

Chapter 2

Profile of Kolhapur District

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2.1 Demographic Features:

The district of Kolhapur lies between 15⁰ and 17⁰ north latitude and 73⁰ and 74⁰ east longitude. It is the southernmost district of Maharashtra State. It has geographical area of 7685 Sq. Kms and population of 35,23,162 out of which 51.30 per cent males and 48.70 per cent female population. According to the Census 2001 Kolhapur district has an average literacy rate of 77 per cent which is higher than the national average of 64.8 per cent.

2.2 About Kolhapur:

Headquarter of the district Kolhapur is an ancient city having rich historical and cultural heritage. The city is situated on the bank of river Panchganga and also known as 'Dakshin Kashi'. Kolhapur of adobe of goddess of Mahalaxmi (Ambabai) and is one of the shaktipeeths mentioned in the Indian Mythology.

The growth of the district in modern time is fascinating. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj is an architect and founder of modern Kolhapur. The district has abundance of natural resources – i.e. water, soil, natural vegetation, animal wealth and minerals. Therefore Kolhapur is one of the most agriculturally advanced districts in Maharashtra.

Rapid industrialisation is taking place in Kolhapur district. Agro based industries are growing significantly in the recent past. There are two MIDC areas and one newly started Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which takes Kolhapur to higher place in terms of manufacturing and processing of various products. Kolhapur district has valuable contribution in the development of co-operative movement in Maharashtra, which is the shining example in the co-operative development in India. Kolhapur is one of the districts having highest per capita income in recent years.

2.3 Population

According to the Census 2001, Kolhapur district has a total population of 35.23 lakh and stands 9th in Maharashtra state. Karveer tehsil accounts highest (26 per cent) percentage and Gaganbawada tehsil (1 per cent) contributes lowest to the total district population.

2.3.1 Population Growth Rate

In the Nineteenth decade district account population growth rate of 17.85 per cent. out of which population growth rate of rural area (12.27 per cent) is lower than the urban area (33.46 per cent). As compare to Eighteenth decade this growth shows decline in rural area and tremendous increase in urban area.

2.3.2 Population Density

According to the Census 2001 density of population in the Kolhapur accounts 455 for Sq.Km.. Population density for urban area (4222) is twelve times higher than rural area (330). Karveer tehsil has the highest population density (1351) and Gaganbawada tehsil accounts lowest (116).

2.3.3 Rural and Urban Population

As per Census 2001, urban area contributed 24.73 lakh (70 per cent) and rural area contributed 10.50 lakh (30 per cent) to the total population of 35.23 lakh. Kolhapur (47 per cent) and Ichalkaranji city (25 per cent) together contributes 72 per cent in the total urban population of the district. 28 per cent population is belonging to other eight Municipal Councils.

2.3.4 Sex Ratio

Kolhapur district has the sex ratio of 946 as against national average of 933. Sex ratio for the urban area (919) is lower than the rural area (962). As per the Census 2001 the sex ratio for 0 to 6 years accounts 839. For the rural area it accounts 842 and 831 for urban area.

2.3.5 Ratio of SC/ST Population

Total SC population in the district is 4.50 lakh and they account 13 per cent of the district population. ST population in the district is 0.21 lakh and they contribute less than 1 percent to the district population.

2.3.6 Distribution of population by age

As per the Census 2001, distribution of population by age is shown in the following table.

Table No. 2.1
Distribution of population by age groups

Sr. No.	Age	Population	% to the total population
1	0 to 4	308853	8.76
2	5 to 14	727485	20.64
3	15 to 59	2151694	60.07
4	60 years and above	335130	9.51

Source: Census 2001

2.3.7 Working population

According to the Census 2001, Kolhapur district has 16.53 lakh (47 per cent) working population, out of which 13.04 lakh are from rural area and 3.49 lakh from urban area. In the total working population there are 40 per cent farmers, 16 per cent agriculture labourers, 3 per cent domestic worker and other types 41 per cent workers. District has 2.58 lakh marginal farmers, who's percentage share in the total district population is 7 per cent.

2.4 Administrative Setup

Kolhapur district has twelve Tehsils which divided into four Revenue Subdivision along with twelve Panchayat Samities and 1030 Grampanchyats for rural administration.

