

C H A P T E R I I .

PHYSICO-GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUGULWAD VILLAGE.

SECTION I GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION.

SECTION II GRAMPANCHAYAT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF GUGULWAD VILLAGE.

GUGULWAD AND ITS GRAMPANCHAYAT

P E O P L E

EDUCATIONAL STANDARD

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HEALTH CONDITIONS

ECONOMIC CONDITION.

SECTION III AGRICULTURAL CONDITION.

LAND AND ITS TYPES

WATER FACILITIES

IMPROVED SEEDS

CHEMICAL AND OTHER FERTILIZERS

MECHANISATION

QUALITY OF LIVE STOCK

PATTERN OF CROPS

NEED FOR LEVELLING

INDEBTEDNESS.

C H A P T E R I I.

PHYSICO-GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION AND
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
GUGULWAD VILLAGE.

S E C T I O N : I.

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

As for as the location is concerned, the village Gugulwad is one of the small village located North-Eastern side of the Malegaon city. The village is 22/- Kms. away from the Malegaon city. The village is under Malegaon Taluka and under Nasik District. The village is 3/- Kms. away from National High-way No.3 i.e. the Bombay-Agra road. Gugulwad is situated towards the East of the Zodaga village. The outside boundaries of the Gugulwad village are; at East is Palasdare village, at West Zodaga village, South Bhilkot village and at North district Dhule's boundry.

There is a Kachha road to go at Gugulwad village from Zodaga village. Zodaga is the market place of the village and generally all kinds of marketable commodities are available at Zodaga village.

There is no small or big industry situated near by to the Gugulwad village and the taluka place and district places are also far away from the Gugulwad village.

- 63 -

Atmosphere of the Gugulwad village is cooperative and climate is favourable to the peasants but only one big drawback of the village is that, there is lack of irrigation facilities. The average temperature of this village is 72 C.F.

The total land of the village is about 1,176/- hectares and out of the village land 688 hectare land is cultivated and remaining is non-cultivated.

In the Nasik District, ~~and in the~~ particularly in Malmatha region, there is less rainfall and Gugulwad village is not an exceptional case. It means there is ~~no~~ low rainfall. During 1980 there was 17" rainfall and 16", 13" and 19" in 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively.

SECTION II.

GRAMPANCHAYAT AND SOCIO- ECONOMIC

CONDITIONS OF GUGULWAD VILLAGE

GUGULWAD AND ITS GRAMPANCHAYAT.

From a vedic period ^{the} village institution has enjoyed great importance. Village assemblies had supreme authority in the political and economic life of the villages in early period.

But when India became independent the indigenous Government paid special attention to this aspect. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that freedom should start from the ^{level} ground. Every village should be a small republic, in which should be vested every right. After the independence of the country the state Government have made efforts and established Grampanchayats in the villages of India. The village Panchayat is the smallest unit of local Self-Government in the rural areas. Upon its cooperation depends the successful implementation of the development programme in the village. Now village constitution works under the Zilla Parishad Organisation.

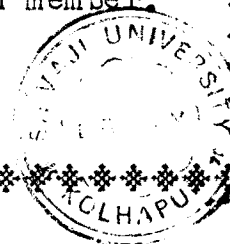
By the end of March 1967 there were about 2,13,000/- village Panchayats in India covering about 97/- percent of the rural population. More than 5,57,000/- villages are covered by Panchayats. The percentage of villages covered by the Panchayat to total number of villages is 99.

The average population per Panchayat on all India basis is approximately 1,642/- with an average of 2.6 villages per Panchayat.¹

The functions of Gram Panchayats, which can broadly be divided into two categories- Obligatory and discretionary, include municipal administration, cultural, social, agricultural and development activities. These range from ~~state~~ sanitation, conservancy, crop experiment and promotion of cottage industries, registration of birth and deaths. Besides the State Government generally have power to authorise the Panchayats to perform other functions or duties

The Gram Panchayats have the power to levy certain taxes, though there are considerable variations from state to state. The main sources of income of the Panchayats are : tax on property, cess on land revenue or rent, and vehicle and profession tax. These taxes are generally compulsory. Panchayats are also empowered to levy some other taxes and fees like Octroi, tax on shops, fees for the use of rest houses, drainage fee, lighting charges, water charges, etc. where such services are provided by the Gram Panchayats.

Gugulwad village has its own Grampanchayat since 1966 but the Panchayat has no building of its own. Seven members are elected by the villagers and in every Panchayat there is at least one Harijan member and one woman member.



Now Bhikan Rambhau Pophale is Sarpanch of the Gugulwad village. He is head of the assembly.

Gugulwad village Gram Panchayat is not able to carry out the various schemes and facilities for the benefit of villagers because the Grampanchayat has no strong income sources. Land revenue is only income side of the Gram - Panchayat, but it is also uncertain because of uncertainties in land produce. The Grampanchayat provides educational facilities to the backward class students i.e. books, dresses, and other recreational facilities. Family planning programme is handled by the Panchayat with the cooperation of Panchayat Samiti. Water supply, Sanitation and house-hold electric facilities are provided by the Grampanchayat.

The Gugulwad village Grampanchayat is not a developed Grampanchayat as is seen in the big villages, though the administration is active and conscious.

PEOPLE :

A village community can be defined as a group of persons permanently residing in a definite geographical area and whose members have developed community consciousness and cultural, social and economic relations which distinguish them from other communities.² Agriculture and allied activities are the main economic activities of the people living in a village.

There are about 5,58,088 villages and only 2,641 towns in India. A large number of villages of India do not have more than 500 inhabitants. About 27% of the total rural population of India lives in such villages. About 49 percent of the total rural population of India lives in villages that have a population between 500/- to 2000/-. These are known as medium size villages. And only 19% of the total population lives in villages that have a population between 2000 to 5000/³.

The total population of the Gugulwad village is 1091/- according to the 1981 census. Out of this 574/- are males and 517/- females. There is nearabout equal proportion of males and females. According to 1981 census, there are 939/- Hindu, 31/- Schedule caste, 121/- schedule tribe individuals in the Gugulwad village.

According to 1981 census there are 238 families in the Gugulwad village and out of these there are 210 Hindu families, 22 Bhil families, and only 6 families are Harijan.

Above statistical information clearly shows that there is majority of the people who belong to Hindu religion. Most of them are of Maratha caste and their main occupation is farming. They are fully dependent upon farming. In the Maratha families secondary occupation is that of land labourers. Second category of the families is of schedule tribes. Mainly they are Bhils. Their main occupation is also farming as well as working as land labourer. There are 6 families of Mahars i.e. Harijan caste.

As far as the total population is concerned the village is not densely populated. The villagers are very free, healthy and they well come w strangers.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARD.

The education is the most important part of the Social life and the development. Education is essential to every body. If we objectively and impartially analyze the causes of the various problems encountered in rural India, we shall find that the most basic cause of misery, squalor and backwardness of an average Indian villager is his lack of education.

Bertrand Russell has very pointelly observed in his book "Principles of Social Reconstruction" that it is impossible to sustain modern democracy in conditions of low rate of literacy. That is why Mahatma Gandhi attached so much importance to Basic Education in his scheme of rural upliftment.⁴

The same condition, we will come to know in the Gugulwad village. In this village the educational standard is very poor. The 80% people are illiterate. In this village there is one primary school upto 7th standard and the primary school has neither sufficient nor its own building. The total students of the primary school were 180 in the educational year of 1982. According to the discussion with the teachers of the primary school, only 30 to 40 percent students remain regularly present

in the school as other students have to take part in farming with their family members.

For the high-school education they are going to the Zodaga village. In this only 20 students are going for higher education. In this village there are only 5 persons who have got bachelor's degree.

