CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION

"My ideal village still exists only in my imagination. After all every human being lives in the world of his own imagination. In this village of my dreams the villager will not be dull—he will be all awareness. He will not live like an animal in filth and darkness. Men and women will live in freedom, prepared to face the whole world. There will be no plague, no cholera and no smallpox. Nobody will be allowed to be idle or to wallow in luxury. Everyone will have to do body labour. Granting all this, I can still envisage a number of things that will have to be organized on a large scale. Perhaps there will even be railways and also post and telegraph offices. I do not know what things there will be or will not be. Nor am I bothered about it. If I can make sure of the essential thing, other things will follow in due course. But if I give up the essential thing, I give up everything."

Mahatma Gandhi

(Letter to Jawaharlal Nehru, 5-10-1945)
1.1 Introduction:
Indian culture and civilisation have been built up from ancient times on rural communities. Even today this culture survives predominantly in villages. The national life is sustained by the villagers. It is wrong to ignore the interest of the villages or allow them to decay.\(^1\)

India is a country of villages, where even now 68.84% of its population primarily resides in villages as per the census of 2011. According to the report of planning commission the estimated ratio of people living below the poverty line in villages is 25.7% in 2011-2012. Mahatma Gandhi’s assertion that India has a village economy can be seen in the rural areas rather than in its cities. Our excessive strength of labour suits the best for Gandhiji’s model of development of human capital. The growth of India’s economy centre around the rural sector and any economic development cannot be achieved without a facelift of our villages.

1.1.1 India Lives in Villages:
“India lives in its villages” This statement of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, is relevant even today from the political, social and economic perspectives of India. Since ancient times India’s economy revolved around economic function of the villages. The villages more or less had been fully functional models of self-reliance in isolation. The basic needs of the villages were fulfilled materialistically in the local region only. Apart from food and crop all other basic needs of the people were supplied by local artisans and craftsmen. Only for a few things villagers had to move outside of their region. Improper means of transportation and communication further isolated the villages from outside world.

A form of exchange system was in vogue in the villages in which the artisans used to live in the villages on tenancy with nominal rent or for free and their work or craft was considered as a service to the village in return of which they had a share of the production.

\(^1\) T.K. Sudarshan ‘Gram Seva is Rama Seva’, Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publication Trust, Prashanthi Nilayam, Page-1
of the cultivation done by others. This inter dependence in a small circle was characteristic of any village life there by making them immune from the outside contact and reduce any external threat.

1.1.2 Economic Growth and Economic Development:
After getting freedom from a long period of colonial rule and almost negligible economic activities there was a sudden focus on the economic development of India. The fundamental need of the hour was a sustainable growth in GNP per capita which was put forward through economic development plans. The concept of economic growth was put in motion on priority through which the secondary objectives of poverty elimination, reduction in unemployment and economic imparity were to be achieved. The policy makers and the economic planner were in no doubt of the results of their plan of achieving their results through economic growth, their vision of the concept of economic growth got synonymous with the economic development.

But since development is a process of growth seen with change, it was not considered identical to economic growth any more. The achievements of growth in economy expressed through increase in per capita product or in national product may not show the certain qualitative deformations in the process of economic development. The development economy analysts do not consider the apparent growth performance of a country through visibility of price in its GNP; they monitor the economic development process more directly now. Mahbub ul Haq, a leading Pakistani economist, has aptly remarked, “the problem of development must be defined as a selective attack on the worst forms of poverty. Development goals must be defined in terms of progressive reduction and eventual elimination of malnutrition, disease, literacy, squalor, unemployment and inequalities. We were taught to take care of our GNP because it would take care of poverty. Letters revers this and take care of poverty because it will

---

take care of the GNP. In other words let us worry about the content of GNP even more than its rates of increase. 

Economic growth exercise would be rendered futile if the major segment of society is deprived and only a few people get benefitted from it. Growth becomes development only on the elimination of poverty which in reality means getting riddance of scarcity of food and hunger, the people should at least have access to basic needs like food, clothes and protection. The Growth and development becomes one objective only upon addition of social justice. Only when economic growth is combined with social justice that growth is converted into development. In India Planning, focuses not mainly on economic growth, but on 'growth with social justice'.

