CHAPTER - II
Review of Literature & Profile of the Study Area

In this chapter, the researcher has reviewed the major findings of some of the related studies undertaken by other institutions and researchers in different places at different times. This chapter also deals with the profile of study area and performance of MGNREGS in Chhindwara districts.

2.1 Review of Literature:

“A Literature Review is an objective, through summary and critical analysis of the relevant available research and non-research literature on the topic being studied.”

-HART

Literature review is a process in which related literature of special subject area are collected by searching and observing, and after that collected literature is critically analysed and synthesised, so that subject area and possibilities of new research could be found out.

The purpose of literature review is ‘to decay mind the extent to which the topic understudies covered in the existing body of knowledge’ (Babbie & Mouton, 2011). Thus Review of literature helps not only in gaining knowledge about the topic but also arouses the interest in information seeking and critical appraisal of an issue. An attempt has been made by the researcher in this chapter to view the work already done in respect of MGNREGA.

Bela Bhatia and Jean Dreze (2006) revealed in article "Employment Guarantee in Jharkhand: Ground Realities" that there are great lacunae in the institutional set up of the programme. The survey was conducted in two districts of Jharkhand: Palamu and

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Latehar. They found that there is little difference between NREGA and the earlier employment programmes as National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojona (SGRY) and the basic purpose of providing employment on demand at the statutory minimum wage is not close to being achieved.

Jacob, A and R Varghese (2006)\(^{17}\) reported, based on a survey “NREGA implementation: Reasonable Beginning in Palakkad, Kerala”, that in the very first year of implementation, almost all of the respondents were aware about their entitlements under the Act and this was due to high literacy rate among the workers. If workers are well aware of their entitlements they can easily access the benefits. It reveals the vital role played by local bodies, while implementation has been largely fair and corruption free.

Verma et al (2006)\(^{18}\) pointed out in a publication on “Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment”, that unemployment is still on the increase and that the benefit of growth has failed to percolate down to the poor people especially in rural areas. He further stressed that for poverty alleviation rapid economic growth focusing mainly employment intensive sector is required. In addition to this access to basic minimum services and direct state intervention in the form of targeted anti-poverty programmes, including provision of subsidized food-grains too is important.

Dreze (2007)\(^{19}\) in article ‘NREGA: Dismantling the contractor raj’ looks at the corruption in rural employment programs in Orissa and how this has continued in a NREGS as well. However, he believes that there is tremendous potential of NREGA in the survey areas. Where work was available, it was generally found that workers earned close to the statutory minimum wage of Rs.70 per day, and that wages were paid within 15 days or so. This is an unprecedented opportunity for the rural poor, and there was evident appreciation of it among casual labourers and other weaker sections of the

\(^{17}\) Arun Jacob, Richard Varghese; “NREGA implementation: Reasonable Beginning in Palakkad, Kerala”; Journal Vol-41, Issue No.48, 02 Dec.2006; Economic & Political Weekly.


\(^{19}\) Dreze J. (2007). NREGA: Dismantling the contractor raj The Hindu, 20 November.
population. There is the hope among workers that NREGA would enable them to avoid long-distance seasonal migration.

Manoj Kumar in 2007\textsuperscript{20} in his book “Political Economy of Poverty: A Micro-Level Study” analysed the impact of different poverty alleviation programmes, including the wage and self employment programmes. In his study he opined that most of the programmes aiming at poverty alleviation reflect good politics but bad economics. The book has evaluated the efficacy of the poverty alleviation programmes, self-employment programmes, wage employment programmes and national social assistance programmes on the basis of micro level study and concluded that poverty alleviation programmes have filled the coffers of a group of people who are much above the poverty line. The book also throws sufficient light on political economy of poverty besides identifying several limiting factors in way of poverty alleviation programmes.

Khan, Ullah and Salluja (2007)\textsuperscript{21} have discussed in ‘Impact of MGNREGA on Rural Livelihood’, the direct and the indirect effects of NREGP on employment generation and poverty reduction in a local area. For this, a detailed survey was done in a poor agricultural village with 400 households, nearly 2500 people. The survey recorded income and expenditure levels by type of household size including large, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour etc. This village study reveals that most of the people don’t access the scheme. They would like a more proactive role of the panchayat in deciding the infrastructure to be constructed. Almost everyone wants more work from the scheme and better facilities at the work place. There is enough evidence of fudging and mismanagement of records.

Nayak, Behera, and Mishra (2008)\textsuperscript{22} conducted their study in 2 districts of Orissa mainly Mayurbhanj and Balasore. This study shows that the state as a whole as well


\textsuperscript{22} Nayak, Behera, and Mishra, Kuruksetra, VOL.55, No.3 January 2008, pp. 46-48.
as the two sample districts are well in certain physical and financial parameters like provision of employment to those who demand jobs and maintenance of wage and non-wage ratio. However their performance in certain other important parameters like utilization of funds and creation of demand for jobs is not very encouraging. While the target is to guarantee 100 days of employment to each household, not many households have achieved this target. According to this report well thought out effort is necessary to address these problems of NREGA in the state.

Singh Kumar Dhruva and Choudhary Ekta (2008) in their article on “A 'Balance score card' of the NREGS; in the Light of the C & AG Report' analysed Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG), on the functioning of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The C&AG report Point out the cases of incomplete records, diversion of funds, cases of bogus muster rolls and so on in particular, in the states of Bihar, Orissa, Chattisgarh etc. Authors consider that the NREG Scheme 'has created an impression of fraught with corruption.

Ambastha P, P V S Shankar and M Shah (2008), in their article “Two Years of NREGA: The Road Ahead”, based on the field observations of National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations (NCCSO) reported some of the lacunae in implementation of MGNREGA such as under staffing or lack of exclusive MGNREGS staff at lower level, top –down approach in planning, deployment of old SoRs resulted in varying combination of malpractices. They recommended the revision of wage rates in line with the programme.

Jha, Gaiha R and S Sankar (2008) mainly assessed cost effectiveness of social safety in three villages of Udaipur district by using econometric exercises and analysed the

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participation of landless, small, marginal and medium farmers. The results of the study entitled “Reviewing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program” were contrary to the findings of CAG and others. They reported that the share of participation of households that worked for 90 days or more in 2007 was a little over one-fifth. The agriculture labour and self-employed in non-agriculture relied on the MGNREGS to supplement their incomes whereas for the workers of other labour and self-employed in agriculture categories, MGNREGS has become the mainstay of income. MGNREGS seems to have been well targeted by asset class as landless labour participation was higher and for long durations.

Planning Commission (2008)\(^{26}\) conducted a survey in 20 states to study the impact of MGNREGA. The results showed a shift of low income groups (about 50%) towards high income category, significant increase in the expenditure on food and non-food items (6%) and change in the expenditure pattern, procurement of livestock (68%) and household articles (42%) and initiation of savings for the first time (2%), clearing of outstanding loans (1/5th of sample households) were some of the positive impacts of MGNREGA on rural households. The other things that were ported include the non-provision of employment within stipulated timeframe (80%) and non-payment of unemployment allowances, the utilization of small portion of households for more than 35 days of work and existence of distress migration in sample villages.

Siddhartha and A Vanaik (2008)\(^{27}\) in article “CAG Report on NREGA: Fact and Fiction” criticised the way that the CAG has done the audit. The CAG does not explore the impact of MGNREGA on lives of workers, quality of assets created, impact on poverty, women empowerment, or agricultural productivity. They also observed that the CAG has not taken into consideration of the state specific NREGS circulars and orders. The authors viewed that the CAG averages reflected from extremely different regions.


\(^{27}\) Siddhartha, Anish Vanaik; CAG Report on NREGA: Fact and Fiction; Economic & Political Weekly; June 2008; Pg 39 to 45.
with uneven performance of MGNREGS and hence, these averages should not be treated as benchmarks for judging the performance and viability of programme in a specific state. They appreciated the CAG’s valuable and novel recommendations for effective implementation of NREGS in various states.

Central Institute of Fisheries Education (2009)\textsuperscript{28} revealed, in “A Study Report on Appraisal of NREGA Programme in Thane and Akola Districts of Maharashtra”, that despite good demand for work the employment is not available and unemployment allowance was also not paid in the study area of Maharashtra. The Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads approved only the digging of ponds despite the fact that the other works were also identified by GPs as these works (former) have to pay huge amount of royalty charges (22.2 % to 37.15 % of total budget) to government for removal of soil. Some of the district has acknowledged the problem of non-issuing of job cards. In few Talukas no effort was made to estimate the demand for labours. The study reveals that unique identity number was not given to each work.

Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi (2009)\textsuperscript{29} has published a work entitled "All India Report on Evaluation of NREGA, A Survey of Twenty Districts". This study is based on evaluation of the NREGS which assess its impact by taking 20 districts from Northern, Western, Southern and North-East region of India and 300 beneficiaries from each district. The study reveals that in many districts, affixing of photograph on job cards is not followed and in some places the beneficiary paid money for getting it. Job card was not designed to have sufficient space for all the entries in detail. Many households did not get the work within the stipulated 15 days-time of demand for work, neither were they paid any unemployment allowance.

\textsuperscript{28} Central Institute of Fisheries Education; “A Study Report on Appraisal of NREGA Programme in Thane and Akola Districts of Maharashtra”; Mumbai 2009.

\textsuperscript{29} Institute of Applied Manpower Research, "All India Report on Evaluation of NREGA, A Survey of Twenty Districts", Delhi,2009.
Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai (2009)\textsuperscript{30} in its study entitled "Evaluation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act District Cuddalore. Dindugal, Kanchipuram, Nagai, Thiruvallar; State: Tamilnadu", reveals the impact of MGNREGA in the state of Tamilnadu by taking 5 districts into account. In each districts 4 GPs were chosen. This study shows many positive aspects of the programme, mainly:

- Villagers consider NREGA is promising to be a boon for improving rural Livelihood.
- Provision of job within the village is very much encouraging to villagers.
- NREGA also ensured gender equality in rural Tamilnadu.
- The programme employed a very good proportion scheduled caste and Backward caste people.
- Involvement of SHG members improves people's NREGS awareness and this is very important for future NREGS planning.
- Financial inclusion strategies like bank account opening and rural ATM for NREGS beneficiaries at four villagers of Cuddalore block has resulted in multiplier effects of savings, financial safety etc.,
- Registrations are open throughout the year.
- Most of the respondents perceived that payment were received within a week.

Dre'ze, J and C Oldiges (2009)\textsuperscript{31} compared the MIS data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 in an article “Work in Progress”, to assess the performance of MGNREGS in terms of share of women, share of SCs and STs workers, expenditure on unskilled labour and average wage per day in NREGA. They concluded that the total expenditure and share of women was more or less in proportion with the increased coverage of the Act. The share of ST has declined from 36 per cent to 29 percent due to the high share of ST population in initial 200 districts. There was an increase of 15 per cent in the average wage rate along with increase in employment levels in phase-1 districts. The labour component was much similar in both the years. Finally, the authors concluded that the


official data is an open question which calls for urgent scrutiny and suggested for some independent large-scale surveys on the MGNREGA. They noticed crucial gaps in MIS like lack of details of active worksites and lack of provision for tracing delays in wage payment through MIS etc. They noticed the gaps in transparency measures and called for urgent attention of State Governments.

Sivakumar S (2010) explained in “A political Agenda to Minimise Wages”; Economic & Political Week,” the process of adoption of wage rates under MGNREGA and the changes place over period of five years. Mazdoor Haq Yatra and Mazdoor Satyagraha was organised by the workers in Rajasthan demanding the minimum wages rates under MGNREGA. Based on all these demands, National Advisory Council (NAC) Chairperson wrote a letter to Prime Minister to pay the minimum wages to MGNREGA workers. Accordingly, the minimum wages of MGNREGA were again revised in January 2011.

Banerjee and Saha (2010) indicated in article on “The NREGA, A Maoists and Developmental Woes of the Indian State”, that Chhattisgarh fared relatively better in terms of number of days of employment and higher wage amount compared to Jharkhand and Orissa. After MGNREGA, the cost of cultivation was enhanced due to use of input like chemical fertilisers and high yielding varieties (both of which were not used earlier). The crop yield not only increased in the range of 50-55 per cent in Chhattisgarh and 90-100 per cent in Jharkhand but MGNREGA adoption also reduced the vulnerability of the small and marginal farmers and the incidence of seasonal migration. Further, the household income increased in the range of 23 to 160 per cent during 2008-09 as compared to 2005-06 in Chhattisgarh. In Jharkhand, it was in the range of 60-70 per cent & in the range of 30-49 per cent in case of Orissa.