In the case of urban administrative setup district has one Municipal Corporation along with nine Municipal Councils.

2.5 Culture:

According of legend Kolhapur was settled by *Kolhasur*, a demon who was later killed by Mahalaxmi to relieve the local populaces. However, honoring the demons dying wish, the city was named after him. Majority of district dwellers are Hindus (87.34 per cent) along with relatively smaller communities of Muslims (6.72 per cent) and Jains (4.11 per cent) as per Census 2001.

Marathi is the prime spoken language of the district, apart from that a little bit of Hindi, English and Kanada is used by the peoples who are soft and kind hearted.

Proximity to Karnataka state, Goa and Konkan region of Maharashtra has led to mingling a large variety of culture at Kolhapur district.

2.6 Climate:

The climate of the district is temperate in plains and cool in Western Ghats. The Eastern region represents dry weather and it experience hot winds during April and May. Summer in Kolhapur district is comparatively cooler and the winter temperatures are significantly higher compared to other districts in Maharashtra. The night over the whole district is generally cool due to the influence of the sea breezes. The Kolhapur district receives its major rainfall from South West monsoon winds, it also gets some rainfall from thunderstorms during the month of April and May. The rainy season is from June to October. The Western Ghats receives the heavy rainfall and Gaganbavada which receives 5000mm average rainfall (6893mm in 2006) is known as the Cherapunji of the Maharashtra. In 2006 there was excessive rainfall in Kolhapur district resulting in floods.

2.7 Forest:

The total forest coverage of the district is measuring 1672 Sq.Km. out of which 33.67 per cent is reserve forest and 24.94 per cent is protected forest. The forest area is about 22 per cent of the total geographical area of the district.

There are three main types of forest in the district.

1. The Sub-Tropical Evergreen
2. The Moist Deciduous and Semi Evergreen
3. The Dry Deciduous forest

In Sub-Tropical Evergreen forest, the principal trees are Jambhul, Hirda, Anjan, Surangi, Fanas, etc. In Semi Evergreen and Moist deciduous forest we find Amba, Nana, Sisum, Asana, Kumbhi, Bhava, Kinjal, Ain, Kinnai, Umbar, Biba and others. In Dry Deciduous forest, the above species are found in very little quantity. Firewood and grass are the main marketable products from this forest.

2.8 Tourist Attractions:

Visiting Kolhapur is experiencing the magical amalgamation of Natural, History, Culture and Spirituality all at one place. Marathi is the primary language of communication; however people are well versed with Hindi and English as well.

Following are the attractions for tourist to visit Kolhapur.

2.8.1 Religious Places:

Kolhapur is also known as 'Dakshin Kashi' for its high religious and spiritual importance. Goddess Mahalaxmi Ambabai is the guardian deity of Kolhapur. District has also blessed with various temples and religious places which make visiting Kolhapur none less then a pilgrimage.

Following are some of the important religious places in district.

Mahalaxmi Temple	Jotiba Temple
Kashi Vishveshwar Temple	Bahubali
Katyani Devi	Khindrapur
Kaneri Math	

2.8.2 Historical Places:

Kolhapur is also a place of great historical importance. Right from Shivaji Maharaj to Shahu Maharaj, Kolhapur has lived a marverlus life which has left marks on the culture and architecture of the city to great extent. The Social reforms of Shahu Maharaj can be seen and felt at Kolhapur district.

Following are some of the importance historical heritages in district.

Panhalgad	Vishalgad
Shalini Palace	New Palace
Bhavani Mandap	Town Hall

2.8.3 Lakes and Rivers:

Kolhapur is situated on the bank of river Panchganga to whom Kasari, Kumbhi, Tulshi and Bhogavati rivers meet at Narshinhwadi. It also has various lakes in and around the city which add to the beauty and grandeur of the place. Rankala, Narsinhwadi, Kotiteertha, Panchganga Ghat are some of the examples of it.

Krushna, Warana, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Vedganga, Hirnyakeshi and Ghatprabha are the main rivers in the district. In the Western part of district Dudhganga is the main river who has Vedganga sub-river. Tilara is the only river of Southern part of district which flow towards West.

