

**3.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Gadhinglaj Taluka is one of the blocks in the South Maharashtra. Gadhinglaj Taluka is on the boundary of Maharashtra and Karnataka in Kolhapur District. The Taluka is important for its many historical events. The great commander of the Maratha Army Veer Prataprao Gurjar's monument is in this Taluka. In the South, there is the historical fort, which is known as 'Samangad'. The name 'Gadhinglaj' is eventuated on account of the fort of Samangad according to official records [1].

Gadhinglaj Taluka is a religious place as well. The famous Shree Kalbhairav Temple is at the northern side of Gadhinglaj. Shree Kalbhairav is the family deity of this Taluka. Many freedom fighters from Gadhinglaj participated in the Indian Freedom movement. Bindu Narayan Kulkarni was known as a great patriot of this Taluka, who sacrificed his life in the Freedom struggle. Thus, Gadhinglaj Taluka rightfully claims to have made considerable contribution in the fields of religion, culture, literature, etc., of Maharashtra.

**3.2 GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITION:**

Geographically, Gadhinglaj Taluka consists of 92 villages covering the total area of 475.50 sq.kms. The Taluka is situated at Maharashtra and Karnataka boundary. Belgaum district of Karnataka is to the north-east side, Chandgad to

the south and Ajara to the west side of Gadhinglaj Taluka. The rivers, namely, Hiranyakeshi and Ghataprabha, flow through this Taluka.

Gadhinglaj Taluka has warm and damp climate with an average annual rainfall of about 669mm. The maximum temperature range is 14.6 deg.C. in the winter season, which rises to 39 deg.C. during the summer season.

### 3.3 LOCATION:

Gadhinglaj Taluka is situated at 16.30' North latitude and 74.21' East longitude. Gadhinglaj Town is 79 kms. away from Kolhapur.

### 3.4 POPULATION:

The study of human resources and human resources development is vital from the point of view of economic development and welfare. It becomes essential to be aware of demographic characteristics of the population, particularly the size of population, the rate at which it is growing, its composition and distribution, etc.[2]. The population features of Gadhinglaj Taluka are given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1  
Relative Growth of Urban and Rural Areas  
in Gadhinglaj Taluka

Year	Population			%age to Total		Decadial rise	
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1981	18535	156225	174760	16.61	89.39	-	-
1991	22982	175214	198196	11.60	88.40	23.99	12.15

Source: Statistical Department, Panchayat Samiti,  
Gadhinglaj.

Table 3.1 shows the population of Gadhinglaj Taluka, distributed between urban and rural areas in 1981 and 1991. In 1981, out of 1,74,760 total population, 18,535 were in the urban areas, whereas 1,56,225 were in the rural area. In other words, the proportion of urban population was 10.61 and the rural 89.39. In 1991, out of the total population of 1,98,196, 22,982 persons were in the urban and 1,75,214 persons were in the rural areas. The percentage of urban population was 11.60 and the rural population was 88.40. The population has increased during the ten years period. The percentage of increase in the urban population was 23.99 and in the rural areas, it was 12.15 during this period.

The above Table shows that the major proportion of the population is living in the rural area. The proportion of those living in urban and rural areas has remained more or less the same in 1981 and 1991. Gadhinglaj Taluka is undeveloped mainly due to the lack of urbanization. As a greater proportion of the population faces many problems. There are not many employment opportunities. The burden of increasing population continues to fall on the agricultural sector. The small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers in the rural areas have to face many problems.

The distribution of the population of Gadhinglaj Taluka in 1991 is given in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2  
Distribution of the Population of  
Gadhinglaj Taluka in 1991

	Total Population	Male	Female
Urban :	22,982 (100%)	12,162 (52.92%)	10,820 (47.08%)
Rural :	1,75,214 (100%)	85,934 (49.04%)	89,280 (50.96%)
Total :	1,98,196 (100%)	98,096 (49.49%)	100100 (50.51%)

Source: Statistical Department, Panchayat Samiti,  
Gadhinglaj.

