

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

India is country of villages and even today around 70 per cent of its population is living in the villages of which 28.3 per cent live below the poverty line (World Bank, 2011). The rural character of the economy as stated by Mahatma Gandhi is found not in cities but in its villages. His human capital model of development seems to be the most appropriate for a labour surplus country like India. Upliftment of villages and hence rural development has therefore always remained and will continue to be the major area of achievements in all the discussions pertaining to economic growth of our country. “Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of specific group of people, the rural poor’s. It involves the extension of benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in rural areas, such as small farmers, tenants and landless” (World Bank, 1975). Immediately after independence, Government of India (GoI) gave considerable importance to rural reconstruction and formulated a number of strategies for rural development. The setting up of the planning commission in March 1950 was a significant step towards this direction. Planning commission prepared a blue print and paid special attention for the welfare of the rural people under abject poverty with the main aim of poverty alleviation, employment generation, and infrastructure development. To meet these objectives, Government of India launched various rural development programmes(Desai, 2012) viz Community Development Programme (CDP) (1952), Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) (1969-70), Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) Programme (1969-70), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (1976-77), wage employment programmes viz; Food For Work Programme (FWP) (1977), Training For Rural Youth For Self-Employment

(TRYSEM) (1979), Rural Employment Programme (1980), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (1989), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) (1999) & National Food For Work Programme (2004). All of these programmes (annexure A&B) however suffered from one or more deficiencies viz; (i) lack of awareness among local communities, (ii) little involvement of the local community, (iii) employment was provided on the basis of availability of funds & willingness of the implementers, (iv) absence of social monitoring and hence wastage of resources, (v) leakages and corruption, (vi) inability to provide minimum livelihood security as there was no guarantee, (vii) low allocation and utilisation of funds, (viii) less number of days of wage employment per family, (ix) lack of right planning, (x) creation of low quality assets, (xi) involvement of contractors and use of machinery, (xii) false muster rolls etc. Thus all these supply driven programmes failed to achieve the set objectives. To overcome the above problems and deficiencies of the earlier wage employment programmes, Government of India took a historic step by enacting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005 by merging Swaranjayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) & National Food For Work (NFFWP) for providing livelihood security to rural unemployed Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. Rural poverty and unemployment in India have grown in an unprecedented manner during the last few decades. There is a growing incidence of illiteracy, blind faith, hunger people, malnutrition, anaemia, farmer suicides, starvation deaths, migration resulting from inadequate employment, poverty, and the failure of subsistence production during droughts. In order to provide solution to these problems and to provide livelihood security to rural unemployed, Government of India (GOI) enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. It is the biggest poverty alleviation programme in the world which started with an initial outlay of Rs. 11,300 crore in year

2006-07 and now it is Rs. 40,000 crore (2010-11). This Act is now called as Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household who are willing to do unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. Thus it is a universal programme. This minimum wage varies from state to state, in some states it is Rs. 80 whereas in other it is Rs. 125 or Rs. 120. According to the Act the minimum wage cannot be less than Rs. 60. The 100 days of work figure was estimated because the agricultural season is only supposed to last roughly around 250 days and unskilled workers have no alternative source of income in the remaining time of the year. The provision made NREGA one of the best wage work programme for rural poor and with in the course of time, its reach was expanded to cover almost the entire country barring few 100 percent urban centres.in the initial year, MGNREGA was a true game changer, rural wages started climbing and reports also pointed towards a decline in migration to urban centres. A NCEAR study of 2015 showed that the Act helped in reducing poverty by almost 32 per cent between 2004-05 to 2011-12 and prevented almost 14 million people from falling into poverty. In 2017-18 budget 5 lakh ponds were taken up in MGNREGA ensuring 55 percent Women participation at the cost of 48000 crore outlay for MGNREGA job guarantee.

**1.2 History of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** since its beginning in year 2005 it is one of the biggest poverty reduction programme in the world. The act delivers a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual labour at the statutory minimum wage rate. The programme also aims at providing livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets. However, the main objective of MGNREGA is to augment wage employment with a secondary objective of strengthening, “natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic

poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion” & thereby encourages sustainable development (Ministry of Rural Development, 2010). In special case some of the works which are not included in the permissible work list, the state government by making use of Section 1(ix) of schedule 1 of MGNREGA act may add new categories of works on the basis of consultation between state and central government.

