Chapter - VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
The economies in the world are broadly classified into developed and underdeveloped or developing economies. Geographically under-developed countries are concentrated in Southern part of the globe and advanced countries are in Northern part of the globe. The dialogues between these rich and poor countries are commonly known as North-South dialogue.

Today urbanisation is considered as an indicator of country's economic development. In other words, the country's economic advancement is a function of level of urbanisation. This tendency does not holds good to all countries uniformly. It is because, urbanisation took place in countries with the operation of two principles, namely, operation of push forces from rural areas to urban centres. In under developed countries due to lack of employment opportunities, low wages, social discrimination compel the rural masses to migrate in search of livelihood. These migrants are forced to settle in urban slums. This process of urbanisation is adversely effects the economic progress of poor countries since scarce economic resources are diverted to provide minimum amenities in urban slums.

In developed economies the process of urbanisation takes place though the operation of second principle, operation of pull forces from urban centres. All round development of urban centres attract the rural masses by offering attractive employment facilities to meet labour demand in urban areas. In this process of urbanisation rural people migrate to urban areas with an assured employment and high wages. They wouldn't seek any government assistance for their settlement in urban areas. Thus, urbanisation through operation of this principle helps for economic development by using surplus rural labour in urban centres.

The urbanisation through operation of push forces from rural areas leads to many economic, social and environmental problems. Now all developing countries have concentrated their attention to promote living conditions of the rural masses by giving top priority for rural development by the by to avoid migration to urban areas. India is also following the same strategy by giving top priority to rural development. The recent programme known as Provision of Urban Facilities in Rural Areas (PURA) is also aimed to provision urban facilities in rural areas to stop migration to urban areas in India.
India is still living in villages. In India as per 2001 census, 72 per cent of its population, i.e. 742.5 million is in rural areas. Of them 310 million or 42 per cent are workers. Among these 310 rural workers, 40 per cent are cultivators, 33 per cent are agricultural labours, 3.8 per cent are workers working in household industries and remaining 23 per cent are working in other areas like as mason, painter, tailour and pretty trader. The percentage of workers working in the above categories varies from region to region, state to state and district to district.

The important segments among rural labour are agricultural labour who accounts to 80 per cent of rural labour force in India. The agricultural labours earn more than 50 per cent of the household income only through agricultural wage employment. The other 20 per cent of rural labour are earning their major share of income in participating other than agricultural wage employment.

The rural labour households are struggling with the problems of poverty, unemployment, low wages, indebtedness, child labour, low consumption in addition to social problems like caste, gender discrimination. The incidence of each problem vary from state to state and even district to district.

National Sample Survey Organisation in India has been collecting data periodically about various socio-economic aspects like how many of the rural labour households belong to each caste group; their occupational pattern daily earnings, consumptions expenditure, indebtedness etc since 1964-65. This data narrates the clear picture about socio-economic conditions of rural labour in entire India. Based on these information, Indian government as well as concerned state governments frame suitable programmes from time to time.

The NSSO published Rural Labour Enquiry reports have been furnishing the information about socio-economic conditions of rural labour households since 1964-65. According to these reports, the number of rural households in India increased from 70.4 million to 150 million, i.e. 113 per cent in between 1964-65 and 2004-05. During the same period, the number of rural household increased from 17.9 million to 42.8 million, i.e. 139 per cent but agricultural labour recorded further higher growth, i.e. 152 per cent, i.e. from 15.4 million to 38.8 million. In other words number of agricultural labour households increased much faster followed by rural labour.
households and rural labour households. Because of this high growth of rural and agricultural labour households the proportion of rural labour households in total rural households has been increasing over the years in India.

Rural Labour Enquiry reports reveal that in 1999-2000 out of total rural households 22.1 per cent, 11.0 per cent, 36.9 per cent, 30.0 per cent are SCs, STs, BCs, and Other Castes in India. But the caste composition of rural labour households in 1999-2000 is as follows: 33.8 per cent SCs, 13.4 per cent STs, 34.0 per cent BCs and 18.8 per cent OCs. Accordingly, among total agricultural labour households, 82.4 per cent belong to weaker section of the society. Thus the caste composition of rural households and rural labour households is different where majority of rural labour households belong to SC, ST and BCs.

Further, the caste-wise growth rate of rural labour households reveals that number of SC and ST households increased at 18.8 per cent and 16.8 per cent respectively in between 1994-95 and 1999-2000. But other caste rural labour households declined from 24.52 lakh to 10.38 lakh i.e.57 per cent during the above period. The caste compositions of rural labour further vary from state to state.

