The present study was conducted purposively in Aurangabad, Nanded, Beed and Jalna district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2017-2018. From this four district eight tahsils were selected purposively. From each selected taluka two villages were selected purposively for the study. Fifteen (15) beneficiaries of MGNREGA were selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus comprising total 240 beneficiaries were selected from Marathwada region for research study.

Economic motivation, source of information, economic motivation, social participation and extension contact were the important variables in absence of which, independent variables are not able to influence the overall impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries.

**Key words:** Path analysis, impact of MGNREGA

**Introduction**

Poverty and unemployment are the twin problem faced by the developing countries. According to the planning commission of India nearly 29.8% population is Below Poverty Line (BPL). Policy makers in India have realized the need for generating employment opportunities on large scale to bring the teeming millions of population above poverty line (APL). While the labour force in India is increasing in numbers at every year. Majority of population (72.22 per cent) live in rural areas and many of them suffer owing to seasonal unemployment, under employment and disguised unemployment. *(Source: Planning Commission).* In India, GDP and Unemployment rates are going hand in hand, causing fret for any democratic society. Unemployment and poverty are strongly related and hinder the economic growth and development of the country.

In India, these two problems are severe in rural areas, leaving it outside the growth path. Thus, Government of India aiming at balanced growth and to overcome above mentioned weaknesses of past employment programmes, passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 25 August 2005 in order to empower the rural labourers with right to get employment of 100 days per year per household during off-season. In accordance, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been launched in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February, 2006, with effect from 1st April 2006 in 200 drought prone and backward districts in India. This was extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008. The NREGA coverage has been expanded from 330 districts to 619 districts of India beginning April, 2008. In Maharashtra the NREGA was implemented during the 2006 in 12 districts (Dhule, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Hingoli, Nanded, Amravati, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Bhandara, Gondhiya and Chhindrapur) of Maharashtra state. Thus NREGA covered that entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population. This programme has been formulated by merging early formulated programmes such as Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) of 2001 and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) of 2004. Again the Government of India on 2nd October, 2009 renamed its flagship rural job guarantee programme- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

**Materials and Methods**

The present study was conducted purposively in Aurangabad, Nanded, Beed and Jalna district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2017-2018. Selected district eight tahsils were selected purposively. From each selected taluka two villages were selected purposively for the study. Fifteen (15) beneficiaries of MGNREGA were selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus comprising total 240 beneficiaries were selected from Marathwada region for research study. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, multiple regressions, Z test and path analysis were used for the analysis of data.

**Objective**

Estimating Path analysis showing the effects of profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries with overall impact of MGNREGA.

**Research finding**

Path analysis showing the effects of profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries with overall impact of MGNREGA

The coefficient of correlation of the data presented earlier illustrated relationship between independent and dependent variables in presence of all other variables, which are normally operative in real life situation. The relationship exhibited by correlation study may undergo change in different situations, where some of the independent variables may not exist in the environment or they may be concealed. In order to know the influence of independent variables both directly, as well as, through other variables, the correlation coefficient values indicated earlier were attempted for path analysis.

**Table 1: Path analysis showing the effects of profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries with overall impact of MGNREGA**
It was observed from Table 1 that, among the profile of MGNREGA beneficiaries the highest positive total effect on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries was exerted by family type (0.3290), followed by economic motivation (0.3141), annual income (0.3131), social participation (0.3087), extension contact (0.3061), source of information (0.3027), occupation (0.2832), education (0.2801), family size (0.2779), land holding (0.2680) and age (0.2044) whereas category (0.2006) exerting low positive total effect on overall impact of MGNREGA scheme on its beneficiaries. It means that total of the direct effect and indirect effect exerted by all independent variables on overall impact of MGNREGA.

### 2. Direct effect
It was noticed from Table 1 that, the highest direct positive influence on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries was exerted by education (0.1336), followed by family type (0.1314), annual income (0.1175) occupation (0.1016) and land holding (0.0940). A considerable direct positive effect was also exerted by social participation (0.0937), source of information (0.0880), economic motivation (0.0748), family type (0.0708), age (0.0537), category (0.0528) and extension contact (0.0517) on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries. It means that association of one independent variables i.e. education with other independent variables of the indirect paths specified in the model.

### 3. Total indirect effect
It was observed from Table 1 that, the highest positive total indirect effect on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries was exerted by extension contact (0.2544), economic motivation (0.2393), social participation (0.2150), followed by sources of information (0.2147), family size (0.2071), family type (0.1976) followed by annual income (0.1956). Other variables exercising total indirect positive effect on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries were in the following order: occupation (0.1816), land holding (0.1740), age (0.1507), category (0.1478) and education (0.1465). Total indirect effect means association of one independent variable i.e. social participation with other mediated through other variable in the model. It computed as the product of paths linking variables.

### 4. Substantial indirect effect
As regards the substantial indirect effects Table 1 shows that, the first substantial indirect effect on socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries were exerted by sources of information (0.0432) through extension contact, extension contact (0.0410) through economic motivation, education (0.0364) through extension contact, social participation (0.0308) through family type, occupation (0.0307) through extension contact, family type (0.0306) through social participation, economic motivation (0.0301) through extension contact. The other first substantial indirect effect was exerted by family size (0.0247) through annual income, land holding (0.0245) through family type, annual income (0.0208) through family size, age (0.0128) through land holding and category (0.0126) through family type socio-economic impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries.

### Conclusion
Economic motivation, source of information, economic motivation, social participation and extension contact were the important variables in absence of which, independent variables are not able to influence the overall impact of MGNREGA on its beneficiaries.

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Fig. 1. Path analysis showing the effects of profile of the MGNREGA beneficiaries on their overall impact of MGNREGA