of the future also as it provides for employment on works that deals with the causes of chronic poverty such as, deforestation, drought and soil erosion. The Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. As we can see in the goals itself that if effectively implemented, MGNREGA has the potential to change the geography of poverty. A thorough study on the implementation of the same is not yet available in Mizoram. Some documents of implementation were available in the concerned Government Department but they are one sided reports. The researcher therefore has keen interest in contributing to the study of MGNREGA in Mizoram.

It is a common problem in India that many programmes face failure after some periods of implementation and it is true of Mizoram as well. It is high time that this menace is probed to find out the reason for such failures; whether it is due to faulty approach by the government or from the part of the people. Therefore the present research is the need of the hour; it will contribute in documenting from the actual fields of work. As a concerned citizen of the state and the country, the researcher has keen interest in the conditions of the rural people and in the ongoing programme in which the lives of millions of people are involved both directly and indirectly.

1.11: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the level of awareness of entitlements under the MNGREGA
2. To explore the level of conforming to the regulations of MGNREGA in its execution
3. To evaluate the extent to which transparency of the Act is in practice
4. To study the community and NGOs involvement in the execution of MNGREGA
5. To find out the impact of the MGNREGA in Mizoram
6. To analyse the satisfaction level among the beneficiaries regarding MGNREGA and redressal of their grievances.

1.12: HYPOTHESIS:

1. MNGREGA beneficiaries are well aware of their entitlements
2. The Act is well conformed in the execution of MGNREGA
3. The provision of transparency by the Act is in practice
4. Community and NGOs participation is satisfactory
5. The impact of MGNREGA is profound
6. Satisfaction of the beneficiaries and redressal of their grievances are satisfactory.

1.13: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

1.13.1: Methods of Data Collection:

Primary data and Secondary data are employed. Methods of collecting Primary data like questionnaire and scheduled interview methods are used.

1.13.2: Questionnaire:

There are 80 questions in the questionnaire, which were divided into ten sections-
1) Demographic Profile 2) Awareness entitlements under the MGNREGA 3) Process of employment under MGNREGA 4) Payment, mode and time span 5) Worksite Situation and Facilities 6) Transparency of the Act in practice 7) Community and NGOs participation 8) Impact of the MGNREGA 9) Redressal of grievances 10) Satisfaction regarding the provision and implementation. The questionnaires are collected by the researcher travelling to all the sample villages. The collected questionnaires were completed by all the respective respondents as the researcher conducted the questionnaire in person, explaining the questions on which the respondents had doubts.

1.13.3: Sampling:

Two districts, Lunglei and Kolasib are selected for sample universe, using Structured Random Sampling method. Since the period of presence of only three districts in Mizoram these two districts were often compared to in terms of development, infrastructure etc. They are the two oldest existing districts besides Aizawl district, before the bifurcation of the state into 8 districts. So collection of data from these two districts will contribute to in documenting their achievement in terms of rural development.

There are four and two Rural Development Blocks in Lunglei District and Kolasib District respectively. A total number of 540 samples are taken from all these blocks, 27 villages each from these two districts. Ten respondents are taken from every village male and female five each.
1.13.4: **Statistical Tools:**

For analyzing data, the researcher has used ANOVA test, Duncan Multiple Range Test, t-test and Chi Square Test. To interpret and show the analysed data, Frequency tables, Bar Charts, Pie Chart and Frequency Polygon are used.

1.13.5: **Justification of the Research:**

This is the independent study done by the researcher. The same topic with same approach has not been done by anyone in any other academic institution.

1.13.6: **Limitations of the study:**

The present research studies only two districts out of eight in the state (Mizoram); the conclusions drawn from this study may not be applicable to other districts. All aspects of MGNREGA are not covered in the present study; leaving scope for further research. However, sincere efforts have been made by the researcher to cover the most important features.

1.14: **STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS**

**Chapter One: Introduction**

This chapter deals with introduction, background and extent of the study. It provides a broad review of literature relating to the topic of the study. It states how the study is conducted and gives a statement of the problem for the study. The objectives, hypothesis, significance and limitations of the study are explained in the first chapter.

**Chapter Two: Profile of Mizoram**- This chapter conveys information on the area of study that is the state of Mizoram. It features the different aspects of information on Administration, Geography, Demography, Social and Economic profile, Mode of Communication. This chapter also gives specific information on the two districts of Mizoram which are selected for collection of samples for the study.

**Chapter Three: Theoretical Framework**- This chapter expalciates an overview of the literature that concerns with the present study. It discusses the various approaches and strategies of Rural Development. This chapter explains the several efforts given by the government for the development of rural areas with its enormous programs with numerous approaches. It also give details on the evolution of MGNREGA which is the basis of the
present study, it presents the various elements of MGNREGA and highlights the implementation of this scheme in India.

Chapter Four: Implementation of MGNREGA in Mizoram- This chapter explicates the program under study in practice, the mode of implementation, how it is being initiated in Mizoram. It provides explanation for the reason of implementing MGNREGA, the scheme meant for rural areas throughout the state. It also presents the impact of MGNREGA in Mizoram.

Chapter Five: Research Methodology- This chapter contains the methodology and the outline of the methodology applied in this study. It gives description on the formulation of questionnaire, how the questionnaire is divided into sub themes. It provides the research design and statistical tools adopted in the study. It explicates the sampling procedure, the size and extent of the sampling universe. It includes the manner in which the samples were collected from the two diverse districts of Mizoram.

Chapter Six: Analysis and Interpretation- This chapter provides the analysis of the primary data collected for the rationalization of the present study with statistical facts. It contains the interpretation of various data derived from the questionnaire and the responses to various questions are interpreted in easy understandable terms. Frequency Tables and Bar Charts are also provided for illustration of data. Chi Square test is used for testing the hypotheses and the results are provided in this chapter.

Chapter Seven: Conclusion- This chapter discusses the findings of the study, limitations of the research and concludes with recommendations for more efficient implementation of MGNREGA. It also gives suggestions for future research.
End Notes:

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