

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF SEZ ON FARMERS OF SHENDRA REGION

Dr. Manjusha Motiram Nalgirkar

*Professor and HOD Department of Sociology
Shri Sant Savta Mali Gramin Mahavidyalaya,
Phulambri.Tq- Phulambri, Dist- Aurangabad.*

Abstract

SEZ began in India from 2006. Government acquired thousands of hectare lands for establishment of SEZ projects. Farmers are the most affected elements under this project. In present research paper researcher has discussed the impact of SEZ on social life of farmers in which majorly focused on change in family structure, family relations, domestic crises, educational condition, women's condition, old person's condition, changes in social structure and urbanization.

Key Words:

SEZ, Farmer, Social impact, Shendra

Introduction:

Every citizen of our country desires for economic growth, stability, peace and equal economic credit at international level. In order to accomplish these goals, they expect that our government has to implement proper policies in this regard. Government of India announced Special Economic Zones in April 2000 as a part of Export –Import Policy of India. Because Government realized the need to enhance foreign investment, promotes exports from the country and at the same time provide a level playing to the domestic enterprises, while ensuring manufacturers to be competitive one. Department of Commerce announced the foreign Trade policy on august 2004. For India's economic growth and employment generation SEZ Act 2005 and SEZ Rules 2006 were introduced under this policy. In very short period many SEZ projects started all over in India. The Maharashtra State also followed central government and hopefully established SEZ in certain areas. The Government acquired thousands of hector lands for SEZ. In process of land acquisition, farmers have mostly targeted.

Despite of development from SEZ, farmers faced various complicated problems such as improper remuneration for their lands, they lost their lands which was source of livelihood, use of police force for land acquisition, declined the income of grain production, questions related with displacement and government negligence for rehabilitation of SEZ affected and displaced farmers. These problems affects on farmers social and Economic

life. If these problems remained unsolved, it promotes social evils like crime and social disorganization. So there is need to do more research and study about the Social Issues of SEZ affected farmers and solve their problems.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are

1. To study the impact of SEZ on social life of farmers.
2. To evaluate the structural change in Shendra villages.
3. Recommending the suggestions to solve the problem.

Concepts (Operational Definition):

SEZ:

SEZ is a particular geographical area inside country, state allocate for industry and trade purpose. This area has economic laws that are more liberal than a country's typical economic laws.

(Chavan Vivek: 2007)

Research Method:

According to the objectives stated above the exploratory research method is used.

Area of Study:

The Shendra village situated 17km away to East from Aurangabad city. Shendra Village is divided in two villages Shendra Kamangar and Shendraban. Though Shendra village is in process of industrial development, but which caused serious questions related to social issues of farmers. The MIDC and Infra Company SEZ project has been set up surrounding the village Shendra. The land of farmers in this village is used for the SEZ project in two phases first phase is 1996-1997 and second phase after 2006-2007

Sampling:

For the present research, Purposive sampling method has been adapted. Near about 400 farmers lost their lands in Shendra SEZ project, out of them 100 farmers have chosen as a sample. In which 90 farmers have taken from Shendra and 10 farmers have taken from Nathnagar (Vadakha) respectively.

Data Collection:

Primary data is collected with the help of Interview Schedule from farmers of Shendra village. Secondary data is collected through books, reference books, journals, newspaper articles etc

Data Analysis:

The projects like SEZ are having not only economical but also social impact on the lives of the respondents. We discussed it according to the following points.

Structural Change in Family:

The following chart explains the details of structural changes at domestic level before and after SEZ in Shendra region.

