

CHAPTER – 3
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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In the present chapter the researcher has discussed the methodology used for the present study. The importance of the study is also explained. Along with this, the profile of the selected villages for the study is given in this chapter.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY-

Among the scheduled castes Mahar and Chambhar castes are dominant in the study area. After tracing some information about the communities, as a whole, it was revealed that no serious efforts had so far been made to study these particular communities in the study area with sociological point of view. Thus, these communities are selected for the present study.

Mahar and Chambhar communities are included in depressed classes of Indian society. These classes are socially ostracized, economically exploited and politically deprived. In order to empower all these classes, certain appropriate provisions are made in the sixteenth part of Indian Constitution. As per the provision of the Constitution, the states of the Indian Union Government and Planning Commission have provided guidelines, consultancy support and allocated appropriate funds to states. As a result, there has been change in their view towards living standard, education, socio-economic status etc. The purpose of the present study is to study the changing view of the people from Mahar and Chambhar communities in the study area.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY-

The objectives of the present study are as follows-

1. To study the historical background of the scheduled castes
2. To study the socio-economic status of Mahar and Chambhar communities.
3. To study the educational and cultural aspects and proportion of political participation regarding Mahar and Chambhar communities.
4. To study the religious beliefs and practices of Mahar and Chambhar communities.

THE STUDY AREA-

The present study is a sociological study of Mahar and Chambhar communities in Chandgad Taluka. The study covers the whole Taluka and it has been confined to 50 respondents to collect the data from two selected villages.

SAMPLING-

The population of Mahar community is located in most of the villages in the Taluka. But the population of Chambhar community is located in particular villages, mainly at bazaar places in the Taluka. Thus, two villages (bazaar places) namely Adkur and Mangaon are selected for the present study. These two villages have the population of both Mahar and Chambhar communities. For the convenience of the study 50 respondents are selected from these two villages. Quota sampling method is used for the selection of the respondents

because of two reasons; first is limited time and money and second, it represents the total universe of the study. The details about respondents' selection appear in the following table.

Table 3.1
Details of Villages and the Respondents Selected

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Mahar Respondents	Chambhar Respondents	Total
1.	Adkur	13	12	25
2.	Mangaon	13	12	25
	Total	26	24	50

DATA BASE-

The present study is based on primary and secondary data.

Primary Data-

For the purpose of the present study, different sources have been used to collect the relevant information. All the selected 50 respondents were personally interviewed by the researcher with the help of a structured interview schedule. After going through some of the studies, the researcher has prepared interview schedule properly. Observation method, wherever necessary, is also in order to study all their religious and social activities. Along with this, information was also collected from conversations with the elder members of the communities and from such other local person who are in close contact with these communities.

Secondary Data-

The secondary data has been collected from various books, journals, periodicals, official records and census reports. The information from the office of Grampanchayat of Adkur and Mangaon, Panchayat Samiti and Tahashil

office, Chandgad, and District Statistical office, Kolhapur were collected and used for the present study.

For the analysis of the collected data a codebook was prepared and the scheduled data was coded. With the help of data coded, relevant statistical tables were prepared and interpreted.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY-

There are 145 villages in Chandgad Taluka. Most of the villages have the population of Mahar and Chambhar communities. Thus, two villages from the Taluka and 50 respondents of both the communities from these villages are selected for the present study. Hence, the study is limited to 50 respondents from two selected villages.

While collecting the information from respondents some were afraid to tender the information because of their preconceived notions that the information being collected would be used against them. But, after convincing the respondents about the academic nature of the study, the interview progressed.

CHAPTER SCHEME-

The present study is divided in seven chapters. Chapter first deals with the theoretical framework and the place of Mahar and Chambhar communities in the social order. Chapter second deals with the review of literature. Chapter third deals with the methodological aspects such as importance of the study, objectives, the study area, sampling, database and limitation of the study. It also gives the profile of the selected villages. Chapter fourth reveals the socio-cultural

position of Mahar and Chambhar communities. Chapter fifth deals with the economical and political position of Mahar and Chambhar communities in the study area. Chapter sixth gives educational and religious position of Mahar and Chambhar communities. Chapter seventh presents a summary of the data interpreted as the inferences and conclusions drawn there from.

PROFILE OF THE SELECTED VILLAGES-

For the present study of Mahar and Chambhar communities Adkur and Mangaon villages are selected from the Chandgad Taluka. The detail information about these villages is given below.

ADKUR VILLAGE

The Adkur village is located at a distance of 110 km. away from Kolhapur on south and 17 km. from Chandgad on north. It is well connected with the Gadhinglaj and Chandgad by state highway. The educational facility at higher secondary level and computer education is available in the village and for the higher (degree) education children can go to Nesari or Chandgad. The village is situated on the bank of Ghataprabha river. It is a bazaar place connected about 20 villages around it and cattle bazaar is an outstanding feature of the bazaar. The main occupation of the people is farming and the principal crops are sugarcane, rice and nachani. The village is one of the socially, politically and culturally important places in the taluka. The population and families in the village is given in the Table 2.2.

Table 3.2

Details of Mahar, Chambhar and Total population & families in Adkur Village

Particular	Mahar	Chambhar	Total in Village
Population	287 (10.39)	64 (2.31)	2761 (100)
Families	52 (10.00)	9 (1.73)	520 (100)

Note : Figures shown in the bracket indicate the percentage to total
Source: Grampanchayat Record, Adkur.

