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## THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF DAM AFFECTED PEOPLE IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT MAHARASHTRA (INDIA): A CASE STUDY

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### Abstract:

*The dams play an important role in the development of the country. Therefore the construction of the dams is inevitable. These constructions of dams have entailed some social economical problems. The rehabilitation of the people affected by these constructions has become a major problem across the globe. Economic condition of dam affected peoples is very danger. They faced various kinds of problems; It includes confrontation of proper land owner, judicial trails, essential commodities practices of agents and corruption. They also faced the problems of increasing cost of the products; they solved problems is very important.*

### KEY WORDS:

Economic Condition , social economical .

### INTRODUCTION

The dams play an important role in the development of the country. Therefore the construction of the dams is inevitable. These constructions of dams have entailed some social problems. The rehabilitation of the people affected by these constructions has become a major problem across the globe. The Government of Maharashtra state sanctioned projects of dam construction on Godavari and Krishna basins in 1931 considering the water disbursement. Kolhapur district is known as one of the important districts in Maharashtra state. The district is very rich in natural resources especially enormous water resource. It has four rivers namely Doodhganga, Bhogawati, Tulsi and Dhamni on which four major dams were constructed. Due to these four dams the irrigated area has increased in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state and Chikkodi Tahsil in Belgaon district of Karnataka state.

### OBJECTIVE :

In this research paper an attempt has been made to highlight the historical perspective of Kolhapur district from the view of economic condition of dam affected people.

### METHODOLOGY:

The historical and survey method has been used for the study. To understand the nature of the problem, the questionnaire method was used for the study. The present study is entirely based on primary and secondary data and empirical knowledge. The information and data is collected by visiting the villages in dam affected region and the fieldwork.

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## THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF DAM AFFECTED PEOPLE IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT.....

### SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY :

Economic condition of dam affected peoples is very danger .They faced various kinds of problems; It includes confrontation of proper land owner, judicial trails, essential commodities practices of agents and corruption. They also faced the problems of increasing cost of the products; it clears the situation after comparative study of economical condition of dam affected people after rehabilitation and before shifting

### DISSCUSSION:

50 years passed since Radhanagari dam was built on Bhogavati River. But the dam affected villages which are shifted were not properly rehabilitated by the government. So these families shifted in western part of Radhanagari Tahsil and established their colonies according to their convenience. There was no rehabilitation act in 1950s and 60s. In western hilly and remote area, the shifted people established their colonies in new Karanje, Rautwadi, Fejiwade, Shelap, Shelapbamber, Hasanebamber, Satichamal, Hasane Harijanwada, Kariwade, Ranewadi. These colonies are established on infertile land in jungle, governmental lands, and lands given to the temple authorities. So the official registration of the possession this land by the dam affected people is not found in government record.<sup>1</sup>

The fertile lands of these people are submerged in water and lands on which they take crops now by one year method are infertile. Production from this land is very less and to earn their living other sources are not available here. Hence the condition of these people is very bad. Some of the dam affected people have migrated to Ichalkaranji and Mumbai for better job opportunities. They have been working in private companies on meager salaries. Government declared many facilities for dam affected people. But the benefits of these facilities did not reach these dam affected people.<sup>2</sup>

Employment and livelihood facilities are not available for these people. So there is discontent among these people about politicians. In western part of Radhanagari people died due to lack of food (draughts) in 1952, 1965 and 1972.<sup>3</sup> Along with these educational and civic amenities are not developed.

Today, these dam affected people are facing problems of expanded sanctuary. All villages are included in expanded sanctuary and these dam affected people are again displaced, so the proper rehabilitation is main demand of these people. Many movements were carried out. Western Region Organization is also doing its efforts to resolve these problems. But the Rehabilitation proposal is stopped due to some technical difficulties. Officers related to the problem also sent the Report about rehabilitation of these villages toward State Government. Political leaders did not give proper attention towards this. So the Rehabilitation of these dam affected people remained only on documentary this has resulted the worsening of economical conditions of 900 families shifted due to this dam.<sup>4</sup>

In the year 2012, the same dam affected people are being again affected by expansion of Dajipur sanctuary. They are once again going to be displaced. The state government has asked these people to migrate from the expanded area of the sanctuary and this time they have to rehabilitate themselves. The state government will not give houses and lands to them. Instead they will give them the amount of 10 lacks which is not at all sufficient considering the market prices of the houses and land.<sup>5</sup>

The four projects in Radhanagaritahsil have affected the forest area and environment. Due to the construction of the dams some part of the forest gets submerged under water and large number of plants is cut while constructing building, houses and roads. So this badly affects the ecosystem of the forest. Due to dam 3000 families were displaced and their traditional occupations, life and relation developed with jungle ecosystem were affected. Considering the importance of the tahsil these forests must be protected.