The occupational structure of rural labour households in India as per rural labour enquiry reports 1999-2000 is: the average size of rural labour households is 4.67 persons of which 2.69 persons were without occupation, of the remaining 1.98 persons per household 1.44 person are engaged as agricultural labour, 0.30 persons as non-agricultural labour and 0.24 persons in other occupations. Except Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Naidu, in all other states in India, more 50 per cent household's members are dependents on the remaining family member's earnings. The occupational pattern is almost uniform in all castes groups in India.

The nature of employment of rural labour independence revealed that in 1964-65 men are working as wage labour for 242 days and 25 days as self-employed and in 2004-05 wage employment is 239 days and self employment is 42 days for men. Similarly women and children are engaged in wage employment mostly and self-employment is nominal. It denotes the fact that major source of income for rural labour including agricultural wage employment for all the years. Self-employment for men and women has increased from 25 days to 42 days and 27 days to 36 days
respectively in between 1964-65 and 2004-05. Among rural labour in an average men are working only 25 days per year on salary basis, for women it is 9 days and, for children it is 18 days in 2004-05. This salary based employment was 5 days, 1 day and 5 days respective for men, women and children in the year 1974-75. The salary based employment is very negligible among agricultural labour households.

Further, the Rural Labour Enquiries revealed that women employment is comparatively much lower than men in 1964-65 as well as 2004-05. The child labour participation is more among rural labour households which is an indicator of their poverty.

The Rural Labour Enquiry reports also provide information regarding unemployment days for men, women and children in India. As per these reports unemployment problem is more rampant among women rather than men and children. However, the incidence of women unemployment has come down from 178 to 111 days for rural labour and 187 to 150 days for agricultural female labour households. The unemployed days are comparatively low for men in 1964-65 and further decreased from 98 days to 59 days in between 1st and 8th labour enquiries. Though the unemployed days decreased to some extent for men and women after 1964-65, still the unemployment problem is still severe.

In India the rural labour household’s earnings are at lowest level irrespective of so many statutory provisions. Thus the rural labour in India struggle not for any improvement in living standard/economic status but for their subsistence or for existence. A series of social (population explain, child labour) and economic factors are responsible for low earnings of the rural labour. In addition to socio-economic factors may personal, regional and seasonal factors are also lead to low wages.

During Rural labour Enquiry the details on earnings for the reference week are collected by NSSO for each activity of the household members on wage paid labour. As per this enquiry the average daily earnings of all labours, men, women and children, engaged in both agricultural and non-agricultural operations recorded significant increase during 2004-05 as compared to 1999-2000. For example, the average daily earning of men for all agricultural operations in agricultural labour households increased by 18.38 per cent in between 1999-2000 and 2004-05.
Rural Labour Enquiry reports also narrate the wage rates for rural labour in India. The wages of rural labour are usually paid in cash or kind or both. But, wages paid in kind are converted into money wages based on current respective retail prices. The rural labourers are engaged in agricultural and non-agricultural operation. The rural labour enquiries denote that wage rates for agricultural operations has increased by 34 per cent for men during 40 years, for women 37 per cent and for children 39 per cent. In rural areas as per this enquiry reports non-agricultural wage rates are 56, 25 and 7 per cent higher than agricultural wage rates for rural labour in general. It implies that agricultural wages are much lower than non-farm wages in rural areas. Hence, attention should be paid to improve agricultural labour wages by providing assured employment with reasonable wages to improve agricultural labour living conditions.

The problem of indebtedness in rural sector is an age old malady. Rural labourers approach money lenders and others for loans to meet their minimum needs since their incomes are uncertain. The rural labour enquiry reports denote that in 1974-75, 65.4 per cent of rural households (two-thirds) are in debt but it has comedown to 25 per cent in 1999-2000 which indicates the improvement of rural labour economic conditions by 2004-05. But the average debt per rural households has increased due to inflation.

The above analysis of socio-economic conditions of rural labour in India since 1964-65 confirmed the fact that among rural labour households SC, ST and BC households number has been increasing.

