

## CHAPTER – II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature pertaining to the study on “**Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) on Economic Conditions of Paniyan Tribal Population**” is presented and discussed under the following heads:

- 2.1 Development programmes since independence.
- 2.2 Brief history of MGNREGA.
- 2.3 Studies related to performance of MGNREGA.
- 2.4 Studies on the impact of MGNREGA.
- 2.5 Studies on health conditions of tribal population.
- 2.6 Problems faced by tribal workers in MGNREGA.
- 2.7 Other related studies.

#### **2.1 Development Programmes since Independence**

In development studies, livelihood was the social and cultural means of an individual, family or other social group over an income or bundles of resources or both that can be used or exchanged to satisfy needs. Government of India has initiated several programs and policies to uplift the conditions of livelihood sources of its citizens. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There was a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, mal-nourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts (Gupta and Pandey 2016). In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted number of programmes as outlined below.

##### **i. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1978 – 1979)**

The programme covered small and marginal farmers, agricultural workers and landless labourers and rural craftsmen and artisans and virtually all the families of about

five persons with an annual income level below Rs. 3500. The main aim of IRDP was to raise the levels of the (Below Poverty Line) BPL families in the rural areas above the poverty line on a lasting basis by giving them income generating assets and access to credit and other inputs.

## **ii. Training of Rural Youth for Self – Employment (TRY – SEM) (1979)**

This scheme basically aims to provide youngsters of the nation with facilities and opportunities, especially to those from the rural and backward parts of the country. The objectives of the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment are: To provide technical skills to rural youth especially to those from the below poverty line and to enable rural youngsters to take up self-employment opportunities in larger fields of agriculture and various allied activities and to make the scheme effective, implementing these objectives efficiently becomes vital.

## **iii. National Rural Employment Programme (1980)**

The food-for-works programmes, aimed to “generate additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons in rural areas, to create productive community assets for direct and continuing benefits to poverty groups and to strengthen the rural, economic and social infrastructure to bring about a general improvement in the overall quality of life in rural areas. It also aims to improve the nutritional standards of rural poor through the supply of food grains as part of wages”.

## **iv. Indira Awas Yojana (1985)**

The aim of this program was to provide housing for the rural and poor population. Financial assistance for Rs. 70,000 in plain areas and Rs. 75,000 for the high land area was provided under this scheme. The scheme allotted houses in the name of women or jointly between husband and wife. The Indira Awas Yojana scheme was restructured in the year 2015 and now it is called as -Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana.

**v. Samagra Awass Yojana (1998)**

The basic objective of the program was to improve the quality of rural people's life. The aim of the program was to create convergence to activities which are undertaken separately in different terms so far such as Drinking Water Schemes, Construction of Houses, sanitation facilities and ensure their effective implementation by suitable and sustainable initiation of technology.

**vi. Credit cum Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing (1996)**

This scheme makes it easier for all rural families with an income of less than Rs. 32,000 in a year to construct their home. The objective of the scheme was to enable the construction of houses for all the rural households who have some repayment capacity.

**vii. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) (2000)**

The scheme started on 25th December 2000 with the main objective of providing good road connectivity to the unconnected habitations in rural areas. Almost 500 persons obtained job opportunities in plain areas. The mission comes under the Ministry of Rural Development and managed by National Rural Roads Development Agency. Through this program 4, 22,031 km lengths of roadways were connected surrounded by the unconnected rural areas.

**viii. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (2000)**

It has been long recognized that access to the minimum level of infrastructural facilities must be an integral part of the strategy for improving the quality of life of the people and for eradicating poverty. Over the last decade, considerable progress has been made in improving access to primary health care facilities, primary education, safe drinking water and shelter as reflected in an expansion of coverage and also improvements in the indicators of human development.

**ix. Swajaldhara (2002)**

The program started on 25th December 2002 with a special emphasis on community based rural water supply program and to open up the reform initiatives in the

rural drinking water supply sector. This program focused on community participation. The water facility was arranged to the rural population via Piped Water Spot Source Scheme (PWSS) which covers a large population and Spot Source Water Supply Sector Scheme (SSWSS) covers a small population. For this scheme, 90 percent of the capital cost was given by the Government of India and 10 percent of the cost was of Community contribution.

#### **x. Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA) (2003)**

The mission of the scheme was the holistic and accelerated development of compact areas around a potential growth center in Gram Panchayat through Public Private Partnership framework for providing livelihood opportunities and urban amenities to improve the quality life for rural people. The main objectives of the program were the physical connectivity by providing roads, electronic connectivity through a communication network and knowledge connectivity by establishing the professional and technological institution.

#### **xi. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyukthikaran Yojana (2005)**

The program aims to create electricity for rural infrastructures and households electrification for providing access to electricity to rural households. The outcome of the scheme was 1.95 free electricity connections have been given to the rural populations.

### **2.2 Brief History of MGNREGA**

Every nation wants to optimize its resources and trigger its growth through development programs and inclusive strategies. India was the one, which needs these development programs more than any other nation, as 1/3 of world's poor population lives in India and the government has been always trying to meet the needs of underprivileged through its development schemes and desires better outcome. India at a very challenging stage, when it was imperative to have a systematic plan and strategy to optimize its resources and trigger its growth and employment opportunities has introduced MGNREGA, which was one of the best and well-recognized schemes of central government, it was not only famous in India but also throughout the world.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. The introduction of MGNREGA was the beginning of the golden period in the lives of rural people with an aim to achieve progress and prosperity. It was a great step towards the realization of rural transformation and aims at arresting migration and poverty. It has enhanced people’s livelihood by developing infrastructure and local jobs for rural development.

MGNREGA has potential to transform the lives of rural people and the infrastructure of rural areas. World Bank in its report in the year 2012 declares MGNREGA is largest employment alleviation scheme and many African countries have taken as a model to reduce poverty in their respective countries. The MGNREGA was not mere a scheme but an act since 2005, in order to eradicate poverty and unemployment by offering jobs to the people living in the rural areas. The act gives planning right to every individual at gram (village) level and the participative right to every sect whether General, SC, ST, men or women of the society. Its implementation stage was multi-tire starting from the centre, state, district levels and ends with village level. MGNREGA was the act with the aim of high objectives of inclusive growth and to make it reachable to every village so that people could derive various benefits like employment, economic and social infrastructure facilities. Even though MGNREGA was the best policy for poverty reduction and employment generation but its current status is a matter of concern.

In India for rural development various strategies and programs through Government are still formulated in which MGNREGA has precious contribution. NREGA Act was passed in 2005 that guaranteed 100 days wage of employment in a year to every rural house. Government of India has renamed the NREGA as MGNREGA on 2nd October 2009. On 2, February, 2006 it was launched in 200 select districts and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. It is now implemented in 645 districts of the country. Under MGNREGA work is provided for about 90 days for every households who reside in villages. In this case, rural people have to go through a process for getting employment. First of all, every rural household supposed to get

registered them to local Gram Panchayat for seeking employment, then within 15 days job cards containing photographs are issued to all entitled applicants. After getting job cards, work was allotted to job card holders within 15 days. In case, failed to provide work, wage was given as per day schedule. The nature of MGNREGA work was unskilled manual work and this was targeted to enhance livelihood security of every rural people by providing guaranteed Wage Employment for 90 days and in that process of employment generation, durable assets are built up as it focus the work of water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development, irrigation, rural connectivity, flood protection, drought proofing etc. the projects for villages are recommended by gram sabha approved by jila panchayat, where as 50 percent works should be implemented by gram panchayat. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIS) play principal role over planning and implementation.

According to Chandrasekhar and Ghosh (2009), “The NREGA was necessarily inclusive” at the most basic level in the economic terms, because those who are willing to engage in arduous physical work for a daily wage, in other words the poorest sections of society are given jobs. But it was also socially inclusive as well, that, it disproportionately involves women, SCs and STs as workers in the scheme.”

According to Keshlata and Fatmi (2015), “the programme was boosting the purchasing power of the rural poor and has led to a stable income for the rural population. The most eligible rural families that the NREGA hope to benefit are those of the landless-labours as well as the small and marginal farmers.”

Jagannarayan and Pawar (2020) remarked that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of getting demand for productive labour force in villages.

The key features of the MGNREGA programme include:-

- ❖ It was the biggest Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) in India so far, intended to cover 5.4 crore rural poor in India year.
- ❖ It was demand driven and self-targeted.

- ❖ It was based on the logic of using the productive capacity of ordinary rural folk to build and nurture productive and infrastructural assets.
- ❖ It aims at alleviating the problem of chronic unemployment and poverty.
- ❖ The Act provides an opportunity to build rural infrastructure through watershed development, restoration of water bodies such as tanks and canals, activities aimed at forestry, land development, soil erosion and flood control, construction of roads and institutional facilities.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) was right based programme, gives guaranteed employment opportunity up to 100 days for each rural household every year. The rural poor can demand the work when they want. The demands must be met within 15 days, failing which an unemployment allowance must be provided by the state.
- ❖ The programme was framed on the lines of democratic decentralization and participation of the rural poor was encouraged. „This was perhaps the first time that the Panchayats have been provided with the freedom to plan and execute works and was backed by substantial resources, which are at their own disposal“.
- ❖ In the beginning, the programme was implemented in 200 poorest districts of India.

### **2.3 Studies related to Performance of MGNREGA**

To evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on livelihood status of the population various, studies have been conducted and they are summarized in the current section.

Yoganandham (2017) in his study on “Savings and Indebtedness Pattern of Primitive Paniyan Tribes in Nilgiris - An Assessment” remarked that most of the Paniyan tribal families in the study area were “born in debt, live in debt and die in debt”. The study covered Paniyan Primitive tribal community in Gudalur and Panthalur Taluks of Nilgiris District in Tamil Nadu. The objective of the study was to find out the savings and indebtedness pattern of Paniyan Primitive tribal community in the study area. The factors determining their savings and indebtedness pattern to create saving habits among Paniyan Primitive tribal community were also studied. The study has used purely

primary data for the analysis by covering 100 respondents. Out of the total income of the respondents in the study area 47.55 percent of the amount, was spent on life cycle rituals, on occasions like birth, puberty, marriage, death, payment to priests and also to perform customary fairs and festivals. They spent less on food and clothes (22.25 percent) but for recreation that include consumption of liquor, eating hotel food, travel to town, watching movies in theatres, they spent 22.73 percent of the income. The study revealed that an average loan (debt) on each Paniyan family was Rs.1475/- and indebtedness among the Paniyans was 23.26 percent. The study found that the money lenders of Pandalur and Gudalur Taluks, were afraid to give loans to Paniyans, because if they force them to repay the loan amount, arrogant Paniyans become violent and also they did not cooperate with the money lenders.

Manojan (2018) in his study on “Indigenous Knowledge in Education: A Study among Paniya Tribes in Kerala” reported that in the context of the marginalized sections, education was claimed to be the weapon for their liberation and an agency that enhance their radical expressions and negotiations. The study examined the relevance of indigenous knowledge in tribal education. The study made an attempt to formulate an analytical framework for the educational system with a view to address shortfalls in knowledge distribution using mixed methodology. The study was conducted in Wayanad district of Kerala among the Paniya tribe. The analysis was mainly done in three levels. The first level was the representation of attitudes and opinions of students, teachers and parents gathered through survey schedule. The second level was the reports of the interview conducted with two types of respondents; community leaders and third with social activists. The opinion collected from the students established the fact that majority of the students were facing difficulties in understanding subjects taught in the class. It was quite surprising that the major difficult subject was Hindi, which signifies the role of language in the learning process. The perception as such negotiates for the inclusion of indigenous language for their learning process. From the teachers’ point of view, it was authentically substantiated that tribal students were facing difficulties in understanding subjects. Students’ disinterest in attending school as well as classes was the main problem. The issues such as unfamiliarity of contents in the curriculum, difficult topics in the subjects are also found as the main hurdles for

students. Teachers strongly agreed that students were interested to have the indigenous knowledge in the curriculum. As the study revealed, parents are not facing much problems with regard to the schooling of their children which clearly showed that parents are interested to send their children to the school, whereas the issue that hampered them most was their financial status. In terms of the community knowledge, their children were not well aware of it.

