CHAPTER 3

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY
In the previous chapters, we have discussed the so many aspects of poverty, its impact on rural people of the India, anti-poverty programmes and profile of Nanded district and Kinwat block. So this chapter is divided into two sections ‘section A’ is covered the review of literature and ‘section B’ deals with the research methodology in details.

SECTION A

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of the earlier studies on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is essential to identify the issues already investigated so as to highlight the unexplored areas for the further study. It will enlighten the researcher on the problems pertaining to study. It will help the researcher to frame the right type of objectives for the study with a high level of research motivation. Therefore a brief review some of the relevant literature on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. (NREGA) is attempted.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is based on the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS) for which an act was passed in 1976. The scheme ran until February 2006. It was converted into the
Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MREGS) under the guidance of the NREGA\(^1\). So that’s why we also review the MEGS.

S. Mahendra Dev (2003)\(^2\), has examined his study under, “Employment Guarantee Scheme: Lessons for Development Policy”, he express his view on long experience of EGS in Maharashtra and drawn lesson for development policies relating to the reduction of poverty and hunger by using secondary data from period of 1972 to 2001, which would be useful for replicating the scheme on other states of India and other Asian and African countries. The paper is divided in as four sections i.e. section one provides expenditure and benefit of EGS while section 2 deals with regional dimension. Section 3 examines lessons, reforms and replicability of EGS. Last section provides conclusion. He indicates that the EGS provided employment and additional income to some sections of unskilled workers in Maharashtra. It shows that India needs public works as one of the mechanisms for poverty alleviation. The public work are often criticized, with some justification, for creating unproductive (low productive) assets. It is also argued that these programmes provide only short term relief and supplementary income (current benefits) and are not useful for long term benefits. The success of public works programme needs to be judged against alternatively poverty alleviation programmes. In other words, one has to examine whether there are any other programmes which can reach the poor cost effectively as compared to public
works. Finally he also said that special wage employment programme is not a substitute for a sustained and broad based growth process. However, in a country like India which has surplus labour and poor infrastructure, public works can be a useful component of poverty alleviation strategies.

Krishnaraj (2004), in the paper “Does EGS Require Restructuring for Poverty Alleviation and Gender Equality? I Concept, Design and Delivery System”, he examined the concept, design and delivery system of the India’s EGS, so as to assess its effectiveness against poverty and pinpoint its limitations. Authors discuss logistical details, from planning and funding to implementation to work crew designs to payments, before taking issue over the empirical case for many of the touted benefits of India’s EGS. Despite well designed funding, poverty alleviation is not explicitly mentioned as the objective anywhere in the act of 1977, allowing the EGS to function largely as a relief programme for the transitional effects of adverse agro-climatic conditions. Consequently, EGS has failed to take on the root causes of poverty. Finally they concluded that unless unskilled participants are provided with training to encourage their participation in the formal labour market, the EGS will merely remain a drought relief programme. The failure of the scheme on this count is one reason why the poor, especially women, even today, continue to depend heavily on the EGS for employment and income after three decades of its existence.
Maithreyi Krishnaraj, Divya Pandey, Aruna Kanchi (2004), in the paper “Does EGS Require Restructuring for Poverty Alleviation and Gender Equality?-II Gender Concerns and Issues for Restructuring”, reviews the EGS to assess whether it requires restricting for poverty alleviation and gender equality. The article studies under the subtitles i.e. EGS for relief or poverty alleviation, who benefits from EGS, what kind of assets, who owns the assets, EGS and gender concerns, benefit delivery to women and making EGS women friendly. They conclude that many gaps in data, particularly gender data, ultimately the art attempts by researchers to assess the impact of the scheme on women, the EGS fund has a massive balance its utilizing is a matter of political decision. Benefits from EGS is largely seen through asset building activity to all classes of the poor but the benefits of the assets themselves accrue to the landowning sections of the rural populace the large farmers (non-poor) but also the small and marginal farmers (poor). He criticize that not clarity in definition of productive assets. The EGS was envisaged as ‘public works programme’ mandated to create assets in the public domain. This principle was continuously followed in early years of the scheme, but in the 1990’s. EGS diversified into projects that resulted in the development of private assets, like Government horticulture sub-schemes under EGS. Horticulture by being applicable only to land owners automatically excluded the poorest. He said that the use of EGS funds to create private assets is likely to increase inclusion
errors in the scheme. However EGS is not a really considered sensitive to gender concerns to making the EGS more relevant to women within the existing framework may require action on many fronts. Finally he concludes with the few observations on the state of official EGS data system.

Hirway Indira (2004), in her paper “Providing Employment Guarantee in India: Some Critical Issues”, reported that the employment guarantee plan announced in the common minimum programme has been designed to protect the interests of the poor by detailing the rules of the guarantee and imposing penalties for non-compliance. It has also drawn heavily on the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act, which has been in operation for 30 years. However, two major drawbacks of the programme are its unrealistic underlying assumptions and short-term vision. The provisions of the employment guarantee programme should be strengthened to achieve the objectives of poverty reduction, construction of productive assets and promoting mainstream employment.

