

CHAPTER FIVE

**ATTITUDES TOWARDS RESETTLEMENT AND
REHABILITATION: A PERCEPTIONAL STUDY**

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1 INTRODUCTION

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1. Introduction:

The villagers living in the catchment area of Warna dam are facing many problems which are multilateral. Some problems are created by nature itself, such as sharp slopes, ruggedness, dense forest, earthquakes etc., but some problems are imposed on them, such as social isolation, economic isolation, remoteness, cross-cutting of social groups due to construction of Warna Irrigation Project. We observed during our field studies that, people living in these remote villages are eager to shift elsewhere, but away from the catchment area of Warna dam.

Though the present study deals mainly with the geographical aspects of the isolated villages in the catchment area of Warna dam, during our study in the villages we found that the geographical study cannot be complete without reference to the resettlement and rehabilitation of the people living in the catchment area and their perceptions towards the concerned issue of their resettlement. Hence this limited investigation we have done and the findings are interpreted in this short chapter.

During our individual interviews we found that

shifting of the affected villages in the catchment area is a very complex process. No doubt there is a great scope for the geographers to make detailed investigation regarding the perceptions of the people living in the directly and indirectly affected villages in the catchment area of a dam, about shifting, especially in the hilly area like Sahyadri, where dam reservoir follows the isolation in the catchment area.

2. Attitudes Towards the Shifting:

The villagers living in the catchment area of Warna dam are pro-shifting. They want their resettlement and rehabilitation immediately in any case. We found that villagers are homogeneous on this issue because today they are facing several problems, such as dense forest, sharp slopes, ruggedness, lack of transportation, almost absence of primary social amenities, poor land for cultivation, heavy rainfall, and recently after 1986 due to the submergence of Warna dam their relatives living in the down valley villages are shifted and resettled in the downstream command area of Warna dam. Since then the villagers living in the 25 villages are forced into total isolation.¹ Recently the whole catchment area of Warna dam adjoining Koyana dam area are facing constant and numerous low to moderate intensity earthquakes since 30 September 1993. The epicentre

of the earthquakes is at Chandoli (Kd.), a core village in the catchment area of Warna dam. Thus, the villagers are demanding for their immediate resettlement elsewhere.²

We found during our field studies that in the villages the leaders and the educated persons are much more active in the process of decision-making on the shifting issue. We carried out individual interviews with these selected villagers, belonging to different social, economic & age groups. Most of them have travelled much in the area outside the catchment area; also they have visited the places and lands which had been shown to them by the government agencies for their resettlement. But the people had declined the government proposals because the land shown to them was not good enough for cultivation. Also the land was far away (Mangalwedha in Solapur district) from their original places. We found that most of the villagers want to resettle in the command area of Warna dam, where their original Gaothans are shifted, (their Pandhari (soil) submerged) and Kuladaivatas have settled. Considering these aspects of resettlement of the people in the catchment area of Warna dam we prepared a relevant questionnaire.

We asked the selected villagers, giving them the taluka names belonging to Warna Irrigation Project's command area in both Kolhapur and Sangli districts as to where they would like to shift and also asked

them to give the order of preference to the talukas listed in Appendix-I. Finally we converted the preferences of all the selected individuals into percentage.

