SUMMARY

Employment is fundamental pre-requisite to raise per capita income and eradicate household poverty. Poor employment opportunity is one of the key reasons for the endurance of poverty in India. After independence and particularly from the Fifth Five Year Plan onwards, Government of India has initiated several rural development programmes for raising rural employment for the alleviation of rural poverty. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is one amongst them.

The prevalence of unemployment and poverty viewed as the most serious concern for development. In this regard, the government of India has initiated various employment generation programmes—both self, employment and wage employment programmes since independence. The wage-employment programmes generate employment, infrastructure and social capital. Evaluation of these programmes is another very significant component to achieve the laid down objectives. Further, these wage employment programmes must be need based and cost effective to improve the life of rural people, especially poor families. A few important wage employment programmes launched by the government of India are Food for Work Programme (FWP); National Rural Employment Programme (NREP); Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP); Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) and Sampurna Gramin Rojgar
Yojana (SGRY) and recently launched National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and lately renamed as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The government of India launched the Food for Work Programme in 1977. The programme aimed at providing gainful employment to the rural poor to improve their income and nutritional level. Side by side it also aimed at creation of durable community assets and strengthening rural infrastructure for higher production and ensuring better standard of living to the rural poor. In October 1980, the FWP was replaced with National Rural Employment Programme (NREP). The NREP sought to generate additional employment, create durable assets and raise the quality of living of the rural poor. The NREP was a centrally sponsored programme with 50:50 sharing basis between the central and the state government. One of the important features of the NREP that it was implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions. The RLEGP was launched in 1983, aimed at providing employment to the landless families in rural areas, who are hard pressed with poverty and hunger particularly during the lean season. It was a 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme funded by the government of India. The Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) Programme launched in 1989-90 in place of NREP had several unique features:
(i) allocation of central assistance entirely on the basis of incidence of poverty;

(ii) 80 percent of the share borne by the central government and 20 percent by the state government;

(iii) allotment of untied money to the village panchayats; and

(iv) freedom to the gram panchayats to select, plan and implement local development works based on the felt-needs of the local community.

The SGRY was launched in 2001. The two important objectives of the programme are providing additional wage employment and food security and to improve nutritional levels. The second objective was to create durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development. It was a centrally sponsored scheme with cost sharing on a 75:25 basis between the centre and the state.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA seeks to enhance the 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 volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

India is a country of villages and its development is synonymous with the development of the people living in rural areas. India is a vast and second most populous country of the world (According to the 1991 census, 74.28 per cent population of our country reside in the countryside). But a big part of this population has been leading an uncertain economic life due
to non-synchronization of employment opportunities in agriculture sector because of the fast growing population.

Rural development has been receiving increasing attention of the governments across the world. In the Indian context rural development assumes special significance for two important reasons. First about two thirds of the population still lives in villages and there cannot be any progress so long as rural areas remain backward. Second, the backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the economy.

India is predominately an agricultural country and farming is their main occupation. In terms of methods of production, social organization and political mobilization, rural sector is extremely backward and weak. Moreover, technical developments in field of agriculture have increased the gap between the rich and poor, as the better off farmers adopted modern farm technology to a greater extent than the smaller ones. The all India Rural Credit Review Committee in its report warned “If the fruits of development continue to be denied to the large sections of rural community, while prosperity accrues to some, the tensions social and economic may not only upset the process of orderly and peaceful change in the rural economy but even frustrate the national affords to set up agricultural production.” It was therefore felt necessary to make arrangements for the distribution of fruits of development to the rural weak and backward section of society.
It is rightly pointed out that a purely agricultural country remains backward even in respect of agriculture. Most of the labour force in India depends on agriculture, not because it is remunerative but because there are no alternative employment opportunities. This is a major cause for the backwardness of Indian agriculture. A part of the labour force now engaged in agriculture needs to be shifted to non-agricultural occupations.

Literacy, another growth indicator, is more acute in rural than in the urban areas. It is 44 percent in villages and 73 percent in cities. Again, more poor people live in the rural than the urban areas. Out of the estimated 210 million poor persons in the country, 168 million are located in villages and 42 million in urban areas. Out of 108 million rural household, 30 percent are agricultural labour households. Fifty eight percent of households in the villages are marginal farmers, having less than 1 hectare of land and 18 percent having less than 2 hectares.