The rural labour can hardly think of comfort or luxury due to low level of earnings. They have little capacity to spend on consumption which adversely affects their general health as well as efficiency to work. The rural labour enquires reveal that rural labour spend major portion of their income on food, since their income is low, and they find very little amount to spend on other necessities like clothing, house etc. According to 1964-65 survey, rural labour have spent nearly three-fourth (73.3%) of their income on food but it declined to less than one-third due to increase in annual income by 1999-2000 from Rs.1,051 to Rs.23,152. Since agricultural labour income is comparatively less than rural labour income agricultural labour were spend higher proportion of their income on food comparatively both in 1964-65 and 1999-2000.
The socio-economic conditions of rural labour in India since independence (first objective of the study) is analysed based on Rural Labour Enquiry reports (1964-65 to 2004-05). According to these reports rural labour households increased by 139 per cent but rural households increased by 113 per cent. The agricultural labour households increase in much higher i.e., 152 per cent during same period. Thus the composition of rural labour households and agricultural labour households have been increased among rural households in India.

The caste composition among all rural households denotes that 70 per cent belong to SC, ST and BCs. But among rural labour households these caste accounts to 81.2 per cent. It means among rural labour majority of households belongs to SC,ST and BCs than rural households in India. It is because SC, ST and BCs population increased at a faster ratio than other caste population. For example, in between 1994-95 and 1999-2000 the SC, ST households increased by 18.8 per cent and 16.8 per cent respectively. Whereas as OC rural labour households declined by 57 per cent i.e., for 24.52 lakh to 10.38 lakh.

The occupational structure of rural labour households as per rural enquiry 1999-2000 denotes that the average size of the families is 4.67 persons of which 2.69 persons are dependents, of the remaining 1.98 persons per household 1.44 persons were engaged as agricultural labours and 0.30 persons as non-agricultural labours and 0.24 persons in other occupies. The occupational pattern of rural labour in India is 1999-2000 denotes that 72.7 per cent of rural labour engaged as agricultural labours.

Though rural labour participated in economic activities as wage labour, self employed and salary based employment since 1964-65 to 2004-05 wage employment is the major source of their income (since they worked more than 239 days in a year). When rural labour acquired income generating assets like land, live stock etc. in course of time the self employment for men and women has increased from 25 to 42 days and 27 days to 36 days respectively.

Rural Labour Enquiry denotes that unemployment problem is more secure among women with compare to male. However women unemployment has come down from 178 days to 111 days from rural labour and 187 to 150 days from agricultural female. The unemployed days from male also decreased from 98 days to
59 days during same period. Thus the unemployment which is directly related to their poverty has come down considerably from men and women since independence in India.

On the other hand wage rates from agricultural operation 34 per cent for men in 40 years, for women 37 per cent for Children 39 per cent. On the other hand non-agricultural wage rates are also increased much higher than agricultural wages. Due to increase in days of wage employment on one hand and increase in wage rates (agricultural/non-agricultural) on the other helped to improve the rural labour economic conditions considerably. The decreased indebted rural labour households from 65.4 per cent in 1974-75 to 25 per cent in 1999-2000 and decrease in consumption expenditure on food from 73.3 per cent in 1964-65 to 33 per cent by 2004-05 are also an indicators of rural labour’s economic advancement. Thus the first hypothesis “Socio-economic conditions of rural labour in India have not improved since independence” is rejected. However, there is much need to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural labour still incidence of rural labour poverty is highest among rural people.

By observing the miserable living conditions of rural labour in India before independence attempts were made before independence by individuals like Rabindranath Tagore (Srinekatan) and so many institutions attempted their best to promote the living conditions of rural labours, to their possible extent at micro level.

After independence government of India resorted macro approach for over all development of the economy with the hope that fruits of development will reach all sections of the society. But it was proved that the benefits of planned effects were not at all reached the lower strata of the society. Then onwards, government has been designing various micro level schemes from time to time to uplift the rural mass in the name of rural development programmes. Among these programmes the important to be mentioned are Community Development Programme, SFDA and MFLA, DPAP, MNP, IRDP, TRYSEM and NREP, DWCRA, JRY, EAS, National Old Age Pension Scheme in between 1952 to 1999. But the evaluation studies of each programme pronounced that all the programmes no doubt benefited the rural mass to some extent. This fact is also bringing fourth by Rural Labour Enquiries which confirmed that the living conditions are improved to some extent but not at expected level.
In these circumstances, in 2005 government of India initiated the National Rural Guarantee Scheme based on the most successful and appreciated Maharastra Employment Guarantee Scheme (1974) by enacting National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The NREGA is radical as it guarantees 100 days of wage work on demand, failing which the claims can legally demand cash compensation. The Act promotes the seeking of paid employment on the volition of at least one member from any household in manual rural works. The scope for self selection of those who indeed require imminent income support for livelihood is an in-no-vation, which should result in a high degree of automatically targeting the most deprived-thus reflecting its potential for poverty reduction.

