

CHAPTER NO. : 5

THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF EGS

5.1 INTRODUCTION :

In this chapter, the various types of the problems faced by the EGS beneficiaries in the blocks and the taluka in implementation of the EGS and suggestion made by the taluka officials and beneficiaries for improving its working have been discussed.

5.2 PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS :

The Employment Guarantee Scheme introduced by government of Maharashtra for the first time, which gives the guarantee of employment to the unskilled rural poor through wages, is the scheme of poverty alleviation. The scheme does possess some problems and defects and limitations. While making the sample survey of Pandharpur taluka in Solapur district. We came across such problems and difficulties.

The problems of malpractices and corruptions have only one track to move under EGS. Here we find three major possibilities of malpractices and corruption. These are,

- 1) False muster roll,
- 2) Wrong measurements of the work,
- 3) Paying fewer wages than actual dues of the workers

5.3 PROBLEMS OF EGS :

The Problems of the EGS in Pandharpur taluka are divided in to five parts as follows.

5.3.1 PROBLEMS OF BENEFICIARIES :

- 1) The workers could not shift their residence frequently.
- 2) On large works like percolation tank, the workers get the advantages of shade for residence, arrangement for their children, first-aid box etc. but

workers working on small works did not get such facilities.

- 3) Worker's earnings from land are so small that they are neglecting land. Still they are not prepared to get rid of their land. So workers were not ready to shift themselves on EGS works.
- 4) It was pointed out that; the first-aid box was not available at EGS works at all time.
- 5) The workers did not get the work throughout the year continuously. They are getting EGS work only up to 3 to 4 months during the summer.
- 6) The workers were not paid any additional wages if they worked over-time.
- 7) The flow of the food grain is low and the food grain is of low quality.
- 8) The wage is very low.
- 9) The worker is not properly treated on the works by the officers.
- 10) Due to EGS the life of the workers has not been developed.
- 11) On works if any calamity occurs the worker do not get compensation.
- 12) The workers do not get instruments on the work and the worker does not get rent for using instruments.
- 13) The workers do not get paid leave.

5.3.2 PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION :

The EGS is a scheme which provides wage employment to the poor and brings them above poverty line. The wage rate may be at subsistence level which increases in general. It also increases the employment level in general.

- 1) The District collector and Deputy Collector are in-charge of the implementation of the scheme. But we see that most of the time they are helpless to accelerate the work of the scheme.
- 2) The district level and taluka level there is no committee co-ordination between the planning sections
- 3) The pressure of local leaders is harmful in every respect. Especially about the location of percolation tanks and construction of the roads, the local leaders interfere is on large extent.

- 4) The workers complained about mukadam, that he was arrogant; he was corrupt and used to cut the wages of workers.

5.3.3 ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF EGS :

The administrative problem is to get the grants from government. Most of the time it so happens that the project is incomplete, the workers are working but the payment is not made for wants of grants. The work is ultimately stopped till the grants are sanctioned and released.

- 1) The guarantee of continuous work is not given. With the guarantee of employment, the guarantee of continuous work is required, in which the scheme is lagging behind.
- 2) The low quality of works on EGS is due to a number of loopholes in administration. The quality of work hampers due to the corruption, leakages of fund etc.
- 3) The taluka level committees have no co-ordination with district planing or district plans do not take into account the problems and needs at taluka level, in the scheme of EGS.
- 5) The work of EGS is stopped and remains incomplete till the grant form the government is actually disbursed.
- 6) In EGS no such survey is required and no problem of false identification arises because those who are poor who are willing to work are guaranteed for employment.
- 7) When we interviewed clerks who are working in EGS office, as an informal discussion we asked to get approval from the higher authority.
- 8) The district plans do not take into account the problems and needs at the taluka level, e.g. the resources available at taluka level, the manpower at taluka level and projects on local considerations should be prepared, but than are not considered at administrative level.
- 9) The workers are working but the payment is not made for want of grants. The work is ultimately stopped till the grants are sanctioned and released.

5.3.4 PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF EGS :

The problems reveal that every practical problem has another side of administrative weaknesses. So, we may come to the conclusion that, practical problems are the outcome of weaknesses of administration.

- 1) Under EGS the worker has no choice of the work. He has to work on such works which are adopted by EGS.
- 2) The scheme of EGS does not provide the work within the vicinity of his residence. The workers have to go wherever the work is going on so, the worker is mobile.
- 3) EGS provides and guarantees employment to the rural poor who are unskilled and uneducated. So, the problem of quality of the work is not the responsibility of the workers. The quality of work hampers due to deliberate actions of the supervisors and contractors.
- 4) It is surprising that, women's participation in EGS is the problem for contractor and some times they make it compulsory to bring one male worker with them.

5.3.5 FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF EGS :

- 1) There is a vicious circle that government grant is available only if a particular minimum number of workers are employed on the work in the present study number of workers cannot be employed unless government grant arrives.
- 2) The government cannot claim completion of any work in the financial year, because if grant is not sanctioned, the work remains incomplete.
- 3) The payment of work is not made in time of EGS works in Pandharpur taluka.
- 4) The workers said false muster of attendance at some places of works, false thumb impression was taken from the workers.
- 5) The workers reported short payment of the wages than due is a common phenomenon.
- 6) The work remains incomplete and workers do not get employment.