CHAPTER - II

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY REGION

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CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY REGION

2.0.0. GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING :

The Satara District is one of the districts of Maharashtra State, situated in Western Maharashtra. The Satara district consists of eleven Talukas .

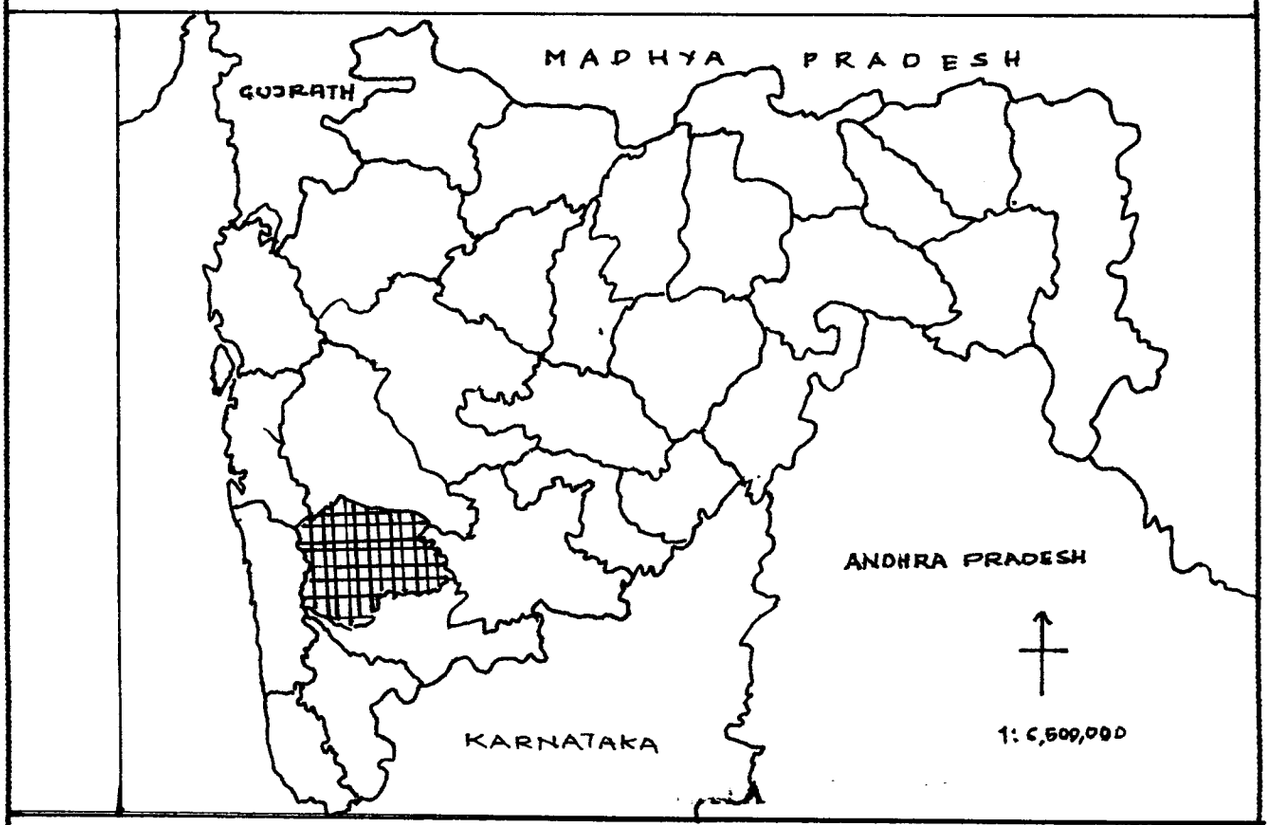
2.1.0. LOCATION :

The Satara district lies between 17^0 05′ North to 18^0 11′ North latitudes and 73^0 33′ East to 74^0 54′ East longitudes . It covers an area about 10484 sq. kms., which is 3.4 per cent of the Maharashtra state.

