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CHAPTER – II

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Kavathe Mahankal tehsil is well-known for its location in a drought affected area in Maharashtra. The drought condition reflects on its socio-economic and political aspects prevailing in the area. However, the people of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil have made satisfactory progress in agriculture, education, transportation and industrial development. Agriculture development of Kavathe Mahankal helped to the development of industries in the area. These conditions have provided good amount of employment opportunities to the people. This chapter is devoted to analyse the profile of the tehsil.

2.1 LOCATION

Kavathe Mahankal is an important tehsil of Sangli district in the Maharashtra State. This tehsil is totally a drought affected tehsil. There are 60 villages in the tehsil. It encompasses 92, 351.68 hectares of land area. Kavathe Mahankal is situated between 74° East longitude to 75.45° East latitude and 16.55 to 17.50° North of the equator. This tehsil is located at 45 kilometers towards east of Sangli.

2.2 PHYSICAL FEATURES

The land of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil is well equipped with volcanic rocks and has updowns in the levels. There are local hills

spread over the region towards east west and south to east west. The land on the hills is more or less heightened; normally these hills are covered with jungle grass. Adjoining to these hills, at the base normally we find red coloured soils unevenly spread all over the tehsil area. The geographical structure of Kavathe Mahankal is not much complicated. At certain places, in plain area, there are slight or medium slopes. But at the local hill areas slope of land is sharp. The highest place of Kavathe Mahankal is situated at 855 meters and lowest is at 565 meters from the sea level. In the northern region of the tehsil, the direction of slope is from North West to north east. The slope at southern places lies from north to south and toward south. The general slope is from south to north.

2.3 RIVERS

The Agrani River being a single river in the tehsil is an utmost importance to Kavathe Mahankal tehsil. The origin of the river begins from the temple of Agasthi Hrushu near village Ainwadi in Khanapur tehsil. This river flows from west to east. The river covers central and southern area of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil and flows later towards Karnataka State and at last it joins the Krishna River.

2.4 CLIMATE

The climate of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil falls under the monsoon type. Generally winter season is of medium types and summer is most

hot. The annual average temperature of the tehsil is around 25.4°. The temperature increases to 38°C and it decreases to 15.9°C.

2.5 RAINFALL

The seven years annual average rainfall in the tehsil area is 583 mm. annual average in Kavathe Mahankal from 1994 to 2000 is shown in Table No. 2.1.

Table No. 2.1
Annual Average Rainfall
in Kavathe Mahankal Tehsil (mm)

Year	Rainfall
1994	423.3
1995	595.7
1996	492.6
1997	547.6
1998	835.3
1999	532.5
2000	654.0
Average	583.0

Source: Tehsil Office of Kavathe Mahankal

The rain starts sometime in the middle of June and lasts till the end of September. Aggregate rainfall in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil is very less. Which is less than average rainfall in the 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999 seasons and it is more than average in 1995, 1998, 2000 seasons. In 1994, the rainfall was 423.3 mm. and this is the lowest rainfall. In 1995 rainfall was 595.7 mm. In 1996 the average of rainfall declined to 492.6 mm. The average rainfall was 547.6 mm in 1997. In 1998, the average rainfall was 835.3 mm, which was the highest

during the period. In the year 2000, average rainfall was 654.0 mm. This was the medium rainfall during the period.

2.6 SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

The main sources of irrigation in Kavathe Mahankal are as indicated in Table No. 2.2

Table No. 2.2
Sources of Irrigation

Sr. No.	Sources	Wells	Percentage
1	Row wells	6396	87.00
2	Ripe wells	425	5.78
3	Not utilised	530	7.20
	Total	7351	100.00
4	Small dams	23	

Source Agricultural Department, Kavathe Mahankal

All villages in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil are having drinking water facilities some villages are served the drinking water facilities through wells, small dams, tube wells, rivers etc. whereas some villages have been served by water tankers from the Government agencies in Kavathe Mahankal. There are 7351 wells, about 6896 are row wells and 425 rope well and 530 wells are not in use. There are 23 small dams in the tehsil. Among them 5 dams supply irrigation water to move them 40 hectares area and 17 dams supply irrigation to less than 40 hectares.

2.7 AGRICULTURE

Kavathe Mahankal tehsil is totally a rural area. Economic development of this tehsil totally depends upon agriculture sector. The land use pattern in the tehsil area is shown in Table No. 2.3 below.

Table No. 2.3
Land Use Pattern (hectares)

Sr. No.	Land	Area in Ha	Percentage
1	Geographical area	73562	50.78
2	Forest area	924	0.63
3	Deserted area	5733	3.95
4	Non-agriculture area	3884	2.68
5	Not utilised area	8225	5.67
6	Grazing area	9548	3.59
7	Bushes and other	2953	2.03
8	Cultivable area	40035	27.63
	Total	144864	752.37

Source: Agriculture Office in Kavathe Mahankal

Table No. 2.3 shows that major portion of land area is not used for agriculture practices. Rainfall is very less, causing shortage of irrigation consequently; poor use of fertilizers and poverty persists in the tehsil area.