Santhosh Mehrota (2004), in his commentary on “Job law can sharply cut poverty this decade” expressed that rural employment guarantee programme will yield immense benefits. Labour-intensity can be high in watershed development, land regeneration, and prevention of soil erosion. He further adds that a jobs programme that focuses on such work would not only protect the environment, it
would also enhance land productivity and promote rural employment in the future. Such a plan would also have positive second-round effects on household incomes, by raising agricultural wages and investment in human capital. Besides, improving watershed development, it could reduce damage to life and property caused by frequent floods. He argues that the employment guarantee is therefore being penny wise and pound foolish.

**T.S.Papola (2005)**, in his article, “A Universal Programme is Feasible”, hopes that it is feasible to have an employment guarantee programme covering all rural households and offering work to all persons, on all the required days, in all districts right from the beginning at a cost lower than the one being projected for a restricted programme. A universal programme will be closer to the spirit of a guarantee and reduce the bureaucratic problems in administering a restricted programme.

**Jeans Dreze (2005)**, in his article entitled “Employment Guarantee Act: Promise and Demise” discussed the pros and cons of the proposed Act and expresses three common fears. One is that the money will be wasted due to widespread corruption. The second fear is that Employment Guarantee Act will lead to financial bankruptcy. The third fear is that the government will get entangled in endless litigation, as holders of aggrieved labourers take the local
authorities to court. To dispense these fears, however, he said that the proposed
Act aimed at empowering the disadvantaged, and included extensive safeguards
against and dereliction of duty from the concerned authorities.

**Krishna S. Vasta (2006)**, in the paper, “Employment Guarantee Scheme in
Maharashtra: It’s Impact on Drought, poverty and Vulnerability” he makes an
assessment of the effectiveness of Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) of the
Maharashtra government in reducing risk and vulnerability to which the
households are exposed during the lean season or when crops fail due to climate
factor. Further, he is argued that if the NREGA has to become a successful
intervention in poverty alleviation and drought mitigation, it needs to follow a well
defined strategy for building and maintaining assets, rather than becoming a short
term intervention in relief employment as the EGS turned out to be. Finally, he
concludes that the EGS provided positive results in many ways: effective drought
relief, increased rural employment, supplementary source of income, women as an
important class of workers and income–earners, and social cohesion. However, the
programme has not made a significant impact the drought-proneness of the state
poverty. Despite the resources that are channeled through the EGS, poverty levels
have not fallen below the national level, and the problem of drought has only
increased in Maharashtra. If the NREGA has to become a successful intervention
in poverty alleviation and drought mitigation, it needs to follow a well defined
strategy for building and maintaining assets, rather than becoming a short-term intervention in relief employment as the EGS turned out to be.

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) (2006)\textsuperscript{10}, program First Monitoring Report, (2006) entitled “Status of NREGA Implementation 2005-06” covered 107 villages of 87 Gram Panchayats from 20 districts in six PACS intervened states. The report observed that the status of registration for the job cards was poor in the states of Maharashtra and Bihar. It was also observed that the job cards were not being used properly in any of the states. There was a lack of demand for jobs under NREGA as people were not aware of the fact that they can demand employment under the Act. As far as resources available and the resources utilized were concerned, Madhya Pradesh was the best performing state among the six states and Maharashtra was the poorest performer. The lack of worksite facilities, medical care for injured workers was also conspicuous in all the states. At the institutional level, it was observed that the districts with high utilization had started facing shortage of funds because of non-compliance of certain aspects like release of state share, formation of State Employment Guarantee Fund, formation of the State Employment Guarantee Council etc. The lack of funds at the district level also had adverse effect on the Panchayats as they were not able to pay the wages of the workers on time. The top-down approach of planning was also adversely affecting the functioning of Panchayats. It was also observed that there was inadequate
flexibility with the Panchayats to use the NREGA funds for addressing local issues.

Dreze J. (2007)\textsuperscript{11}, in his newspaper article “NREGA: Dismantling the contractor raj” looks at the corruption in rural employment programs in Orissa and how this has continued in a NREGS as well. However, he believes that there is tremendous potential of NREGA in the survey areas. Where work was available, it was generally found that workers earned close to (and sometimes more than) the statutory minimum wage of Rs.70 per day and that wages were paid within 15 days or so. This is an unprecedented opportunity for the rural poor, and there was evident appreciation of it among casual labourers and other disadvantaged sections of the population. There is the hope among workers that NREGA would enable them to avoid long-distance seasonal migration. Further, there is plenty of scope for productive NREGA works in this area, whether it is in the field of water conservation, rural connectivity, and regeneration of forest and improvement of private agricultural land.

Ashok K Pankaj (2008)\textsuperscript{12}, in the report of “Processes, Institutions and Mechanisms of Implementation of NREGA: Impact Assessment of Bihar and Jharkhand”, they have clearly indicated the relatively high share of MGNREGA income to the total income (about 8% of the total annual income of the households
in Bihar and to about 2% in Jharkhand) of the beneficiary households despite the low number of employment days in Bihar (and also in Jharkhand) was because of the very low income base of the households. The beneficiaries in both the states used their MGNREGA earnings for food and daily consumption items. Due to MGNREGA a reduction of seven percentage points of indebtedness, 12 percentage points reduction in out migration among beneficiary households was observed in Bihar. Nevertheless, it has inculcated a new level of consciousness about the entitlement on minimum wages. An increase in the Work Participation Rate (WPR) was observed but no significant impact on the local wage because of the availability of abundance labour force and low level of employment generation under MGNREGA.