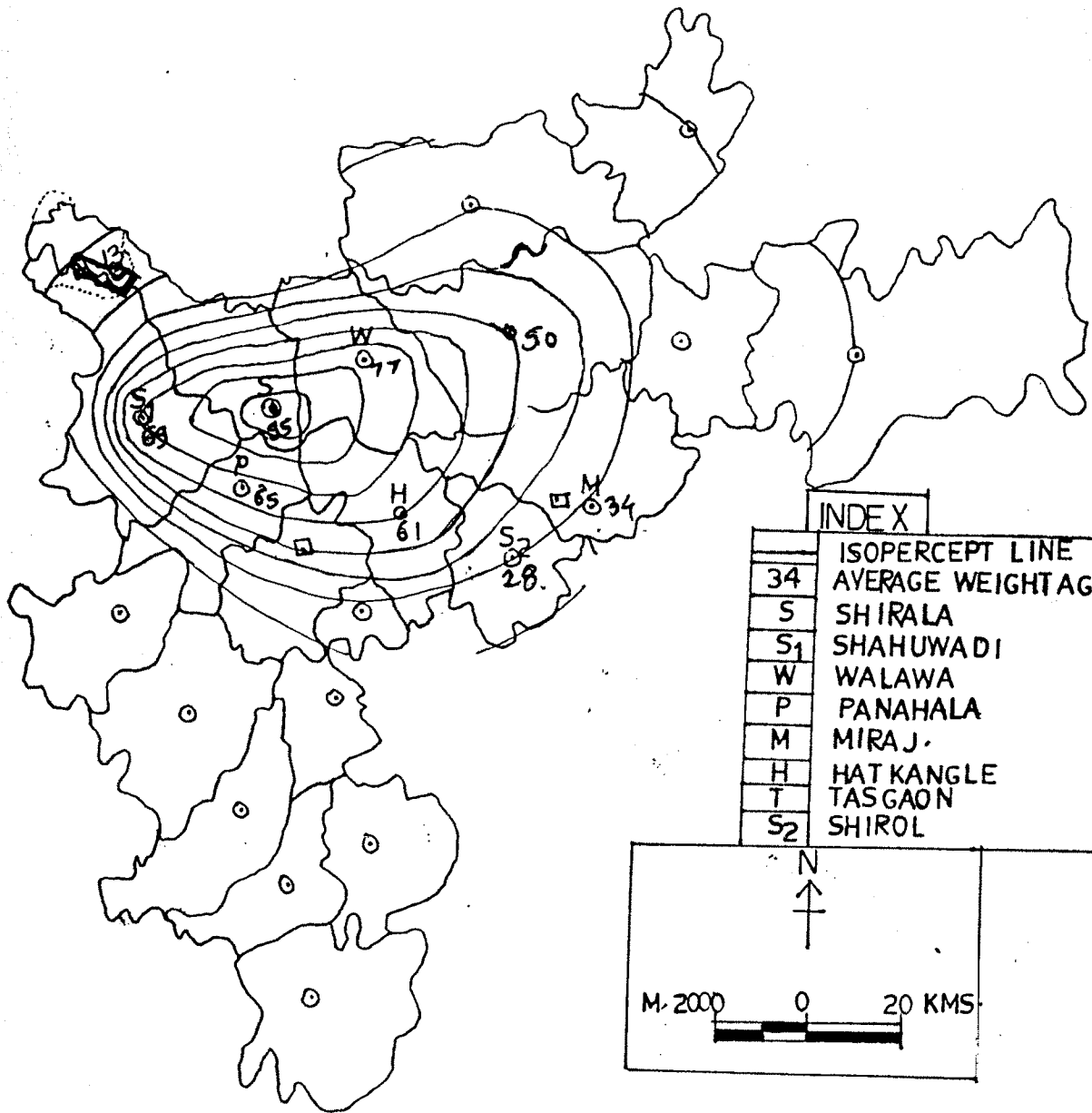
Preference No.	Percentage given to
1	100
2	90
3	80
4	70
5	60
6	50
7	40
8	30
9	20
10	10

We converted the preference chart into average percentage given by the respondents to the talukas. On the basis of this percentage chart we put the percentage numbers on the map at appropriate locations and drew the isopercepts (isopleths) to measure the central tendency of the respondents towards their resettlement.

The isopercept lines clearly suggest that the respondents want to resettle in the downstream command area of Warna dam, preferably in the talukas where their relatives are shifted due to the 1986 submergence.

MENTAL MAP (ISOPERCEPT MAP)

SHOWING THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE
ISOLATED VILLAGERS IN THE CATCHMENT
AREA OF WARNA DAM TOWARDS
THEIR RESETTLEMENT.



We found that geographical distance and social groups influence the perceptions of the villagers towards the shifting.

In Graph No. 3 we plot the average percentage on y axis and distance from the dam site on x axis. We locate the respective points of the talukas. We prepared a curve. This curve in Graph No. 3 suggests that the respondents have given priority to the nearby talukas, such as Shirala, Shahuwadi, Walwa, Panhala and so on. Thus, if the distance and the priority number go counter to each other, that is to say, they are inversely proportional to each other.

