

CHAPTER - V

DEFECTS AND MEASURES OF SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The importance of social forestry is not new to the Indian Society. Since ancient time the significance of social forestry is explained by Rushies and Saints. The Indian Constitution also provides right direction towards the social forestry. Thus, forestry is an important part of the society. There should be dedication and trust of the society towards the forest development. It is not the responsibility of the Government alone. Moreover it is responsibility of all the components of the society. It is an important programme as far as future prospects is concerned. In 1982 Government of India declared that, forestry should be of 33.33 per cent of total land. But there are some difficulties in implementing the programme on part of Central and State Government.

5.2 DEFECTS IN SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

1. There is no widespread of information in regard to social forestry programme among the farmers.
2. Farmers are not getting sufficient incentives for the wasteland development programme.
3. Revenue is collected from public wasteland development programme through Panchayats.

4. The wasteland development responsibility should be given to local administration, Panchayat and Government.
5. Fast growing trees are not selected.
6. The Government should provide subsidy to supply water to the trees, where there is acute shortage of rainfall.
7. The strict laws should be enforced against cutting of trees by unknown/ robbers. There should also be severe punishment for such persons, but there is no provision in the law.
8. There is no proper evaluation of social forestry. Many times the purpose of social forestry is not considered.
9. The impact of social forestry programme on the farmers and society is not properly examined.
10. The social forestry has not yet reached the grassroot level.
11. There is no systematic marketing of forest products. These products are sold through the middlemen. Due to the middle and commission agents, the farmers are not getting reasonable price for their products.
12. There is no sincere and prompt guidance to the society.
13. The work of the social forestry is carried out by the Government Department. But in order to cut the trees the permission is to be obtained from the Government. Hence farmers suffer mentally and economically.
14. Efforts are not made on the basis of value based forestry.

15. Proper planning is not adopted in implementing the programme.
16. It is difficult to reach the target of 33.33 percent of social forestry.
17. It is not possible to achieve the desired goals of social forestry programme.
18. The programme of social forestry is implemented, where already social forestry is undertaken.
19. The programme of social forestry for backward classes has been prevented.
20. Social forestry paid less attention towards the bio-technology.
21. Social Forestry Department selected few species of trees like Australian Babul, Suru, Nilgiri and Cashia.
22. There is no sufficient staff to look after the social forestry programme, so far implemented.
23. The gestation period in getting the income from Australian Babul, Nilgiri, Suru, Cashia is longer. Hence most of the farmers are not attracted to such schemes.
24. There is no dedication in Government officials towards the wasteland development.
25. Industries based on the social forestry are not developed. Hence there is no employment generation in rural areas.
26. Raw material of social forestry has been used as fuel.
27. There is no plantation of medicinal plants.

28. The quality plants are not available in the government nursery.
29. The plants required for the honey, gum, leaf-plates, bidi leaves, are not nurtured.
30. There is no provision of horticulture development.
31. People from rural and hilly area depend on the forests. But social forestry has failed to change the life of these people.
32. Social forestry has no one window system of procedure. So the work is not carried out in given time.

Social Forestry Department should try to reduce the lacunas to improve the mechanism. It is necessary to implement the programme for the benefit of the farmers and society as a whole.

5.3 MECHANISM OF SOCIAL FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

In the year 1970 Central Government's National Agricultural Commission published the report on social forestry. The idea of social forestry was introduced in the report of National Commission on Agriculture in 1976. In order to satisfy the day-to-day needs of rural people, the social forestry programme is to be implemented.

The state level Department of Social Forestry has been started in the year 1982. The Social Forestry Department estimated the land of 3.80 hectare for the programme. In order to bring 33.33 percent of total under social forestry, the National Commission on Agriculture initiated the programme. National Forest Policy, 1988 adopted the strategy of

increasing the area of social forestry, ecological balance, fulfillment of the needs of rural people, employment generation etc.

In Maharashtra state - Government of Maharashtra State, General Administration Department established new department called Horticulture Department on 17-7-1981 bearing No. RoB-1181/55/XIII (O & M). Head Office of the Social Forestry was established at Pune. The Director is the Chief of the Department. The Sub-Director Offices are situated at Pune, Thane, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amaravati and Nagpur. These offices are located at Revenue Department. At District places, Office of the Deputy Director is established. At taluka level various types of staff is appointed. Total staff of Maharashtra state is 3,314.

In the year 1982-83 to 1988-89, there was Department of Social Forestry and Horticulture. But in the year 1989-90 Social Forestry department was attached to the Forest Department. At present, Social Forestry Department is working under Soil Conservation Department. The work of forestry was carried out and the programme is implemented in 3,78,732 hectares and 1,376 kms. Under Kisan Nursery Scheme 87.78 crores of plants are nursed. The work of free plantation is carried on various places like government public places, educational and private land. Incentive is also given to medicinal plant. Emphasis is also given to varmi culture, compost fertiliser, vam, blue fertilizer etc. It means importance is given to bio-fertilisers. For excellent work of wasteland

development, 119 people and institutions have been awarded and felicitated. During 1997 total forest land was 46,143 Sq.Km. and the same has increased to 47,482 Sq.Km. The social forestry has achieved remarkable progress.

The Department of Social Forest implemented various programmes :

1. Central Government sponsored programmes.
 - i) Western Ghat Development Programme
 - A) Plantation on private land
 - B) Plantation on agricultural bunds
 - C) Plantation on collective land.
2. Sampurna Gramin Employment Programme.
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme
4. Drought prone Area Development Programme

Various programmes under Central Government's Technical Development, Extension and Training Programme.

1. Plantation on bank of lake.
2. Agricultural Forestry Programme
3. Pasture Land Development Programme.
4. Saline Land Development Programme.
5. Bio-tech Fertiliser Development
6. Ravin Reclamation
7. NOVOD Board Assistance Project
8. Medicinal Plant Board Assistance project
9. Establishment of NOVOD Board.

2. State Government sponsored programmes

- a. Kisan Nursery programme
- b. Tree plantation on selected watershed
- c. Central Nursery
- d. Van Mahotsav
- e. Information Centre
- f. Plantation at road sides
- g. 20 Point Programmes
- h. Employment Guarantee Scheme

Social Forestry Extension Programmes

1. Plantation programmes for schools, colleges, public health centres and other institutions.
2. Plantation Training Programme.
3. Publicity programmes
4. State Government's Vanashri Award
5. Central Government sponsored Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshimitra Award

Social Forestry in Kolhapur District :

Kolhapur district in Maharashtra State is endowed with natural beauty. Total population of Kolhapur district is 35,15,413. Total villages are 1,201. The total geographical area is 1,65,544 hectares. The total forest area is 22 percent. In order to maintain ecological balance the total forest area should be 33.33 percent. That is why the

Government is implementing various programmes to increase the forest area.

There are so many economic and environmental benefits of social forestry. Due to wasteland development, the fertility of the soil will increase. There is also soil conservation. The watertable increases. The economic condition of the farmers will also increase. The cool atmosphere will be created. The rainfall will increase. The fodder for animal will be available. The wood will be available for construction of buildings etc. The social forestry programme is beneficial to the farmers and society as a whole.

5.4 MEASURES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL FORESTRY

1. There should be effective publicity of social forestry programme. Due to effective publicity, the programme will reach the rural area. Definitely farmers will respond the programme.
2. Farmers should be motivated to plant the trees on private wasteland.
3. There should be committee on village level to look after the forest. The Committee should involve the members like Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, Chairman of Co-operative Credit society, Village Accountant, Police Patil, Headmasters, Chairman of Youth Clubs etc.

4. The provision of water facilities should be made available upto three years for plantations where there is low rainfall.
5. The forest based industries should be set up in rural areas.
6. Medicinal plants are to be developed for quick income. By which farmers will receive better income.
7. The Government should create marketing facilities for social forestry. So that the farmers will get the income from it.
8. It is necessary to plant such trees which give honey, gum, oil etc.
9. There should be horticulture development. Horticulture development will give more income compared to others.
10. There should be evaluation of social forestry. The evaluation will help for further planning.
11. The sufficient funds should be made available from the Social Forestry Department, to enhance the wasteland programme.
12. The staff of the social forestry should be increased. Sincere and dedicated staff should be appointed for such type of work.
13. In order to get work done immediately, there must be one window system.
14. In order to achieve the target of social forestry area of 33.33 percent, Government and Society should take serious efforts.

CONCLUSION

The scheme of social forestry is fruitful. The target of 33.33 percent s to be achieved. Large area of forest will satisfy the needs of the society. All types of economic needs will be satisfied. It is possible to maintain ecological balance. It will also be helpful for soil fertility, soil conservation, watertable, etc. In order to create conducive atmosphere, social forestry is essential. Effective planning and implementation is very much essential for such task.

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