The Act also aims at "the generation of productive assets, protecting environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity among others". The government as well as social reformers have greater expectations on NREGA, if it implemented with due earnest, has the potential of not only reducing vulnerability and receiving chronic income deprivation and improving rural livelihood security but also of the construction of durable assets and markets in rural areas.

The NREGA has been implementing since 2006 successfully. Hence it is the right time to evaluate the performance of the scheme at national as well as state level. In India the NREG scheme covered only 200 districts in 2006 but gradually its coverage increased by three-folds i.e. 619 districts by 2009-10. Similarly, the budget outlay has also increased by three-folds, from Rs.11,300 crore to 39,100 crore during the same period. But due to various reasons 78 to 80.5 per cent of budget outlay are utilized and remaining 20 per cent is lapsed. Because of more and more funds allocation from year to year, the rural labour households benefited under scheme has more than doubled i.e. 2.10 crores in 2006 to 4.79 crores in 2009-10.

The performance of the scheme in generation of employment is concerned it generated only 90.5 crore man days employment is 2006-07 but it succeeded to generation 245 crore man days in 2009-10.

In Indian population, SCs accounts to 15 per cent and STs accounts to 7 per cent only. But the scheme succeeded to provide employment mainly to SCs and STs
where these two social groups accounts to 51 per cent of total beneficiaries during 2009-10. Similarly, out of total beneficiaries 41 to 48 per cent of beneficiaries are women. Hence, the NREGP scheme helped a lot to the target groups in rural areas who are socially backward groups as well as vulnerable gender i.e., women.

The promotion of infrastructural facilities are concerned, out of total expenditure, under NREGP, 50 per cent are used for water conservation like deepaing of tanks, stil removing in tanks etc. All these works helped a lot to improve ground water level. The second priority under this scheme is given to rural connectivity with road formation followed by land development activities.

The evaluation of the performance of NREGP in India (second objective (ii) bring fourth the fact that under this scheme on one hand the poor rural labour poor people are benefited with generation of more and more employment since 2006 as cited above and on the other hand the rural development also intensified through water conservation, road connectivity and land development activities. In other words the performance of NREGP in India is satisfactory. Thus, the hypothesis the NREGP performance is not quite satisfactory in India is rejected.

In Andhra Pradesh there are 26,613 villages with 554 lakh population of which 12.3 lakhs and 50 lakhs are SC and STs respectively. Today 68 per cent of population in Andhra Pradesh is living in rural areas. The NREGP is a formidable programme that can improve the living conditions of rural masses as well as faster the rural development in Andhra Pradesh also.

The NREG programme was started in Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 as a pilot programme in 13 districts in 2006-07 and covered all the 22 district during 2007-08. It is a centrally sponsored programme implemented on cost sharing basis between the centre and the state in the ratio of 90:10. The scheme is implemented through the state government departments like public works, irrigation, forest, ZP and Panchayat Raj.

In Andhra Pradesh, under NREGP, Rs.5.88 lakhs spent in 2006-07 but the total expenditure has increased by five folds i.e., from Rs.33.4 lakhs in 2009-10. Similarly, the number of households got wage employment are only 21.75 lakhs in 2006 but it has increased to 57.89 lakhs in 2010. Under this programme in 2006
655.31 lakhs person days employment has generated but it has increased to 2273.7 lakh person days during the year 2009-10. In the same pattern the average number of days employment provided for rural labour households also increased merely from 30.13 days in 2006 to 55.7 days in 2009-10. Thus, since inception of this programme in all the above aspects the performance of the programme has improved year after year.

The Ministry of Rural Development updates the information of NREGP implementation on the basis of data provided by the states in India. By using this available data the state level progress for the year 2007-08 is analysed mainly with using two parameters namely: (i) days of employment generated under NREGP and (ii) the average wage accruals per rural household.

According to the ministry of rural development, the average days of employment provided per household is highest in Rajasthan with 77 days followed by Madhya Pradesh (65), Chattishgarh (58), Tamil Naidu (52), Haryana (50), Jarkand (45) and Andhra Pradesh (42 days) in the year 2007-08. It means, Andhra Pradesh occupies 7th place among other states in India with regarding to provisions of employment. Similarly, the annual average wage accruals per household is the highest in Rajasthan with Rs.7733 in the year 2007-08 followed by Haryana (Rs.6862), Madhya Pradesh (Rs.5383), Tamil Naidu (Rs.4180), Kerala (Rs.4096), Chattishgarh (Rs.4032), Jharkand (Rs.3827), Punjab (Rs.3738) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs.3348).