32 Sowmya Sivakumar; “A political Agenda to Minimise Wages”; Economic & Political Weekly; Vol XLV No.50; Dec 2010, Pg 10-12.
Chandranayak et al. (2010)\textsuperscript{34} conducted a research entitled “Appraisal of Processes and Procedures of NREGS in Orissa: A Study of Mayurbhanj and Balasore Districts”, to view and appraise the implementation of MGNREGA processes and procedures in Orissa. The econometric results indicate that women are more likely to show interest in MGNREGS works. The households belonging to SC turned out to be positively and significantly (at the level of 5%) related to the demand for MGNREGS jobs. The researchers elucidated that the awareness level is found to be somewhat mixed and positively related to access to job cards and per capita landholding size. The prominent outcome of this study in Orissa was that the workers received their wages within a fortnight and large part of wage was paid even within a week mostly through their bank accounts. As perceived by the respondents, there is a considerable increase in employment opportunities and substantial reduction in forced migration. The works selected under the NREGS generally helped in creating tangible assets for the community as a whole in addition to generation of necessary employment opportunities.

Bari Prasanta (2010)\textsuperscript{35} in his research paper on "NREGA: Growth of Sustainable Rural Economy and Livelihood Security- A Case Study of Purulia District" considers that in India rural masses lack the basic infrastructure facilities to sustain their life. Their small land holdings provide them with minimal yield to support their existence. The opportunities to be a better standard of living in rural areas of our country are minimal. India has to realize it's promised growth and development, it is imperative that this Multitude of people be able to earn their livelihood in a sustainable manner. According to author this is the core objective of NREGA. This paper tries to portray in the light of field investigation the ground realities regarding the growth of sustainable rural economy and livelihood security in Purulia district.


Kumar Anandharaja P. and Well Haorei (2010)\textsuperscript{36} in his paper on "Impact Assessment of MGNREGS on Rural Migration" assess the impact of the MGNREGS on rural migration in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu. The study reveals that the migration has stopped in five Panchayats with the implementation of the scheme of the total 18 Panchayats. In seven Panchayats migration has not stopped. In remaining 6 Panchayats there was no migration before and after the implementation of MGNREGS.

Bharat S. Sontakki and Lakshman M. Ahire (2011)\textsuperscript{37} in their article on "Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: Boon or Bane to Indian Agriculture" considers that the farmers with large farm holdings who invariably depend on farm labourers would be inversely affected by this NREG Scheme. When the daily wages are more in NREGS, quite naturally the labourer’s preference would be to work through it. It would not be economical for the farmer to roved higher wages to the labour in order to retain the labour in his field .In the other sense the food prices have to be increased so that the farmer can hire labour for higher wages. The implementing agency of NREGS failed to look into these matters. Tea gardens in Tripura are facing a shortage of labour with the expansion of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the scheme in all four major tea producing districts.

Indira Hirway et al (2011)\textsuperscript{38} studied the “Employment Guarantee Programme and Pro-Poor Growth in a village in Gujarat” and reported that a well-designed wage-employment programme, with a guarantee component not only addresses the immediate problem of ensuring employment and wages to the poor at the bottom, but also contributed towards promoting pro-poor economic growth. In her study she employed a village-level social accounting matrix (SAM) to estimate the employment, income and output multiplier


\textsuperscript{37} Bharat S. Sontakki and Lakshman M. Ahire "Rural Employment guarantee Scheme: Boon or Bane to Indian Agriculture" Kuruksetra, Vol.59, No.6, April 2011, pp. 39-44.

impacts of NREGA works in the village of Gujarat and reported that multipliers tend to increase with time. She further added that NREGA works contributed a lot for women by relieving them from drudgery of unpaid work like collection of water, fuel, wood, fodder, material for shelter, craft etc., by strengthening local infrastructure.

Venugopalan K.V (2011)\(^{39}\) in his study on "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Kerala" analysed the data of MGNREGS pertaining to the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 in 14 districts of Kerala State. The author considers that the MGNREG Scheme is one of the best poverty eradication programmes of the Central Government launched in the year 2006. The scheme aims at the development of the rural poor by giving employment to both men and women and considers gender equality. This scheme creates employment opportunities, thrift among the people, improves the standard of living of the rural people, empowerment of women, creates infrastructure development in the rural area, prevent the migration of the rural people to urban area and largely participate in the financial inclusion process by opening bank/post office accounts.

