

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF UJANI IRRIGATION PROJECT ON
BENEFICIARIES: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SOUTH SOLPUR
TALUKA**

Mr. M.S.Dhokte,
Asst. Prof. in Sociology,
Sangameshwar College, Solapur

Introduction:

Agriculture in India has a long history, dating back to ten thousand years. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry and logging accounted for 16.6% of the GDP in 2007, employed 52% of the total workforce and despite a steady decline of its share in the GDP, is still the largest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic development of India. In India more than 70% of the total population living in rural areas. It is imperative to develop the villages. Agriculture activity is not only a means of earning livelihood but way of life in the Indian context. In India, agricultural sector is predominant. So obviously agricultural planning will be a core of the overall planning. The basic production unit is the individual's farm. Hence the level of efficiency and productivity in agriculture to a great extent determine the efficiency of Indian economy. Thus indirectly rural development depends on the agricultural development of the nation. For the development of agriculture availability of water in sufficient quantity is a precondition. Rural development and prosperity through irrigation has been the dominant theme in Indian planning five year plan.

Objectives of the study

1. To study how irrigation holds the key for agricultural development and consequently rural development.
2. To study impact of irrigation under command area canal system

Limitation of the Study

For this study one year reference period (2010-11) was considered.

Study Region

Ujani dam was dedicated to the nation in 1981. This dam irrigates more than 200 villages through flow canal irrigation. Eight talukas of Solapur District get the

benefit of Ujani dam. Out of which only one taluka South Solapur elected for this study. In south Solapur taluka only six villages i.e. Gunjegaon, Kandalgaon, Mandrup, Akole mandrup, Gavdewadi and Yelegaon get benefited from Ujani left bank canal. From six villages one hundred farmer beneficiaries are selected by random sampling method proportionate to beneficiaries of respective villages.

Data collection method:

Primary Data collection : For primary data collection interview schedule was used.

Secondary data collection : Secondary data collection form Ujani office, Gram Panchayat , Govt. reports, Previous reports and **district socio-economic survey etc.**

Sample villages and sample size section two

Sr. No.	Village	Frequency	Valid Percent
1	Akolemandrup	5	5.0
2	Mandrup	12	12.0
3	yelegaon	18	18.0
4	Kandalgaon	25	25.0
5	Gavdewadi	11	11.0
6	Gunjegaon	29	29.0
Total		100	100.0

Six villages from South Solapur taluka was selected for the study. According to Ujani office.1000 farmers of six villages get befitted from Ujani dam out off which 100 farmers are selected by random sampling method for this study. At the time of sampling care should be taken that all elements of the society will be considered.

Findings:

1. Traditional cropping pattern is change in to cash crops due to irrigation facility.
2. Annual income of the farmer household is increased after irrigation.
3. Expenditure of the farmer household is increased.
4. Infrastructure facilities are developed due to irrigation facility increased in selected villages.
5. Healthy interpersonal relationship occurred in the villagers.
6. Literacy level is increased after irrigation.

7. For the development of farmers and villagers there are Co-operative society give the loan to farmer household to develop their farm and farm output to uplift their economic condition.

8. There are a women association and women self help groups to empower the women.

9. There are youth associations in the selected villages to develop youth, they organize various programme for development of youth.

10. There are primary school and private middle school.

11 Due to irrigation Jawar, Hybrid Jawar, Bajara this crops is change into cash crops i.e. sugarcane, Wheat, Banana, Onion etc.

Problems (Issues)-

1. South Solapur Taluka is at the tail end of unani left bank canal so Farmers not getting sufficient quantity of water.
2. Rotation of ujani canal water rotation is not in proper time as need of the crop.
3. Distributaries of canal is not maintained so tail end farmers not getting sufficient quantity of water.
4. 52% of water user former not paying water bill within time period. Some farmer has outstanding bills from last 3 to 4 years.

Remedies:

1. Irrigation department should proper maintenance canal and maintain Sufficient flow of water to get sufficient water to selected villages.
2. Irrigation department should maintain proper rotation of Ujani canal water as per need of crop to get maximum yield of crops.
3. Distributaries at village level should be properly maintained by irrigation department to get sufficient quantity water to farmers.
4. Farmer should pay water bill at proper time. They pay outstanding bills so Irrigation department should not stop the irrigation.
5. Irrigation department should establish water user society and handover to the farmers. Due to this farmers get sufficient quantity of water and society has authority to collect water bills and pay to irrigation department. Maintainance of the distributaries and minors should be done by water user society.

References-

1. D. Vasudeva Rao, 1987, Rural development through irrigation, Ashish Publishing house, New Delhi.
2. Patil B.P., 1973, Irrigation problems in rural economy.
3. Jha Divankar, 1967 Evaluation of benefits of Irrigation, Orient Logman Mumbai.
4. Nadkarni, M.V. , 1979, Irrigation development in Karnataka.
5. District Statistical Report , 2004
6. Uajani Ropya Mahostva souvenir , 2005
7. Maharashtra development report, 2007