CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In this chapter an attempt has been made to review some studies on MGNREGA and its different aspects in different parts of the country undertaken by different individual research scholars as well as the government and the non-government organizations.

_The Institute of Applied Manpower Research (2008)_ conducted a study to assess both the implementation and the impact of the scheme in 20 districts in India. The study revealed that the participation household headed by women in the scheme was encouraging. Most of the beneficiaries had received Job Card through Gram Sabha meetings. Registration under NREGA was open for all. The task of NREGA wage payment was done at the concerned worksites or at the Gram Panchayat offices in cash. Beneficiaries were also able to increase their income and expenditure level to some extent after working under the scheme. However, the study identified some irregularities in the implementation process of NREGA in the study area.

_Ghuman, R. S. & P. K. Dua (2008)_ examined the implementation and effectiveness of NREGA in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab. The study revealed that the performance of NREGA in the district was not encouraging during the first two years of its implementation. The study also revealed that in terms of annual average days of employment per household, the achievement of NREGA has been nearly one fourth of the minimum 100 days employment.
Khera, R. and N. Nayak (2009) assessed the impact of NREGA on the lives of women workers working under the scheme in states of Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. By using random sampling method, the study found that after working under NREGA, women had able to spend money on their personal needs; while earlier they did not have the capacity to do so. Further, some women reported that NREGA had brought mental satisfaction to them, the author added.

Mukherjee, S. and S. Ghosh (2009) showed inter block variations in the average number of person days generated per household and the utilization of NREGA funds. The study also identified inefficacy of the Gram Panchayats to design and implement meaningful schemes which stands as the major limiting factor in efficient implementation of NREGA in the study area. Therefore, the authors suggested that efforts should be made for capacity building of the GPs, especially the backward GPs.

De, Bipul (2009) examined the status of NREGA in major districts of rural Bengal. The author, in his paper, showed inter-district variation in respect of the average person days generated per household, proportion of works completed to works taken up and the proportion of total fund spent.

Nair, K. N., Sreedharan, T. R. & Anoopkumar, M. (2009) studied the impact of NREGP in three Gram Panchayats of Kasaragad district – Madikai, Ajanoor and Trikarpur. The study found that in all the three GPs, workers’ registration, including the SC and ST categories, was good. The percentage of man-days generated for SC and ST categories was very low compared to that of the general category. The study also
revealed that the scheme had able to increase the employment and income level of the rural households and empowered the women socially.

*RTBI (2009)* examined the performance of NREGA in selected districts of Tamilnadu. The study revealed many positive aspects of the scheme. Some of them were- NREGA was promising to be a boon for rural masses, improvement of peoples’ awareness about the scheme, encouraging proportion of both Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes people in the scheme, ensuring gender equality in rural areas of Tamilnadu and weekly wage payment under NREGA.

*Shah, D. and S. Mohanty (2010)* stated that in terms of issuing job cards to the registered households, employment generation and payment of wages, the state of Maharashtra showed very poor performance. Further, the authors revealed that as irrigation was the major problem in the state, the works under NREGA were mainly concentrated on irrigation and water conservation activities.

*Pankaj, A. and R. Tankha (2010)* examined the empowerment effects of NREGS on the rural women at both the individual and community levels in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh states. The study revealed that women workers had gained from the scheme primarily because of the paid employment opportunities. Moreover, their benefits had been realized through income-consumption effects, intra-household effects, and enhancement of choice and capability.

*Roy, S and Singh, B (2010)* assessed the impact of NREGS on the empowerment of its beneficiaries in Burdwan and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal. The study showed that before implementing NREGA, all the beneficiaries were in low empowerment category. But after the implementation of NREGA, the researchers
observed significant positive impact on the empowerment of its beneficiaries in the study area.

