

CHAPTER - 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SET-UP OF PATAN TALUKA

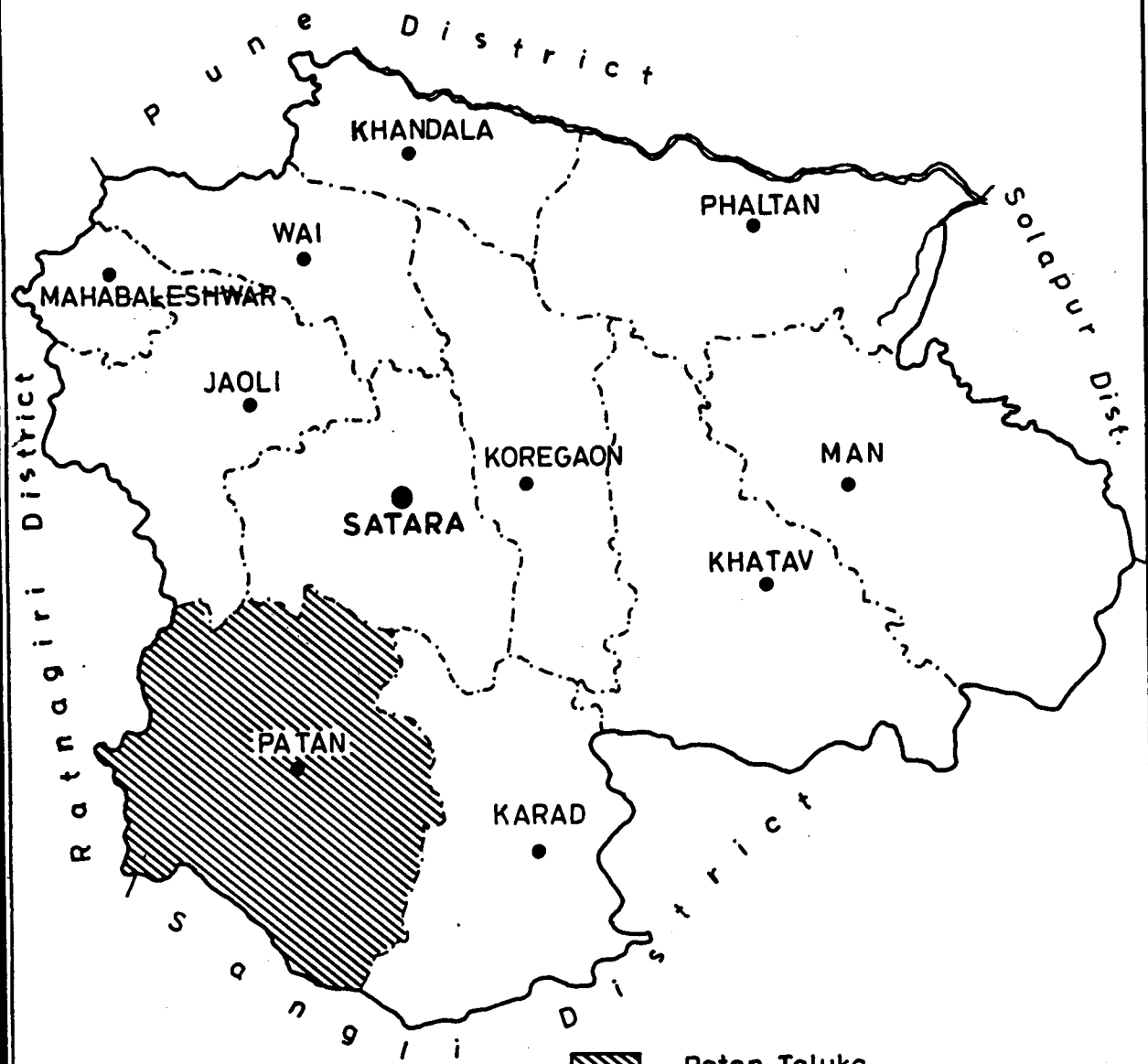
3.1 LOCATION






Satara district is situated partly in the Bhima river basin and partly in the Krishna river basin. Khandala, Phaltan and Man tahsils are situated in the Bhima river basin. While the rest of the tahsils are situated in upper Krishna basin. The district has an area of 10,492 sq. kilometres. It lies between $17^{\circ}-5'$ and $18^{\circ}-11'$ north latitude and $73^{\circ}-33'$ and $74^{\circ}-54'$ east longitude.

