

Research Papers



**Rehabilitation of people –A Case Study of Radhanagari 1 Taluka,
Kolhapur District(Maharashtra)**

Dr. Gatade D. G.

Dept. of Geography,
A.S.C.College Ramanandnagar,
Tal.Palus, Dist. Sangli 308(Maharashtra)
Affiliated to Shivaji University ,Kolhapur.

Shri. Padalkar V. V.

Dept. of History, N.D. Patil Mahavidyalaya ,
Malkapur, Tal.PMalkapur,
Dist. Kolhapur (Maharashtra)
Affiliated to Shivaji University ,Kolhapur

Abstract

The dams play an important role in the development of the country so the construction of the dams is inevitable. The rehabilitation of affected people has also become the most important issue across the world. In the present research paper an attempt has been made to through highlight on rehabilitation of people by selecting a case study of Radhanagari taluka, Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state. The study is entirely based on primary as well as secondary data. It is very essential that the rehabilitation of affected people should be given prime importance & issue can be tracked with top priority.

Introduction

The dams play an important role in the development of the country so the construction of the dams is inevitable. The rehabilitation of affected people has also become the most important issue across the world.

The Govt. of Maharashtra state got sanctioned projects of dam construction on Godavari & Krishna basins considering the water Disbursement. , Radhanagari taluka is known as one of the important talukas in Kolhapur District. This taluka is very rich in natural wealth especially enormous water wealth with four major rivers. Doodhganga, Bhogawati, Tulsi & Dhamni. Four major dams were constructed across these four rivers. Due to this irrigated area was increased in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state & Chikkodi Taluka in Belgaon district of Karnataka state.

The People who were displaced due to dam construction struggled for long time for

rehabilitation against our government. Radhanagari & Tulsi dams were built before rehabilitation act that is why the issue of the people's rehabilitation became serious. The dam affected people's working committee struggled for rehabilitation since 1970 though the rehabilitation law implemented but dam affected people had not received 100% compensation.

Study Region

The Radhanagari is one of the talukas of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state. It is located in the vicinity of Sahayadri in the western part of Kolhapur district. It lies between 16°15' and 16°35' north latitude and 73°55' and 74°5' east longitude. Average altitude of Radhanagari taluka is 600 metres above the Mean sea Level. It is bounded on the north by the Panhala and Karveer talukas, on the west by the Sindhurg District and Gaganbawada Taluka and on the south by Bhudargad taluka and on the east by Kagal Taluka. Administratively the Radhanagari taluka

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has 122 villages. It covers an area of 344.59 Sq.miles. According to 2001 Census it has a population of 1,88,107.

Objective

In this research paper an attempt has been made on historical perspective of the movement of dam affected people in Radhanagari tehsil (Kolhapur district) to focus light on the contribution of leaders in movement of dam affected people.

Significance of Study

In post independence period various political parties and renowned social workers have been started the movement of rehabilitation for the dam affected people of Radhanagari Tehsil. Dam affected people have been facing several problems. It includes confrontation of proper land owner, Judicial trials, essential Commodities practices of agents and corruption. The people who were displaced due to the dam construction have been struggling for long time for rehabilitation.

Research Methodology

The present research paper is entirely based on primary and secondary data. Questionnaire was prepared. With the help of questionnaire and schedules primary data was collected. Secondary data was collected through government reports.

Discussion :

Radhanagari Taluka in Kolhapur state was known as Karveer-Peetha in pre-independence Era. Kolhapur state was merged into sovereign state of India in 1947 and then Radhanagari emerged as a Taluka Place.

The region is very rich in natural wealth viz minerals and natural resources and enormous water wealth of four major rivers. Four major dams were constructed on these four rivers. After construction of these four dams irrigated area was increased in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra State and Chikkodi taluka in Belgaon district of Karnataka state. Hydroelectric Projects are also constructed on these dams.

After independence Govt of India had undertaken the projects on the lines of Kolhapur to extend the catchment area of the dams. The dams paved the progress of society. Due to the frequently occurring famines: scanty rainfall and the increasing scarcity of electricity the idea of constructing dams took a momentum in post independence period.

The Govt of Maharashtra state got sanctioned projects of dam constructions on Godavari and Krishna basins considering the

water disbursement. Due to these projects, many villages, thousands of people, forests, wild animals, birds were uprooted. Now a day the problem of the uprooted people has become very serious in India. The construction of Radhanagari dam on Bhogavati River was started in 1908 and dam was completed in 1954. 27 Thousands hectares of land has been brought under irrigation and 2 crore units of electricity per year is generated. Seven villages were disturbed due to the construction of this dam. Some affected people were rehabilitation by Rajarshri Chh. Shahu Maharaj of then Kolhapur State. But the rehabilitation was not properly planned and executed aiming at development.

On 8th March 1909, Rajarshri Chh. Shahu appointed Ambajirao Mohite as a special duty Mamdar for rehabilitation programme of 7 villages which were suffered due to the construction of dam and the submergence of lands in 1910 Rajarshi Shahu took the decision to give the lands to rehabilitated people at Keloshi, Vaki Ghol, Mhasurli, Tarale, Chandre, Titve etc.