The evaluation of the performance of NREGP in Andhra Pradesh (second objective) (ii) also denotes that the expenditure on NREGP, number of households get employment, the person days of employment generated in Andhra Pradesh after 2006 has increased impressively on par with India. But NREGP performance in Andhra Pradesh with compare to other states like Rajasthan is lacking to some extent since Andhra Pradesh occupies 7th rank in India among other states.

Thus the performance of NREGP in Andhra Pradesh is said to be quite satisfactory when compared to many states but compared to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Naidu, there is need to further improve its performance. Hence the second hypothesis the NREGP performance in Andhra Pradesh is not quite satisfactory is accepted to some extent.
The Chittoor district is one among the four districts of drought prone Rayalaseema Regions of Andhra Pradesh. It is the combination of plains, valleys, plateaus. For administrative purposes the district has divided into three revenue divisions namely Chittoor, Madanapalli and Tirupati. These three revenue divisions are heterogeneous in many respects. The district consists of 66 mandals with 11252.93 sq. kms. area excluding reserve forests. As per population census 2011 there are 41.70 lakh population in the district. According to 2001 census, out of total workers 30 per cent are cultivators, 35.91 per cent are agricultural labours, 3.1 per cent are workers in households industries and remaining 30 per cent are working in other fields like non-farm occupations. In Andhra Pradesh there are 8.46 crores population as per 2011 census. Among total workers 22.7 per cent are cultivators, 39.1 per cent are agricultural labour, 4.5 per cent are workers in household industries and the remaining 33.3 per cent are in non-farm activities. In Chittoor district two-thirds of population are depend on agriculture as cultivators and agricultural labours but in Andhra Pradesh only 62 per cent are depending on agricultural sector. Thus, Chittoor district is comparatively agro-based one over Andhra Pradesh.

The land utilization is concerned, in Chittoor district only 24 per cent of geographical area is under cultivation due to spared of hills and forest whereas it is 39.4 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. The sources of irrigation and cropping pattern in Chittoor district and Andhra Pradesh are quite different. For example, in Andhra Pradesh food crops accounts to 68 per cent where as in Chittoor district is only 27.2 per cent. It means in Chittoor district nearly 73 per cent land is under commercial crops cultivation.

In drought prone Chittoor district the work availability for rural labour is limited and uncertain. Thus, the NREGP scheme is said to be a boon to the rural labour especially in Madanapalli division of the district. In the district, expenditure on NREGP programme has increased from Rs.8,130.8 lakhs to Rs.19,081 lakhs in between 2006 and 2010. In relation with increasing expenditure on NREGP, number of households as well as number of worker secured employment increased year after year. For example, only 3.48 lakhs rural labours got employment in 2006 but this number has increased to 4.31 lakhs by 2009-10. Where rural labour accounts to 80 per
cent of socially backward sections (SC, ST and BCs) of the society are well benefited under this scheme.

In brief, the Chittoor district geographical area accounts to 5.5 per cent of Andhra Pradesh but the district gross irrigated land accounts to only 3.5 per cent which denotes that the district has less irrigation facilities than Andhra Pradesh. But in Chittoor district 66 per cent of work force are depending on agriculture as cultivators and agricultural labours where as it is only 62 per cent in Andhra Pradesh.

In Chittoor district during 2009-10 under NREGP scheme on an average 73.56 days of employment is provided which is more than state average of 55.51 days. It means NREGP scheme has been implemented in Chittoor district more effectively to benefit rural labour households.

Geographically the Andhra Pradesh state can be classified into three regions Telangana, Rayalaseema and Costal Andhra which have district features. Similarly in Chittoor district the three revenue divisions have almost similar features to that of Telangana, Rayalaseema and Costal Andhra Pradesh which deserves to take into consideration in any research study.

Hence, to analyse the socio-economic aspects of rural labour as well as NREGP impact on poverty, from each revenue division 2 mandals and from each sample mandal 3 revenue villages are selected. The sample villages accounts to 18 of which 15 households each are selected. Thus, the information is collected from these total 270 sample households for the reference year 2009-10.

The caste composition of sample rural labour households in Chittoor district reveals that 48.5 per cent of rural labour households belong to SC and STs and 31.5 per cent belong to BCs. The remaining 20 per cent households belong to other castes. The caste composition is almost same among three divisions. In other words, about 80 per cent of rural labour households belong to socially weaker sections of the society.