**Planning Commission (2008)**, in “Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12)” conducted a survey in 20 states to study the impact of MGNREGA. The results showed a shift of low income groups (about 50%) towards high income category, significant increase in the expenditure on food and non-food items (6%) and change in the expenditure pattern, procurement of livestock (68%) and household articles (42%) and initiation of savings for the first time (2%), clearing of outstanding loans (1/5th of sample households) were some of the positive impacts of MGNREGA on rural households. The other things that were ported include the non-provision of employment within stipulated timeframe (80%) and non-payment
of unemployment allowances, the utilization of small portion of households for more than 35 days of work and existence of distress migration in sample villages.

**Sudha Narayanan (2008)**, wrote an article “Employment Guarantee, Women’s Work and Childcare”, is based on the social audit survey findings on crèche facilities and childcare practices under NREGS in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. It elaborates the difficult predicaments of young mothers who worked under the MGNREGS and provides ample evidences of urgent need for childcare facility at all worksites. She also suggested the government to develop a blueprint for childcare facility at worksite and cost norms with specific instructions on where to incorporate these expenses in the financial estimates. She prescribed that a crèche has to be provided if at least five workers (male and female) demanded for it as many workers are unwilling to bring their children to the worksite unless childcare is available.

**Ghosh, J. (2008)**, wrote in an article, “Far from Failure”, that MGNREGA is actually far from being an expensive failure; it will prove to be an extremely cost-effective way of increasing employment directly and indirectly, reviving the rural economy, providing basic consumption stability to poor households and improving the bargaining power of rural workers.
Sainath P. (2008)\textsuperscript{16}, in his newspaper opinion “NREGA hits buses to Mumbai”, explained that it is a small but significant statistic as the number of buses leaving Mahabubnagar district in Telangana to Mumbai were about 28 only. Three to five years ago, that number was 42 to 45 a week. There is a sharp fall in the number of bus trips carting migrants from Mahabubnagar to Mumbai. He said that the MGNREGS is “life-saving” and due to this time bound programme, the poor have slightly more money than they had earlier.

Das Sandeep (2008)\textsuperscript{17}, in his newspaper article, “Labour shortage ups cotton growing costs”, observed that cotton growing regions like Warangal in AP is facing acute shortage of labour due to implementation of MGNREGA. The average daily wage went up from Rs.70 to Rs 120 as labourers get the prescribed wage under the MGNREGA which led to increased cost of cotton cultivation in the state.

Dre’ze, Jeans and R Khera (2009)\textsuperscript{18}, in the article, “Battle for Work”, wrote on the basis of a field survey conducted during May-June 2008 in six states of North India. The survey revealed that most of the MGNREGA workers belonged to the most disadvantaged sections of society. About 98 per cent of the sample workers stated that they were ready to work for 100 days in a year signifies the massive demand for work. The survey also showed that awareness levels
among MGNREGA workers were still very low. The potential value of the MGNREGA as a lifeline for 69 per cent of the rural poor was observed and it helped to avoid hunger and migration (59%) sending children to school (38%), coping with illness (50%), repaying debt (32%), and in avoiding demeaning or hazardous work (35%) of workers. Inadequate shelf of works, delays in wage payments, lack of basic worksite facilities were observed. Behind these failures, existence of deep structural problems including poor flow of funds, staff shortage, flawed record-keeping, and the lack of grievance redress mechanism were cited. The survey also found the involvement of contractors in 27 per cent of sample worksites. Finally, the authors concluded that the best weapon against corruption is strict enforcement of the transparency safeguards.

M. S. Swaminathan (2009), highlighted in his newspaper article, “Synergy between Food Security Act and NREGA”, that the priority works under MGNREGS are important to strengthen the ecological foundations of sustainable agriculture. He also commented that a major weakness was the absence of effective technical guidance and support from agriculture and rural universities and institutes. He suggested the need to bring convergence of child care, nutritional health and education programmes at MGNREGS worksites for sustainable rural development along with human development. He opined that the MGNREGA workers need to be engaged in checking of eco-destruction. Recognition could be
given to MGNREGS workers with Environment Savior Awards for their outstanding work for sustainable ecological development.

**Singh S. P. and D. K. Nauriyal (2009)**, in the study report of “System and Process Review and Impact Assessment of NREGS in the state of Uttarakhand”, they assessed the impact of MGNREGS in three districts of Uttarakhand and reported that NREGS activities were found to be supplementing income of the household to the extent of 10-20 per cent and hence no significant improvement in their income and employment levels. Further, marginal improvement in curtail of migration and indebtedness were found. Increase in consumption levels and savings were also marginally improved among the sample households. The report indicates that lack of procedures, low levels of awareness and weak Panchayat Raj Institutions etc. were the reasons for low performance of MGNREGS in the sample districts.