Roy, Sanjay (2010) examined the performance and impact of NREGS in the state of Tripura. The study showed that the average person days per household was higher, women’s participation was satisfactory, tribal participation was bright and assets creation were better in the state. The scheme had also encouraged the confidence of women in general and aged women and widows in particular, the author added.

Badodiya, S. K. et al (2011) assessed the impact of MGNREGS on the beneficiaries of the scheme in Morar block of Guwaiior district. Based on primary data collected from 110 beneficiaries, the authors revealed that majority of the workers had increased their annual income after working under MGNREGS. They also suggested that present 100 days employment guarantee per household per year need to be increased for the interest of the poor people.

Maheswari, M. S. & L. S. Gangwar (2011) conducted a study in the Thanjavur district of Tamilnadu. The study was based on primary data, collected from a total of 40 respondents involved in crop production and dairying. The authors revealed that MGNREGS had provided employment opportunities to the needy rural poor households, and had checked the migration of farm labours from rural to urban areas. After the implementation of MGNREGS, the dairy farmers had faced acute labour shortage during the peak time of paddy planting and harvesting. Moreover, due to the implementation of the scheme, the labour wage rate had increased significantly from Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 120.00 per day in the study area. However, the study observed a lot of irregularities in the implementation process of MGNREGA. Delay in wage payment,
inefficacy of the concerned implementing agencies in providing 100 days guaranteed wage-employment to eligible households, are example of them.

*Sarkar, P., J. Kumar & Supriya (2011)* examined the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on the rural poor comprising small and marginal farmers as well as agricultural labourers. They observed significant changes in annual per capita income, monthly per capita food expenditure, annual per child expenditure on education, per capita savings, condition of the dwelling houses, access to health care facilities and possession of other assets or luxury items of those households who were working under MGNREGS regularly.

*Awasthi, P. K. et. al (2011)* analysed the impact of MGNREGA on out migration, assets creation and employment of the beneficiary household including the problems faced by them in Sonpur panchayat of Rehli block under Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh state. Based on primary data, collected from 100 sample MGNREGS beneficiaries, they revealed that MGNREGS had created productive assets, reduced distress migration, increased employment opportunities and empowered women in the study area. The study also observed some problems pertaining to the implementation process of the scheme. Fake registration, delay in allotting work after registration, low wage rate, delay in wage payment and unavailability of material at worksites were the major problems reported by the respondents.

*Ahuja, U. R. et. al (2011)* assessed the impact of implementation of MGNREGA in two districts- one agriculturally advanced (Karnal) and the other agriculturally backward (Mewat) in Haryana state and observed that MGNREGA had not been able to
check the migration from the developed region. The study concluded that farmers having more lands and animals were not much interested to work under MGNREGA.

Garje, R. R. (2011) had attempted to study both the impact and organizational arrangements of planning and implementation of NREGS in two districts of Nanded and Hingoli in Maharstra state. In both the districts, the registration of households including the SC and ST categories was observed impressive by the researcher. When compared to the general category households, the study found low percentage of man days generated for SC and ST households. Moreover, the study found that women in general category were benefited mostly from the scheme than the other categories of women in the study area.

Harisha, B.G. et. al (2011) assessed the impact of MGNREGA on income generation and labour supply in agriculture in central dry zone of Karnataka state. The study observed that the beneficiaries of MGNREGS had able to increase their annual income, annual savings and annual expenditure by 9.04 percent, 16.0 percent and 3.11 percent respectively. The scheme had also created the shortage of labour supply for agriculture operations like weeding and sowing. Further, the study also revealed that the area for labour-intensive crops like tomato and ragi had declined to the extent of 30 percent due to the implementation of MGNREGS.

Vanitha, S. M. & Murthy, P. S. S. (2011) had made an economic analysis of MGNREGA in Mysore district of Karnataka in the year 2009 – 10. The study found 47.8 percent women participation in the scheme. The authors revealed that there had been reduction of labour force in the agricultural sector to the extent of 40.67 person days per year on an average after the implementation of MGNREGS in the study area.
The authors also suggested that MGNREGS works need to be executed during off season only.