Akhtar Jawed S.M, Abdul Azeez N.P. and Maisroof Md., (2011)\(^{40}\) in their article entitled “Towards Millennium Development Goals and the Role of MGNREGA” argues that a well-designed employment policy will go a long way towards promoting some human development outcomes linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The study reveals that the maximum number of work completed under MGNREGS during 2010-2011 is the water conservation and water harvesting, followed by land development, provision of irrigation facilities. So, MGNREGS will ensure environmental sustainability and natural eco-system. The authors felt that there is also a need to revise the self esteem of MGNREGA workers, making them feel proud of the fact that they are engaged in checking eco-destruction. They further felt it is necessary to give due recognition to the MGNREGA groups that have done outstanding work in Water


Harvesting, Watershed Development and soil healthcare with “Environmental savings Awards”.

**Gundegowda and Nagaraju G.H. (2012)** in their article entitled “Impact of MGNREGA Programme and Poverty: A Case Study” adopted the personal interview method for collecting primary data. The study covers three Grama Panchayats in Tumkur District of Karnataka. The study focused that the family income improved by NREGA in sample Panchayats. Besides, the study reveals that the income of the families also shown increasing in all the three Grama Panchayats. The author suggests that the present wage rate is very poor so wage should be increased in relation to inflation rate. Transparency in accounting of Gram Panchayats in NREGA payments is necessary.

**Roy Aruna and Dey Nikhil (2012)** in their editorial on “Much More than a Survival Scheme” presented an anthology of independent evaluations of MGNREGA. The study reveals that there is a shortage of staff and there are many instances of irregular flow of funds. Non-compliance with proactive disclosure provisions such as muster rolls being available at worksites continues to be a problem in some states.

**Ahirrao Jitendra (2012)**, in his essay on "A Brief Scanning of MGNREGA" discussed progress made under the MGNREGS programme during 2006-07 to 2011-12 at all India level. The study reveals that women got 40 per cent of total person days of employment generated through MGNREGS in study area. The Schedule Caste families have been provided with 30 per cent and the Scheduled Tribe families with 20 per cent person days of work. During the year 2009-10 the performance of the scheme in demand and supply was recorded 99.37 per cent achievement.


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42 Roy Aruna and Dey Nikhil “Much More than a Survival Scheme”, *The Hindu*, 31-8-2012

MGNREGA. He stated that MGNREGA Act is the most effective attempt for employment generation and right to work to the rural poor’s. This Act as passed in 2005, he opined, has brought almost a revolution among rural poors. Pointing out about the various loopholes in the provisions and poor implementation of the Act he stated that like other employment generative schemes it too has fallen prey to wrong identification of the beneficiaries, wastage of public money by way of corruption and ignorance among the poor.

Klaus Deininger, Yanyan Liu, (2013)\textsuperscript{45} opined in “Welfare and Poverty Impacts of India’s National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: Evidence from Andhra Pradesh”, that the program is well-targeted in Andhra Pradesh and had impacts higher than the amount of the program’s direct cash transfers. While short-term effects are higher in terms of participants’ nutritional intake and in the medium-term, there is increased accumulation of non-financial assets such as land. Both short and medium-term benefits seem to accrue more to participants in the scheduled castes and tribes, as well as to those who would otherwise rely on casual labor.

Praduman Kumara and P.K. Joshi (2013)\textsuperscript{46} have revealed in “Household Consumption Pattern and nutritional security among poor rural households: Impact of MGNREGA”; that MGNREGA has benefitted 22.5 per cent of the rural households by providing, on an average, wage employment for about 43 days. It has increased the income of rural households and has been successful in reducing the poverty level by 4 per cent. The MGNREGA has provided almost equal employment benefits to all the categories of farm sizes, household-types and income-groups. The study has shown that the raise in income could lead to increase in food consumption. These developments have resulted into a


\textsuperscript{45} Klaus Deininger, Yanyan Liu “Welfare and Poverty Impacts of India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: Evidence from Andhra Pradesh” IFPRI Discussion Paper 01289; 2013

\textsuperscript{46} Praduman Kumar and P.K.Joshi; “Household Consumption Pattern and nutritional security among poor rural households: Impact of MGNREGA”; Agricultural Economics Research Association, Vol. 26(No.1); ISSN 0971-3441;2013 pg 73-82
substantial increase in calorie-intake as well as protein-intake by different categories of households, leading to a decrease in the undernourished and nutrition-deficit households by 8-9 per cent. In nutshell, the impact of MGNREGA has been positive and effective in increasing household food consumption, changing dietary pattern and providing nutritional food security to the poor rural households of India.