Indian economy has incurred many change in its structure since independence, there has been an increment in contributions of secondary and tertiary sectors to the GDP where as the primary sector has failed to offer any significance inputs. The developed countries of the world show the similar pattern historically. A significant population i.e. about one fourth of our country is in miserable condition thereby making us outside the periphery of the developed countries list. We cannot be called a developed nation when farmers are committing suicide owing to perpetual indebtedness. We cannot qualify as a developed country when the labour force and workforce ratio is alarmingly high signifying unemployment. We have to develop and for that the prime focus would be on rural areas as they are the centers of abject poverty and starvation and more importantly for the majority of our population being rural. If poverty is to be combated, and the development process is to get a jump-start, rural development must be accorded a top priority. Rural development means an ‘action- plan’ for the social and economic upliftment of the rural areas.

---

5 Indian Economic Development; T.R.Jain & V.K.Ohri; VK Global Publications Pvt.Ltd.New Delhi;pg-99,27
6 Indian Economic Development; T.R.Jain & V.K.Ohri; VK Global Publications Pvt Ltd;New Delhi;pg-133
Indian economy is rapidly moving from developing to developed stage with extensive changes. In this evolution period numerous troubles come along with certain commendable processes.

For most of the developing countries the highest priority issues are eradication of poverty and unemployment, and their primary focus of planning is to eliminate these. In the early 1960s and 1970s the economist started to attempt to define these problems in more specific terms.

1.1.3 Unemployment in India:
In the words of Bhagwati Committee, “Unemployment and underemployment are the biggest challenges of the day and we are sitting on a volcano. The supreme task of planning is, therefore, to drain this labour reservoir by creating work opportunities and by shifting the unemployed and underemployed into productive work”\(^7\).

Unemployment has been a chronic ailment of the Indian economy. Like any other developing economy India too suffers from the drawbacks of unemployment that are poverty, drain of national human resources and a mark of stigma to the society. Economic growth with social justice needs to have chance of employment in accordance with the growth itself. Economic growth without proportionate growth of employment opportunities is the growth without social justice and therefore meaningless. A high rate of workforce participation in the growth of economy makes a nation developed\(^8\).

The open urban unemployment is about 10-20% of the population which itself is a very large number in comparison to developed nations. Then the open rural unemployment is monumental, and ever increasing due to lacking in opportunities in rural areas leading to

\(^7\) Bhagwat Committee quoted by Sinha, V.C; Economic Environment; Sahitya Bhawan Publishers and Distributors; Agra (2007); pg 157, 158.

\(^8\) Indian Economic Development; T.R Jain & V.K. Ohri; VK Global Publications Pvt.Ltd. New Delhi; Pg-151
large scale migration from rural areas to urban areas. The rural unemployed people think it is easier to find non-agricultural work in urban areas, this migration itself is alarmingly high, putting extra pressure on resources of the urban areas already bursting to their seams. But what is unique about the current migrations is that these are much larger and much faster than ever before, and excessive for the urban areas to absorb.

The underemployment is estimated about one-third of the agricultural labour-force. Such unemployed do not find full-time jobs. This type of unemployment also exists in the non-agricultural sector, particularly in traditional sectors, besides the agricultural sector. The alarming high rate of population increase exert a pressure on employment stratagem. The high rate open underemployment in rural areas leads to considerable migration to urban areas. Unemployment is gigantic when seen as a proportion of population (70%) engaged in agricultural and other rural activities.\(^9\)

1.1.4 Employment Programmes before MGNREGA:

The then Government considered that the situation of unemployment would change with a fast increasing economic growth and is not a key issue and five year plans would create adequate employment chances for the unemployed labour force. Moreover the expected growth of workforce was considered to be moderate.