2.8.4 Other Places:

Other than the above mentioned places, there are some other places like Dajipur Sanchuary, Shivaji University, Kolhapur etc. which also attracts the tourist to come over Kolhapur and visit such places.

2.9 Transport:

As far as the transportation is concern the Kolhapur district has well equipped with road, rail and air transport facilities which plays a vital role in the overall development of the district.

2.9.1 Road Transport

Road transport is a more preferred mode of transport due to its coverage and speed. Kolhapur is situated on the Pune - Bangalore National Highway No. 4. There is State Transport buses regularly from Kolhapur to Pune, Mumbai, Panji, Belgaon Bangalore, Ratnagiri, Solapur, Satara, Miraj, Sangli and several other places.

The Kolhapur Municipal Transport service operates in the city, suburbs and nearby villages. The private traveling companies are more comfortable and reliable with offering sleeper and air conditioned coaches on more popular routes to and from big cities only.

Table No. 2.2

Road length in Kolhapur district

Sr. No.	Classification of roads	Surfaced road	Un-surfaced road	Total
1	National Highway	48	-	48
2	State Highway	1073	-	1073
3	Major Dist. Roads	1732	-	1732
4	Other district roads	2168	-	2168
5	Village roads	1816	1350	2168
	Total =	6777	1350	8127

Note: Figures in Km. and as on 31st March, 2005

Source: Socio-Economic Survey Report of Kolhapur district, 2006-07

By the end of year 2007 there is 9060 km road in the district, out of which 5452 km (*Dambri*), 1498 km (*Khadicha*) and 2556 km other (*Kachcha*) roads.

2.9.1.1 Vehicles Use

In 2006-07 there were 5.14 lakh vehicles recorded in the district, out of which 77 per cent Two Wheeler, 10 per cent Jeeps, 3 per cent Tractors, 2 per cent Rickshaws and Others 8 per cent.

2.9.2 Railway Transport

Kolhapur railway station namely Chhatrapati Sahu Maharaj Terminus is 48 km away from Miraj junction. It was moved from the South Central to Central Railways in 2003. It has daily trains to Mumbai, Pune, Tirupati, Banglore and Ahemdabad. It also runs on inter-city shuttle service between Kolhapur and Miraj. The weekly Nizammuddin Express is a direct train to New Delhi.

2.9.3 Air Transport

The Kolhapur district has an airport nearby Ujlaiwadi village which is 9 km away from the city center connecting Kolhapur to Mumbai. Air Deccan offers daily flights from Mumbai which takes about an hour to reach Kolhapur.

2.10 District Industries Centre:

Kolhapur is also famous for its qualitative industrial products which make Kolhapur as an industrial hub in the Maharashtra. District has its own identity in industrial products like Diesel engine, and various parts of engine. The District Industries Centre (DIC) was established in 1979. The major objective was to encourage all the Small Scale Industries and help them under one common roof.

2.10.1 Small Scale Industry:

The permanent and temporary small scale industries registration and other details as on 31st March, 2001 for the Kolhapur district is as below.

Table No. 2.3

**Permanent and temporary small scale industries registration and other details as
on 31/3/2001 for the Kolhapur District**

Sr. No.	Industry Category	SSI Regd. Permanent	SSI Regd. Temporary	Total	Empl. Gen. Permanent	Empl. Gen. Temporary
1	Agn. Oriented	189	275	484	520	841
2	Forest Oriented	100	200	300	1500	10
3	Mineral Oriented	87	90	177	300	400
4	Food & Drinks	68	158	226	610	865
5	Clothing	2559	1507	4060	1958	2653
6	Leather	167	198	365	615	935
7	Rubber	93	112	205	700	725
8	Plastic	123	494	617	564	920
9	Chemical	130	551	681	693	1327
10	Metal (Eng.Ind.)	1936	1656	3592	5819	10100
11	Electric	38	68	106	900	768
12	Electronic	31	73	104	225	127
13	Other	3923	3858	7121	29200	35737
	Total	9438	9260	18698	43604	65398

Source: District Statistically handbook, 2005, ZP, Kolhapur

It is cleared from above table that, the Clothing and Metal Engineering Industries has a large share in both total number of permanent and temporary SSI units and also in employment generation.