*Kumar, A., B. Kote & P. M. Honnakeri (2012)* assessed the working and impact of MGNREGA on the living condition of the rural poor in Kawalaga and Kesarhattigi villages of Gulbarga district in Karnataka state. The study observed massive employment generation and weekly wage payment to the workers in the study area. The authors revealed that MGNREGS was ‘a life line for the rural people’. However, majority of the respondents (62%) were unaware about the scheme in the target villages.

*Kadrolkar, V. M. (2012)* assessed the impact of MGNREGA in Saraswatipura Gram Panchayat of Kadur Taluk in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka state. The study revealed that in respect of employment opportunities, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were benefited more from the Act. The study also identified a lot of loopholes in the implementation process of the scheme. Not using technology at MGNREGS worksites and increasing the current wage rate were the main suggestions given by the researcher.

*Prasad, K.V.S. (2012)* examined the performance and funding pattern of MGNREGA. The study revealed that the MGNREGA had been playing a vital role for providing employment opportunities to the rural people. The study also showed an increasing trend of budget outlay. It increased from 12000 cores in 2007-08 to 40100 cores in 2010-11.

*Azam, M. (2012)* assessed the impact of MGNREGA on public works participation, labour force participation and the real wages of casual workers. The study observed positive impact MGNREGS on the labour force participation, particularly on
the female labour force participation. When compared to the non-MGNREGA implemented districts, the study found that the real wages of female casual workers were increased by 8 percent more in the MGNREGA implemented districts.

_Sivasankari, R. and Bharathi, V. (2012)_ examined the awareness of MGNREGS beneficiaries about the scheme in Tirunelveli district of Tamilnadu state. The study observed that the beneficiaries of MGNREGA had adequate awareness regarding Registration, Employment, Wage payment, Facilities at workplace, Records in workplace except Casualty at worksite and Grievance Redressal Mechanism in the study area. They had also found that the beneficiaries who have studied higher secondary level had more awareness about MGNREGA than others.

_Nayak, L. M. & Barla, P. K. (2012)_ conducted a study in Kushalgarh block of Banswara district of Rajasthan state in 2011. Based on primary data, the study found a vast change in behavior of the rural poor in the area of boys’ and girls’ education, women’s empowerment, social equity, health of both women and children including the youth migration to cities. The study also observed that the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor was strengthened through improving irrigation facilities for cultivation, getting employment opportunities in their own villages and mobilizing savings for future needs.

_Kumar, S. & V. A. Bourai (2012)_ conducted a study to assess the impact of MGNREGS on employment, income, poverty and migration of the rural people in Chamoli and Udhamnsing districts of Uttarakhand state. Based on primary data, collected from 360 households, the authors revealed that the scheme had provided copious opportunities of employment to the vulnerable sections of the society including women
in the study area. Similarly, the scheme had not only enhanced the income level of the rural poor but also decreased the poverty level of them to some extent.

*Das, U., A. Singh & N. Mahanto (2012)* examined the awareness level of villagers about the rights and entitlements of MGNREGA in the Phansidewa, Khoribari and Naxalbari blocks of Darjeeling district and the Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal. The study was based on primary data and found general lack of awareness among the intended beneficiaries about the basic guidelines and the legal entitlements of the Act.

*Shome, S. et. al (2012)* analysed the effectiveness of implementation of NREGA and its impact on the quality of life in Anekal taluk of Bangalore district in Karnataka state. The study found that there was an extensive variation in the effectiveness of implementation of NREGA among different Panchayats in Anekal taluk. The study observed significant impact not only on the village level infrastructural development but on the household quality of life also.