Table - 1
Structural Change in Family

Sr.No	Nature of Family	Before SEZ	After SEZ
1	2	3	4
01	Joint Family	87(87%)	13(13%)
02	New cleat Family	15 (13%)	85(85%)

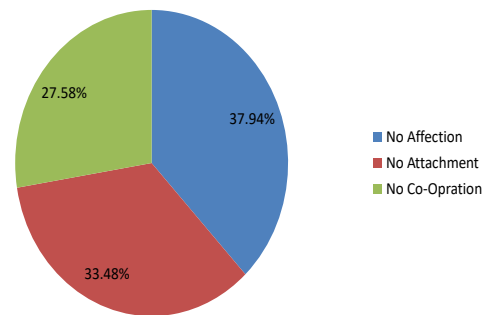
The above table shows that before SEZ 87% farmers had joint family. This joint family tradition occurred due to need of human resources require for farming. There was necessity of living together for existence or survival for fulfilling the fundamental needs. In order to establish SEZ project in Shendra region, government acquired lands of the farmers. They have to adopt another occupation which resulted the displacement of the farmers. Nearly 85% farmers who were living in joint family have to search jobs somewhere else. So joint families were affected and nuclear families were established due to SEZ.

Before SEZ there were, only 15% nuclear families but after SEZ, the joint families were affected and 85% families came into existence as nuclear families. This is the change that researcher observed due to SEZ. Life styles of traditional joint families were greatly affected and converted into nuclear families.

Change In relationships:

When the researcher made inter-action with the families about the changes regarding the relationship between the family members, 71% families told that the relationship between the members, were not affected or changed due to SEZ. Only 29% families told that there were impacts on their relationships. The impact is shown in following diagram.

Diagram 4.1
Change In Relationship



The above diagram shows that the relationships of the 29 families affected due to SEZ. Such as a) Non co-operation b) Non attachment c) Non attention among the members of the families. It means relationships are affected by SEZ.

Ten families of the farmers from Nath Nager region, at the time of interview told that the family relations between the members affected by SEZ. Because they did not get remunerations of their lands and did not have any other source of income. They have to lend money from others. No- body was ready to give money and it effected the attachment among the relatives, they said that “There relatives goes away from them, they neglected them because they may ask for money and may not pay back. There is not emotional attachment about us. Relatives do not involve in their functions as well as they do not invite them”. One respondent told that one of his relatives said that, those who have money, get respects, money is important than anything. This experience of farmers shows change in relationships.

Domestic Crises:

Out of 100, 90 respondents have received the remuneration for their lands which is acquired by the government for SEZ project from Shendra region. Those who got the remuneration, the family conflicts arise among the family member for the share of remuneration. Out of 90%, 17% framers told a reason of family conflicts was disagreement of equal distribution of amount of money among the members. Majority conflicts are taken place between brother- brother, brother-sister, father - son and father- daughter. Everyone tried to get more share in receiving amount.

There are cases where brother and sisters went in court of law for share. Researcher found 4 registered cases in Police Station about such

conflicts. These conflicts were responsible for detachment in the family members and resulted permanent division among family members. It resulted, declined family unity. There are also some cases that the relationship between husband and wife also affected by the SEZ. Thus SEZ affected family and social life of the farmers.

Education Condition:

Researcher found that, the educational conditions of the farmers’ families are not satisfactory. Whatever amount farmers received from government they spent on basic needs. Due to which their economic condition became weak. Farmers are not able to give quality education to their children in standard school. Most of the farmers (80%) children were taking education in Z.P. school. Some of the farmers (10%) gave preference to boy’s education and neglected girls education, because they were not able to give education to both boys and girls. Some of the farmers (10%) children have left school and working as laborers at different places to give economical support to the family. It creates social problem like child labor. Most of the farmers’ children take only higher secondary education and joined in private sector jobs for earning money. It means they could not go for higher studies.

Women Condition:

Women’s in the SEZ affected families facing many problems. To fulfill basic needs of family men and women both are working. While talking with these women, we observed that, most of the women’s husband has lot of tension. ‘The farmers always says to their wife that, if today we have our land we got 10 lakh rupees per hectare and become rich or we earn lot of money from our land’. This tension leads men towards addiction like liquor, bidi and gutkha ect. Whatever farmers earn in daily wages they spend 50% share on their addiction, due to which their economic condition become worst. In some family crises became regular activity, in these crises most of the times women become victim of domestic violence. Women are having tension about bread earning and future of their children. Most of the Women are living their life with stressful mind, which creates physical problems like weakness, anemia, blood pressure and diabetes etc.