### 1.3 Journey of MGNREGA

Table 1.1: Time-Line of MGNREGA programme							
Aug.2005	Feb.2006	Apr 2007	Apr 2008	Oct 2008	16 Feb 2009	Oct 2009	Till the date
NREGA legalised	Came in to force 200 district	130 more district include	Universalisation of the scheme	Wage transaction through bank/post offices	MOU with the postal department.	Name change to MGNREGA	No change in nomenclature.
Source: <a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a>							

Since the legalisation of MGNREGA in the year 2005, the programme was implemented in 200 most backward districts of the country in February 2006. In the year 2007, 130 more districts were brought under MGNREGA and within a year the act got universalized by bringing the entire country under its horizon. The programme was renamed as MGNREGA in October 2009.

**1.4 Salient features of the Act** the salient features of the MGNREGA (MGNREGA SAMEEKSHA 2006-2012) include:

- i) **Registration:** People who are willing to do unskilled work under MGNREGA have to apply for the registration either in written form or orally to the Gram Panchayat (GP).
- ii) **Job Card:** After proper verification of the registered household, job card has to be issued.

- iii) **Application for work:** A written application for work is to be given to the Gram Panchayat or Block office which states the time & duration of work.
- iv) **Unemployment allowance:** If the work is not provided according to the scheduled time i, e. within 15 days, unemployment allowance needs to be paid to the beneficiary.
- v) **Provision of work:** The Act envisages that (i) work is to be provided within 5 kms radius of the village, (ii) extra wages of 10% has to be paid for meeting additional cost on transport etc.(iii) worksite facilities such as crèche, drinking water and shade need to be provided, particularly to women.
- vi) **Wages:** Wages are paid on weekly basis (not beyond a fortnight) mandatorily through the individual/joint bank/post office account. Besides there is a special provision for payment of equal wages to men and women. It is mandatory according to the guidelines of MGNREGA that at least 1/3rd of the beneficiary should be women.
- vii) **Planning:** The shelf of projects need to be prepared by the Gram Sabha. At least 50 percent of the works should be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have a major role in planning and implementation.
- viii) **Cost sharing:** The Government of India (GoI) bears the 100 per cent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost, including wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- ix) **Worksite management:** A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. Contractors & labour displacing machinery is strictly prohibited.
- x) **Transparency and accountability:** It is desirable according to the act that (a) all accounts and records are to be made available to any person who desires to have a copy of such records on demand after paying a specified fee, (b) social audit has to be

done and (c) grievances redressal mechanism have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process. MGNREGA has a five-tier structure of implementation starting from Gram Panchayat (GP) at the bottom to the Central Government at the top with such intermediary bodies viz, Block panchayat, District Panchayat and State Government. The MGNREGA marked a paradigm shift from previous wage employment programmes in the history of our country because

- (i) It employs integrated management approach for generation of livelihood in the rural areas &
- (ii) It has transparency & accountability mechanism towards all stake holders.

### **1.5 Need for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

The poverty alleviation is one of the most important objective of Indian economy. In order to achieve this objective it adopted and implemented various programmes like community Development programme (1952), IRDP (1980-81), Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA), Desert Area Development programme, Tribal Area Development Programme, Drought Prove Area Programme. The experience of the period from 1952-2006 highlights the fact that poverty in rural sector is basically a function of rural unemployment. Therefore, no scheme or programme of poverty alleviation can have longer-term effects unless it generates employment on regular basis. Moreover as approximately 64 per cent population of India live in rural area and majority of it is unemployed, large-scale employment generation is required. It is very disheartening to note that the various development programmes started during the various five-year plans, 26 per cent in rural areas still continue to be below poverty line.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) were merged into the scheme 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojana; (JRY) which aims at providing employment to at least to one member of each poor family for 50 to 100

days in a year. While emphasizing on efficiency probably the govt. has forgotten the task of generating employment at lowest level. It should be remembered, market can generate job for people who are skilled and not for the people belonging to lower status, a number of studies have shown that in the post reform era inequality in consumption and productions are is extremely large. Therefore, the state is expected to review to generate the employment for the poorest of poor, unskilled, uneducated and landless. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a welcome step combined with the right to information act to uplift the people from poverty.

