

CHAPTER - II

[illegible]

C H A P T E R - I I

KHADAKLAT : A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE VILLAGE

(1) GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, LAND ETC:

The village of Khadaklat is located at about 15 kms away to the east of Nipani City. The village is in Chikodi taluka of Belgaum district. The main road from Nipani to Chikodi passess by a small temple called seven faced Laxmi. From the temple a road of 5 kms. leaves to Khadaklat.

There is a tar road to go to the Khadaklat village.

Atmosphere of this village is co-operative and climate is favourable to the farmers.

Khadaklat is located between $16\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ North latitude and $75\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East altitude. It is at a height of 500 meter from sea level.

The total land of this village is about 8000 Acres out of which about 3000 Acres have been brought under cultivation. There is no pasture land maintained for common grazing purpose.

The total average annual rainfall is about 600 mm.

(2) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

It is reported that in olden days the residents of this village used to be called as 'Ratte'. This word,

in course of time, changed as 'Latti'. During the Maratha regime the village got the name 'Lat'. There are big rocks around the village, and the Marathi word for a rock is 'Khadak'. Hence to distinguish this village 'Lat' from some other villages which are also of the same name, it came to be known as 'Khadak-lat'.

In the 10th Century the Shilahar King's of the Yadwa period ruled over this region. One of the monuments of that period is the old temple of Siddheshwar built in 'Hemadpanti' style. It is believed that Govindraj, a strong devotee of Shiva, built this temple out of big rocks. The rocks are carved by best sculptors and beautiful designs are found engraved on the pillars and walls of the temple. There was peace and comfort among the people at least upto 13th Century. After wards this part was included in the Adilshahi of Bijapur and the region came under control of Shahajiraje Bhonsale who served at the court of Bijapur. Later on he shifted his sphere of activities to Bangalore. Shahaji's son, Shivaji the Great, established an independent kingdom. After Shivaji's death Sambhaji tried his best to save the kingdom against the mighty force of Aurangzeb. But he was captured and killed in a cruel manner. The Marathas gave a spirited fight and protected the kingdom. One of the heroes of this protracted struggle was Santaji Ghorpade, the commander in Chief of Maratha forces.

The village Khadaklat was included in the Kapashi Jahagir of Ghorpade family. It was an important army

head quarters as this village was naturally protected, surrounded by rocks, ditches and protective walls. We can see the ruins of there even now.⁽¹⁾

(3) DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES:

A village community can be defined as a group of persons permanently residing in a definite geographical area and whose members have developed community consciousness and cultural, social and economic relations which distinguish them from other communities. Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people living in a typical Indian village which is also true in case of Khadaklat.

The total population of Khadaklat village, according to 1991 census, is 11464. According to the 1981 census, the total population of the village was 11012. Out of this 5542 were males, and 5470 females. There were in all 2238 families. The number of Scheduled Caste people was 1392 and that of Scheduled Tribes was 32.

In this village, majority of the people belong to Hindu religion. Most of them are of Lingayat Caste and their main occupation is agriculture. There are 20 other castes or endogamous groups making the composition of the population a multi-caste one.

The nature of the land-holding can be easily seen from Table No.1.⁽²⁾

LAND HOLDINGS

Land		Total Land Holders	Percentage to total
1 Guntas to 2 Acres		935	46.37
2 Acres to 5 Acres		402	19.95
6 Acres to 10 Acres		445	22.07
11 Acres to 15 Acres		100	4.97
16 Acres to 20 Acres		45	2.23
21 Acres to 30 Acres		35	1.72
31 Acres to 35 Acres		32	1.59
35 Acres to 50 Acres		10	0.50
51 Acres to 65 Acres		8	0.40
66 Acres to 100 Acres		4	0.20
TOTAL		2016	100.00 %

(4) ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONS:

a) Economic condition:

The economic condition depends upon the nature of the occupation of the family as a unit, the number of earning members and the size of the family. As in most of the villages in India, in Khadaklat also the main economic activity of the people is agriculture. As Table No.1 shows the

number of families having agricultural land of 5 or less than 5 acres is 1337. Naturally, therefore, we find a small section of rich farmers (22) on the one hand and a large section of small farmers and landless labourers, on the other. Our estimation is that about 40% of the population lies below the poverty line in this village.

b) Weekly Markets:

The convenient weekly markets for the benefit of villager are : (1) Every Wednesday at Khadaklat itself; (2) Every Thursday is the weekly market day of Nipani town which is only 15 kms. from Khadaklat; (3) Every Monday is the market day at Chikodi which is 18 kms. from Khadaklat. Thus the villagers have three different days on which they can conveniently carry out the sale and purchase of their produce and necessary commodities respectively.

c) Bhishi Mandal:

Bhishi is a sort of private 'Co-operative' Bank. Some people of the locality come together and raise funds through contribution. The contribution collected depends upon the economic position of the members. The amount is collected once in a week or month, or year also. The accounts are maintained by some members. One of the members works as the Secretary and he is responsible for the working of the Bhishi.

There are three Bhishi Associations or Societies which are organised on caste basis. One of the three organizations is predominantly of Brahmin members. The second one is formed by the members belonging to Lingayat Community and the third has

has a mixed membership. They collect money from the account holders and lend this money to the needy members of the Society. The annual turn over is of about four and half lacks.

d) Dairy:

There are four dairies in the village :

i) The Yelgud Shahakari Dudha Utpadak Sanstha. This dairy purchases milk from the villagers and the collected milk is sent to Yelgud. It is thus only a large collecting centre. Nearly 300 litres of milk is collected daily and sent to Yelgud. The remaining three dairies are privately run by local persons. They purchase milk from the villagers and sell it in Nipani market.

e) Financial Institutions:

Agricultural production depends to a large extent on the availability of adequate credit at reasonable rate of interest and timely supplies of agricultural requisites. In earlier days moneylenders used to exploit the poor farmers with exorbitant rates of interest and other malpractices. The situation has changed after nationalization of major banking institutions in the country.

Banks are playing important role in the development of agriculture.

The following banks and Co-operative Credit Societies⁽³⁾ are catering the needs of the customers.

(1) Corporation Bank- Branch established on 12-10-1972

(2) The Belgaum District Central Co-operative Ltd.,
Branch established on 24-4-1971

- (3) Jotirling Co-operative Credit Society Branch established on 13-8-1991
- (4) Khadaklat Co-operative Credit Society Branch established on 20-9-1992

(5) EDUCATION:

a) Primary School:

It is a noteworthy fact that the village is fortunate to have a Marathi Primary School established long back in the year 1874. At that time classes were held in Vithal temple. But now there is a separate building constructed near the bus stand. The building was built in 1946. This school is named as Santaji Vidyamandir after the name of the liberal donor Shri. Santaji Ghorpade. Besides there are four other schools, namely Ashok Vidyalaya (1948), Marathi Girls School (1942), Kannada School (1949) and Urdu School (1950). These Schools provide education upto 7th Standard. The total number of students enrolled in the primary schools was 1780, in the academic year 1992-93. Out of this, the number of boys was 940 and that of girls was 840. These figures show that there is considerable improvement in the girls education in the village.

b) Secondary School:

In 1949 Vishwanath Kulkarni and Keshav Padalkar established a high school with the help of Vidyapeetha Education Society. Shri. N.L. Kulkarni formed the Khadaklat Education Society and in 1963 he started Kannada Medium division. In 1969 Venichand Doshi donated a large amount to

high School which was thereafter named after his father, late Mohanlal Nagarchand Doshi (M.N.D.). This high school imparts education from 8th to 10th standards. The number of students in Secondary School is 375 boys and 180 girls.⁽⁴⁾ After the highschool level education the desiring students join institutions of higher education in Nipani, Chikodi, Arjunnagar, Kolhapur or Belgaum.

