Chapter No. 2

Objectives, Research Methodology & Review of Literature.

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Introduction:

India lives in its villages. Three out of every four Indians live in villages. It is noticed that a vast number of people in rural areas of India are without adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical, educational and cultural facilities. Even today the picture of representative Indian village is ill-defined assemblage of 'mud-walled cottages' with thin thatched roofs, with hardly any roads and source of drinking water and inhabited by men and woman, illiterate and ill-fed, and surrounded by a crowd of rickety children, all living in the company of or side-by-side an equally emaciated buffalo, or a cow or a goat and all this inspite of number of programmes meant for the eradication of rural mass poverty right from the 'Community Development Projects' in 1952 to the presents ‘National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’ (NREGA). Right from ‘Gandhiji’ to the present day economists and policy makers in India all appear to have shown an awareness of the problem of people in rural areas of the country and the need to bring about rural reconstruction which has been receiving considerable attention especially since the era of economic planning commenced in the country since 1950.¹ This becomes obvious from the Community
Development Project, the 'Panchayat Raj System', the 'Small Farmers Development Agencies', the 'Drought Prone Area Program', 'Tribal Area Program', the 'Minimum Need Program', the 'National Rural Employment Program' and almost countless number of committees and commissions that have studied the problems of rural masses and rural areas of the country. If economic prosperity of Indian rural masses would mean economic prosperity of the country it follows that general readers as also students of economics or commerce would be and should be interested to know the nature of various rural economic problem and what efforts are being made to solve them and with what consequences.

One reason for mass poverty in rural India is the lack of employment opportunities ensuring steady and reasonable income to vast masses of the rural working population. Agricultural land still continues to be the main source of income of the rural people. There is, however, too much of pressure of population on land and majority of the people do not possess any productive assets in the form of land. Also since nearly 70 per cent of cultivated land still depends upon the vagaries of monsoon, agriculture, except during sowing and harvesting
season, is not in a position to provide adequate employment opportunities to the rural work-force throughout the year. Alternative source of employment is employment in rural and cottage industries. With all the repeated emphasis on the development of rural industries, they have not developed to the extent of providing sufficient employment and steady income to all the unemployed rural work force. Thus, lack of adequate employment opportunities in rural areas of the country ensuring steady and reasonable income accounts for rural mass poverty.

A number of special schemes are being implemented for the benefit of the rural poor. There are schemes such as the Small Farmers Development Agencies, Marginal Farmers and Agricultural labour Agencies, Integrated Rural Development Program, Drought Prone Area Program, Tribal Welfare Program, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 20 - point Program, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swrozgar Yojana etc.\(^3\) It is necessary to put all these programs on a permanent basis, provide additional funds for their extension and effective implementation. And above all, it is necessary to see, through the appointment of monitoring
bodies, that the benefits of all these schemes really go to the deserving poor in rural areas.

In the case of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, while the scheme is well conceived, its implementation is unsatisfactory. Attempts should be made to plan well in advance productive asset creating works such as road construction, well and tank construction, afforestation, etc., and to see that the rural unemployed work on these projects at reasonable rates of wages. Comprehensive planning and effective implementation of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on a permanent basis will take government a long way in eradicating rural poverty.

There is also mass poverty among rural artisans, especially among those who possess only conventional skill of traditional types and can produce only of type of goods no more in demand at present because better quality and cheaper goods are available from large-scale industrial establishments in urban areas. One major step that is being taken and that needs more effective implementation is the diversification of rural economy by establishing a number of agro based
industries as also cottage and rural industries in rural areas working with modern technology and producing goods wanted by the people.

Government has been taking number of steps by providing opportunities to rural artisans to learn modern industrial skills and techniques by providing various concessions such as provision of technical courses, reservation of products exclusively for production by small-scale industries, by providing concessional finance, tax concessions for establishing industrial estates in backward regions to promote rural and cottage industries. More attempts that are vigorous will have to be made to help rural artisans to become self-employed and to promote more effectively expansion and development of agro-based and rural industries for which there is great scope. This will help relieve pressure on agricultural land and will ensure a large number of employment opportunities and steady income to rural masses.

The great revolution in India has made the country self-sufficient in food grains but poverty continues unabated mainly for reasons of unemployment and under-employment particularly in the rural areas. India is prominent among the developing countries where more than
five decades of planned development have made no difference to the distressing spectacle of poverty and underemployment.

The Plan has objective of providing productive employment to every individual seeking work. The emphasis is on maximization of the direct and long term employment opportunities through investments made under the various programs. Under the program, preference is to be given to landless labour, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to females.