These figures show that there is wide degree of diversity in some of the basic socio indicators of development between the rural and urban areas and call for concerted action to alleviate this disparity.

The stress on rural development is also due to many constraints facing the rural areas, which generally suffer from inadequate infrastructure facilities and technological advancements. The rural areas are not well placed in terms of even minimum needs like safe drinking water, primary health and road transport. This apart, the rural population suffers from indigence, ignorance and illiteracy. Their traditional outlook
towards development has been preventing them from taking full advantage of the incentives offered by the Government. Also, the ownership of land and other assets has been heavily concentrated in hands of a few. It is precisely for this reason that the benefits of rural development programmes failed to reach the rural population targeted for these benefits to the extent expected.

Rural development requires a vast infrastructure. Provision of this is no easy task, because it has to be undertaken by the Government. Private investment in this area has been meager and continues to be so. But the trend of meager investment in the rural sector is gradually changing in terms of economic sustenance. However, evolving an appropriate technology for rural development is not an easy task. Such a technology has to simultaneously achieve the thin objectives of raising growth rates and stepping up opportunities of employment. The setting up of appropriate institutions and coordinating their activities are crucial to any rural development strategy. The potential of self reliance in rural areas needs to be exploited in a planned manner.

A single approach to rural development would not be effective. In fact, rural development is the product of interaction between various physical, technological, economic, socio-cultural, institutional and environmental factors. Indeed, the rural sector should experience the required changes so that it can join the mainstream of national development and contribute its share for economic development. It has
been rightly said, “In the end, however, rural development should not be seen as a package of specific needs but as a transformation of rural life and conditions.”

**THE NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME:**

It is pertinent to note here that three articles of the constitution of India have bearing on the right to work and these are listed in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These three articles are: (i) Article 39 envisage that the state to direct its policy towards securing for all its citizens, men and women, the right to an adequate means of livelihood. (ii) Article 41 enjoins the state to make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in any other of undeserved want, all within the economic capacity of the state. (iii) Article 43 direct the state to secure for all its citizens, work, living wage conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities. Unemployment is a cause of poverty and generation of employment is central to eradicate poverty from rural India. The NREGS was launched in 2004 in 200 backward districts and later on extended to the entire district in the country in 2008. The National Rural Employment Grantee Act (NREGS) (herein after referred as NREGS) was enacted in 2005 aims at to provide a minimum guaranteed wage employment of 100 days in every financial year to rural households with unemployed adult members prepared to do unskilled
manual work. The scheme is a strategic attempt to fight the conundrums of poverty and unemployment, which are intrinsically interlinked. The NREGS indirectly aims at making employment as a human right. The NREGS is now called as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Components of MGNREGS:

a) **Salient features of the MGNREGS**

   Some of the salient features of NREGS are as follows:

   i) At least 100 days of employment for at least one able-bodied person in every rural household;

   ii) Minimum wages on rate prevailing in states as per Minimum Wage Act- 1948 and Centre to step in if wages go up beyond minimum or less than rupees 60;

   iii) Panchayats to finalize, approve, implement and monitor the projects. The scheme shall not permit engaging any contractor for implementation of the projects;

   iv) The task under the scheme shall be performed by using manual labour and not machines;

   v) A minimum of 33 per cent reservation to be made for women, where the number of applicant is very large;

   vi) The scheme will ensure transparency and accountability at all level of implementation and

   vii) All accounts and records relating to the scheme shall be made available for public scrutiny.
b) Strategies of the MNREGS

Some of the strategies adopted in NREGS are as follows:

i) Central government meets the cost towards the payment of wage, three fourth of material costs and certain percentage of administrative cost;

ii) The state governments meet the cost towards unemployed allowances, one fourth of material cost and administrative cost;

iii) Adult members of rural households submit their name, age and address with photos to gram panchayats for registration;

iv) Block is the basic unit of implementation of NREGS;

v) Gram panchayats are the main implementing agencies and

vi) Gram sabha is the main work identifying body.

c) Mandatory Worksite Facilities

Some of the mandatory facilities at NREGS are given below:

i) Drinking water facilities for the workers of NREGS;

ii) Provision of shade near the work sites;

iii) Provision of medical aid;

iv) Provision of crèche, if more than five children below six are present at an NREGS work sites.

