

Impact of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway on Agriculture Land of Tehsil Kathua.

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Abstract: Expressway is a high-speed divided highway through which traffic is partially or fully controlled. Road facility plays an important role in agricultural development. Better roads can reduce transaction costs associated with agricultural activities. But during construction of the project it will affect the nearby areas and vegetation cover of that area. In this study the impact of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway constructing on agriculture land of tehsil Kathua effect is analysed. Results shows that the expressway construction exerts positive as well as negative both effect on the area but overall the rural development of the area is enhance and people starting their work in other sectors also for economic benefits. Simple observation and questionnaire method is used to analyse the impact of expressway. The land acquisition data is collected from the information and public relation department Kathua.

Key Words: Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, Agriculture, Impact, construction, environment, Road, Kathua

1. Introduction

An expressway is an important mark for modernization of a country and its construction plays an important role in promoting national economic and social development, and it also help in raising the living standard of people, promoting the domestic demand, and stimulating the economic development and prosperity of regions nearby the expressways. Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway is 670 km long, and has 4-lane (expandable up to 8 lanes) which is wide controlled-access expressway, which will connect Bahadurgarh border in Delhi with Katra in Jammu and Kashmir through Nakodar and Gurdaspur in Punjab.

This road will have a many centre, ambulances facility, traffic police, bus bays, truck stops, and recreational facilities also. The expected cost for this project is 35000 crores. This project is so valuable for all people of nation as well as government also. The Delhi-

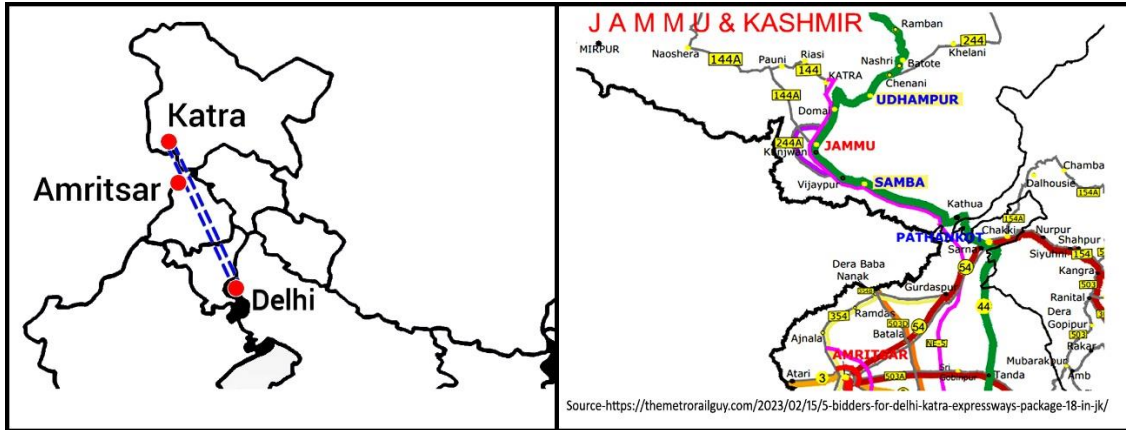
Katra express expressway corridor will cover as many as 299 villages in four major district of Jammu and Kashmir. The expressway, in the union territory, will be 130 km in length with 4 packages namely 14, 15, 16 and 17. However, expressway construction projects exert great impact on environment of that region during the construction and operation periods. The valuable farmland is converted into build up land which exert great impact on people as well as land use of that area. Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway causes inevitable agriculture destruction around the construction project in Kathua. A variety of problems caused during construction work of expressway like-atmospheric pollution caused by gases generated by asphalt mixture during road paving, soil contamination caused by accumulation of waste material and noise pollution is also created by working of heavy machinery. But this project also exerts positive impact like development of the area. Huge compensation had given to farmers whose land is acquired by government under this project. Farmers now invest their money in other business for their betterment. Most of the agriculture land is used for this project in Kathua district.

Objective: The objective of this research is to find out the nature of total area acquired under Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway in tehsil Kathua, to study the impact of construction of road infrastructure on agriculture land and the also aims to analyze the role of expressway for the development of rural area.