Rural development strategy in India in the more recent years has been directed towards the identification of the rural poor. The target groups consisting of small and marginal farmers and landless labours. Rural development programs are intended to provide a sustained increase in the output and level of living of a significant proportion of the rural poor. The focus of such programs should be on activities, which generate income and employment opportunities locally or create the potential for the purpose. The success of the program depends on its capacity for absorption of local man power and resources and
creating initiative and enterprise among the local rural folk who design and participate in the program.

The World Bank Rural Development Policy Sector Study of 1975 defines rural development as:

"Rural Development is strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people. The rural poor and involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in rural areas. Rural Development in the broad sense of the term holds the key to all economic progress, industrial or agrarian, urban or rural"¹⁶.

The World Bank published in its reports:

'There are opportunities for considerable expanding employment in agriculture for both farmers and landless labour particularly by increasing cropping intensities on irrigated lands. But agriculture cannot absorb at ever increasing levels of productivity all of the prospective additions to the working age population in rural areas. Consequently, rural development programs have to include provision for promoting non-agricultural sectors on the one hand, and the urban, industrialized sector on the other'.

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In order to reduce the growing inequalities between urban and rural populations and bridge the gap between the rich and the poor people in rural areas, the Government of India had during the Five Year Plans evolved a number of rural employment program and projects. The approach to rural development has changed over the years so those planners or policy makers have come to take an integrated view of the development needs of the rural community. An appreciation of the mistakes of the previous programs has helped the planners to modify their approach to planning and implementation of rural employment programs. In order to tap the employment potential of the sector, government has also given an ambitious target of 44 lakh jobs in the 10th plan as against 34 lakh jobs in the 9th Plan period.7

The poverty of Marathwada is the off-shoot of rural poverty. Wide disparities in rural incomes, massive rural unemployment and under-employment, the pitiable conditions of small and marginal farmers, low productivity and meager income of farmers with uneconomic holdings etc., bewilder the planners and economists. To improve the effectiveness of the National Rural Employment Program, in 1989 it was combined with 'Rural Landless Employment Guarantee
Program' and renamed 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.' State Governments are important participants in anti-poverty programs. The constitution assigns responsibility to the state in a number of matters, including ownership, redistribution, improvement, and taxation of land. State Government implement most of the Central Government’s ‘poverty' and ‘employment’ programs concerned with rural people.

The aim of National Rural Employment Program (NREP) is to improve the living conditions of rural poor though development and utilization of local resources by bringing about necessary institutional, structural and attitudinal changes and by creating infrastructural facilities for economic as well as social networks and programs. The operational objectives of NREP are spelt out as follows:

1. The removal of unemployment and underemployment;
2. An appreciable rise in living standards of poorest sections of the population;
3. Provision by the State of some of the basic needs of the people, such as clean drinking water, adult literacy, elementary education, health care and rural roads, etc.
Thesis Title:

“A STUDY OF
'NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES'
AND IT’S IMPACT ON MARATHWADA REGION"

Scope of Study:

The whole study is intended to help in knowing whether the employment policy implemented successfully or not in rural areas. It is intended to study the overall performance of various National Rural Employment Programs as implemented form 1991. After the implementation of various acts for rural employment generations immense scope was availed to the researcher to examine and study the contents, impacts, problems, and prospects of the schemes. The study has to limit to the examination and analyses of the schemes where it was introduced as a pilot project. Similarly an attempt has been made to suggest the loopholes of the schemes measures to change in the level of implementation. The scope rests with the practical problems and corrupt practices.
The scope of the present study at micro level has limited to eight districts of Marathwada region and at Macro level National level and State level data were considered. The study analyzes the impact of rural employment generations schemes on Marathwada region. The data used in the present study are mainly secondary. However, in order to see the quality of various assets created under these programmes, few selected areas of the present study have been visited for participatory appraisal besides interactions with officials implementing these schemes.

**Limitations of the Study:**

Rural development has a special importance due to its social dimension in the country like India. Likewise, rural development only will achieve the rapid and all round development of the Indian economy as a whole. But it is necessary to study the actual beneficiaries of the rural development in the context of distribution of benefits among especially the poor section of the population. The inadequate information and data availability is a major difficulty and problems in this study, which requires micro approach in study along with
dependence on primary sources of data and information. There is a plenty of scope in studying the issue of rural development in the country like ours in the post reform regime. The study limits to the examination and analyses of the sample schemes that has been made to an attempt study the process of transparency and accountability and good governance of local self government.