d) Gender Related Provisions

i) Equal wage to both male and female worker employed in NREGS work;

ii) No gender discrimination in employment and wage;
iii) Priority in allocation of work to women and at least 33 percent of the NREGS worker in a particular work should be women

e) Permissible works

i) Water conservation activities : (a) digging of ponds and (b) de-silting of ponds

ii) Small check dam other harvesting structure;

iii) Afforestation in common land waste land areas;

iv) Construction of minor irrigation canals;

v) Repair of minor irrigation facility to SCs/STs;

vi) De-silting of old canals;

vii) De-silting of traditional open well;

viii) Land development of common waste areas;

ix) Drainage Nalla to drain extra water in water logged flood affected areas;

x) Construction of embankment for flood control;

xi) Repair of embankment for flood control connecting road to village main road;

xii) Any other work which may be notified by the central government in consultation with the state government.

f) Cost Sharing

Central government has to pay for:

i) Wage costs

ii) 75% of material costs
iii) Some administrative costs

State governments have to pay for these

i) 25% of the material costs

ii) Other administrative cost

iii) Unemployment allowances

**g) Social Audits**

i) Gram sabha will conduct social audits of all work done within the panchayat.

ii) All relevant documents of the NREGS will be provided by the panchayat to the gram sabha such as work register, muster roll etc.

**MGNREMGA in Karnataka:**

The States of Karnataka and Puduchery have witnessed considerable achievements during the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). These achievements are linked with Ministry of Rural Development’s advise to all States for ensuring wage payment to NREGA workers through Bank and Post office accounts. So far 1.6 crores accounts have been opened across the country.

In Karnataka considerable achievements have been made in the financial inclusion of NREGA workers. Total number of households registered under NREGA in Karnataka are 15,65,679, the total number of Job Cards issued are 14,79,744. The number of bank accounts opened are 11,36,844, the total number of Post office accounts opened are 2,11,952.
Action has also been initiated to sign the MOU with Department of Posts and it has been decided to consider complete adoption of the post office network in Koppal from northern region and Chamarajanagar from the southern region of Karnataka. To ensure transparency and to avoid middlemen payments of wages to NREGA workers are being made only through banks and post office accounts since inception of the scheme. In Puducherry also notable progress has been made in the implementation of National Pilot Project for Financial inclusion of beneficiaries through the Reserve Bank of India, in which 1.43 lakh bank accounts were opened for the poor and marginalized workers of NREGA. Till date about 40,000 applications have been received from the families in the rural areas of Puducherry and the Job cards will be issued soon.

**Objectives of the Study**

The Present Study “The Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in Socio-Political and Economic development of Rural People in Karnataka: A Study in Raichur District” have the following objectives.

1) To find out the importance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in the process of Rural Development.

2) To study the aims and objectives of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).
3) To understand the structure and working of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in Raichur District.

4) To find out the attempt of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) for the upliftment of rural areas particularly weaker sections and women.

5) To assess the Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Economic development of Rural people in Raichur district.

6) To assess the Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Social development of Rural people in Raichur district.

7) To assess the Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Political development of Rural people in Raichur district.

8) To examine the merits and demerits in the implementation of process of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and to recommend policy implications for the effective implementation of the Act, over all development of rural people.

**Hypotheses of the Study:**

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) has no role in economic, social and Political development of Rural People in Raichur District.
2. The implementation process of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in Raichur district helped the rural rich, political representatives and middle class people.

3. Due to the illiteracy and ignorance among the people of rural areas, the working of MNREGA aimed at their development perverted by the district administration.

**Methodology**

The study intents to analyze the working of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in Karnataka with special reference to Raichur district. Further it intends to identity the role of (MNREGA) for the socio, economic and political development of rural people. Normative (analytical) descriptive, historical methods had been employed in this study.