Rajasenan et.al., (2013) in their study explained about “Health, Education and Employment in a Forward – Backward Dichotomy Based on Standard of Living Index for the Tribes in Kerala”. The data for the study was obtained from a primary survey in the three tribal predominant districts of Wayanad, Idukki and Palakkad. Wayanad was selected for studying six tribal communities (Paniya, Adiya, Kuruma, Kurichya, Urali and Kattunaika), Idukki for two communities (Malayarayan and Muthuvan) and Palakkad for one community (Irula). 500 samples from nine prominent tribal communities of Kerala have been collected according to multistage proportionate random sample framework. The analysis highlighted the disproportionate nature of socio-economic indicators within the tribes in Kerala owing to the failure of governmental schemes and assistance meant for their empowerment. The socio-economic variables, such as education, health, and livelihood have been augmented with Standard of Living Index (SLI) based on correlation analysis gave interesting inference for policy options as high educated tribal communities were positively correlated with high Standard of Living Index (SLI) and livelihood. Further, each of the Standard of Living Index (SLI) variable was decomposed using Correlation and Correspondence analysis for understanding the relative standing of the nine tribal sub communities in the three dimensional framework of high, medium and low Standard of Living Index (SLI) levels. Tribes with good education and employment (Malayarayan, Kuruma and Kurichya) have a better living standard and hence they can generally be termed as forward tribes whereas those with a low or poor education, employment and living standard indicators (Paniya, Adiya, Urali, Kattunaika, Muthuvans and Irula) were categorized as backward tribes.

Sameer (2018) in her work on “An Evaluative Study on the Performance of MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir State”. assessed the performance of MGNREGS in the study area in terms of employment generation and incomes of beneficiaries by analyzing: man-days generated, average participating households, SC’s, ST’s, Women and BPL households, total Wages, household income, Consumption pattern, socio-economic status of participating rural households. The study has endeavored to identify and analyze the operational performance of the scheme in the Phase – I district of Kupwara and Poonch. The results of the study indicated performance of the scheme with insignificant impact on employment and wages of participating households. The wage employment under the scheme has significantly reduced rural labour migration in the study area. The findings of the study on employment generation measured on average man-days were compared with official data extracted from government records. The official data on average man-days was 52 days for Jammu and Kashmir State for the period under reference and 53 man-days at sample block level. To find out whether there was significant difference in average wage earnings of respondents across type of land owned and also across different size of land holding by using anova test was used. The results indicated the difference in average wages between the above land holdings was significant.

Keshlata (2014) made an attempt on “Evaluation of Upliftment of Scheduled Tribes under MGNREGA” According to census, 2011 Indian population was 1.21 billion, and it is the country where majority of people resides in the rural sector. The objective the study was to make an attempt to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on the socio-economic empowerment of Scheduled Tribes. The study adopted the qualitative research where primary data and secondary data sources such as planning Commission, Ministry of Rural Development Annual reports, census etc. and sources such as books, articles, research papers were used to complete the study. The study found out financial Structure of MGNREGA, empowerment of Vulnerable Group (SCs, STs and Women), empowerment of Scheduled Tribes (STs). It identified factors responsible for the backwardness of Scheduled Tribes. The study concluded that the Scheduled Tribes are in the last ladder of development in terms of broader development parameters i.e. literacy, health indicators and below poverty line. Other than MGNREGA

several schemes and programmes have been implemented through state and central governments for providing better livelihood to STs, but insufficient awareness and lack of organized efforts seems to be the root causes of socio-economic backwardness and major problems of the Scheduled tribes.

Keshalata and Fatmi (2015) examined in their study on “The Contribution of MGNREGA in the Empowerment of the Scheduled Tribes through Poverty Alleviation and Rural development in the Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh: An Analytical Study” In their research paper they tried to analyse the concept of poverty, factors responsible for poverty, in rural development, factors responsible for backwardness of scheduled tribes. The main objectives of the study were to recognize the factors responsible for the violence against the scheduled tribe assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio – economic and wellbeing of Sheopur district scheduled tribes in Madhya Pradesh, evaluate the empowerment of the shariya scheduled tribe in the sheopur district of the Madhya Pradesh. The required data for the study were collected from primary sources namely planning commission, report of ministry of rural development, internet websites and census etc., and the secondary data sources such as books, articles research papers were used to complete the research paper. The design adopted was descriptive type. The study concluded that MGNREGA was a demand based programme where the limit of funds was not fixed for the implementation of wok. On the other hand there were certain safeguards under the MGNREGA implementation such as opening of bank account of labourers, labour intensive projects through permissible works such as water conservation, land development, flood control, drought professing etc.

Shanthi and Geetha (2014) in their study on “Assessment of Mgnrega in Enhancing Quality of Life of Tribals in Karamadai Block in Coimbatore District” analyzed the socio-economic profile and living conditions of the tribal households. To examine the impact of MGNREGA in improving the quality of life of the tribal households selected tribal households; a pre-tested interview schedule was administered to collect the needed information. The study found out socio-economic profile, living conditions of respondents, and their employment details, household expenditure pattern. The variables viz., annual income, type of housing, living area per person, annual

expenditure on clothing and occupation were included to assess the standard of living. The study concluded that the sample beneficiaries of MGNREGA have marginally gained in terms of better employment opportunities and increased days of employment, which had improved their per capita income and helped to lead a better standard of life.

Stina et.al., (2015) conducted a study on the “Performance of MGNREGA in Manipur” and examined the performance of the scheme in the state with respect to extent of employment generation, efficiency in work completion rate and efficiency in fund utilization through analyzing official records of seven years between 2008-09 and 2014-2015. During the period under study, a total of 3228861 number of job cards were issued of which the share of backward communities (ST and SC) was 53.83 per cent. In terms of social category wise employment generation, the shares of backward communities and women were 69.58 per cent and 42.37 per cent respectively. However, there remained a gap of around 5.39 per cent in the matter of employment provisioning as against actual number of job card holding households deserving the benefit of employment. The shabbiest part of the scheme was detected in the form of provisioning of 100 days of employment to only 7.39 per cent of job card holders and failure to complete 95.55 per cent of the works undertaken by scheduled time.

Padma, (2015) carried out a study on “MGNREGA and Rural Distress in India” The literature on MGNREGA concerns with various aspects of the implementation of the programme and its effectiveness. The present study looked at the macro picture of MGNREGA. The study pondered over the issues as why the debate surrounding MGNREGA. the issues of the study, the employment generated by MGNREGA, categories of person’s secured employment, assets generated by the programme, expenditure incurred under the programme and the growth in wage rates and growth in productivity of agriculture. The study looked at the problem in a holistic way to arrive at right conclusions. The context for implementation of the programme, performance of MGNREGA at all India level by taking into consideration the issue of job cards, provision of employment to the households and person days created, types of works and status of the works besides expenditure incurred for the works. The programme got potential to meet inclusive growth; the works implemented were environmental friendly.

Creation of more durable assets and achievement of sustainable development of the rural areas is possible if MGNREGA works implemented in convergence with various department's technical assistance and skills in planning and execution of the works. Community participation and strict supervision by the government could reduce the corruption in MGNREGA works.

Mariyappan et.al., (2015) conducted a study on "MGNREGA: A New Hope to Reduce Rural Poverty" The present study has been descriptive in nature and has been based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from the Shanoo village of Kupwara district of state Jammu and Kashmir with the following objectives: to analyze the socioeconomic conditions of the respondents; and to examine the impact of MGNREGA on the upliftment of the respondents and to evaluate the role of MGNREGA in reducing the rural poverty and to increase their standard of living. The study covered 223 respondents. The study findings in terms of functioning of MGNREGA mainly (58 percent) believed that the Act has been working for the eradication of rural poverty and generally 68 percent were of the opinion that the Act was functioning to create employment among the rural poor people. The study concluded the Act was working for the betterment of rural poor and there was a good perception among the people regarding the performance of MGNREGA. But the functioning and success of MGNREGA mainly depends upon the people who are engaged with it therefore, the influence of government officials at block level must be controlled and the implementation process should be processed as per the objectives of MGNREGA.

Azhagaiah et.al.,(2011) conducted a study on "Issues and Challenges of MGNREGA: Evidence from Pondicherry Union Territory" which covered 98 villages in Puducherry and Karaikal districts of Puducherry region, and attempted to give a demographic details for the three blocks viz Ariyankuppam block (37 villages), Villianur block (34 villages), and Karaikal block (27 villages) of Puducherry region. The study mainly focused on some of the issues and challenges faced by the rural poor in Puducherry region like delay in payment of wages, mode of payment, and lack of adequate facilities provided in workplace, etc. The study proved that there was a

significant relationship between growth in labour in MGNREGA and agriculture related activities in Puducherry and Karaikal districts of Puducherry Union Territory.

Krishnan and Balakrishnan (2014) carried out a study on “Mgnrega - Marching towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals-An Analysis” The main and foremost objective of the scheme was to eradicate poverty by providing productive guaranteed wage employment and strengthening natural resource management. The authors concluded in their study that MGNREGA was India’s policy and programme commitment to achieve Millennium Development Goals and efforts are on towards total eradication of poverty by 2015. Even though there are some problems, MGNREGA was the most successful poverty eradication programme introduced in India. It provides the money in the hands of poor; particularly women directly without any middlemen, even their husbands did not have the rights to receive it. So the visible and invisible effects of MGNREGA on women are high, it facilitated an increase in the levels of savings of women. It alleviated their fear of hunger and poverty. Their increased credit worthiness and social status facilitated a change in their attitudes towards life, work, friendship, economic independence and political leadership. The acute shortage of farm labourer can be solved by introduction of wage subsidy.

Rao and Muthaiyan (2013) in their study explained about “Employment Generation under MGNREGA in Tribals Andhra Pradesh Testimony of Five Years” The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) an ambitious mass employment guarantee scheme implemented since the five years intends to sustain income and consumption in Indian rural outback. The objective of the study was to examine the extent to which the intended programme has reached the tribals 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. The reference period for the analysis was from 2006-07 to 2010-11. Simple averages, ratios, and percentages have been used to carry out the objectives. The findings of the study were as follows: no household in tribal village completed 100

days employment in first three years of the programme, like other schemes there was wide gap between the programme implementation and the objectives in tribal area.

Narayanan et.al. (2014) in their survey discussed “MGNREGA Works and Their Impact A Rapid Assessment in Maharashtra” The results of a survey cover over 4100 works created under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and over 4800 randomly selected users across 100 villages in 20 districts in Maharashtra. It has two goals: the first was to verify the existence of the assets and the second was to elicit user perceptions of the problems and benefits they associate with the work. The study also found that 92 percent of the randomly selected users remarked that their main occupation was farming; half of them were small and marginal farmers, owning less than 1.6 hectares of land. An overwhelming 90 percent of respondents considered the works very useful or somewhat useful; only 8 percent felt the works were useless. There was some evidence that where people felt that have played a part in deciding the type of work, these were more likely to be ranked as useful and well-maintained. Likewise, works on private lands tend to score better in terms of perceived usefulness and in terms of present condition. Overall it appeared that the works were supportive of agriculture and of small and marginal farmers. There was however scope to improve the design of assets and to have a more inclusive process of work selection.