But by the end of Second Five Year Plan in 1961 the position was alarming, unemployed population increased from 42.6 Lakh in 1956 to 64.8 Lakh in 1961, a raise of 52.11 per cent in the given period (Census of India: Variation in Population Since 1901, 2001-02). The Government made employment-oriented development plans by pushing forward special wage programmes and encouraging the growth of employment intensive sectors.

At the onset of Third Five Year Plan of 1961-66, the Government initiated several programmes to tackle the bull of mass unemployment by its horns they were largely for self-employment and wage employment. Rural Manpower Programme (RMP) was first of these, enforced between the periods of 1961-62 to 1968-69. It was poorly implemented

due to resource constraints throughout its period and finally the expected result was not achieved\(^{10}\).

During the Fourth Five Year Plan period of 1969-74, three more employment generating programmes were initiated namely Rural Work Programme (RWP), Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) and Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Programme (PIREP) and these programmes too could not achieve the expected target due to lack of resources, faulty planning, organisational weakness and lack of co-ordination between Central and State Governments (Planning Commission, 1979). Small Farmers Development Agency Programme (SFDAP) too was implemented during the Fourth Five Year Plan to increase the income level of people engaged in small agricultural activities.

SFDAP continued during the Fifth Five Year Plan period. It was also reported to be unsuccessful due to the inadequate participation of the credit institutions and lack of co-ordination and support from the concerned government departments (Planning Commission, 2001). The fate of another full-fledged wage-employment programme, viz., Food for Work Programme (FWP), implemented during 1977-80, was also not different.

One of the main aim of Sixth Five Year Plan of 1980-85 was elimination of poverty and for this an inclusive effort to reduce unemployment and underemployment was incorporated. The aforesaid objectives were targeted through the National Rural Employment Programme. NREP initiated in 1981 for wage employment generation and community assets creation, and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGp) was implemented for wage employment. A self employment programme initiated in 1980, namely Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) continued till 1999 along with Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) for the facilitation of previous objectives effectively. Another employment programme namely Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was also launched in the Sixth Five Year Plan for the same objective of self-employment generation.

\(^{10}\) Planning Commission report of 2002
The Seventh Plan (1985-90) too faced the similar challenges of employment generation viz. low inclusion of workforce in industrial even though the growth in industrial economy was escalating, so the previous employment generation programmes in vogue were continued along with some more programme such as Million Well Scheme (MWS) started in 1988. The hindrances of the previous programmes viz. shortage of finance, lack of interest of administration, faulty planning and technical back up and half hearted supervision and implementation were still making the similar negative effect on the implementation of the programmes. During the last year of the Seventh Plan, NREP and RLEGP, the two wage employment programmes were merged into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) for wage employment generation. (Planning Commission, 1992)

In the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) a new wage employment programme, The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was added to the previous running JRY, it was targeted to provide 100 days’ of annual employment for two members of a rural family. And in 1992 and 1996 two programmes namely, Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisan (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) were started for self-employment generation were started respectively.

Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana (JGSY) restructured and renamed from the existing JRY was implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) in 1999. It aimed to create infrastructure and durable assets for generating more employment options for the rural people. A similar programme Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was formed for self-employment with the merger of earlier programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, MWS, SITRA and GKY etc. in 1999. Additional wage employment generation, development of infrastructure, food security and improvement in nutritional level in the villages was targeted through Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) which was formed in 2001 through merger of earlier wage earning programmes EAS and JGSY11.

11 Helaney, M.Y.  Rural Employment Schemes And Rural Development – A Study With Special Reference to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme In Kerala
All of the aforementioned programmes were running together in the same area thereby creating an unnecessary multiplicity of programmes and none of the programmes was Pan Indian in nature to cover the different targeted groups. Hence a single integrated programme approach was thought of which could work for the whole country. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was born with the designed strategy to develop the social and economic condition of the rural population howsoever remote being the region. It was formed in 2005 from the merger of SGRY and NFW.

1.1.5 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005:
National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is the flagship programme of the Government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country. The adult members of every household can volunteer to do unskilled manual work for hundred days of wage employment in a financial year\(^{12}\).