Being illiterate, villagers are innocent of modern scientific developments and of new and wider horizons of knowledge. Furthermore, being illiterate they are - orthodox and superstitious. On account of illiteracy modern farming can not take root and flourish in the villages.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Agricultural production depends to a large extent on the availability of adequate credit at a reasonable rate of interest and timely supplies of agricultural requisites. Because of inadequate financial resources and absence of timely credit facilities at reasonable rates many of the farmers, though otherwise willing, are unable to ^{go} in for improved seeds and manures or to introduce better methods of techniques. ⁵ The absence of a proper machinery for the distribution of improved implements, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. at the proper time and at reasonable rates creates difficulties in their application.

In this way **banks and societies** are playing important role in the development of agriculture. Now a days Government is implementing many agricultural schemes through banks and cooperative societies. Banks are giving financial assistance to farmers and cooperative societies are providing various type of fertilisers, manures, seeds and implements.

Unfortunately, there is no bank in Gugulwad village. For banking activities the farmers have to go Zodaga village that is having a branch of district bank and two nationalised banks. Few months ago, the villagers of Gugulwad village opened one cooperative society and through this cooperative society the farmers of the village can get seeds, fertilisers and manures.

One most important feature of the village is that, there is one Milk Society which is run on Cooperative basis. This Milk society is very beneficial to the villagers.

HEALTH CONDITIONS :

In Gugulwad village, there are two private doctors but none of them is M.B.B.S degree holder. According to the opinion of the villagers, both the doctors are cooperative. To solve the major health problem, the villagers have to go Zodaga village. Sanitation position is also medium in Gugulwad village.

Drinking water is provided through water supply scheme

namely "Malmatha Water Supply Scheme". Every family has to pay Rs.72 for a year as water supply revenue and if the family has taken private water connection, then such family has to pay Rs.120/- per year. Adivasi and Harijan families have to pay only Rs.3/- per annum as water supply revenue.

ECONOMIC CONDITION :

In human life there are some important aspects which are economic and social. Economic aspects include basic needs like food, cloth and shelter. The economic condition is based on different things like occupation and total working members. In Gugulwad village the main source of the income is farming. The total income of the village is very low because most of the people have no sufficient land. To make the adjustment of family expenditure, most of the small farmers and their family members have to go on daily wages work.

S E C T I O N I I I

AGRICULTURAL CONDITION

An unfortunate fact of Indian agriculture is the very low level of its productivity and another thing is also clear that there is not much scope for extensive cultivation i.e. increase in production can not be brought about by putting more land under crops. Land productivity is dependent on the quality of the soil, extent of irrigation facilities available, favourable natural factors like rainfall, climate etc. It is also dependent on the extent of Government efforts in improving agricultural inputs and infrastructure. Differences in natural endowments can be narrowed down by human effort but it is not possible to completely eliminate them.

To see the agricultural condition of Gugulwad village we have to see following points.

LAND AND ITS TYPES.

The total land of Gugulwad village is about 1176/- hectares and out of the village land, 688 hectares land is cultivated. 488 hectares land of the village is uncultivated. This statistics shows that 59 percent of the total land of the village is cultivated land, but the land which is useful for cultivation is not so fertile as to take commercial crops such as sugarcane, cotton etc. The Talathi of the village

told that nearabout 120/- hectares land is medium black soil and remaining cultivated land is of coarse shallow soil type of land which is useful only to take subsistence type of crops such as Bajari, Jawar etc.

WATER FACILITIES.

Water is absolutely necessary to agricultural production. In areas where rainfall is plentiful and well-distributed over the year, there is no problem of water. But rainfall in certain areas is very scanty as well as uncertain. In these areas, artificial irrigation is absolutely essential, for without it cultivation is almost impossible.

Net cultivated area (In India) in 1976-77 was 1,402 lakh hectares and artificial irrigation was provided to 325 lakh hectares of land in 1976-77 i.e. 25 percent of the net cropped area was irrigated.⁶

As described above, the same condition is found in Gugulwad village. The rainfall is very low in the village.

T A B L E 1.

Rainfall of Gugulwad village.

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Rainfall	49 CM	44 CM	42 CM	56 CM

Alongwith, the lack of natural water, the village has no irrigation facilities.