Sheela and Kumar (2015) carried out a study on “Socio – Economic Impact of MGNREGA: Evidences from District of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand, India” The study conducted in the District of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand, has examined the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on the socio economic status of participants. The study was based on the information gathered from 80 households of four Gram Panchayats of an average performing block in the district. Twelve socio-economic indicators were evaluated using three point scale to assess the socio-economic impact of the scheme. The average days of employment in MGNREGA scheme observed to decrease slightly from 59.8 days in 2007-08 to 51.9 days in year 2013-14 a significant increase in 2013-14 over 2007-08 was noticed in socio-economic indicators namely, annual per capita food, non food, health and, per

child education expenditures. Debts were found to increase along with asset possession though per capita saving declined. The value of socio-economic index indicated that in the initial years of implementation of the programme, about 36 per cent of the beneficiary households were in poor socio-economic strata which decreased to 12 per cent in 2013-14, while beneficiary households in good socio-economic strata increased from 30 per cent to 55 per cent. The Study suggested that implementing agencies should make conscious efforts to increase the person days employment in the area to meet the minimum specified target of employment under MGNREGA and also the scheme should be continued in future and expanded to other regions of the country involving more families under its ambit.

Kumar et.al., (2017) in their study explained about “Socio-economic impact of Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) in Himachal Pradesh” In Himachal Pradesh, where this scheme has been made fully functional, it has made considerable impacts in the socio-economic life of the rural people. In this paper an attempt has been made on detailed analysis of the impacts of the MGNREGS, upon different sections of the society. With the implementation of this scheme it has contributed to the empowerment of the various sections of the rural people. The scheme has suddenly increased purchasing power of the women and there was visible local economic development. the scheme has worked wonderfully well in the economic self-dependence of the women. It has also encouraged the free movement of women outside their house and had encouraged them to share their views in society.

Pillai and Nithiya (2014) in the study evaluated “Socio-Economic Conditions of Mgnrega Programme Workers In Krishnarayapuram Taluk Of Karur District” Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There was a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hungry people, mal-nourished children, anaemic pregnant women, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to make solution of these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. This study dealt with the

MGNREGA'S worker socio-economic conditions. It dealt with gender – wise classification, age of the respondents, marital status, religion, community, occupation educational, and nature of family, annual family income and distribution of household income in the study area. The study indicated that the respondents covered in the study were found to be benefitted by participation in MGNREGA.

Bahuguna et.al., (2016) conducted on “A Study on Socio – Economic Impact of MGNREGA on Beneficiary in Rudrapryag District of Uttarakhand India” The employment scheme like MGNREGA holds special importance for hilly states like uttarakhand which has faced great challenges in development process because of its tough hilly topography and geographical constraints. The objectives of the study were to assess the impact of MGNREGA on socio economic development of beneficiaries in Rudraprayag district of uttarakhand and to find out the bottlenecks in the implementation of MGNREGA, to suggest strategies for effective implementation of MGNREGA in uttarakhand. The study concluded that MGNREGA helps to maintain equality among the various groups of the society and to promote standard of living thereby contributing to economic improvement of the people of the rural area. It was revealed from the study that the progamme has done a great job in improving the economies of rural area by raising their socio economic status.

Pamecha and Sharma (2015) examined about “Socio-Economic Impact of Mgnrega-A Study Undertaken among Beneficiaries of 20 Villages of Dungarpur District of Rajasthan” in their study. Dungarpur was a district which was selected in the first phase of the programme. The objective of the study was to find out the potential of the scheme to attack on the 'Chakrviewha' of poor Socio-Economic condition of people of the area. The study also explored about changing expenditure pattern of the beneficiaries of MGNREGA. The study examined the earning level of each house hold and expenditure pattern on food and non food item. In the study effort was also made to find out views and feedback of the beneficiaries about the programme. The study concluded that when income of a family increases, it has a profound impact on the expenditure pattern. It was evident from the data that 79.5 percent respondents were having mobile sets and 30 percent were possessing motor-cycles. Similarly 33.5

percent households had T.V. sets and 88.5 percent had electricity connection in their dwelling units. Therefore the assured employment in rural areas could certainly reduced out-migration. MGNREGA can certainly check distress related migration from rural areas and improved their working conditions.

Anish (2008) in his study on the “NREGA Survey -2008” examined the issue how the act is making a difference in the lives of the rural poor. In Rajasthan, in the very first year of the NREGA (2006 – 07), the average rural households worked for as many as 77 days under the programme. This was an unprecedented achievement in the history of social security in India. In most other states, the promise of 100 days of assured employment is still a distant dream but employment generation is nevertheless much higher than under earlier public works programmes and where employment is available, the NREGA is having an impact like wages were rising, migration was slowing down, productive assets were created, and power equations were changing too.

Thomas (2008) conducted a case study in Kerala to evaluate the performance of NREGA as a corruption less wage employment programme and to analyze the impact of NREGA on the empowerment of rural women. The study revealed that, NREGS implemented in Vaakkanchery panchayat is a success in the elimination of corruption and bribery associated with public works. Regarding the empowerment of rural women the study found that, NREGS helped to enhance the self confidence and credit worthiness of women, Moreover, it enabled them to participate actively in the civil society. In short, the study found that, even though there was some gray area of concern, the performance of NREGS is highly encouraging.

Pankaj (2008) covered on “Processes, Institutions and Mechanisms of Implantation of NREGA: Impact Assessment of Bihar and Jharkhand” the study found all the 6154 households (including 434 in Bihar and 1843 in Jharkhand) in the 30 villages that were listed in Jharkhand and a pre – sample census survey was conducted to find out the basic socio – economic characteristics of the households and their status in terms of participation in NREGA. The NREGA covers 90 percent of the total population in Bihar and 78 percent in Jharkhand, the highest in the country. The high incidence of rural poverty, high level of seasonal and often distress migration out of

these states and low level of agricultural and rural development make these states ideal test cases for the study. The study concluded that majority of the beneficiaries were happy with the NREGA and found it to have helped in improving their economic conditions. But more than that, an overwhelming number of the beneficiaries demanded that its coverage dimensions should be increased. The overwhelming demand for guaranteed wage employment in the two states has strong roots in the socio – economic conditions prevalent in these states, which were partly revealed by the economic and livelihood conditions of the beneficiary households.

Joshi and Singh (2008) conducted a study on “Evaluation of NREGA in Rajasthan.” The study found that in all the districts migration from rural areas was a major survival strategy. After NREGA’s intervention, the migration in these districts has certainly decreased but not completely stopped. In Jhalawar that most of the villagers used to migrate with families to neighboring states like Madhya Pradesh for work. But once the activities under NREGA started, women stayed back and work in the EGS and the youth and adults who were migrating out for certain reasons are now able to earn in the village itself.

Mukherjee and Ghosh (2009), conducted a study on “What Determines the Success and Failure of ‘100 Days work’ at the Panchayat Level? A study of Birbhum District in West Bengal”. West Bengal has done well in terms of distribution of job cards and covering maximum number of households with some work. The performance of all districts in the state is not equally discouraging. Some districts, in fact, have done well in generating good number of average person – days per household or in distributing the benefits of work in favour of the marginalized population (such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes). For a detailed case study the district of Birbhum was considered. The study found that high inter – block variations in terms of average person – days created better utilization of NREGA funds. The blocks which have performed better also showed significant variation across the Gram Panchayats within the block. There seems to be no clear relation between the utilization of available funds and average person – days created either at the Gram Panchayat level or at the block level. The weak correlation observed between number of households with job card and

availability of NREGA funds at the Gram Panchayat level suggest that Gram Panchayat were not able to come up with adequate number of NREGA scheme to absorb the labourers demanding employment. There was also no evidence of NREGA getting better implemented in blocks with higher share of agricultural labourers or high percentage of BPL households, which one would expect. Rather, blocks with higher share of BPL households showed lower average person – days created under NREGA. The pilot survey indicated that a lot more has to be done to fully sensitize the rural households about their legitimate entitlement under NREGA, especially the ST households. Lack of technical skills and human resource seem to be the major reasons why the Gram Panchayat are not able to develop adequate number of schemes under NREGA. Though NREGA allows scope for creating various types of durable productive assets at the community level (such as roads, improving rural infrastructure, drought-proofing, watershed development, water conservation etc), focus has remained on types of works which are easy to design (such as road construction and pond excavation). It is observed that the lack of capacity to design adequate number of schemes under NREGA which can be meaningfully linked with the livelihood and infrastructural development of the local economy.

#### **2.4 Studies on the Impact of MGNREGA**

Sumithra and Kumari (2015) in their study made the “Performance Analysis of MGNREG Scheme” the study remarked that the scheme focused on works relating to water conservation and water harvesting, flood control, rural connectivity, repair of water bodies, drought proofing, irrigation canals and land development. The study gave the analysis of the performance of MGNREG scheme in villages of Visakhapatnam district, using distance weighted k-nearest neighbor classification technique. It was concluded that the performance of MGNREGA in Visakhapatnam was not at all satisfactory. The scheme could not ensure the 100 days job guarantee to the majority of the job card holders. By comparing the progress of last four financial year data, it can be concluded that this scheme was potentially successful only in some of the villages. Many villages in Visakhapatnam district have the performance below average and not receiving financial support for their family to improve the livelihood and the economic status of the

people. This was because of failure in providing sufficient work to all the registered people. So Government should take better decision to improve the employability for villages which were having performance below average.

Khan and Saluja (2008) measured the “Impact of the NREGP on Rural Livelihoods, India Development Foundation”. This study looked at the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in India that was launched in the year 2005 as a social security measure aimed at providing employment security to the poor in villages. The NREGP was also meant to use the labour potential to construct rural infrastructure that is clearly wanting in India. The analysis looked at the direct and the indirect effects that the NREGP had on employment generation and poverty reduction in an area. For the detailed survey in a specific village was undertaken to highlight the impact of the NREGP. The survey covered a poor agricultural village with 400 households with nearly 2500 people. The data was used to build a Social Accounting Matrix. A SAM is as an organized matrix representation of all transactions and transfers between production activities, factors of production and institutions within the economy with respect to the rest of the world. The wages paid under NREGP in village amounted to Rs. 5, 82,000 leading to an increased output of Rs.4, 52,219. The value added increases by Rs. 2, 26,577, the additional household income generated was Rs.1,96,823.

United Nations Development Programme (2009) had undertaken a survey to appraise the “Impact assessment of NREGS in selected district of Himachala Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana”. During the course of the survey, various stakeholders were contacted and interviewed on the implementation of the NREGS. Their views on the problems confronted by the Panchayats, workers, non – workers, and government functionaries were taken and suggestions to improve the functioning of the programmes were also sought, NREG’s impact on agriculture is of everyone’s interest; therefore, it was asked from the respondents that whether NREGA had any impact on increase in agriculture productivity and improvement in irrigation facilities. More than 62 percent respondents of district Hoshiarpur reported no impact and only one respondent reported improvement in irrigation facilities. About one – fifth of the respondents of district Sirsa

reported increase in agriculture production and more than 55 percent respondents of district Sirmaur reported increase in agriculture production. One – fourth respondents of district Sirmaur reported no impact on agriculture. So, the study concluded that MGNREGA has no impact on agriculture but it facilities to create infrastructure like creation of wastershed, check dams, canals etc.

Prasad (2012), in his study on “Performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): An Overview” attempted to review the performance of MGNREGA as the main objective of the functioning of the scheme and explained the objectives, features, permissible works under the Act and funding pattern of MGNREGA. The study also stated that the MGNREGA was the first ever law, internationally, that guaranteed wage employment at an unprecedented scale, augmenting wage employment and its auxiliary objective was to strengthen natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty due to drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development. The process of outcomes included strengthening grass-root processes of democracy and infusing transparency and accountability in governance.

Sugapriyan and Prakasam (2015) in their study on “Analyzing the Performance of MGNREGA Scheme using Data Mining Technique” remarked that the Government has announced so many schemes for rural masses with the aim to bring them out of the folder of poverty. The study analyzed the success and failure of this scheme. The current work has analyzed the success of MGNREGA in Kanchipuram District, using Data Mining Technique along with the comparison of previous year statistical data provided by the government. MGNREGA was the major socio-economic reform scheme implemented throughout the country. Many factors were involved in analyzing and predicting the success of this scheme. The aim of the work was to analyze the various factors involved in the process of successful implementation of the scheme. By collecting various factors which influenced the implementation part at the ground level from the employee and analyzed, and also by comparing the progress of last three financial year data. The study concluded that the scheme was potentially a success full and well designed for bringing the people above poverty line and ensuring a financial

support for their family to improve the livelihood and the economic status of rural people.

Aneesh et.al., (2018) in their study on “Role of MGNREGA on Women Empowerment – A Case Study of The Mangalapuram Gramapanchayat of Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala” made an attempt to evaluate the role of MGNREGA on women empowerment. The objective behind the Act was the eradication of rural poverty and unemployment thereby achieving rural empowerment. Both primary and secondary data sources were used in the study. A detailed questionnaire survey was conducted to collect primary data on MGNREGA and its role in the women’s life. The results of the study demonstrated that MGNREGA has a crucial role in social, economic, political, and educational empowerment of women. The study concluded that MGNREGA has a crucial role in the empowerment of rural women. Among the participants of MGNREGA, the most dominated age group was 40-50. Among them, 99 percent were married. Further it concluded that 78 percent of the total participants got their wages properly on time. Further, it also demonstrated that MGNREGA has increased their ability to take decisions in household related matters. Most of their income was spending for household affairs. It also increased their participation in social programmes. It provided them with self-sufficiency, self-pride and self-reliance.

Sharma and Didwania (2013) carried out a “Performance Analysis of MGNREGA: A Case of Jind District” Rural Development is the one of the major objectives of the socio-economic programmes implemented by the Central and State governments in India. The study made an attempt to evaluate the financial and physical progress under MGNREGA in the District Jind of Haryana State. It has been suggested in future, more such target oriented programmes should be implemented so that, the gap between poor and rich and rural and urban areas could be bridged. The objective of the study was to find out the awareness level among the villagers about various socio-economic schemes and to find out the financial and physical progress of MGNREGA under Panchayat Raj System in the District Jind. The study has tried to find out the level of awareness among the respondents about the bottom level planning and other Government schemes for the poor being implemented by the Panchayat. Overall, seven

specific schemes were identified such as MGNREGA. The government of India has also taken significant steps towards enhancing the participation of grass root bodies in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. The socio-economic programmes were now more target oriented and putting direct assault on poverty. Programmes like MGNREGA should be given more weightage in the planning process; so that the poverty from villages can be reduced to a great extent.

Bhat and Maiyappan (2016) conducted a study on “Impact of MGNREGA on Rural employment - specific study in panchayat kaepora of district Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir” The employment status of block Rajwar has been visualised by self-employed in agricultural sector, self employed in non-agriculture sector, employed as regular wage/salaried employees in agriculture sector, and employed as regular wages/salaried employees in non-agriculture sector. The main objectives of the study were with employment created, availability of work, unskilled manual work opportunity and wages provided by the agency of the MGNREGA. To analyse the data Simple percentage method and Chi-square test has adopted in the study to measure the association between respondents and employment provided by MGNREGA. The study found out that there was considerable gap in the participation of male and female workers under the scheme MGNREGA. The participation level of female workers was very low only 21.4 percent. The occupation of workers was agricultural work, most of respondents were married and large section of respondents had Rs 4001-5000 as their monthly income. The study concluded that rural unemployment from its inception in study area created disparity in providing working days opportunity and unemployment allowance between workers and MGNREGA and other workers. The study suggested that employment provided by MGNREGA should be given as per rules and regulations of the Act and unemployment allowance should be offered without any discrimination and delay.

Pandi (2016) in his study explained about “Livelihood Security for Rural Households through MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu” the study aimed to examine the impact of the Act on the socioeconomic status of rural workers in selected districts of Tamil Nadu. Multi-stage sampling method was adopted. A total of 450 workers (both male and

female) were chosen for this study. The Act has brought about a significant change in the livelihood of rural poor as it has ensured food security to the rural poor. The study was largely empirical, based on a primary survey which was conducted in the three selected districts of Tamil Nadu: Karur, Trichy and Dindigul from 2013–2014. The ratio for household employment provided in these districts accounted for 19.31 percent, which was equivalent to the state average (19.17 percent). In the study areas, the MGNREGA has provided income-earning opportunities to unskilled workers particularly women. The reasons for the unavailability of wage labour for women were complex and vary across regions. The poor, particularly women households, prefer to work with MGNREGA as the jobs offered were close to their residence. The findings of the study showed that the average number of employment days for scheduled caste households was relatively more than that of backward caste and general caste rural households. The study further concluded that the MGNREGA created community assets have had varying degrees of impact. The multiplier effects of MGNREGA would significantly contribute to enhance the socio-economic status of the rural poor and can effectively reduce poverty.

Harish et.al., (2011) in their study analysed the “Impact and Implication of MGNREGA on Labour Supply and Income Generation for Agriculture in Central Dry Zone of Karnataka” The study has evaluated the impact of MGNREGA on income generation and labour supply in agriculture in one of the districts in central dry zone of Karnataka. The results have shown that the number of days worked in a year with the implementation of MGNREGA programme has significantly increased to 201 days, reflecting 16 per cent increase. The analysis has revealed that gender, education and family size of the workers were the significant factors influencing the worker’s employment under the Program. The increase in income was to the tune of 9.04 per cent due to additional employment generated from MGNREGA. In the total income, the contribution of agriculture was the highest (63 percent), followed by non-agricultural income (29 percent) and MGNREGA income (8 percent). Implementation of MGNREGA works has led to labour scarcity to the tune of 53 per cent and 30 per cent for agriculture operations like weeding and sowing, respectively. There has been a decline in area for labour-intensive crops like tomato and ragi to the extent of 30 per cent due to

MGNERGA implementation. Thus, MGNREGA has contributed to increase in the consumption expenditure reducing the debt burden of the beneficiaries. The study has shown that MGNREGA programme often poses the problem of labour scarcity for some of the agricultural operations linked to market wage rates. As a consequence, farmers have brought down their acreage under different crops, leaving the land fallow.

Vasanthi (2017) in her study on “MGNREGA Scheme and Empowerment of Rural Women in Selected Blocks in Tiruchirappalli District” showed that the women have become more empowered and enriched through the programme. The major impact of the programme was in the income generation, increased social participation, decision making power etc. of the women. The study focused on the employment opportunities to the needy rural women and their empowerment for the livelihood, as the prerequisite of the hour. The objective of the study was to analyse the demographic profile of the sample respondents and the empowerment of rural women. The study was descriptive research work based on both primary and secondary data. The study concluded MGNREGA was an effective device for poverty alleviation and improving socio-economic condition of the poor particularly rural women. It has played a significant role in bringing positive change in the life of rural women. It has been observed that women after working under MGNREGA have gained protection and opportunity to start saving their wages in the banks. The recognition for the rural women has increased which led to their active participation in solving the common problems of the locality in general and individual problems of women in particular.

Hembram et al., (2017) in their Study on “MGNREGA Scheme: The Securing Employment, Incomes, Utilization, Problems and Suggestions” The study was conducted under Nayagarm block in Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal. Four villages were randomly selected from one block and from each village, 25 respondents randomly selected, making a sample of 100 respondents. The primary data were collected with the help of the personal interview method during the study period. The main statistical tools and techniques used in the study were as follows: mean score value, standard deviation, correlation coefficient and paired „t” test. The finding of the study revealed that the difference between the mean annual incomes of the two gram

panchayat was highly significant. 53 percent of the household beneficiaries utilized their increased income to make new houses, payment of wages was found to be the major problems faced by the beneficiary households and 64 percent of the beneficiary household suggested for timely payment of wages. So to overcome such problems it was suggested that, dedicated and fully trained full time professional should be appointed for the effective implementation of the scheme and efforts should be made to reduce the time gap between work done and payment received by rural laborers in NREGA.

Tabrez et.al. (2019) in their study explained about “Impact of MGNREGA on income, expenditure and assets in Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya” The study was undertaken with the objective of analysing the impact of MGNREGA on the participant households. For evaluating the specific objectives designed for the study, required primary data were collected from the participants for the year 2017. It was found that there was 20.79 per cent increase in income, after getting wage employment from MGNREGA. Agriculture was found to be the major source of income of beneficiary group. Due to volatility either in production, prices or both, their monthly income from agriculture was not stable. To stabilize the monthly sources of the income of the beneficiary groups, special attention was required through MGNREGA like scheme which not only ensures their 100 days’ work but also helps in stabilizing the income. It showed that MGNREGS helps to stabilize monthly income level of beneficiary household. Generally during the lean season of agricultural activities MGNREGA will help to make them stabilise food security or livelihood. Significant increase in expenditure of almost all the food and non-food items was observed which may be due to increase in income after participation in MGNREGS. The purchasing power of the beneficiaries for assets like farm implement, television, mobile phone, bike, and livestock had also increased after MGNREGA.

Ahuja et.al., (2011), in their study explained about the “Impact of MGNREGA on Rural Employment and Migration: A Study in Agriculturally-backward and Agriculturally-advanced Districts of Haryana” The study carried out 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 author has investigated the difference in the employment status, income, landholding size, herd 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 percent) and agriculturally-backward Mewat (24.6 percent) 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 were not much interested in participating in MGNREGA works.

Kumar and Kumar (2016) carried out a study on the “Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with special reference to women beneficiaries in Madukkari block, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu” MGNREGA has resulted into major financial inclusion where in bank accounts have been opened for the families getting employment. The objective of the study was to evaluate the income of women beneficiaries of MGNREGA and to measure the satisfaction level of women beneficiaries through MGNREGA. The impact of MGNREGA among rural women and recommended measures to ensure the socio economic development through women empowerment. This study concluded that the scheme did not improve the expected level of socio economic conditions of rural women. Through increasing the number of working days and wages, rural women improved the income level. Though the socio-economic conditions have improved gradually, but to fasten the rate of improvement some developmental initiative can be integrated with the scheme mainly targeting those women who were working regularly under the scheme for long periods. It was concluded that a multiple scheme and multiagency approach could also be a fruitful idea for the development of socio economic conditions of rural women.

Biswal (2017) in his study on “Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the Rural Marginal Producers: A Study in Odisha” revealed that MGNREGA has helped rural households in a sustained manner to smoothen the consumption between the agricultural peak season and lean season. It primarily aimed at identifying issues pertaining to the effective and efficient implementation of MGNREGS in the state of Odisha; studying the impact of MGNREGS on the process of promotion of livelihood of the rural marginal producers in the state of Odisha; and studied the impact of MGNREGS in reducing distress migration in the state of Odisha. The study followed mixed methods in research design. The sample size of total 300 (50:50) Job Card holder households were purposively selected from the two districts. The study covered producers who composed of SCs, STs and Women. The study concluded that the MGNREGS was one among the need and right based welfare schemes for the state of Odisha. It will not be mistaken to view that the scheme was the lifeline in the state from the standpoint of its socio-economic, geopolitical and demographic situations and persistent inequality in their dynamical continuum. Further the study remarked that the scheme has adequate potentialities to eliminate those unequal elements of socio-economic and geopolitical dynamics and that would lead to ensure society that was more equitable.

Nayak (2013) carried out a study on the “Impact of Mgnrega on Status of Tribal Women in Odisha: A Case Study of Rajgangpur Block of Sundergarh District”. The study for the purpose was conducted in Rajgangpur Block of Sundargarh district of Odisha. The district has a large tribal population. Out of 62 tribes notified as Scheduled Tribe for Odisha State as many as 40 tribes are found in this district alone. The numerically important tribes are Orans, Mundas, Kharia, Kisan, Bhuyians and Gonds. Concentration of ST is highest in Sundargarh Subdivision. The tribals of Sundargarh district lead a primitive life and inhabit the remote and less accessible areas of the district. They have a rich and diverse cultural heritage of their own. The main sources of livelihood of these tribals are food gathering and hunting, collection of forest produce. Some of the tribes have agriculture as their main occupation while others have adopted

cattle breeding, shifting cultivation, artisanship like basket weaving, rope and broom making and pottery and tool making etc. Scores of tribal and rural development programmes have been implemented across tribal areas since independence. However, it is unfortunate that tribals especially tribal women of Odisha are still not an effective part of these inclusive development policies introduced by our national government. Innocent and ignorant tribals are also victims of displacement, losing their land and livelihood, when the question of livelihood is at stake; they are ultimately forced to migrate to cities and neighboring states in large numbers. The rehabilitation package of the displaced tribals does not solve their miseries. Thus, this paper is an attempt to examine the potencies and loopholes in the existing MGNREA and its impact on tribal women in Odisha, especially Rajgangpur Block, which are causing more alienation than development.

Kantharaju, (2011) in his study on the “Impact of Mgnrega On Employment Generation And Assets Creation In Tumkur District Of Karnataka State” revealed that, half (50.00 percent) of the beneficiaries were middle aged, 53.33 per cent of the beneficiaries belonged to Other Backward Castes (OBCs), 33.33 per cent of the beneficiaries had completed primary school, 61.67 per cent of beneficiaries were small farmers, majority of the beneficiaries belonged to the category of above poverty line (65.83 percent), 14.17 per cent of the beneficiaries were members of self help group. Agriculture was the main occupation of cent per cent of the beneficiaries and had knowledge about the objectives of MGNREGA on providing 100 days of wage employment. About 23.33 per cent of the beneficiaries got employment of 71-80 man days in a year, the major individual farm works were horticultural planting (33.33 percent), 21.35 per cent of the beneficiaries had participated in desiltation of tanks and cleaning of community ponds in case of community assets creation. The variables such as education, urban contact, social participation and caste had positive and significant relationship with knowledge level and farm assets created by the beneficiaries. The variables such as caste, land holding annual income and urban contact had negative and significant relationship with employment generation and community assets created by the beneficiaries. Higher caste had significantly contributed in explaining the variation of knowledge, employment generation and assets creation by the beneficiaries. Delay in

payment of wages, insufficient wage rate and creation of poor quality assets were the major constraints expressed by the beneficiaries. There was need to enhance the wage rate, transparency in evaluating the works undertaken under MGNREGA, payment of wages in time and proper publicity for Grama Sabha were the major suggestions given by beneficiaries for successful implementation of MGNREGA.

Kurinjimalar and Prasanna (2017) in their study explained about the “Impact of MGNREGP on Poverty Alleviation in Rural India: A Case Study of Two Districts in Tamil Nadu” The study analyzed the impact of MGNREGP on poverty alleviation with special reference to Salem and Villupuram Districts of Tamil Nadu, India. The primary data was collected from the 480 beneficiaries from eight villages. The study has adopted the multi-stage sampling method. A well structured interview schedule has been used for the data collection. The secondary data were collected from the MGNREGP website. Primary data has been collected during the year 2012 and 2013. The study covered both SC and ST people who have keen interest to do MGNREGA works. MGNREGA fulfilled their basic needs like food consumption, medicine, children’s education and small savings like SHGs. Under this programme people enjoy the infrastructural facilities like road, water conservation and irrigation facilities. Some of the criticisms related to MGNREGA were delay in wage payments, lethargic level of local authorities, lack of awareness among the people, non-cooperation among the workers and local authorities. So, the study concluded that Government should take necessary steps to avoid these drawbacks.

Azhagaiah and Rathika (2014) in their study on “Impact of MGNREGA on the Economic Well – being of Unskilled workers: Evidence from Puducherry Region” examined the economic empowerment and well being of the rural poor in Karaiyamputhur / Panayadikuppam villages of Puducherry Union Territory. The survey was conducted by using interview schedule and data were collected from 323 beneficiaries of MGNREGA of the selected villages. The study revealed that there was a significant increase in the welfare of the family for both male and female workers in respect of spending more for family, children's education and enables them to save in bank / post office after working under MGNREGA. However, the economic well being

will be improved still better if 100 days of employment in a year was provided to them. MGNREGA however, still 100 days of work was not provided to the workers for a year was the evil side of the scheme. Further, it was recommended that the provision of work when alternative employment opportunities were scarce; the MGNREGA has to fulfill the gap by providing extra employment days during the lean season.

Pandi and Baladhandayutham (2016) in their study explained about the “Impact of MGNREGA on Rural Livelihoods: A Study in Karur District of Tamil Nadu” The specific objectives of the study were to find the difference in the socio-economic status of rural households who adopted MGNREGA and who did not adopt MGNREGA for employment, and the reasons for non-adoption of MGNREGA. To find out the impact of MGNREGA on rural households in terms of employment, income, and loan repayment, the study was conducted in Karur district in Tamilnadu. Multi stage sampling technique was adopted for choosing the samples. 491 respondents were chosen as sample size. The study remarked that as poverty was multidimensional; it can be reduced by increasing purchasing power through providing employment. Through the scheme government inject money into the hands of the respondents who were economically backward and socially weaker section in the society. Further, it was concluded that as poverty is multidimensional, it can be reduced by increasing purchasing power through providing employment. But to fasten the rate of improvement some developmental initiative can be integrated with the scheme mainly targeting those who were working regularly under the scheme for long periods.

Divakar et al., (2016) in their study assessed “Impact of MGNREGA on income, expenditure, savings pattern of beneficiaries in North–Eastern Karnataka”. The study was undertaken to assess the impact of the scheme on changes in the income, savings pattern and extent of employment after the implementation of the scheme in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka state. Kalaburagi district was covered during the third phase of implementation of MGNREGA which was selected for the study with the pre set objective of analyzing the impact of MGNREGA on the participant households. For evaluating the specific objectives designed for the study, required primary data was collected from the participants for the agriculture year 2013-14. MGNREGA fully

implemented village farmers were earning significantly higher income (74.48 percent) than that of partially implemented MGNREGA village farmers. The average amount of savings made in SHGs was Rs. 2,380, in fully implemented MGNREGA villages, whereas in partially implemented MGNREGA villages it was Rs. 1,543. The savings made in banks was Rs. 12,000 per annum by the participants in fully implemented MGNREGA villages, whereas, in case of partially implemented MGNREGA villages, the savings made by participants was Rs. 8,120. The average consumption expenditure in the case of participant households was more on food items like cloth, education, health, agricultural equipments, non-agricultural equipments and other expenditure in the fully implemented MGNREGA villages and it was more as compared to partially implemented MGNREGA villages.

Malangmeih et al., (2014) in their study explained about “Impact of MGNREGA on Livelihood Security of Rural Households: A Case Study in Bankura district of West Bengal State, India” The study has examined the changes in the households’ income and employment pattern and has assessed the impact of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) -a social-security scheme for the rural poor households. This study covered 100 households during the year 2011-12. The impact of MGNREGA, focusing employment security, income generation, and its governance and future perspectives were dealt in the study. It was found that MGNREGA covered all poor sections of the rural society irrespective of castes, genders or social orders. It was also observed that the project enhanced income as well as savings of rural households. Further, it was noticed that MGNREGA has created rural employment opportunities. There was no discrimination of caste and tribes and genders in the implementation of the scheme. The average man-days of employment per year were increased by 34.5 percent after joining MGNREGS average number of labour force per family increased by 15 percent. The average annual income of the respondents has increased to about 24 percent after joining the scheme, average annual consumption expenditure was also found to increase by about 14 percent, but there was no significant change in savings due to MGNREGS. The factors responsible for increase in income were found to be non farm income followed by total consumption expenditure, farm income, and expenditure on FPS (Fair Price Shop) as percent to total income. The study concluded that total

savings and total man-days under MGNREGS. Emphasis should also be given on creation of awareness and motivation of the rural households towards the efforts given by the Government.

Bhowmik and Bose (2015) made an attempt to examine the “Efficiency and Impact of MGNREGS in Tripura”. Tripura, one of the smallest states of India was considered as better performer in implementation of MGNREGS from the perspective of employment generation for having the highest average man-days generated per household in a year for three successive years. The objectives of the study were one, to find out intra-state level of efficiency in implementation of MGNREGS and two, to examine the nature and impact of benefits accruing to the participating households. The study indicated significant differences in the average man-days generated per household across the rural development blocks with the tribal majority regions having higher scores. However, there were significant increases in the income level of the participating households though their awareness about the features of the scheme was very nominal. The primary data collected from household survey indicated significant increases in the income level of the participating households as well as they opined about greater employment opportunities, reduction in school dropouts, improved health care facilities and reduced migration for work after the introduction of MGNREGS in their locality. The quality of life of the rural people of Tripura has also improved as was recorded by the reduction in school dropouts, migration and better health care facilities.

Koyu et al., (2017) did “An Evaluative Micro Level Study on the Impact of MGNREGA in Arunachal Pradesh” The study was based on 135 respondents comprised of beneficiaries, non beneficiaries and government and panchayat officials selected from the four gram panchayat selected from two randomly selected blocks in the district. The profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries revealed that all possessed job card, majority of the respondents had medium level of awareness, on an average all the beneficiaries were getting adequate employment per year, payment schedule was extremely erratic, no provision of unemployment allowance, none of the respondents received wages on time and neither were they were sure about correct entries of job days in their job cards, saving pattern of the respondents was not affected by

MGNREGA in any way. Socio-personal attributes like status of self reliance, self confidence, self esteem, social participation and social inclusiveness were reflective of no statistically significant change. Among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, significant difference could be observed in terms of educational status of family members, expenditure pattern, extent of cosmopolitans and social mobility pattern to mean that MGNREGA could not make any impact on those counts. In the case of consumption pattern, there was significant difference in terms of pulses and vegetables consumption while in cases of cereals and protein (meat and fish) the differences between mean values were found to be insignificant.