(6) OTHER AMENITIES AND FACILITIES:

a) Health Services:

There is a Primary Health Centre in the village where the services of one qualified doctor, three nurses and one compounder are available. This health centre is useful to the villagers. Besides, four private doctors are also practising in the village. For complicated and serious cases, the villagers have to go to the larger towns, like Nipani, Chikodi or Miraj.

b) Post and Telegraph Office:

The village has its Post Office which was started in 1960. The present Post Master of the village Post Office is Shri. S.S. Sardesai from Belgaum. He is a Science Graduate. During the last decade, Small Savings Accounts in Operation opened by the villagers. The average number of letters received daily in the village is about 350. The number of outgoing letters is about 290.⁽⁵⁾

(7) AGRICULTURAL SITUATION:

The agricultural picture of this village, can become clear if the following things are revied briefly.

- 1) Land.
- 2) Irrigation facilities.
- 3) Supply of Improved Seeds and Fertilisers.
- 4) Advanced mechanical implements.
- 5) Animals.
- 6) Pattern of crops.

1) Land:

The total land of this village is about 8000 acres. Out of this about 3000 Acres of land is under cultivation. Irrigation Facilities are available for a land of about 900 acres.

2) Water supply:

The importance of water both for drinking purpose and for agricultural development need no elaboration. The average annual rainfall of this village is about 600 mm. and that is the major source of water supply for agricultural purpose.

There are in all 349 wells and 25 bore wells in the village.

There are two bore wells and two big wells maintained by Grampanchayat for daily water supply to the village people. Generally there has been no scarcity of water. But there is no canal irrigation facility.

The Karnataka State Electricity Board (K.E.B.) Office, Chikodi, takes care of the electric power supply to the village.

3) Seeds and Fertilisers:

Most of the farmers of this village are well aware that use of new varieties of seeds are useful to increase the agricultural production. Same is the case with the use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. There is also a factory named "Deecan Sales Corporation Ltd.," which produces fertiliser- 'Yashoodan Granulated Compound Fertiliser'!

4) Use of Advanced Mechanical Implements:

Mechanisation of agriculture is useful to increase agricultural production. Most of the farmers in the village are adopting mechanization in their agricultural activities. Thus there are ten Tractors in the village. Similarly most of the farmers are using electric motor pumps on their wells for irrigation purpose. The method of sowing, harvesting and storing are, however, traditional.

5) Animals:

This village is quite rich as regards the animals. The animal population is as follows:

Buffallows - 1000, Cows - 30, Bullocks - 185, Poultry-240 and Sheep-280.

6) Pattern of Crops:

The crops taken in Khadaklat village include Paddy, Wheat, Jowar, Sugarcane, Vegetables, Ground-nuts, Tobacco, befel leaf, etc.

Sugarcane is being cultivated on 110 acres of land.

The main agricultural product of the village is tobacco. Tobacco is grown on the land of about 2000 acres. (6)

(8) POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION:

a) Administration Unit: A Grampanchayat.

The Village Panchayat Unit of local self government in the rural areas. The successful implimentation of the development programmes in the village depend only on the efficient functioning of the Panchayat. This village Panchayat functions under the Zilla Parishad.

The Grampanchayat has been functioning in Khadaklat village since 26th February, 1952, and the first Chairman of the village Panchayat was Narasagouda Patil. During his period as the Chairman regular state transport buses were introduced. In recent years there has been a change in the constitution and working of local self government in Karnataka. Accordingly Mandal Panchayat came into existence in 1987. Elections were held in the same year and Shri. Pralhad Patil was elected as Chairman of the Mandal Panchayat. This new Panchayat consists of 30 members out of which six are women. This shows the increasing participation of women in political and administrative fields.⁽⁷⁾

b) Politics:

The people in the village are politically aware. The two parties, namely the Indian National Congress and the Janata Dal are more influential as compared to others. But the party loyalty of the people is not very rigid and it changes as per the "Political Wave". There are no very rigid party affiliations. Caste is perhaps the dominating factor determining the voting pattern. There is a large number of Lingayat families in the population. This is a village on the border of Karnataka and

Maharashtra and hence both Kannada and Marathi languages are in vogue. The voting depends upon many factors such as political party, caste, language issues and also other incentives including money and liquor.

