

## C H A P T E R - I I

### REVIEW OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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CHAPTER - II

PROFILE OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

2.1 LOCATION :

Solapur District is one of the Six districts of Pune Division, situated on the South East fringe of Maharashtra State and lies between 17°.10' and 18°.32' North latitude and 74°.42' and 75°.15' East longitude.

BOUNDARIES :

Solapur District is surrounded by Ahamadnagar and Osmanabad District in the North. Osmanabad District and Andhra Pradesh in the East; Sangli District and the Karnataka State to the South and Satara and Pune Districts towards the West.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY :

HILL RANGE :

There is no important hill system in the district. Only in the North of Barshi Tahsil several spur of Balghat range pass South for a few miles. Of these, the chief is the Barshi ghat, about fourteen miles East of Barshi Tahsil.

There are also scattered hills in Karmala, Madha and Malshiras Tahsils, In Karmala, Baghona hill about 210' high and Bodki hill about 190' high lie about sixteen miles South East of Karmala. The top of these hills is flat. In Madha Tahsil, Chinchgaon hills, about 300 feet high lie about four miles North of Madha Tahsil. The Gurnad hill in Malshiras Tahsil. The low

table land and small separate hills in Karmala and Madha tahsil act as the watershed between Bhima river and Sina river.

RIVER :

The chief rivers are the Bhima with its right bank feeders Nira and Man and left bank feeders the Sina and Bhogavati. The Bhima rises in the Sahyadries at Bhimashankar in Khed Tahsil of Pune District. It runs South East through Pune Ahmednagar and Solapur District of Maharashtra State. The drainage area of Bhima within the districts on the left bank Western half of Karmala, Madha, Pandharpur and South Solapur Tahsil and on the right bank, the Southern part of Pandharpur and Mangalwedha Tahsils. The length of Bhima within the limits of the district is 289 Kms.

The Nira rises in the Sahyadri in Pune District. It runs South east and East along the borders of Pune, Satara and Solapur District. It falls in to the Bhima about 8 Km. South West of Tembhurni Madha Tahsil.

The river Man on entering Sangola Tahsil and part of Pandharpur and Mangalwedha Tahsil. It meets Bhima near Pandharpur.

The Sina, which flows from North to South East Parallel to Bhima, drains the Tahsils of Barshi and North Solapur on the left and part of Karmala. Madha and South Solapur on the right. Bhogawati rises in the Balaghat range in the North East of Barshi

tahsil in to sina river near Mohal. The grater part of Malshiras tahsil is drained by the river Nira. Which is the right bank feeder of Bhima, Sangola, part of Pandharpur and Mangalwedha tahsil are drained by the man river.

SOILS :

The geographical foundation of soil prevailing in Solapur district is mainly of deccan trap of volcanic origin. The soil is underlain by partially decomposed basaltic rock, locally known as 'Murum' which overlise percent material. On account of more or less complete absence of leaching the soil are base saturated, the exchangable, calcium being the predominate claimant. The lime reserve is fairly high (3.5 to 10p.c.)

The soil in the district can be classified into four main categories in the basis of depth and structure namely.

- a) Very shallow soils with depth below 7.5 Cm.
- b) Shallow soils between /.5 to 22.5 cm.
- c) Medium deep soils between 22.5 to 90 cm.
- d) Leep soils with depth more then 95 cm.

The soil of Sangola and Mangalwedha are mainly light between or greyish black and are shallow. Madha tahsil has shallow soil having varying depth and quality. In Pandharpur, soil is pure capable of producing millets only.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL :

Climatically the entire district falls in the rain shadow area in Solapur district the maximum temperature is 43.2 and minimum temperature is 13.3 centgrade. The monsoon period in Solapur district covers the period from mid June to end of September, the rainfall through out the district is scanty and annual average is 584 mms. for the district.