These farmers were hard working and experimental. They developed their farms in order to get more production. They were average in height and strongly built. Their diet was rice and roti and they lived a simple life. They had average 5 hectares of land. Of these 2 hectares was fertile. They took production of rice sugarcane from fertile soil and ragi, groundnut, vari from infertile one.<sup>6</sup>

For farming they used bullocks and buffalos mainly. They were dependent on Animal husbandry. Hence agriculture is done in traditional method. Pavner Bet method is famous in this place. Dairy farming was secondary occupation. The people who had no land, they sold bundle of woods, Ranmeva (Sweet fruits found in forests) and medicinal plants from jungles. Other businesses were not available here. Hence this area was deprived of development. The farmers would send their sugarcane to Bhogawati and Doodhgangavedganga Cooperative Sugar factory being the members of this factory.<sup>7</sup> however the number of the shareholders is comparatively less

The railway facility was not available in tahsil in 1980s. There was only a state-highway. Nipani-Phonda. The basic infrastructure is not developed in this region. Some area of the dam affected people falls

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under Dajipur Sanctuary. Some villages had no roads at all and people had to walk. As a result the transportation facilities were scanty. Though some small villages were deprived of civic amenities like water, electricity and school their needs were limited and they were satisfied with their situation.<sup>8</sup>

Tulsi and Kalamawadi projects are before the act of Rehabilitation. But the act in 1978 and 1986 is implemented for both these dams. According to this act the rehabilitation process of dam affected people is started after 10 years. The 100% Rehabilitation of dam affected people was not completed even after 30 years. Shifted people from 12 villages due to kalamawadi dam were resettled in six tahsil in the form of 29 colonies. Housing plots were given first and then after average of 10 years lands were given to dam affected people. The deficiency in Rehabilitation act of 1978 was removed by government with the amended act in 1986. According to this act, the distribution of land in catchment area of dam for dam affected eligible land owners.

If the number of members of his family does not exceed five 370 square meters. If the number of members of his family exceeds five An additional area of 185 square meters for every three additional members subject to the ceiling of 740 square meters in the aggregate. If the number of members of his family does not exceed five. 185 square meters If the number of members of his family exceed five. An additional area of 92.5 square meters for every three additional members subject to the ceiling of 370 square meters in the aggregate.<sup>10</sup>

If 2 acre land is acquired then 2 acre land will be given ,if greater than 2 and less than 5 acre land is acquired then 3acre land will be given and if more than 5 acre land is acquired then 4 acre land will be given to dam affected land owners.

Provided that, if the number of the members in the family of the affected person exceeds five , additional area of 40 Ares for every three additional members may be granted subject to the ceiling of 2 hectares and 80 Ares ( 7 acre ) provided further that , in the case of grant of dry (jirayat) land from sources other than the benefited zone if shall not be less than one hectare and 60 Ares provided also that in any case the total extent of the holding of the affected person after such grant shall not exceed the economic holding provided by the rules made under the code for the disposal of Government Land.<sup>11</sup>

According to act of 1978 members in family are considered while distribution of land, if members are more than 8, one acre land will be given extra for extra 3 members. By considering land acquired and members in the family, maximum 7 acre land is given to one land owner. And land is given to dam affected people only when they fill the 75% amount.<sup>12</sup> However the government made an improvement in the distribution of the land. If members of a family are more than five, an extra acre of land for three members will be given to the family. While acquiring the land from the land owners, the land owners are given 4(1) notice and then the number of members of the family is fixed and the same number of family members is taken into consideration then onwards. The land will be given according to this ratio. But the limit of 7 acre to one land owner is same as in previous case. While acquiring lands of dam affected people members in families were considered. Above order was implemented from 4-10-1980. One acre land is given to landless and bleeder dam affected people, after completion of distribution of land according to rules of land owners of that villages.<sup>13</sup>