**K.N. Nair, T.P. Sreedharan, M. Anoopkumar (2009)**, In the working paper “A Study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in Three Grama panchayats of Kasaragod District” written by they study the impact of the NREGS in three Grama Panchayats of Kasaragod District, namely Madikai, Ajanooor and Trikarpur using with the secondary data. It also looks into the organizational arrangements for planning and implementation of the scheme.
Various institutional aspects in the form of Guidelines, Rules and Regulations brought out by the Government of Kerala have also been examined. The worker registration is appreciably good in all the three Grama Panchayats. Registration of SC and ST categories also is impressive. But there is a big drop in the number of people who demanded jobs in 2007-08. It is below one fourth in two Panchayats and just above one third in the third Panchayat. There is a further drop in the number in the succeeding year. The percentage of man-days generated for SC and ST categories is very low compared to that of the general category. Women of the general category constituted the major beneficiaries of NREGS. Unskilled wages constituted the major component of expenditure. The number of projects is large, most of them not leading to creation of public durable assets. There is lack of integration with other schemes implemented at local level. The scheme is successful in raising the level of employment and income of the rural household, thereby enhancing their purchasing power. Working in groups has empowered the women socially. In some cases NREGA works and agricultural works were operational at the same time aggravating the problem of labour shortage in agriculture. They concluded with the recommends a few changes in the existing operational system to make the programme more effective.

Sainath, P (2009)\textsuperscript{22}, in his news paper article, “That Drought of Justice-Flood of Funds” he asked for expansion of MGNREGS, universal access to the
PDS, more spending on health and education. He commented that a positive step taken by the Rural Development Ministry. It allows small but vital assets like farm ponds on every farm which should become the objective of every government. A massive expansion of MGNREGS will also provide cushion to the Lakhs of labourers struggling to find work and devastated by rising food costs. But it would call for throwing out the limit on number days of work under the scheme. He explained that the Prime Minister calling for anti drought measures on “a war footing” and this should be the time to do it.

**Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi (2009)**, in its published work entitled "All India Report on Evaluation of NREGA, A Survey of Twenty Districts". This study is based on evaluation of the NREGS which assess its impact by taking 20 districts from Northern, Western, Southern and North-East region of India and 300 beneficiaries from each district. The study reveals that in many districts, affixing of photograph on job cards is not followed and in some places the beneficiary paid money for getting it. Job card was not designed to have sufficient space for all the entries in detail. Many households did not get the work within the stipulated 15 days-time of demand for work, neither were they paid any unemployment allowance. On the utility of maximum number of days of works, only small fractions of households could utilize more than 35 days of work, remaining still lagging behind. The reason for non-utilization of maximum
permissible 100 days of work is late starting of the scheme. In most of the worksites, excepting crèche, other facilities like shed, drinking water were provided. Due to the additional income generation through this scheme, the numbers of beneficiaries at the low earning level are reduced to nearly half in size. There is a rise of families who are spending more on food and non-food items.

**Ashok Pankaj and Rukmini Tanka (2010)**, in the paper, “Empowerment effects of NREGS on Women Workers: A study in four states”8 he examined the effects of the MGNREGA on rural women empowerment in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachala Pradesh. They find that women workers have gained from the scheme primarily because of paid employment opportunity and benefits have been realized through income- consumption effects, house hold effects and the enhancement of choice and capability.

**Kumar Anandharaja P. and Well Haorei (2010)**, his paper on "Impact Assessment of MGNREGS on Rural Migration", assess the impact of the MGNREGS on rural migration in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu. The study reveals that the migration has stopped in five Panchayats with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 Panchayats. In seven Panchayats migration has not stopped. In remaining 6 Panchayats there was no migration before and after the implementation of MGNREGS.
S. Dey. (2010)\textsuperscript{26}, in his working paper “Evaluating India's national rural employment guarantee scheme: the case of Birbhum districts, West Bengal”, looks at the performance of the NREGS from three perspectives - it examines the targeting aspect of the programme, the efficiency of the implementing Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) bodies and the impact of the program on various outcomes at household level. The study is based on primary data collected from 500 randomly selected households, 2249 individuals and 70 schemes located in 13 Gram Panchayats in Birbhum District of West Bengal, India. On the basis of this primary data, the study reveals that at least in Birbhum District the programme is far more likely to be accessed by poorer households. At the same time there is a clear and substantial impact of left political inclination in terms of enabling access to a greater number of days of work under the scheme. In terms of the efficiency impact, the analysis reveals a clear violation of the formal clauses and the spirit of the NREG Act and thereby undermining the potential of the programme in terms of providing a safety net. In terms of the impact, the study finds no statistically significant impact on economic outcomes at household level but does find a statistically significant and substantial relation between reduction of stress related to joblessness and access to the NREGS.

Shylashri Shankar, Raghav Gaiha and Raghbendra Jha (2010)\textsuperscript{27}, criticize in his working paper “Information and Corruption: The National Rural
Employment Guarantee Scheme in India”, they used household level data to address the issue of corruption in the NREG program in three states: Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The authors discovered that at the entry level, information about the NREGS has the effect of increasing the entry of non-poor while the acutely poor, who possessed neither TVs nor cell-phones, nor attended public meetings nor were connected to social networks did not know and therefore did not participate in the program. At implementation level, information enabled those who possessed it to avoid being short-changed by the administration. The non-poor benefited more from the NREGS in all three states, and the ethnographic evidence from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra show that the non-poor even misused the program. The picture from Rajasthan shows that, while the entry level capture by the non-poor is relatively low, compared to the other two states, the corruption at the level of implementation is higher. Here, lack of information on the part of the beneficiary reduces the monitoring potential and effective implementation and enables corruption. The results from the three states back the rationale for the importance of a right to information and suggest that the government should invest more in advocacy campaigns about their programs, particularly in the poorest areas.