The Indian Parliament passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on 23rd August 2005. The NREGA was notified through the Gazette of India Extraordinary Notification dated September 7, 2005; it came into force on February 2, 2006. On 2\(^{nd}\) October 2009, section 1(1) amended by substituting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with the words of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Under this Act Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is to be implemented towards partial fulfillment of a constitutional obligation under Article 41 of the Indian Constitution that provides a non-judiciable ‘Right to Work’ to the citizens of the country and directs that “The state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for

\(^{12}\) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005
securing the right to work in case of unemployment”. During the first phase, the scheme was introduced in 200 backward districts of 27 states. Another 130 districts were covered in 2007 – 08 and then with effect from April 1, 2008 the Act has covered all the 615 rural districts of India.

Pic 1.1: Total Districts Under MGNREGA

Source: NREGA-Annual Report 2008-09; Ministry of Rural Development

1.1.6 Objectives and Goals of MGNREGS:

The core objectives of the scheme are following:\footnote{MGNREGA Sameeksha II; An Anthology of Research Studies (2012-2014), United Nations Development Programme}

- Providing at least 100 days work as per demand resulting in the creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and productivity;

\footnote{MGNREGA Sameeksha II; An Anthology of Research Studies (2012-2014), United Nations Development Programme}
Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;

- Proactively ensuring social inclusion; and
- Strengthening Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

MGNREGA is a powerful instrument for ensuring inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment. The specific goals\(^{14}\) are to:

1) Protect the most vulnerable people living in rural India by guaranteeing wage employment opportunities.

2) Enhance livelihood security of the rural poor through generation of wage employment opportunities in works leading to creation of durable assets.

3) Rejuvenate natural resource base of rural areas.

4) Create a productive asset base.

5) Stimulate local economy for providing wage employment.

6) Empower the social disadvantaged, especially, women, scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes, through the processes of rights-based legislation.

7) Strengthen decentralized and participative planning through convergence of various antipoverty and livelihood initiatives.

8) Deepen democracy at the grassroots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

### 1.1.7 A Paradigm shift:

MGNREGA marks a paradigm shift from previous wage employment programmes as\(^{15}\):

- Largest employment programme in human history and no other wage employment programme touches it in its magnitude, structure and drive.

- Provides a legal guarantee for wage employment.

- Demand-driven wage employment programme, The demand for work by wage seekers drives the provision of work.

- Allowances and compensations provided legally in case of failure of mechanism.

- States gets incentives for employment provision; 100 percent of unskilled labour cost and 75% of the material cost is borne by Government of India under the programme.

\(^{14}\) MGNREGA Operational Guidelines 2014

\(^{15}\) MGNREGA Operational Guidelines 2014
In case of failure to provide work to the beneficiary on time, the cost of unemployment allowance is to be bear by the state.

Gram panchayats has to decide at least 50% of the works in terms of cost.

Social audit is a new feature that is an integral part of MGNREGA.

A great share of the responsibility for the success of MGNREGA lies with the wage seekers, GSs and GPs.

1.1.8 MGNREGA’s Performance:

MGNREGA in India: It will be in the fittest of the things to give an account of the physical and financial achievements of this worldwide programme at national level. An overview of the performance of MGNREGA on selected parameters is presented as follows-