**Sample Design**

In the present study the required data has been collected randomly with the help of stratified random sample technique. Since the research area consists of five taluks, in each taluk two Gram panchayats will be chosen on the basis of the population, rainfall, economic development, illiteracy and the nature of implementation of (MNREGA). The sample collected in this study is 400. These samples consists of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities, Upper Castes and Women.
Sources of Data

The present study is made on the basis of both primary and secondary sources. The macro aspect of the study is based on the published and unpublished works on the subject, reports of Rural development and Panchayat raj institutions in the state and expert bodies. Exclusively in this study, reports, records, annual action plans, bulletins and budget documents prepared by zilla panchayat, district planning of Raichur are the main sources of data. The information is also collected from government websites, www.kar.nic.in, rural.nic.in, local government.com. Secondary data is also collected from books, journals and news papers. In addition to these sources, primary information is also collected through interview by the help of questionnaires with a cross section of the beneficiaries under (MNREGA) and thus collected was used for analysis.

Data Collection and Tools used in the Study

For collecting data different methods of social enquiry have been adopted. A special tool was used by the investigator for using scientific process, particularly the questionnaire process, the questionnaire consist of items in all spear over behaviour areas and also to collect personal data i.e., name, sex, age, social, economical, political, educational and cultural backgrounds.
Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed with the help of a computer. The data was transformed into computer code and analysis has been made with the help of simple variable or multi variable tables. Statistical tools such as average, percentage, cross sectional analysis, mean, had used to analysis the data.

Need, Importance and Scope of the Study

The study has a vast scope in terms of understanding the nature, organization and working of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and its role in understanding Economic, Social and Political development of Rural People in Karnataka in general and in Raichur district in particular. It is intended to make a study on the organization, working and its impact on the overall development of rural areas. A part from this, it also the aim of study to make an analysis of socio-economic and political status of rural areas and poor households with the impact of MGNREMGA in the study area. Therefore, the present study has its importance and scope.

Statement of the Problem

The statement of the present study entitled “The Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in Socio-Political and Economic development of Rural People in Karnataka: A Study in Raichur District”. The (MNREGA) in Karnataka has evolved due to the recommendations of various study teams, and the acts of central and state.
Limitations of the Study

The present study has certain limitations, which must be considered for the purpose of specific study and limited nature of research to be undertaken. Though the existence of several poverty eradication programmes even before the enforcement of NREGA 2005, there was not proper co-ordination between the institutions of rural development. In the state of Karnataka, the working and implementation of poverty eradication (NREGA) was not in accordance of implementing rural developmental programme. Therefore, in the present study the aims, powers, working and the implementation process and its role in socio-political and economic development of rural people in Raichur district is taken into consideration.

The study employed only percentage, average and means analysis. This is also to be seen in view of the purpose of the study. There is no scope to be other types of statistics, since the study intended to deal with the role of NREGA in the development of rural people.

The study has been undertaken only in Raichur district. The finding of the present study naturally will have relative validity. The researcher has chosen to deal with a few variables. However, it will encompass innumerable variables, which the researcher considered to be significant for the study.
The researcher was set with time and special constraint due to time and resources. The data may not be all existence which is ideally required for this kind of study.

This chapter is intended to discuss in detail relating to the evolution of MNREGA in India and Karnataka. It is pertinent to note here that three Articles of the Constitution of India have bearing on the right to work and these are listed in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These three Articles are: (i) Article 39 calls upon the State to direct its policy towards securing for all its citizens, men and women, the right to an adequate means of livelihood. (ii) Article 41 enjoins the state to make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in any other case of undeserved want, all within the economic capacity of the state. (iii) Article 43 directs the State to secure to all its citizens, work, living wage conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities.

India is predominantly an agrarian country with 72 per cent (about 80 crores) of its population living in more than five lakh villages. Agriculture is the predominant livelihood occupation and the rural population largely consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. A large part of this rural population (more than 200 million) is still living below the poverty line and is the focus of rural development programmes. From the
pre-independence era of Mahatma Gandhi, every government after the Independence of the country in 1947 has committed itself to rural development with an intention to eradicate poverty by providing an employment.

Before going to elaborate the historical perspective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, it is more relevant to examine the evolutions of the concept of rural development and rural development programmes in India.

As per the Webster’s dictionary rural means “open land” and according to the United States census rural includes all persons living outside urban area and who live on farm. Agriculture is generally the main occupation in rural areas. Development refers to growth, evolution, and stage of inducement or progress.

According to Ensminger (1974) rural development is a process of transformation from traditionally oriented rural culture towards an acceptance and reliance on science and technology. Lela (1975) defined rural development as an improvement in the living standard of the masses of low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of self-sustaining.

