

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION



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The Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra is a novel anti-poverty programme, which came in to existence initially in 1972-73. It has been implemented intensively statewide basis for a long duration. Its uniqueness lies in its recognition of the right of the rural unemployed to get manual work on demand. The Employment objective of the scheme, thus, gets a very high status of the commitment of the fulfilment of the directive principle of the Article No. 41 of the Constitution of India.

The present research work tries to study the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Solapur district with particular reference to its working and its impact on rural employment.

1.1 The specific objectives are as follows :

- 1) To explain the rationale of the scheme as rural employment programme.
- 2) To review the performance of the scheme at the State level in respect of its employment effect and administrative machinery.
- 3) To analyse the working of EGS in Solapur district with particular reference, employment effect and analysis of the constraints in EGS works.
- 4) To suggest some policy implications for improving the effectiveness of the scheme in general and EGS scheme in Solapur district in particular.

1.2 Methodology :-

- 1) In order to study the rationale and performance of the scheme in Maharashtra, and in Solapur district, we have collected the statistical information from the planning department (EGS section) Government of Maharashtra and collector's office of the Solapur district.
- 2) In order to analyse the constraints in EGS works an informal interview of the officers of the work agencies was held with particular reference to the Percolation Tanks works.

1.3 Reference Period :-

While considering the availability of data, we have taken the period from 1980-81 to 1985-86 for evaluating the scheme for Solapur district. The latest year of November 1986 was taken in to consideration.

1.4 Limitations of the Study :-

The employment impact of the scheme is studied here at the aggregate level only. The main focus is on understanding the implementation part of the scheme with particular reference to Solapur district.

1.5 Profiles of the Solapur District :-

1) Geographical Features :-

Solapur District is situated on the South East fringe of Maharashtra State. It is surrounded by Ahmednagar and Osmanabad Districts to the north,

Osmanabad District to the East, Sangli District and Karnataka State to the South, Satara and Pune Districts towards the West. The Bhima is main drain. Other major rivers are the Sina, Man and the Bhogawati. Along banks of the major rivers and in a few vallies, soil is deep black. In the remaining parts of the district, the soil is shallow. The monsoon starts from mid June and the last showers are received in the month of October. The rainfall is scanty and uneven. The annual average rainfall is about 561 mm. Naturally, only 2.17 per cent of the area is under forests. The total area of the district is 14,848 Sq. Kms. about 4.88 percent area of the State.

According to the 1981 population Census, the total population of district is 25.91 lakhs. Rural population is 18.24 lakhs. Solapur is the largest urban centre having Muncipal Corporation with 5.11 lakhs souls.

2) Agriculture :

Agriculture is the most important economic persuit engaging about 78% of the working force. Rest of the workers are engaged in agro-based industries, trade, transport and other services.

Solapur district is located in the centre of the traditional drought prone area in the Deccan. The cultivators have to undertake sowing in mid Kharif-rabi season to utilise the maximum precipitation in

soil. The kharif crops are taken in the light soils while rabi jowar covers 64.4 per cent of the gross cropped area. (The programme of sinking of wells pursued for the last 15 to 20 years.) Wherever surface irrigation is available under the command of the Nira Right Bank Canal, other projects and wells, people reap harvest of sugar-cane and wheat.

In these tracts in the rural area signs of fact development can be seen. In the last decade horticulture has made an impact, as progressive cultivators have started growing grapes, lime and papays. Efforts are a foot to engage attention of more cultivators towards horticulture.

3) Irrigation :

Irrigation is the most important agricultural in-put. The following Table details information about irrigation :

TABLE NO. 1.1.

Sr. No.	Source of irrigation	Net irrigation area (in hectares) during				
		1960-61	1970-71	1979-80	1984-85	1985-86
1.	Surface irrigation	25,567	29,073	32,573	51,750	53,622
2.	Wells	85,659	85,445	106,721	113,942	114,498
3.	Other sources	-	58	286	1,848	170,200
		111,226	114,576	139,580	167,540	338,320

Source :- EGS section Solapur District.

wells form the major source of irrigation throughout the district. Minor irrigation is an important

source in surface irrigation and increasing trend is observed in this category.