The average size of the rural labour household in Chittoor district is 3.82 but it is 3.53, 3.91 and 4.02 in Chittoor, Tirupati and Madanapalli divisions respectively. In three divisions the size of the family and number of dependents are positively related.
In Chittoor district, out of 1032 sample population, 38.2 per cent are illiterates. But the regional variations are clearly visible where the illiteracy is 47.5 per cent in Madanapalli division, followed by Chittoor division 37.4 per cent and Tirupati divisions 29.4 per cent. The illiteracy is much higher in Madanapalli division with compare to other two divisions.

Total population can be further classified as main workers, marginal workers and non-workers as per 1981 census. As per this criteria in Chittoor district out of, 1032 sample population. 37.3 per cent are main workers who worked more than six months 26.3 per cent are marginal workers and remaining 36.4 per cent or more than one-thirds are dependents. The working status of the sample population is also very from division to division i.e., 62.2 per cent, 63.6 per cent and 65.1 per cent in Chittoor, Tirupati Madanapalli divisions respectively.

The houses can be broadly classified into thatched and pucca houses. Earlier pucca house ownership is an indicator of economic advancement of a family where poor people are forced to live in thatched houses. Recent government housing policy aimed the poor people to construction pucca houses with government financial assistance. Due to this reason as per this study only 23.7 per cent of rural labour households in Chittoor district have thatched houses. This ratio varies slightly in between 19 per cent in Madanapalli division to 28 per cent in Chittoor division. Most of the households living in thatched houses are also the beneficiaries of INDIRAMAMA housing scheme but they are unable to complete their house construction since government assistance is not adequate and they cannot mobilize own funds. Hence, there is need to enhance the government assistance to the remained poorest households so as to complete their houses construction.

Rural labour in the district are earning some income through operation of their owned land /leased in land in addition to their wage income. In the district 155 sample households are operating 205.7 acres of land to grow paddy, groundnut, sugarcane and other crops.

Naturally, the income from agriculture depends on the extent of irrigation facilities. 32 per cent of operated land has irrigation facilities in the district. The Tirupati division stands first with 39 per cent of irrigated land. In Chittoor division
16.4 per cent of land has irrigation and in Madanapalli division only 9.7 per cent of operated land has irrigation facilities. Thus one can say in Chittoor and Madanapalli divisions agriculture depend on nature.

In Chittoor district groundnut is the principal crop that accounts to 64 per cent of total gross operated area of 243.5 areas followed by paddy with 23 per cent of land. The divisional variations are clearly visible in this district with regarding to cropping pattern also. For example, in Madanapalli 73 per cent of land is under groundnut where as it is only 45.4 per cent in Tirupati division. In Tirupati division paddy has grown as principle crops in 50 per cent of cropped area.

For rural labour households the livestock, viz. cows, buffaloes, sheep yields more and regular income. In Chittoor district where dairy development is at peak stage in Andhra Pradesh may rural labour are surviving with dairy income. The average value of live stock owed per household is Rs.13,452 in the district where it is highest in Madanapalli division Rs.16,865, followed by Tirupati division Rs.12,178 and Chittoor division Rs.11,570. The divisional variation is also visible in the district regarding to possession of cows and buffaloes. Buffaloes are concentrated in Tirupati division and cows are in other two divisions.

Indebtedness is the common feature as well as the major problem of rural labour households. The sources of debt can be classified into institutional and non-institutional sources. Non-institutional source like money lenders are exploitive in nature. Thus, since independence government has been attempting to provide institutional finance to the rural masses through cooperative societies, Commercial banks, RRBs and SHGs. As a result by 2004-05 institutional excluding SHG loans has raised to 29 per cent in India.

The sources of debt analysis in Chittoor district reveals that rural labour households used to borrow money from more than one source. The institutional sources accounts to 87 per cent of total debt in which SHGs loan alone accounts 38 per cent. The non-institutional source accounts only 13 per cent. It means SHGs are playing a vital role in provision of institutional credit with compare cooperatives and banks. In Madanapalli division still non-institutional sources of credit accounts to 20
per cent where as it is 13 per cent in Tirupati division and 6 per cent in Chittoor division.

In Chittoor district among total 1032 sample population 220 male and 264 female and 7 child labour are working as agricultural labours for 143,139 and 81 days respectively. The average working days are more in Chittoor division 159 days, followed by Madanapalli 139 days and Tirupati 135 days. Female labours are working less days than male in all divisions. The child labour is almost nominal in all the three divisions which are to be appreciated.

