

MISSION KAKATIYA - CONCEPT AND SOCIAL IMPACT IN TELANGANA STATE

Mohd Fasi*

Abstract *Telangana is the newly formed state. After the bifurcation of the state, the government of Telangana started the concept of Mission Kakatiya in the year 2014. This Programme is inaugurated on 12 March 2015 by chief minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao. This programme is started with the main objective of restoring the water levels of the tanks in the Telangana state. It has given the support to the agricultural farmers to rebuild their water resources. Thus, this present research paper analyse the concept and social impact of Mission Kakatiya in Telangana state. Further, this paper deals with the objectives, advantages, features, benefits and challenges etc., related to Mission Kakatiya.*

Keywords *Mission Kakatiya, Telangana State*

INTRODUCTION

Telangana is the south east state of India. It lies in Deccan Plateau and carries lot of historical features. The longest river in the southern part of India i.e., Godavari river flows in the state. This state is famous for the high production in the primary sector. More than 65 per cent of the state’s population depends on the agricultural practices and nearly 85 per cent of the farmers come under small and marginal category with an average land holding size of 1.11 hectare. Majority of Telangana farmers depend on rainfed agriculture and more than 70 per cent of cropped areas is rainfed resulting lower yields per unit. Almost all the districts of the State are

drought-prone leading to socio-economic stress. This led the base for the newly formed government of Telangana to initiate the irrigational programme for irrigational development and support to the agricultural farmers. The government started the programme immediately after the separation with the Andhra Pradesh state. They initiated the programme with the title “Mission Kakatiya”. This programme was started in 2014-15 as mass peoples’ movement because all the people of Telangana supported this programme. It was agreed by the government that every year it will take up 9,350 tanks for restoration. This programme was started with the aim, objectives and target which can be analyse with the following chart.



(Source: Compiled from the Secondary Data)

Fig. 1: Mission Kakatiya – Aim, Objectives ad Target

* Research Scholar, Department of Commerce & Business Management, Kakatiya University, Warangal Urban, Telangana, India. Email: mohdfasi34892@gmail.com

The main aim of the Mission Kakatiya is to enhance and conserve the water resources of the Telangana state. It was initiated for the purpose of developing the agriculture based income of small and marginal farmers. The major objectives set for the programmes are as follows:

- To enhance the minor irrigational infrastructure in the rural areas.
- To strengthen the community based irrigation management.
- To adopt a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks in Telangana state.

Further, the government has set the target of this programme. According to the government plan, it was started with the target of restoring 46531 minor irrigational tanks. Thus, the government carried out this programme with the huge expectations.

ORIGIN OF MISSION KAKATIYA

The Mission Kakatiya Programme was initiated after the bifurcation of Telangana state. The newly formed Telangana government started this programme in the year 2014 in order to restore the water levels of the tanks of Telangana state. It was given the name as 'Mission Kakatiya' in order to remembrance and tribute to the Kakatiya rulers who developed a large number of the irrigation tanks. The Programme was inaugurated on 12 March 2015 by chief minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao. After the formation of new state Telangana, the government has initiated this programme. It was started with the concept of rejuvenating the 46531 lakes of the 31 districts. This program was taken up to mark the respect to the Kakatiya dynasty who

in their reign have dug and maintained these lakes to cater to the irrigation and drinking water needs of the state. The lakes are the backbone of the state but due to some influence and political uncertainty it was not utilized properly. The state has seen over six decades that the irresponsible and neglect on the part of irrigation in the state. The expected water holding capacity of the lakes is 260 Thousand Million Cubic Feet which can irrigate nearly 26 lakh acres of land but in reality it was not utilized till date.

CONCEPT OF MISSION KAKATIYA

Mission Kakatiya is one of admirable programmes of Telangana state government. This programme was started in the year 2014 right after the inception of the government. The mainstream of this programme is to develop 46531 tanks of the state. The government has started the programme with the local officials. At the initial state the sircilla police rejuvenated the minor irrigation project called Timmannkunta. The tanks were filled up with silts and shrubs. Around 4000 trucks were needed to carry the silt and plants from the tank. The police also built a three meters width bund around the tank. In the year 2017 all the tanks of the state are filled with the rain water. This water is used to irrigate the 150 acres of land. As per the estimation of the government if the rainfall is adequate every year the state can restore around 9000 lakes every year. In this regard the government of Telangana state conducted the Samagra Tank Survey. It contained about 46531 tanks. Further, they prepared the tentative district wise schedule to restore the tanks. The detailed information of the proposed restoration of tanks is given in the following table.