Table 1.1: Detail of workers Under MGNREGA*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Districts</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Blocks</td>
<td>6,860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Card</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Job Cards issued[In Cr]</td>
<td>12.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Workers[In Cr]</td>
<td>25.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Job Cards[In Cr]</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Workers[In Cr]</td>
<td>10.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) SC worker against active workers[%]</td>
<td>20.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii)ST worker against active workers[%]</td>
<td>16.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.nrega.nic.in  *as on Dec. 2016
Table 1.2: An overview of the performance of MGNREGA at National Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved Labour Budget [In Cr]</td>
<td>278.71</td>
<td>258.57</td>
<td>220.67</td>
<td>239.112</td>
<td>220.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persondays Generated so far [In Cr]</td>
<td>230.46</td>
<td>220.37</td>
<td>166.21</td>
<td>235.5736</td>
<td>160.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Persondays out of Total (%)</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>52.82</td>
<td>54.88</td>
<td>55.26</td>
<td>56.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Persondays as of Total (%)</td>
<td>22.22</td>
<td>22.81</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>22.29</td>
<td>21.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Persondays as of Total (%)</td>
<td>17.79</td>
<td>17.52</td>
<td>16.97</td>
<td>17.79</td>
<td>16.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differently abled persons worked</td>
<td>4,55,307</td>
<td>4,86,495</td>
<td>4,13,316</td>
<td>4,59,374</td>
<td>3,92,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average days of employment provided per Household</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>45.97</td>
<td>40.17</td>
<td>48.87</td>
<td>36.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Wage rate per day (Rs.)</td>
<td>121.41</td>
<td>132.7</td>
<td>143.92</td>
<td>154.13</td>
<td>160.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households Worked [In Cr]</td>
<td>4.99</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>4.8206</td>
<td>4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Worked [In Cr]</td>
<td>7.97</td>
<td>7.39</td>
<td>6.22</td>
<td>7.2339</td>
<td>6.364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II Works</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Works Takenup (New+Spill Over)[In Lakhs]</td>
<td>104.62</td>
<td>93.52</td>
<td>97.65</td>
<td>124.64</td>
<td>130.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Ongoing Works [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>79.09</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>68.21</td>
<td>88.88</td>
<td>86.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Completed Works [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>25.53</td>
<td>27.42</td>
<td>29.44</td>
<td>35.76</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Expenditure on Agriculture &amp; Agriculture Allied Works</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>52.81</td>
<td>63.19</td>
<td>69.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A look at table 1.2 reveals that 4.99 crore households were provided employment in the year 2012-13 which declined to 4.79 crore & 4.14 crores in the year 2013-14 & 2014-15 respectively but there onward increased to 4.81 crore in the year 2015-16. Average mandays generated in year 2015-16 were 48.85. Regarding women households, national figure shows that a good share of 51.3 % was generated by them in year 2012-13 which increased to as high as 55.26% in year 2015-16.

Concerning financial performance of the programme at the national level, it is clear from the table that expenditure has increased from Rs. 39,778 crore in the year 2012-13 to Rs. 43,914 crore in the year 2015-16. It is also evident from the table that as the mandays increased so does the expenditure too increased.

Regarding works taken up and completed at the national level, 104.62 lakh works were taken up 5 years back under MGNREGA i.e. in 2012-13 and only 25.53 lakh works were completed during that financial year. Also the number of works increased in the year 2015-16 to 124.64 lakh and also that 35.76 lakh works were completed in the year 2015-16.
1.2 Rationale:

MGNREGA is the pioneer act in human history that guarantees wage employment in such an exceptional manner, targeted at optimum public assets and elimination of poverty in rural areas, at an unprecedented scale. The research is significant as MGNREGA is the single largest employment generating scheme in rural India which provides gainful employment opportunities; as major rural population in India still depends on the unskilled and manual labour wage earnings. Like any other programme the success of this programme lean heavily on its implementation process. In addition to this, its success depends on proactive awareness of workers and participation in the process of implementation and monitoring. MGNREGA framework clearly mentions the participatory feature of its governance process.

At the end of the decade of its implementation, it is a prime concern to oversee the level of the impact MGNREGA had made on the rural households especially in reference to change of income and expenditure graph of the families, worth of the created assets under MGNREGA and inclusiveness of the rural poor in overall development process.

From some past years, impact assessment has become a growing aspect of development activities. The governments seek to ensure that the funds are optimally utilised. The spotlight has begun to focus on rural employment programs and institutions, as they have become an important component of strategies to reduce poverty or promote inclusive development.

To investigate the actual impact of MGNREGS on rural people, the present study is conducted in Chhindwara district. Besides these, this research study also examines the impact of MGNREGS employment on migration pattern of the rural community, creation of employment and assets, and thereby providing suggestions for the improvement of the scheme and implementation.
1.3 Objectives of the study:
MGNREGA intends to provide a basic employment guarantee in rural areas with multiple objectives to support the social and economic conditions of rural mass. It not only creates employment, but stipulates that works must be targeted towards a set of specific rural development activities such as: water conservation and harvesting, aforestation, flood control protection etc.