There is no canal to provide water for farming.

The leaders of the village and the leaders of the Malmatha village group are trying their best to get water from the Haranbari Dam but yet they are not succeeded. The villagers of Gugulwad village have confidence that if they get canal from the Haranbari Dam, they will be able to produce more sufficient crops from their land.

IMPROVED SEEDS.

Indian farmers are aware of the importance of improved seeds in cultivation, for good seeds make possible in increase of 10 to 20 percent in production. Agricultural Department and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have done much to evolve and popularise improved and disease-resisting varieties of seeds suitable for different local conditions.

Most of the farmers of Gugulwad village are also aware that the use of new varieties of seeds is useful to increase the land production, but the condition of the soil, lack of irrigation facilities and financial condition take them away from using new varieties of seeds. But it is also seen that some farmers who have more land, are using new varieties of hybrid seeds, that is HB 110 of Bajara, Kalyan Sonaof wheat, No.5 of Jowar etc. Gugulwad village

farmers bring these seeds from their own cooperative society or from Zodage village. Many small farmers can not use improved seeds due to lack of finance.

CHEMICAL AND OTHER FERTILIZERS.

In any scheme for boosting agricultural output, the use of chemical fertilizers has an important role. With population rising at a fast rate, the use of large and larger doses of chemical fertilizers is the only way to augment our foodgrains production.

Some farmers of Gugulwad village are using some chemical fertilizers such as Urea, Suphala, but not in more quantity. Many small farmers can not use chemical fertilizers due to finance. Second reason of not using chemical fertilizers by the farmers is that there is lack of irrigation facilities and rainfall.

M E C H A N I S A T I O N .

The tools and implements used by the Indian farmers are primitive, crude and antiquated, as compared to the most up-to-date farm machinery used by the farmers of the west. Mechanisation of agriculture is useful to increase agricultural production and reduction of costs. Besides, agricultural machinery has been useful in - reclaiming barren lands. Naturally there is now a common belief that progressive agriculture is impossible without mechanisation of agriculture. By mechanisation of agriculture we mean the replacement of animal and human power

- 76 -

it
by machinery whenever possible.

In India, by and large, it is the human and animal power that is used for the performance of agricultural operations. If we take use of tractor as an indication of the state of affair in the country in comparison with developed countries, we shall find that India is very backward in the mechanisation of this sector. For example in England there is, on an average, one tractor for every 45 hectares of land. In U.S.A. the average area per tractor is 94 hectares, in U.S.S.R. the area is 592 hectares for every tractor, in Australlia it is 2076 hectares per tractor. As against this, in India there is, on an average, one tractor for as many as 9,567 hectars of land.⁷ In India majority of the farmers use the wooden ploughs, ~~and~~ ~~wooden~~ dusters, levellers and oil engines. An electric pump is very rare. The methods of sowing, harvesting, storing are old and of traditional types.

In Gugulwad village wooden ploughs are about 78, levellers are 73, spears are 2, bullocarts are 120 and there is no tractor. Oil engines are 15 to 20 and there is no electric motor.

QUALITY OF LIVE STOCK.

Live stock has a great importance in agricluture sector and it is a important source of energy for farming operations. A sub-stantial part of manure is also supplied by cattle. To a very large extent it provides work and

income to cultivators and villagers. So live-stock has special significance for an underdeveloped country like India, which is predominantly agricultural in character. In addition, the live-stock is a great source of milk, meat, hides and skins, bones, wool etc. Live-stock is a wealth of Indian farmers. So it is necessary to improve the quality of live-stock.

India is at the top of ~~world~~ world having one-sixth of the live-stock population - less than one-fifth of cattle half of buffaloes, and over one-fifth of goat and sheep. China comes second with only 10 percent.⁸

There are many types of animals in the Gugulwad village. Following types of animals are found in the Gugulwad village.

1) Bullocks	209	4) Sheep	140
2) Cows	270	5) Buffaloes	120
3) Goats	234	6) Poultry	218

Total : 1,191.

