



CHAPTER V

**DIFFICULTIES OF SAMPLE
FARMERS**

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PROBLEMS OF SAMPLE FARMERS

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PROBLEMS OF SAMPLE FARMERS

5.1 Introduction:

The rural farmers have to face many difficulties in the use of electricity. These problems are delay in electric connection, high electric deposit amounts, high electric bills, primary capital investment for introduction of electric pumps, purchase of electric pumps and its transport from the sales office to the actual farm, repair of electric instruments, irregular electric supply, corruption, wireman charges, inadequate supply of water in the dugwell, low power supply of electricity, electric short circuit accidents, wealth loss, increase in supply of electricity demand, damage of electric pumps due to over loading of electric supply are some other problems. Payment of electric charges at longer distance also creates problem for the farmers.

5.2 Difficulties of sample farmers

Some of the difficulties faced by the sample farmers are listed in the following table.

Table no. 5.1:

Difficulties faced by sample farmers in using electricity

Sr. No.	Items of difficulties	No. of farmers (No.)	% of total farmers
1	Delay in electricity connection and permission	8	20
2	High primary capital investment	7	17.5
3	Irregular electric supply	23	57.5
4	Frequent faults in the electric instruments	8	20
5	Inadequate water supply in the dugwells	38	95
6	Power thefts and thefts of electric pumps	3	7.5
7	Low power supply	24	60

Note : The percentage of total farmers (total farmers 40)

The above table No. 5.1 shows that out of 40 sample farmers, 20% of the farmers faced the problem of delay in getting connection. Almost same no of farmers faced the difficulties of frequent faults in motor. The primary capital investment is also. About 17 % of the farmers have reported this problem. Some of the farmers also have difficulties regarding the primary

investment. Some times low power supply of electricity creates problem in the irrigation as the power supply is low the electric pump could not run and ultimately that affects the irrigation. Irregular power supply is also a main problem that farmers have to face. Almost 57.5% farmers faces such type of difficulties. As the Khatav tahsil lies in the dry region the adequate availability of water is very important. Almost 95% farmers face the non-availability of water in the well.

The electric pumps can be run on the well but the main requirement for that is adequate availability of water in the well. If the water level decreases the use of electricity ultimately affects the agriculture production.

5.3 Dangers of electricity use in agriculture

The following table shows the dangers of use of electricity in agriculture.

Table No. 5.2: Dangers of the use of electricity in agriculture.

Sr. No.	Items	No. of farmers	Total % of farmers
1	Accident and wealth loss	13	32.5
2	Increase in dependence of electricity supply	33	82.5
3	Natural calamities	12	30
4	Damage of electric pumps	22	55

Note: Percentage of total farmers (40)

From the above table it can be seen that the large number of farmers has to depend on the increase in electricity supply. As now a days electricity is one of the main agent of the irrigation and it is cheaper than any other sources of irrigation except cannel. as the irrigated area increases, the demand for electricity increases and for this, large number of farmers have to depend on electricity. Almost 82.5 % farmers depend on the supply of electricity. If the supply decreases, the irrigation facility decreases and the agriculture production also decreases which may lead to natural crises like drought. The second demerit of electricity is the damage of the electricity pumps.

It can be concluded that an increase in production of agriculture is directly depends on the increase in the supply of electricity. The problem may occur when the electricity supply stops or irregular other means of supply of irrigation facilities can't be used as all irrigation depends on the electric pumps. One can't use the other facilities for the irrigation because these facilities are not available at right time. Another demerit is the fatal accidents, short circuits, due to which farmers have to loose their life and wealth. From the above demerits it can be concluded that the use of electricity in the agriculture is one of the expensive way since there is no another source for irrigation at present to replace the use of electricity with the cheap cost than

the electricity. In future these risks must be taken into consideration for the use of electricity in the agriculture.

5.4 Difficulties of the rural consumers:

A committee was constituted by the government of India under the chairmanship of Deputy Minister, Ministry of Power and Irrigation, to look into such difficulties and has since submitted its report to the government [1].

(1) In the matter of power supply, there should be a system of priorities based on the date of application and this should be strictly adhered to by the electricity boards. Complaints of delay should be promptly attended to . In many areas, most people do not know the procedure for applying for the electricity. It is desirable that the information in this respect is given through leaflets in the local language. We have separately recommended the formation of farmers service societies as a registered body under the Co-operative Act to speed up the need of the rural people in the matter of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, etc. A number of these societies have already been formed in some of the States. we recommended that it should be the responsibility of this society or the panchayat to look into the complaints and grievances of the people of its area in the matter of power supply and bring them to the notice of the concerned authorities for readressel.

