

CHAPTER ONE

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The development of a region depends upon geographic, economic and socio-cultural factors; however, resource is the fundamental geographical factor for the development of a region. The important problems in the planning for resource region which need to be faced in the uphill task of development are both ecological and economic in nature, which are again inter-related with each other. Economics of a region is closely dependent on the natural resources, exploitation of which would definitely disturb the ecological balance. Efforts for mere ecological restoration cannot alone be taken up in isolation unless those lead to economic development and improved living conditions for the people and make it thriving and livable region, planning its normal role in the process of country's development and life of the people. It is possible to achieve balance in the economic and ecological aspects by surveying the potentialities of the resources and properly planning them.

If the resources are ample, then the development of the region is rapid through a proper planning strategy. In some regions potentialities of the resources are not properly surveyed, and hence the planning strategy

fails to give the expected results. Sindhudurg district is unfortunately an example of this type of region with a lacuna in the development process and Kankavli Tahsil can be treated as a representative example which can be used for the case study in this respect.

If the resources are properly surveyed and planned, there is wide scope for the overall development of the region under study which has great potentialities for resource development.

1.2 STUDY REGION:

Kankavli Tahsil of Sindhudurg district is among the Tahsils which are in the eastern side and mainly comprise hilly terrains. The area of the Tahsil is 774.90 sq. kms; there are 112 villages and only one town in the Tahsil. The total population according to 1991 census is 1,29,965 and the density of population 157 persons per sq. km. The economy of the Tahsil is predominantly agrarian, as 28.20 per cent of the total area of the Tahsil is under cultivation. The Tahsil is endowed with deposits of bauxite, silica, mica, chromite, limestone, clay etc.. Out of the total geographical area, 11.64 per cent of the land is under forest cover. The industrial activity in the Tahsil is in infant stage.

In short, the economy of the Tahsil is saddled with unemployment and under-utilization of natural resources. The infrastructural base required for the development is very weak.

1.3 NEED FOR THE WORK:

The need for the present research work is influenced by two basic considerations, namely,

- (a) The region has rich natural resources
- (b) In spite of rich natural resources, the region is economically backward.

The study of the potentiality and planning of the resources will help to strengthen the economy of the region and will lead to the overall development.

1.4 REASONS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE REGION:

The reasons for the selection of this region for the present research work are listed below:

- (i) Peculiar geographical location at the foot of Western Ghats, depleted forests, eroding soils, lack of good infrastructural facilities, stagnant agriculture, declining traditional handicrafts and migrating manpower has resulted into the backwardness of the region in the economic development.

- (ii) The region has great potentialities for resources development, having rich natural resources.
- (iii) If properly planned, the resources can be utilised for improvement of living conditions of the people and development of the region.
- (iv) The researcher is well acquainted with the region so as to carry out the present research work.

1.5 GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM:

The study region is rich in resources but they are under-utilized. Therefore, it is necessary to study and evaluate the potentialities of the resources in a proper prospective and to decide upon a development strategy for the region, by planning the resources. This type of study will give the results which will be useful for the planning and development of the other similar regions.

1.6 HYPOTHESIS:

The region under study, that is, Kankavli Tahsil has great potentialities for resource development and the planned utilization of the resources is essential to accelerate the process of development.

1.7 OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of the study is to make

a geographical appraisal of the resources in the study region, to study the potentialities of the resources and to suggest a plan for the utilization of the resources for overall development of the region.

The particular objectives of the study include:

- (i) To assess the resource potentialities in the study region.
- (ii) To evaluate the present status of resource development in the study region.
- (iii) To study the economic factors useful for the resource development
- (iv) To evaluate the availability of infrastructural facilities in the region
- (v) To suggest a strategy and plan for the development and utilization of the resources as well as for the development of economy of the study region.
- (vi) To present an integrated approach of resource planning
- (vii) To construct models for planning and utilization of the resources in the study region.

1.8 DATA BASE:

The data base for the present study will be particularly the data available from the district census, the records of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Regional Planning Board, the reports of the Lead Bank, Konkan Vikas Mahamandal's Abstract, Sindhudurg District Planning and Development Board's Yearly Reports, Forest Department, Kankavli Division, Soil Conservation Department Sub-Division, Kankavli, Small and Medium Scale Irrigation Department of Sindhudurg District (Maharashtra State). The primary data are collected from the field visits to various resource places like Osargaon, Asagani, Natal, Shivdar, Bidwadi, Harkul Kh., Harkul Bk., Phondaghat, Wagheri, Nadgaon, Kasarde, Kharepatan.

