



MISSION KAKATIYA A DEVELOPMENTAL REVOLUTION IN TELANGANA



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ABSTRACT

Agricultural cultivation in India since olden days mainly depended on the tank irrigation, especially in the periods of the princely states in India. Telangana is the one of the state in India mainly depended on the tanks for irrigation and all activities in the rural areas. If observe the past, in Telangana 80 per cent of irrigated area took place through the tanks during the periods of Kakatiyas, Asafzaies, Nizams. Tanks not only used to the agriculture purpose and also it has been helping in the matters of providing drinking water to villages, employment opportunity to the rural poor. Tanks base cultivation started decreasing trend all over the India respectively in Telangana also. In the recently Telangana state government has started the “Mission Kakatiya, Mana Ooru – Mana Cheru (Our Village – Our Tank)” to develop and restore the tanks over the state. Present study mainly elaborate the historical back ground of decrease the tank irrigation in Telangana and importance of tanks for development of rural villages.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, Irrigation, Tank, Telangana, Village, Kakatiya Kingdom, Water Resources.

INTRODUCTION

Tanks based irrigation for cultivation is an important feature of the southern India especially in Telangana. The people of the state historically depended on the tanks which were extended across the 10 districts. It will be useful to remember that agriculture now produces only 30% of Telangana income, but is the basis for survival of nearly 78% of the Telangana population. For agriculture, especially in the semi-arid tropics, irrigation is a key element in raising land productivity and assuring stability of livelihoods (Gautam Pingle 2011). One of the common feature of the tanks in Telangana was chain based tanks. The geography and rainfall pattern in Telangana have made tank irrigation best type of irrigation by storing and regulating water flow for agricultural use. During the Kakatiya regime tanks construction had carried out by planned and technically. Some of the important tanks such as Ramappa, Pakhala, Laknavaram, Ghanapuram, and

Bayyaram which were built by Kakatiya rulers'. Tanks were significantly aided agriculture, overall development and prosperity of the Kakatiya kingdom. Qutubshahis and Asafjahis who reigned this region for centuries after the Kakatiyas, hundreds of big and small tanks were built in Telangana region during their rule. During the period of Andhra rulers in combined Andhra Pradesh since 1956, tanks in Telangana have been neglected, and most of the tanks destructed. To continue the Legacy of the Kakatiyas rulers in recently established Telangana state, Chief Minister K Chandra Shaker Rao initiated the “Mission Kakatiya - Mana Ooru – Mana Cheru”. Government of Telangana desires to maintain the vision of Kakatiyas which envisages revival and restoration of Minor Irrigation Sources in Telangana State



LITERATURE REVIEW

Following literature show the importance of tanks for the development purpose in the rural areas and causes led to destruction of tanks. Tanks are important for the rural irrigating, increase the soil fertility and there is need efficient management of the tanks (K V Raju, Tushaar Shah 2000). In India, the largest absorption of tanks is found in the three southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Pondicherry, which account for closely 60 per cent of India's tank-irrigated area. Out of India's 2, 08,000 tanks, these states have nearly 1, 20,000, irrigating 1.8 million hectares of land (Vaidyanathan 2001). With limited water resources, vagaries of the monsoon and the looming water scarcity in many parts of India, water preservation and use by medium and micro water retentive structures have assumed greater importance. In this context tank restoration and rejuvenation with peoples' involvement is looked upon as cost effective, equitable and powerful tool to alleviate rural poverty (Sakthivadivel R & etc. 2004). At the time of using the canal irrigation in some parts of Punjab, farmers used to get the profits from the agriculture, now farmers are using the ground water with bore wells, scarcity of electricity here increasing the cost of cultivation and making loses (Anindita Sarkar 2011). As most tanks suffer from extensive encroachment into the tank bed area effective punitive measures need to be enforced and all such encroachments should be cleared by the government. (Uma Shankari 1991). Institutional and physical factors caused to the destruction of the tanks various places (S Janakarajan 1993). Tank irrigation is a profitable technology in economic, environmental and social terms; but under present conditions of management it is rapidly deteriorating. (V. Anbumozhi 2001).