There are 1573 rural settlements and 118 market centres in Satara district according to 1991 census . Among these market centres, there are 35 specialized market centres . The Commodity based market centres and cattle market centres are the major features of rural marketing economy of Satara district . These specialized market centres play an important role in the rural development. (see Fig. 2.1)

LOCATION MAP OF THE STUDY REGION

MAHARASHTRA STATE



SATARA DISTRICT

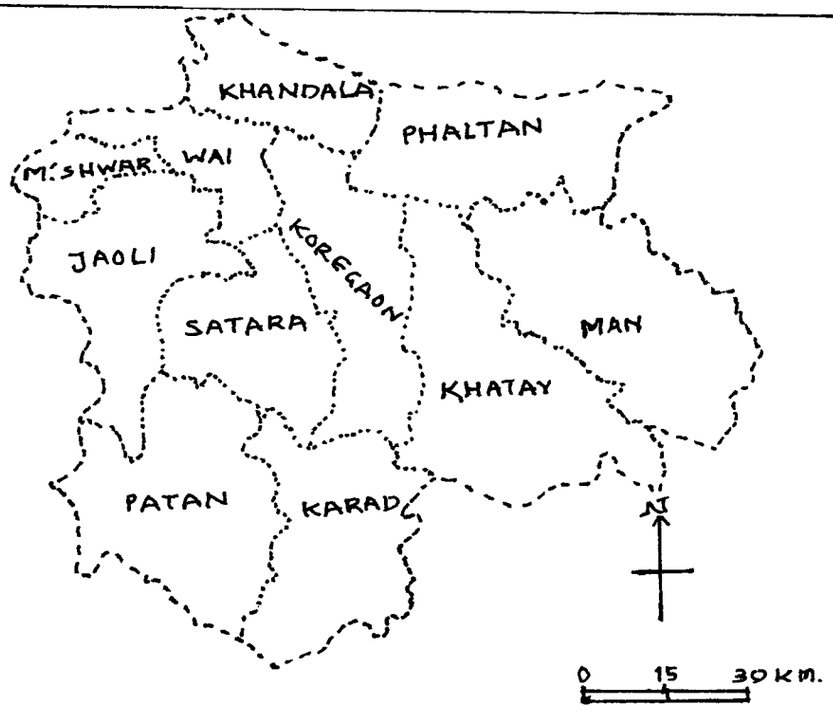


FIG. NO. 2.1

2.1.1. BOUNDARIES :

Satara District is surrounded by five districts : in the North, Pune district; in the East, Solapur district; in the South, Sangli district; in the West, Ratnagiri district; while in North-West, Raigad district.

2.2.0. PHYSIOGRAPHY :

Satara district has distinct landscapes.The Mountain peaks, hilly ranges, river basins, alltogether make Satara worth to take notice of it. It is generally divided into three physiographic divisions. (see Fig. 2.2)

1) The Sahyadrian Mountain Ranges.

2) The Mahadeo Hill Ranges.

3) The River Basins :

   a) The Krishna basin.
   b) The Nira basin.
   c) The Manganga basin.
   d) The Yerala basin.

2.2.1. THE SAHYADRIAN MOUNTAIN RANGES :

The Sahyadri mountain ranges are found westward of Satara district . It extends in the north-suth direction about 96 Kms. The average height of the Sahyadrian ranges is about 900 to 1200 m. above mean sea level . The Western side of

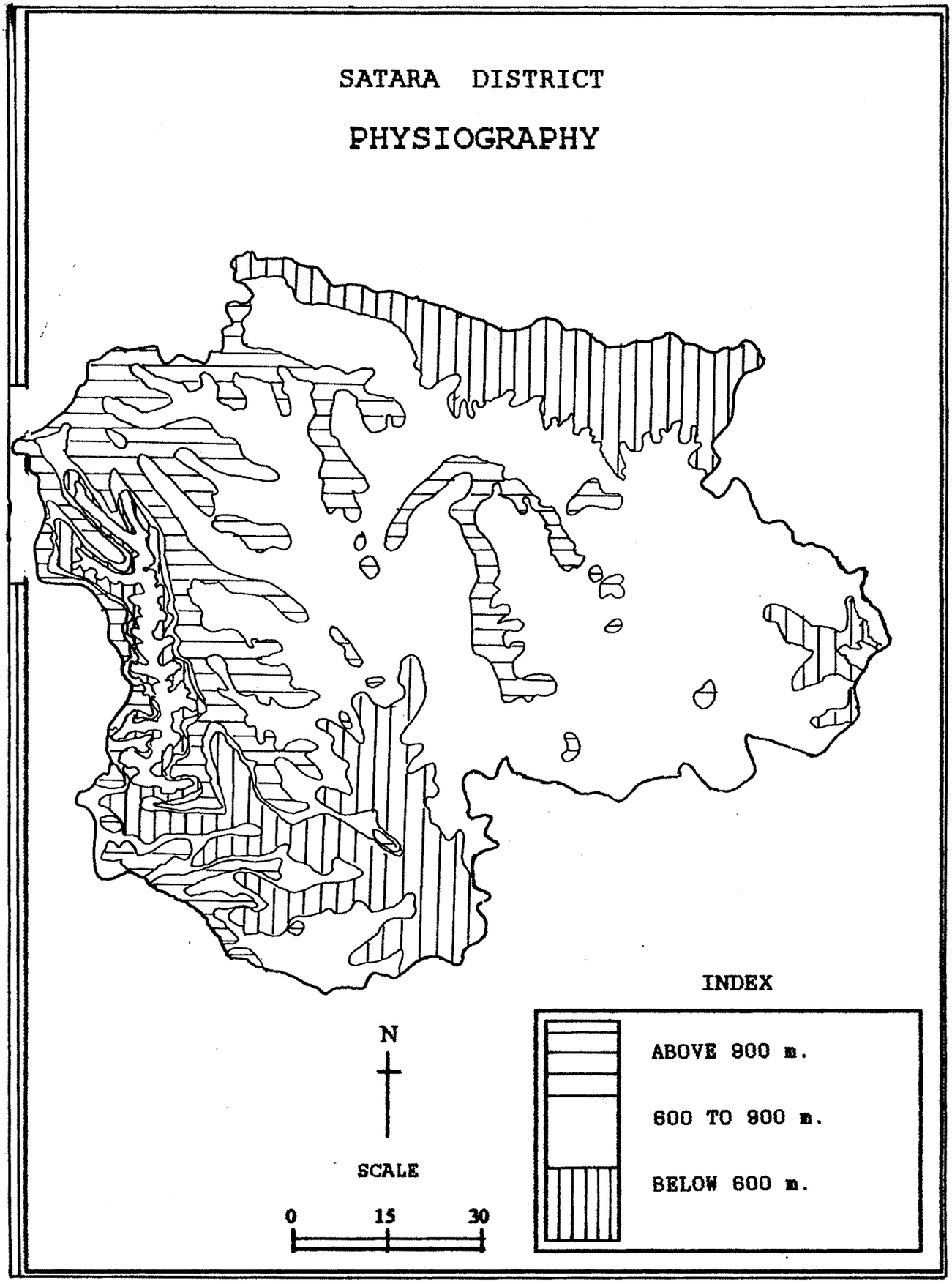

SATARA DISTRICT
PHYSIOGRAPHY
INDEX
ABOVE 900 m.
600 TO 900 m.
BELOW 600 m.
N
SCALE
0
15
30

FIG. NO. 2.2

the Sahyadrian range has very steep slope consisting various peaks and escarpements , while eastern side has comparatively gentle slope . The western part includes Western part of Wai , Jaoli, Patan and Mahabaleshwar talukas from administrative point of view.

There are several peaks and forts out of which Mahabaleshhwar (1438 m.), Pratapgarh (1074 m.), Makarandgarh (1229 m.), Bhairavgarh (1042 m.) are the important relief features developed in this region.

The most important relief features developed in this region are cols, saddles and passes . The routes linking Konkan and western Maharashtra are developed through these cols and saddles, named as Ghats . The Ambenali pass , Par pass , Hatelot pass, Amboli pass , Tivra pass , Mala pass , Kumbharli pass are the important passes . Ambenali , Par and Amboli ghaths in the north and Kumbharli ghath in the south form the routes from the plateau to Konkan .