**Gowhar Bashir Ahangar (2014)**

in his study entitled, “Women Empowerment Through MGNREGA: A Case Study of Block Shahabad of District Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir”; observed that payment of wages through bank helps the workers to increase their deposits in the bank which helps the bank in financial inclusion process. It is wages for men and women helps to reduce the gender inequality to some extent. The old people and widows are the benefited group of this job. They get more respect from their family and society. Overall, it takes women empowerment a great extent compared to earlier schemes and programmes introduced by the Central and State government of India.

**Umdor Sumarbin (2014)**

on “Social Audits of MGNREGA in Meghalaya, India”; studies the social audit reports of the 55 Village Employment Council (VEC) of Meghalaya, and stated that in the majority of cases social audits seem to have been conducted just to satisfy with the norms. Entries made in the format were perfunctory and there is no evidence to suggest of a proper scrutiny of records pertaining to the scheme. However, social audit reports of some of the VECs do give some information on the irregularities and malpractices in the implementation of the scheme. Prominent among these are the non-functioning of the local vigilance and monitoring committee, irregularities in job card and trees and allotment of work and non-availability of display of work related information in the worksite.

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48 Umdor Sumarbin; “Social Audits of MGNREGA in Meghalaya, India”; Int. Res. J.Social Sci; Vol 3(4), April 2014; ISSN-2319-3565; Pg 12-16.
Gnana Soundhari P and Promod Kumar OB (2015)\textsuperscript{49} in their Research article “Rural Manpower Utilization in MGNREGS in Dundigul District of Tamilnadu”, reveals that less number of households had opened bank account. In summer season like February, March, April and May are the ones which are very horrible for the people of Dindigul district. In these days people under the study are facing worst situation like high-temperature, shortage of water, food problem, shelter problem etc. Inadequate arrangements are there, so to escape from all these problems they think of migrate to cities in search of employment. It is required to allocate more funds for MGNREGA work in this district to prevent migration and to provide better livelihood to the workers.

Sefiya (2015)\textsuperscript{50} in her research project titled “satisfaction with Work-Life Balance of MGNREGP Women Workers in Kerala”; reveals that the women workers have got respect from family, their participation in villages developmental activities are also increased. The study evaluates the health and sanitation factors. It shows the empowerment of women workers through the scheme. The study opines that NREGA is increasing the employment opportunities, increasing educational status of children and money spent for health care for their children and family members.

Suman Pamecha & Indu Sharma (2015)\textsuperscript{51} revealed in the study “Socio-Economic Impact of MGNREGA- A Study Undertaken among Beneficiaries of 20 Villages of Dungarpur District of Rajasthan”, that the increase in income has profound impact on the expenditure pattern. Now people are spending money on mobile sets, TV sets, motorcycle and electricity connection. But the other side of the picture revealed that 83% households don’t have gas connection and 90% of the sample households have no toilet facilities. During the survey it was also noticed that there is a short duration and

\textsuperscript{49} Gnana Soundhari P, Promod Kumar OB; “Rural Manpower Utilization in MGNREGS in Dundigul District of Tamilnadu”; Int. J. Econ Manag Sci 2015; vol-4, Issue 7; ISSN-2162-6359;

\textsuperscript{50} Sefiya K.M; “Satisfaction With Work-Life Balance of MGNREGP Women Workers in Kerala”; 2\textsuperscript{nd} Sept.2015. Minor research Projet Submitted to university grant commission Bangalore

\textsuperscript{51} Suman Pamecha & Indu Sharma; “Socio-Economic Impact of MGNREGA- A Study Undertaken among Beneficiaries of 20 Villages of Dungarpur District of Rajasthan”; international Journal of Scientific and Research Publication; Vol 5, Issue I, Jan 2015, ISSN 2250-3153
temporary migration among MGNREGA families. The researchers observed that the wages received by a female worker at migrated place was not different from the minimum MGNREGA wage.