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2. Material and Methods

This research is mainly based on the observation method. All the positive negative impact of expressway on agriculture are observed by personally on field and also uses the questionnaire method to know the thinking of people regarding this expressway. Personal interview is also conducted to analyses the responses of farmers whose land came under road infrastructure. The total Area acquired under this project data is collected from the Information and public relation department Kathua. The general information regarding Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway is get from Wikipedia website.

territory, will be 130 km in length with 4 packages namely 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The Package 14 is under Kathua from 432.3 to 475.7 km of expressway, This Road is 44.6 km long starts from Balsua (district Pathankot) to Gurha Baildaran (Hiranagar, District Kathua).

Description of land in Hac. Acquired under national highway newly purposed in the stretch of Delhi-Amritsar-Ludhiana-Katra expressway from km 432.3 to km. 475.7 in the district Kathua. Most of the agriculture land is used for this project because in lower Kathua there is mostly Agriculture fields are present.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Agriculture land used for road infrastructure in tehsil Kathua: Land acquisition process for Delhi-Katra Expressway- the Delhi-Katra express expressway corridor will cover as many as 299 villages in four major district of Jammu and Kashmir. The expressway, in the union

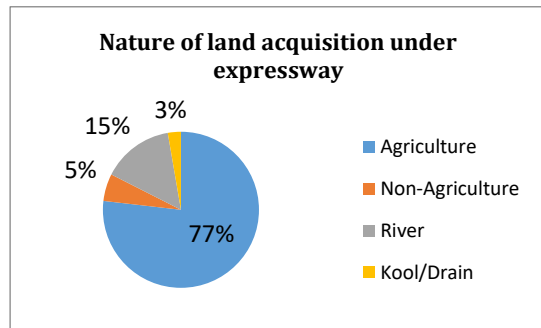


Figure 1: Shows nature of land acquisition under expressway

Table 1: Agriculture land acquired under expressway in tehsil Kathua

S.No.	Name of area	Plot number	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare
1.	Taraf Manjli	1070	Agriculture	0.4881000
		1071	Agriculture	1.1785000
		1072	Agriculture	1.2974000
		1073	Agriculture	0.0025000
		1074	Agriculture	1.2291000
2.	Taraf Bhajwal	403	Agriculture	0.1871000
		518	Agriculture	8.2319000
3.	Makhsoos Pur	79	Agriculture/Non Agriculture	0.2150000
		81	Non Agriculture	0.0683000

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		83	Non Agriculture	0.2655000
4.	Majra	16	Agriculture	0.0607000
		17	Agriculture/River	0.7435000
		20	Non Agriculture /River	0.0354000
		21	Non Agriculture	0.2327000
		22	River	1.2089000
		23	Non Agriculture /Agriculture	0.4552000
		28	Agriculture	0.7385000
		49	Non Agriculture	0.1366000
		52	River	0.5564000
		57	River	1.1861000
		5.	Muthi Rakh Walan	1
2	Agriculture			0.1214000
33	Agriculture			0.2478000
39	Agriculture			0.0329000
60	Agriculture			0.0405000
62	Agriculture/Non Agriculture			0.1619000
63	Structure/Drain			0.0025000
6.	Bhadiyari	77	Agriculture	0.0202000
7.	Falote	1	Kool	0.0051000
		32	Agriculture/Kool	0.86000
		34	Agriculture	0.091000
		35	Agriculture	0.3465000
		36	Agriculture	1.5174000
		37	Agriculture/Non agriculture	3.7707000
		38	Non Agriculture	0.1189000
44	Kool	0.0430000		
8.	Budhi	1193	Agriculture	1.1735000
Total				27.7004
This table represent the type/nature of land which comes under expressway project. It clearly shows that most of the land which comes under expressway project is mostly agriculture land which is converted into infrastructure development.				

3.2 Impact of construction of expressway on agriculture area of tehsil Kathua: The construction of the expressway in tehsil Kathua can affect the people lives as well as agriculture land of the area. Most of the area which is occupied by the project is agriculture land and before starting construction activities in the mark area of the road, crops were cut from the area so that the work have been start. This situation create great loss to the farmers living in the areas who have state land. But some farmers who have registered land on their own name gets huge compensation from the government. So this project have both positive as well as negative impact on agriculture as well as lives of the people. Agriculture land is converted into built up property which reduce the productivity of the area.