Pulak Mishra, Bhagirath Behera and Narayan Chandra Nayak (2010)\(^28\), in the article “A Development Delivery Institution for the Tribal Communities:
Experience of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India”, they examined the varied impacts of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) as a development delivery institution for the tribal communities vis-à-vis other social groups across the Indian States, using the framework of new institutional economics. A number of State-specific, socio-economic institutional factors seem to be responsible for these variations. The article therefore suggests institutional reforms and convergence of the development initiatives of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with the NREGS in order to realize the optimal potential of the scheme, and, in particular, to ensure greater livelihood opportunities for these marginalized groups and their entitlement to productive resources with greater socio-economic and political empowerment.

Ramachandrudu, G. and Appa Rao (2011)²⁹, in the study report of “A study on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on Rural Livelihoods in Vizianagaram district”, conducted a study was done in three mandals of Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh to assess the awareness levels of various aspects of MGNREGS and its impact on income, consumption, agriculture, assets, quality of life and migration. The main results of this study were that 31 per cent of sample respondents reported negative impact on agriculture because of scarcity of labour and higher wage rates. The availability of employment to a worker was about 240 days in year and of which 30 per cent is
through MGNREGS work which contributed to 38 per cent of household income during 2009-10. A positive impact on housing condition i.e. conversion of katcha house to pucca house, reduction in migration, procurement of farm assets and household durables was observed. As per the report, 36 per cent of respondents have repaid the loans taken from money lenders or co-operative banks, or commercial banks. The expenditure on education and health was increased at lower rate than the consumption on food items like the quantities of cereals, vegetables and oil consumed by the respondents due to MGNREGS wages earnings. The authors recommended providing increased number of days of employment under MGNREGS in the districts like Vizianagaram where rain-fed single cropping system is in practice.

Bharat S. Sontakki and Lakshman M. Ahire (2011)\textsuperscript{30}, in their essay on "Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: Boon or Bane to Indian Agriculture" considers that the farmers with large farm holdings who invariably depend on farm labourers would be inversely affected by this NREG Scheme. When the daily wages are more in NREGS, quite naturally the laborer’s preference would be to work through it. It would not be economical for the farmer to roved higher wages to the labour in order to retain the labour in his field. In the other sense the food prices have to be increased so that the farmer can hire labour for higher wages. The implementing agency of NREGS failed to look in to these matters. Tea gardens in
Tripura are facing a shortage of labour with the expansion of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the scheme in all four major tea producing districts, thus absorbing about 20-22 per cent tea workers.

B.C. Das and P.K. Nath (2011), in his paper “Financial inclusion of ST Wage Seekers of Jharkhand in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme”, present study was undertaken in the districts of Ranchi and Simdega of Jharkhand state with sample size of 400 ST workers those who had completed more than 100 days work in MGNREGS either in the financial year 2009-10 or 2010-11. It was found that maximum number (90.75 per cent) of respondents withdrew money from their account within the first week of the deposit followed by 8.25 per cent and one per cent within one to two weeks, respectively. Very high percentage of accounts (84.25) were found having very less amount i.e. Rs.0 to 100 of deposit and only 13.75 per cent of respondents accounts were found having more than Rs. 200 at the time of investigation. It was also found that none of the accounts has earned any interest on deposit. The perceptions of programme officers of block, Panchayat Raj Institution members and Panchayat Secretary of Gram Panchayat, Gram Rozgar Sewak (GRS) of village, bank officers and post masters of the area towards the financial inclusion of ST wage seekers were found to be negative. Finally they concluded that the proactive participation of financial institutions to facilitate the process of extending
different financial services to the weaker, poor and vulnerable section to achieve inclusive growth through financial inclusion.

Shylashri Shankar, Raghav Gaiha and Raghbendra Jha (2011)\textsuperscript{32}, wrote a article under the title of “Information, Access and Targeting: The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India”, they examined the relationship is assessed between possessing information on, gaining access to and the efficacy of delivery of India's national rural employment guarantee scheme (NREGS) in three states. The results suggest that the link between information, access and the delivery of the scheme is not straightforward. Information can increase the propensity for the programme to be accessed by those who are not its primary target population, and can enhance efficacy of delivery to such beneficiaries. Lack of information, on the other hand, decreases the ability of citizens, particularly the acutely poor, to benefit from the scheme.

M. Selva Maheshwari and L.S. Gangwar (2011)\textsuperscript{33}, they study in the article of “Impact of Rural Development Scheme on Availability of Agricultural Labour- A Study of Dairy Farmers in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu”, this study has indentified the problems being faced by dairy farmers due to scarcity of farm labour for agricultural and livestock production. The study is based on the data collected from 40 selected respondents involved in crop production and dairying in
the study area during the year 2008-09 through primary survey. The study has revealed that the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has provided employment opportunities to rural workers and has checked the migration of farm labour from villages to cities and nearby industrial townships. All the eligible family member of landless dairy farmers had the job cards, but medium and large dairy farmers possessing agricultural land, prefer to work at their own farms. These farmers have reported that they were facing acute shortage of labourers during peak paddy planting and harvesting due to MGNREGS. The labour wages have increased significantly from Rs 60 to Rs110 per day since the implementation of MGNREG scheme. It has been observed that milch animals of some landless/small dairy farmers are being maintained by the children or aged family members, as majority of adult family members prefer the MGNREGS jobs to earn wages. These adult members have complained about not getting 100-day wage employment as per provisions of scheme. The wage payments are also delayed after completion of work and they face problems in getting the job cards. The study has concluded that the minimum wages under MGNREGS should be increased cautiously keeping in view its impact on agricultural/ livestock activities.