REASON FOR THE REDUCTION OF TANK IRRIGATION IN TELANGANA

In Telangana Historically tanks were main source to irrigation for the agriculture land. Telangana was one of the region in the united Andhra Pradesh between periods from 1956 to 2013, during this period tanks were lost their significance in these region. Most of the rulers of the combined AP state were from the Andhra and Rayalaseema regions. This rulers having the

consciousness on their regions and developed the minor and medium irrigation projects and ignored development of the Telangana region which is mostly depended on the tank based irrigation. Two big rivers like Godavari and Krishna go through this region, but rulers could not convert the water to fill up the tanks, they converted the rivers water to their region projects and to the irrigation. The onsecutive Governments successfully ignored the maintenance and development of tanks and allowed them to face extinction by way of siltation, cracks, intrusions etc. With the destruction of tank system, the self-sufficient villages of Telangana have converted drought prone areas.

This continuous and policy based discrimination in Irrigation Sector turned Telangana Region into a graveyard of farmers and land of migration. Most of the farmers' suicides has taken place in combined AP, in which eighty percent suicides from the Telangana region. Lakhs of people from 10 Telangana districts migrated to others state and other countries, places like Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad and Gulf countries as laborers in search of livelihood. Therefore, exploitation of water resources has been one of the major concerns of Telangana movement and people strongly felt that creation of a new state of Telangana, that is, state power alone would raise them water.

Some of others factors also led to destruction of the tanks irrigation in the Telangana, which includes demographical pressures, encroachments of tank beds by the local leaders, improved technologies like tube well irrigations and environmental degradation such as deforestation, over grazing, soil erosions, accumulation of silt etc.

From the below table it can be observe that net irrigated in Telangana since 1956-57 and per cent of the net irrigated area by different sources such as canals, tanks, wells. Since 1956 onwards per cent of area irrigated by the tanks has been decreasing, per cent of area irrigated by the canals is fluctuating, but per cent of area irrigated by the wells has been increasing over the years. Here clearly revealing the destruction of tanks in the Telangana by the reduction of irrigated area under the tanks.

Table 1: Net Irrigated Area in Telangana (in lakh ha).

Year	Net Irrigated Area (lakh ha.)	Source wise Net Irrigated Area (%)		
		Canals	Tanks	Wells
1956-57	8.01	14.55	66.19	16.20
1970-72	8.50	23.38	38.93	25.24
1980-82	10.34	27.25	37.35	33.0
1990-92	14.85	22.76	25.59	47.40
2001-05	13.44	12.07	12.29	72.47
2005-07	16.95	15.31	12.86	71.82
2008-09	18.28	11.55	13.03	72.09
2009-10	14.93	9.18	13.82	84.33
2010-11	20.04	15.76	11.87	69.63
2011-12	19.85	16.37	9.22	71.69
2012-13	17.74	5.07	8.91	83.77
2013-14	22.89	12.67	10.05	74.83

Source: data above table up to 2007 from Gautam Pingle. (2011), Socio Economic outlook of 2015, Government of Telangana.

To improve the irrigation system in the state, government started the mission Kakatiya, some of the objectives of Mission Kakatiya. To Increase the agriculture based income for marginal and small farmers by strengthening of the minor irrigation projects, adopting a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks.

Achieve the above objectives government of Telangana surveyed the tanks in all the 10 districts of Telangana. In this regard government found the 46531 tanks in the state, within the five years government want to restore the all tanks in the state which has surveyed. In the year of 2014-15 government going to restore the 9306 tanks.

Table.2 District wise tanks in Telangana.

