

007 An Observation Report on Ulshi-Jadhunathpur Swanirvar Project
under SersaThana of Jessore District
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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

- i. To study the improvement of agriculture after expanding the irrigation channel; and
- ii. To explore the increased agriculture production under the project.

c) Executive summary

The length of the canal excavated under the project had been designed to be 2.75 miles with 120 feet width and 13 feet depth. The expected earth cutting was 1,65,62,000 cft. up to the 30th April, 1977. The total earth cutting had been 1,35,00,000 cft. It needed the rest 30,62,000 cft. earth cutting with another 3 feet in the designed depth of the canal. Dressing of the two embankments was yet to be completed. The main face of the joined Bethna-Jadhunathpur river was not excavated to allow maximum flow of water. The sluice gates were not completed for controlling the flow in and flow out of water from three different big beels within the project area. The canal included total 108 acres of fertile land. It would supply water for irrigation in total 18,240 acres of land. Those who had land, affected by the canal, had been given compensation at the rate of Tk. 6,000 per acre. There had been some small farmers who lost their total cultivable land within the canal. It had been reported that the rate of compensation was not satisfactory as they could not purchase the same quantity of cultivable land in that area at the compensated rate. Some members of the union parishad also reported that they had been forced by the District Administration to excavate the earth under the project, although they did not possess any cultivable land within the project area.

c) Conclusion

Ulshi-Jadhunathpur Joint river project is one of the largest part of swanirvar programme in Bangladesh. Different groups of people voluntarily participated in earth cutting and excavated total 1,35,0000 Cft. under the guidance of Jessore district administration. Length of the excavated canal was 2.75 miles with 120 feet width and 13 feet depth. It was connected with four big heels (water shed aren) covering about 18,240 acres of land proposed to be irrigated for cultivation of HYV crops. It has been expected that about one lakh maunds of grain crops would be grown in excess than what would grow without the project.

Involvement of landless and poor farmers of the area through extensive cultivation of khash lands and boel areas for HYV crop production and fish cultivation in the Bothna river would greatly increase and thereby national productivity in agricultural field.

Ulshi-Jadhunathpur swanirvar project have developed a deep sense of relationship between the government and the people through work on self help basis. Direct participation with the villagers provided an excellent opportunity to the departmental officials to collect basic information about the rural problems of Bangladesh.

The project would undoubtedly increase the agricultural production and solve many socio-economic problems of rural people of the area. The idea should be tested further with a view to achieve greater success and solvency of rural Bangladesh.