

Impact of watershed project on employment and annual income of the respondents in Sangamner tahsil of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

An investigation was carried out in Sangamner tahsil of Ahmednagar District in Maharashtra state to study the Impact of watershed project on the employment generation and annual income of the respondents. The data collected from 200 randomly selected respondents revealed that 33.50 per cent respondents belonged to above 201 per cent change in their employment category whereas, 39.00 per cent respondents belonged to 281 to 510 per cent change in their annual income.

Key words : Impact, Watershed, Employment and annual income.

The Watershed Development was started in the state of Maharashtra with a sole objective of soil and water conservation by using various treatments by which the soil losses would be reduced, the top fertile soil will be maintained and moisture will be conserved in the watersheds. This will also help to increase ground water table and the additional area can be brought under irrigation. The land and water are the basic needs of agriculture. The availability of water for irrigation encourages the farmers to change their cropping pattern, there by, cropping intensity can be increased. Due to increase in cropping intensity it also increase in employment generation and results in change in annual income. Several rural development programmes are launched by Government and Non-government organizations ever since the dawn of independence. WOTR (Watershed Organization Trust) is one of the Non Government Organizations working in Maharashtra since 1993. WOTR aimed at conservation of natural resources and maintaining the ecological development of area by using the simple soil and water conservation technique

This trust constructed 36 watersheds in Maharashtra till date. Reports suggest that good results are achieved by Watershed Organization Trust. However, it is observed that there is need to undertake the study by the professional institutional source to examine the impact of the watershed project on change in the employment and annual income. It was therefore felt necessary to undertake the present investigation under the objective.

- To study the impact of watershed project on their employment of the respondents.
- To study the impact of watershed project on their annual income of the respondents.

METHODOLOGY

There are 13 watershed projects in Sangamner taluka of Ahmednagar District out of which 5 in 5 villages were already completed and rest are in progress. The five beneficiary villages and five non-beneficiary villages from same area were selected for the study. A list of beneficiaries of watershed development project was obtained from Regional Resource Center of WOTR for 5 sampled villages, 20 beneficiaries group from each of them was selected. From other 5 villages, 20 non-beneficiaries group from each of them was selected. Thus in all five beneficiary and five non-beneficiary villages were selected, 100 beneficiary respondents and 100 non-beneficiary respondents were selected purposively for the study purpose. Overall 10 villages and 200 respondents were covered under the present study. For the present investigation the personal interview technique was used for data collection. The data generated were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools based on specific objectives of the study and results are presented below.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Change in employment:

The information on change in the employment of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries was collected and analysed. This was compared with the base year *i.e.* 1996