In allied agricultural activities 135 male and 138 female workers are engaged in the district. In all the three revenue divisions around 48 male and female labours are working in allied activities.

The rural non-farm activities like manufacturing, handicrafts, processing, transport, trade etc. play an important role to provide supplementary and more remunerative employment in rural areas. These activities contribution to rural households income has been increasing gradually. In non-farm sector among 1032 sample population, 107 male, 46 female and 10 child labours are engaged for 167,129 and 113 days respectively. The average working days per male are more in Tirupati division (174 days) followed by Chittoor division (168 days) and Madanapalli division (161 days). But female labour working days are more in Chittoor division (142 days) least in Tirupati (108 days). The wage rates for non-farm activities are much higher than agricultural wage rates in all divisions. For example, male average wage rate for non-farm labour is Rs.174 for male, Rs.155 for female and Rs.150 for children in the district. But in the district average wage for agricultural labours is Rs.91 for male, Rs.65 for female and Rs.62 for Children in the district.

In 18 sample revenue villages of the district 1748 NREGP workers are undertaken worth Rs.123.48 lakhs during the 2009-10. These works generated 1,37,079 persons days work. The types of works undertaken further vary from revenue division to division due to diversity in geographical conditions. Among the total sample households 201 male and 224 female labour are participated in NREGP work in an average 85 and 79 days respectively during the year 2009-10. The work participation rate is more in Madanapalli 171 persons followed by Tirupati (162) and
Chittoor 92. In an average in Chittoor district male workers earned Rs.7606 and female workers earned Rs.6993 under this programme in 2009-10.

In addition to the income earned through participation in economic activities, the sample households in the district also received financial assistance under three pension scheme namely old age, widow and disable pension schemes worth Rs.16,6800 during the study period. This amount helps the pensioners to lead a secure life socially and economically.

During the reference year 2009-10, the sample households in Chittoor district earned on an average Rs.1,04,733.20 by participating in economic activities including pension. For these rural labour households non-farm income accounts to 33.3 per cent, agricultural wage income accounts to 20.7 per cent, income from allied activities accounts to 16.2 per cent, NREGP income 14.4 per cent, agricultural income accounts only 8.7 per cent and pension income accounts to 2.7 per cent of their total income. The source wise income sequence is same in all the three revenue divisions. But surprisingly, average total income per household is highest in dry tract Madanapalli division Rs.1,11,150 followed by Chittoor division Rs.1,03,258 and Tirupati division Rs.97,830. The share agricultural income is low in total household income of the three revenue divisions compared to all other sources of income. The per household income is more in Madanapalli division since comparative more households owned sheep units which are economically more visible than even milch animals. For instance in Madanapalli division economically more average allied activities household income is double to that of other two revenue division. In addition to this, NREGP income accounts to 16 per cent total household income in Madanapalli division where as this NREGP income accounts around only 13 per cent in other two divisions.

The source-wise income analysis with the help of statistical tool ANOVA denotes the fact that the difference among the average annual income of the households in three revenue divisions is significant at 1 per cent level with regard to agricultural income and 0.005 per cent level significant with respect to NREGP income. The ANOVA test denotes that the difference between average annual income of the households with regarding to other sources (Allied agricultural, Agricultural wage, non-farm wage and social security scheme) as well as total income is not significant.
The caste-wise annual average household income reveals that among total sample households BC’s average income is at highest level with Rs.1,13,576 followed by SCs Rs.97,802, OCs Rs.95,861 and STs Rs.82,161. The ANOVA results inferred the fact that the difference between average households income of the different castes is significant at 1 per cent level. It means social factor i.e., caste has impact on households income in all divisions.

The per capita income of the each sample households is worked out to analyse the number of households/number of persons below poverty line during the year 2009-10. The Tendulkar Committee recommended poverty line norm of Rs.446 per month in rural areas has taken as criteria to estimate poverty. According to this criteria 64 households with 284 family members are in poverty among 270 sample households. Thus, the incidence of poverty among rural labour households accounts to 22.6 per cent and among sample population 18 per cent in Chittoor district. The incidence of poverty among three divisions is highest in Chittoor division 20.7 per cent and lowest in Tirupati division 13.6 per cent. In Madanapalli division the number of poor accounts to 19.3 per cent.