2.7.1 Cropping Pattern

We see variety of diversification in the cropping pattern in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil. Rabi, Kharif and summer season crops are taken at the convenience of the farmers, varieties of crops are taken up. Table No. 2.4 shows the crops taken in all seasons in Kavathe Mahankal.

Table No. 2.4
Area under Major Crops in Kavathe Mahankal Tehsil

(Area in 00 hectares)

Sr. No.	Name of the crops	Area (in hectares)	Percentage
1	Rabi jawar	16295	77.9
2	Wheat	1890	9.0
3	Maize	205	0.9
4	Kardai	400	1.9
5	Sunflower	90	0.4
6	Other oil seed	95	0.4
7	Gram	1925	9.2
8	Total	20900	100.00

Source: Panchayat Samiti Kavathe Mahankal

Table No. 2.4 shows that jawar crop is the main crop of tehsil in Rabi season. Besides maize, karadai (oil seed) and sunflower. Wheat and gram crops are other important crops grown in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil. Very less area comes under sunflower crops. Rabi season crops belong to 20900 hectares land area. Jawar covers 77.9 percent of land area which is highest in Rabi season.

2.7.2 KHARIF SEASON

The crops cultivated in kharif season are as indicated in Table No. 2.5.

Table No. 2.5
Kharif Season Crops

Sr. No.	Name of the crops	Land Area (in hectares)	Percentage
1	Rabbi jowar	8865	27.27
2	Bajra	214450	44.46
3	Other cereal crops	590	1.8
4	Tur	690	2.12
5	Mong	225	0.69
6	Urid	715	2.2
7	Other legume	2960	9.07
8	Groundnut	705	2.16
9	Soyabean	1270	3.90
10	Sesame	70	0.2
11	Cotton	215	6
12	Sugarcane	1755	3.4
	Total	32500	100.00

Source: Agriculture Department, Kavathe Mahankal.

Table No. 2.5 shows that more amount of land is used to cultivate bajra crops. Rabbi jowar is another important crop in tehsil area. The total land under kharif crops is 32500 sesame crops is taken in very less amount of land area that is 70 hectares. Area under bajara crop is 44.76 percent maximum land area is used for bajara crop. Other crops cover 55 percent of land area. The crop field other than bajara is less. The area under cotton crop is only 6 percent; jawar covers 27.27 percent of land area.

2.7.3 Summer Season

The sown area under summer crops during 2001-2002 is shown in Table No. 2.6.

Table No. 2.6
Summer Season Crops

Sr. No.	Crops	Land area (in hectares)	Percentage
1	Maize	225	30.00
2	Groundnut	150	20.00
3	Cotton	250	33.33
4	Other crops	110	14.66
	Total	750	100.00

Source: Agriculture Office, Kavathe Mahankal

Table No. 2.6 shows that in summer season crops area sown in 750 hectares. Cotton is taken in 250 hectares. Maximum land area is found under cotton during summer season, which is taken in 225 hectares. Among the other crops groundnut is sown in 150 hectares of land area and other crops in 110 hectares. The sown area in summer season is very less compared to kharif season crops.

2.7.5 Major Fruit Crops

Table No. 2.7
Area under Major Fruit Crops in Kavathe Mahankal Tehsil (1990 to 2001)

Sr. No.	Fruit crops	1990-91	1992-93	1994-95	1998-99	2000-2001
1	Mango (seed)	5.38	31.8	8.7	-	-
2	Mango (graft)	21.9	72.43	33.5	82.5	24.10
3	Coconut	3.35	11.55	3.5	7.2	1.70
4	Chikku	3.2	15.95	19.75	60.5	11.30
5	Pomegranate	11.25	19.2	14.7	28.55	30.55
6	Ber	87.47	28.55	7.95	-	-
7	Guava	8.95	9.5	6.95	7.95	1.60
8	Tamarind	-	7.7	4.4	19.33	-
9	Awala	-	12.5	-	-	-
	Total	152.7	234.32	114.8	220.55	69.65

Source: Agriculture Department Kavathe Mahankal Tehsil Office

Table No. 2.7 shows the area under major fruit crops in Kavathe Mahankal. Mango, Pomegranate and Ber fruit crops are planted in large land area in 1990-91. Ber shares large land under plantation in Chikku, Guava is recently grown in the tehsil area. Mango share large land in 1992-93. Among other fruit crops Ber, Custard apple, Coconut, Chikku, Guava, Awala, Tamarind were planted in tehsil area. Mango was planted 82.5 hectares in 1998-99. Awala was planted in 12.5 hectares in 1992-93. Large fruits crops were planted in 1992-93 and least in 2000-2001.

2.8 POPULATION

The total population of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil as per 1971 census was 87190. In the year 1981 and 1991 it was 97274 and 11790] respectively. The 2001 census indicated the population of Kavathe Mahankal tehsil at 144578. This is the provisional figure of population. Out of this population 73761 are male and 70817 are female. Size of the population in this tehsil is given in Table No. 2.8.