There are several hilly ranges of Sahyadri extended towards east and south-east comprise distinct features . In the northen side Mandhardeo hilly range is located .The Pandhavgarh is the important fort in this region . This range acts as water-divider between Krishna and Nira river . The next hilly range Vairatgarh is bifurcated to develop

two spurs - Vairatgarh and Kamalgarh .The Bamnoli hilly range extends from south of Mahabaleshwar to northern part of Patan , Which is the largest hilly range in the study region . It consists of several offshoots and spurs such as Yavateshwar range , Parali range , Mendhoshi range etc. Mostly every range has a fort located on it. The Ajinkyatara fort is located on Yavateshwar range; fort Sajjangarh is on Parali range etc.The Mendoshi range acts as water-divider between Kera and Tarali river. Some other important hills are Petoro, Pateshwar and Sulapani. The Bhairavgrh range extends west to south-east direction. The Pal, Sadashivgarh, Vasantgarh, Chandoli, Dategarh, Gunawantgarh are the major hills, in this range. There are several spurs developed intervening saddles and act as water-divider. The Agashiv hill near Karad-Dhebewadi is the highest peak in the southern part of the study region.

2.2.2. THE MAHADEO HILL RANGE :

This is the important range in the study region. The range bifurcates from the Sahyadri about 16 Kms. north of Mahabaleshwar. It stretches into east and south-east direction and covers northern and eastern part of the study region. There are many offshoots of the range which stretch out

from the main range towards south. The first range extends from Khambatki ghat towards south upto Chinchner-Vandan. This range is known as Choundeshwar-Jarandeshwar hill. The Mhaskoba hill stretches eastward direction while Aundh hill extends from north-south direction. The Harneshwar, Charneshwar, Jarandeshwar, Chandan hills, in this region, are located in Koregaon taluka. The Vardhangarh is located on the Aundh hill. The Khatav hill consists of Solkanath, Bhpasha, Bhushangarh. The height of these hills varies from 1110 m. to 1200 m.

The major Man hills are Varugarh, Sitabai hills, Mahimangarh, Khokada, Shikhar-Shinganapur, Tathawada, Jirhepathar, Kulakjai etc. Tathawada pass, Kothale pass, Mograle pass are the major passes in these ranges. The Varugarh, Mahimangarh, Tathawada are fortified.

2.2.3. THE RIVER BASINS :

a) THE KRISHNA BASIN :

The Krishna river basin is located in the south of the Mahadeo range. The height of the basin is about 600 to 900 m. and having slope north to South. The northern part has average height above 700 m; while the southern part has height is below 600 m. The Krishna river basin and

Koyana river basin is bifurcated by the Bamnoli hill. The average height of the whole Koyana river basin is below 600 m. Both the river basins cover the highly fertile soil deposition. Dhom dam, Kanher dam, Koyana dam are the important projects. Thus the Krishna river basin is highly agriculturally developed, the Sugarcane, Turmeric, Paddy and Vegetable gardening are flourished, in this region. Agrobased market centres and livestock market centres are developed in this region.

b) THE NIRA BASIN :

The Nira basin covers the northern part of Khandala taluka and major part of Phaltan taluka. The average height of the basin is about 600 m. Bhatghar and Veer dams are constructed on this river and with the help of right and left bank canals the irrigation facility has been provided in this region. So the sugarcane, onion and vegetable cultivation is dominant in the region.

c) THE MANGANGA BASIN :

The Manganga river basin is covered major part of Man taluka. The average height of the basin is below 600 m. This river is not perennial in nature so it is not significant regarding the agriculture. Yet the Mhasvad lake, counstructed on

this river plays a vital role in the agricultural development of Mhasvad taluka.

d) THE YERALA BASIN :

The Yerala is important left bank tributary of the Krishna river it covers major part of Khatav taluka. It originates on Solaknath hill and flows northsouth direction through entire Khatav taluka. This river is also non-perennial in nature thus it is less important regarding the agriculture.

2.3.0. DRAINAGE SYSTEMS :

The study region consists of distinct drainage systems with important river basins like Krishna, Nira, Manganga, Yerala etc. (see Fig. 2.3)

2.3.1. THE KRISHNA RIVER :

The Krishna river is one of the important rivers of the south Maharashtra, originated on the Mahabaleshwar plateau and flowing eastward upto Wai. Then its direction changes towards south through-out the region. In the study region length of the Krishna river is about 130 kms. There are several tributaries meeting Krishna river while flowing in the study region. Near Pachwad, Kudali, a tributary meets Krishna; Venna, originated on the Mahabaleshwar plateau, meets Krishna at Mahuli. The confluence is considered as a sacred place for Hindus.

