



**ROLE OF SOCIAL FORESTRY IN VILLAGE ECONOMY
DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PLATEAU REGION OF
MAHARASHTRA**

Shikalgar Altaf Babasab.

Research Student,
Department of Geography,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Dr. Meena. B. Potdar.

Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

ABSTRACT:

The economic growth leads on the bases of utilization and exploitation of the natural resources, social forestry is one of these. This factor influences development of the particular area. There is the development of the villagers with variety of vegetation, tress and crop production with the help of social forestry.

Rural population dominates Kolhapur district. This population fully depends on the social forestry. The social forestry provide fuel, fodder small timber etc. the forest and forest products are generate employment and income. So the standard of living of the rural people rises. The peoples are involve in the varies social forestry activities i.e. plantation and nursery development etc.

OBJECTIVE:

Present paper aims to considering the following objective:

1. To look into the employment available in rural area generated by social forestry activities.
2. To verify the people benefited from the various schemes employed by social forestry.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data will be collected by field work, plant identification and individual interview. The secondary data will be retrieved form socio-economic reviews, census report, gazetteers of Kolhapur district.

THE STUDY REGION:

The south plateau region in Maharashtra is selected as the study region for the proposed research work. The region lies between 15°44' to 18°35' North latitudes and 73°33' to 76°25' East longitudes. It covers an area of 41218.43 sq.

kms, which is 13.40% of total area of the state. The population of the region is 1,27,50,248 which is 13.18% of the total population of the state. The region includes four districts of Maharashtra namely, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Solapur. These districts are administratively subdivided into 43 tahsils. The region is bounded on the north by Pune, Ahamadnagar districts, on the west by Ratanagiri district of Maharashtra state, and on the south by Goa and Karnataka states.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT:

Rural employment is gives social forestry department with the help of Nursery employment Scheme and Joint forest management program.

NURSERY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME:

Nursery Employment scheme provide by social forestry department. This employment scheme kindly control by Joint Forest Management. The Nursery employment scheme started in 1991 to 92 under the government of Maharashtra. The selected farmers are involved in this scheme. The Nursery scheme provides all basic facilities to the farmers. Such as polithin bags, seeds and insecticide etc.

The joint forest management and forest defense action both are equally work in the forest plantation process. Forest protection and development takes place in these processes. The maximum investment shows in Nursery employment. In last few year government are total felled in the provide employment because of rural people are not good support.

The government facilities 0.37 Rupees of each plant with extra 0.58 Rupees grant per plant in this way Government gives total grant 0.95 Rupees. Moreover government gives 50% purchasing guarantees of the total productions. This 50% plant production purchase at the rate of 2.84 Rupees per plant. The detail benefits of farmer through Nursery are as shows following example.

Example:

The farmer is produces total 10,000 plants

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{The total grant provided} &= 0.95 \times 10,000 \text{ plants} \\ &= 9500/- \text{ Rupees.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{The government purchase} \\ 50\% \text{ plant in the total production} &= 5,000 \times 2.84 \\ &= 14,200/- \text{ Rupees} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{Final benefits of the farmers} &= 14,200 - 9,500 \\ &= 4,700/- \text{ Rupees} \end{aligned}$$

JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Joint Forest management is the concept of developing partnership between society and forest department. It is helpful to forest protection and development. The effective and important involvement of local communities.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN JFM:

The JFM program in south plateau region of Maharashtra is implementation with the help of people participation. The society work under the control of forest department. The state government is economically support to the management program. The JFM program implementation is based upon following activities:

1. Preparation of micro plan,
2. Organize training program,
3. Organize study tour,
4. Plantation program.

INCOME THROUGH JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT:**Income through JFM (2013-14):**

No.	Taluka	Income (in lakh)
1	Kolhapur	2.125
2	Sangli	1.558
3	Satara	72.43
4	Solapur	0.011
	Total	76.124