SI. No	District	Sources Finalized As On 18.10.2014	No. Of Sources To Be Restored During 2014-2015
1	Karimnagar	5939	1188
2	Adilabad	3951	790
3	Warangal	5839	1168
4	Khammam	4517	903
5	Nizamabad	3251	650
6	Medak	7941	1588
7	Ranga Reddy	2851	570
8	Mahaboobnagar	7480	1496
9	Nalgonda	4762	952
	Total	46531	9306

Source: Telangana.gov.in, mission-Kakatiya.

MAJOR BENEFITS FROM RESTORATION OF TANKS IN TELANGANA

1. Agriculture Development:-

Most of the agriculture cultivated area is dry land area in the state, estimated gains from irrigated area expansion by the improving tanks. Technology influences through adoption of resource conservation-cum-production technologies when the project is fully implemented. Fertile silt can be dug up from the tanks, it can discharge in the cultivated lands of farmers, and it will increase the fertility of soil and decrease the use of fertilizers. Then Increase the productivity per acre and agriculture production. It makes the agriculture profitable and reduces the higher cost of cultivation. Diversification

to cover irrigated area under high-value and low water deepened crops such as chilies, maize, vegetables and cotton etc.

2. Improvement of Ground Water level:-

Tanks are important at the time of heavy rains, because it reduce the floods and protect the human and animal lives and also important at the time of droughts, because it supply the storage water to the various usages such as drinking, irrigation. In Telangana lack of water storage facilities, most of the farmers for their irrigation depended on the tube well and wells. Digging of the water from the ground has become much cost and also scarcity of electricity led to the farmers' suicides in the state. Development of the tanks increase storage of water then leads to improve the ground water level, reduce the soil

erosion, and also reduce the florin content in the water. If irrigation take place through the tanks, there is no need of the electricity for cultivation.

3. Intensive farming of Fish and prawns:-

If Tanks filled with water, there is opportunity to farming the fish in the tanks, farming of the fish and prawns increase the revenue of the villages, because small tanks auction by the village panchayats for feeding the fish and prawns for the one or two years. Through this develop the rural areas with good infrastructure. Fisherman gets the employments opportunity and increase their income levels. Rural areas can achieve the self-sustain in the farming fish and prawns, there is opportunity of export to the cities and others state.

4. Increase of the forests:-

Recent periods in the rural areas per cent of forests and trees are decreasing due to increases the cultivated area. Restoration of the tanks in the rural areas, it increases the forests and trees around the tank places and in the villages, then all the villages look like greenery and also increase the nurseries. Increase of the forests protect the peoples from the environmental pollution, and reduce the soil erosion. Opportunity of planting the fruit trees and vegetables, it give the revenue to the farmers.

5. Increasing the employment opportunity:-

Through the development of the tanks creating the employment opportunity to the rural land less poor, social communities, traders etc. Agriculture is important occupation to the rural people, development of agriculture not only giving the income to the farmers and it giving income to the wage labor and also employment opportunity to the carpenters, black smith etc. social groups. Planting of the toddy trees around the tanks places, it gives the employment opportunity to the toddy tappers. All the social communities in the village getting employment opportunity directly or indirectly through the development of tanks. Moreover the employment opportunity to the tractors and poclain drivers and also income to owner of the machines. It will reduce the poverty in the rural areas, increases the accessibility of health and education level of the deprived classes.

CONCLUSION

Restoration and development of tanks by the government in the name of "Mission Kakatiya with tag line of Mana Ooru – Mana Cheru" is a wonderful program. This program developing the all tanks in the 10 districts of Telangana state. Restoration of the tanks is the developmental revolution in Telangana, the tank irrigation has important nature improvement of the agricultural

productivity, reduction of the poverty, increase the ground water level, and increase the employment opportunities and protection of environment. The sheer size of command area under tank irrigation creates it a huge center of agricultural production and provides a critical opportunity for commercial agriculture through market linkages. There is need involvement of all the section people to success the extraordinary programme irrespective of any community, religion and political parties.

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