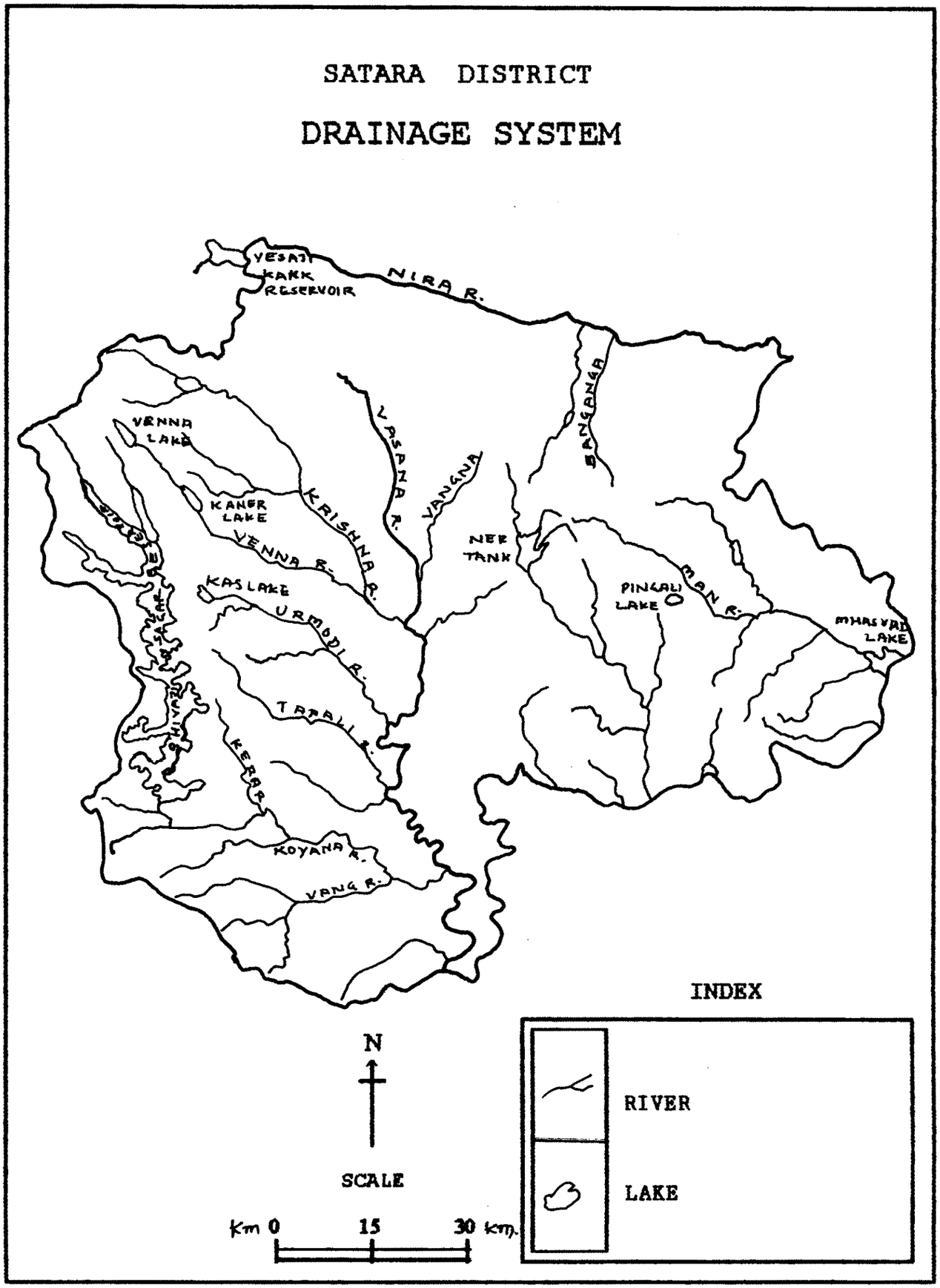

SATARA DISTRICT
DRAINAGE SYSTEM
YESAJI KANK RESERVOIR
NIRA R.
VENNA LAKE
KANER LAKE
KRISHNA R.
VASANA R.
VANGNA
SANGANAR
VENNA R.
NEE TANK
KAS LAKE
URMODI R.
PINGALI LAKE
MAN R.
MHASVAD LAKE
TARALI R.
KERA R.
KOYANA R.
VANG R.
INDEX
RIVER
LAKE
N
SCALE
Km 0
15
30 km.