### **1.6 Objectives of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:**

The main objective of the scheme is to improve the livelihood safety of the household in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to year whose adult member agree to do unskilled manual work. Its other objectives are as under.

- Strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing employment alternative is scare or inadequate.
- Growth engine for sustainable development of an agriculture economy. Through the process of providing employment on works that address cause of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. Effectively implemented, NREGA has the potential to transform the geography of poverty.
- Empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a right based law.
- Creation of durable assets in the village.
- Reduction of distressed migration from rural to urban and from one part of rural to another part of rural areas.

## 1.7 Performance of MGNREGA

### MGNREGA in India

It will be really helpful to give an account of the physical and financial achievements of this worldwide programme at national level from its inception i.e. from 2006-07 to 2015-16.

<b>Table 1.2: An overview of the performance of MGNREGA at National Level</b>										
	<b>FY 2006 -07</b>	<b>FY 2007- 08</b>	<b>FY 2008-09</b>	<b>FY 2009- 10</b>	<b>FY 2010- 11</b>	<b>FY 2011- 12</b>	<b>FY 2012- 13</b>	<b>FY 2013- 14</b>	<b>FY 2014- 15</b>	<b>FY 201 5-16</b>
No. of Household Provided Employment (in Crore)	2.1	3.4	4.5	5.3	5.5	5	4.98	4.79	4.13	4.81
Person days (in Crore) [ % of Total Person Days]										
Total	90.5	143.59	216.3	283.6	257.2	209.3	229.86	134.8	166.18	235.14
SCs	23 (25%)	39.4 (27%)	63.4 (29%)	86.5 (30%)	78.8 (31%)	46.2 (22%)	50.96 (22%)	31.53 (23%)	37.23 (22%)	52.45 (22%)
STs	33 (35%)	42 (29%)	55 (25%)	58.7 (21%)	53.6 (21%)	37.7 (18%)	40.75 (18%)	21.09 (16%)	28.19 (17%)	41.84 (18%)
Women	36 (40%)	61 (43%)	103.6 (48%)	136.4 (48%)	122.7 (48%)	101.1 (48%)	117.93 (51%)	73.33 (54%)	91.20 (55%)	129.94 (55%)
Average Person Days -Per employed Household	43 days	42 Days	48 Days	54 Days	47 Days	47 Days	46 Days	35 Days	40.17 Days	48 Days
Financial Details										
Budget Outlay (in Crore)	11300	12000	30000	39100	40100	40000	33000	33000	1335915	413737
Expenditure (in	8824	15857	27250	37905	39377	37303	39262	24848	3301348	4370487



Expenditure on Unskilled Wages (in Crore)	5842	10739	18200	25579	25686	24660	27128	17832	1824056	2702648
[% of Total Expenditure]	66%	68%	67%	67%	65%	66%	68%	67%	55%	62%
Works (In Lakh)										
Works taken up	8.4	17.9	27.8	46.2	51	73.6	106.51	111.6	245.17	61.11
Works Completed	3.9	8.2	12.1	22.6	25.9	14.3	26.60	11.17	234.67	34.23
Source <a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a>										

A look at table 1.2 reveals that 2.1 crore households were provided employment in the year 2006-07 which increased to 5.5 crore in the year 2010-11 but there onwards declined to 5 crore and 4.98 crores in the year 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. Further it increased from 4.13 crore to 4.81 crore in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16. Concerning man-days average 54 man-days were generated in year 2009-10. The table also depicts that during the reference period extending from 2006-07 to 2015-16, 100 days of work was even made available to beneficiaries. Regarding women households, national figure shows that a good share of 40% was generated by them in year 2006-07 which increased to as high as 55% in year 2015-16. The table also displays that the share of SCs varied from a low of 22% during 2011-12 to highest of 31% in the year 2010-11 and in case of STs it varied from low of 16% during 2013-14 to high of 35% during 2006-07.

