Chapter 2

METHODOLOGY AND RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

2.1 Research Methodology:

Methodology is a planning or a scheme which is needed in each and every sphere of life. When we start any research it is necessary to plan all the procedures and methods to be used. Methodology refers to the philosophical framework of a research process (Lal Das, 2013). Research methodology is the blue print of any research architect. It deals with detailed description of methods and techniques employed to explore the possible explanation of the objectives laid down for the study. Research methodology is a systematic and logical way of solving research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how the research is done scientifically (Kothari, 2004:8). It may be stated that research methodology is about understanding the various steps adopted by the researcher during research process along with the logic behind them. Thus the research methodology is about why particular study has been undertaken as the research problem, how it is defined, in what way and why the hypothesis has been formulated and what type of data has been collected and what are methods and techniques has been adopted to collect and analyze the data (Kothari, 2004). Methodology refers to the totality of how you are going to undertake your research which includes the research approach which the researcher will use counting its epistemological position and specific research methods such as interviews, questionnaires (Whittaker, 2009). This section provides an overview of the research methodology to be adopted in this study. This section deals with research design, rationale and scope of study, sampling design, data collection and data analysis, chapter scheme and limitations of the study.

The method employed for the present study was qualitative as well as quantitative one. The study employed Methodology of interpretative understanding, whereby, the phenomenon has been studied with its underlying values and meanings.

2.2 Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the systems and processes of MGNREGA implementation and understand gaps in its implementation.

2. To assess the present status of employment and social security benefits to the unorganized MGNREGA workers.
3. To analyze the role of MGNREGA in improving employment opportunities and living conditions of the rural poor both in terms of qualitative and quantitative parameters.

4. To come out with suggestions and recommendations for improving delivery mechanism of MGNREGS system.

2.3 Hypothesis:

1. There is gap in planning and implementation of MGNREGS at District level which is responsible for under performance of the scheme.

2. There is a gap between the needs of demand side (unorganized MGNREGA workers) and services given by supply side (Administrative level functionaries)

3. There is minimal access to social security benefits to the unorganized MGNREGA workers.

2.4 Design of research:

For the present study descriptive research design has been employed. It includes organized collection and presentation of data to give a clear image of a particular situation. The main objective of such research study is to describe situations and events. Further, it enabled us to gather the information which was not pre-confined in the interview schedule. The issues in relation to the wage-rates, nature of work, working conditions, worksite facilities, earning and expenditures etc. were observed in detail by using the descriptive research design for the present study.

2.5 Materials and Method:

A number of qualitative and quantitative participatory methods were used in the study. They are:


2. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with participants and non-participants groups in MGNREGA (men and women separately)

3. FGD with PRI members and supply side actor (Mukhiya, Ward Members and PRS)

For the purpose, the assessments were carried out as:
Household survey: Household survey was carried out using a pre-tested structured questionnaire (Appendix I). The questionnaire was administered among a total of 154 HHs (in Badagoan Block of Jhansi) covering 4 Gram Panchayats. Three categories of households were covered - labelled as Category I were those who have not worked in MGNREGS so far but are interested (potential participants), Category II were those who had worked under MGNREGS but would not like to work in future (dissatisfied participants) and Category III were those who had worked under MGNREGS and would like to work in future (satisfied participants). The category-wise split of HHs in Badagaon Block of Jhansi districts are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Badagaon, Jhansi (HH coverage in %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non Participant</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Not Satisfied</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Satisfied</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focused group discussion (FGD): FGD was carried out with two distinct community groups – participants (MGNREGS worker) and non-participants in all the geographies. Among these two categories separate FGDs were carried out with women groups. FGDs were also conducted with at Gram Panchayat and Block level. (Appendix V)

One to one Interview: One to one Interview was conducted at District and District Line department level. (Appendix V)

Seasonal Calendar: Seasonal calendar was developed for all the participating GPs through the process of FGD wherein month wise engagement of communities for one whole year was tracked with nature of engagement and number of days of engagement along with prioritization of the periods when they do not have access to work and thus income and would like to get involved in MGNREGS works. (Appendix II)