The major among the small scale units are Auto Spare Parts, C.I. Casting, Engg. Job Work, Diesel Engine and Engine Parts, Textile and Silver Ornaments, Chappals, etc. which also contributing in the district economy by providing the employment to the masses.

2.10.2 Medium and Large Scale Industries:

Permission for a total of 227 medium and major industries have been granted by the Central Govt. out of total 110 units have started their production. The major among them are 21 Sinning mills, 19 Sugar industries and 21 Textile mills (both private and cooperatives). Remaining units are of Engineering, Poultry, Foundry Chemical, Animal Food, etc. Total investment in these 110 units is Rs. 563 crores and provided employment to 55,000 peoples.

2.10.3 Industrial Area of MIDC:

Presently there are two Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) areas existing and four more are proposed. A total of 1207 units are functioning in these two existing MIDC areas.

Table No. 2.4

MIDC areas in Kolhapur district

Sr. No.	MIDC Area	Total Area (Hectares)	Total Plots	Distributed Plots
1	SMAK Shirolī Mfg. Assoc.	269.00	714	700
2	Gokul Shirgaon Mfg. Assoc.	233.93	775	751
	Total	472.93	1489	1451

Source: District Statistically handbook, 2005, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur

2.11 Education:

Kolhapur has a long history of educational development. The Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj was the first king in India who made legislation for the compulsory primary education in the State and to open the doors of higher education and established Rajaram College at the beginning of twentieth century.

At present in the district there is one University namely Shivaji University, Kolhapur which was established in year 1962. Along with 74 Colleges out of which eight are Medical, six are Technical, Three are Business, three are Engineering, Agriculture and Architect one of each and others. As per Census 2001 there are 523 Secondary and 2022 Primary and Middle Schools in the district.

2.11.1 Literacy

According to Census 2001, literacy rate for the Kolhapur district is 77 per cent. It is 87 per cent for male and 66 per cent for female. Urban literacy rate is 86 per cent and rural literacy rate is 73 per cent. The female literacy in the district (66 per cent) has increased by 13 per cent in last decade.

Table No. 2.5

Details of literacy in Kolhapur district

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Literate population		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Shahuwadi	59496	42617	102113
2	Panhala	92493	61989	154482
3	Hathkalangale	289515	211643	501158
4	Shirol	144070	109228	253298
5	Karveer	375606	287636	663332
6	Gaganbawada	10428	6309	16737
7	Kagal	95556	65955	161511
8	Bhudargad	54146	38037	92183
9	Ajara	41711	32177	73888
10	Gadhinglaj	78293	58292	136585
11	Chandgad	61378	41677	103055
12	Radhanagari	71539	45899	117438
	Total	1374321	1001459	2375780

Source: District Statistical handbook, 2006, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur

2.12 Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of the district economy of Kolhapur and despite rapid industrialisation in the last five decades; it occupies a place of pride. Being the largest industry of the district economy, agriculture provides employment to around 65 per cent of the total work force in the district.

Significance of this sector can be evaluated by studying its share in the district income which is given in the following table.

Table No. 2.6

Contribution of Agriculture sector in the Gross District Income

Year	Gross District Income	Agriculture	2 as % 1
	1	2	3
2000-01	87101762	20492873	23.52
2001-02	98874537	21398526	21.64
2002-03	102984471	21140691	20.52
2003-04	116515948	20568226	17.65
2004-05	130686100	23518100	18.00
2005-06	145246700	25975900	17.88

Source: Computed from various Socio-Economic Survey Reports of Kolhapur District.

Figures provided by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Mumbai (in Table 2.4) reveal that the share of agriculture which includes agriculture, forestry and fishing in Gross District Income is declining and reached a level of about 18 per cent in 2005-06. But still agriculture contributes a major share in the district income.

2.12.1 Land Utilisation

In 2000-01 out of the total geographical area of 776261 thousand hector, 18 per cent area was under forest, 10 per cent of non-fertile land, 15 per cent of barren land and net area sown was 57 per cent.

The details regarding the land utilisation is shown in the following table.