Table 1: District-wise Proposed Restoration of Tanks in Telangana State (Year-wise Restoration of Tanks)

Sl. No.	District	No. of Sources	Number of tanks proposed during the year				
			2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Karimnagar		1188	1210	1220	1200	1121
2	Adilabad	3951	790	800	800	800	761
3	Warangal	5839	1168	1170	1180	1200	1121
4	Khammam	4517	903	910	920	930	854
5	Nizamabad	3251	650	650	650	650	651
6	Medak	7941	1588	1590	1600	1610	1553
7	Ranga Reddy	2851	570	500	570	600	611
8	Mahaboobnagar	7480	1496	1500	1510	1510	1464
9	Nalgonda	4762	952	978	980	980	872
Total		46531	9305	9308	9430	9480	9008

(Source: Compiled from Secondary Data)

The above table is the proposed year wise programme of Mission Kakatiya in developing the irrigational tanks. As per the

data of the table, the Telangana government has initiated this programme by focusing on the major districts of the state. Further, this programme was started at the time where the state had only 10 major districts. Later, these districts are bifurcated to 31 districts and the Mission Kakatiya programme has also split to all the present districts. According to the data of the table, much importance is given to the areas where the water resources were very low compare to the other districts. Among the districts, Mahaboobnagar and Medak districts were highly proposed for the irrigational tanks. Karimnagar and Warangal were also considered equally for this purpose.

USES OF MISSION KAKATIYA

The following are the uses of mission Kakatiya in the irrigational development of Telangana state.

- It will decrease the wetting levels of the soil with the increase of water retention capacity.
- It improves the ground water levels with the help of De-silting. Further, it will enhance the availability of water in the tanks even in the summer season for irrigational purpose and as well as for drinking water purposes.
- The ground water will reduce significantly due to de-silting the fluoride content.
- Fertilizer usage can be reduced by using the silt to the plants.
- It will increase the production of cotton, chilies etc. around 30 per cent.
- The main use of the mission Kakatiya is for agriculture. With the implementation of the programme the crops get more yield and the agricultural practices reaches to the Stable Position.
- The plant output can be increased by using the dug mud in the field.
- This programme will increase the water level strength of Telangana state. Further, it will enhance the water level in well and Bore-Wells.

BENEFITS OF MISSION KAKATIYA

Mission Kakatiya has started with lot of positive intend. This programme has lot of benefits to the farmers in general and Telangana government in particular. Some of the benefits of this programme are as follows:

- In order to supply the water in the rural areas in general and in the agricultural field in particular this programme was initiated. This programme provided the benefits to the farmers in many ways like efficient irrigation system and improved water management techniques.

- The intensity in the cropping pattern and the suitable cropping pattern increased the productivity of the farm lands.
- One of the largest benefits of the Mission Kakatiya is the balanced use of chemical fertilizers in the agricultural field. Further, the use plant protection chemicals in the production field.
- Cost reduction during the cultivation is another feature that has provided by this programme.
- The high technological agricultural practices increased the revenue of the farmers.

CHALLENGES TO MISSION KAKATIYA

The following are the few challenges of Mission Kakatiya to the Telangana government.

- One of the biggest challenges to Mission Kakatiya is the lack of new technology machines in the working of Mission Kakatiya. Further, this technology should be adopted effectively by the rural farmers.
- Another challenge which requires the attention is that the lack of skilled persons i.e., technicians & skilled labors in the rural areas.
- For effective implementation of this programme the work should be complete only before the Monsoon seasons.
- Funding problem from central government is also one of the challenges to Mission Kakatiya.

IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION KAKATIYA IN TELANGANA STATE

The main source of irrigation for agricultural practices is the tanks. It is the lifeline to the rural communities. Mission Kakatiya is providing that lifeline to the communities. It is deliberately implementing its tasks in the Telangana state and people too are readily participating in this programme. Large numbers of farmers are actively involved in the programme. Even corporations, employees and individuals are also financially supporting this programme. Under this programme, the combined 17.15 crore has been donated by the corporates, employees etc. Among the contributions, the highest contribution is made by the employees of the Telangana state government. Further, Hetero Drugs also donated 3.05 crores under this programme. Even though, these contributions are negligible as compared to the state government investment on the programme but still it shows the social impact of the programme in the society. The government investment is too higher than these contributions

but it has indicated the intension of the public in the Mission Kakatiya programme. The government estimation for this programme is around 26000 crores. Out of which, the government has already sanctioned 5700 crores in two phases for the revival of tanks.

The government of Telangana has implemented this programme by sanctioning the funds. Till now, they have sanctioned the funds in two phases for the restoration of nearly 17000 tanks across the Telangana state. The district wise details of the restoration of the tanks in two phases are given below.