The Mearge rainfall is received from south west as well as North east monsoon. The analysis of rainfall data since 1953 indicates that not only there variation in the total rainfall; but also the distribution of rainfall was unevenly spread over the monsoon seasons, During 1984 rainfall was less then annual normal rainfall at Barshi, Madha, Malshiras, Mohal and Akklkot centres and it was more than normal rainfall at Pandharpur, Karmala, Sangola and Solapur centres. Recently Sukhatankar committee declared the whole district as a drought prone area except guareented irrigated area in year 1983, 1087, in 1984, 124 and 1985, 156 villages were decleared as a drough pronevillages.

MINERALS :

There are no minerals of economic importance in this district, However, minerals like building stone are found in sufficier quantity allover the distrinct.

FOREST :

The total area under forest which is scattered hectares is 32633 hectares. All these forests are shrub forests growing thorny bushes. The forest area is much scattered. It may be roughly divided into two tracts hills between Barshi and Osmanabad on the extreme North and East and hills to the South of Malshiras and Sangola in the extreme South West maximum area under forest is 21% in Sangola tahsil 19% Karmala and 18% Malshiras Tahsil and minimum area under forest is 1.53% in Akkalkot Tahsil. In 1984-85 production of government forest was getting 402803 Rs. income.

AREA :

Solapur District comprises of an area of 15021 Sq.Km. which is 4.88 per cent of the total area of the state of this Urban areas account for 414 Sq. Km. and rural areas for 14607 Sq. Km. in terms of area Barshi is the largest tahsil with an area 1626 Sq.Km. and the smallest Tahsil is North Solapur with an area of 736 Sq.Km.

**2.3** POPULATION :

As per 1981 census the population of Solapur District stands 2610144 including 1344147 males and 1265997 females this makes 4.16% of states population over 4.88 per cent of its area, Following table shows population of Solapur City and the 11 Tahsils rural population and urban population in the district.

TABLE NO.2.1

TABLE NO.2.1 SHOWS THE RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

Sr.No.	Tahsils	Total Population	Rural	Urban
1	Solapur North	615608	100748	514869
2	Barshi	276757	204220	72537
3	Akkalkot	215510	167760	47750
4	Solapur South	151031	151031	-
5	Mohol	158630	156630	-
6	Mangalwedha	117301	100499	16802
7	Pandharpur	237680	173300	64380
8	Sangola	182066	167209	14854
9	Malshiras	282300	282300	-
10	Karmala	162714	148985	16729
11	Madha	207550	181996	15554
Total		2610144	1842678	767466

SOURCE : Census Report of Solapur District 1981.

LITERACY :

The latest 1981 census revealed that 40.6 per cent of the total population in the district is literate against the state average literacy state of 47.18 per cent. Among the various districts in the state, Solapur District ranks 18th in term of literacy rate. Among the various towns in the district Kurduwadi recovered the highest literacy rate of 65.15 per cent in 1981.

DENSITY :

The density of population per Sq.Km. for the district was 174 in 1981 as compared to 150 in 1971, compared with the density of 204 in the state the density of population in the district is little low. In Solapur district maximum density of population of (837) was North Solapur Tahsil and minimum density of population (103) Mangalwedha and Karmala Tahsil.

WORKING POPULATION :

According to 1981 census working population is 1085349 in the district, it is 41.58 per cent of total district population. The distribution pattern of workers in different categories reveals that 31.21 per cent of the workers were cultivators, 26.75 per cent were as agricultural labourers and 2.79 per cent were as workers of production process service and 39.25 per cent were other workers. About 86 per cent of the working population of the rural areas of the district sustain their livelihood from agricultural.

## 2.4 AGRICULTURE :

In 1980-1981 total geographical area of district were 1503700 hectares out of these 2.17 per cent area under the forest 5.55 per cent uncultivated and 12.22 per cent were dryland, out of these 6.08 per cent were under the current dryland area. In 1980-1981 total cultivated land area were 1326600 hectares, out of those 89.25 per cent area were the net crops total area under the net crops were maximum area in Madha and minimum area in North Solapur Tahsil.

### IMPORTANT CROPS :

Like other districts of Maharashtra State, Solapur District is an agricultural one and rural life in this district is mainly dependent on agriculture. This district is noted for growing Jawar Groundnut, Pulses and to some extent sugarcane. Main crop, however, is Jawar which is mostly harvested in Rabbi season. Cultivation is wide spread in Rabbi season in this district. About 70 per cent of area under cultivation is allocated to Rabbi crops. Rainfall in Solapur district is scanty and many times uneven. It has been observed over 85 per cent of district area is drought prone.

The following table No. 2.2 gives the yield rates in Kg. per hectare and out turn of important crops in Solapur District for the year 1981-1982 to 1984-1985.

TABLE NO.2.2

Sr.No.	Name of Crop	Yield in Kg. per hectare during			
		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-1985
1.	Jawar	331	188	357	409
2	Bajara	393	146	473	280
3	Wheat	973	761	1187	822
4	Tur	266	345	464	380
5	Groundnut	1315	1346	1292	1488
6	Sugarcane (in terms of Gur)	9058	9696	8076	7985
7	Cotten (Bales)	1654	1541	889	1277

SOURCE : Socia Economic Review of Solapur District 1982-1983,  
1984-1985.

The data of yield rates in respect of almost all the crops except wheat sugarcane shows much variations and they are not comparable for the different reference years for the same crops. The yield rates, however, depend on many factors such as rains, type of soil, natural conditions, use of improved practice etc.

IRRIGATION PROJECT :

The work on the major componants of the project of Ujani Dam, left and right bank canals and the distribution of system of the

dam was planned to be completed by end of June 1978. The work of left bank canals is completed more than 106 Kms. The work of the aqueduct across Bhima river and right bank canal has been taken in Sina. Irrigation potential to the extent of 1,66400 hectares is likely to be completed after completion of the project.

DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME ( DPAP)

The DPAP for Solapur District, involves the various measures for land development and moisture conservations, water harvesting and minor irrigation, dry land farming livestock development, forestry and pasture development. The D.P.A.P. for Solapur adopted a watershed approach and initially watersheds, one in each taluka excluding Pandharpur comprising of 113 villages were selected. Ten more watersheds were added in 1977-1978 to utilise expected savings in the project outlay.

All the tahsils in the district except some pockets coming under major irrigation programme viz. Bhima (Ujani) project are recognised as drought prone. A special programme called D.P.A.P. is being implemented in 20 watersheds selected for the purposes, with the assistance of world bank. The programme is aimed at surface water, in these watersheds. Besides emphasis is also given on the other activities like agricultural extension. Dairy development, pasture development and livestock development.

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME :

The integrated rural development programme launched in 10, out of 11 blocks of this district during 1978-1979 for providing additional employment opportunities in the rural areas and to raise the level of income of the weaker section i.e. small and marginal farmers, agricultural and non agricultural labourers and village artisans.

The 10 blocks selected are categorised as under. :

<u>D.P.A.P. Blocks</u>	<u>C.A.D.A. Blocks</u>
1. South Solapur	1. North Solapur
2. Mangalwedha	2. Mohol
3. Sangola	3. Madha
4. Karmala	4. Pandharpur
5. Barshi	5. Malshiras

During the year 1978-1979 each of the blocks was given an outlay of Rs. 5 lakhs in all Rs. 50 lakhs against this the total expenditure was Rs. 49.50 lakhs.

**2.5 POST AND TELEGRAPH :**

Nearly one half ( 45.47%) of the inhabited villages in the district have post and telegraph facility and these villages have 70.12 per cent of the rural population of the district. Within the district, Solapur North Tahsil having 71.43 per cent of villages with post and telegraph facility and serving more than four fifth (83.83%) of its population enjoys the place of pride. The position is however, not good in Mangalwedha Tahsil.

602 villages in the district do not have this facility. Among them it is available within a distance of 5 Kms. for 335 villages, at a distance of 5-10 Kms. for 200 villages and beyond 10 Kms. for the remaining 67 villages in the district.