Old Persons’ Condition:

In SEZ affected families old persons have tension of their lost land which they and their grandparents earned by hard work. They have emotional attachment with their lands. We found one old couple of Nathnagar whose young son committed suicide. Now no one have to look after them. In affected families old persons are always neglected. Most of the family members are not having enough

money to provide good diet and medical facilities to their old parents.

Structural Change In Villages:

The SEZ acquired lands from Shendrakamangar and Shendraban. Researcher observed the following structural changes in villages. The original structure of villages was affected because SEZ established companies on their lands. Due to the establishment of industrial companies surrounded village’s blurred original identity of village. In these villages researcher found some houses are in good condition having all facilities like wise houses in urban areas. Owners of houses had parked four-wheeler in their courtyard. These houses were belonged to senior or respected persons as Sarpanch, Vice Sarpanch, Police Patil etc.

On the contrary some houses found extremely simple and some of them were in worst situation with insufficient facilities. Houses that was in critical condition belonged farmers whose lands had acquired for SEZ project.

These villages are divided into two categories i.e. poor and rich people. People comprised into rich category who were unaffected by SEZ (whose land were not acquired or got back their lands). They became richer day by day. On contrary SEZ affected or poor people’s economically condition declined day by day and became poorer. It affects on social harmony. People from one category have jealous about another one. For example farmers from poor class always have jealousy about farmers of rich category. This distinction has been badly affected on cultural life. The tradition of an Indian Agriculture has not remained any more in SEZ affected area. Maharashtra is well- known cultural state in India. Where a number of festivals celebrated by different community. However, Pola is a common festival which eagerly celebrated by every farmer from different cast and creed. The tradition of Pola festival is in dangerous zone because it has close relation with farming animals and farmers. Farmers keep farming animals as support for agriculture. Due to acquisition of lands by government, most of the farmers are not having land for keeping up farming animals.

Urbanization:

The SEZ project is only 17 km away from Aurangabad. We find that the process of urbanization is in progress. The process of urbanization is going on rapidly because of those farmers whose economical condition is better, whereas the poor farmers are away from the urbanization.

Conclusion:

The researcher came to the conclusion that due to SEZ joint families were affected and nuclear families were established. Non attachment and non-co-operation occurred due to SEZ among the members of the families. Conflicts are taken place between brother- brother, brother-sister, father - son and father- daughter to get more share in remuneration. It means family relationships are affected by SEZ. Number of women become victim of domestic violence is increase day by day. Old parents are not getting good diet and medical facilities in their families. Structural change of villages and process of urbanization is in progress. Shendra village is divided into two categories i.e. poor and rich people. It affects on social harmony and cultural life.

Measures:

- The Government, in future, plan to establish such project must consider the various aspects such as selection of region, geographical environment, natural sources, farming lands, displacement and rehabilitation etc.
- There should be a ban on the use of irrigated and double cropland for salting up SEZs and preferring barren lands.
- Most of the farmers seeking compensation are illiterate. They have no idea of how to properly keep and utilize the money. It is therefore necessary to tell them the ways and means of how to keep it intact or how to convert it into valuable assets which will ensure regular livelihoods for them. To create this awareness

among farmers Government should take helps of social worker.

- Government should create a mechanism to evaluate SEZs Rehabilitation policy time to time and take social impact assessment of SEZ affected and displaced farmers

This profound analysis would be beneficial for both Government and farmers for all over development as well.

References:

1. Aggarwal, Aradhna. 2012. *Social and Economic Impact of SEZ In India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Arunachalam, P. 2008. *Special Economic Zones In India: Principles, Problems and Prospects*. New Delhi: Serials Publications.
3. Arunachalam, P. 2009. *Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Concerns of Special Economic Zones in India: An International Experience*. New Delhi: Serials Publications.
4. Chavan, Vivek. 2007. 'Special Economic Zones: Two Sides of Coin', *Comemnets Net* – Nov- 26.
5. Daksha, Dave. 2010. 'Special Economic Zones (SEZ): A Critical Analysis of Navi Mumbai SEZ', Arunachalam, P. (Edited): *Special Economic Zones in India (Chinese Way of Development)*. New Delhi: Serials Publications. 203-210.