According to Agarwal (1989) rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor. Rural development can be defined in several ways but for all practical purposes it means helping the poor people living in the
villages in their economic development. The major objectives of the rural development programs are:

- To achieve enhanced production and productivity in the rural areas
- To bring about a greater socio-economic equity
- To bring about a spatial balance in social and economic development
- To bring about improvement in the ecological environment so that it may be conducive to growth and happiness, and
- To develop broad based community participation in the process of development

**Main Lines of Activity**

The activities considered important for rural development can be divided into the Agriculture and related matters, Irrigation, Communications, Education, Health, Supplementary employment, Housing, Training and Social Welfare.

1. **Agriculture and related matters:** The programme includes reclamation of available virgin and waste land, provision of commercial fertilizers and improved seeds, promotion of fruit and vegetable cultivation, improved agricultural technique, supply of technical information, improved agricultural implements, improved marketing and credit facilities, provision of soil surveys and prevention of soil erosion, encouragement of the use of natural and compost manures and improvement of livestock.
2. **Irrigation**: The programme include provision of water for agriculture through minor irrigation works, e.g., tanks, canals, surface wells, tube-wells, etc., the intention being that the agricultural lands be served with irrigation facilities.

3. **Communications**: The road system on the countryside to be developed to link every village up to a maximum distance of half a mile by feeder roads through voluntary labour of the villagers themselves. The main roads to be provided for and maintained by the State or other public agencies.

4. **Education**: The community projects to provide for social education, expansion and improvement of primary and secondary education. Vocational and technical training to be emphasized in all the stages of the educational programme.

5. **Health**: The Health Organization to provide primary health in the Development Blocks and a secondary health unit equipped with a hospital and a mobile dispensary at the headquarters of the Project area and serving the area as a whole.

6. **Supplementary Employment**: The unemployed and the under-employed persons in the village community be provided with gainful employment to such extent as is possible, by the development of cottage and small-scale industries, construction of brick kilns and saw mills and encouragement of employment through participation in the tertiary sector of the economy.
7. **Housing:** Apart from the provision of housing under various schemes, provide demonstration and training in improved techniques and designs for rural housing.

8. **Training:** The training of farmers, village level workers, project supervisors and other personnel to be carried out for skill upgradation and enhanced efficiencies.

9. **Social welfare:** Make provision for audio-visual aid for instruction and recreation, for organizations of community entertainment, sports activities and Melas.

This chapter is intended to discuss in detail relating to the employment programmes implemented in India for the purpose of rural development.

Creating jobs for millions of youths coming out of institutes of higher learning and those in the rural areas still mired in unyielding agriculture is as important as pushing the economy ahead with respectable GDP growth each year.

India is a developing economy the nature of unemployment therefore sharply differs from the one that prevails in industrially advanced countries. D Card diagnosed unemployment in advanced economies to be result of a defiance of effective demand. It implied that in such economies machines become idle and demand for labor falls because the demand for the products of industry is no longer there. Thus, Keynesian remedies of unemployment concentrated on keep the
level of effective demand sufficiently high so that the economies machine
does not slacken the production of goods and services.

This type unemployment caused by economic fluctuation did arise
in India during the depression in the 1930’s which caused untold misery
J. Pedersen but with the growth of Keynesian Remainders, it has been
possible to mitigate cyclical unemployment. Similarly after the second
world war when war time industries were being closed there was a good
deal of friction unemployment caused by retrenchment in the army
ordnance factories etc. These workers were to be absorbed in India since
1950 also caused displayed of labor The flexibility of an economy can be
judged from the speed with which it heals frictional unemployment.

T.M. Ander Sen observed that more than serious than cyclical
unemployment or frictional unemployment in a developing economy like
India is the prevalence of chromic under employment or disguised
unemployment or in the rural sector and existence of urban
unemployment among the educated classes it would be worthwhile to
emphasize here that unemployment in developing economies like India is
not the result of effective demand in the Keynesian sense but a
consequence of shortage of capital equipment or other complementary
resources.
VARIOUS SCHEMES TO REDUCE UNEmployment under employment

Following the publications of the Bhagwathi committee report in 1973, the government took the following measures to provide employment and alleviate under employment.