(9) RELIGIOUS LIFE:

There are temples, mosques, dargha and also a math. All the communities take active part in yatra or urus. All the national as well as religious festivals like Mahashivaratri, Ashadhi Ekadashi, etc. are observed with all the grandeur. The books like Ramayana, Mahabharatha, Basav Vachan etc. are also read in the month of Shravan. The kirtans are also arranged. Sometimes outside lecturers are also invited and their lectures are arranged.

a) Temples and Mosques:

In this village there are eleven temples. They are Ramling, Virupakshaling, Shankarling, Maruti, Vithoba and Mahadev. Recent addition is that of Siddeshwar Temple which has beautiful architecture. There are also small temples of Goddess Mahalaxmi, Renuka Devi and Margu Devi. There are two mosques and one Lingayat matha in the village. Gaibi Peersab temple is famous in this village.

b) Fairs and Festivals:

Fairs and festivals are socially and Psychologically important aspects of life in rural communities. Khadaklat villagers celebrate the fair of Gaibi Peerasab which is held

on the 16th of Saban month as per muslim calander. This is known as "urus". It is celebrated both by the Muslims as well as the Hindus. It runs for three days and attended in large number by the villagers as well as their relatives and friends. During this period races of bullock carts, horses, and bicycles as well as running races are conducted and suitable awards are given to the winners. Another aspects of this 'Urus' is the performance of 'Lokanatyia' or Tamasha, and Kawali' for the general public. They are free for all.

" Gokul Astami" festival is also celebrated in the villagers for two days. Dasara festival is also celebrated enthusiastically. Ramling and Laxmi temple fairs are celebrated in moderate scale by all the people in the village. Margudeiv festival or fair celebrated by people belonging Dhangar caste from this village.

(10) SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS:

a) Cultural Associations:

Different types of youth associations and cultural organisations are increasing in the rural area and Khadaklat is not an exception. There are two Bhajani Mandals consisting of 15 to 20 members each from different castes. There is one association of youths named as Hutatma Tarun Mandal. There are two Brass Band Associations, three Lazim Associations and one Dandapatta Playing Mandal in the village.



b) Entertainment:

Besides the traditional ways of entertainment, Khadaklat had two movie theatres namely, 'Jayamala ' Talkies started in 1946 and 'Santaji Chitra Mandir' in 1948. At present only Santaji Chitramandir is running regular shows. Recently a small Video Theatre has also been started. The introduction of television has brought about a revolution in the field of entertainment. There are nearly about 200 T.V. Sets installed in Khadaklat and even Disk antennas and Satelite connections for Star T.V, have been introduced.

Great Personalities of the Village:

Lakshamanrao Jivagouda Patil, the famous ring master and owner of the Great Indian Circus Company was from Khadaklat. He was famous both in Karnataka and Maharashtra. He was killed by one of his lions during a show in 1925.

Late Shri Parashuram Salokhe and Nijamsaheb Kaji took part in the 1942 Quite India Movement and was punished of 14 years rigorous imprisonment. However they were released on 25th May, 1948.

Some people have also become famous in the field of drama, music and cinemas. They include among others the famous actress 'Sulochana'. The others are Late Shri. Sarjerao Ghatage and Late Shri. Kaji, Shri. Balvantrao Kulkarni, Shri. Shrirang Joshi and Shri. Avinash Kulkarni are famous in the field of poetry.

REFERENCES:

- (1) The information is taken from an article in Daily "Sakal" dated 20-8-1992.
- (2) Statistical Data are collected from the Talathi of the village.
- (3) Information was collected from the records of Banks Branches and Co-operative Societies.
- (4) Information gathered from the records of the Primary and Secondary Schools.
- (5) Records of Post Office.
- (6) As per the records of the B.D.O. Office, Chikodi.
- (7) Records of Mandal Panchayat.

...