Reddy et al., (2014) conducted a study on the “Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Rural Labour Markets” The study has evaluated the differentiating impact of MGNREGA on the extent of fulfilment of the basic entitlements such as days of employment, wages and earnings and the extent of coverage of social groups like dalits, adivasis and women and poverty alleviation. The study has disaggregated state level data to discern the factors that make a difference to the performance. Further some micro level scenarios were presented based on the reports of focus group discussions (FGDs) in the villages of Andhra Pradesh. There was a growing evidence of an increase in agricultural wages across the country over the period between 2006-07 and 2011-12, in which the impact of MGNREGA was considerable. Based on macro level results and micro level evidence some policy interventions were suggested - such as development of labor saving technologies and machines to mitigate labor scarcity, an inclusive farm mechanization program especially for women and youth, strengthening rural urban connectivity, social protection for migrant labor and Capacity building programs for skill augmentation. Further, a revision of the time frame of MGNREGA work to create more employment in the lean season has been recommended.

Ravindar (2016) in a study on “Empowerment of Women Through Mgnregs: A Study In Warangal District of Telangana State” focused mainly on the impact of MGNREGA on women empowerment in the Warangal district of Telangana State, India. 80 percent respondents opined that work was not provided on demand and the average

wage earned was Rs 60. Ninety nine percent respondents were carrying out transaction with banks and other agencies on their own. Cent percent of respondents demand for enhancement of number of days of employment provided under the scheme. Water was not being provided to job seekers instead they were paid Rs 2 each for carrying their own water. It was concluded that the MGNREGA should be implemented in its true spirit by correcting lapses in its implementation at all levels for achieving objectives of the scheme in sustainable manner. Women's decision for participation and their share in NREGA jobs was hindered by various factors such as structural problems, ineffective and improper implementation of scheme, social attitudes, exploitation and corruption.

Chandran et al., (2007) -revealed that more than a billion of a poor people lack access to the basic financial services which were essential for them to manage their precarious lives. Good management of even the smallest of assets can be crucial to very poor people who live in precarious conditions threatened by lack of income, shelter and food. To overcome poverty they need to be able to borrow, save and invest and to protect their families against risk. The author also found that the low level of income and with hardly any savings, the poor villagers have no option but go for loans for consumption as well as for production purposes. It has become difficult for small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, landless labourers to repay their loans and thus debts were accumulating.

Rajan (2016) in his study on "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): A Critical appraisal of its performance since its inception", The MGNREGA though has made some useful contribution with regard to reduction of rural poverty and income inequalities; it has also induced some unintended impacts on the economy of India. Firstly, the reduction in poverty through MGNREGA has come at a cost of soaring food prices as the agricultural laborers wages have increased several folds and that have forced farmers to demand more for their food grains by way. A program like MGNREGA also has behavioral implications for the people covered under it. Since, mostly the work done under MGNREGA was not well planned and many a time it was perfunctory, the people who were getting employment under MGNREGA were getting into a habit of getting paid for not working, which can have serious

implications for India's human prowess and out look. many skilled occupations like handloom weavers, rural artisans etc. were losing their workers to MGNREGA, which was leading to a loss of skill in that particular profession. Thus, unique skills acquired over generations were being lost due to the existence of an employment guarantee program like MGNREGA which offers more wages.

Li and Sekhri (2013) noted that MGNREGA intends to increase the rural household income, and hence to enable them to allocate more resources towards quality provisioning of education, but fails to do so by providing perverse incentives. They find out that the program induces young children to either substitute in home production or withdraw from school. Moreover, it also increases private school enrollment and decreases government school enrollment. This was one more unintended consequence of the program.

Insufficient awareness on MGNREGA, which guarantees hundred days of employment to poor household in rural areas. In spite of that due to poor awareness among rural population, people were not aware about their basic entitlements such as job cards, minimum wage amount, unemployment allowance, minimum number of employment days etc. Panchayat, block development officers and Rozgar Sevak were ignorant about all the detail of the MGNREGA. They were poorly informed about various processes like registering household, making muster roll, forming vigilance committees etc.

According to the provision of MGNREGA, within 14 days of a work's completion its payment has to be made. Nevertheless, wages could not be paid within the stipulated period of time. In spite of that delay in payment and incorrect payments was a common problem under MGNREGA. This delay can be for several weeks to sometimes months. Often workers had to make several visits to the post office or the bank only to find that their wages have not been credited into their accounts. When works were done without proper permission, the payments were withheld leading to delay in wages. In case of delay in payments beneficiaries must be compensated as per the Payment of Wages act of 1936.

Sharma, et al., (2017) explored a study to check the effect of MGNREGA on employment generation, type of work done and its status and up to what extent this programme was successful in poverty alleviation in rural India. The study was based on secondary data collected from several government and non-government reports. It was found that MGNREGA has more job card holders but the allotment of work was not satisfactory. Fixed wage allotment under MGNREGA leads to change in the wage structure in the private sector works done by the rural population. MGNREGA decreased unemployment, on the other side it lacks when it comes to skilled work.

The performance of MGNREGA in terms of awareness of women beneficiaries about various provisions in MGNREGA and constraints faced by them while working has been analyzed by Bishnoi et al (2015) in their study on 'A Comparative Study on the Performance of MGNREGA'. The study was conducted in Bikaner and Ludhiana district of Rajasthan and Punjab. The study was based on primary data collected from 120 beneficiaries from both the districts. The finding of the study showed that respondents were not much aware of the provisions under MGNREGA, respondents have faced several problems like delay in issuing job cards, delay in wage payment, lack of crèche facility as well as harassment at work site etc.

The research carried out by Sivasankari and Bharathi (2012) analyzed the awareness of beneficiaries on MGNREGA in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The study was based on primary data collected by 600 randomly selected beneficiaries. The results of the study indicated that the beneficiaries have adequate awareness regarding registration for employment. The study also found that beneficiaries who have studied up to higher secondary level have more awareness on MGNREGA than others.

Nayak et al., (2012) examined the people's lives before and after implementation of MGNREGA in tribal Rajasthan. The study was conducted in Kushalgarh block of Banswara district in 2011. The study was based on primary data collected from four villages with the sample respondents of 100 beneficiaries, 25 from each village. It was found that there was a vast change in the behavior of the rural poor of Kushalgarh block in both boys and girls education. Socio-economic conditions of the rural poor also strengthened by the improving the facility of irrigation and cultivation. Major changes

were noticed related to the women participation which was extended to family decision making and social development activities.

Lalthanmawii (2015) conducted a study in Serchhip district of Mizoram to analyze the impact of MGNREGA on the economic condition of MGNREGA beneficiaries. The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from 120 respondents as well as secondary data has been gathered from several government and non-government reports. The findings revealed that MGNREGA has helped to bring down the level of unemployment and has also reduced the supply of labour to agriculture. Minimum wages for agricultural labour have increased after the implementation of MGNREGA. Further the respondents reported an increase in per-capita income and a better standard of living.

Bhsbiet and Lehragaga (2015) in their study on 'MGNREGA Its Implementation in India: A Overview' investigated the implementation of MGNREGA in India and analyzed both the positive and negative effects of the scheme. The study was based on secondary data collected on various variables. The study concluded that in some parts MGNREGA made people especially women self-dependent and increased the rate of employment while in some other parts a number of reports regarding the corrupt activities in MGNREGA, non-availability of work, biases regarding the distribution of work have been discovered.

Sharma (2011) examined about the "Impact of MGNREGA on Socio – Economic Upliftment of the Beneficiaries – A case study of Pali District of Rajasthan" MGNREGA to assess the effectiveness of rural connectivity in Pali district of Rajasthan. The study was based on primary data collected from Sojat city block of Pali district. The study concluded that there was a significant impact of rural connectivity through MGNREGA on the rural households. It improved the access to village level services like health services, schools, market, temples, bus stops etc. with the development of roads, farmers and sellers can commute conveniently to procure the vegetables and other products.

Palanichamy (2011) in his article entitled, “A Study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP) in Thuinjapuram Block Thiruvannamalai District in Tamil Nadu” has analysed the socio – economic conditions of population benefits under the scheme to find out the income level of beneficiaries and to find out how successful the programme in the study area. In urban areas, unemployment is mainly industrial and educational in nature. In rural areas, it is seasonal and disguised in nature. Thus various causes responsible for high incidence of unemployment in India are growing population, in appropriate technology, faulty education system and failure of growth process in generation appropriate and adequate jobs. This approach seeks solution to the unemployment problem not through emphasizing any particular pattern of resource allocation technological choice but through special employment schemes especially rural public works like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP). The approach regarded the regular development process as being incapable of alleviating the problem of unemployment and under employment in the foreseeable future. The objectives are to analyze the socio-economic conditions of the percentage of population benefits under the scheme to find out the income level of beneficiaries, to find out how this programme is being successful in the study area in this programme.

Sundaram (2011) in his study entitled, “Mahatma Gandhi NREGP: An Assessment” has noted some distinct advantages that NREGP has positive impact on hunger, migration, school going children, illness, debt repayment, the work force participation of women in rural areas has increased significantly and NREGP ensures better organization of workers and ensure payment of reasonable wages. Further the author identified some major problems as confusion about the operational requirements of the act, absence of any grievance redress system and lack of independent monitoring system.

Shobha and Vinitha (2011) in their study on “Inclusion of Female Labour Force in MGNREGA” have concluded that the economic conditions of the beneficiaries improved after joining MGNREGA. The women beneficiaries had also started repaying their debt. The wages of beneficiaries were low they were able to meet their day to day

expenses and unable to purchase valuable goods. Further they stated the problems faced by the workers at worksite were hard work, hours of work, travel and no basic facilities, wages not paid in time, less work days, low wages, delay in getting jobs, corruption and sexual harassment.

Kannan and Lakshmi (2011) in their study on, “Role of Beneficiaries in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme – A Case Study” have inferred that for MGNREGP workers income has been increased after joining MGNREGP. It showed 28.33 per cent women workers belong to income group between Rs. 2000- 3000 and 21.67 per cent between income group of Rs.3000- 4000. And out of the respondents 25 per cent join the scheme to meet family expenditure, 21.67 per cent to meet medical expenses, 18.33 per cent join for supplementary income and 11.67 per cent join to meet their children education. Further they stated some policy implications that income derived from this programme was not adequate to maintain their family and the government has to increase the income of women. The government should create awareness about programme, provide welfare facilities to women beneficiaries and special emphasis may be given to women beneficiaries.

Kumar and Bhattacharya (2012) in their article on “Participation of Women in MGNREGA: How far was it Successful in Morigaon, Assam?” have analysed the factors affecting participation in the MGNREGA activities and revealed that there was significant gender differential in the level of participation despite several safeguards provided to the women in MGNREGA activities. The elderly people take more interest in the grama sabha meeting than the young and the decision making process was still under male domination. Similarly more educated people take part in the decision making than the low educated or uneducated people due to better access to information. People from backward community (SC/ST) participate more in physical activities for their earning and less interest in the grama sabha meeting.

Jagannarayan and Pawar (2020) in their study explained about “Socio – Economic Upliftment of the Rural Poor in Gobichettipalayam – A case of Successful Implementation of MGNREGA Act” Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural

poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. The present study has been conducted in Gobichettipalayam, Erode district of Tamil Nadu. The area also had a significant amount of SC and ST residents who have been benefitting from the scheme. Multi stage sampling was used and data was collected from 200 beneficiaries. Personal interview based on a structured interview schedule was used to elicit information from the respondents. The study has adopted the multistage sampling method. The secondary data was collected from the MGNREGP website. Primary data has been collected during the August 2019-December 2019. The interrelationship between need for MGNREGA, Preference of MGNREGA, benefit of MGNREGA and Standard of Living was examined by applying the Structural Equation Model (SEM) analysis. The finding of this study showed that the correlation between Need for MGNREGA and standard of living was positive and moderate and the standardized covariance was 0.14. The path coefficient also showed that need and Preference of MGNREGA has direct and significant positive effect on standard of living.