4) Bhima Ujjani Project :

A dam across the main drain of the district was completed in the year 1980. It was contemplated that the entire project will irrigate 1.13 lakh hectares of land. It is estimated that the work of the project will be completed by 1990. Due to escalation, the original cost of the project of Rs. 42.57 crores has been revised and the present estimate is Rs. 338.84 crores.

The dam has already submerged 51 villages in the district and would irrigate lands from Madha, Pandharpur, Mohol, North Solapur, Mangalwedha and South Solapur Talukas. It is thus the main hope of a permanent solution to drought for at least 10 percent of the cultivable land in the district. After completion of the entire project, about 23% of the land in the district will be irrigated. At present, the irrigated land forms 13% of the cultivable area. The left Bank Canal runs to the length 126 Km. and the Right Bank Canal has a length of 112 Km. The earth work of both the canals has almost been completed. The project was receiving aid from the IFAD to the extent of Rs. 43 crores upto the year 1984. Simultaneously. Ayacut development works have been undertaken and works have been

completed at various stages in an area of 38567 H. During the last year, an attempt was made to supply water to 24,399 H. of land. This has partially saved drought situation especially in Pandharpur, Madha, Mohol and Malshiras tahsils.

5) The Infrastructure :

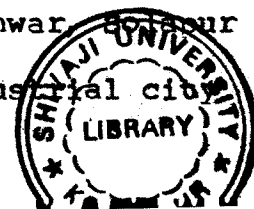
TABLE NO. 1.2

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	Years				
			1950-51	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1985-86
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Road Length	Km.	1641	2123	3210	9054	9483
2.	<u>Length of Road</u>						
	a) Per 100 Sq. Km.	Km.	10.9	14.0	21.4	60.3	63.1
	b) Per Lakh of population	Km.	109.01	113.59	142.41	346.9	363.3
3.	Total Railway Length	Km.	451.78	451.48	451.48	447.97	447.97
4.	Post Offices	No.	-	210	426	505	523
5.	Telegraph Offices	No.	-	26	38	68	99

Source :- EGS section Solapur District.

6) Industries :

Traditionally, holy city of God Sidheshwar Solapur has developed as the sixth largest industrial city.



of Maharashtra, Main care of the industrial life of the city is cotton textile industries. Power-looms and Handlooms had tumulatus growth in the eastern part of the city. There are 8 textile mills, including five spinning mills, 8 sugar factories and five other major industries in Solapur District. These industries provide employment to about 43,300 workers. The total production of the major and medium industries is to the tune of Rs.185.29 crores per annum. By the end of the year 1990 10 more units are likely to be added and the expected production will be around Rs. 900 crores per annum. At present, there are 3165 small scale industrial units providing employment to 16705 people and producing goods worth Rs. 80 crores per annum. The growth rate of SSI Units was about 5% per annum. However, in last three years the growth rate has substantially increased to 10 per cent. The objective is to encourage 10,000 units by the end of the year 1990

Two co-operative spinning mills are functioning since the last 15 years and two more have started functioning since the last 15 years and three more have started functioning at Valsang and Sangola in 1984-85 and at Madha in 1986-87 and have produced

adequate apport unities for establishment of ancillary units around Valsang, Sangola and Madha.

At present, there are three Industrial Training Institutes at Solapur, Barshi and Pandharpur and one Poly-Technic in Solapur. One private Engineering College and two private Poly-Technics at Solapur have been started in 1983-84.

1.6 Agricultural Situation :

Solapur District is predominantly a Rabbi District. The total cultivable area of the district is 11,84,600 Hecters. The normal Kharif area of the district is 2,52,000 Hecters and the remaining area a measuring 9,32,600 Hecters is brought under Rabi Crops. The average rainfall of the district is as under :

TABLE NO. 1.1

Sr. No.	Month	Average Rainfall (mm)
1.	June	97.8
2.	July	90.9
3.	August	93.3
4.	September	173.2
5.	October	68.2
6.	November	30.4
7.	December	7.4
		<u>561.2</u>

Source :- EGS section Solapur District.

