

CHAPTER - II

THE ECONOMIC PROFILE OF KUMATHE

2.1 Geographical Location of Kumathe

2.2 Total Land Area of Kumathe

2.3 Population

2.4 The Origin And Development of Grape Farming In Kumathe

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2.1 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF KUMATHE :

Kumathe is a small village 18 Kms. North- East wards of Sangli and 13 Kms East wards of Tasgaon, a taluka of Sangli District. The geographic location of Kumathe is North latitude 16°-57° and East longitude 74°-39°. Before 1977 Kumathe was a leading village in the cultivation of Sugar-cane. The agriculture in general and the cultivation of Sugar-cane particularly were mainly dependent on well-irrigation. Besides Sugar-cane, the farmers harvested crops like jowar, wheat, rice turmeric etc. The average annual rainfall in Tasgaon Taluka is 500 m.m.

2.2 TOTAL LAND AREA OF KUMATHE :

We have given above details regarding the geographic location of Kumathe. The total land area of Kumathe according to 1981 census was 1143 hectares of which 142 hectares of land was well irrigated and 905 hectares of land is unirrigated. It means the proportion of irrigated land is 12.44% of total area. This proportion of irrigation is based on 1981 census. However, the recent discussion with the Talathi of the village has revealed a shocking fact that only 34 hectares of land at present (1986) is under irrigation because most of the wells have dried up and the village has no lift-irrigation scheme at all.



2.3 POPULATION :

The total population of Kumathe was 4530 in the year 1971 which became 5157 in the year 1981. In otherwords the crude growth rate of population during the last decade was only 1.43% per year. In the year 1981 the sex ratio for the village was 957 per thousand male population. In the year 1981 the proportion of backward class population to total population was 0.43%. For the population as a whole the literacy ratio was 54.92%. The literacy ratio among male population was 68.70% and among female population it was 40.52%. The working population of Kumathe is given in the following table No.2.1

TABLE NO.2.1
WORKING POPULATION

<u>Items</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Total Population	5178	100
Male Population	2646	51.10
Female Population	2532	48.90
Male Workers	1417	27.36
Female Workers	340	6.56
Male Cultivators	802	15.48
Female Cultivators	127	2.45
Male Agricultural Labours	219	4.22
Female Agricultural Labourers	131	2.52

It is clear from this table the male workers constitutes 27.36% of the population and female workers constitute 6.56% of the population. In other words almost 34% of the population is the working population reflecting a rather heavy dependency ratio. Male cultivators constitute 15.48 of the population and female cultivators constitutes 2.45% of the total population. 4.22% of the population are male agricultural labourers where as 2.52% of the population are m female agricultural labourers. On the basis of this table we can also say that of the total workers 478 are non-agricultural workers constituting 27.05% of the total workers.

The composition of non-agricultural workers by industry is given in Table No. 2.2.

TABLE NO. 2.2

COMPOSITION OF NON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS 1981

<u>Sr.No.</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1.	Total number of Agri.workers	501	-
2.	Household industry workers	56	11.57
3.	Other than household industry	422	84.23
4.	Construction	23	4.59
5.	Trade and commerce	-	-
6.	Transport storage and communication	-	-
7.	Other services	-	-

NOTE : The statistical data given in the 1981 census for the village leaves a discrepancy of 23 non agricultural workers.

2.4 THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF GRAPE FARMING IN KUMATHE :

Shri. Tatyasaheb Dattajirao Ghatge ex-sarpanch of Kumathe started growing Thompson seedless grapes in 1971 for the first time in the village. While under medical treatment of Dr. Gaikwad of Miraj, he noticed that there was a small vineyard near the hospital, Dr. Gaikwad was supervising the plants, so Tatyasaheb went there to see him. Dr. Gaikwad saw that Tatyasaheb Ghatge was a well known farmer, so he motivated him to plant a vineyard in Kumathe. On Dr. Gaikwad's advice, Tatyasaheb Ghatge planted Thompson seedless variety of grapes on 35 ares of land. Afterwards Dr. Gaikwad, Shri. Ganpati Shanker Mehtre of Tasgaon and Kalgoand Patil of Nimani often gave him proper guidance in harvesting good crop.

Only Tatyasaheb Ghatge had a vineyard from 1971 to 1974. He achieved a record yield of 19 tonnes of grape production on the farm of 35 ares. So naturally other farmers in Kumathe and nearby were greatly inspired. Under his expert guidance they started planting vineyards.

After 1974 Shri. Krishna Akaram Patil, Krishna Dyanu Mali. and Keshav Laxman Patil Planted vineyards on their farms.

After 1977, there was a great decrease in the average rain fall, so naturally the level of well water receded deeper and deeper and with the shortage of water, the farmers turned from

sugar cane to vineyards. Now the farmers have stopped growing sugar cane they have turned to vineyards and now there are vineyards on about 18 hectares of land i.e. 1.57% of total land is under grape cultivation.

Grapes from Kumathe are generally transported to Bombay by tempoes and trucks. Now the transportation charges as Rs. 2 per box of 4 Kg. grapes. Some of this production is exported to foreign countries through agents.

From the year 1986 farmers have started processing grapes into raisins. This has helped to lessen charges on transportation and also leads to increase in income of local grape cultivators. In unfavourable climatic conditions grape processing has proved to be a boon to the local farmers.

In the year 1987-88 majority of the grape cultivators in Kumathe adopted processing of grapes for raisin mainly as the result of greater profit margin. As a result the local grapes were not supplied to the market. Moreover grapes from adjoining villages were bought for raisin processing. This major shift in the approach to grape cultivation has resulted into a significant increase in the income of the local grape cultivators, generated additional employment opportunities mainly for the female population and changed the nature of the grape marketing.

R E F E R E N C E S

1. District Census Handbooks Sangli for 1971 & 1981
Compiled by The Maharashtra Census Directorate Bombay.