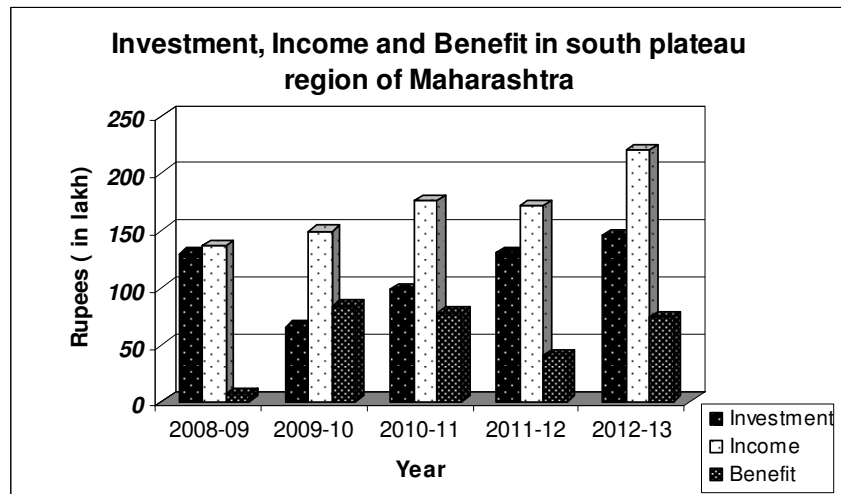
Source: Compiled by Researcher

Joint forest Management is achieving the target of plantation and economic development in south plateau region of Maharashtra. Maximum income through Joint forest management shows in Satara district and minimum shows in Solapur district. The Detail income through joint forest management in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Solapur district are shown in above table.

Investment, Income and benefit in South Plateau Region of Maharashtra:

Year	Investment (in lakh)	Income (in lakh)	Benefit (in lakh)
2008-09	129.76	136.52	6.76
2009-10	65.5	149.57	84.07
2010-11	98.47	176.03	77.56
2011-12	130.56	171.47	40.91
2012-13	145.82	219.8	73.98

Source: Forest and Social forestry Department (2013-14)



The above table and graph shows that, Investment, Income and Benefit in south plateau region of Maharashtra. The forest plantation work shows maximum in south plateau region of Maharashtra. The forest investment mainly considering about the social forestry plantation. The social forestry provides employment to the rural people. Rural communities economically fully depend upon the social forestry.

Non cultivable land is use in the plantation process. In last few year shows the government is good support in the plantation process scheme. The government is constantly support in the last few years. In 2012-13, forest department 145.82 lakh rupees invest in south plateau region of Maharashtra. This is highest investment as compare to other year. But in 2009-10 and 2010-11 lowest investment i.e. 65.5 and 98.47 lakh rupees with respectively.

Income in social forestry totally depends upon plantation and nursery employment process. Fuel woods are most important part of the income. In last few year 100 to 175 lakh Rupees income shows in social forestry plantation. Only in 2012-13 income is maximum shows. This income is 219.8 lakh Rupees. The plantation and employment scheme investment gives very high income. So, the totally net benefit condition shows are very good. In last few years 40 to 85 lakh Rupees net benefit shows in social forestry. Only in 2008-09 benefit is very low. This benefit is 6.76 lakh Rupees.

ECONOMICAL BENEFITS IN SOCIAL FORESTRY:

Some benefits are shown in social forestry. These benefits are as follows:

1. Human food from trees i.e. fruits, nuts, leaves, etc.
2. Livestock feed from trees.
3. Firewood obtained.
4. Building materials for shelter construction.
5. Fruit, nuts etc for drying or food-processing industries.

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6. Wood for a variety of manufacturing.
7. Direct cash benefits from sale of above products.
8. Indirect cash benefits from productivity increases.

CONCLUSION:

Finally we can conclude that, by utilization of social forestry increasing economic condition of rural people. The economy condition of rural people are partly depends upon plantation and employment scheme run by the government. The social forestry department has maximum investment in joint forest management program and local peoples are obtaining very high income.

It is inferred that the social forestry work to provide employment to the rural people and conservation of forest.

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