Respondents selected from four Gram Panchayat of the Baragaon Block:

Semi structured interviews was used as main tool for the research. Total 154 interviews were conducted in four different Panchayats of one Block of district-Jhansi in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
### Table: 2.2 No of Respondent in Selected Gram Panchayat of Badagaon Block, (Jhansi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sarmau</th>
<th>Simra</th>
<th>Rundkarari</th>
<th>Ambabai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.6 Stakeholders Involved:

The diverse stakeholders with whom these tools were used are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders involved at different level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2.7 Rationale and Scope of the Proposed Study

The current research study will be conducted in Jhansi district of Utter Pradesh. The district is an important administrative unit for implementing the MGNREGS in the State. The success of any developmental scheme significantly depends on various factors ranging from geo-political to socio-economic features of a particular district. It also depends a lot on the robustness of district administrative system - how well the various sub-units and institutions are organized and functioning towards the achievement of scheme objectives. Utter Pradesh having a thick population comprises of majority of unorganized workers who are engaged in MGNREGS works. Above all Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the worst drought prone State of India. Of the total 75 district of UP 75 district of UP 50 districts are drought affected. Among the 50 drone district Jhansi is worst affected because it falls under drought prone region of Bundelkhand. Selected district of Jhansi has enough potential for employment under MGNREGA as the area has limited opportunity for agriculture due to scarcity of water and undulated structure of land.
Drought Affected Districts under MGNREGA during 2015-16

There were 248 drought affected districts in ten large states in India. Employment opportunities related to various works were being provided in these drought affected districts under MGNREGS during 2015-2016. The total number of districts in Uttar Pradesh during 2015-16 was 75. The number of drought affected districts in Uttar Pradesh was 50 during 2015-16. Thus, the percentage of number of drought affected districts to total number of districts was 66.67% during 2015-16. From the graph below it is clear that Uttar Pradesh is the worst affected state by drought.

Fig: 2.1 Drought Affected District under MGNREGA (All India)

Adapted from: https://community.data.gov.in

Sampling and Sample Size *(Multi stage sampling, purposive sampling)*

For the present study, multi-stage sampling has been used. Firstly out of 75 districts, one district of Uttar Pradesh known as Jhansi is selected, Jhansi lies in drought prone region of Bundelkhund in UP. Majority of the population of Bundelkhand lives in villages, thus the region has enough potential for rural employment under MGNREGA. Jhansi being the most populated district of this region is best suited for the study. In Jhansi there are 8 blocks of which Baragaon Block is one of the largest
in terms of population comprising of 50 Gram Panchayats and 84 villages, of these 50 Gram Panchayats 4 Gram Panchayats are selected in which two are geographically far from main town of Jhansi and another two are near to Jhansi town.

Sample Area

Jhansi is the largest town in Bundelkhand with a population of around 420,000 (including the cantonment and railway colony areas). With a population of over 250,000 (including a cantonment area), Sagar is Bundelkhand's second largest town. All other 'urban' areas of the region are small towns that have grown as administrative centres, for towns of erstwhile feudal chiefs, or service centres catering to the rural population living around. Many small towns are overgrown or extended villages. The one urban feature they all do share is high population density, much higher than the region's average. According to Census 2011 data, there were in Bundelkhand 90 such towns with a population of over 10,000 persons. A third of these towns were in two districts - Jhansi and Sagar - and only seven of the 90 towns had a population of over 100,000 persons. The aggregate population of these seven towns was around one million, less than half the population of Lucknow. The majority of Bundelkhand's population continues to live in rural areas, in around 11,000 villages and their hamlets.
Profile of the Blocks (Badagaon)

Badagaon is a block and block headquarters - town and Nagar Panchayat in Jhansi district with 84 villages in 50 Gram Panhayats. It has a poor sex ratio, with only about 758 females per 1000 males. Out of the total population, males constitute 53% of the population and females 47%. The average literacy rate is 60%; the female literacy situation is grim, with only about 44% of the total female population being literate. If we consider only the rural area of Badagaon block, this further falls to 41% of female literacy. The worker participation rate is just about 32%, that is, more than 60% of the population comes under the non-worker category. 21% of the workers are engaged in either cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries or other such work. About 11% population remains as marginal workers.