MANGAON VILLAGE

Mangaon village is also socially, politically and culturally important place in the Taluka. It is located at the distance of 13 km. on the east of the Chandgad and 22 km. on the west of the Belgaum. It is 4 km. away from Belgaum-Vengurla state highway on the north side. Primary, Secondary and Higher-secondary education is available in the village. For the higher (degree) education children went to Halkarni or Chandgad. The village is situated on the bank of the Tamraparni river and the main occupation of the villagers is farming. The main crops are sugarcane, rice and sweet potato. It is a bazaar place connecting 12 villages around it. The population and families in the village is given in the Table 2.3.

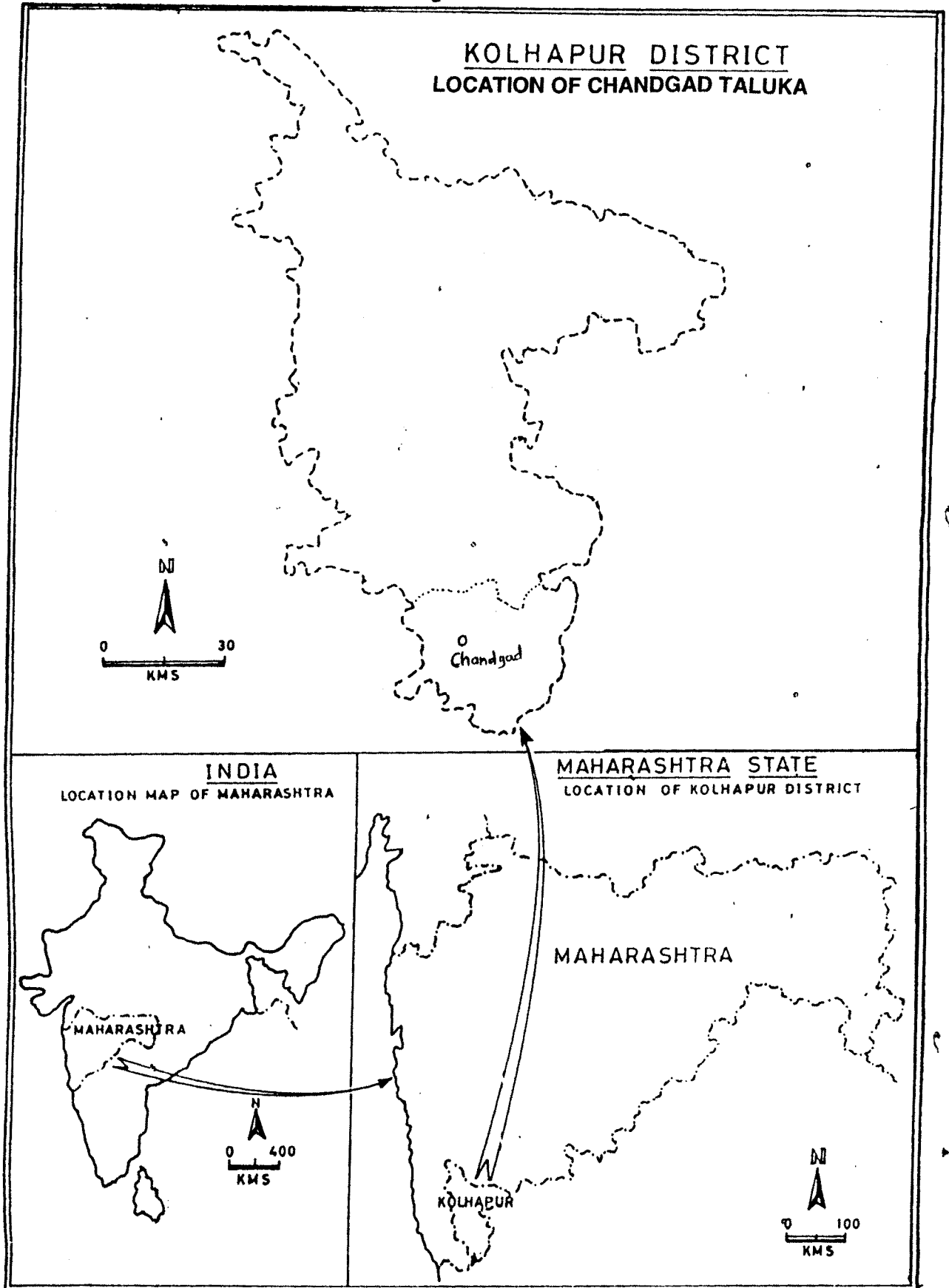
Table 3.3

Details of Mahar, Chambhar and Total population & families in Mangaon Village

Particular	Mahar	Chambhar	Total in Village
Population	445 (9.72)	47 (1.02)	4576 (100)
Families	80 (8.03)	8 (0.8)	996 (100)

Note : Figures shown in the bracket indicate the percentage to total
Source: Grampanchayat Record, Mangaon

MAP 3.1



CHANDGAD TALUKA
STUDY AREA & SELECTED VILLAGES

⊙ Headquarter of Taluka

● Selected Villages