Table No. 2.7

Land Utilization Statistics of Kolhapur District

Area in thousand hectares

Year	Geographical Area	Cropping Area		Gross Cropped Area
		Net area sown	Area sown more than once	
1960-61	776261	413800	29587	443387
1970-71	776261	403400	50022	453422
1980-81	776261	427600	54690	482290
1990-91	776261	425800	71534	497334
2000-01	776261	442300	121720	564020

Source: Socio-economic survey reports of Kolhapur District from 2000-01 to 2006-07

Above table shows stagnation in the net area sown, whereas area sown more than once shows rapid growth due to the increased irrigation facilities during last few decades thereby increase in the total gross cropped area.

Table No. 2.8

Tehsil wise land use pattern in Kolhapur district

Area in Hectares

Sr. No.	Tehsil	Total Geographical Area	Net Area Sown	3 as % 2
	1	2	3	4
1	Shahuwadi	104352	47466	45.49
2	Panhala	56871	26898	47.30
3	Hatkanangle	60937	49024	80.45
4	Shirol	50783	41697	82.11
5	Karveer	67113	47170	70.28
6	Gaganbawada	28228	12979	45.98
7	Radhanagari	89232	31970	35.83
8	Kagal	54754	46833	85.53
9	Bhudargad	64446	26934	41.79
10	Aajra	54888	23128	42.14
11	Gadhinglaj	48115	42336	87.99
12	Chandgad	96542	51351	53.19
	Total =	776261	447786	57.68

Source: As above

It is clear from the above table that percentage of net area sown to the total geographical area is highest in Gadhinglaj tehsil (87.99 per cent) and lowest in Radhanagari tehsil (35.83 per cent).

2.12.2 Irrigation

Kolhapur is an agrarian district; therefore the significance of irrigation is vital for the development of agriculture sector and thereby overall prosperity of the district economy.

There are four major irrigation projects in the district, namely Radhanagari, Tulsi, Dudhganga and Warna having command area of 220434 hectares, out of which two projects are completed and other two are under construction.

As far as medium irrigation projects are concern district has 12 medium irrigation projects out of which construction of 10 projects are

completed and two are on the way. There are 146 minor irrigation projects having the command area of 27306 hectares.

Details regarding the major, medium and minor irrigation projects in Kolhapur district are shown in the following table.

Table No. 2.9

Irrigation projects in Kolhapur district

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Location (Tahsil)	Capacity (M.C.F.T.)	Command Area (Hectares)	No. of Villages Benefited
Major Projects					
1	Dudhganga	Radhanagari	719.12	54438	125
2	Warna	Shahuwadi	974.19	50131	105
Medium Projects					
3	Kadavi	Shahuwadi	71.24	12372	53
4	Kumbhi	Gaganbawada	76.88	11615	45
5	Chitri	Ajara	53.41	13087	54
6	Chikotra	Bhudargadh	43.11	7887	31
7	Fatakwadi	Chandgadhd	NA	5945	37
8	Patgaon	Bhudargadh	105.24	6249	43
9	Jambare	Chandgadhd	.23.23	5685	34
10	Jangamhatti	Chandgadhd	34.21	4424	14
11	Ambeolol	Ajara	35.11	6250	24
12	Sarfnala	Ajara	18.98	3350	14
Minor Projects					
13	Manoli	Shahuwadi	5.20	700	6
14	Nandari	Shahuwadi	3.21	449	6
15	Kumbhawade	Shahuwadi	5.61	825	2
16	Kesarkarwadi	Shahuwadi	5.68	451	2
17	Manpaleshwar	Shahuwadi	9.11	1069	7
18	Padsali	Panhala	6.90	1233	5
19	Hanbarwadi	Kagal	2.67	367	3
20	Megholi	Bhudargadh	2.79	348	3
21	Nittur - 2	Chandgadhd	4.38	460	5
22	Yenechawandi	Gadhinglaj	1.54	340	2
23	Kumari	Gadhinglaj	2.59	525	4
24	Erandol	Gadhinglaj	4.21	307	3
25	Dhanagarwadi	Gadhinglaj	2.64	295	1
26	Jelugade	Chandgadhd	4.86	720	4
27	Nittur - 1	Chandgadhd	NA	455	2
28	Here	Chandgadhd	3.81	354	4
29	Khadakohol	Chandgadhd	1.82	280	2
30	Terni	Gadhinglaj	3.48	727	1
31	Karanjgaon	Chandgadhd	3.43	545	3
32	Dhamani	Radhanagari	NA	3130	25
33	Kandwan	Shahuwadi	5.91	450	4
34	Faye	Bhudargadh	3.93	700	5