*Mohandas, V. & M. S. Thadathil (2012)* explored the impact of MGNREGS on the labour supply in the agricultural sector of the district Wayanad in Kerala state. The study found that at the time of its inception, the scheme did not play a role in increasing in the labour wage rate in the study area. Likewise, the scheme did not make an impact on the agricultural sector too. The study also found that Neighbourhood Help Groups like ‘Kudumbasree’ had played an important role in the success of MGNREGS in the target district.

*Shah, Deepak (2012)* examined the implementation of NREGA in the state of Maharashtra. The author revealed that in terms of assets creation, watershed
development, prevention of draught, reducing migration and the coverage of weaker section of the society, the scheme became successful. However, the scheme was not so successful in respect of the providing 100 days employment and the person days generated per household in the state.

*Kumar, B. S. (2012)* examined the socio-economic consequences of MGNREGA for women workers in six states of India. Based on field work in 2008, the author revealed that through better access to local employment, at minimum wages and relatively decent and safe work conditions, women had started to accrue benefits from the scheme in the target states.

*Bhatia, R. & B. Thomas (2012)* highlighted the impact of NREGA scheme on the overall quality of life of its beneficiaries in three districts of Gujarat. The study revealed that NREGA had able to brought changes on the life of its beneficiaries in the study area.

*Arora, V., L. R. Kulshreshtha & V. Upadhyay (2013)* analysed the relevance of MGNREGS on women empowerment in the district of Rohtak, Haryana. The study found positive impact of MGNREGS revealed that MGNREGS had helped the rural women to increase their expenditure on education of their children to the extent of 37% and medical expenses 62.7%. Further, 92% of the rural women had opined that due to MGNREGS, they were able to help their families financially. In addition to this, 71% of the rural women reported that income from the MGNREGS had provided economic independence to them. They are no longer dependent on their husbands or other family members.
De, B. & S. Jana (2013) reviewed the current status of implementation of MGNREGA in Sonamukhi block of Bankura district, West Bengal. They observed some institutional gaps as well as low awareness among the beneficiaries of MGNREGS about the scheme. They also observed some irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGS in the study area.

Puthukkeril, K. R. A. & P. K. Manoj (2013) examined the perception of women workers of MGNREGS about its impact on income generation in Chengannur block of Southern Kerala. More than fifty percent of the respondents (52.38 percent) perceived that MGNREGS had less impact on income generation, followed by 23.81 percent who thought that this scheme had medium impact on income generation. A few respondents (8.57 percent) perceived that MGNREGS had greater impact on income generation.

Lavanya, V. L. & S. Manima (2013) analysed the impact of MGNREGA on the empowerment of rural women and found positive impact of the scheme. The study revealed that after working under MGNREGA, women were able to earn individually and spend money for their individual and family needs.

Shenbagaraj, P. and Arockiasamy, S. (2013) analysed the impact of MGNREGA in increasing the employment and earnings of rural households in Toothukudi district of Tamilnadu state. The study revealed that the MGNREGS had able to provide only 26 days of employment per household per year on average. The study also observed that almost 80 percent of the beneficiaries in the study area had earned less than Rs. 2000 per year from MGNREGS.

Saravanam, M. (2013) analysed the impact of MGNREGS on women empowerment in Tiruneiveli district of Tamilnadu state. The study revealed that in the
sample Gram Panchayats, women participation under the scheme was much more than the men participation. Further, 56 percent of the respondents reported that their income level had increased after the implementation of the scheme. The study also observed that the impact of MGNREGS on women’s income level was very high in 5 sample Gram Panchayats who had able to get 100 days of employment in a year.

*Mukhtar, Safeer (2013)* examined the women’s participation in MGNREGA in the states of Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir. The author stated that the participation of women in MGNREGA was very low in Jammu & Kashmir. The reasons identified by the author were existence of social barriers and availability of alternative jobs for women. On the other hand, women participation in the scheme was very high in the state of Gujarat because of the existence of immense rural poor people. His paper was based on the secondary data collected from the Ministry of Rural Development and NREGA Implementation States.