Sheela & Anil Kumar (2015)\textsuperscript{52} in their research paper “Socio Economic Impact of MGNREGA: Evidences from District of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand, India”, revealed that there was religious neutrality in the participants. Caste category wise distribution showed that backward ethnic group participated in greater proportion than the general caste people. Farming and agricultural labour work formed the main occupation for around 73% of the total beneficiaries, while these were subsidiary occupation for 19% people. It was noticed that all the beneficiaries had taken MGNREGA as subsidiary occupation only. Social-economic index showed that MGNREGA altered the social economic setup of rural masses towards betterment.

Pall Anuradh (2015)\textsuperscript{53} conducted a research on “Women Empowerment Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – A Study in Vizayanagaram District”, in all the three mandals of Vizianagaram district. The respondents revealed that the scheme is symbol of inverted, ‘Real empowerment’. They grieve that there should be an increase in man days. As per the real observation and personal interaction with the women free seekers women are confident, competent and capable of earning ‘wage’ equally with men only with the help of MGNREGA. The study shows that the women of all three mandals of Vizianagaram district to are empowered and gained the capacity of decision-making in various aspects like health, children’s education and domestic issues.

The literature review carried out above reflects that though many researchers have done study on MGNREGA, most of those are confined to economic aspect only. The

\textsuperscript{52} Seela Kharkwal, Anil Kumar; “Socio Economic Impact of MGNREGA: Evidences from District of Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand,India”; Indian Journal of Economics and Development, Vol 3(12), December 2015.

\textsuperscript{53} Palla Anuradh; “Women Empowerment Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – A Study in Vizayanagaram District” Shivshakti; International Journal of Multidisciplinary and Academic Research(SSIJMAR); Vol 4, No.2, April 2015, ISSN 2278-5973.
participation levels of women in MGNREGS are analyzed by few scholars. Further, some studies also indicated sharp fall in rural-urban migration due to MGNREGS employment. Few researchers also revealed the positive impact of assets developed under MGNREGS. Few people have emphasized on implementation aspects of MGNREGA. These studies are not comprehensive. It is also observed that not much research work has done in Chhindwara district. The present study is discussed both socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on rural community of Chhindwara District.

2.2 Profile of Study Area:
Chhindwara district was formed on 1st November 1956. Chhindwara is located on the Southwest region of ‘Satpura Range of Mountains’. The town Chhindwara evolved from a village named Chhind which acquired this name due to the abundance of chhind trees (palm tree) in the area. The town is said to have been founded by Shri Ratan Raghuvanshi of Ayodhya. Chhindwara was formed as the annexation of the Nagpur state in 1854 and at first belonged to the Nagpur division. The Commissioner system was abolished in old Madhya Bharath on 1st November 1948. Chhindwara district became a part of Jabalpur division after the creation of new Madhya Pradesh on 1st November 1956. The district occupies 1st rank in the state in terms of area having 11,815 sq.kms., which is 3.8 percent of the total area of state.

Pic 2.1: Districts of Madhya Pradesh

2.2.1 Administrative Setup:

The district headquarter is situated at Chhindwara. The district comprises of 11 tahsils, viz, Amarwara, Harrai, Chaurai, Jamai, Parasia, Umreth, Chhindwara, Mohkhed, Sausar, Bichhua and Pandhurna. There are total 1965 villages out of which 1906 are inhabited and 59 are uninhabited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAHSILS NAME</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>INHABITED</th>
<th>UNINHABITED</th>
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<td>210</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Chaurai</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamai</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasia</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umreth</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhindwara</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohkhed</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sausar</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bichhua</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandhurna</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Total</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Madhya Pradesh, District Census Handbook, Census of India 2011

As per census 2011 there are 24 towns, 8 municipalities, 7 nagar panchayats and 803 gram panchayats in this district. There are 11 Janpad panchayats (Development Blocks), viz., Chhindwara, Mohkhed, Tamia, Parasia, Jamai, Amarwara, Harrai, Chourai, Sausar, Bichhua, and Pandhurna.
2.2.2 Demography of Chhindwara District:

According to the Census of 2011, the population of Chhindwara District is 20,90,306. Out of which 10,63,302 and 10,27,004 were the male and female respectively. Chhindwara District’s population constituted around 2.88 percent of total population of Madhya Pradesh. The population density of Chhindwara district is 177 people per sq. km. There was change of 13.07 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001.
2.2.3 Culture of Chhindwara District:

Chhindwara District has majority of tribal population. The tribal communities include Gond, Pardhan, Bharia, Korku etc. Many languages are speak in the district like: Hindi, Marathi, Gondi, Urdu, Korku, Musai, Parvari etc. Majority of the tribes speak in Gondi and Hindi mixed with Marathi. Pola, Bhujalia, Meghnath, Akhadi, Harijyoti etc. popular cultural festivals are celebrated in the district. 'Gotmar Mela' of Pandhurna is unique and world renowned fair. On Maha Shivratri day, 'Mahadev Mela' is celebrated each year on "Choudagadh".