Table 3.2 shows the total population of Gadhinglaj Taluka divided into urban and rural areas. However, the rural population is larger than the urban population. In urban areas, total population is 22,982; out of this, 12,162 are males and 10,820 females, i.e. 52.92 percent are males and 42.08 are females. Thus, the males are predominant as compared to the female population in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the female population pips the male population slightly more than one percent.

### 3.5 AGRICULTURAL CONDITION:

Agricultural activity is one of the major sources of livelihood in Gadhinglaj Taluka. This Taluka is fairly backwards as there is no industrial development. The Taluka covers irrigated, non -irrigated, forest and uncultivable lands. Hirenyakesh and Ghataprabha rivers help irrigate some land in the Taluka, particularly those lands near the banks. The major crops grown in this Taluka are rice, Jowar, chillies, groundnut, sugarcane, etc. The distribution of the land area in Gadhinglaj Taluka is given below.

Table 3.3  
Distribution of Total Area of Gadhinglaj Taluka (1991)

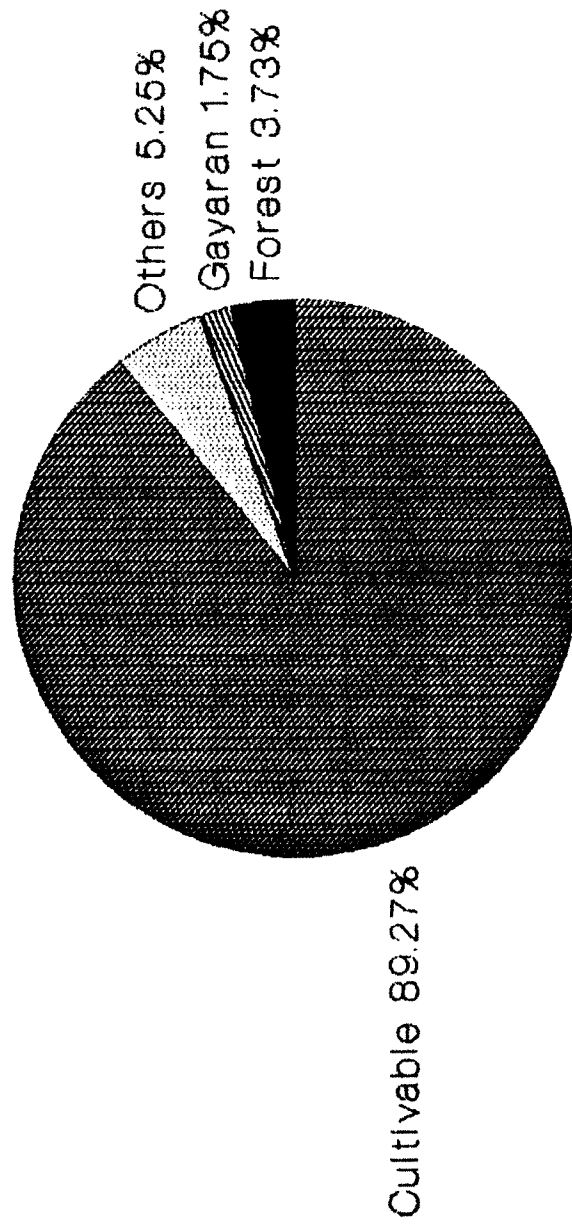
Sr. No.	Category	Area in Hectares	Percentage
1.	Total area of Taluka	48,155	
2.	Cultivable Land, of which	42,950	89.27
	a. Non-irrigated land	36,175 (85.22%)	
	b. Irrigated land	6,775 (15.78%)	
3.	Forest land	1,796	3.73
4.	Gayaran	840	1.74
5.	Other	2,529	5.25

Note: Figures in brackets represent percentages to the total cultivable area.