Gupta and Pandey (2016) in their study on “Impact on MGNREGA on Living Standard and Migration in Chhattisgarh: A case study of Bilaspur District” The objective of the study was to study the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act (MGNREGA), to evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on the rural upliftment and migration for work in Bilaspur district, to make suggestions for strengthening the implementation strategy of MGNREGA in Bilaspur district. A sample of 50 respondents was selected from every block to constitute the sample for this research using convenience sampling technique. Secondary data was collected from various sources like web sites, different reports of government, published and unpublished sources like books, journals, reports, publications, unpublished doctoral dissertation. It was found that there was a considerable change in standard of living of the people with respect to earnings, health care, education and possession of electronic goods like radio, TV, Dish connection, Motorcycle and LPG connection. A drastic change in the number of migration was also noted in the study area which clearly showed the positive impact of the programme. At last, it was concluded that MGNREGA creates positive impact on the living standard and migration of the people.

Upadhyay (2018) in his study explained “A study on Problems and suggestions of MGNREGA” To evaluate the Issues and challenges of MGNREGA. The objectives of the study were to analyse the implementation process, to understand the problem and suggestion of MGNREGA by respondents. The study was intended to identify the issues and challenges of MGNREGA and findings and suggestions given by the respondents. Information’s were collected from primary and secondary resources. The respondents were selected through convenience sampling from the area of Dubepur block of Sulthanpur district, UP. Sultanpur district was selected purposively for the study undertaken. Another cause for its selection was the close familiarity of investigator with respect to area, people, officials, etc. Out of 13 Community development block in Sultanpur district, the Dubepur Block will be selected purposively for this study because of the criteria of nearer to surveyor villages and its easy accessibility. The five villages were selected on the randomly basis. The names of village were collected from block office and they were arranged systematically out of five villages were selected for the preset project work. After the selecting of the village the respondent were selected on the random basis 10 respondents were selected from each selected village In this way the total no. of respondent were selected for present project his 50. Every block was the basic unit of implementation process in this programme. The problem identified in the study Primary aids not available at times, unavailability of crèche, the MNREGA provide low wages than market wages, nobody is provides information related to MGNREGA, unavailability of shade during the work at site, in MGNREGA the work is not available timely, the goods of respondents/labour are not safe at working hour.

Lakshmi et al.,(2018) in their study on “A study on Role of MMGNREGA in Rural Development: with reference to Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh India” evaluated the performance of MGNREGA in rural development, employment creation and elimination of poverty in the selected district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The study also evaluated the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries’ on MGNREGA and identified the reasons for satisfaction. The objectives of the study were to study the impact of MGNREGS on employment creation of beneficiaries with reference to the Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India; to evaluate the impact of MGNREGS on the Rural Upliftment and Employment Generation for the beneficiaries of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India;

to know the satisfaction of the beneficiaries on MGNREGS in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India; The broad methodology followed both qualitative and quantitative variables to enable an in-depth understanding of the study on the role of MGNREGA on rural development –with special reference to Krishna District, A.P. In general, the collection of data was done through administering questionnaires, personal interviews, focus group discussions, and review of records/books and by interacting with people. Most of the respondents out of 2000 sample were satisfied with the MGNREG programme in the Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Most of the respondents were satisfied with the programme because of Wage paid under the programme, Timings of work, Per Month working days, and Behavior of officials in the programme. The respondents were not satisfied with work allocation by the field mate, process of application, work allotment, and working conditions in the field and also they have very low saving due to low working days. The study also identified that political leaders and officials were playing a key role in processing the application and work allotment. The study concluded that the MGNREG programme has a significant influence on rural development. The programme has a greater impact on employment and income generation.

Roy and Gowda (2019) in their study explained about “Impact Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in Dhalai district of Tripura” The study was taken up with the following specific objectives; to develop a scale to measure the attitude of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA programme, to know the attitude level of beneficiaries towards MGNREGA programme, to analyse the standard of living of MGNREGA beneficiaries, to understand the association between the selected personal and socio-psychological characteristics of MGNREGA beneficiaries and their attitude towards MGNREGA and standard of living, to enlist the problems and suggestions of MGNREGA beneficiaries for effective implementation of the programme. A sample of 50 MGNREGA beneficiaries (who were working in MGNREGA programme since 2006-2007) each from Netajinagar, Ramratan para and Thankurpally villages were randomly selected for the study. Thus, the total sample for the study was 150 MGNREGA beneficiaries from three villages of Kulai gram panchayat in Ambassa Block of Dhalai district in Tripura state. About 31.3 per cent of the

respondents were belonging to low level of standard of living before the implementation of MGNREGA programme, while only 16.0 per cent of the respondents were falling under low level of standard of living after the implementation of MGNREGA programme. About 28.0 per cent of the respondents were falling in the category of high level of standard of living before the implementation of MGNREGA programme. Whereas, 39.3 percent of the respondents belonged to high level of standard of living after implementation of MGNREGA programme. A positive and significant difference was existing between the standard of living of beneficiaries before and after the implementation of MGNREGA programme.

Vigneswar and Kirubakaran (2018) carried out “A study on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Social Capital: An Economic Analysis” MGNREGA was providing livelihood security to the resource-poor rural people. The study has also revealed that in an agriculturally-backward area participation in economic activities is more for non beneficiaries as compared to beneficiaries but in agriculturally-developed area, situation was just reverse. On an average, MGNREGA was providing employment to the tune of 18.1 per cent of the total employment of the households. The study has thrown light on the employment differential in the developed and underdeveloped areas. In the agriculturally-backward area, the share of MGNREGA jobs in total employment was 24.6 percent, while it was 13.7 per cent in the developed area. Social protection has emerged as a key driver of development policy at the beginning of the twenty- first century. It was widely considered a good thing that has the potential not only to alleviate poverty and vulnerability. In terms of MGNREGA's outcomes, we conclude that the scheme was benefitting the poorest households – and Dalits and women in particular – especially in terms of providing a safety net and as a tool for poverty alleviation. But the scheme does more than that. It has also produced significant transformative outcomes for rural labourers, such as pushing up rural wage levels, enhancing low- caste workers' bargaining power in the labour market and reducing their dependency on high- caste employers. These benefits were not only substantial but also transformative in that they affect rural relations of production and contribute to the empowerment of the rural labouring poor. However, in terms of

creating durable assets and promoting grassroots democracy, the scheme's outcomes were much less encouraging.

## **2.5 Studies on Health Conditions of Tribal Population**

Badodiya et.al., (2013) in their study explained on “Health hazards among tribal farm women in agricultural operations” Therefore, the study was conducted with the following objectives to study the extent of health hazards among the tribal farm women in different agricultural activities, to explore the relationship between extent of health hazards among the tribal farm women involved in different agricultural activities and their selected attributes, to suggest the strategies for reducing the health hazards among the tribal farm women in different agricultural activities. In order to fulfill the objectives, the study was conducted in Betul district of (M.P). The results revealed that the variables age (X1) was found positively and significant correlated with health hazards in operations of different agricultural activities at one per cent level of significance, while family background (X2) and family size (X4) were found to have non – significant relationship with health hazards in operations of different agricultural activities. However, the education (X3) was found significant and negatively correlated with the health hazards in operations of different agricultural activities at one percent level of significance and the rest of ten independent variables were also negatively and significantly correlated with health hazards in operations of different agricultural activities at one percent level of significant.

Naidu (2015) in his study on “Tribal Health care problems in India: An Overview” remarked that health was a prerequisite for human development and was an essential component for the well being of the mankind. The culture of community determines the health behavior of the community in general and individual members in particular. The tribes in India have distinct health problems mainly governed by multidimensional factors in the society. The health and nutrition problems of the tribal population of India there were several communicable diseases prevalent among the tribal of India women health among tribals was a grossly neglected concept in the society hereditary and genetically health problems in the society, sexually transmitted diseases were most prevalent diseases in the tribal area in India.

Negi and Sign et.al., (2019) in their study on “Tribal Health in India: A Need for a Comprehensive Health Policy” stated that health was an important determinant of the well – being of any community. Health was considered one of the essential elements of human development and progress. Efforts were being done by the various government and non – government organizations to deal with the issues of tribal health. Host of innovations were being applied for the development and making health care available to the most vulnerable population. Government was committed to bringing out positive changes. But the health issues and challenges of this population would be in a state of indolence until and unless people from the communities were not involved in the process of health care development. Tribal health care system especially their indigenous knowledge has to be explored and promoted at every level of health operation and execution. It was high time for the government to bring out and implement a comprehensive programme to bring out and implement a comprehensive health policy at national level to address the issues of health and related phenomenon among the tribes. Tribal medicine and health though in a state of oblivion yet it has potential scope to developing into a more complete medicine system for future not only in India but worldwide. There was a need for more comprehensive training and development for the restoring and spreading the health culture and ethno medicine system to the large population among the tribes.

Aasif and Shashank (2017) in their study on “Impact of MGNREGA on Peoples Health and Quality of Life Among the People of Block Behibag of District Kulgam (J &K) highlighted the impact of MGNREGA on the improvement of overall quality of life of people such as impact on health, income earning levels of household, employment opportunities, expenditure on food and non food items, expenditure on education, impact on social life. The objectives of the study were to measure the extent of manpower employment generated under MGNREGA, their various socio economic Characteristics and gender variability in all the villages implementing MGNREGA since its inception in the Block, to examine the impact of MGNREGA on village infrastructure, to examine the effect of MGNREGA on the pattern of migration from rural to urban areas, to find out the nature of assets created under MGNREGA and their durability, to identify the factors determining the participation of people in MGNREGA scheme and to

see whether MGNREGA has been successful in ensuring better food security to the beneficiaries, to examine the effect of MGNREGA on the people's health and quality of life. The study was conducted in Block Behibag in Kulgam district of Kashmir, To achieve the set objectives laid above, both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data was collected through well designed interview schedule. The secondary data was collected from the published reports, magazines, and from various official sources. MGNREGA laid a positive impact on the quality of life among the people of the block because it converted the unhygienic atmosphere into hygienic atmosphere and added the beauty of the villages. People of the study block became aware about this act and started to get the maximum benefit of this act. MGNREGA has a great social impact on the study block because in the long run it benefitted the whole society and created a lot of assets by which whole community got benefited. It also reduced the migration of labours and helped both the genders to work together to create a social solidarity.