This impact assessment comes as an important intervention in the wake of MGNREGA which is being implemented all over India. The study will be conducted in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. The specific objectives of the study are:
I. To assess the extent of additional employment generated through MGNREGA among rural poor in the study area.
II. To evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on Social and Economic upliftment on beneficiaries of the study area.
III. To evaluate the impact of MGNREGA on pattern of migration from rural to urban areas.
IV. To study the awareness and assertion of women’s identity in terms of economic status and participation in social sphere.
V. To find out the nature of assets created under MGNREGA.

1.4 Hypothesis:
In the light of the above objectives, the following hypotheses are proposed:-
1. \( H_0^A \) - MGNREGA has failed to generate additional Employment Opportunities in rural areas of Chhindwara District.
   \( H_1^A \) - MGNREGA has generated additional Employment Opportunities in rural areas of Chhindwara District.
2. \( H_0^B \) : MGNREGA has no significant impact on enhancement in Socio-Economic condition of beneficiaries of Chhindwara District.
   \( H_1^B \): MGNREGA has significant impact on enhancement in Socio-Economic condition of beneficiaries of Chhindwara District.
3. \(H_0\): MGNREGS has failed to check upon Rural Urban Migration in Chhindwara District

\(H_1\): MGNREGS has succeeded to check upon Rural Urban Migration in Chhindwara District.

4. \(H_0\): MGNREGA has no significant impact on women empowerment.

\(H_1\): MGNREGA has significant impact on women empowerment.

5. \(H_0\): MGNREGS has failed to create durable assets in Chhindwara District.

\(H_1\): MGNREGS has succeeded to create durable assets in Chhindwara District.

1.5 Research methodology:
Methodology plays an important role in the research process. It not only helps the researcher to formulate the research question but also plays an important role in the research process. The study is an exploratory. The aim is to combine the relevant material. The explorative study is necessary for the researcher to be familiar with the subject to determine the scope and limitations of research to classify the concept and to formulate the hypothesis. The idea of the explorative study is the discovery of facts and insights.

Collection of Data is very important work in research. The present study is based on collection and analysis of both secondary as well as primary data. Primary data has been collected from the selected families by adopting Stratified Random sampling method. Questionnaire method has given the researcher a chance to contact the rural mass personally and to find out the realities of implementation of this programme.

1.5.1 Sampling Design:
The researcher has used Stratified random sampling method. Chhindwara district comprises of 11 blocks & for the purposes of study all 11 blocks have been selected. For the selection of villages a list of villages, where MGNREGA programme is in operation, was obtained from concerned office of the Block Development officer (BDO). During course of present studies, the researcher surveyed 2 villages from each block. For selection of respondents, the list of beneficiaries was obtained. From each selected village
of the eleven blocks, 20-25 beneficiaries were selected through random sampling. In all, a total of 500 beneficiaries have been chosen for study.

a) **Primary Data:** Primary data has been collected through a well designed questionnaire. Before administering the schedule in the field, it was pre-tested and suitably modified. The study is also based on personal interviews & group discussions of the beneficiaries, implementing agencies, Panchayat officials and local leaders.

b) **Secondary Data:** The secondary data has been collected through published reports, books, articles, Rural Development department and Block Development offices, Annual Reports of Government of India (GoI), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi, reports of various committees & the official website of MGNREGA.

c) **Analysis of Data:** The most popular software package SPSS is used to perform statistical analysis on survey. Percentage, simple and compound growth rates were used for analysing the secondary data. Different statistical techniques and tools also used to draw various conclusions. Statistical tools Average, mean Average, percentage, chi – square, correlation is used to construct the tables and to analyse the data.

1.6 **Scope & Limitations of the Study:**

The present study is confined to the different aspects of implementation of the Scheme in Chhindwara District. Specifically, the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries, Employment opportunity, rural urban migration and Women Empowerment are primarily focussed. Rural asset creation and development through the Scheme are also looked into in detail.