Rural Works Programme:

The emphasis under the programme was on the construction of the scarcity condition in the areas concerned. Marginal farmers and Agricultural Labours: Under the schemes, Families were to be assisted with subsidized credit support for agricultural and subsidiary occupations like dairy poultry, fishery, piggers rearing, horticultural operations, etc.

Small farmers Development Agencies. The object of the scheme was to make available to small farmers credit to enable them to make use of latest technology to practice intensive agriculture and diversify their activities.

Integrated Dry Land Agricultural Development:

Under the scheme, permanent works like soil conservation, land development water harnessing were undertaken, these programs were labor-intensive and were expected to generate considerable employment opportunities.

Agro-service Centers:

The scheme provided for assistance for self employment to the unemployed graduates and diploma holders in mechanical, agricultural and electrical engineering and allied fields and graduate in agriculture and
science with experience in industry or agriculture. It aimed to help in establishing work-shops, organizing agricultural machinery, repairing and hiring facilities and other technical services like supply of spare part, inputs, etc.

**Area Development Schemes:**

These schemes related to the development of adequate infrastructure facilities like roads, market complexes, etc., in area commanded by ten major irrigation projects.

**Crash Programme for Rural Employment:**

The primary objective of the scheme was to generate additional employment through a network of rural project of various kinds which are, labor-intensive and productive the scheme had a Two-fold purpose. Firstly, A project in each block was to provide employment to 100 persons on an average continuously over working seasons of 10 months in year. Secondly, each project was to produce works or assets of durable nature in consonance with the local development plans, N. Srinivasan has observed that various types of projects included schemes relating to minor irrigation, soil conservation and a forestation, land reclamation, flood protection and anti-water logging, pisciculture, drinking water and construction of roads.

S. Thorat argued that various schemes under the fourth five year plan or the crash could not succeed in removing rural ‘unemployment and under-employment because ‘efforts were not made to organize the army of
the rural unemployed into appropriate supply camps to be shifted to places of demand at the desired minimum wage. The auditor –general is report to the loksabha presented in august 1974 brought out the tragic fact that the various ‘crash’ and rural employment programs on which the central.

**RURAL LANDLESS EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE PROGRAMME**

The rural landless employment guarantee program me (RLEGP) was launched on the 15\(^{th}\) August, 1983 with the objective of generating gainful employment creating productive assets in rural areas and improving the overall quality of rural life. The program me was funded by the central government on 100\% basis. Resources were allocated to the states/union territories on the basis of the prescribed criteria giving 50\% of weight age to number of agriculture laborers marginal workers and 50\% weight age to incidents of poverty wages were paid to the workers under the Schedule of employment in the minimum wages Act. Parts of the wages were required to be paid in the form of subsidized food grains it was also stipulated that the wage component on a project should not be less than 50\% of the total expenditure on the project. The program me included projects of social forestry, Indira Awaas Yojana and Million Wells Scheme.

The programme of RLEGP during the seventh plan (1985-86 to 1988-89) revealed that during the first four years, a sum of Rs. 2,412 crores was utilized and this helped to general employment to tune of 1,154 million Monday’s.
J. Krishnamurthy found that as a result of the RLEGP society forestry programme 5.2 lack hectares of land were covered and 533 million plants were planted during the 3-years period besides this 4.27 lack houses at accost of 425.5 crores were constructed up to Dec 1988 the cost per dwelling unit worked out at Rs. 9,954.

The government decided to merge NREP and RLEGP the merger was based on the premises that the objective and implementation in the field of these two programmers’ were by and large similar but A show 7 pointed out that merger of NREP and RLEGP is merely tinkering with the Problem A much more serious consideration should be given to develop a much tighter administration of rural employment schemes to eliminate malpractices so that real beneficiaries can be helped to cross the poverty line. Improving effectively of implantation is the crux of the matter and not administration reorganization.

Raichur district of Karnataka state, it is situated between 15° 09’ 00” to 16° 03’ 30” North Latitude and 75° 47’ 30” to 76° 48’ 10” East Longitude. It consists of four taluks viz: Koppal, Gangavathi, Kushtagi & Yelburga. Koppal district is surrounded by Raichur district in the east, Gadag district in the West, Bagalkot district in the north, Bellary district in the south. Koppal district headquarters is closest to the world heritage Hampi.
The administrative blocks in the district are as below:

1. No. of Talukas : 4
2. No. of Hoblis : 20
3. No. of Inhabited villages : 596
4. No. of Un-Inhabited Villages : 41
5. No. of City & Municipal Corporation/Councils/Town Panchayaths : 4
6. No. of Gram Panchayaths : 134

SOIL:

Raichur is having partly red sandy and black cotton soil suitable for agriculture and horticulture crops. The district is having few Rocky Mountains with erophytic vegetation.

RIVERS:

The Tungabhadra river is formed by union of two rivers, viz., the Tunga and the Bhadra, both of which rise at Gangamula in the Varaha Parvata of the Western Ghats. This is also a perennial river, very deep in certain places and almost unfordable even in the dry season. This river enters the district near Kesalapur village at the south-western tip of Koppal Taluk. The general slope of the land in the district being north-west to south-east, the Tungabhadra has a large number of rivulets and streams serving as tributaries. But none of these streams is of any great importance by itself and they generally go dry during the summer. There is Thungabhadra reservoir at Munirabad which is in the border of koppal taluk. The Tungabhadra river also is reputed as one of the important rivers of South India.
CLIMATE & RAINFALL:

The climate of the Raichur is very hot and dry. Hot season starts from middle of the February to end of May. Southwest monsoon ranges from June to end of September. Post monsoon is during the October and November. Cold season is from December to middle of February. The average rainfall of the district is 572 mm and average rainy days are 46.

POPULATION:

The total population of Raichur district is 406334 (as per 2001 census) among which 304942 from rural area and 101392 from urban area. The Raichur district is having sex ratio of 982 per 1000 males. The literacy level of the Raichur is 58.53%. Population Density is 216 per Sq. Km.

OCCUPATION:

The working population of Raichur district is 46.46% of the total population. The main worker population comprises of 35.37% of the total population and 11.08% is the marginal workers. Of the total working population 22.5%, 15.19% are cultivators and agricultural workers respectively. The workers population in the district indicates that cultivators and agricultural labours dominate the total working population with 37.69%. The non-working population of the district is 53.54%.
AREA AND LAND UTILISATION PATTERN:

The total geographical area of Raichur district is 552495 hectares out of which forest area is 29451 hectares. Land not available for cultivation is 55497 hectares. Area sown is 396627 hectares.

Raichur is one of the high income developing town of Koppal and of prosperous towns of Raichur district it has a magnificent past glory. It has endowed with a rich culture traditions and glorious history, since from the days of Mouryan king Ashoka the great and during golden years of Sri Krishnadevayarya one of the historical favours king of Vijayanagar Empire. A number of inscriptions rock edicts and other records, temples, forts and battle fields bear testimony to their fact lying on the banks of the highest river Tungabhadra. This town was also an important part of princely state Nizam dynasty of Hyderabad. Raichur being one of the most flow shed, culturally rich town compress of 35 villages.

Raichur is also one of the oldest business centre and it is called as one of the prosperous homely. Raichur was ruled by many dynasties, but Vijayanagar ruling was more famous in the history of Raichur. Tungabhadra river has been flowing throughout 90% of the area, so paddy has attained a greater significance and turned as single major crop of entire area, now it is recognized as bowel of paddy production of Raichur.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL:

The climate of the Raichur is normally good and healthy for the first three month i.e., January, February and March, the atmosphere is usually
pleasant and modem winds blowing from southwest in April and May. The winds shift to southwest with increased velocity and bring in welcome showers towards the end of May. During succeeding four months, the wind blows from the western side in the major parts of the taluk by setting the southwest monsoon and bring 70 percent of the rainfall.
FINDINGS:

1. In the study that there are more number of people in MGNREGA, but a good number of women are also provided employment.

2. In the study area there exists the highest number of people belonging to the age group of 18 years to 45 years are participating in MGNREGA.

3. In the study area there exists the highest number of participants belonging to STs, SC, and OBCs, who are being provided employment guarantee through MGNREGA.

4. In the study area there exists the majority of beneficiaries who are provided guarantee of employment through MGNREGA is belonging to married and unmarried.

5. In the study area there exits the majority of beneficiaries, who are given employment guarantee in MGNREGA are form Hindus and Christians.