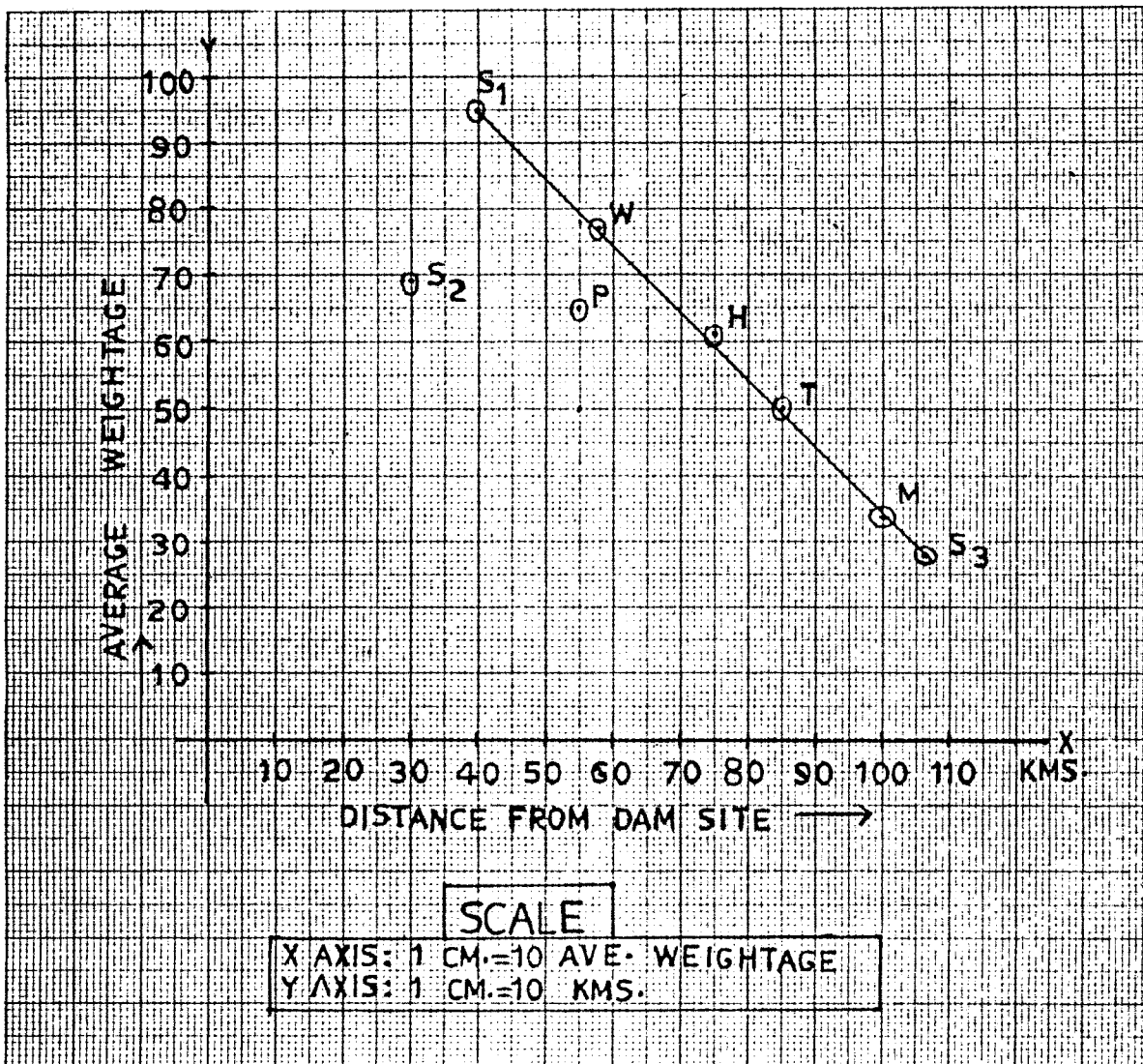
AVERAGE WEIGHTAGE

AND DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP

(PREFERENCES OF THE VILLAGERS LIVING IN THE CATCHMENT AREA OF WARNA DAM TOWARDS THEIR RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION.)

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S ₁	SHIRALA	M	MIRAJ
S ₂	SHAHUWADI	H	HATAKANGLE
W	WALAWA	T	TASGAON
P	PANAHLA	S ₃	SHIROL



NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 News item in Daily Kesari, Sangli-Kolhapur, by Dilip Bhise and Subhash Kadam (Shirala), 11 December 1933 to 21.12.1933.
- 2 News item in Daily Pudhari, Kesari, Sakal (Kolhapur-Sangli), 9 December, 1933.
- 3 Joshi, Vidyut. "Submerging Villages: Problems and Prospects", Ajanta Publication, Delhi, 1987, pp. 100, 109.