The present study is limited to 22 villages of Chhindwara district. From socio-economic point of view Chhindwara is a backward district. Thus the findings of the study may not be applicable to the other areas as socio economic features and agro climatic conditions are unique to each District and vary from region to region.
In Chhindwara district, there is a notable heterogeneity between different blocks in respect of agricultural characteristics, soil type, irrigation, labour demand and supply, social customs, caste composition, income level etc. As a result, the degree of impact, effectiveness and nature of irregularities observed in implementation in MGNREGA may not be found similar in.

In this research, data of last five years of has been analysed. Since the primary data for the study were collected from the beneficiaries of the Scheme, the possibility of biased responses inherent in sample surveys and regional influences on opinions could not be avoided.

While studying there were some difficulties and constraints in the field situation. On carrying out this study it was observed that the respondents selected for interviews were reluctant to give all the required information some could not answer satisfactorily due to their ignorance, innocence and illiteracy. It was observed that in most of the cases the interviews remained suspicious about the unexpected intervention of any out agency and felt uneasy in answering the questions asked from them at the time of personal queries. They were generally found afraid that the government wanted to impose some restrictions on them. This is the reason that they were found hesitated in providing correct information regarding this research work.

Moreover, during collection of primary data most of the respondents were female, and the bias of the respondents might have crept into the answers. Female respondents were replying to the queries by recollecting their past memories. Hence, there is a chance of deviation from the actual scenario. However, conscious efforts were made to minimise them to the extent possible. Similarly, the secondary data collected from various websites, reports and publications, and used for the study could not be totally free from errors.
1.7 Study Plan:

The present study is categorized into 8 chapters and they are as followed:

Chapter I : Introduction
Chapter II : Review of Literature & Profile of Study Area
Chapter III : Implementation Mechanism of MGNREGA
Chapter IV : Registration of Beneficiaries, Issue and Management of Job Cards
Chapter V : Works under MGNREGA, Worksite Management and Payment of Wages
Chapter VI : Analysis of Impact of MGNREGA on Rural People
Chapter VII : Findings and Result
Chapter VIII : Conclusion & Suggestions

Chapter I. First chapter “Introduction” discusses the efforts made by the Government after independence for the development of the rural poor people by providing them wage employment. It also deals with the Inception of MGNREGA, goals and performance of MGNREGA. It highlights the objectives of the study, hypothesis proposed, research methodology, design of the study and its limitations.

Chapter II. Second chapter entitled “Review of literature & Profile of Study area” gives a brief review of various studies already conducted on MGNREGA, to have an insight of the research problem. This chapter also deals with the profile of study area and performance of MGNREGA in Chhindwara districts.

Chapter III. Third chapter ‘Implementation Mechanism of MGNREGA’ deals with the Basic Implementation Principles and Organisation Structure of the MGNREGA programme at the state, district, block and village levels. It also explains Training of Key Agencies and Institutions.

Chapter IV. Fourth chapter ‘Registration of Beneficiaries, Issue and Management of Job Cards’, throws light on Registration process, Job card, Allotment of Work and Unemployment Allowance.
Chapter V. Fifth chapter ‘Category of Works under MGNREGA, Worksite Management and Payment of Wages’ deals in different Permissible work and negative work under MGNREGA. It also describes the wage payment mechanism and Worksite Facilities which should be provided to beneficiaries.

Chapter VI. Sixth chapter ‘Analysis of Impact of MGNREGA on Rural People’ analyses the socio-economic status of beneficiaries before & after adoption of programme, in respect of income & employment in order to assess effectiveness of the programme. This also analyse the impact of MGNREGA on Women empowerment and Rural Urban migration.

Chapter VII. Chapter Seven ‘Findings and Results’ presents the testing of Hypothesis. In this chapter the researcher has summarized all the findings and the final result of the study has been presented.

Chapter VIII. Chapter Eight ‘Conclusion & Suggestions’, deals with conclusion and suggestions for bringing further improvements in the working of MGNREGA.

***************