*Kumar, P. & P. K. Joshi (2013)* examined the changes in food consumption and nutritional security of poor rural households including the impact of MGNREGS on the dietary pattern and nutritional status of the households. The study revealed that by providing wage employment, MGNREGA had benefited 22.5 percent of the rural households financially and thereby, increasing their food consumption level. In addition to this, the scheme had been successful in reducing the poverty level by 4 percent. The study also observed that the economically weaker states of India had benefited more from the scheme.

*Kanika, N. & Gupta, B. P. (2013)* conducted a study to examine the awareness level of people about NREGA scheme, its effectiveness and women empowerment in
the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab. The study observed positive impact of NREGA on empowering the women.

*Bebarta, P.K. (2013)* assessed the implementation of MGNREGA and its impact on the lives of tribal people in Rayagada block of Gajapati district, Odisha. The study was undertaken by taking a sample of 50 nos. tribal households and found very low awareness among the labourers on the basic entitlements of MGNREGA. However, the study observed positive impact of the scheme on the social and economic life of tribal people in the studied block.

*Debnath, N. & D. Neogi (2013)* attempted to exercise a comparative study of asset creation through MGNREGA among the tribal and non-tribal people in the state of Tripura. By analyzing secondary data, collected from different publications of the Government (both Tripura & Central Govt.) and various websites, the study observed that the asset distribution had not been executed equally among the tribal people in the study area.

*Konch, U. (2013)* examined the performance of MGNREGS in generation of rural employment in India using official data. During the year 2006-07 to 2012-13, the generation of average man days of employment was found much below the minimum of 100 days, i.e. 46.30 days per household per year. The researcher also found that the MGNREGS was able to provide employment to 46.62 percent of the total job card holders only. The study had indicated that more than fifty percent of the job card holders were deprived of getting employment opportunities under MGNREGS.

*Banu, Nazma (2013)* examined the implementation, management and impact of MGNREGA on the living conditions of the tribal people in Kherwara and Kotra tehsils
of Udaipur district. The study observed that 90% of the workers, who demand work, had got employment under MGNREGA. Likewise, 90% of the workers were aware about the programme and 80% of the workers had got 100 days of job guarantee. The study also observed that by providing work to the needy women wage seekers, MGNREGA had improved the women condition and thereby promote women empowerment. Similarly, the programme had also brought in improvement in the health status of the women workers in the study area.

Singh, S. (2013) conducted a study in Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh state. In his study the author found that MGNREGA had not provided 100 days job guarantee to the eligible workers who are willing to do work under the scheme in the region. The study also observed a number of irregularities during the implementation process of MGNREGA in the study area. These include – non-preparation of muster rolls, wages inequalities between men and women workers, and non-payment of unemployment allowance.

Borah, P. (2013) examined the implementation of MGNREGA and how the scheme had contributed in improving the livelihood scenario in the state of Assam. Using official data, the study observed that due to the improper implementation process, low wage rate, decline in fund allocation and improper use of funds, MGNREGA had not succeeded in improving the rural livelihood scenario in the state.

Nayak, S. (2013) conducted a study in Rajgangpur block of Sundergarh district of Odisha, and found minimal involvement of tribal women in the scheme as compared to their male counterpart. The study revealed that drawbacks like improper methods of information dissemination, inadequate awareness, lack of crèche facility at worksites,
lack of women’s ownership on job cards, wage discrimination between men and women workers and harassment at worksites had questioned the efficacy of the scheme in improving the status of tribal women in the target block.

_Das, S. K. (2013)_ using official data, examined the performance of MGNREGS in the state of Assam covering the period 2007-08 to 2011-12. In his study, the author found that 158.63 lakhs households were provided Job Cards, whereas only 80.92 lakhs households were able to get employment under the scheme in the state. The author also revealed that Assam could provide 100 days employment to only 3.7% of the households during the study period.