(2) The suppliers of equipment to the farmers sell whatever is available with them without a technical study of the real needs of the farmers. We recommend that the State Agro-industries Corporations should be changed with the responsibility for the supply of quality equipment at reasonable prices and for advising the farmers on the correct ones to use and their proper handling.

(3) Maintenance of motors and pumpsets is a problem for the farmer in the rural areas. In case of trouble, he has to take the equipment miles away for getting it repaired. There is not only waste of time but also some loss in crop production for want of irrigation water during the prolonged period the equipment remains out of order. The Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation had formulated a proposal for setting up of 5,000 agro-service centres for providing various services and supplies for rural areas depending on the local needs. Active steps should be taken to implement the scheme. The agro-service centres should have the services of licensed electrical wiremen/ electrician for attending to such repair work.

(4) In many areas, the voltage of power is very low which results in burning out of electric motors. The farmer whose electric motor gets burnt has to depend on unscrupulous middle man who extract large amount of money from

him to get his motor rewind and put back into service. The agro-service centers should help the farmer in getting the motors rewind at reasonable rates. Also, the electricity board should take action to carry out the necessary improvements in the system so as to maintain proper village conditions.

(5) Defective meters and improper meter reading by the staff naturally results into wrong billing. If the bill is not paid, the supply is disconnected before the farmer can get redress by way of revision of the bill. Such contingencies specially when the crops needs watering, result in a great loss to the agricultural consumer. We recommend that pending investigation an interim payment of the bases of average of the previous two months should be accepted. There should be a time limit for such investigation after which the contention should be treated as valid. It is learnt that in Haryana, there is an enactment were by a consumer is debarred from challenging the wrong bill before the higher authorities and from going to the court for redressal of his grievances unless he has made full payment of the wrong bill we feel that the consumer should be given the opportunity of getting his grievance readdressed before being made to pay the bill in full. Fictitious readings of meters which is generally the cause of wrong billing should be considered as a serious offense and the person found responsible for it should be punished.

(6) There should be a fixed day / dates for each area / village for taking meter readings so that the farmer may arrange to be present at the time. The practice of providing the duplicate meter card at the consumer's premises which has been given up in some areas, should be reintroduced. In order to enable the consumers to make the payment of bills without having to go to the electricity office, the system of sending the bill collectors to a specified place in the villages on specified day.

(7) There is considerable pilferage of the electrical equipment such as transformer, conductors and even motors from tubewells and distribution system. Apart from the loss of these, the resulting interruption in electric supply or working of the pumps causes great hardship and loss to the power users. The state electricity boards should expect the cooperation of the people in checking these offenses and may offer suitable rewards for catching the culprits. The state electricity board may appoint special rapid moving squad apprehending pilfering gangs.

(8) For getting an electric connection, the consumer is required to sign an agreement with the electricity board on a stamp paper. Though the cost of the stamp paper may not be large, the consumer in the rural areas has to spend a lot of time in securing the paper. It should be examined whether the agreement with the electricity board

(9) Consumers are required to give a guarantee of minimum consumption. If that quantity is not utilized during the period, a specified amount is charged.

According to S. R. Patil, 'as compared with the of rate of other sector (such as industry, commercial etc.) the agricultural electricity rate is very less. Yet due to certain difficulties, farmers are unable to pay electric bills. Government should give concession in electric bill as they can't afford to pay their bill out of his agricultural income due to uncertain factors such as heavy rainfall, drought, crop disease etc.. This problem may be solved by taking the overdue of the industrial electric bills and stopping the theft of electricity [2].

5.5 CONCLUSION

The above discussion shows that the farmers are facing many difficulties in getting the electric connections as well as in using the connection. Some problems are unavoidable while many problems are man-made. It is possible to remove the man-made problems for which the education of employees is essential. At the same time it is also possible to change the farmers attitude towards the use of electricity by avoiding misuse of energy.

Reference :

1. Report of the National Commission on Agriculture. India Govt. Part-V.
Resource development in electricity in rural development. 1972.
2. Shri S. R. Patil, Director, Land Development Bank, Kolhapur and farmers leader.