Table No. 2.8
Size of Population

Size of village	Number of villages with population	Population	
		Male	Female
Less than 200	-	-	-
200 – 499	3	625	627
500 – 999	18	6609	6660
1000 – 1999	18	13594	13518
2000 – 4999	19	30086	29496
5000 – 9999	1	2892	2637
1000 and above	1	6002	5155

Source: District Census Handbook 1991

Table No. 2.8 shows that there is no one village in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil which had less than 200 populations. There are only 3 villages which are having 200 – 499 population. There are 18 villages which include 500 – 999 population. There are 18 villages, which are having 1000 -1999 population. Besides there are 19 villages which are having 2000 – 4999 population. Only one village belongs to 1000 and more population group.

2.9 LITERACY RATE

The total literacy rate in this tehsil is 67 percent. this rate is comparatively higher than other tehsils, which is because of the education facilities available in the tehsil. But the literacy rate of female is less than male as per 1991 census that is 38.09 percent. Literacy rate of female is higher than male in 2001 census. This is a good change indicator or development of education. This rate is 74.91 percent. total figure of literacy rate of female in India shows less than male population. Kavathe Mahankal tehsil is totally rural area still literacy rate of female is higher than male.

2.10 WORKFORCE

Out of total workforce of the tehsil 31271 belongs to male workers and 11874 female workers. The ratio of female workers is comparatively. The workforce is mainly divided into different occupational activities like farmers, field workers, small scale

industries; household etc. percentage of workforce in male is 72.47 percent.

2.11 INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

Different infrastructural facilities available in different villages are as follows.

2.11.1 Education

The tehsil possess different types of educational facilities. Each and every village has educational facilities. Due to which the literacy rate of the tehsil is high. Nursery and primary schools are located in almost all villages. There are 4 Junior Colleges located in 3 villages. One Senior College is established in Kavathe Mahankal proper five villages of the tehsil are having six adult education centres. Number of girl graduates in Kavathe Mahankal is given in Table No. 2.9.

Table No. 2.9
Number of Graduate Girls

Years	B. A.	B. Com.	B. Sc.
1981-82	3	1	-
1982-83	3	1	-
1983-84	5	4	-
1984-85	13	6	-
1985-86	28	17	-
1986-87	17	8	-
1987-88	12	7	-
1988-89	34	6	-
1989-90	34	7	-
1990-91	41	8	-
1991-92	37	7	8
1992-93	69	12	11
1993-94	54	6	6
1994-95	32	7	7
1995-96	72	7	9
1996-97	56	5	9
1997-98	68	3	12
1998-99	79	9	15
1999-2000	83	3	7
2000-2001	85	1	13

Source: P. V. P. Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe Mahankal

In 1981-82 only 3 girls had got B. A. degree and in B. Com. Only one girl had got the degree. In B. Sc. There was no graduate girl. But after ten years mean in 1991-92 we saw that 37 girls had got B. A. degree u girls had got B. Com. degree and 8 girls had got B. Sc. Degree. We saw some development in Kavathe Mahankal in girl's education. the higher rate of girls with B. Sc. Degree is seen in 1998-99. During the year 15 girls had got B. Sc. Degree.

But in 1999-2000 there was no progress in Science faculty. Only 7 girls had got B. Sc. Degree. There was a big development in B. A. in 2000-2001. There were 85 girls who had got B. A. degree. But in the B. Com section in 2000-2001, there was only one girl who had got B. Com. Degree. During the same year there was some progress in female science faculty. B. A. faculty had highest rate of females than B. Com. And B. Sc.

2.11.2 Medical Facilities

Around 15 villages are having the medical facilities. Two villages have 2 hospitals. Kavathe Mahankal is facilitated with maternity child development centre and maternity home. The 8 villages have the primary health centres. the 9 villages are being facilitated with medical shops all 9 villages are having family planning centres and 10 villages are having private hospitals.

2.11.3 Marketing

The tehsil has 60 villages. But only 13 villages are having marketing facilities. Among them the largest market place is Kavathe Mahankal. Being a tehsil it has got central importance. Tuesday is the market day. All types of goods are available in Kavathe Mahankal market e. g. grain, vegetable, cloths, meat, fish. One of the important features is that there is largest animal market. Mhankali bazar is available at the corner of S. T. stand.

2.11.4 Transportation

Out of total villages in Kavathe Mahankal tehsil 47 villages have been facilitated by varieties of transport facilities. Around 94064 people are being benefited by these transport facilities. Four villages are having railway stations. Being tehsil Kavathe Mahankal has ripe roads. All roads are Highways and other types of roads. Telephone facility is also available at all villages. STD facilities are available in some villages.

2.12 CONCLUSIONS

Kavathe Mahankal is totally drought area. Development of this tehsil is fully depends upon agriculture. But the nature is not suitable for the development of agriculture. even after all odds the people of this tehsil coming out of all difficult conditions and they are developing their agriculture. People have made much remarkable progress even when the area belongs to drought there is expansion of education and it is the one of the important feature of drought affected area.

References

1. Socio-Economic Survey Reports
2. District Census Handbook, 1981, 1991