

ABSTRACT

Though enormous investments are made in irrigation sector, there has been little research on performance of irrigation projects. The thesis attempted to evaluate the performance of Malaprabha Irrigation Project with the main objective of understanding the implementation processes.

The project objectives viz., providing irrigation facilities and increasing agricultural production in the command area, have been chosen for evaluation. The various assumptions underlying the achievement of these objectives have been analysed from technical, economic and organisational angles.

The data collected includes secondary data from various departments and primary data through a farmers' survey and an organisational study.

The results showed that the project has not been performing as per projections. The causes for poor performance relate to economic aspects - availability of finance, cement and steel; technical aspects - water delivery, crop input and output levels and organisational aspects - clarity of objectives, monitoring process, external pressures in job execution and job satisfaction of engineers.

The study provides ground truth data on planning and implementation processes of the irrigation project and points out inadequacies existing therein, including limitations of data base. Based on the understanding of the study, a framework for performance evaluation of irrigations projects has been suggested.