Concerning financial performance of the programme at the national level, it is clear from table that expenditure had increased from Rs. 8824 crore in the year 2006-07 to Rs. 39262 crore in the year 2012-13 and 4370487 crore in the year 2015-16 which shows an increase of almost 77.52%. It is also evident from the table that as the man-days increased so the expenditure too increased from Rs. 5842 crore to Rs. 2702648 crore in the year 2015-16.

Regarding works taken up and completed at the national level, 8.4 lakh works were taken up at the initial year of start of MGNREGA i.e 2006-07 and only 3.9 lakh works were completed during that financial year. Also the number of works increased from 8.4 lakh in the year 2006-07 to as high as 245.17 lakh in the year 2014-15 and also that 25.9 lakh works were completed in the year 2010-11 against only 3.9 lakh in the year 2006-07.

### **1.8 MGNREGA in Jammu and Kashmir**

At state level, initially in its first phase NREGA was not extended to the whole of Jammu & Kashmir but only in three districts, viz. Poonch, Doda and Kupwara which were brought within the ambit of this scheme. In order to implement the programme, the state legislature adopted a resolution for accepting the extension of the provisions and benefits of guaranteed wage employment under the central act to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. When the programme under the central act was extended to whole of the state in 2008, State Government by way of issuing a government order constituted a State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC) under section 12 & section 32(1) of NREGA for the purposes of monitoring and reviewing the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act at the state level. Thereafter, the state government issued an order wherein the state scheme was renamed and called as Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (JKREGS) to implement the provisions of the central act (MGNREGA). The scheme JKREGS is interchangeably also called as MGNREGA after 2009. The following table show the performance of MGNREGA in jammu&Kashmir

**Table 1.3: Performance of MGNREGA in Jammu & Kashmir**

	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
No. of Households Provided employment (in 000)	1.06	1.43	1.99	3.57	4.59	6.71	6.56	7.11	3.32	6.5
Person Days (in Lakhs) [% of Total Person Days]										
Total	32.88	55.37	79.24	131.81	203.00	384.48	365.26	337.83	121.90	316.31
SCs	1.75	5.58	6.65	10.54	14.459	36.52	21.20	20.24	5.68	18.44
STs	7.67	11.70	22.51	33.97	49.50	90.55	56.19	53.75	24.37	53.25
Women	0.0764	1.66	4.33	8.24	14.67	42.219	72.48	78.26	30.6	79.97
Average Person-days-per employed household	31 Days	38 Days	40 Days	37 Days	43 Days	57 Days	57 Days	51 Days	36 Days	48 Days
Financial Details										
Budget Outlay (in Lakhs)	5012.4	8994.66	14617.83	20828.49	42482.79	98041.62	54921.59	47181.21	41901.06	76901.81
Expenditure (in Lakhs)	3454.44	4686.66	8772.02	18531.34	37776.7	38884.94	36895.05	33878.09	39390	76918.93
Expenditure on unskilled wages(in Lakhs)	2242.15	2952.35	12732.27	12005.72	23727.4	20036.7	43118.95	32332.27	5986.83	20288.58
[% of total expenditure]	69	52	60	89	89	40	67	71	94	100
Works										
Works taken up	4525	8188	12626	30239	55902	91460	148000	187000	317959	78278
Works completed	2358	4259	7092	18892	36290	63633	57691	34226	307364	50662
Source: <a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a>										

Performance of MGNREGA in J&K as given in table 1.3 clearly depicts that 1.06 lakh households were provided employment in year 2006-07 which increased to highest of 7.11 lakh in year 2013-14. The table further shows that the total person days has also increased from 32.88 lakh man-days in year 2006-07 to the highest of 384.48 lakh man-days in year 2011-12. It was also observed in respect of man-days, share of SCs ranged from lowest of 1.75 lakh in year 2006-07 to highest of 36.52 in 2011-12 while as share of STs ranged from lowest of 7.67 lakh man-days in year 2006-07 to as high as of 90.55 lakh in 2011-12. It is also evidently clear that the participation of women was 0.0764 lakh man-days in year 2006-07 which increased to the tune of 79.97 in year 2015-16. Concerning average number of days of employment the table further reflects that these ranged from 31 days in year 2006-07 to the highest of 57 days in year 2011-12 and that in none of the year 100 days of employment could be generated.