Mary and Umesh (2013) carried out a study on "A study on the Health Status of Elderly Irular Tribal Women in Kancheepuram District" study the health problems of the elderly Irular women in three villages of Kancheepuram district. A total of 30 elderly tribal were interviewed using a pre-tested Interview schedule. Around 66 percent of the women belonged to the age group of 60-69 years old. A majority of them had health problems such as hypertension followed by arthritis, diabetes, constipation etc. The results of the study showed that there was a need for geriatric clinics that can take care of their physical and psychological needs. It further stressed accessibility of health services as a main reason for the elderly not availing the health care services. The study also suggested provision of mobile clinic to cater to the needs of the community every month on a selected date on a regular basis. The objectives of the study were to study the socio-demographic characteristics of the elderly Irular women, to identify the health problems of the elderly Irular women, to find out the problems faced in accessibility of health services by these women, to highlight the role of the social worker in creating awareness of the various health services available from the government for these women, to highlight the role of social worker in creating awareness on the causes, prevention and treatment of these problems. All the respondents had health problems, the most common being hypertension (22 percent), arthritis (17 percent), diabetes (10

percent), or constipation (2 percent.) Others included anemia (10 percent), skin problems (12 percent) vision problems (18 percent) and other minor ailments (5 percent). The presence of bitot's spots on almost (4 percent) of the women studied showed signs of Vitamin A deficiency. It was seen that most of the respondents had more than one health problem. Hypertension, arthritis and diabetes were found to be more common among females. Most (60 percent) of the elderly women interviewed had been affected by any one or a combination of this diseases and symptoms like Parasitic infestation, Viral and Fungal infections, Conjunctivitis, Cough and Cold, Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

## **2.6 Problems faced by Tribal Workers in MGNREGA**

Seethalakshmi and Rathiha (2018) described about "Personal Problems of the Workers in MGNREGA Scheme" the *study was conducted in* Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala, to find out the personal problems by workers in MGNREGA Scheme. For this, six hundred MGNREGA workers were selected and information was collected with the help of structured Interview schedule and data was analysed with the appropriate statistical tools as; mean score; ranking ,F-Test and result were drawn from it. The data for the purpose of the study has been collected from the 600 respondents of MGNREGA workers in Thiruvananthapuram District. Data collected through structured questionnaire and collected data has been presented through different tables. Primary data were collected for this study. A Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling technique has been adopted for selecting the samples. The objectives of the study were to identify the personal problems associated with MGNREGA Scheme, to identify the Personal Problems of MGNREGA workers among Different Education Status, to identify the Personal problems of MGNREGA workers among different Caste Groups, to offer suitable suggestions on the basis of findings of the study. It indicated personal problems of MGNREGA workers was high for the variable „Lack of awareness" with the mean score of 4.00 followed by „Low level of education" and „Lack of confidence" with the mean score of 3.51 and 3.40. Personal problem was low for the variable „Lack of motivation" and „Family issues" with the mean scores of 2.30 and 2.47. The study revealed that a problems perception was high among MGNREGA workers with low level

of education. Problem perception was high among the high school level educated MGNREGA workers since it has the highest mean score of 3.11. The significant difference among the different educated MGNREGA workers were seen in the case of personal problems variables namely, "Lack of Family Support", "Low level of education", "No personal recognition" since the respective "F" values were significant at five percent level. personal problem was high among SC/ST category MGNREGA workers which was followed by general category since they have the highest mean score of 3.16 and 3.07. OBC and Others category workers have low personnel problems. A significant difference among the different caste groups of MGNREGA workers were noticed in the case of personal problem variables namely "Socio Cultural Barriers", "Low level of education" and "Lack of Awareness", since the respective "F" values were significant at five percent level.

Deepak and Sovna (2010) reported that the state of Maharashtra showed very poor performance in terms of issue of job cards to the registered households, give less employment generation days (below 35 days) and payment of wages was less than the minimum wage. The works under MGNREGA were mainly concentrated on irrigation and water conservation activities since irrigation was the major problem of the state. He recommended that the linkage of employment guarantee scheme should be linked with other public work schemes to improve the skills among the workers thus giving them confidence to do any work.

Vijayamohan and Pillai (2010) in their study on "Performance of 15 major Centrally Sponsored Flagship Programmes" found that while the MGNREGA programme was being implemented in the letter, the spirit of the scheme seems to be missing in Kerala. In Kerala, all the stipulations seem to be strictly followed, yet one of the most important outcomes of the scheme, namely, 100 days of work, seems to be a distant dream. Further studies need to be conducted to understand the short fall in days of employment created. Since the average number of days of work through MGNREGA was about 30 days per worker, it needs to be explored as to what happened to wages that were slotted for the worker for the remaining 70 days of work. Another feature which stands out in the implementation of MGNREGA in the state was the overwhelming

participation of women in the programme. The share of women in the number of person days generated was 86.9 percent in the state. This could well be one of the biggest support of the MGNREGA programme as the wages in the hands of women get translated into useful investments in the form of education for the children, health and asset creation for the household.

Dev (2011) carried out a study with an intention to examine the “Impact of MGNREGA on the rural mass in six states of North India (Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh). The study found that the MGNREGA scheme has helped in the reduction of child labour because of income generation and women’s well being and empowerment. The study concluded that the programme has increased the income through higher wage rates, particularly by the way of increasing the agricultural wages accompanied by a decline in migration. Further, the study concluded that all these positive effects of the MGNREGA programme have helped in reducing the child labour in the agricultural sector and thereby increasing the participation of children in education.

Mohanty (2012) in his study revealed that there was little impact of MGNREGA on tribal livelihoods. Though MGNREGA was a well thought-out legislation and a powerful tool in the hands of the common people to get their basic livelihood, but its poor execution, deprives the rural poor from their basic rights. The study revealed that despite numerous problems, MGNREGA was a program that has started to make a difference in the lives of women and poor people. Both our executives and law makers should take due care that the scheme reaches the people who deserve it. Changes should be made at ground levels in the system. Due care should be given for effective implementation of the scheme.

Tripathy (2013) in his study “Rural Wage Guarantee Implementation Challenges” was of the view that there was a positive and direct correlation between timely payment of wages and registration of labour demand. Timely wage payments depend largely on apt and well-timed measurements of works. The main focus of MGNREGA should be a planned and systematic development of land and careful use of rain water, to sustainably enhancing their productivity and incomes of the poor. The performance of

the MGNREGA has been severely skewed across states. The problem was delay in the payment of wages to the MGNREGA workers and this should be immediately addressed.

Gora et al., (2017) conducted a study on “Problems Perceived by the Women Workers under MGNREGA in Jaipur District of Rajasthan, India”. The study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan among 120 women workers who benefited through MGNREGA were selected in the study. It can be concluded from the present study that most important problems faced by women workers were “Children left uncared” (personal and family), “Delay in issuing a job card” (operational) and “Lack of drinking water facility” at worksite. Whereas least important problems faced by women workers: were “Non-cooperation from family members” (personal and family), “Difference in wages “(operational) and “No extra facilities are given to women” at worksite.

Lali (2021) carried out a study on “MGNREGA in Arunachal Pradesh: Issues and Challenges” MGNREGA is fundamentally different from the earlier schemes. It is a right-based demand-driven wage employment scheme with provision for allowances and compensation both in case of failure to provide work on demand and delay in payment of wages for work undertaken. The study aimed to highlight the issues and challenges of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme in Arunachal Pradesh. The opinion and views of block and panchayat functionaries and the general public were heard through various informal discussions. The awareness level of beneficiaries and implementing agencies greatly determine the success and failure of any rural development schemes in India. Unlike other rural employment schemes, MGNREGA has given rise to the demand-driven approach. The works under MGNREGA has to be triggered by the beneficiaries themselves. But the study revealed that due to lack of awareness, the beneficiaries did not demand work under the scheme. Instead, the works under MGNREGA is turning into allocation based. The lack of awareness does not only hamper the working of MGNREGA but often lead to corruption and poor management of the scheme. The Government must carry out intensive awareness

programmes for beneficiaries and intensive capacity building and training programmes for the Panchayats.

Chandrakala and Sulochana (2020) carried out a study on “Problems Faced by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Women Workers In Vilavancode Taluk of Kanyakumari District”. The main objectives of the study were to analyse the work related problems faced by the sample beneficiaries in their work and to find out the problems faced by the sample beneficiaries in their worksite. Samples of 150 respondents were selected for the study. The study was based on collection of data from both primary and secondary source. The problem of women workers were grouped in two major categories viz work related problems and worksite related problems. 1. Work related problems: Low wage more work, Irregular employment, unawareness about job, no extra benefits from government, and difficult to do the job 2. Worksite related problems relate to scarcity of drinking water, lack of sanitary facility, no security in the worksite, lack of crèche facility for children and less rest time. The study concluded that the government should offer additional benefit to motivate the beneficiaries of MGNREGS. The level of security should also be strengthened by the government.

## **2.7 Other related studies**

Khan and Salluja (2007) made a study on “Impact of MNREGA on Rural Livelihoods” The local village with a population of 400 households around 2500 people who mainly depend on agriculture to examine the impact of MGNREGA on employment generations. In this study, production activities of local people and income and expenditure levels were recorded. This study revealed that most of the people were not aware of the scheme and there was a need of proactive role from the Gram panchayat’s to spread awareness among the public so that they could benefit from the program for which it has been introduced.

Jacob (2008) examined the “Impact of MGNREGA on migration” the role of MGNREGA in migration in Tamil Nadu. He observed that before MGNREGA there used

to be more migration of people from the state around 400, but after implementation of program it got halved within two years of implementation of the scheme.

Institute of Applied Manpower, Delhi, submitted a report on “All India evaluation of MGNREGA”. In this report the sample size of 20 districts (Northern, Western, Southern, north east region of India) and 300 beneficiaries from each district. It was found that labourers working in MGNREGA were not given job cards and those who were having cards were without photos affixing thereof. It revealed that some persons were paying money towards the officials for getting job cards. It was also revealed that they were not getting sufficient days of work and only some people could work for more than 35 days of work.

Mathur (2008) examined in his study on “Employment guarantee: progress so far” explained the issues related with MGNREGA like authorities who have issued job cards in favour of labours were totally incomplete, inner pages were not there on which work done was being recorded. The workers were not getting wages for the services rendered by them.

Sorris et al., (2017) in the work on “A Study on Knowledge and Perceptions of Beneficiaries towards MGNREGA in Palayakayal Panchayat of Thoothukudi District” observed that in palayakayal panchayat most of the beneficiaries have poor knowledge about MGNREGS. Getting a job card also struggle in MGNREGS beneficiaries in Thoothukudi district.

Kaushal et al.,(2016) carried out “A study of women participation in MGNREGA in Himachal Pradesh” found that MGNREGS was contributing significantly to the empowering women in rural areas especially a hill state of H.P but the delay in wage payment and low level of awareness was a major problem in rural areas.

Harikumar et al.,(2016) examined about “Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme among Rural Residents” that 48 percent of the respondents stated that the earning from MGNREGS was found to be inadequate for meet their day to day cost of living. Wage amount was lesser compared to other manual works.

Farooqi et al., (2015) carried out a study on “Impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on the Life of Women Living under Poverty, A Study of District Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh” and found that the level of awareness about worksite facilities and provision of guaranteed 100 days employment was very poor in Aligarh district in UP.

Xavier et al.,(2014) in their study on “Impact of MGNREGA on Women Empowerment with Special Reference to Kalakkanmoi Panchayat in Sivgangai District, Tamil Nadu” examined that MGNREGS women beneficiary facing various health related problems like headache, malaise, giddiness because of the hot climate.

Sivasankari et al.,(2012) conducted study on “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mgnrega), A Study of Awareness in Tirunelveli District”, reported that a low level of awareness in Tirunelveli district and low level of implementation and socio economic condition of women beneficiaries.

Tiwari (2012) conducted a study on “Constraints Faced by the Women Beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA),” in Faizabad district of UP to find out constraints faced by the women beneficiaries under MGNREGA. A sample of 100 beneficiaries selected randomly by using personal interview technique for collecting data it was observed that personal and family problems were major constraints faced by them.

Pankaj (2010) reported in his study on “Empowerment Effects of the NREGS on Women Workers: A Study in Four States” The empowerment effects of the MGNREGA on rural women using a field survey in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh was examined. The authors argued that women workers have gained from the scheme primarily because of the paid employment opportunity, and benefits have been realized through income- consumption effects, intra household effects and the enhancement of choice and capability.