35	Chiwale	Bhudargadh	3.48	546	4
36	Kondoshi	Bhudargadh	2.76	400	4
37	Uchangi	Ajara	17.480	1097	10
38	Kalasangade	Chandgad	1.91	350	1
39	Karanbali	Gadhinglaj	2.91	545	3
40	Olwan	Radhanagari	1.88	358	2
41	Sawarde-Kamatewadi	Radhanagari	3.61	440	2
42	Lakikatte	Chandgad	9.21	919	6
43	Kitwad - 1	Chandgad	5.53	NA	NA
44	Kitwad - 2	Chandgad	5.92	534	3

NA = Not Available

Source: Kolhapur Zilla Parishad Website

In 2000-01 out of total irrigated area of 135100 hectares, 8 per cent area was under food grain crop and 72 per cent under sugarcane crop.

2.12.3 Cropping Pattern

In 2005-06 Sugarcane (21 per cent), Paddy (20 per cent) and Soyabeen (12 per cent) crops together contributes 53 per cent in the district gross cropped area of 553860. Area under sugarcane crop shows the significant growth (4.15 per cent) in the last 10 years.

Chandgad, Shahuwadi, Bhudargad, Radhanagari, Karveer and Panhala tehsils are front runners in the production of paddy crop.

Details regarding the cropping pattern in Kolhapur district are shown in the following table.

Table No. 2.10
Cropping Pattern in the Kolhapur District during 2001-02 to 2006-07

Crop\Yeas	Area in hectare							
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	CGR
Rice	100558	101101	100376	1777	110933	110752	107793	1.77
% of GCA	17.8	19.3	17.8	0.3	19.7	20.0	19.0	-
Jawar	19749	17471	17712	11829	19716	20154	19326	1.18
% of GCA	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.1	3.5	3.6	3.4	-
Wheat	8444	7965	7227	7802	7818	8183	7641	-0.60
% of GCA	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	-
Maize	9544	6898	9613	5346	11212	9197	9515	2.60
% of GCA	1.7	1.3	1.7	0.9	2.0	1.7	1.7	-
Soyabeen	49145	54430	59790	684	69705	64776	57012	3.44
% of GCA	8.7	10.4	10.6	0.1	12.4	11.7	10.0	-
Sugarcane	90112	95130	95130	74815	98166	115371	114589	4.15
% of GCA	16.0	18.2	16.9	13.3	17.4	20.8	20.2	-
GCA	564020	523200	564000	564000	564000	553860	567990	0.48

Source: Records of Agriculture Office, Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur

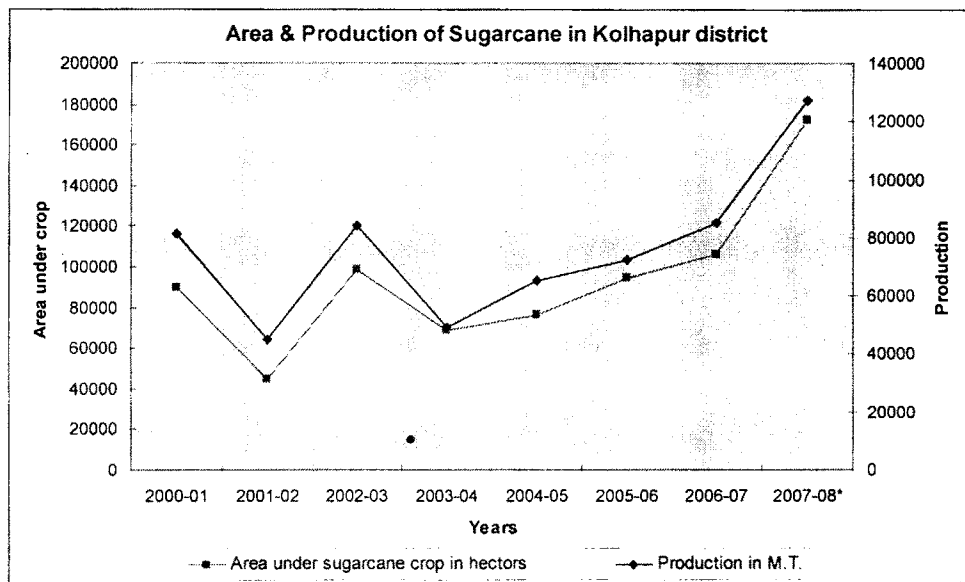
The compound growth rate for Rice, Jawar, Wheat, Maize, Soyabean and Sugarcane crops are 1.77 per cent, 1.18 per cent, -0.60 per cent, 2.60 per cent, 3.44 per cent, 4.15 per cent respectively. Wheat shows the negative growth rate (-0.60 per cent) on the other hand Sugarcane crop shows the higher growth rate (4.15 per cent) than the other crops and as against the growth rate of gross cropped area of 0.48 per cent for the 2000-01 to 2006-07

2.12.4 Sugarcane

Sugarcane occupies an important place in the economy of the district as it is the most important cash crop of the district. The total area under this crop has increased considerably in recent years as against only 9,900 acres reported by Kolhapur State Gazetteer (1986). The overall scenario of sugarcane crop in the district has been shown in the following diagram.

Figure No. 2.1

Area and Production of Sugarcane crop in Kolhapur District



It is clear from the above table that both area under sugarcane crop and production of it shows the positive trend in the above mentioned period except 2001-02 & 2003-04 when whole district faced drought situation.

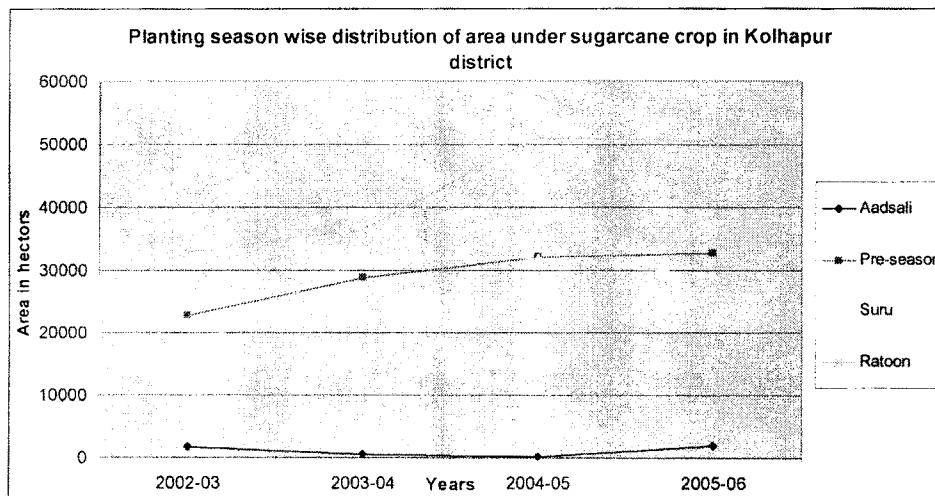
The Compound Growth Rate (CGR) for area under sugarcane crop is 11.12 per cent and Production shows the lower CGR of 7.6 per cent, because of average yield shows the negative CGR during the study period.

Sugarcane crop required plenty of water. The increase in area under the crop is mainly due to increase irrigation facilities in recent years, namely, pacca bandharas and Co-operative lift irrigation societies.

Distribution of area under sugarcane crop by their planting season in Kolhapur district has shown in the following table.

Diagram No. 2.2

Planting season wise distribution of area under sugarcane crop in Kolhapur district



It is clear from the above diagram that area under sugarcane crop for Ratoon season is more than the other seasons. In the case of Aadsali season occupies very little percentage in total area under sugarcane crop. Pre-season and Suru season occupies middle position among other two.

2.13 Co-operative Movement in Kolhapur District

Kolhapur is one of the leading districts in co-operative movement in India. Co-operative movement made revolutionary development in various fields of the district.

Among various Co-operative societies the co-op. sugar factories, co-op. milk societies, co-op. Banks, co-op. Marketing Societies, co-op. Spinning Mills are playing major role in prosperity of co-operative movement in the Kolhapur District.

As per the Socio-Economic Survey Report of Kolhapur district of 2006-07 there are about 12,073 co-operative societies in the district, out of which 14 per cents are non-agriculture societies.

District Central Co-operatives bank has issued loans of Rs.1196.28 crores out of which about 53.50 per cent loan is short term loan.

2.13.1 Co-operative Sugar Factories

Presently, there are 19 sugar factories in the district out of which 18 are in Co-operative sector and 1 is in Private sector. They together crushed 106.82 lakh tones of cane and produced 13 lakh M.T. of sugar in 2006-07.

2.14 Kolhapur Special

Kolhapur has one of the highest per-capita income for a city in India. Trade is mostly dependent on farming of cash crops like sugarcane, the metal industry with important inputs from textiles and mining. The prosperity and the resulting spending prowess of the Kolhapuri people was famously reported in a list of cities with the highest number of Mercedes cars in the state of Maharashtra, where Kolhapur came second only to Mumbai. Similarly, Kolhapur also attracts lot of shoppers from around the region. The main shopping hub of the city is Mahadwar Road, near Mahalaxmi Temple inside the old city walls. New and modern stores have also popped up in the historically residential area, Rajarampuri.

Another field that Kolhapur prides it of is films. In certain circles, Kolhapur was and is still considered the capital of the Marathi film industry. Legendary personalities like Bhalaji Pendharkar, Baburao Painter and V. Shantaram started their careers from Kolhapur. It has been credited as the place where Raja Harishchandra, the first feature film ever produced in Indian was conceptualised. Kolhapur still plays host too many film festivals and provides location for shooting. Kolhapur is also a strong political center. Nationalist Congress Party along with Congress is the current political powerhouses in the region.

2.14.1 Kolhapuri Chapples:

Kolhapur is known for its art and handicrafts. One of its sovereign gift to the world is spotless Kolhapuri Chappals (Slippers), which are manufactured by skilled and subtle persons who live only on art.

Any creation of these artisans turns into exceptional and captivating product. Their devotion and hardwork made this handicraft recognised by whole world and each Chappal produced is the replica of their mind and culture.

- These are durable, smooth to use and sober in colours.
- Made from 100% Cow calf, and Buffalow calf leathers
- Available in three colours, oil, natural and polish.
- Free from all allergic properties
- Available in all sizes. (Gents and Ladies)
- Decent dexterity and elegant look of the work on the leather has made it one of the best.

2.14.2 Kolhapuri Jaggary:

The sugarcane produced in fertile land of Kolhapur is rich in Sugar grain and the colour body proportion is less compared to other areas. So while preparing jaggery, the coloured impurity is easily removed to maximum extent. The traditional jaggery blenders are specialised in the blending it to light red-brown colour as required. This light coloured and rich in sweetness jaggery is very famous. The place where jaggery is made is called Gurahla.

2.14.3 Kolhapuri Jewellery:

Kolhapuri Saaj It is a special type of neckless which is very popular with Maharashtra Women. The 'saaj' is designed in all over Maharashtra but the Kolhapuri Saaj is famous.

2.14.4 Kolhapuri Kusti (Wrestling):

Wrestling is a popular game at Kolhapur. Some of the rulers themselves were good wrestlers. Almost every week, Kusti festivals were arranged here in their period. That time Kusti festivals were in an open ground preparing temporary 'Kusti Houda,' special platform for Kusti. It was during Shahu, being himself a good wrestler was thinking to have permanent stadium for Kusti festival. When he was on tour of Europe he saw famous stadium 'Callocium' at Rome and decided to build such stadium at Kolhapur. After

returning from tour he constructed the Khasbaug Maidan style of 'Callocium' of Rome. Khasbaug Kusti Maidan is Unique in India. Over 60000 people can see the Kusti at the central Houda clearly without any disturbance. Separate platform is there for Royal family on eastside of the Houda.