Usha Rani Ahuja, Dushayant Tyagi, Sonia Chauhan and Khyali Ram Chaudhary (2011)\textsuperscript{34}, article written under the title of "Impact of MGNREGA on
Rural Employment and Migration: A Study in Agriculturally-backward and Agriculturally-advanced Districts of Haryana”, the study conducted in the state of Haryana has investigated the impact of implementation of MGNREGA in two districts one agriculturally-advanced (Karnal) and the other agriculturally-backward (Mewat). Besides demographic characteristics, the paper has investigated the difference in the employment status, income, landholding size and other assets of the sample farm households in these two districts by taking 120 farm families, 60 from each district. The impact of MGNREGA within a district has also been studied in terms of income and employment security, migration, debt repayment, extent of participation in MGNREGA works, socio-economic status, etc. by seeking information from 30 participating and 30 nonparticipating households in MGNREGA works in each district. A significant difference has been found in the extent of employment under MGNREGA works in agriculturally-advanced Karnal (13.7%) and agriculturally-backward Mewat (24.6%) districts. The study has observed that despite being a source of employment, MGNREGA has not been able to check the migration from the developed region because of higher market wage rates at destinations. The study has concluded that farmers owning large size of landholdings and more number of animals are not much interested in participating in MGNREGA works.
T. Sivasakthi Devi, R. Balasubramanian and B. Ganesh Kumar (2011), written a paper under the title of “Employment, Income and Labour Supply Decision of Rural Households: An Economic Analysis of MGNREGS in Tamil Nadu”. This paper has attempted to find out the employment status, income and labour supply decision of the participants and non-participants of MGNREGS in Tamil Nadu. It has also studied the household nutritional security of these households. The study has revealed that the number of migrants in the family, number of livestock units owned, and number of person-days employed in agriculture, nonagricultural and MGNREGS are significantly influenced by the household income of the participants and non-participants of MGNREGS. The analysis of household food-security has shown that the expenditure for all commodities is positive and significant in the case of MGNREGS participants, whereas the expenditure variable is significant only for two commodities, namely cereals and oils in case of MGNREGS non-participants. It shows that the MGNREGS participants consume more high-value commodities like milk, chicken and fish, as compared to MGNREGS non-participants. The labour supply decision of sample respondents has shown that the elasticity of labour supply with respect to wage rate is more than one in both participants and non-participants of MGNREGS, indicating that an one per cent increase in wage rate increases labour supply by 1.92 per cent and 2.36 per cent, respectively. In addition, as the number
of dependents increases, the household increases labour supply to derive additional income to meet the increased household expenditures. An interesting and encouraging observation is that the scheme has reduced the migration of people from rural to urban areas.

**Prattoy Sarkar, Jagdish Kumar and Supriya (2011)**, in the paper “Impact of MGNREGA on Reducing Rural Poverty and Improving Socio-economic Status of Rural Poor: A Study in Burdwan District of West Bengal”, the present study has examined the socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on the rural poor who are mainly comprised of small and marginal farmers & agricultural labourers. The study is based on a random sampling drawn by the Probability proportion to size (PPS) method of performing Gram Panchayats. It has been found that significant changes have taken place in the socio-economic variables like annual per capita income, monthly per capita food expenditure, annual per child expenditure on education, per capita savings, condition of the dwelling houses, access to healthcare facility and possession of other assets or luxury items for those households which are regularly working in the scheme. According to the value of the socio-economic index prepared, it has been found that in the initial year of implementation (2007-08) of MGNREGA in the study area, 43.9 per cent beneficiary households were in poor socio-economic conditions which have gradually improved in the succeeding years and decreased to 32.9 per cent in 2008-
09 and further to 18.3 per cent in 2009-10. Finally they give some suggestions also for incorporating improvements in the MGNREGS based on the constraints reported by the workers associated with this Scheme.

Paper highlighted the impact and women participation in MGNREGA by Jyoti poonia (2012)\(^{37}\), under the title of “Critical Study of MGNREGA: Impact and women’s participation”, this paper reviews India’s approach to social protection since independence and places the NREGA within the broader social protection discourse. Public policy and public works in India have generally tried to include women as a percentage of beneficiaries, but have not paid enough attention to gender sensitive design. The NREGA in its design has attempted some gender sensitivity. While one of the provisions of the Act is that one-third of those given employment should be women, there is great variation. Finally he concluded that the dominant majority of workers in the informal economy were excluded from social security provision. Anti-poverty programmes provided some measure of relief, and welfare fund covered a few groups of unorganized workers in parts of the country. As well as stronger political commitment, has led to many more social protection programmes being started. Among these, the NREGA stands out for the fact that it is demand driven had greater performance than other schemes, covers the whole country, and has the potential both to provide a minimum income and stimulated local development. Overall, preliminary findings confirm that the
NREGS has the potential to stimulate local development, if the management and delivery are good; and that women’s weak position in the labour market has been greatly helped.