1.9 METHODOLOGY:

The primary data are collected from the records of various governmental and non-governmental agencies. Statistical methods and Cartographic techniques will be used to present the data which will be further analysed and interpreted by expository methods. The necessary field work will be carried out.

1.10 NATURE OF FIELD WORK:

Intensive field work was carried out in the Tahsil to collect information about the land resources, soil resources, water resources, probable dam-sites,

probable hydel power plant locations, forest resources, mines, especially (chromite) mines at Vagade, Mica deposits at Bhirwande, Silica mines near Kasarde and Phonda, limestone and building material mines at Asrondi, Bidwadi and Ramgad. Field work was carried out about land resources, especially at Valati region, foot-hill region of Ghat section, Gad, Janoli river basin areas and Valati region; about water resources, the Gad and Janoli rivers and their tributaries region, about probable dam-sites at Eastern sides of Phonda, Kumbharde and Kalsuli; about probable hydel power plant location at Kumbhavade, about forest resources especially at Phonda, Kumbhavade, Kulsuli which are the foot-hill region.

1.11 SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

- (i) The scope of the present research work mainly includes the survey and study of the resources, namely, location, land resources, water resources, forest resources, animal resources, mineral resources, power resources and human resources and their planning for the development of the region.
- (ii) The study is spatially restricted to Kankavli Tahsil of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra.

1.12 PREVIOUS WORK DONE:

No previous work has been done in the field of resource geography as far as the Sindhudurg resource region is considered. The present study of Tahsil level will provide a basic model for the future study of the potentialities and planning of the resources for any resource region. Only one research paper is published in the abstract of National Association of Geographers, India, that is, Resource Planning in Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Resource Region - A Geographical Assessment - by Dr. S.B. Sarang and B.R. Hande. Some other works were done on the same topic but not on the same region. Those are: 'Industrial Resources in Telangana Region' by Mohd. Akhtar Ali, 'Drainage System of Uttar Kannada District', 'A Study of Water Resources' by R.G. Bhat, 'Poverty and Unemployment - A Geographical Investigation of Village Navalpur' (Sagar, M.P.) by Bohare, 'Spatial Analysis of Marble in Rajasthan' by Hemlata Joshi, 'Concept of Human Resource in Geography' by B.R.K. Sinha, 'Management of Water Resources in Uttar Pradesh: A Threat to Environment and Human Existence' by F. Rahman-Abu-Sufiyan Khan. All these papers are published in the NAGF 1994 Abstract.

1.13 APPLIED VALUE OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

The research work will hopefully help to prepare a model for the planning and utilization of the resources

for the development of a region. It will provide a guideline for the government, the planning board and the local agencies for the development of the resources. The present study is expected to be a model for a systematic study of resource geography in the perspective of potentialities; planning and development will prove to be useful for the scholars working in different disciplines.

1.14 ORGANIZATION OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

The researcher has produced his research dissertation in six chapters.

The first chapter deals with the Introduction of the problem, the region, the need for the work, reasons for the selection of the region, geographical significance of the problem, objectives, data base, methodology, nature of field work, scope and limitations, applied value and previous work done.

The second chapter brings out the profile of the study region. It covers the location of research area, relief (general physiography), relief regions, drainage, climate, geology and soils, natural vegetations, ecological situation, animals and summary.

The third chapter covers the cultural aspects in which land utilization, cropping pattern (agronomic

conditions), irrigation facilities, demography, occupational structure, unemployment, family income and sources of income, settlement hierarchy and summary are studied.

The fourth chapter deals with the resource potentialities. In this chapter potentialities of land resources, water resources, forest resources, mineral resources, livestock resources, power resources and human resources are studied.

The fifth chapter covers the Resource Planning in which the following aspects are studied, namely, Resource planning and economy, Planning strategy for the development, Development of resources (present status), Planning of resources, Resource planning and ecological balance, Resource planning and regional balance, Problems in resource planning and Strategies and agencies for the future resource planning.

The sixth chapter deals with the conclusions and suggestions.