Patan taluka lies between $17^{\circ}-20'$ north latitude and $73^{\circ}-50'$ east longitude on the Karad-Chiplun road at the junction of the Koyana and Kera rivers, about twenty five miles south-west of Satara.

According to 1981 census Patan taluka has an area of 1,330 sq. kilometres and population of 2,33,265 the density of population being 175 persons per sq. kilometres. It has 12.7 percent of the area and 11.44 percent of the population of the district. It is the third largest taluka in Satara district with respect to area as well as population. The taluka comprises 200 villages and 3 urban places. Patan is its headquarters. Patan taluka is surrounded by Jaoli and Satara talukas of Satara district on the north. Sangli district on the south, Karad taluka of Satara district

SATARA DISTRICT LOCATION OF PATAN TALUKA



-  Patan Taluka
-  District H. Q.
-  Taluka H. Q.
-  District Boundary
-  Taluka Boundary



on the east and Chiplun taluka of Ratnagiri district on the west.

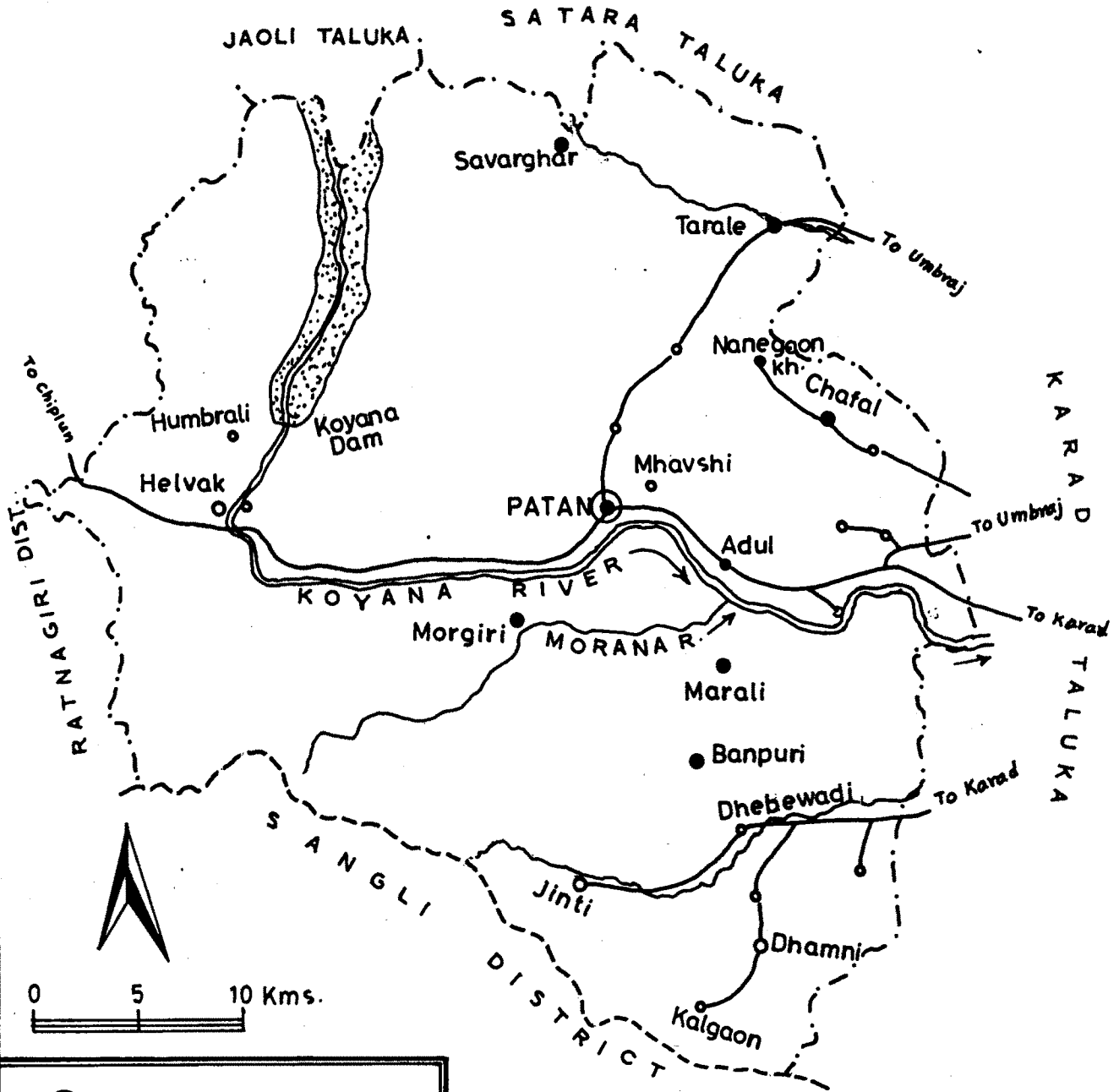
3.2 PHYSICAL FEATURES¹

The noteworthy feature of Patan is that it is located amidst the Sahyadri range. The main range of Sahyadri with a length of 96 kilometres from north to south forms the western boundary of Patan taluka. Hills in the district are very low, barren and rugged except near Mahabaleshwar and Koyana Valley. The most important hills of Sahyadri are Chandli, Dategad, Gunvantgad, Bhairavgad and Jangli-Jaygad; all except the first are fortified.

The soil of Patan taluka is red laterite along the whole mountain range comprising the entire Koyana valley, thin and poor on the hill slopes but get richer where natural or artificial terracing has accumulated soil with vegetable matter drained by rain waters. Rich black soil is found in the lands of the valleys of Koyana, Kapana, Kera, Tarali and Morna rivers.

As Patan has been surrounded by Sahyadri mountain range there flow many rivers which have made this area fertile. The rivers Kapana, Kera, Tarali, Morna, Wangmand are some of the tributaries of Koyana river which have made their way through this taluka. Koyana is the principal river of this taluka and the largest feeder of the Krishna river. It rises on the west side of the Mahabaleshwar plateau, runs towards south upto Helwak in Patan taluka where the famous

PATAN TALUKA



- ⊙ Patan taluka H. Q.
- Villages
- - - District boundary
- . . . Taluka boundary
- Road
- ~ River

Koyana dam has been built.

3.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

Building stone and little iron deposits in the periphery of about 30 villages in Patan taluka is the only underground treasure. Building stone, sand of good quality and lime stone from Patan taluka are widely used. Plenty of clay suitable for bricks and tiles is found on the river banks.