_Narayanamoorthy, A. & M. Bhattarai (2013)_ conducted a study to find out whether the inception of MGNREGS had enhanced the wage rate for agricultural labourers, and the factors responsible for growth rate of wages for farm labourers across the states of India. The study was based on secondary data, collected from Labour Bureau of India and covered the period 2000-01 to 2010-11. The study observed that the real wage rate for both male and female agricultural labourers had increased after the implementation of MGNREGS. Moreover, the factors such as average days of employment per household provided by MGNREGS, productivity of food grains and the road density were responsible for growth rate of wages for farm labourers.

_Joshi, H. C. & J. K. Lohani (2013)_ conducted a study to assess the impact of MGNREGS on the empowerment of women in the Bagwali village of Tarikhet block in Kumaon region. Based on primary data, the study showed positive impact of the scheme on the empowerment of women in the study area.
Sisto, D. (2013) examined the assets creation through employment generation by MGNREGA in Ajmer district of Rajasthan covering the period 2011-12 to 2012-13. Using both primary and secondary data, the study showed that women had played a dominating role in the creation of assets, which led to improve their decision making power and ultimately, status in the family. The study also revealed that the enrolment of children in school was also increased during the study period.

Shihabudheen, N. (2013) assessed the women empowerment potential of MGNREGA in Ernakulam district of Kerala state. The study revealed that MGNREGA had high level of potential for socio-economic empowerment of women and moderate level of potential for political empowerment of them. The study also suggested that involvement of middlemen, political and bureaucratic exploitation, misuse of funds, muster roll manipulation, lacks of transparency relating MGNREGS need to be controlled.

Xavier, G. and Mari, G. (2014) assessed the impact of MGNREGA on socio-economic empowerment of women in Kalakkanmoi Panchayat of Sivaganga district, Tamilnadu. The study found that the MGNREGA had increased the income and expenditure level of the rural households. They also expressed that the scheme had able to enhance the social and economic decision making capacity of women in the patriarchal rural society. Moreover, the study also found that due to the poor worksite facilities, hot climatic condition and reduction of leisure time, the workers of the scheme were facing difficulties during the working hours.

Duarah, M. (2014) conducted a study to know the employment generation aspect of MGNREGS in two blocks of Sivasagar district of Assam. In the study, the
researcher commented that in both the studied blocks, number of households demanding employment under the scheme was not satisfactory, i.e. 61.55 percent in Demow block and 51.11 percent in Gaurisagar block. Further, the researcher also suggested that there is a need to analyse the causes of low demand for employment in the target blocks and the concerned authorities should take necessary steps to increase the demand for employment in future.

*Bishmoi, S., et. al (2014)* examined the constraints experienced by the women beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Bikaner and Ludhiana districts of Rajasthan and Punjab states respectively. In the study, a total of 120 women beneficiaries were interviewed, and they had reported a lot of constraints relating MGNREGS faced by them. Delay in wage payment, hard manual work for women, low wage rate, less employment, complex registration process and the lack of child care facility were the major constraints perceived by the respondents in both the districts under study.

*Singh, S. et. al (2014)* conducted a study to analyse the performance of MGNREGA in district Pauri Garhwal of Uttarakhand state. The study observed large women participation under MGNREGS in the study area. As far as the assets created under MGNREGS is concerned, the study observed more rural connectivity and few draught proofing in the target district.

*Borah, K. and Bordoloi, R. (2014)* conducted a study to assess the impact of MGNREGS on the lives of daily waged women workers as well as to identify the obstacles, if any, in the implementation process of the scheme in Sonitpur district of Assam. The researchers revealed that the MGNREGS could not ensure the 100 days job guarantee to the majority of the job card holders. The researchers also observed some
obstacles pertaining to the implementation of the scheme. However, the study found positive impact of MGNREGA on income, education and upliftment of women workers in the study area.

*Kaushal, S. (2014)* examined the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA in Punjab. The researcher had selected Hoshiapur and Amritsar districts of Punjab state for study. The study observed positive impact of MGNREGA not only on workers but also on the community as a whole. The study also revealed that villagers were very much satisfied with MGNREGA and their standards of living had increased than before.

*Aruselvam, K. & S. Deepika (2014)* found that women were too much busy in their domestic work, and therefore, they were completely ignorant about the outside world. The study also revealed that women were not aware about income generating programmes which could help better in their socio-economic lot.

*Malangmeith, L. et. al (2014)* conducted a study to assess the impact of MGNREGS on the livelihood security of rural households in Bankura district of West Bengal state. The study revealed that MGNREGA covered all the rural poor sections of the society irrespective of castes and gender and created employment opportunities for them. The study observed that the scheme had enhanced the income and savings levels of the rural households in the study area.

*Azhagaiah, R. & Radhika, G. (2014)* examined the economic empowerment and well being of the rural poor in Karaiyamputhur and Panayadikuppam villages of Puducherry Union Territory. The study had proved that there was an increase in the welfare of the workers’ family after the implementation of the scheme in the study area.
Pillai, A. B. A. & Nithiya, D. (2014) conducted a study to examine the socio-economic characteristics as well as impact of MGNREGS on the income and expenditure pattern of the workers of the scheme in Krishnarayapuram taluk of Karur district. The study found that out of the total 700 sample selected, 78.86% workers were female and 21.14% were male, 32% of the workers were in the age-group of 41-50 years, 82.86% were married, 75.14% were Hindus, 50.57% were agricultural labourers, 74% were lived in nuclear family and 46.86% of the workers had secondary education in the study area.

Sharma, A. & Sissal, T. (2014) studied the perceptions of the beneficiaries towards MGNREGA Programme in Doimukh Panchayat of Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh. The study found that most of the beneficiaries did not have proper knowledge about the scheme and the benefits available under MGNREGA. Moreover, the Job Card holder households did not get wages as per the Act and some of them did not have bank account too.

Rao, K. V. R. & Y. A. Kumar (2015) reviewed the progress and performance of MGNREGS at the all India level in general and Guntur district (Andhra Pradesh) in particular. The study observed positive changes in respect of employment, income, wage rates and food security. The study also observed that MGNREGS had not only benefited the rural poor but also boosted the village economy.

Mazumder, G. & Guha, A. (2015) analysed the socio-personal and economic profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries in Kokoabari and Dakhin Kalarayer Kuthi villages of Cooch Behar district in West Bengal. The study found that out of the total respondents, 58% were under the age group of 36 to 50 years, 92% belonged to SC
category, 36% studied up to primary level, 40% engaged in farming, 76% participated in different social programmes occasionally and 20% regularly in the study area. The study also showed encouraging trend of female participation and more income generation in the villages after the implementation of MGNREGA.

*Sumithra, P. & V. V.Kumari (2015)* analysed the performance of MGNREGS in the villages of Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh state, using secondary data collected from the website nrega.ap.gov.in. The author revealed that the performance of MGNREGA in the district was not encouraging. The scheme could not provide livelihood security of the rural poor. Moreover, it could not ensure 100 days employment guarantee to the Job Card holder households per year in the study area.

*Negi, R. S. et. al (2015)* assessed the impact of implementation and effectiveness of MGNREGA on the economy of Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand state. They had utilized secondary data and covered the year 2013-14. The study observed positive impact of MGNREGS on the employment, income and the living standard of the rural people in the district.

*Farooqi, S. A. & I. Saleem (2015)* conducted a study to find out up to what extent MGNREGA was helpful for rural women in improving their living standard in rural areas of Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh. The study observed positive impact of the scheme on the quality of life of women in the study area. The study also observed a lot of flaws relating MGNREGS and suggested for rectification.