Table 2

Districts	Proposed Minor Irrigation Tanks	Sanctions Mission Kakatiya Phase-I	Sanctions Mission Kakatiya Phase-II
Adilabad	1191	47	37
Bhadradi Kothagudem	2427	442	521
Hyderabad	169	0	0
Jagtial	1197	199	218
Jangaon	896	415	169
Jayashankar Bhupalpalle	2550	224	438
Jogulamba	784	273	93
Kamareddy	1988	390	374
Karimnagar	1490	225	291
Khammam	1423	292	304
Komaram Bheem	1005	200	140
Mahabubabad	1954	171	389
Mahabubnagar	2340	388	520
Mancherial	951	145	142
Medak	2988	561	670
Medchal	500	95	73
NagarKurnool	2022	122	413
Nalgonda	2306	380	499
Nirmal	804	166	149
Nizamabad	1263	279	282
Peddapelli	1185	123	242
Rajanna Sircilla	625	109	122
Ranga Reddy	2504	312	410
Sanga Reddy	2113	366	428
Siddipet	3278	865	706
Suryapet	1254	236	296
Vikarabad	1151	327	269
Wanaparthy	1535	157	300
Warangal (R)	871	127	200
Warangal (U)	685	0	141
Yadadri	1082	193	277
Total	46531	7829	9113

(Source: Compiled from Secondary Data)

According to the data of the table, the government has started the implementation of the programme. In the phase I, the government has sanctioned the fund for 7829 minor irrigation tanks during the year 2015. Further, in the phase II, the government has sanctioned the funds for the preparation of 9113 minor irrigation tanks. These two phases indicates the progress of Mission Kakatiya and the seriousness of the

Telangana government in restoring the tanks for irrigation. As per the available data, the highest concentration has given to the districts like Siddipet, Bhadradi, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda etc. However, the metropolitan city Hyderabad has not received any growth in the irrigation tanks. This is may be because of more urbanization in the Hyderabad city.

SOCIAL IMPACT OF MISSION KAKATIYA

Mission Kakatiya has already created its impact on the society. Even though this programme started with the aim of de-silting and restoration of village tanks, but with this programme the Telangana government stretched their activities in other sections of the society like livelihoods, food security, cultural, and environment and other important aspects. Many institutions have already started conducting the case studies on this programme. Some of the major institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Birla Institute of Technological Sciences, Indian Institution of Technology etc have already witnessed the impact of this programme. These institutions have already found the social impact of Mission Kakatiya not only in the Telangana state but also in the whole nation.

In our state, to study the social impact of Mission Kakatiya in Medak and Warangal district the research was conducted by International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat). They found many important aspects in these two districts. As per their findings in Medak district the sediment de-silting from the tank is very good option in order to produce and enhance the nutrient. In Warangal, the Icrisat study stated that the application of silt to fields resulted in savings on fertilizer and pesticides ranging from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,750 per hectare in case of cotton crop, while the increase in yield was to the tune of 1,000 kg a hectare.

Other States also witnessed the social impact of Mission Kakatiya. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the two states among them. They have shown the great interest in the Mission Kakatiya programme. Maharashtra state sent one team from the Water Resources Department to visit the State and to see the implementation and progress of the programme. Further, Tamil Nadu state is planning to send their executives to study the Mission Kakatiya's scope and execution. On the other hand, the State's Groundwater Department conducted an independent research on various impacts of the initiative. It found that there was a significant rise in groundwater level wherever the tanks were restored. Not just water, soil, and crops, restoration of tanks is also paving way for the promotion of Priscilla-culture on a large scale by the State government. According to the Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao, who is spearheading the programme, "fishermen alone were expected to get an income of Rs. 1,500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore annually from this initiative". Thus, we can say that this programme is in the middle of the progress and achieving its stipulated targets and also satisfying the society by fulfilling their needs.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study, we can conclude that many attempts have been made by the Telangana government towards the development of the state and Mission Kakatiya is one of the major programmes initiated by the government. Agriculture is the primary activity of the Telangana state and irrigation is the main source for agriculture. This programme provided the foundation to the Telangana farmers in rejuvenating their water resources. It was carried out through sustainable use of irrigation resources by restoration of minor irrigation sources, strengthening of community based irrigation management, providing agricultural services, encouraging diversification and use of new technologies. The works taken up as the Mission include de-silting of tanks, restoration of feeder channel, re-selecting of irrigation channels, repairs to cross drainage and cross masonry works, repairs of Bund, Weir and Sluices.

Even though this programme has not achieved its desired objective but still it is developing and enhancing the water levels of the state. The government is carrying this programme on a high note. They have already implemented the Phase-I and Phase-II. In these two phases, the government has got the positive response from almost all the sources. The general public and farmers are jointly supporting and cooperating in this programme. Because it is the first major task of the Telangana government, they are making every possible effort to make this programme a success. The success of this programme can be seen by which the scientific advancements are adopted in agriculture and irrigation facilities in Telangana state.

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