The land is given to dam affected people only when they deposit 65% amount from the land acquired for dam. The dam affected people were from hilly areas. The rates of lands submerged in dam are varyingly less than the lands given to them in benefited (irrigated) areas. Therefore they had to take loan from banks to buy a land in irrigated areas. But before they take possession of the alternative land given to them, main land owner would bring stay from the court. Due to this their economical condition collapsed. Some dam affected people faced the problem of court while some faced problems like trespassing, bullying and sometimes even they were beaten. Due to this dam affected people depressed mentally, socially and economically. Duplicate dam affected people obtained lands and jobs from political and revenue officers. Hence it's an injustice on real dam affected people.co-operation of agents is needed while obtaining all rights of rehabilitation.<sup>14</sup>they along with their families still struggle with government for developing Rehabilitation. So they took decision to start intense movement. 100% rehabilitation of dam affected people in Radhanagari, Tulshi, Dhamini and Kalamawadi dam was not done. Some problems of these people are the same. The Government acquired the land of dam affected people quickly but the alternative land would be given to these people after 15 to 20 years

These lands are infertile, salty and non-irrigated. Water facility is not available in the lands of some people. So due to this, their economical condition collapsed. For farming in the field dam affected people required the economic provision. Cooperative Societies for farmers were established in villages by government to provide economic provision for farming. However the Cooperative Societies in villages where rehabilitation of dam affected people was done refused the membership to these people. So these people took loan from Private money lenders and Credit Societies. Some dam affected people sold their lands to earn their living. Rehabilitation of these people done in different villages so there number is less in

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each village.<sup>15</sup>

Hence they live with lack of 100% civic amenities like grampanchayetdoodhsanstha, Sava society etc. It is very difficult for them to start new milk societies due to inadequate member of people so there main demand is to lose quorum rule about the establishment of Grampanchayet Cooperative and milk societies. Secondary business of dam affected people was dairy farming and animal husbandry. But due to the movement they could not pay due attention to their cattle. Unfortunately, sometimes inevitably they had to sell them. They faced many problems in education of their children, and their marriages during this period they have only a way to sell their lands. It cleared after comparative study of Economical Condition of dam affected people in Kalamawadi project after and before shifting.<sup>16</sup>

They also made a demand to keep 5% reserved seats for dam affected people in government services. But majority of dam affected people were illiterate and not qualified. Therefore they could not be benefited by this provision. Some of the dam affected people were qualified but due to stay on Recruitment of government services they could not get services. There are very few dam affected people who were truly benefited from this policies.<sup>17</sup>

1435 dam affected people applied for dam affected certificate. But 1330 families could obtain this certificate. It means 6.32% families were deprived of the benefit of dam affected certificate. Among these families only 29% families got benefited of this certificate in service.

According to GR on 28th May 1980 state government gave 5% reserved seats in class -III and class- IV posts for dam affected people in government services, Semi government, government sponsored corporations, ZillaParishad, municipality services and Gram Panchayats. 13500 dam affected people are from Kolhapur district affected by 52 Projects till the year 2012. Of these 6500 affected people received project affected certificate for jobs in 2012-13. Government sanctioned Rs. 9 Crores for development of various civic amenities for dam affected people. Upper Collector and District Rehabilitation Officer visited colonies of dam affected people<sup>18</sup>

it makes clear that in 2008 99% dam affected people from Kalamawadi dam got lands. But 1% people do not have lands even after 30 ye From above chart it makes clear that 12 villages from Kalamwadi were resettled in 6 tahsils in the form of 29 colonies. The dam affected people shifted at different places and they were separated from their relatives. Due to this their social and cultural life completely changed.