The purpose of present study is to know about the role and importance of selected rural employment generations schemes, its growth and impact on the rural development of India, Maharashtra and Marathwada region. As it has been noticed that many schemes / projects have to be undertaken for the economic development of the State. The rural development has been accepted, as a major goal for the economic development of India as well as in Maharashtra also and credit is one of the important inputs for achieving this goal. Most of the districts of Marathwada Region has vast amount of rural population and these people have agricultural as their main occupation. The rural employment generations schemes are pioneer in providing employments to rural people, so the impact of various rural
employment generations programmes on Marathwada region are only the main objects of the present study.

- **Objectives of the Study:**

The following are the major objectives of the study:

1. To study of various, National Rural Employment Programs.
2. Procedure of selecting areas, projects components and fixing targets at various levels.
3. To investigate the structure of employment programs.
4. To study of changes in employment, wages and income pattern with emphasis on additional contribution from National Rural Employment Program.
5. To critically evaluate the implementation of programs.
6. Problems in implementation of the program as experienced by the implementation agencies and;
7. Policy implications and recommendations.
- **Reference Period:**
  
  The study is confined mostly to the year 2000-01 and onward.

- **Geographical Area:**
  
  There are eight districts in Marathwada Region viz. Aurangabad, Jalna, Parbhani, Hingoli, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad and Beed. The geographical area of study is restricted to Marathwada region only.

- **Research Methodology:**
  
  Keeping the objectives of the study, the secondary sources are used to analyze the path and process of the schemes. The primary data collected through observations, discussions and limited field survey. Both descriptive and explorative method is used in the study. Under descriptive method a detailed study of the various National Rural Employment Programs. Under the explorative methods, data collected at various levels, along with the use of published sources. Much information is collected through Research Studies, Research Articles published in National and State level Journals, Various Annual Reports of Government and Non-Government Agencies, Socio-economic surveys, news papers, magazines. The primary data and information
were collected from observations and discussion with the responsible implementing authorities in various districts where the sample schemes was implemented as a pilot project of Marathwada region. The data for analyses, collected through the following sources. The secondary data were collected through:

1. Ministry and various Department of Rural Development of the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, Marathwada regional offices and district offices.

2. Records Maintained by the District Rural Development Agencies at district level (DRDA).

3. Books, Journals, Reports, Annual Budget document of Central and States, Five Year Plan documents, District Surveys, Research articles, speeches, News papers, magazines, etc.

The entire study is drawn upon the ideas and the research from secondary sources. It converts different time periods due to the necessity of highlighting the growth or decline in employment during different times. Finding and observations are based on any analytical insight of the ideas so presented. It focuses on the need to prioritize the generating employment commensurate with the growth of the labour
force. The detailed discussions were held with different implementing authorities of the programs in Marathwada region. Five samples schemes selected for detailed study. The simple statistical tools i.e. ratio, percentages are used in the present study. This study confined to the period from 2000-01 to 2007-08. However the survey was conducted for the period of at least five years.

- **Sample Profile:**

  The researcher selected the eight districts of Marathwada Region namely Aurangabad, Beed, Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani and Nanded. The data and information collected from District Statistical Office, DRDAs, Commissioner Office Aurangabad and related Government’s Department. The secondary data obtained from these sources are analyzed in this study with the help of some important statistical tools.

- **Selected Sample Schemes:**

  There are number of National Rural Employment Programs implemented for the development of rural peoples, by Central and State
Governments; from these following programs were selected as sample programmes for details study.

1. **Swarn Jayanti Gram-Swarozgar Yojana. (SGSY)**
2. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. (PMGSY)**
3. **Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. (SGRY)**
4. **Indira Awas Yojana. (IAY)**

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**Data Base:**

All calculations and results are based on the data available in the:

- Web sites of Government of Maharashtra and Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development etc.
- Some other studies conducted by the eminent researchers on Rural Development and Employment Generation schemes.
• Report of District Socio Economic Analysis of various districts of Marathwada region.

• Various books on Indian Economy.

**Area Profile:**

Marathwada is one of the most backward regions as characterized by low standards of living with a dominant agricultural sector with little industrialization. The backwardness of Marathwada region is not a result of poverty only. There are social, economical, geographical and entrepreneurial reasons behind it. The importance of the industrialization is over looked. In the absence of industrialization in rural area of Marathwada the regions economy can not be developed as compare to the other regions of the state. Employment Generations programmes is very necessary for the development of Marathwada region because the maximum number of people (75.46 percent) of the region is living in rural areas. Rural Urban populations of Marathwada region is given in Table No. 2.1
Table No. 2.1:

**Rural Urban Population of Marathwada Region.** *(Figures in Lakhs)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aurangabad</td>
<td>10.87 (37.53)</td>
<td>18.09 (62.47)</td>
<td>28.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jalna</td>
<td>3.08 (19.11)</td>
<td>13.05 (80.89)</td>
<td>16.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
<td>4.85 (31.74)</td>
<td>10.43 (68.26)</td>
<td>15.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hingoli</td>
<td>1.54 (15.60)</td>
<td>8.33 (84.40)</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nanded</td>
<td>6.89 (24.02)</td>
<td>21.79 (75.98)</td>
<td>28.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Latur</td>
<td>4.90 (23.55)</td>
<td>15.90 (76.45)</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>2.33 (15.68)</td>
<td>12.53 (84.32)</td>
<td>14.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Beed.</td>
<td>3.87 (17.91)</td>
<td>17.74 (82.09)</td>
<td>21.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>38.33 (24.54)</strong></td>
<td><strong>117.86 (75.46)</strong></td>
<td><strong>156.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Statistics - Social-Economical Review - 2006-07

The Table No. 2.1 shows that the Urban Rural population of Districts of Marathwada Region. It is evident from the table that 75.46 per cent of people living in rural area. Hingoli district shows the highest percentages (84.40) of rural population whereas Aurangabad districts record lowest percentages (62.47) rural population in Marathwada region.
Table No. 2.2:

Gender wise Population of Marathwada Region. *(Figures in Lakhs)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Male  (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aurangabad</td>
<td>15.05</td>
<td>13.91</td>
<td>28.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jalna</td>
<td>8.26</td>
<td>7.86</td>
<td>16.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.48</td>
<td>15.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hingoli</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nanded</td>
<td>14.76</td>
<td>13.92</td>
<td>28.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Latur</td>
<td>10.75</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>20.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>07.69</td>
<td>07.17</td>
<td>14.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Beed.</td>
<td>11.16</td>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>21.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80.52</strong></td>
<td><strong>75.66</strong></td>
<td><strong>156.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Statistics-Social-Economical Review-2006-

Table No. 2.2 shows that the Male Female population of districts of Marathwada region. Aurangabad district shows highest population (28.96 Lakhs) whereas Hingoli district record lowest population (9.87 lakhs) in Marathwada region. Overall population shows highest number in Male population and lowest in female population. Male Female population ratio of Marathwada region was 51.56:48.41. As far
as female population of all districts Nanded district record highest number (13.91 lakhs) of female population as well as Osmanabad has lowest number (7.17 Lakhs) of female population.

**Table No. 2.3:**

**Human Development Index and Per Capita District Domestic Product of Marathwada:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>HDI - 2000 (Index)</th>
<th>Rank (HDI)</th>
<th>PCDDP Rs. 1998-99</th>
<th>Rank (PCDDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Aurangabad</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19,365</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Jalna</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12,047</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13,827</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Hingoli</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13,827</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Beed</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15,303</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Nanded</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13,068</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12,905</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Latur</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13,677</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** PCDDP: Human Development Report Maharashtra, p.-131)
There were 35 districts in Maharashtra State and 8 districts in Marathwada region. The Table No. 2.3 shows the Human Development ranking of districts in Marathwada region. As far as Marathwada region Aurangabad district shows 11\textsuperscript{th} position in Maharashtra (First in Marathwada) and Jalna District shows 32\textsuperscript{nd} position in the State (Last in Marathwada). The table also shows the per capita income of the people. The same ranking is applicable to the district i.e. Aurangabad district is on first position whereas Jalna district is on eighth position.

- **Brief Review of literature:**

  The following studies are reviewed in the following section:

  *Bhaskar Mujumdar* in his study entitled “Rural Non-farm Employment in India (2007) - focused the performance of ‘Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana’ in India. He concludes that 70 per cent of the workers seemed satisfied with the wage rate paid including 5 Kg. food grains per man-day per worker. A large percentage of the targeted beneficiaries do not get the prescribed wages and also the allocated food grains. SGRY is a step in the right direction for productive uplift of the rural people if it is implemented through inclusive development path. It shows one of the means of ensuring food cum job security of the
rural population in distress. Agriculture by itself has limited scope to offer employment to the increasing size of rural population. Non farm employment in rural economy of India is the choice that can be attempted through schemes like SGRY.