In 1911 the Musalmanwadi from fejiwade village was totally submerged in tank. Shahu Maharaj done postmortem of the 25 houses in this village and gave compensation of Rs. 2359 Aanas to people whose houses were submerged in period of shahu. He gave them compensation immediately but dam displaced people in 7 villages did not understand the seriousness of the problem and were busy in (cultivating) tilting the lands in the forest as per Forest Act. Government captured their land, people protested against it and raised a movement for the sake of the demand to capture land. People fought for a long period. After 50 years i.e. 1995, this movement got succeed.

In post independence period Govt. of India has built a dam at Kalamawadi with the assistance of Maharashtra state & Karnataka state. This project has 28 tmc capacity and irrigated 73340 hectares of land in Maharashtra and 19869 hectares of land at Chikkodi in Karnataka. The catchment area of this project has affected 8000 people in 13 surrounding villages. The affected people have raised movements from time to time for their rehabilitation

Tulsi dam project has 3 tmc capacity and has brought 6000 hectares of land under irrigation; six surrounding villages have been affected due to this project.

This project has been planned to bring four villages in Kolhapur district under irrigation. 7000

hectres of land would be irrigated. But 2000 people in the area would be affected. The people likely to be affected have raised a movement with a stand that firstly proper rehabilitation and then the construction of the dam.

The four projects in Radhanagari district have affected thousands of people living in 40 villages of catchment area. The rehabilitation is not properly done in view of their development. Those who are rehabilitated are given arable (infertile) land. Even the promise regarding providing the land to the affected was not executed fully.

The affected people, especially the aged people, have devoted their whole life to the villages as well as to their lands and they have very strong affinity with their lands. So their minds are not ready to give away their lands. Even their traditional occupations are affected. The affected people were rehabilitated scatterly. It has adversely affected their life-style culture & also traditional festivals. The local people & farmers in the villages where rehabilitation has taken place do not accept the outsider easily; on the contrary they are put into troubles.

In year 1965 Govt. of Maharashtra started a separate portfolio for the rehabilitation of the dam-affected people. It is learnt that the rehabilitation of the affected people is not done properly. Some malpractices stepped in; all the rules of rehabilitation were not properly executed. Many fake names were included in the list of affected people.

Rehabilitation act of 1978 is not given justice to the people. Hence large number of dam affected people objected to this rehabilitation act. According to this act, Large difference was in the land captured from dam affected people and land given to Dam affected people. The land of dam affected people was captured according to Government rate and the land given to dam affected people in irrigated area according to Market price.

In the Radhanagari Conference dam affected people have made an agreement under the leadership of Samajwadi party in 22 April 1973. Bapusaheb Patil was organiser of this conference. The agreement of developed rehabilitation was passed in this Conference. The land which is tilled by dam affected people. These lands are noted on 7/12 extracts on the Govt. Revenue Records of these people and civil facilities like light, Roads, Water, Schools, Hospitals and other emergency services etc. must be completed, otherwise their

rehabilitation could not be done to other places.

The Rehabilitation of dam affected people was done documentry. Because Confrontation of proper land owners at this place was stopped the rehabilitation from Court. So dam affected people made movement strongly against land owners.

The Rehabilitation of people was not done in single society and the people of other villages not accepted to dam affected people. So they demanded to start the milk societies, Co-operative societies to provide Civil Facilities. The dam affected people of Maharashtra came together and they started movement against Govt. of Maharashtra. Hence Rehabilitation act was prepared by Government. but the implementation of these act are not done properly and shifted people did not get Justice. For this deficiency in act, indifference of Government corruption in Administration, network of broker and opposition of main land leaders in catchment area whose land is given to shifted people etc. things are responsible. So dam affected people started movement.

The flood affected people have raised the movements, conferences etc. for this purpose. So the government has renewed the rehabilitation act of 1986 on 10 Feb, 2000. and it was decided by the new act that every affected person will get 600/- rupees. But this law was useful only for those who become flood affected after 1999.

Rai, Kandalgaon, Chowke, Manbet, Shetewadi, Tamkarwadi etc. Submerged in Damani Project. due to this project two hundred fifty families were displaced. Rehabilitation act in 1986 was applicable to those dam affected people. 'First Rehabilitation and then dam construction' this was the first demand of dam affected people. In this way then oppose the construction of dam. So Govt. of Maharashtra prepared and declared compensation to the affected people. Before the displacement of dam affected people alternative land shown to this people and then people self own Property in Registered Agreement. But rehabilitation act, in actual conditions not implemented. Hence dam affected people done movement from 2000 to 2010. Govt. of Maharashtra seriously trying to give the full compensation but till this date 100% rehabilitation of dam affected people is not done properly.

Conclusion

It is no doubt that a dam play an important role in the development of the country. So the

construction of the dams is inevitable. However, the rehabilitation of affected people is also the most important issue. Recently this issue has become more serious in the country. It is very essential that the rehabilitation of affected people should be given prime importance & issue can be tracked with top priority. Various facilities and reservations should be given to the affected people. It has resulted in to the return of people in the project area inspite of the danger.

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