The talukawise information of the average rainfall is given the following Table No. 1.3 for the period of seven months from June December. It is observed that, the average rainfall of the district up to December is 561.2 mm. the actual rainfall recorded up to December 1986 was 466.1 mm the three months of October, November and December were of less rains particularly, in talukas such as Mangalwedha, Mohol, and Karmala comparatively the normal rainfall was about the average level in four talukas such as North Solapur, South Solapur, Barshi and Akkalkot, Malshiras, Sangola and Karmala are having the normal rainfall less than the average level of the district.

1.7 The drought proneness of the district:

We have already seen that, the whole Solapur district is caught in trap of drought conditions. The Paisewari system is the authentic indicator to judge the drought proneness of the district. The following Table No. 1.5, explains the talukawise position of the villages where the Paisewari was below 50/60 during the years from 1982-83 to 1986-87. It is observed that, the year of 1982-83 was the worst affested year in which 1090 villages out of the total No. of 1104, were having the Paisewari below 50/60. Remarkably, for the two years 1986 and 1987 six talukas were in the shadow of drought conditions. These are Akkalkot, Barshi, Mangalwedha, Madha, Malshiras, Mohol and Karmala.

Thus, it is clear from above discussion regarding the profiles of the Solapur district that the problem of rural unemployment is not a seasonal but a perennial one which justifies the predominant role of the Employment Guarantee Scheme as an anti-poverty programme in Solapur district. ✓

TABLE NO. 1.4

Statement showing Tahsilwise Normal Rainfall in mm. from June to December 1986.

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Normal Rainfall										Actual Total from June to December 1986
		June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Normal Rain-fall June to December	ember		
1.	North Solapur	113.5	109.2	103.9	189.7	69.9	31.3	9.1	626.8	575.5		
2.	South Solapur	113.5	109.2	103.9	189.7	69.9	31.5	9.1	626.8	575.5		
3.	Barsi	120.7	105.4	103.9	187.7	59.7	30.7	7.4	615.5	352.0		
4.	Akkalkot	104.7	126.2	108.7	186.7	69.3	32.5	5.3	633.4	430.5		
5.	Pandharpur	105.9	70.9	91.8	178.8	78.2	33.0	6.9	565.4	574.0		
6.	Malshiras	76.8	53.9	54.4	142.8	64.6	42.9	10.4	445.8	374.0		
7.	Mangalwedha	73.1	84.2	98.6	171.4	71.9	15.5	7.3	522.0	437.0		
8.	Sangola	91.2	58.7	69.9	154.7	68.3	39.4	7.6	489.8	415.4		
9.	Madha	86.9	81.5	90.4	174.2	70.9	29.5	6.9	540.3	495.6		
10.	Mohol	91.1	109.7	121.8	176.2	66.2	20.9	5.4	591.7	454.4		
11.	Karmala	98.9	91.0	78.8	152.7	61.1	26.9	6.3	515.7	444.1		
	Total	1076.3	999.9	1026.0	1905.0	750.0	334.3	81.7	6173.2	5128.0		
	Average	97.8	90.9	93.3	173.2	68.2	30.4	7.4	561.2	466.1		

Source :- EGS section Solapur District.

TABLE NO. 1.5

Statement showing the Villages where paisewari was below 50/60 paise during the years 1982-83 to 1986-87.

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	Total Villages in the Tahsil.	Villages where paisewari was below 50/60 paise.					Remarks
			1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1.	North Solapur	50	50	-	-	50	50	50
2.	South Solapur	87	87	-	-	87	87	87
3.	Akkalkot	128	128	-	-	128	128	128
4.	Barsi	134	134	-	-	134	134	134
5.	Pandharpur	94	94	-	-	94	94	94
6.	Mangalwedha	79	64	49	15	79	79	79
7.	Malshiras	105	105	-	-	105	105	105
8.	Sangola	87	88	76	76	87	87	87
9.	Madha	118	118	-	65	118	118	118
10.	Mohol	104	104	-	-	104	104	104
11.	Karmala	118	118	-	-	118	118	118
Total		1104	1090	125	156	1104	1104	1104

Source :- EGS section Solapur District.