3.4 FOREST RESOURCES²

The mountain ranges of Sahyadri are rich in forest. The trees like black wood, jamblun, teak jack, clearing nut, mango, hirda, apta and tembhurni are seen everywhere in the taluka. Some trees of this region are of vital important in Ayurvedic medicines. Even today garudvel, kalavi, askand, vekhand, tisli, murudpod, pepper, behda, marking nuts, embica myrobalan and tamalpatra are widely used in Ayurvedic medicines. All these medicinal herbs and trees are found in Patan taluka.

3.5 EDUCATION

Education is one of the most vital factors for shaping and forming the personality of human beings. Education, which disciplines our emotions, enables to understand the realities and analyse it and develops rational power, is most important from the standpoint of the shaping of individual's attitudes and values.³ It is in 1856 that the first primary school was started in Patan. But by 1918

there were twelve primary schools in this taluka. Karmveer Bhauroao Patil saw the dream of educating the people on large scale and started 193 primary schools during his active life spreading the primary education far and wide in Patan taluka. After the emergence of Balasaheb Desai, the mass leader and a champion of the cause of people of Patan, 89 new primary schools made a further penetration into the remote places. By 1981, there were 404 primary schools. The first middle school came into being at Gandhi Hill in 1948. In the nineteen fifties 28 middle schools were started. By 1981, there were 31 middle schools. The growth of education gradually covered the area of collegiate education by the establishment of an Arts, Commerce and Science College at Patan in 1967. Followed by a similar college at Talmavale, in due course of time three junior colleges and a D.Ed. college also were opened. Thus, the taluka which was once almost neglected and backward in spread of literacy, made rapid strides in this regard.

3.6 AGRICULTURE

The fertile soil of Patan was underutilised for decades together before nineteen fifties. Advanced technology, better seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides, etc. were almost out of use by the farmers till as late as 1953 when the National Extension Service Scheme was introduced in the taluka. The principal crops of the taluka are rice, sugarcane, kharif and rabi jowar, groundnuts, wheat, etc. For the sake of providing a market for agricultural products

a taluka level marketing federation was established in 1958. To improve the irrigation facilities, 28 small irrigation projects were completed by the end of 1971. As a result, cash crops like sugarcane and groundnuts are being produced on a large scale by the farmers.