6. In the study area there exists the more involvement of people with educational background upto to 10\textsuperscript{th}, pre university education and illiterates.

7. In the study area there exists the highest number of people given the employment through MGNREGA are from the agricultural and cooli as occupational background.

8. In the study area there exists the more participation of people with lower income of the family.
9. In the study area there exists the highest involvement of the people to get employment under MGNREGA are with higher size of family members.

10. In the study area there exists the highest number of participants in MGNREGA from the small and medium land holders.

11. In the study area the majority of the respondents have no land other respondents sources of irrigation is wells, electric motors, tanks and oil engines.

12. In the study area the majority of respondent’s participation in decision making status in the village was satisfactory.

13. In the study area the majority of respondents’ status and participation in decision making at village level after the earning of MGNREGA has improved.

14. In the study area there exists the highest number of peoples participation in exercise of franchise.

15. In the study area there exists the majority of respondents are not able to contest any elections out of the earnings made through MGNREGA.

16. In the study area there exists the positive impact of employment guarantee of NREG on the peoples participation in election companion.

17. In the study area across the castes, i.e., STs, SC, and OBC are mobilizing money during the time of elections.
18. In the study area there exists the majority of the people belonging to STs, SC, and OBCs social status is increasing after employment given by MGNREGA.

19. In the study area the majority of respondents belonging to married, unmarried and widow’s social status has increased by the employment guaranteed through MGNREGA.

20. In the study area the majority of respondents with educational background upto 10th standard, PUC, and illiterate’s posses the political affiliation after the employment guarantee by MGNREGA.

21. In the study area the majority of the male and female respondents’ social status has been increasing due to the employment provided by MGNREGA.

22. In the study area the majority of educated and illiterate respondents’ social status has increased due to the employment guaranteed by MGNREGA.

23. In the study area the majority of people’s economic status is low before MGNREGA.

24. In the study area, the impact of MGNREGA on economic status of rural people is more. The economic empowerment of rural people are due to MGNREGA is improving.

25. In the study area the impact of MGNREGA on the rural people is positive. The marital status and economic empowerment i.e., married and unmarried peoples is medium and average.
26. In the study area the majority of rural people had no confidence on daily earnings before the implementation of MGNREGA.

27. In the study area across the marital status of respondent on the confidence of earnings after the implementation of MGNREGA.

28. In the study area there exists the improvement in economic earning of the rural people after implementation of MGNREGA.

29. Due to the implementation of MGNREGA in the study area across the respondents’ caste there exists the increase in the level of debt of the respondents.

30. In the study area there exists the majority of respondents are not depending upon many lenders after the implementation of MGNREGA.

31. In the study area the majority of poor people are able to feed their young children due to the employment provided by MGNREGA.

32. In the study area the majority of respondents have the capacity to bear the medical expenses earned from the employment provided by MGNREGA.

33. In the study area the respondents belonging to different castes have the ability to save from the earnings of MGNREGA.

34. In the study area there exists the majority of respondents ability to save from the earning of MGNREGA.
In the study area the majority of respondents i.e., both male and female are in a position to spend on their children's education due to the implementation of MGNREGA.

In the study area there exist the increased expenditure of respondents for their children's education due to earnings of MGNREGA.

In the study area there exists the increased ability of savings out of the earnings made by MGNREGA.

In the study area, the majority of educated and illiterate respondents in the study area are able to save some portion of the earnings made by MGNREGA and thus constructing their own houses with the government subsidy.

In the study area the majority of respondents belonging to different castes are purchasing cattle and sheep from the earning of MGNREGA.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The following are the policy implications of the study:

1. The government has to simplify the MGNREGA Act with an intention to reach the poor people.

2. There should be increase in wages provided through MGNREGA.

3. The government has to supply food grains to the beneficiaries.

4. There should be more employment opportunities to the poor people in the rural areas.

5. There should be provision for more economic earnings of the poor people, which will enable them for the effective political participation.

6. If the government provides more employment opportunities and better wages there is a scope for social empowerment of poor people in the rural areas.

7. There should been a special provision to female and disabled people, that their social and economic empowerment will take place.

8. There should be a provision for savings of beneficiaries, out of the earnings of MGNREGA.