Source: Statistical Department, Panchayat Samiti, Gadhinglaj.

Table 3.3 above and Graph 3.1 (on the following page) show that Gadhinglaj Taluka covers 48,115 hectares of land, of which 42,950 hectares (89.27 percent) are cultivable. The cultivable land can further be divided into irrigated and non-irrigated lands. Eightyfive percent (36,175 hectares) of the cultivable land is non-irrigated and 15.78 percent (6775 hectares) are irrigated. The non-irrigated land fully depend upon rainfall. The average annual rainfall in Gadhinglaj Taluka is 669mm. The irrigated land depends upon two rivers, ten water ponds and 3841 wells. The Gadhinglaj Taluka's agricultural sector is in the development process.

# Chart No.3.1 (Table 3.3) Land Distribution in Gadhinglaj Taluka (1991)



The total area under principal crops in Gadhinglaj Taluka can be seen from Table 3.4 below.

Table 3.4  
Area under Principal Crops in Gadhinglaj  
Taluka (1991)

Principal Crops	Area (in Hectares)
A) <u>Foodgrains</u> ,	16,503
of which:	
1. Rice	8,238
2. Jowar	7,265
3. Nagali	1,000
B) <u>Non-Foodgrains</u> ,	17,921
of which:	
1. Sugarcane	6,775
2. Groundnut	9,704
3. Chillies	1,442
C) <u>Fruit Plantations</u>	219
<u>Total</u>	34,643

Source: Statistical Department,  
Panchayat Samiti, Gadhinglaj.

Table 3.4 indicates the principal crops in Gadhinglaj Taluka. These are divided into three major groups, viz. foodgrains, non-foodgrains and fruit plantations. The area of the foodgrains is 16,503 hectares. Out of this, rice covers 8,238 hectares, followed by Jowar 7,265 hectares, Nagali 1,000 hectares. These crops depend upon rainfall as well as irrigation facilities. The area under the non-foodgrains is 17,921 hectares; of which, sugarcane covers 6,775 hectares, groundnut 9,704 hectares and chillies 1,442 hectares. The area under fruit plantation is 219 hectares. The principal fruits are cashewnut, mango, etc.

### 3.6 LIVESTOCK RESOURCES:

There are various types of livestock in Gadhinglaj Taluka. This information is contained in Table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5  
Distribution of Livestock in Gadhinglaj Taluka (1991)

Sr. No.	Principal Livestock	Number of Heads	Percentage
1.	Cows and Oxen	18,545	10.53
2.	Male & female Buffaloes	51,906	29.48
3.	Sheep	16,926	9.61
4.	Goats	18,294	10.39
5.	Hens/Ducks	70,399	39.99
<u>Total:</u>		1,76,070	100.00

Source: Statistical Department, Panchayat Samiti, Gadhinglaj.

Table 3.5 shows the distribution of livestock in Gadhinglaj Taluka. There are in all 1,76,070 heads of livestock in Gadhisnglaj Taluka. Out of these, cows and oxen number 18,545, (10.53%), male and female buffaloes 51,906 (29.48%), sheep 16,926 (9.61%),s goats 18,294 (10.39%) and hens and ducks 70,399 (39.99%). It shows that hens and ducks are more; on the other hand, sheep are relatively less in Gadhinglaj Taluka.

### 3.7 INDUSTRIAL SECTOR:

Gadhinglaj Taluka is backward as far as industrial development is concerned. There are no sufficient industries in this 2Taluka. However, a few industrial units like sugar factor, rice mills, oil mills, etc., are found in the Taluka. The



details of industrial units in Gadhinglaj Taluka are: 1 cooperative sugar factory, 3 rice mills, 11 oil mills, 1 plastic packaging industry and 1 milk chilling centre. With limited industrial units and industrial growth in Gadhinglaj Taluka, the employment opportunities in the industrial sector are limited and do not grow fast. Thus, greater number of people depend upon agriculture in this Taluka for their livelihood.