So far as the financial performance of the programme is concerned, the table shows an increase of expenditure from Rs. 3454.44 lakh in year 2006-07 to Rs. 76918.93 lakh in year 2015-16. It is obvious from the table that expenditure on unskilled wages increased from low of Rs. 2242.15 lakh to highest Rs. 43118.95 lakh in the year 2012-13.

In case of works taken up and completed table reveals that highest number of 317959 works were taken up in the year 2014-15 against the lowest of only 4525 works and that works completed in the year 2006-07 were only 2358 against the highest of 307364 in the year 2014-15.

### **1.9 Profile of the study area**

The present study has been conducted in Rajouri District of Jammu & Kashmir state which is located in hilly terrain (snow bound areas) having an area of 2630 sq. Km. between 70°-0° to 74°-40° east longitude and 32°-58° to 33°-35° north latitude. Rajouri

District is situated on the foothills of Peer Panjal range and has 9 Community Development blocks that are shown in below (table 1.4). Its population is comprised of SC (8.25%), ST (35.25%) besides others (56.50%). Around 45% of its population is rural & lives below poverty line and their main occupation is agriculture and allied activities. The labourers of district Rajouri are skilled in forest & timber extraction etc. but due to denudation of forest and ban on falling of forest trees, rural people now have less work opportunities. Implementation of MGNREGA in the financial year 2008-09 in the district however gave a sigh of relief to the rural population.

The block / category wise population and number of panchayats as per census 2011 are as under.

<b>Table 1.4: Profile of District Rajouri</b>								
<b>Sr. no</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>No. of villages</b>	<b>No. of Panchayats</b>	<b>Population as per Census 2011</b>			<b>No of Families</b>	<b>BPL Families</b>
				<b>SC</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>Others</b>		
1	Rajouri	54	33	5601	45634	45524	19600	3920
2	Budhal	59	58	2021	73023	54858	25047	14782
3	Darhal	12	23	-----	12912	23315	76612	540
4	Thanamandi	32	35	-----	28947	33336	12673	4107
5	Manjakote	33	31	328	16457	32676	10006	2658
6	Kalakote	68	31	8722	31550	32395	16243	4635
7	Nowshera	40	36	23629	14584	40795	17040	4634
8	Sundarbani	43	24	5434	4862	46989	13125	2208
9	Doongi	33	18	406	1723	4380	1289	2038
10	Total	385	289	48,157 (7.50%)	232,815 (36.24%)	361443 (56.26%)	129,289	39722 (30.7%)
Source: Block development office, Rajouri								

## 1.10 MGNREGA in District Rajouri

### Performance of MGNREGA

<b>Table 1.5.: An overview of the performance of MGNREGA in District Rajouri</b>								
	<b>FY 2008- 09</b>	<b>FY 2009- 10</b>	<b>FY 2010- 11</b>	<b>FY 2011- 12</b>	<b>FY 2012- 13</b>	<b>FY 2013- 14</b>	<b>FY 2014- 15</b>	<b>FY 2015- 16</b>
No. of Households Provided employment (in 000)	13910	24721	18942	6304	61159	42428	27588	54735
<b>Person Days (in Lakhs) [% of Total Person Days]</b>								
Total	5.86	8.54	6.65	20.19	30.080	20.05	9.12	26.72
SCs	0.17	0.60	0.388	1.40	1.940	0.71	0.13	0.70
STs	2.73	4.19	2.83	8.72	12.910	5.70	3.2	9.57
Women	0.02	0.34	0.00	0.14	0.252	2.40	1.9	5.84
Average Person-days-per employed household	42	35	35	32	49	47	48	48
<b>Financial Detail</b>								
Budget Outlay (in Lakhs)	615.43	1494.27	3805.87	7095.80	6400.79	4094.47	16601	26402
Expenditure (in Lakhs)	573.82	1247.14	2629.34	4595.73	6330.16	3969.77	1895	4468
Expenditure on unskilled wages(in Lakhs)	375.97	814.26	1741.64	2935.91	3161.96	1808.9	1584	2831
[% of total expenditure]	93	83	69	65	99	97	83	63
<b>Works</b>								
Works taken up	2208	4152	5440	8148	11605	10361	2035	27008
Works completed	1250	2500	3550	6353	8818	6295	1040	6061
Source: <a href="http://www.nrega.nic.in">www.nrega.nic.in</a>								