Erlend Berg, Sambit Bhattacharyya, Rajasekhar Durgam and Manjula Ramachandra (2012), they wrote under the title “Can Public Works Affect Agricultural Wages? Evidence from India”, they tested the impact of the Indian government’s major public works programme, the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG), on agricultural wages. The rollout of NREG in three phases is used to identify difference-in-difference estimates of the programme effect. Using monthly wage data from the period 2000-2011 for a panel of 249 districts across 19 Indian states, the authors found that on average NREG boosts the real daily agricultural wage rates by 5.3 per cent. It takes 6 to 11 months for an NREG intensity shock to feed into higher wages. The wage effect appears to be gender neutral and biased towards unskilled labour. It is positive across different implementation stages and months. It remains significant even after controlling for rainfall; district and time fixed effects; and phase-wise linear, quadratic, and cubic time trends. The validity of our identification strategy is confirmed by placebo tests. The authors argued that since most of the world’s poor live in rural areas, and the poorest of the poor are agricultural wage labourers, rural public works constitute a potentially important anti-poverty policy tool.
Raghbendra Jha and Raghav Gaiha (2012), they wrote a working paper “India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as it is - Interpreting the Official Report” and they evaluated India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) according to four criteria a) average number of days of employment per household, b) percentage of households completing 100 days of employment under NREGS, c) percentage of expenditure against total available funds, and d) percentage of work completed. Performance across all four criteria has been disappointing and, except for percentage of households completing 100 days of employment, has actually deteriorated over time. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the NREGS has not performed well. The paper makes a number of policy suggestions to improve the performance of the NREGS.

Surendra Singh (2013), in his paper “MGNREGA: 100 days Employment Guarantee in Bundelkhand (M.P.)?” they argues that MGNREGA has a flagship programme of UPA government which is given 100 days job assurance in rural areas for unskilled persons. It also creating social inclusion by given 33% jobs assurance for women. It is one of the important opportunities for women. Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) has a backward area and in this area MGNREGA had not provided 100 days job guarantee to who are willing to do jobs under this Scheme. Irregularities also found in implementation of MGNREGA in this area. Like Muster roll was not prepared properly & wages inequalities
between women and men. But another picture is that it’s provided some amount of jobs for peoples in this area. In Bundelkhand region government data shown that jobs were provided under MGNREGA but social & individual researches could not found them. In many cases found that jobs were provided to real beneficiaries. And in some cases wages were not given after completing of work. Unemployment allowance which is another safe guard of this scheme not provided who want to jobs but unfortunately jobs were not provided within 15 days of jobs demanding.

Srinivasa Rao Didde, P. Muthaiyan (2013), In the paper “Employment Generation under MGNREGA in Tribal’s Andhra Pradesh Testimony of Five Years” is to examine the extent to which the intended programme has reached the tribal’s people in terms of employment generation, asset creation and wage accruals through involving MGNREGA works for the last five years of the programme at the village level in Parvathipuram Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Parvathipuram Mandal, Budurvada village. This is located in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. This is a higher tribal participating village in Parvathipuram Mandal under the MGNREGA. The reference period for the analysis is from 2006-07 to 2010-11. The data is collected from secondary sources for this study it includes the information available on the official websites of MGNREGA and APNREGA. Simple averages, ratios, and percentages have been used to carry out my objective. The major findings of the study are no household in
tribal of the village completed 100 days employment in first three years of the programme, above 50% employment sharing by the tribal women in every year in this village.

Finally, it is to conclude that the review of literature clearly indicates that MGNREGA has the potential to transform the lives of rural and tribal people, especially the households that have participated fully and gained higher income benefits from MGNREGS. The information revealed by many studies can give us broad ideas may be a little imprecise because of smaller sample size about the status of employment guarantee scheme implemented with a lot of expectations. It is clearly understood that the success of the Act depends on mobilization of the poor, strong Panchayat Raj Institutional systems with proper institutional support and timely availability of funds etc. Many studies indicated low level of awareness among the illiterate workers and their inability to demand the work.

Studies also indicated that to make sure the full payment of wages as prescribed, the So Rs. are to be revised and wage rates should be Consumer Price Index for Agriculture Labour (CPIAL) at regular intervals. Further, some studies are empowerment of rural women through employment and income generation activities and gender concern. Some studies also indicated sharp fall in rural-urban migration due to MGNREGS employment. Few studies also revealed the positive
impact of assets developed under MGNREGS on water availability, rural connectivity, agriculture and livelihoods of rural community and recommended the need for maintenance of these assets for better returns in future.

There for the present study is concentrating on Role of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to upliftment of below poverty line families of tribal Kinwat block in Nanded district of Maharashtra state.

SECTION B

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Statement of the Problem

The poverty and unemployment is one of the burning problems in rural area number of studies indicate that MGNREGS had an impressive impact on employment as compared to other anti-poverty programmes in India. The proposed study aims to understand the Role of MGNREGS or MREGS its relation of poor families from the tribal area. Therefore, proposed study is entitled “Role of Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Upliftment of below Poverty Line Families in Tribal belt: with special Reference to Kinwat Block”.

This study analyzes the household status of beneficiaries of the program. An analysis socio economic condition of tribal workers, mechanism of job card
registration and mode of receiving job card, mode of wages and payment, employment generation, poverty alleviation through MGNREGS is an important aspect of the present study. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme stipulates to provide basic facilities such as crèche, first aid, drinking water, and shed for workers in the work site. An analysis required to what extent such facilities are provided in the work site and it can be accessed from the point of view of household beneficiaries. In this study an attempt is made to analyze the mode of wage provision, impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on wages, income and quality of life and impact on out migration.

**Objectives of the study**

The chief objectives of the study are as follows –

1) To know the socio-economic condition of adivasis in general Nanded district, particularly in Kinwat block.

2) To identify the role of MREGS as an instrument for employment generation and rural development.

3) To evaluate the role of MREGS as an anti-poverty programme.

4) To specify the role of MREGS for the upliftment of poverty in adivasi families in general and particular in BPL adivasi families.
Hypothesis

1) Most of the adivasi families in Kinwat block are BPL families.
2) A major reason for adivasi family being BPL is lack of regular employment.
3) MREGS has been successfully providing employment to adivasi families.
4) MREGS has had positive impact on poverty of adivasi families in this block.

Methodology

This study aims at analyzing the role of National Rural Employment Scheme in Kinwat block of Nanded district, Maharashtra state. The study examines the Effectiveness of the scheme from the point of view of 250 beneficiary households based on primary data analysis. In this study, variables relating to effectiveness of the scheme could be identified from the point of view of beneficiaries. Thus it is an exploratory method of identification of variables and factors relating to the performance and effectiveness of the scheme. The block regional factor and socio economic status of households are correlated with beneficiaries’ perceptions about the effectiveness of the scheme and this type of analysis constitutes analytical framework. Thus this study is partly exploratory in nature and partly analytical in nature.
Relevance of the study

This study aims at analyzing the role of National Rural Employment Scheme of Government of India. This scheme is implemented to provide a guarantee of 100 days employment for the benefit of poor households in a financial year. It is a major rural employment scheme of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government supported with left parties. Initially this scheme was implemented in 200 districts in India and later extended to all the rural districts of India from the financial year 2008-09 and October 2nd, 2009 renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. Consequent upon this situation the government of India has increased 144 per cent of financial allocation for the scheme. In order to implement the scheme, the Government of India has been spending Crores of rupees. An analysis of performance of the scheme is highly useful for planning commission. This type of analysis enables the members of implementing authorities to identify the defects and problems in the existing system of implementation and such problems and defects will be corrected through proper government intervention. If guidelines are not properly followed an appropriate policy suggestions can be initiated. The scheme implementing authorities can learn to what extent expectations of rural households are fulfilled through the scheme. The report of the study will identify the problems and prospects of implementation of National Rural Employment Scheme and impact of
the scheme on wages, income and quality of life of rural households. Such type of identification enables the planners to frame a suitable rural development planning in general and rural employment planning in particular.

**Sampling**

In the study, the researcher used both the primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected through personal interview schedule, which is open and close ended. I have conducted a survey of 250 tribal (adivasi) families, from 25 different, purposively selected tribal villages in the Kinwat block of Nanded district. We selected such villages where government has provided work under MGNREGS, those workers who are going on MGNREGS work and those tribal villages were population has been more than 40 percent as per the census 2001. From each village 10 adivasi families have been selected. Thus, 250 respondents are selected with the use of purposively sampling. The primary data was collected during the period from January 2013 to March 2013.

**Data collection**

The necessary secondary data are collected from various Government Reports, Economic Survey of India, Economic Survey of Maharashtra, the reports of department of Rural and Tribal development, Maharashtra state and central government ministry of rural and tribal development, planning commission, Census of India and Maharashtra, district rural development agency, in block level
Panchayat Samiti, Tahasildars reports and some related websites are uses so on. The researcher has collected primary data through field survey. The researcher has visited the target villages and met the respondents and collected necessary data from them by employing a well structured interview schedule.

**Data Analysis**

The collected data are classified and tabulated with the help of computer programming. Cross tabulation was made putting villages and household status as independent variable and respondents; perceptions on mode of implementation of MGNREGS, mechanism of job card and mode of issuing job card, work allocation procedure, impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on wages, income and quality of life, impact on out-migration and problems and prospects of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as dependent variables. The village wise analysis was carried out to show the performance of the scheme on the basis of index method. The general data interpretation was done with the help of percentage and average analysis. The diagrammatic and graphic representation of the data was made to strengthen the field data.
**Chapter summary:-**

Our study has been dividing in five chapters-

**Chapter 1:- Introduction**

The first chapter covers the introduction to the study. Rationale for topic, explaining the background against which is the study is conducted and measurement of poverty in India, concept of poverty, poverty measurement and various study in India, Anti-poverty programmes in India.

**Chapter 2:- Economic Structure of Nanded District**

This chapter is dividing into two separate sections section A and B. In section A, we have studied as ‘Nanded district profile’ and in section B; we have studied ‘Kinwat block profile.’

**Chapter 3:- Review of Literature and Methodology**

In this chapter present details reviews of the related literature. Methodology under the sub titles, Statement of the problem, objectives of the study, hypothesis, methodology, relevance of the study, sampling, data collection, data analysis of the study.

**Chapter 4:- Role of MREGS in Adivasi Block**

This chapter relates to detail study of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) or NREGA in Kinwat block and in this chapter also analysis and interpretation of the primary data.
Chapter 5:- Findings and Recommendations

In the last chapter of the study presents the summary of major findings and make some recommendations.
References:


