

Chapter - V

Environmental Impact Assessment of Phatakwadi Dam in Kolhapur District

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Environmental Impact Assessment
- 5.3 Personal Information of Respondents
- 5.4 Positive Impact of Phatakwadi Dam
- 5.5 Negative Impact of Dam
- 5.6 Conclusion Remark
- 5.7 Reference

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PHATAKWADI DAM IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

5.1 Introduction:

In Maharashtra, maximum rainfall received from Monsoon during three months namely, June, July and August. Out of total rainfall water 38% is used only. And natural water storage capacity is 19%. This is very less storage availability. Water is most important thing in the nature for the survival of every living organism on the earth. The demand for water is increasing day by day. This rising demand for water rendered the need of its conservation. To fulfill growing need for water. Dams are being built at large level.

“Most of the dams in the world are single-purpose dams. But there is now a growing number of multipurpose dams. Using the most recent publication of world register of dams irrigation is by far the most common purpose of dams. Among the single purpose dams 48% are for irrigation, 17% for hydropower (production of electricity), 13% for water supply, 10% for flood control, 5% for recreation and less than 1% for navigation and fish farming.” (International Commission on Large Dams, 2013-14 Report, p.1)

These dams are not only providing water largely, but yielding many other benefits also, like, irrigation drinking water, hydro electricity, fishery etc. All these things have helped to bring out social-economic and industrial development. Though, they have brought some benefits and programs but also caused many harmful impacts on the nature. The growing number of dams created immense problems related to environment.

In this chapter, I have studied both impact of Phatakwardi dam i.e. positive and negative.

5.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

A number of terms have been used in English-speaking countries to distinguish between natural and man-made environmental changes. Between changes and the harmful or beneficial consequences of such changes. In one approach a man-induced change is called an 'effect' while the harmful or beneficial consequences are called impacts. Sometimes of course an impact could be beneficial to some citizens but harmful effect. "The purpose of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is to give environment its due place in the decision making process by clearly evaluating the environmental consequences of a proposal activity before and action is taken." The UN Economic Commission for Europe (1987)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) refers to the evaluation of the effect of major project on a manmade natural environment. It is the basic tool for the second assessment of development proposals. The increasing scale complexity, uncertainty and risk of the major development project have culminated in the use of EIA.

Definition of EIA

EIA is an anticipatory participatory interrogatory environmental management tools, which has the ultimate objective of providing decision makers with an indication of the living consequences of their decision relating to new projects or new programs, plans or policies. As the UK department of environment puts it, an EIA is essentially a technique for drawing together. In a systematic way expert quantities assessment of projects environmental effects and presenting the results in a way which enables the importance of the predicted effects and scope for modifying or mitigating them, to be a properly evaluated by the relevant decision making body before a decision is taken.

EIA helps the decision makers to identify the likely effects at an early stage and to improve the quality of project, planning and decision making. It is a process used to predict the environmental consequences of proposed major development projects to identify and plan for

appropriate measures to reduce adverse impact. (Karpagam, pp. 267 to 270)

Environmental impact assessment commenced in the 1960s as part of increasing environmental awareness, IATA defines an environmental impact assessment a 'The process of identifying predicting, evaluation and mitigating the biophysical, social and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.'

Because of development of power stations, dams, highways, diversion of a river, air and water pollution, industry etc. that why so many changes in environment take place. These changes may be 'good or bad' depending upon the different point of view.

Environmental impact assessment is carried out with using many methods of assessment of environment and the estimating of rates of changes.

For environment impact assessment following are the steps.

- Identification of effects.
- Prediction of effects.
- Interpretation of impacts.
- Communication.
- Inspection procedures.

As illustrative examples, three general approaches to EIA are described and compared. (Munn, R. E..1975)