POSITIVE IMPACTS: Positive impact of expressway which helps the agriculture and people of that area are explained in following points.

Employment generator- Many complexes are going to made alongside of road which

provide recreation for travelers and also have basic amenities. So in these complexes locals were hires to have some work with this project which increases the employment facilities to locals.

Connectivity of the area- This road infrastructure can help to connect one area to other and also helps the farmers to easily go from one place to another is less time.

Increase in Cropping Intensity: Due to introduction of new road in area, it will increased the cropping intensity of the area because of introduction of new mechanization and introduction of short duration cash crops.

Changes in Cropping Pattern: People will changes there cropping pattern towards cash crop due to the increase of Road facility in area. The cash crops were taken as those crops which are mainly produced for sale in an area. There is also convenience in selling milk after the road is fully ready to use. This expressway have joint in the Keeriya gandyal location so huge market place can be develop in that particular location.

People can buy things from that area. So farmers who lives in that area can grow fruits and other things according to the demand of the buyers. So this will enhance the income of the farmers and also change in agriculture pattern.

Indulge in new activities/business- After land acquisition, farmer's gets compensation for their acquired land. So this create great opportunity for them to indulge in new activities other than farming. They can invest their money sustainably. Farmer's linkage with outside the area is increased due to road facility.

Perishable crops also sell outside the city- Due to making of the road, transport of the agriculture produce especially perishable crops like vegetables also sell outside the cities in less time.

NEGATIVE IMPACT- Due to the construction of the road in the area it will also exert negative impact on the agriculture as well as people of the area which explained through the following points.

Damage crop/ Vegetation damage by construction work- Crops gets damage by work, the villagers living in the area suffered loss of their crop during the construction work of the wall, the big heaps of dust and heavy stones have accumulated on their field of farmers thereby damaging the cultivated land. Moreover, the stone and dust will also block the smooth flow of the brooklet which also resulted into the damages to the crops spread over several kanals.

Create pollution- Lot of pollution will create during construction of the road through machineries, accumulation of dust stones etc. and also after the running of the road through vehicles. It will affect the beauty of the nearby areas.

Loss of agriculture land- After the land acquisition process for this Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway project in Kathua tehsil, many of the agriculture land is occupied by the government for the implementation of the project on time which create loss of agriculture land in the area. The farmers who have state land but dependent only on agriculture, that land is the only source of their livelihood are gone. There is no source of income is left after this acquisition process.

Production reduced- Most of the land area which is acquired by government for starting the project is agriculture land, now it uses as built up property which reduces the production of the

area as some area is occupied by the road infrastructure.

Deforestation- For the implementation of the Expressway project, So many trees are cut down for the clearance of the area. It will also enhance soil erosion of the area.

4. Conclusions:

Road Expressways are so much important for any nation's people and government. It will connect one place to another in less time. While travelling on this road people save time and fuel compared to the normal road will take. Distance is also reduced by having particular speed limit on these roads. As we all know Katra is pilgrim place and people will travel to this place through all over India. So to reduce the distance of Delhi to Katra Government takes initiative to build Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway to reduce distance of the area. Now people will reach Delhi to Katra only in Approx. 6 hr. 35000 crores money is invested by Government on this project only for the benefit of the people. This project will also increase the development of the areas through which this road is passing. This road has all facilities and also have own traffic control system.

But this project came with both Positive and Negative impact on people as well as agriculture of the area through which this Road is passing. Development of the area is increased by the construction of road in the area. New agriculture machinery can easily come in that rural areas. Compensation were given to the people whose land come under this project. Market accessibility is also increased by this. Cropping intensity is also increased.

But while constructing Infrastructure of the project, lot of problems faced by the firm for implementation of work. Due to heavy machinery working on the area noise pollution created which disturb the nearby area and effect the mental peace of the people. Dust and stones were also accumulating in the area which depletes the land. Farmers who have state land get lost their property and have nothing to survive. Project is useful for people who travel Delhi to Katra in less time but in somehow this project is not very useful for local people of tehsil Kathua.

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