A Researcher Chaya Degaonkar undertakes a study on ‘Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana’: An Integrated Approach to Poverty Alleviation published in Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India Edited by K.K. Bagchi and published by Abhijeet Publications, Delhi. In this study she stresses the need of Employment Programmes in India. Finding of the study is as:

Self-employment is a long run solution to the problem of unemployment in India as the generation of regular wage employment in the system is very slow. The earlier self-employment programmes were inadequate and piecemeal in their approach. There was an urgent need for an integrated and all inclusive programme. The SGSY is a laudable attempt in this direction. The group approach and the provision of training and credit input the involvement of different agencies, the monitoring of the programme form the core of the present
programmes. It thus has evolved checks and balances within the system itself to ensure better results. The programme has a good potential and if implemented properly may help in upliftment of the rural poor in coming future.

*D. Chennappa* made a study on Poverty Alleviation Through Self Employment in Andhra Pradesh. He undertakes a study on Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana a self employment scheme of Central Government. The study take an over view of the scheme in Andhra Pradesh. It was found that a majority of the beneficiaries did choose self employment ventures unrelated to their family occupation, which established a new entrepreneurship under the scheme.\(^9\)

*Gunasekaran A. and Usha Rani* has made an attempt to relate consanguinity to poverty, ill health and unemployment. To break the vicious circle of poverty, unemployment, consanguinity and infant mortality he suggests that the government should act at the national level in changing the basic structure by strengthening social sector like health and education, provision of quality employment, creating awareness among the people about socio cultural, economic and
biological factor underlying human development and to build a new, strong India, free from mass poverty.\textsuperscript{10}

\textit{Hanumanta Rao (1991)} argue that in the pursuit of poverty alleviation programmes such as IRDP and JRY etc., does not find adequate concern for undertaking activities like soil conservation, water harvesting, drainage and construction of field channels which raise agricultural productivity. This integrated approach is detrimental to raise agriculture productivity as well as to alleviating rural poverty on a sustainable basis.\textsuperscript{11}

\textit{K. K. Shrivastava \& Padma Saxena} conducted a study entitled “Impact of Globalization on Rural Employment Pattern: Evidence from Madhya Pradesh” with the object of impact of globalization on Rural Employment. In this study they conclude that rural employment growth rates increased during pre-reform era and declined during post reforms era.

- The rural employment growth rate was 0.89 per cent which increased to 3.37 per cent in the pre reforms era while decreased to 0.69 per cent in the post reforms era.
The rural employment growth rate for male workers was highest 4.12 per cent in the pre-reform era which decreased to lowest 0.70 per cent in the post-reform era.

The rural employment growth rate for female workers was highest 3.05 per cent in the pre-reforms era which decreased to lowest 0.65 per cent in the post reforms era.

The average rural employment growth rates in post reforms era have been negative.

**K. Hanumantha Rao** conducted a study on “Changes in the Structure of Employment in Rural Areas with the help of National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. The study reveals the facts that the employment opportunities have gone up substantially in rural India as can be gleaned by the index of employment opportunities. Through distributive measures, there was ample scope for ensuring employment opportunity for at least to one person in all rural households. The local institutions need to be sensitized on this aspect to take care of equity dimension in labour markets.12 The criteria for
allocations of funds for wage employment programmes have to be re-examined since poverty and unemployment are not perfectly correlated. A state Kerala could not gain much from JRY.

**K. Venkata Reddy** a well known researcher and author written and published a book entitled Agricultural and Rural Development – A Gandhian Perspective highlights various issues of rural development and discussion is made on number of poverty alleviation programmes for rural India. An attempt is made to introduce the changing scenario of socio-economic structure of rural India. The approaches, experiments, policies and programmes of agriculture and rural development with special reference to the Gandhian approach to agriculture and rural development are discussed in details. He pointed out that growth achieved so far has not resulted in significant increase in employment and purchasing capacity of the poor.13

Drawing on the Maharashtra EGS experience, **Hema Arora** in her paper ‘Guaranteed Employment as a Mean to Fulfilling Basic needs’ published in Guaranteed Employment for the Rural Poor Vol. I (2005), argues for a more holistic and participatory approach in the planning
and implementation of the Central EGS, by widening its, scope, to not only include enhance employment opportunities but also to meet the basic needs of the rural poor, to create community assets and to organize people for social mobilization. These policy interventions can make the programme more effective and deliver the desired results.