*Vani, G. K. et. al (2015)* conducted a study to examine the extent of participation of both male and female workers, vulnerable sections of the society and the workers of different age groups in MGNREGS in Markabbinahalli village of Bijapur district in the
state of Karnataka. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. The authors revealed that MGNREGS had provided employment opportunities to the rural wage seekers irrespective of age, caste and gender. Women wage seekers had got gainful employment opportunities from the scheme. The study also observed that MGNREGS had able to empower rural womenfolk in the study area.

Venkateswarlu, A. (2015) conducted a study in Khammam district of Telangana state. The study found positive impact of MGNREGA on the respondents’ households in the study area. The author revealed that although the share of women in the scheme was 43.29 percent, they were totally unaware about the rights and entitlements of the Act, especially about the unemployment allowance, wage payment and the social audit. The author also observed weak crèche and medical facilities at the MGNREGA worksites, and the discrimination in wage payment to men and women workers to some extent in the study area.

Agarwal, S. & M. M. Devi (2015) analysed the status of women empowerment in Chhatisgarh through MGNREGA. By using different indicators like women’s household decision making power, financial autonomy, freedom of movement, political participation, exposure to media, access to education and experience of domestic violence, the study revealed that women in India were relatively disempowered and they enjoyed lower status than that of their male counterparts.

Kumar, R. et. al (2015) conducted a study in Mahendragarh district of Haryana state. The study observed low participation of workers in MGNREGS in the study area. The authors revealed that in 2011-12, 63 percent of the workers did not get employment at all, and the average employment per respondent declined from 23 days
(approximately) in 2006-07 to 14 days (approximately) in 2011-12. The main reason of low participation of workers in MGNREGS was identified as the lack of information / awareness about the scheme on the part of the villagers. The study also observed that the contribution of MGNREGS income to the workers’ family income was 9 percent in the study area.

Sharma, I. & S. Pamecha (2015) analysed the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on the lives of the beneficiaries of MGNREGS in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. Based on primary data collected from 10 Gram Panchayats, the study revealed that there was a drastic change on the lives of the workers of the scheme in the study area.

Arulselvam, K. & S. Deepika (2015) revealed that aged women groups were compelled to do work under MGNREGS because of their extreme poverty prevailing in their families. The study observed that women workers of the scheme were able to increase their income and consumption expenditure. They had also been reduced their debt burden after the implementation of the programme. In addition to this, the age, education and household size of the workers had significant association with the willingness to work.

Chavan, P. (2015) conducted a study to examine the awareness level of MGNREGS beneficiaries about their rights and entitlements provided by the Act in Kolhapur district. The researcher had utilized primary data, collected from 385 sample households, for his study. The study found that the awareness level of beneficiaries about their rights and entitlements of MGNREGA was very low in the study area.
Bismoi, S. & V. K. Rampal (2015) conducted a study in Bikaner and Ludhiana districts of Rajasthan and Punjab states respectively to examine the awareness of women workers working under MGNREGS regarding various provisions of the Act as well as the problems faced by them while working under the programme. The study was based on primary data, collected from 120 women beneficiaries in both the districts. The authors revealed that women beneficiaries were not much aware about the provisions of MGNREGA in the target districts. They had also faced some problems like non-issuance of Job Card in time, delay in wage payments, lack of crèche facility at worksites, harassment at worksites, etc. while working under the scheme.

Thus, from the existing literature discussed above, it is observed that despite a large number of studies on MGNREGA and its different aspects in different parts of India have been conducted by various individual research scholars as well as the government and non-government organizations, block level studies on MGNREGA and its different aspects in Assam are found less in numbers. Further, studies in relation to the empowerment of women beneficiaries of any rural employment generation programmes of the governments particularly impact of MGNREGS on empowerment of tribal women workers of the scheme in Kathiatoli development block of Nagaon district are yet to be conducted. Therefore, the present study, primarily based on field level data, is expected to fill-up the gap in this regard.

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