Source: Above statistics taken from Veterinary Doctor of Zodaga Village.

All types of animals are about 1191 out of these animals, bullocks are very useful for the agriculture. Cows and buffaloes are useful for the income.

PATTERN OF CROPS :

By cropping pattern is meant the proportion of area under different crops at a point of time. A change in cropping pattern implies a change in proportion of area under different crops.

The most important feature of cropping pattern in India is the pre-dominance of foodgrains. Of course, there are several other crops that are grown in the country but the area under foodgrains constitute the biggest chunk of land. The ratio of food-grains and non-foodgrains is of 3 to 1. This has been the position all through the long years since 1950-51, with foodgrains constituting around 75 per cent, and non-foodgrains, the remaining 25 percent of the cropped area.

Above picture is also seen in the Gugulwad village. Most of the farmers of Gugulwad village take foodgrain crops. Already, we have mentioned that most of the land of the village is Coarse Shallow soil type and the rainfall is very low, so the farmers of village take foodgrains mostly.

In Gugulwad village, there is not much irrigated land. Major portion is non-irrigated. There are mainly two types of crops taken and these are called Kharif and Rabi. Crops sown at the beginning of the monsoon and harvested at the end of monsoon, are known as "Kharif" crops. They

require high temperatures and plenty of rainfall. Paddy, Bajara, Cotton, Groundnuts, Moong are all Kharif crops. Crops which are sown at the beginning of winter, and harvested at the end of it, are called rabi crops. These crops require cooler temperature and less rain. Wheat, Coriander are some of the Rabi crops. Jawar is grown in both seasons.

Following major crops are taken by the Gugulwad village farmers.

T A B L E 2.

Crops taken by the Gugulwad villagers.

Sr.No.	Crop	Land under cultivation (In hectares).
1.	Bajara	261
2.	Ground-nut	174
3.	Jawar	145
4.	Pulses	28
5.	Cotton	17
6.	Wheat	16
7.	Vegetables	15
8.	Sugarcane	8
9.	Rice	3

Source: Above statistic is taken from the Talathi of the village (according to 1981 cropping pattern).

NEED FOR LEVELLING.

Levelling of cultivated land and bunding are essential for agricultural development. Lot of the land is dry and the rainfall is also low. - Considering these two drawbacks of Indian agriculture, levelling of land and bunding is very essential.

In Gugulwad village majority of the small farmers are in need of levelling and bunding. Some farmers have levelled their land by the old - implements and methods. Most of the small farmers do not level their lands, due to lack of finance and so they require loan for levelling and bunding.

INDEBTEDNESS.

Rural indebtedness is a problem. Most of the farmers borrowed money from landlord or from big farmers. Due to high interest, the farmers can not repay all amount and get buried in debt, day by day.

Generally most of the farmers take money from money-lenders, landlords, relatives and only some farmers, whom we can call big farmers, take loans from banks and societies etc.

- 81 -

All small farmers of the Gugulwad village require loan for cultivation of land and for family expenditure, but they do not take loans from banks or societies, because the procedure of loan giving by banks and societies is very complex. Banks and societies require mortgage from the loan-taker. Small farmers are unable to give mortgage, so they take loans from money lenders or relatives for the purpose of purchase of cows, buffaloes or for purchasing hybrid seeds.

REFERENCES

1. Deb, P.C.,:
"Rural Sociology ", P. 108.
2. Ibid, :P.30.
3. Singh, K., :
" Rural Sociology", PP.101-102.
4. Vatsyayan, :
" Rural and Urban Sociology" , P.182.
5. Madan, G.R. and Madan, Tara, :
"Village Development in India", P.120.
6. Datt, Ruddar and Sundharam, K.P.M., :
" Indian Economy", P.395.
7. Agrawal, A.N., :
" Indian Economy", P.295.
8. Datt, Ruddar and Sundharam, K.P.M., :
"Op.Cit., PP.402-403.
9. Agrawal, A.N., :
"Op.Cit., P.241.