2.2.4 Economy of Chhindwara District:

Economy of the district is mainly dependent on agriculture and the district is famous for extensive forests and mineral wealth (Pench-Kanhan coalfields). Secondly it is based industries. Some of the prominent industries are The Raymond Chhindwara plant, Bhansali Engineering Polymers, Spices Park, Suryawanshi Spinning Mills, Hindustan Unilever Limited etc.
2.2.5 Rural and urban region:

According to 2011 census, Approx 24.16 percent population of Chhindwara district live in urban regions of district. Out of total 5,05,183 urban people, males are 2,58,269 and females are 2,46,914. As per 2011 census data, Sex Ratio in urban region of Chhindwara district is 956. Similarly child sex ratio was 950 in 2011 census.

![Graph 2.1: Rural and Urban Area](source: www.census2011.co.in

As per 2011 census, 75.84 % population of Chhindwara districts lives in rural areas of villages. 15,85,739 population living in rural areas, of which males and females are 806,199 and 7,79,540 respectively. In rural areas of Chhindwara district, sex ratio is 967 females per 1000 males. As per census data 2011 Literacy rate in rural areas of Chhindwara district is 66.36 %.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (%)</td>
<td>75.84 %</td>
<td>24.16 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>15,85,739</td>
<td>5,05,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population</td>
<td>8,06,199</td>
<td>2,58,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td>7,79,540</td>
<td>2,46,914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.census2011.co.in
2.2.6 Performance of MGNREGA in Chhindwara District:

MGNREGA was implemented in the second phase in Chhindwara District. The physical and financial performance of MGNREGA in Chhindwara district has been presented in the following table:

Table 2.4: An overview of the performance of MGNREGA in Chhindwara District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No. of Blocks</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of GPs</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I Job Card</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of JobCards issued [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Workers [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Job Cards [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Active Workers [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i)SC worker against active Workers [%]</td>
<td>18.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii)ST worker against active Workers [%]</td>
<td>51.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II Progress</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved Labour Budget [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>67.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persondays Generated so far [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>50.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Persondays % as of total persondays</td>
<td>27.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Persondays % as of total persondays</td>
<td>42.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Persondays out of total (%)</td>
<td>43.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average days of employment provided per Household</td>
<td>37.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Wage rate per day per person (Rs.)</td>
<td>122.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment</td>
<td>7,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households Worked [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Worked [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differently abled Persons Worked</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Works Takenup (New+Spill Over) [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Ongoing Works [In Lakhs]</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Completed Works</td>
<td>17,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Expenditure on Agriculture &amp; Agriculture Allied Works</td>
<td>67.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Financial Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Exp (Rs. in Lakhs.)</td>
<td>10,081.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)</td>
<td>6,514.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material and skilled Wages (Rs. In Lakhs)</td>
<td>3,566.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material(%)</td>
<td>35.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Adm Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs.)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Exp (%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability (Wages) (Rs. in Lakhs.)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost Per Day Per Person (Rs.)</td>
<td>190.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Expenditure through EFMS</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.nrega.nic.in
Table 2.5 reveals that 1.35 lakhs households were provided employment in year 2012-13, generating 50.47 lakhs mandays. It is also evident that there is an increase in employment provided to households to highest of 72.82 lakhs in year 2012-13 and 61.54 lakhs in year 2015-16. As for as the ST and women beneficaries are concerned the percentage of persondays have been increased. Works taken & completed in the study area has been decreased but the % of Expenditure on Agriculture & Agriculture Allied works has been increased.

From the secondary data regarding physical & financial performance of MGNREGA at district it can be inferred that the performance of the programme has remained satisfactory. Attempt has also been made to have an overview of whether MGNREGA has actually helped the rural poor to raise their socio-economic status.