

## **A STUDY OF EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME IN MAHARASHTRA.**

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### **Introduction:**

Indian economy has been facing the innumerable challenges like growing population, poverty, unemployment, economic inequality regional imbalance health problems etc. Besides problems like corruption, terrorism, regionalism etc. are impeding economic development of the country. Poverty and unemployment are twins that borne various problems. India has failed to overcome poverty and economic inequality as she could not diagnose the roots of poverty. Different organizations emerged during 1972 to 1980 to unite workers in rural areas and to generate employment with the aims of poverty eradication, reducing unemployment, to avail work opportunity during famine. These organizations established workers co-ordination committee for employment guarantee in 1981.

These organizations started campaign to make provisions for workers welfare in Employment Guarantee Act to make government 1978 to accept employment guarantee. The post 1978 period focused on to bring certain changes in some provisions under the employment guarantee scheme act and proper implementation of the scheme. The organizations active in the pre-1978 period were Rajya Shetkari Parishad, Yuvak Kranti Dal, Shramik Sanghatana, Shetkari Kamgar Paksh whereas the different workers organizations were more active in the post 1978 period.

The Maharashtra government passed employment guarantee scheme Act in 1977 and different non-governmental organizations, political parties and other organizations play a very crucial role in it. According to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar the major reason of India's backwardness was caste system and cultural factors. Poverty and economic inequality are born from dictatorship of certain castes in cultural, political and economic fields. Poverty and economic inequality impede economic development. Nearly 70% of Indian Population is rural and the rural part has more poverty and unemployment. Seasonal farming is striking feature of Indian agriculture since it depends on monsoon. Only 14% agriculture land has facilities of irrigation. As a result, employment in agriculture field is seasonal. It means that farm workers get wages in the form of employment only for 5 to 6 months in a year.

### **Benefits of Employment Guarantee Scheme:**

Employment Guarantee Scheme has been proved very useful to the people who want to earn their bread in their own villages. It has reduced the intensity of famine to some extent and made the wages available to needful. Employment Guarantee Scheme has been working on two prime principles, first 'Employment Guarantee Scheme for the development' and second is 'Employment Guarantee Scheme as a rescue support for the drought prone people'. Considering the intensity of drought 'Employment Guarantee Scheme for the drought' became the crucial scheme. Various water conservation schemes as well as road constructions and other schemes have made the employment available to the people near to their own places. To generate the appropriate availability of daily wages on priority base is the core concern of 'Employment Guarantee Scheme for the drought'. Various Government departments such as water conservation, P.W.D., Forest etc. implement various schemes under the 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' which generate the employment to workers ,

creates some permanent productive resources for the development and reduce the intensity of drought. 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' proved very beneficial and useful and it has been very helpful working to reduce the intensity of drought. This has been proved in fact that on an average 20 % of unemployed were able to get employed and the study also points out that migration village to city/town came down by 10%.

To reduce the intensity of drought, to generate the employment to workers are some short term objectives of Employment Guarantee Scheme but its major aim is to create the permanent productive resources for the development of rural area which can reduce the migration of people from rural to urban area . For this purpose, Employment Guarantee Scheme has undertaken various development work projects such as canal constructions, road constructions, farm ponds constructions and well constructions etc. Water conservation and percolation are the major concern of Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra . Therefore various works has undertaken and completed on priority base by EGS. Due to these efforts water conservation system has been developed in this area and land came under the irrigation. It resulted the increment of agricultural production and workers and peasants could give the priority to stay in their own village rather than migrate to other places. Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme road construction works have been also completed therefore villagers got easier access to the nearby city markets. By this availability of market, farmers could sell their products such as vegetables, fruits, milk etc and earn money for their livelihood. Permanent resources such as roads, wells, canals proved very helpful in the development of Maharashtra.

It has noticed that the major threat of Political interference is to personal beneficiary schemes than the public scheme. Farm ponds, nursery schemes, well construction schemes and horticulture, are the schemes which are areas where the political interference has been observed while sanctioning grants. Personal beneficiary schemes get easily sanctioned to those who are much close to the local politicians, who were the relatives and follower of those politicians. Even people who have been working as or associated to some Political as well as social movement or group are favored in comparison to the common people who do not have any political affiliation with the local politicians.

#### **Observations:**

- 1] The EGS scheme has been proved very beneficial in the development of in Maharashtra.
- 2] Due to this scheme the problems of drought villages have been reduced to some extent and the migration of worker towards cities has been also reducing.
- 3] In the implementation of EGS, participation of Grampanchayat is greater than Panchayat Samiti and Jilha Parishad.
- 4] Fake attending register and bogus workers are found enlisted at the EGS works.
- 5] Due to the different kinds of work which have completed in these tahsils it generated some permanent and productive resources. E.g. roads, wells, farm ponds (shettalis), forests, water conservations etc. These works helped in various development of rural areas.
- 6] There is no such special implementation system for EGS therefore this scheme has been facing many difficulties in its effective implementation.
- 8] Due to the lack of trained and expert officers, it has been difficult to maintain the quality of EGS work.

9] Workers do not get the wages on time.

10] It is found that the political interference is visible in the distribution of EGS work. While interviewing the workers and implementing officers they spoke about this problem but requested not to disclose their names. It indicates the political pressure on workers and EGS implementing officers.

#### **Conclusion:**

There is need of separate administrative system for making Employment Guarantee Scheme popular among people of rural areas. At the same time, its wages should be increased in comparison to market wages. Similarly, Women workers should be facilitated by toilets and urinals, sheds for rest and feeding their babies, crèches, shadow to eat their food, facilities like maternity leave and advance payments of their wages before their delivery. The EGS scheme will only play a vital role in the development of rural areas if water conservation, irrigation, nala bunding, farm ponds, wells construction and tree plantation works are given priority. In addition, if the skill development programmes are run through EGS for unemployed youths, there will be a bright future for Employment Guarantee Scheme.

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