Physical and financial performance of MGNREGA as given in table 1.5 depicts that during financial year 2008-09, 13910 households got employment generated 5.86 lakh person days. In the first year of implementation of the programme in the district, every household was provided on an average of 42 days of employment. The table also shows that the number of

households who got employment increase from 13910 in year 2008-09 to 63604 in year 2011-12. However it again registered decline further during year 2012-13 (61159) , 2013-14 (42428) and 2015-16 (54735). It is further evident from the table that in District Rajouri the average days of employment increased from 42 days during 2008-09 to highest of 49 days in year 2012-13. Concerning the share of SCs, STs and women in the person days generated out of MGNREGA, 0.17 lakh mandays were generated by SCs in year 2008-09 which increased to 1.940 lakh in year 2012-13 but further decline to 0.70 lakh man-days in year 2015-16. Regarding STs share in person days, it is clearly seen from table that from 2.73 lakh mandays in year 2008-09 had increased to 12.910 lakh man-days in year 2012-13 while in year 2013-14 there was a decline (5.70 lakh mandays) and further increase to 9.57 lakh man-days in year 2015-16. In case of women beneficiaries, 0.02 lakh mandays generated in year 2008-09 increased to highest of 5.84 lakh mandays in year 2015-16.

As far as the financial performance of the programme is concerned indicated by the table there was an expenditure of Rs. 573.82 lakh in the year 2008-09 which increased to highest of Rs. 6330.16 lakh in year 2012-13 however it decreased to Rs. 3969 .77 lakh in year 2013-14 to 1895.01 in year 2014-15 and its increase further to 4468.17 in 2015-16. The table also shows that expenditure on unskilled wages was recorded to be highest as Rs. 3161.96 lakh in year 2012-13 compared to only Rs. 375.97 lakh in 2008-09.

As far as the number of works is concerned, 2208 works were taken up in the year 2008-09 and also that 1250 works were completed during that financial year. And the highest number of 27008 works were taken up in the year 2015-16 and the work completed in the year 2015-16 were only 6061.

### **1.11 Justification of the Study**

Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir state is located in the foothills of Peer-Panjal range of Himalayas. The district has an area of 2630 sq. meter with a total population of 6, 19,266 lakhs as per 2011 census, and out of these male population is 3,32,424 and female population is 2,86,842. Out of the total population, 1, 33,843 population is below poverty line in district. In Rajouri district Thannamandi block is largely a rural inherited block which is deprived of the basic facilities that should be provided to them it is affected by several problem like communications, literacy,awareness about various Govt. scheme. Most of the Govt. welfare programme have failed to get implemented properly and this is due to the negligence of Govt. and corrupted people. It is on account of these reasons that the present study is entitled “Impact Assessment of MGNREGA on rural development of District Rajouri (J&K State)-A Case Study”.

### **1.12 Objectives**

The following are the main objectives of the study

1. To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the rural development in study area.
2. To study the role of MGNREGA in employment creation in study area

### **1.13 Organisation of the study**

- Chapter 1-Introduction
- Chapter 2-Review of Literature
- Chapter 3-Research Methodology
- Chapter 4-Impact Assessment of MGNREGA on Rural Development
- Chapter 5-Role of MGNREGA in Employment Creation
- Chapter6- Major Findings, Suggestion and Limitation