A study on National Rural Employment Programme conducted by *Himachal Pradesh Government* (1986-87). It is a critical study of the National Rural Employment Programme with regard to the procedure of selecting areas and projects, fixing of targets, physical and financial achievements, nature of the assets created, identification of beneficiaries, change in the rural economy, employment, income etc. The study was conducted on a systematic sampling basis. The study conclude that the employment created under NREP forms less than two per cent of the extent of under employment in the State.¹⁴

*Sivasubramaniam M.N.* examined the integration of all the rural self employment schemes into a single scheme called Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. This scheme aims at bringing every unemployed poor person above the poverty line within three years. The
author suggested that group approach may be innovative, the subsidy element should be scrapped, the activity should be viable and a sea change in administrative procedures is to be adopted. The concepts of village banking and mobile banking should be introduced so that saving habits may be promoted and loan recovery rate may improve. No minimum loan size should be fixed and poverty alleviation programmes should only be a short term strategy. According to him the voluntary organizations, community based self help groups and local government organizations have a substantial role to play for eradicating poverty.

*S. B. Golahit*, in his study “Rural Development Programme’ conclude that the Integrated Rural Development Programme is one of the biggest programme of the poverty alleviation package which is in programme lies in poverty identifying beneficiaries and providing income generating assets to ensure continued employment and income for them. But its gains are not equally distributed among the different section of rural society.15
S. P. Gupta in his study entitled “Globalization, Economic Reforms and Employment Strategy (2006). He express his views about that composition of the labour force in the developing world is fast changing, with increasing youth in the labour force, particularly in educated segments. Around 80 per cent of those youth who are currently unemployed are well educated, and that number is increasing fast. This new scenario is becoming politically unsustainable since the educated youth mostly come from the rising middle class, with its inherent political and social clout.16

S.V. Rangacharyulu edited a book on National seminar held at Hyderabad at on “Guaranteed Employment for the Rural Poor’ (2005) highlighted the need of Employment generation Schemes in India for rural people. In this book he tries to focus on various poverty alleviations programmes implemented in India and their success. In this Vol. No. I & II he put forward no of valuable ideas, suggestions and recommendations to the policy planner for the implementation of the programmes.
Sawalia Bihari Verma & Yogesh Upadhyay edited research articles collections on various employment generations schemes published as Rural Employment. In the books they discuss on – Rural employment is a weapon to fight against poverty but when it is clubbed with people’s participation it becomes the powerful to minimize the poverty. In this regard Khadi and Village industries are the most suitable solution for proving gainful employment. The book focuses on

- Employment Scenario in India;
- Rural Employment Programmes;
- Rural Banks Promoting Employment Generation;
- Strategies for Rural Development;
- Self Employment opportunities for rural people;
- Rural employment and people’s participations. etc.17

Against the background of the various studies, the present study are examine the performance of five sample schemes such as ‘Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana’, ‘Sampoorna Gramin Roazgar Yojana’, ‘Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana’, ‘Indira Awas Yojana’ and ‘National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’. In case of
Marathwada region, very few empirical studies have been undertaken to examine the impact of Rural Employment Generations Schemes. This study can be thus benefiting for rural development projects to overcome various problems to bridge gap between urban and rural development. This study suggests suitable policy measures for the better implementation of the various programmes.

- **Chapters Scheme:**

  The present study has been divided into seven chapters. The details of the chapter scheme are as follows:

1. The first chapter of the study entitled as ‘**Introduction**’ focused on different issues related to study.

2. The second chapter of the study is ‘**Objectives, Research Methodology & Review of literature**’ includes Scope, Objectives, Research Methodology, Review of literature, Limitations of Study, etc.

3. The third chapter of the thesis entitled ‘**Employment, Poverty and Income Pattern of Rural People**’ focused on employment,
poverty and Income pattern of rural India as well as in Marathwada region.

4. In the fourth chapter of the study entitled ‘National Rural Employment Programs and its need’ discussion is made on need of various national rural employment schemes in rural area of India as well as in Marathwada region.

5. The fifth chapter of the study is entitled as ‘Program Implementation’ the chapter focused on implementation of selected rural employment programmes in Marathwada region.

6. The sixth chapter of the study is entitled as ‘Evaluation & Impacts of NREP in Marathwada’. The thorough discussion is made in this chapter on selected programmes and takes an overview of impact of these programmes / schemes on the economically backward Marathwada region.

7. The seventh and last chapter of the study entitled ‘Conclusions and Suggestions’ provides various findings and suggestions of the study.
References:


