CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Empirical studies on trends of income and employment of agricultural labourers has emerged as an important area of organised research only with the launching of First Agricultural Labour Enquiry in 1950-51. Before 1950's systematic research on agricultural labour had a limited scope, because of non-availability of reliable data with regard to agricultural labourers. It was difficult to have a proper understanding of their inherent problems. However, a few studies were undertaken by individual research scholars in limited areas. For the purpose of the review of research undertaken in the field of income and employment of agricultural labourers, studies conducted could be grouped in three broad stages -


Research in the first category could be reviewed in two stages -
1. Research pertaining to pre-Independence era i.e. before 1947;

2. Research undertaken from 1947 to 1965-66, i.e. post-Independence period to the year of Green Revolution.

Pre-1947 studies in the field of agricultural labourers were mainly confined to the analysis of the conditions of bonded labour.

Research on Income and Employment Trends in Traditional Agriculture

Larenzo's study is one of the important studies of this period, who conducted an investigation in the general economic conditions of agricultural labourers in North India with special reference to agricultural labourers in Bihar, Orissa and Chhota Nagpur. The study covered a period of four decades proceeding the first World War. It was also supplemented by field surveys in some parts of the region under study.

Mukherjee, as Secretary of the National Planning Committee undertook field investigations in Bihar to bring to the light the miserable plight of 'Harawahas', especially those who had become bonded slaves of their masters due to hereditary debts. Their condition was found to be even worse than that of agricultural labourers in Bihar and Orissa.
Another similar study was conducted by Dantwala and Desai (1948) of 'Hali Labour' in South Gujarat. Besides these studies, focussing mainly on the plight of bonded labour, in a number of "village and area" studies, the condition of agricultural labourers were described in varying details.

Mukhtyar & Shukla's study (1928) of a Gujarat village fall in this category. So does Stevenson Moore's study (1898) of the conditions of agricultural labourers in Gaya district of Bihar and Das's study of the plantation of labour in India.

The factual base of many of these studies was rather weak as they did not start with systematic and representative sample, scientific questionnaire or tabulation scheme. But nonetheless, they did provide relevant insight into the socio-economic condition of agricultural labourers in the area covered by these studies.

A few more studies based on published data on agricultural wages were conducted for the post-war period. These studies have mainly focussed their attention on trends in wages of agricultural labourers. Studies made by Sridhar Mishra (1948), R.Nath and V. Joshi (1966) and B.S. Mavin Kurve (1948) fall in this category. The main findings of these studies are that wages appear to take time to adjust and that too, only if the changed price level tends to persist over a long period. In the post-Independence era, three all India Surveys of agricultural Labour viz. First Agricultural Labour Enquiry...
1950-51, Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry 1956-57, Third Agricultural Labour Enquiry 1963-65, some rounds of 'National Samply Survey' (N.S.S.) and 'Rural Labour Enquiry' 1964-65 have thrown valuable light on the conditions of agricultural labourers.

However, the findings of the three Agricultural Labour Enquiries have been rendered unfit for the purpose of comparison N.A. Khan, P.K. Mukherjee, R.N. Poduval and a number of scholars who contributed to the V.K.R.V. Rao's (ed.) among whom C.H. Shah's contribution is notable (1950-51 to 1956-57) have pointed out a number of limitations and difficulties involved for the purpose of comparison of the condition of agricultural labourers. This is mainly because of inconsistency in definitions and concepts used, coverage and methodology adopted in each labour enquiry.

Although the findings of the First and Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry are not comparable, even then most of the scholars who contributed paper in a seminar held at the Institute of Economic Growth (1961) have revealed that the economic position of agricultural labourers had in a fundamental sense weakened during this period. This is mainly due to structural changes taking place in rural economy which resulted in declining demand for hired labour. Similar observations were made by a Committee appointed by Planning Commission (1964) to study the comparability of the findings of the two labour enquiries.
Besides a number of 'village and area studies' were conducted during the post-Independence era. These reveal the comparative living and working conditions of agricultural labourers.

Mavin Kurve's study (1952) makes a comparative study of the economic condition of cultivators-cum-labourers and landless labourers in a Bombay-Karnatak region. The main findings of the study is that on the basis of several norms like per capita income, a considerable portion of cultivators-cum-labourers households were found to be in worse economic circumstances than was the case with landless labourers. A few more studies have utilised published data on agricultural wages to analyse the income and employment trends of agricultural labourers.

Sahoo's study (1969) has compared the condition of agricultural labourers at two points of time. The study covered the period from 1950-1963 and observed an improvement in agricultural wages over the period.

Krishnaji in a similar study (1971) for the period of 1960-61 and 1964-65 concluded that wages increased at a faster rate in those regions, where they were relatively low and decreased, where they were relatively high.

Rao in his study (1972) has pointed out that published data on agricultural wages is adequate to suggest directional changes but are not good enough for inter-seasonal comparison.
Though many of these studies were conducted with great care but they are few. They also rely on diverse sample frames, questionnaires and tabulation performances. However, a brief review of the studies of the trends in agricultural labourer's income and employment suggests some improvement in their living conditions and more importantly certain basic structural changes in the income and employment pattern in rural areas during the period of first three five year plans i.e. 1950-51 to 1965-66.

Research on Impact of New Agricultural Strategy on Income and Employment

The New Agricultural Strategy adopted in mid-sixties is a significant development in Indian agriculture. The biological, chemical and mechanical revolution ushered in by science and technology constitutes the foundation of the 'Green Revolution'. The term Green Revolution does not mean merely the emergency of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) and donates a sum total of the impact of all the factors of production that are conducive to dramatic increase in agriculture production, resulting in accelerated productivity of land, labour, capital and organisation. (see Singh 1980 and Ingrid Palmer) The adoption of modern technology in agriculture represents a labour intensive technology since what is required is not only HYV but other complimentary inputs as well. Besides, the innovation of shorter duration crops made new cropping patterns feasible. As a result, double or multiple cropping, mixed cropping and
rely cropping tend to replace monoculture further enhancing the labour-absorption capacity in agriculture. The immediate impact of the programme, wherever it is successful is to raise the production profile in a remarkable way. The increase in production and productivity, in turn, have significant social and economic impact and implications. However, as socio-economic conditions vary from country to country, region to region, area to area and even village to village, the impact of green revolution also vary from place to place and time to time, as the nature and extent of the Green Revolution itself is not uniform in its scope and contents.

A number of scholars have emphasised the role and impact of New Agricultural Strategy in ushering an era of fuller employment and adequate income in some parts of the country. Being size-neutral it has also benefitted the small farmer who constitute the bulk of peasantry. Empirical studies undertaken in several parts of the country have shown that the adoption of HYV of seeds and other complimentary inputs have significantly increased the demand for labour particularly during the peak seasons.

In one district of Delhi State, it is reported that the introduction of Maxican Wheat varieties have doubled the amount of family labour used per acre and has also resulted in an increase in the amount of hired labour. In Ludhiana District (Punjab) where the impact of HYV is most pronounced, it is reported that the number of jobs have increased faster than
the rate of growth of the population. This finding has been corroborated by data collected from several other parts of the country by a series of micro-level village studies e.g. studies conducted by Agro-Economic Research centres as well as by more comprehensive sample studies such as those by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO).

Lahiri's study (1970) is an attempt to estimate the increase in the demand for hired labour due to the new technology. On the basis of differences in the hired labour utilization between HYV and non-HYV crops, the study revealed that the immediate impact of the HYV programme on the rural labour market was an increase in demand for agricultural labour in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Assam.

Muthiah in his study (1970) of Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu, following a similar technology observed the increase in demand per acre for labour as a result of adoption of HYV seeds.

Billings and Singh's study (1970) of Punjab and Haryana is based on the data collected for various studies conducted by the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and other farm management studies. The study is an attempt to analyse the influence of technological changes in farm production methods on employment and income distribution among cultivators and agricultural labourers. It also provides an insight into the pattern of labour displacement, its possible rate and the
composition of displaced farm workers. The study reveals that the use of HYV seeds appears to increase both the demand for human energy and animal power for the whole year but have additional effect of increasing the labour demand during the peak seasons of October/November and April/May. This has resulted in raising wages and rising labour costs. In some areas this has encouraged farmers to go in for mechanisation.

Shah and Shah, S.A. in their study(l970) of North-west Uttar Pradesh find that when mechanisation is accompanied with the adoption of improved technology, its adverse impact on the employment of labour is only marginal but on farms which do not switch over to modern farm practices, mechanisation results in a sizeable decline in labour employment.

Some studies have focussed their attention on the impact of New Agricultural Strategy on agricultural wages. The indications are that with the introduction of HYV programmes the cash wages have generally risen, especially in case of seasonal labour.

Pranab Bardhan in his study(l970) of the comparison of the levels of cash and real wages in Punjab and Kerala between 1959 to 1969 finds that real wages in certain parts of the country have actually decreased in the latter year due to the mechanisation. However, in Punjab real wages of labour have remained practically static for different operations. But when average daily wage rates are deflated by consumer retail price
Index number for agricultural labourers, the real wage rate appears to have declined in both Punjab and Haryana between 1956-57 and 1964-65 as well as between 1960-61 and 1967-68.

Ian R. Wills in his study (1971) of a district in western Uttar Pradesh has observed that the adoption of the HYV programme has increased total agricultural employment in the area and has raised average agricultural wages. But despite the rise in wages, agricultural income of landless labourers will rise less than those of land owners. The adoption of labour saving machinery will reduce the income and employment of landless labourers.

Johal's study (1975) is an attempt to examine the changes in employment and income of agricultural labourers in the Punjab State at two points of time i.e. 1965-66 and 1970-71. The evidence presented has revealed that the Green Revolution technology has yielded widespread benefits to all sections of the rural society. Labour employment opportunities expanded, working conditions improved, wage rates in both money and real terms increased.

Garg and Singh, T.R., in their study (1975) of the Meerut district of western Uttar Pradesh have assessed the employment pattern, mode and methods of wage payment and the levels of earnings of landless agricultural labourers households for the year 1974-75. Based on random sample survey the study concludes that the developed infrastructure and the adoption of modern
technology including intensive cropping pattern accounts for higher level of employment, higher wages and higher earnings of landless households in the area studied. The study suggests that to solve the problem of unemployment and disguised un­employment of landless agricultural labourers and to ameliorate their condition in other parts of the state the infra-structure and the level of adoption of modern technology should be given preference.

Sharma's study (1975) is based on the data collected from three detailed field studies undertaken by Economic Advisor, Government of Punjab (EAP), Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), the Agricultural Economic Research Centre (AERC) and Farm Management Survey of Ferozepur district (FMS). EAP and PAU studies covers the entire state of Punjab whereas AERC and FMS studies pertain to a single district Karnal of Haryana. The study is an attempt to analyse the impact of partial mechanisation i.e. the use of tractors on farm employment in Punjab and Haryana. The evidence presented in the study shows that partial mechanisation for some operations has not lead to any labour displacement. The study concludes that, a shift from partial to complete mechanisation could create serious unemployment problems for agricultural labourers.

Acharya's study (1976) of Udaipur and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan is an attempt to examine the impact of HYV and mechanisation on hired labour. It also aims at estimating the
share of hired labour in the benefits of new technology. The study provided evidence to believe that the adoption of HYV, coupled with increase in cropping intensity, has increased employment of hired labour, in addition to increase in employment of family labour. Pump-operated and tractor-operated farms employ more hired labour compared to bullock operated farms. Employment of casual hired labour increases by both pump and tractor. So does the study by Singh, R.D. and Joshi of Taria region of Nainital district.

Bhalla’s study (1976) of Haryana is an exercise to work out total quantitative impact both direct and indirect of new technology on income and employment in agriculture. The main findings of the study are that it is the scale effect which has led to higher income and employment. The indirect employment because of new technology is lower than that generated by the old technology.

Pandey’s study (1976) is an attempt to examine the trends in money and real wage rates of agricultural labourers at various points of time for different states in India. The study revealed that average daily money wage rate of agricultural labourers have shown significant increase during 1956-57 and 1970-71 over 1950-51. The highest wage hikes were found in the states of Haryana and Punjab which have higher levels of agricultural development. Wage hikes in Kerala state were because of organised agricultural labour force. But the level of real wages of agricultural labourers has not shown any
noticeable improvement during the decade 1960-61 to 1969-70, except in case of Punjab and Kerala. In states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Mysore, Orissa and Gujarat, real wages have in fact declined during this decade. In 12 out of 14 states studied the socio-economic condition of small and marginal farmers has not been found better than those of landless labourers. Thus any scheme aimed at reducing poverty among the weaker sections of rural areas should not discriminate between the landless labourers and small and marginal farmers with uneconomic land holdings.

Singh and Sidhu (1976) have examined the impact of new farm technology on employment. The study revealed that over the year 1965-66 to 1973-74, increase in cropped area, shift towards labour intensive enterprises and higher labour requirement of HYV has lead to an increase in labour use in Punjab. The authors have also observed an increase in the wages of permanent and casual labour during the period under study.

Pranesh Kumar and K.N. Rai's study (1976), using the secondary data for the year 1960-61 to 1972-73 has observed that though money wages increased considerably during the years under review, the inflationary trend in prices brought down real wages to the level of 1960-61. Thus the agricultural labourers were not benefitted by the green revolution.

Singh, Gurmukh and Singh, Nirmal's study (1978) is an attempt to examine the pattern of employment and wage
structure of annual farm servants in different regions of the state. Based on a sample survey, the reference period of the study is 1974-75. The study has examined the mode, level and systems of wage payment to the permanent farm servants.

Raju’s study (1976) is an attempt to demonstrate the distributional effect of new agricultural technology on farm incomes. The study is based on a stratified multi-stage random sample and the reference period is 1967-68 and 1970-71. In order to measure the net influence of new farm technology on the farm income distribution, the statistical model used is multiple regression analysis, both Linear and Cobb-Douglas regression models were fitted. The data for the study was drawn from the Benchmark and Assessment Survey of the IADP district, West Godawari (Andhra Pradesh), conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The results of the study suggest an overall decline in farm income inequalities in the area under study as an impact of the development programmes and policies adopted in IADP area.

Dhaliwal and Grewal’s study (1981) aims at assessing the income of agricultural labourers household from various resources at a point of time and to work out the extent of employment of agricultural labour and seasonality in its employment pattern. The study pertains to the state of Punjab for the year 1977-78. The state has been divided
into six agro-climatic zones and the sample was drawn from each zone with probability proportional to the number of labour household in each zone. The study revealed that the income and employment of agricultural labour household had improved over time, but the real income recorded only nominal increase due to rise in the prices of consumer goods. The study also showed some improvement in the economic condition and bargaining capacity of agricultural labourers. Seasonality in agricultural employment was also found to be lowest in agriculturally developed zones.

Singh and Saini's study (1981) of Haryana and Mehta and Vishist's study (1981) of Himachal Pradesh has examined the impact of new/improved agricultural technology on employment potential and farm wages.

Bal's study (1980, 1982) is an attempt to examine regional imbalances in farm family income in Punjab state in the wake of the adoption of new farm technology on a large scale. For empirical investigation of regional variations in the distribution of farm family income, a multi-stage stratified random sampling technique was adopted. Data was collected on a pre-tested schedule through personal interviews with all the farmers of the sample village for the year 1973-74. The evidence presented in the study shows that the technological breakthrough has contributed to the widening of regional disparities in farm and off-farm incomes in Punjab. The study further indicates that there is an element of inevitability
with regard to regional imbalances and suggests a number of steps aimed at reducing regional imbalances in farm family income from technological changes.

Panghal and Rai's study (1982) has examined the impact of technological breakthrough in agricultural wages in Haryana. The study was based on a secondary data for the period 1970-79. The study applies appropriate statistical tools to study the trends in money and real wages of agricultural labourers and to estimate the growth rate of wages. The study shows that during the decade 1970-79 which could be termed as a period of agricultural prosperity, the wages of agricultural labourers remained nearly constant in Haryana state. Though the money wages showed a considerable increase during this period. The inflationary trend in prices had brought down the real wages to 1970 level.

Kumar and Sharma's study (1983) is also an attempt to examine the growth rates of agricultural wages in Haryana during the pre-green revolution period (1960-66) and post-green revolution period (1967-80), operation-wise and period-wise. The study concludes that real wages of agricultural labourers during 1967-80 are distinctly higher than those during the year 1960-66) for all agricultural operations. But the growth rate has remained very slow and insignificant over the years and the wages have remained almost constant over the period under study.
Kikuchi and Hayami's study (1982) at a village level found that in Laguna village in the Philippines which benefited substantially from HYV rice, the real wages remained approximately constant between 1960 and 1976 despite rapid population growth and in-migration. They compared these findings with a similar village in Java in which HYV failed to take off. Real wages, there declined between 1960 and 1976.

Bell, Hazell and Slade's study (1982) on the impact of an irrigation project and HYV rice in the Muda River region of Malaysia, reported that land owning households gained relatively most, but landless paddy workers also increased their real per capita incomes by 97 per cent.

Ahluwalia's study (1985) provides evidence that the incidence of rural poverty in India declined almost steadily between 1967-68 and 1977-78. The author also found (1977, 1985) that the incidence of rural poverty is negatively related to agricultural output levels her head.

Rajagopalan and Ramasamy's study (1986) is an attempt to examine the impact of technological changes in agriculture on rural welfare. To examine the consequences of Green Revolution, an attempt has been made to study changes in income, employment, food and land over the past one decade. The study is based on the data collected by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and International Food...
Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) at two different points of time i.e. 1973-74 and 1982-83.

The evidence reviewed in the study demonstrate a definite and significant improvement in the economic welfare of most household groups in sample village since 1973-74.

Haque's study (1987) intends to identify the extent of temporal and regional variations in the growth of landless and semi-landless agricultural households and the policy implication of the change, thus identified in the overall agrarian structure in various regions. This is based on the data collected from reports No. 330 and 331 on 26th and 37th rounds of N.S.S. for the year 1971-72 and 1981-82 respectively. The main findings of the study are that the proportions of landless households to the total rural households has increased from 9.6 per cent in 1971 to 11.3 per cent in 1981 in the country as a whole. The rising proportions of the landless, semi-landless and marginal households in majority of the states create serious unemployment problems as the rate of labour absorption in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of these regions are not adequate to meet the challenge posed by the rapid growth of landlessness.

Rajender Singh's study (1987) seeks to analyse the absorption of rural labour force, employment pattern, mode of wage payment and wage differentials of landless agricultural labourers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Based on a sample of
Research studies conducted by Johl, Bardhan, Raju, Raju and Singh, Ahluwalia, Singh and Rao have revealed that most of the benefits created in the process of "Green Revolution" remained confined to the comparatively better off section instead of percolating to the poorest section of the rural population. This has further widened the gaps in the distribution of wealth and income between the rich and the poor farmers. As a result, the growth strategy of the first four Five Year Plans, patterned on 'Harrod-Domar Model' and 'Feldman-Mahalanobis Model' came to be questioned seriously towards the early seventies. (Dandekar & Rath 1971 and Dantwala 1973) In order to improve the existing pattern of distribution of income, particularly among small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers, a strategy of direct assault on poverty was
considered more suitable and appropriate. Poverty alleviation came to be accepted as a principle objective of the fifth Five Year Plan. A number of special programmes for the weaker sections as a strategy for improving income distribution were initiated by the Planning Commission, the Central Government and the State Governments. Some of the important programmes undertaken are: Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Programme (SFDA/MFAL), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), etc. etc.

Besides, these centrally sponsored All-India Programmes, a number of states have special programmes for the benefits of the poor like Employment Guarantee Schemes, Mid-day Meal Schemes and Old-age Pension Schemes etc. As a matter of fact, the Government of India had special programmes for the poorer and weaker sections of the society right from its inception. In "fifties and sixties" they were directed to the protection of certain socio-economic classes such as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. In 'seventies' these programmes were more specifically directed to poverty alleviation.

A number of individual research studies have been made in the recent past to assess as to how for these schemes/agencies have benefited the "target groups" in the past also how these agencies should be revamped. Most of these studies are
evaluative in character and outline measures to improve the effectiveness of implementation within the existing framework of approach and design of the major projects. Studies based on field investigations have focussed attention on the following aspects:

(a) Definition of the concept of weaker sections of the society and the "target groups".

(b) Assessment of economic viability of special schemes already initiated by the Government.

(c) Evaluation of the impact of subsidies given to weaker sections.

Pandey and Khanna's study (1980) of Haryana state is an attempt to examine the impact of SFDA on income, employment, consumption and credit worthyness of weaker sections of Ambala and Hissar districts. Based on a multi-stage random sampling technique, another objective of the study is to examine category-wise and purpose-wise disbursement of subsidy to the weaker section during 1977-78 and 1979-80. The study brings out that the highest amount of subsidy was received by landless agricultural labourers and marginal farmers in both the districts. The scheme had made positive and significant impact on income and consumption of the beneficiaries.
Peter and Sebastian have studied the impact of SFDA in Thuraiyur block of Tiruchrapalli district of Tamil Nadu.

Ghosh has studied (1982) the impact of MFALDA on the conditions of the weaker sections, particularly marginal farmers in terms of income and benefits emerging from development programmes of the agency in the district of Bankura, West Bengal. It is based on the data taken from three studies conducted by the Agro-economic Research Centre, Visva Bharati during the period 1972-73.

Kapde, V. has studied the impact of special programme like SFDA and MFAL etc. in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. The study is based on intensive field work involving interview of 300 selected farmers grouped in two categories i.e. beneficiaries(250) and non-beneficiaries(50). The study revealed that there are positive results in terms of effect of credit received on assets formation and total income of selected households.

Sablok, P.L* and Sablok, A. have studied the strategy for improving the income distribution of the weaker section in Chambal Command Area of Madhya Pradesh. The survey has revealed that the main programmes organised in the Chambal area for the weaker sections, are SFDA and MFAL, DPAP, CSRE. The various special schemes are complimentary in character but in practice they are not so coordinated. These special
programmes are still ad-hoc in character and suffer from wide dispersal and fragmentation, often resulting in overlapping of organisation and financial resources.

Agarwal and Prasad's study (1982) is an attempt to evaluate the impact of SFDA programme on the cropping pattern, farm investment, farm income and employment in Alwar district of Rajasthan, using both inter-temporal and cross-sectional approaches. In the inter-temporal approach, comparison was made for the year 1971-72 and 1975-76 whereas in cross-sectional approach, the situation of 1975-76 of the beneficiary farmers was compared with that of non-beneficiary small farmers. The study has revealed that there is a significant difference in the area under HYV, cropping pattern, cropping intensity, the level of investment, increase in net income and employment per acre, in case of beneficiaries and non-beneficiary farms. Thus the SFDA has improved the economic condition of the participant small farmers in the study area.

Rajayan has studied the impact of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers development programme (SFDA/MFAL) in Quilon district of Kerala for the year 1978-79.

Kannathal's study attempts to assess the improvement in employment, income and standard of living of the weaker section after the implementation of SFDA programme in 1978-79 in one of the villages in South Arcot district (Tamil Nadu).
The study revealed that even though, there is an increase in income and employment level, but the standard of living has not improved.

Dingar and Singh's study examines the income viability of small and marginal farmers participating in the various schemes of the SFDA project in Fatehpur District of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1978-79.

Yadav (et. al.) have studied the small farmers response to economic incentives given under the SFDA programme in Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

Daulat Singh (et. al.) have examined the effects of subsidy on income generation among the scheduled tribes, marginal and small farmers in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

A few studies have attempted to assess the impact of various programmes initiated by the Government of India as well as by the state governments.

Sikka, B.K. (et. al.) have evaluated the impact and performance of the Antyodaya programme in Simla district of Himachal Pradesh.

Sinha and Prasad have assessed the impact of special programmes on the rural poor from the standpoint to rise in income and employment. The authors have attempted to test three different hypotheses, viz. (a) the special schemes have benefited the really poor in rural areas, (b) they have
resulted in generating additional gainful employment opportunities and in increasing their incomes and earnings, (c) the programme has benefited the rural elite.

The analysis revealed that a large bulk of beneficiary household belong to the richer section of the community and not to the poorer section. As against 'subsidy oriented programme', programmes of 'direct employment generation' such as 'food for work' have resulted in creating a positive impact on generating employment and increasing the earnings of the poorest section of rural society.

Rao and Murty have evaluated the crash programme of waste land distribution to the rural poors in the coastal Andhra Pradesh. Their findings are based on data collected in eight coastal districts and a sample of 254 beneficiaries spread over 15 villages.

Rao's study has dealt with the performance of rural bank covering three districts of Andhra Pradesh and has assessed the impact of bank finance on distribution of gains, cropping pattern, assets of different categories of beneficiaries engaged in different activities.

Kuruklar and Deogirikar in their study have evaluated the role of Marathwada Regional Rural Bank, Nanded in seeking to improve the economic condition of weaker sections viz. small
and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Yadav (et al.) has attempted to deal with the special programmes for selected tribal areas of Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. The study reveals the extent to which the programmes like TDA has been successful in bringing about a change in terms of employment income and asset formation.

Ghadoliya's study (1985), is an attempt to examine the awareness of the beneficiaries, the benefits derived and their opinion about the IRDP programme. Based on a random sample survey, the study relates to three tehsils of Udaipur district of Rajasthan for the year 1981-82. The study revealed that only 55 per cent of the households were aware of the IRDP and NREP. Increase in income was reported by 28 per cent of the households. The study revealed that these programmes have proved beneficial but efforts should be made to create awareness among the rural masses so that the change brought by these programmes may be permanent in nature.

Sinha's (et al.) study was planned to ascertain the possibility of people's involvement at different stages of IRDP programme with the objective of evolving a mechanism which will facilitate its speedier and efficient implementation in a coordinated manner. Based on a sample survey data, the
study was conducted in three districts, namely Azamgarh, Ballia and Ghazipur of East Uttar Pradesh.

Singh's study (1985) of Kamasin block of District Banda (Uttar Pradesh) is an attempt to assess the impact of the IRDP programme on the level of income and employment of marginal and small farmers. The study also aims to analyse the constraints in the implementation of the programme and suggest remedial measures. Based on random sample survey of beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers, the study indicates that income and employment were significantly higher on beneficiary farms than on non-beneficiary farms.

Saxena's study (1985) aimed to evaluate the benefits of bank finance disbursed to rural inhabitants under IRDP in Ballia district of East Uttar Pradesh.

Rath's study (1985), after a meticulous review of the evidence on the implementation of IRDP concluded that at the end of seven years of operation of IRDP, only about three per cent of the poor households in rural India would have been helped to rise above poverty line. Other eminent economists have also expressed their reservations about the usefulness of this programme, by itself, as a poverty alleviation measures. (Singh, 1984)

Khatkar, Pandey and Nandal's study (1986) pertains to beneficiaries of IRDP in Rewari Block of Mahendergarh district
of Haryana. The study seeks to examine the identification of beneficiaries, economic viability of the scheme and the impact of IRDP assistance. The study reveals that IRDP assistance has shown fairly good impact on income, employment and consumption of properly identified beneficiaries. Among beneficiaries who could comfortably cross the poverty line, were small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers.

Guliani and Singh's study (1986) analyses the pattern of loans provided under IRDP in Hissar district of Haryana. The study revealed that major emphasis in terms of advancement of loans was given to the marginal farmers and agricultural labourers.

Malkit Kaur's (et. al.) study aimed at finding out the factors hindering the achievements of the objectives envisaged in the IRDP in Haryana and to suggest suitable strategy for its effective planning and implementation. So does the study by Singh, D.K. of Banda district in Uttar Pradesh for the year 1984-85.

Dhanasekaran, Elango and Baskaradoss's study was designed to find out the nature and extent of variation in income before and after introduction of IRDP. The study also measured the diversification effect on the alleviation of poverty. The study was conducted in Periyar district of Tamil Nadu. By using inter-temporal approach, the level
of income and employment were compared during the pre-loan and post-loan period. So does the study conducted by Jagdish Prasad in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar and M.L. Singh's study of Palamau District of Bihar.

Singh, Kushwaha and Sengar's study is an attempt to evaluate the impact of IRDP on the level of income and employment of the weaker section in rural community in district Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh) during the year 1984-85. The study is based on the data collected from 100 beneficiary households at two points of time, 1980-81 the year of start of IRDP and 1984-85 covering the same sample household. The study revealed that the financial assistance provided under the various schemes of the programme resulted in a substantial increase in the level of employment and income of beneficiary household in 1984-85 over 1980-81.

Parthasarathy's study (1987) on the contribution of NREP finds that during the five years from 1980-81 to 1984-85, additional employment created under the employment programmes was of the order of 1.4 million man units (man unit = 300 days) per annum. The estimated unemployed persons by daily status measures in 1980, considering labour household alone in which total unemployed formed 54.9 per cent, were around 11 million. As such contribution of NREP to the reduction of unemployment may be inferred to be small.
Saikia's study (1987) makes an attempt to examine the role of NREP in the alleviation of unemployment, underemployment and poverty. The study was conducted in Lakhimpur and Jorhat districts of Assam. The specific objectives of the study were to examine (a) whether the selection of beneficiaries was proper as per intended norms, (b) whether the employment generation and income are adequate for the removal of poverty, (c) to study the usefulness of created assets in rural economic transformation, and (d) to suggest measures to streamline the implementation.

The study highlightened that the selection of beneficiaries was not proper. The employment potential generated under the NREP was found to be meagre. The wage rate fixed under the programme was opined to be very low and hence scheme was not attractive to the wage earning class. The programme requires re-orientation and a few suggestions are offered for improving the effectiveness of the programme.

Kanwar, Singh and Sharma's study (1986) is an attempt to analyse the causes of the poor performance of NREP in Himachal Pradesh.

Arputhary and Rajayan's study (1986) is an attempt to evaluate the working of the NREP programme and to assess its impact on rural economy. The major objective is to study
the changes in employment, wages and income pattern with emphasis on net additional income from the programme. The study was conducted in South Arcot district and Dharmpuri district for the reference period 1983-84. The study revealed that the various schemes undertaken have generated productive employment and the annual income of the workers have doubled.