Land utilisation records show that only 14.73 percent of the total land is under cultivation. Patan taluka is a vast but mostly a hilly region. Total land is 1,40,364.97 hectares; out of this only 20,675.92 hectares are used for agricultural purpose. The uncultivated land is used for cattle grazing. Two Veterinary Aid Centres are functioning in Patan taluka. The first veterinary hospital was started in 1948 in Ramapur. Later, in 1956, new hospitals of the kind were started at Dhebewadi and Tarale and a cattle breeding centre was opened at Helwak in 1963 with sub-centres at Malharpeth and Chafal.

3.7 INDUSTRY

The Koyana Electric Grid Scheme is a unique feature of the taluka. It is an important landmark in the industrial development of the taluka, district and the area of Southern Maharashtra. It is the biggest hydro-electric project in Maharashtra. It encouraged industrial growth and rural electrification in the taluka. Attention was, therefore, given to the development of industries based on the resources of Patan taluka to absorb the unemployed and underemployed within the region. Balasaheb Desai Co-operative Sugar Factory

at Marali was started in October, 1969. On the bank of Koyana river brick kilns and building stone mines are very active. Saw mills and rice mills are also started at Patan and Dhebewadi. Bakery is an additional activity at Patan, Dhebewadi, Koyana, Tarale and Malharpeth. The census record of 1971 shows that 181 villages of the taluka were electrified registering 93 percent rural electrification.

3.8 CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The co-operative movement in this taluka has attained considerable importance during recent years on account of its numerous activities like extension of agricultural credit, processing and marketing of agricultural produce, salary earners' society, etc. Co-operative movement has made good inroads in Patan taluka. There are 97 multi-purpose societies, 2 salaried servants' societies, 13 dairy societies, 2 agricultural societies, 6 labour societies, 7 housing societies, 3 weavers' societies, 1 fishermens' society, 8 water supply societies, 2 consumer stores, 2 rice mills, 1 sugar factory at Marali and 7 other industrial societies in the co-operative sector. To look after all these co-operative societies an apex society by name Patan Taluka Supervision Union has also been established.

3.9 TRANSPORT

Before Independence Karad-Chiplun road was the only tar and well built road. After the establishment of the

Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation road construction activity got a momentum even in Patan taluka to facilitate road transport arrangements upto as many places as possible. There are three categories of roads. Firstly, major district roads, under this category there are two roads : (1) Dhebewadi-Sanbur and (2) Kashil-Pal-Tarale. Secondly, other district roads. Under this category the following roads are included :

1. Dhebewadi - Umarkanchan - Jinti
2. Gudhe - Kalgaon
3. Patan - Mandure
4. Garwade - Morgiri
5. Charegaon - Padloshi
6. Nisare - Marul
7. Tarale - Ghot
8. Patan - Nade - Dhebewadi
9. Tarale - Dhoroshi - Jalu - Mandure.

Third category is of village roads under which the following important roads are included :

1. Patan - Morgiri - Gureghar
2. Nune - Murud
3. Havalewadi - Marul - Dhivashi
4. Patan - Walmiki
5. Chafal - Dervan - Dadoli - Khanoli - Gujarwadi.
6. Patan - Ker - Chapoli
7. Sangwad - Belawade - Addao

8. Janugadewadi - Kadhane

9. Mendheghar - Neral

These roads have been developed after 1962.

3.10 HEALTH

In case of medical facilities this taluka was neglected by the British Government for many years. It is only after independence that attention was given by the government to provide medical facilities. The first two health centres were started in 1958 at Patan and in 1960 at Dhebewadi. A few sub-centres were also opened later on. During 1984-85 ten new Public Health Centres were started at Marali, Morgiri, Tarale, Chafal, Murud, Malharpeth, Keral, Koyananagar, Kalgaon and Salve. Likewise new sub-centres also were started in the taluka. A tirade against smallpox, malaria and cholera was started by these centres. Patan taluka is one of the leading talukas in the state to adopt vigorously the family planning programme and has got many prizes and medals for commendable work of propaganda and implementation of family planning schemes of the government.

3.11 CONCLUSION

The foregoing factual details of Patan taluka create an impression that though located amidst hilly tract, the taluka has acquired important infra-structural facilities like major road links, education and health ~~centres~~ facilities, electricity and few industrial units based on local

resources. True that available infra-structural network is inadequate. However, it has helped in mending the overall outlook of the people so as to accept new thoughts and programmes in different areas of their politico-socio-economic life. This is, of course, a very general observation, it should not, at the same time, impress anybody that the people of Patan taluka are very much receptive to the novelties. It all means that there is generated a good awareness for change in their mode of life and so the change is gradually visible.

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3. Verma and Jag Mohan Singh, Dyanamics of Population Growth, Jyotsna Publications, Lucknow, 1977, p.19.