### **3.8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF GADHINGLAJ TALUKA:**

More than 88 percent of the total population depends upon agriculture for its livelihood in Gadhinglaj Taluka. Agricultural sector is the major source of income for the people of Gadhinglaj Taluka. On the other hand, only 12 percent of the total population depends upon trade, commerce, service, etc. It shows that Gadhinglaj Taluka is an economically poor Taluka. Its agricultural condition, its productivity, occupational division, industrial units are indicators of its backwardness.

The distribution of land holding also adds to the lopsidedness of income distribution in the Taluka; thus, 31,631 landholders possess land area below 5 acres; on the other hand, those holding land area of more than 5 acres total 14,281. The number of total families in the Taluka add upto 34,394. Out of these, 15,412 families are "below poverty line" families. The small farmers, marginal farmers and landless come under the "poverty line". However, the condition of

landless labourers is more critical than that of small and marginal farmers. Therefore, it is important to study the condition of landless labourers in this Taluka.

### **3.9 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF LANDLESS LABOURERS IN GADHINGLAJ TALUKA:**

Human labour is the only capital of the landless labourers. Therefore, the problem of landless labourers is important because they do not have any other source of income. They depend upon agricultural work, they work in others' lands. Therefore, their condition is very critical. They live under poverty line. They are weak and the most neglected class of the rural economy.

In order to identify agricultural labourers, it is necessary to define them. Unlike industrial labour, agricultural labour is difficult to define. The reason is that unless capital develops fully in agriculture, a separate class of workers depending wholly on wages does not come up [3]. However, it is difficult to say that agricultural labourers are unskilled, semiskilled or skilled workers. The work of agriculture is such that a worker has to undertake more than one type of job, so that it becomes almost impossible to list each worker under separate category [4].

#### **Definition of 'Agricultural Labour':**

A person is considered as an 'agricultural labourer' if he follows anyone or more of the following agricultural operations in the capacity of a labourer on hire or on

exchange, whether paid in cash, in kind or partly in cash or partly in kind: (a) farming, including cultivation and tilling of the soil; (b) dairy farming; (c) production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any horticultural commodity; (d) raising of livestock, bees or poultry; and (e) any practice performed on a farm as incidental to or in connection with the farm operations and the preparation for the market and delivery, to storage or to market or to carriage for transport to market of farm products [5].

Agricultural labourers have to be categorized in terms of their special features and condition. According to the National Commission on Labour, agricultural labourers have been divided into two groups: (i) landless labourers, (ii) very small farmers, whose main source of income, in view of their small holding, is wage employment. However, the landless labourers have been divided into two main categories: (a) permanent labourers, who are attached to agricultural households, and (b) temporary or casual labourers [6]. Therefore, agricultural labour depends on the activity of the agriculture and agri-allied sector. The condition of agricultural labourers is very poor.

In Gadhinglaj Taluka, most of the agricultural labourers belong to the depressed classes. They have been neglected for ages. The low castes and depressed classes have been socially backward. They are unable to change their conditions. They are illiterate and ignorant and unorganized. They live in scattered villages.

Agricultural labourers do not get work on regular basis and thus to a large extent, they remain unemployed. They are not only unemployed but their working conditions are also very bad. They have to do very hard work in the hot summer as well as in heavy rains. The rate of wages is very low in this Taluka, as a consequence, their standard of living is very low. They do not even have the minimum clothing, educational, health and shelter facilities.

From the above discussion, it is clear that the economic and social life of the agricultural labourers is very deplorable indeed. They are so poor that they are at times forced to get indebted for sheer physical existence. A majority of these people live below the poverty line. Therefore, it requires urgent attention to solve the problem. The Government in recent years has taken certain steps under various schemes to improve the welfare of these agricultural labourers. The Integrated Rural Development Programme is one such scheme of the Government of India.

**REFERENCES:**

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