2.8 Data Collection and Analysis:

This study comprises of primary and secondary data, using different tools described below. The analysis of the quantitative data collected is done using statistical tool
called Microsoft Excel.

**Tools of Data Collection:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat Level (with Sarpanch and Ward Members)</td>
<td>FGD using structured checklist</td>
<td>The purpose is to assess the performance of panchayats with regard to planning of MGNREGS works, execution, handling of payments, invoking people’s participation, status of their governance and execution mechanisms, transparency and accountability measures being followed, monitoring and evaluation systems in place, efforts in direction of convergent action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block level (with PO, JE, Accountant, Computer Operator)</td>
<td>One to one or Small Group Discussion interviews</td>
<td>The purpose is to assess the systems of plan consolidation, approvals – AS and TS, execution, contracting and supervision, measurements, raising invoices and payments protocols, monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting and MIS systems and efforts in direction of convergent action and fund flow mechanisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Level (with CDO)</td>
<td>One to one interview</td>
<td>The purpose is to assess the systems related to AS and TS for ZP level works, engagement of line departments as nodal agencies, convergent action, monitoring and evaluation system, reporting and MIS systems, fund flow mechanisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Level (with line departments – Forest Department, Land Development, Minor Irrigation, etc)</td>
<td>One to one interview</td>
<td>The purpose is to assess if they are or can be part of the planning and implementation structure, their roles in convergent action – if exists what and if not what could be, facilitating and hindering factors to convergence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary data Collection**

The study employs mix of methods to address the objectives. Review of the secondary data related to the MGNREGS at the district, block and panchayats levels are undertaken. The various sources used to collect secondary data include official records/reports of Government of India on MGNREGA and social security, research papers, journals and the official website of MGNREGA.
Secondary data is collected from various sources at different levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State level</td>
<td>MGNREGA cell at state level, GoUP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Web portal (<a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Census of India, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District level</td>
<td>District MGNREGA cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vanvasi Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Adhoura, Kaimur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block level</td>
<td>Record and MIS section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary data Collection:**

For the purpose of collection of primary data, one Community Development (CD) Blocks called Baragaon is selected, the rationale behind selection of this block lies in the fact that is it the largest block of Jhansi district in terms of population and just adjacent to Jhansi town.

Primary data collected through pre-tested structured questionnaire and focused group discussion and other participatory approaches involving participants, non-participants, Women, SC & ST, Gram Sabha members, District, Block and Grama Panchayat (GP) functionaries, etc.

**2.9 Chapter Scheme**

This research study is divided into eight chapters. First chapter discusses the central idea of the study including statement of problem and past studies conducted under the same theme along with the review of literature. Second chapter deals with the research methodology including objective of the study, hypothesis, research design and limitations of the study. Third chapter presents theoretical framework of MGNREGA and status unorganized sector in India.

Fourth chapter deals with system analysis of MGNREGS management and implementation in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh on the basis both primary and secondary sources.

Fifth one discusses evaluation of employment under MGNREGA in Uttar Pradesh based on secondary data. Sixth chapter discusses status of social security for
unorganized sector based on secondary sources.

Seventh chapter is about evaluation of employment and social security specific to MGNREGA in Uttar Pradesh based on primary data analysis.

Eighth and final chapter discusses main findings of the study, suggestions and recommendations.

2.10 Limitations of the Study

The study is restricted to only one block of Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh. The field survey/data has been gathered and samples are collected from only one district of Uttar Pradesh from selected one block and from this block four Panchayats is selected, which has been considered as representatives of universe in Uttar Pradesh.

The study gives a trend of the situation which prevails across the state but does not claim that the situation is everywhere the same.

It was quite difficult to get data of MGNREGS from state officials other than what was available on the official website. Officials informed that all the relevant information was available on the website but when it was cross checked, it was found that most of the relevant data was missing on website.
References:

