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**CHAPTER VI**

**SHOLAPUR ZILLA PARISHAD AND IRRIGATION**

**( AN ASSESSMENT ) CONCLUSION**

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**CHAPTER - VI****THE SHOLAPUR ZILLA PARISHAD AND IRRIGATION:****AN ASSESSMENT****CONCLUSION**

The concept of Democratic Decentralisation is thickly related in creating job opportunities in rural area. The Zilla Parishad can play a dominant role in reducing unemployment and rural poverty. India needs an increase in the productive absorption of labour in agriculture. The basic question involved in increasing the absorption of labour in agriculture in India is how to increase multiple cropping. To increase multiple cropping and yields Irrigation and selective mechanisation is of primary importance.

Irrigation, then can be considered as one of the most important factors for increasing agricultural output and as such it has an important role to play in economic development. In this study it is essential to study the pattern of irrigation prevalent in the district. In order to indicate the extent of irrigation and multiple cropping in irrigated area, the two indicators have been presented in the following tables. (Table I and II).

All these tables are available in Socio-economic review and District Statistical Abstract of Sholapur District 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79.

TABLE NO.1

Percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown  
and percentage of gross irrigated area to net irrigated areas:

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Percentage of Net irrigated Area to net Area sown.		Percentage of gross irrigated area to net irrigated Area	
		1972-73	1973-74	1972-73	1973-74
1)	Sholapur North.	5.38	7.06	139.93	127.71
2)	Barahi.	4.13	6.09	108.76	143.37
3)	Akkalkot.	37.58	5.44	100.79	147.38
4)	Sholapur South.	12.97	6.33	110.70	111.69
5)	Mohol.	8.79	58.84	114.84	103.96
6)	Mangalvedha.	5.93	5.37	110.02	129.15
7)	Pandharpur.	16.19	14.52	116.89	112.46
8)	Sangola.	23.41	18.87	122.02	114-24
9)	Malshiras.	35.66	37.04	119.77	117.20
10)	Karmala.	0.81	1.59	294.45	265.03
11)	Madha.	2.67	8.82	120.40	150.03
	Total District.	11.81	14.41	120.76	119.02

The above table indicates that there is a slight increase in the net irrigated area by 2.60 percent when compared to net area sown in 1973-74 over the previous year.

In Mohol tahsil, the percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown was much higher, as compared to other Tahsil in the district in 1973-74. Pandhapur, Sangola and Malshiras Tahsils had recorded more percentage than that of district average, due to the facility of canal irrigation.

The percentage of gross irrigated area to net irrigated are indicates that the gross irrigated area decreased from 20-76 percent in 1972-73 to 19.02 percent in 1973-74.

The tahsilwise percentage of the net irrigated area to net area sown are as follows.

**TABLE NO. II****Percentage of Net Irrigated Area to Net area Sown**

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Percentage of Net Irrigated Area to Net Area Sown during the year:			
		1960-61	1970-71	1973-74	1974-75
1)	Sholapur North.	3.29	9.29	7.48	9.68
2)	Barshi.	5.69	3.75	4.68	4.60
3)	Akkalkot.	8.82	7.19	6.44	8.41
4)	Sholapur South.	3.76	7.13	6.08	6.33
5)	Mohol.	6.78	7.44	13.31	8.00
6)	Mangalvedha.	5.58	7.68	3.66	6.82
7)	Pandhappur	10.56	11.68	10.88	11.41
8)	Sangola.	13.64	13.68	13.14	13.16
9)	Malsiras.	28.22	39.57	28.12	40.56
10)	Karmala.	5.88	4.93	4.29	3.49
11)	Madha.	7.57	9.52	11.19	12.94
	District Total.	9.22	9.93	9.80	10.82

Percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown, shows negligible increase in respect of Tahsils Sholapur, North Akkalkot, Pandharpur, Malsiras and Madha. However, in percentage of net irrigated area to net area sown in respect of other Tahsils during the different reference years.

Besides this an assessment is also made in Table III which presents an year-wise picture of irrigation work undertaken by the Sholapur Zilla Parishad ( From 1962-63 to 1981-82) i.e. since the establishment of Sholapur Zilla Parishad to 1981. The Table data is collected from the Annual Reports of the Sholapur Zilla Parishad.

Table III helps a great deal to draw some definite conclusion in regard to the irrigation work undertaken by Sholapur Zilla Parishad. From the reports it is learnt that from 1962-63 to 1967-68, there has been no development of irrigation work undertaken for the first six years. It is only since 1968-69, the Zilla Parishad started undertaking some irrigation work. The work which was undertaken in this year i.e. 1967-68 was largely because it was in the same year under the Five Year Plan, the work of Ujani Dam and Kukdi Dam was undertaken.

Ujani Dam is located at Ujani in Macha taluka just half a mile upstream of the bridge on Shima river on Pune-Sholapur road. The Sholapur Zilla Parishad it seems largely depended on the Ujani Dam rather than undertaking irrigation work on its own accord. This speaks of the lack of initiative on the part of Zilla Parishad, because even after the 1968-69, when Ujani Dam work was undertaken from 1969-70 to 1971-72, the Zilla Parishad, had not

undertaken any substantial irrigation work. This shows that for the ( First Ten Years ) of the functioning of the Zilla Parishad, there has been no progress made. Naturally this indicates that it lacked proper leadership.

From the report it can be again found that if some expenditure is incurred on Irrigation ( with which the study is concerned ) the first expenditure mentioned is in 1972-73 when it undertook the work of seven Lift Irrigations, Six Bhandharas and thirtyfive Pazar Talavs, incurring an expenditure of Rs.2,408 and Rs.16,6,379. Sholapur in 19<sup>72-73</sup>~~72-73~~ was affected by drought. Besides it also started undertaking the work <sup>of</sup> digging wells of 2415, and tried to supply drinking water at places where fairs took place. From the reports, it can be learnt that the Sholapur Zilla Parishad faces much hardship and is much perturbed because of lack of drinking water facilities. There are many religious ceremonies such as fairs which have to be provided with drinking water for Tourists etc.

From the reports, it can also be inferred that the M. I. (D).N-6 has supported a great deal since 1975-76 in undertaking the work of irrigation.

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M. I. D. 6 = Minor Irrigation Division 6.

Besides M. I. (D).N.-6 since 1978-79, and when the Government of Maharashtra introduced the Employment Gurantee Scheme, there are several irrigation works undertaken by the Sholapur Zilla Parishad. The Establishment of M. I.(D).N-6 (Scheme) and the E.G.S.(Scheme) being introduced has provided to be a boon to the Sholapur Zilla Parishad. Left to itself it is doubted whether the Zilla Parishad leadership which is divided by sub-regic<sup>n</sup>alism and factionalism would have undertaken the irrigation work.

It is from 1975-76 to 1981-82, the years in report it can be found that by 1981, the Zilla Parishad had undertaken twenty-three lift irrigation schemes of which 7 have been completed. By the end of 1981-82, drinking water was provided to 20 villages of 22 village works undertaken. The work of 6 Bhandaras undertaken in the year 1972-73 got <sup>c</sup>ompleted in the year 1979-80. In 1975-76 the Zilla Parishad with the help of M. I. (D).N-6 undertook the work of 57 Pazar Talavs. Again in 1976-77 an additional work of 24 Pazar Talavs was undertaken. In 1976-77 in total there were 81 Pazar Talavs work in progress. In 1979-80, the work of 82 Pazar Talavs was in progress of which 22 had been completed in the year 1981-82.

Under the Employment Gurantee Scheme which was introduced in 1978-79, under which the work of 472 was undertaken. In the same year the work of 198 Pazar Talavs got



completed. By 1981-82 under the E.G.S. Scheme the total work of 808 Pazar Talavs had been undertaken of which 407 got completed.

This shows that under the M.I. (D).N-6 by 1981, 22 Pazar Talavs got completed in addition to the 407 Pazar Talavs under E.G.S.(Scheme) had been completed.

This shows that the Sholapur District has been benefited by the various schemes of the Government of Maharashtra, rather than the work of Zilla Parishad. The two major schemes which have helped irrigation of land are the Nira Right Bank Canal and the Ujani Dam.

The Nira Right Bank Canal has helped to irrigated 50,000 acres in which sugarcane, cotton and wheat is grown. The proportion and the area irrigated to the net area sown in Malshiras taluka is higher than any other taluka in the district due to the Nira Right Bank Canal.

Ujani Dam is located in Madha Taluka just half a mile upstream of the bridge on Bhima river on Pune-Sholapur road. The work started in 1969, which estimated a cost of Rs.40 crores, which is to provide irrigation to 1,67,750 hectares on completion of the project. The dam involves diversion of railway line. It <sup>was</sup> ~~has~~ expected to be completed in 1981. Besides, it is also the Sina-Kalegaon in Karmala

taluka, which will benefit Karmala, Barshi, Mohol talukas, to irrigate 1,34,500 hectares.

The Sholapur District has suffered a great deal due to lack of irrigation development work. Perhaps the Zilla Parishad relied much on the ' Ujani Dam ' which was scheduled to be completed by 1981, but even to this day it is under progress. It is high time to see that this work is not neglected and has been awaited for the last twenty years. The Jayakawadi Dam (Osmanabad District) and Ujani Dam had been undertaken simultaneously. The Jayakwadi Dam has been completed, but the work of Ujani still has not been completed. It is stalled due to lack of finance, administrative staff and labour, the work has come to a standstill position. Various allegations are also made in matter of corruption etc., Though the Dam work has been completed, the canal work has never seen its completion.

The blame is entirely laid down upon the political leadership in Sholapur district. It is also found that the Zilla Parishad has not been able to spend the sanctioned amount for Lift Irrigation, Bhandaras etc. In the year 1981-82 a provision of Rs.5,25,000 had been made and only Rs.1,33,329 had been spent. The Government of Maharashtra also referred this matter to the Committee, which could feel the lack of leadership in the Zilla Parishad. The

reasons cited by the Zilla Parishad for not spending the sanctioned fund, was that they felt that for irrigation purposes the Pazar Talavs were of little use. Besides, the blame was also laid down on the Government for not releasing money in time. The Committee felt that it was entirely the failure of the Zilla Parishad.

Besides it is also found that the Zilla Parishad is least interested in collecting the water tax. It is reported that <sup>in</sup> the year 1974-75 the total water tax to be collected was Rs.25,967. The total collection of water tax in 1974-75 was Rs.15,935.

From the Thirteenth Report on Panchat Samiti of the Government of Maharashtra, it is also reported that in some respects under irrigation the Zilla Parishad has incurred expenditure without getting the work done. This presents an distorted picture of the very functioning of the Sholapur Zilla Parishad.

In Sholapur District at present there is fifteen lakhs one thousand hectares of total area. Of this nearly twelve lakh hectares has come under farming. Hence even to this day agriculture depends largely on rainfall. The Ujani, Kukadi, dam work will help to great a deal for agricultural development. Besides, Sholapur district as it is an agricultural district needs agriculture college to be started. This demand <sup>is</sup> made by the District leadership.

The rivers like the Bhima, Sina, Nira, Man and Bogwali be properly used by adopting a Bridge-cum-Bhandar project. This would help in both respects, for proper water storage and transport. It is also found that as much depends upon the Ujani project, irrigation has remained underdeveloped. It is reported that the work of canal is allotted to a contractor hailing from Andhra State. The contractor has paid little attention and the work of 72 Kms. to 96 Kms. of cannal remains <sup>unattended</sup> ~~unattended~~. There is no continuous work undertaken for canal construction. The cement has also been misused and it is demanded for earlier completion of this work, the contract of this work should be given to a local contractor. It is also found that the Rivers Sina, and Bori go dry in summer and hence the Pazar Talavs, Bunds also go dry, which can be avoided by having Dam on river Bori and Sina by which the Wells, Bunds in the surrounding area would have water in summer.

These are the few observations which can be made from this study.

To conclude irrigation in Sholapur District, and its underdevelopment is largely the responsibility of Zilla Parishad. The Zilla Parishad also cannot be solely blamed because the major irrigation is to be provided by the Ujani Project. It is ultimately the responsibility

of also the State Government to see that the work of Ujani Project gets completed. Economically, Sholapur District has lagged behind because of this project compared to the other surrounding districts like Sangli and Satara. Even co-operative movement has failed to get established because of lack of irrigation.