The dam affected people shifted at advantageous sector for rehabilitation but they could not get the irrigation facilities to their farm from the dams like Koyana, Ujani, Warna, Tulshi and Kalamawadi. The dam affected people were deprived of the developed rehabilitation. The dam affected people demanded the water allowance for them. It was the tendency of the Government to pay only Rs.600 to the dam affected people in the form of water allowance until the land of these people was irrigated.<sup>19</sup> this proposal was rejected by the dam affected people

It was the demand of Dam affected people that they should get the water for their land from the government under the irrigation scheme and also they should get difference amount that they could have earned through the cultivation of arable(Jirayati) and well irrigated horticultural(Bagayati)land until they were given irrigation facility. It was the demand of dam affected people to pay monthly Rs, 3000/- as survival and water allowance to each family of dam affected people, but the government declared on 10th Feb 2000 to pay monthly Rs 600/- to each family of dam affected people. This resolution was implemented from 1st Nov 1999 to the projects which were ongoing but this resolution was not applicable to projects which were finished and where the distribution of the land was complete by this resolution. It shows that the government had taken the precaution about the potential opposition from the people in the future.<sup>20</sup> it was beneficial to only dam affected people of Dhamani project of Radhanagari tahsil. This resolution was the fruitful output of the movement of dam affected people.

After Independence big movement for constructing dam was carried out in South Maharashtra .Considering this government of Maharashtra sanctioned the 36 T.M.C. lift irrigation project. However this project was opposed and Government sanctioned 18 T.M.C. lift irrigation project but this project was also opposed. Finally Govt. of Maharashtra sanctioned 28 T.M.C. Irrigation project with canal. Therefore it was third time acquisition of land of the people took place. As a result of this, the same land of dam affected people was acquired for three times in three different years

According to the act of rehabilitation of dam affected people though they were accepted to be rehabilitated upwardly, they did not get rehabilitated .This made the dam affected people fight for their legitimate rights. Responding to this movement the Government of Maharashtra implemented long awaited rehabilitation process. Even then, the 100% rehabilitation was not carried out. Moreover some bogus dam affected people acquired the lands of real dam affected people with the help of some officers and agents. Organization for dam affected people revealed this matter to the officers of rehabilitation and waged movement against this. Hence the Govt. of Maharashtra appointed an enquiry committee headed by

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Assistant Collector of Radhanagari. The committee made an enquiry; the committee did not inquire the land acquisition made for three times. In contrast it made an enquiry and reported that the dam affected people have surplus land according to its GR- 6/9/2012. This led the Govt. of Maharashtra to send notices informing the dam affected people that their surplus land noted by the committees has been cancelled from their documents 7/12 statement.<sup>21</sup>

This resolution created discontent among dam affected people. The people started uniting and continued their struggle against this injustice. At the same time these people went to court against this decision. The honorable court gave decision against government and asked the government to return their lands. However the government took benefit of one of the provisions made by the honorable court in their verdict and acquired the surplus land of the dam affected people. Therefore, again dam affected people stood against this decision of the government. According to order given by high court in repetition no-8417-2003, the government declared the name list and area which is captured by native people. It includes the names of native land owners along with some affected people. 4.77.8 And 15.76.4 hectare area is from land acquired for resettlement of dam affected people in Doodhganga project and Tulsi project respectively. The total captured area is 20.54 hectare Government gives instruction to give the captured lands to affected people and do their settlement. But before the implementation of the decision the native land owners brought stay against this decision, from upper commissioner Pune.<sup>22</sup>

During rehabilitation (land is given to some dam affected people) 182 hectares extra land is distributed to the 100 dam affected people from Kalamwadi project. After discussion with organizations of dam affected people, it clears that dam affected people made economical dealings with officers through agents. They got extra land about 20 to 25 acres. Some agents bought an account on the names of some dam affected people and hundred acre land given to their relatives. So the 159 families shifted due to Kalamwadi project deprived of the rehabilitation. Hence dam affected people started movement for rehabilitation of people and enquiry of land taken by agents on the names of dam affected people. People shifted from Kalamwadi dam were rehabilitated in Gudmudshingi village. But the native land owners captured the land given to the dam affected people. Against this dam affected people started movement. 29 dam affected colonies gave their support and started movement in front of collector office. After that collector took the decision of report matter of land captured by native land owners.<sup>23</sup>

#### CONCLUSION :

It is no doubt that a dam plays 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 and issue can be tackled with top priority. Various facilities and reservations should be given to the affected people.

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