The caste-wise analysis reveals that the incidence of poverty is highest i.e 37 per cent among STs followed by OCs 16.5 per cent, SCs 15.4 per cent and BCs 12.8 per cent. Thus there is need to take special attention towards ST rural labour for their upliftment.

The social conditions of rural labour household in Chittoor district as per sample study reveal that on par with India (as per RLE Reports) in Chittoor district also 80 per cent of rural labour belong to Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and backward class of the society with slight variations among three divisions. The average size of family in Chittoor district is smaller (4.4) than India (5.3) and Andhra Pradesh (4.5).

The literacy rate in Chittoor district is higher (66.8%) than Andhra Pradesh (60.5%) as per 2001 census. But among rural labour illiterates accounts to only 38.2 per cent in Chittoor district. The illiterates are more in Madanapalli with compare to other two divisions. Hence special attention should be taken to promote literacy among rural labour through provision of informal education in each and every hamlet.
especially in Madanapalli revenue division. Among the sample population 36.4 per cent are dependents. Under government housing programme 76 per cent of rural household constricted their own pucca houses with government assistance and remaining 24 per cent are sheltered in thatched houses though they are in beneficiaries list under this scheme. These poorest households are not in a position to complete their houses by using their own funds. Thus there is need for a new programme to allot constricted houses to the poorest rural labour on the same line of Rajiv Gandhi Gruha Kalpa scheme in urban centres. The child labour is almost absent in the district which is said be a good sign of social advancement.

The economic conditions of rural labour in Chittoor district as per primary data analysis reveal that the rural labour earned income broadly in participating five economic activities. The non-farm wage earnings emerges as major source of household income with 37 per cent followed by agricultural wage income 20.1 per cent allied agricultural activities income 16.2 per cent, NREGP wage income 14.4 per cent and agricultural income 8.7 per cent. About 3 per cent of rural labour households income they are receiving through pension schemes. Though the share of each source varies among three divisions of the district the source -wise order is the same.

The high incidence poverty of among rural labour households further denotes their economic backwardness. As per this study 22.6 per cent of rural labour households or 18 per cent of rural labour are in poverty. The study further reveals the fact that poverty among STs (37 per cent) is the highest with compare to all other categories of rural labours. This emphasis the need to keep special attention on upliftment of scheduled caste rural labour through provision of income generating assets as well as to see that they participant in wage employment programmes.

The NREGA, an ambitions programme, implemented in India to uplift the rural labour households through providing employment in agricultural off-seasons and drought periods. Since this programme has been implemented with great expectations from 2006-07, it is the right time to analyse the impact of NREGP on poverty of rural labour in Chittoor district at micro level. For this purpose rural labour household income is workedout in two ways (i) sample household income including NREGP wage income and (ii) sample household income excluding NREGP wage income. The
Tendulkar Committee poverty norms for the year 2009-10 are taken (Rs.446) to estimate how many rural labour households and population are in poverty.

After excluding NREGP wage income for the rural household income 72 sample households or 34.1 per cent of sample population are in poverty among total sample households/population. But after including NREGP income the number of poor households declined from 72 to 40 and the number of poor persons declined from 34.1 per cent to 19 per cent.

In other words the NREGP wage income has helped the 15 per cent of poor rural labours to come out of poverty trap. Similarly, the NREGP income helped the remaining all NREGP participant rural labour still in poverty to improve their living standards to a great extent. Thus, the above analysis proved the fact that the NREGP programme has positive impact on poverty of the rural labour households. Hence there is much need to continue the NREGP programme for the years to come with more vigour so as to allow these people to live as human beings.

In Chittoor district during the reference year 2009-10 201 male and 224 female workers got employment for 85 and 79 days respectively under NREGP scheme. The average days of employment generated for both male and female is 82. These days of employment generation is much higher than the employment generated per worker in India (51 days) and even in Andhra Pradesh (55 days) in 2009-10. But the work generated under this scheme is lowest in Tirupati division 73 days followed by Chittoor division 83 days and Madanapalli division (89 days). Further the number of participants as well as number of days generated are comparatively more in dry division - Madanapalli division. Similarly NREGP income accounts to 16 per cent, 13.7 per cent and 13 per cent in Madanapalli, Tirupati and Chittoor divisions and altogether NREGP share in total income of the sample households is 14.4 per cent. With these detailed analysis it is confined that the last hypothesis. The NREGP did not exert positive impact on poverty in rural labour in Chittoor division is proved as null hypothesis. Further, there is much scope to reduce their incidence of poverty among rural labour in Chittoor district of 100 days of employment is provided as per NREGP Act.