**2.6 COMMUNICATION :**

665 villages in the district, have the availability of bus stop/ railway station water way within the village and they serve about three fourth (75.47%) of the rural population of the district. Among the 439 villages where this facility is not available. It is available within a distance of 5 Kms. in respect of 232 villages at a distance of 5-10 Kms in respect of 149 villages and beyond 10 Kms for the remaining 58 villages.

**2.7 POWER SUPPLY :**

The rural electrification programme assigned importance from the third five year plan and this has resulted in accelerating the

supply of power in the rural areas 842 villages in the district now get the power supply. It is observed that in Pandharpur tahsil 92.47 per cent of the villages get power supply in Karmala Tahsil only one half of the villages have this facility.

## **2.8 TRADE AND COMMERCE :**

The chief articles of export in the district are Solapur Chaddars (Bedsheets), groundnut, Jowar, betal leaves, Sweet oil, food grains, grocery, raw cotton etc. important imported commodities are hardware building material, provision articles, stationary and cutlery medicines electrical goods and appliances. Machinery for wave watches and a number of other consumed articles. These imports are from the important places such as a Bombay, Ahmedabad, Madras, Malegaon, Pune and Culcutta.

## **2.9 INDUSTRIES :**

Solapur is an important centre of cotton textile industry ever since the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and the district ranks fourth as regards industrialisation in the state. At present there are eight cotton textile mills and a number of factories manufacturing bed covers. The chaddars (bedsheets) manufactured at Solapur are very famous all over Maharashtra. Besides the modern textile mills, Solapur is a congenial home of the handlooms weaving industry which provides employment to a considerable number of workers.

Besides the cotton textile industry, the sugar industry has also found a congenial home in parts of the district. As a matter of fact the sugar industry occupies a very important position in the industrial land scape as also the general economy of the district. At present eight sugar factories in the district, Two is private sector and Six sugar factories in the district cooperative sector. This sugar factories are concentrated in the are of Akluj Tal Malshiras, Malinagar, Pandharpur North Solapur. Mohol and Barshi Tahsil.

Didi manufacturing and ready made garments are also important industries in the district.

The important cottage industries in the district are hand loom, weaving tanning leather working, fibre working bambook working oil pressing, carpentary, smilby dyeing and printing, silk processing.

## 2.10 SUGAR INDUSTRY :

Sugar factories also occupy a very important position in industrial landscape as well as the general economy of the Solapur District. In fact that the present prosperity of the areas of Malshiras, Akluj, Malinagar, South Solapur, Mohol, Pandharpur, Barshi is attributed mainly a these industries. These areas formely suffered from frequent famines and conditions of acute

A scarcity, but as now reverberating with economic prosperity. These are at present 8 sugar factories of which of which two are in the private sector, namely Shripur Sugar Factory and Malinagar Sugar Factory. Six sugar factories are in the cooperative sector. Namely, Yeshwant Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Akluj, Shankar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sadashivanagar, Sidheshwar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Sadashivanagar, Sidhewar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Kumathe, Shri. Vithal Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Pandharpur Bhima Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, Takali Sikandar and Bhogwati Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Barshi. In the nature of thing the sugar factories are production oriented and encourage the cultivation of sugar cane which has contributed immensely for the prosperity of the cultivator. All these factories are recent origin and their total cane crushing is (1676005 M.T.) in 1986-1987 and their total sugar production is (1710419 Qutls) in 1986-1987. All these sugar factories crushing capacity is recently 1250 to 5000 M.T.

It is seen that next to cotton industry sugar industry has got ample scope in future due to the fact that irrigation facilities are growing year after year which will transform the economy of regions in the vicinity of Ujani dam.

R E F E R E N C E S

1. Socio Economic Review of Solapur District 1982-1983 to 1984-1985.
2. Census Report of Solapur District in 1981.
3. Gazettear of Solapur District 1977.