FIG. NO. 2.3

The Vasana and Wanganga rivers flow from left meet at Koregaon. This combine stream flows further meeting Krishna at east of Mangalapur, about 1.5 km. The Urmodi river meets from right at 3.2 kms. south-east of Venegaon. Tarali river meets Krishna near Umbraj.

The Koyana river and its tributaries Wang and Kera combine to form major stream of Koyana river, which confluences with Krishna at Karad. All these tributaries of Krishna are perennial and make whole basin fertile and irrigated. This is the most developed agricultural region of the Maharashtra.

2.3.2. THE NIRA RIVER :

The Nira is the important tributary of the river Bhima. It flows from northern part of the study region it acts as a northern boundary of the Satara District. Its source is in the Sahyadri range South of Torana in Bhor taluka of Pune Distict. It flows into west-east direction and covers northern part of Khandala and Phalatan taluka. The Banganga river is important right side tributary of Nira which meets Nira, east of Muroom . The hydro-electricity generating centre and well developed canal irrigation facilities have made remarkable agricultural progress in this region.

2.3.3. THE YERALA RIVER :

The Yerala is most important left bank tributary of the Krishna river. The Yerala river rise in the Solkanath hill north of Pusegaon. It flows north-south direction and covers the south-east part of the study region. It is the only tributary which flows north-south direction and meet Krishna river in Sangli district.

2.3.4. THE MANGANGA RIVER :

The Manganga river is the important tributary of river Bhima. It rises in the Sitabai hills. Manganga has distinct drainage system with highly eroded banks and flat bed of stream. The sand deposition is common feature found all along the bank. The Mhasvad tank is an important artifical tank used for irrigational purposes as well as it provides drinking water to Mhasvad.

The dedentric and radial drainage patterns are mainly found in the study region.

2.4.0. CLIMATE :

The climate of the study region varies with physiographical nature of the terrain. The distribution of the temprature, rainfall is confined with physiograghy.

Broadly, there are four seasons of the year:

1)Cold seson (December to February)

2)Hot seson (March to May)

3)Rainy seson (June to Septmber)

4)Retreat Monsoon season (Octber to November)

In general, the climate of the study region is healthy. It can be discussed as follows :

2.4.1. TEMPERATURE :

The temperature of the study region varies from west to east. The average temperature of the region is about 35^{0} C in hot season, while it is 18^{0} C in the cold season. In Mahabaleshwar, Pachgani where average temperature is about 30^{0} C in the hot season while it is 4^{0} C to 5^{0} C during the cold season.

2.4.2. ATMOSPHERIC PERESSURE AND WINDS :

The atmospheric pressure varies according to temperature distribution. In summer atmospheric pressure ranges form 988 mb. to 990 mb. The Sahyadrian ranges have more atmospheric pressure than that of interior part. In winter, the atmospheric pressure varies form 1014 mb to 1016 mb.

The north-east Monsoon blows in summer season receives more rainfall in Sahyadrian ranges and adjacent part of it. The south - east monsoon

wind blows in winter season mostly it does not receive more rainfall.

2.4.3. RAINFALL :

The rainfall distribution in the study region varies from 500 mm. to 6000 mm. It shows specific situation resulted due to undulating terrain of the region. Mahabaleshwar is the place which receives highest rainfall in the Sahyadrian ranges, it is about 6630 mm. The rainfall distribution goes on decreasing towards the east. The central part of the study region receives more than 500 mm. rainfall while eastern part which is known as rainshadow region, receives very less rainfall which is less than 500 mm. The average anual rainfall in the study region is about 1000 mm. The following table shows details about the average anual rainfall of the important stations of the study region.(see Fig. 2.4)

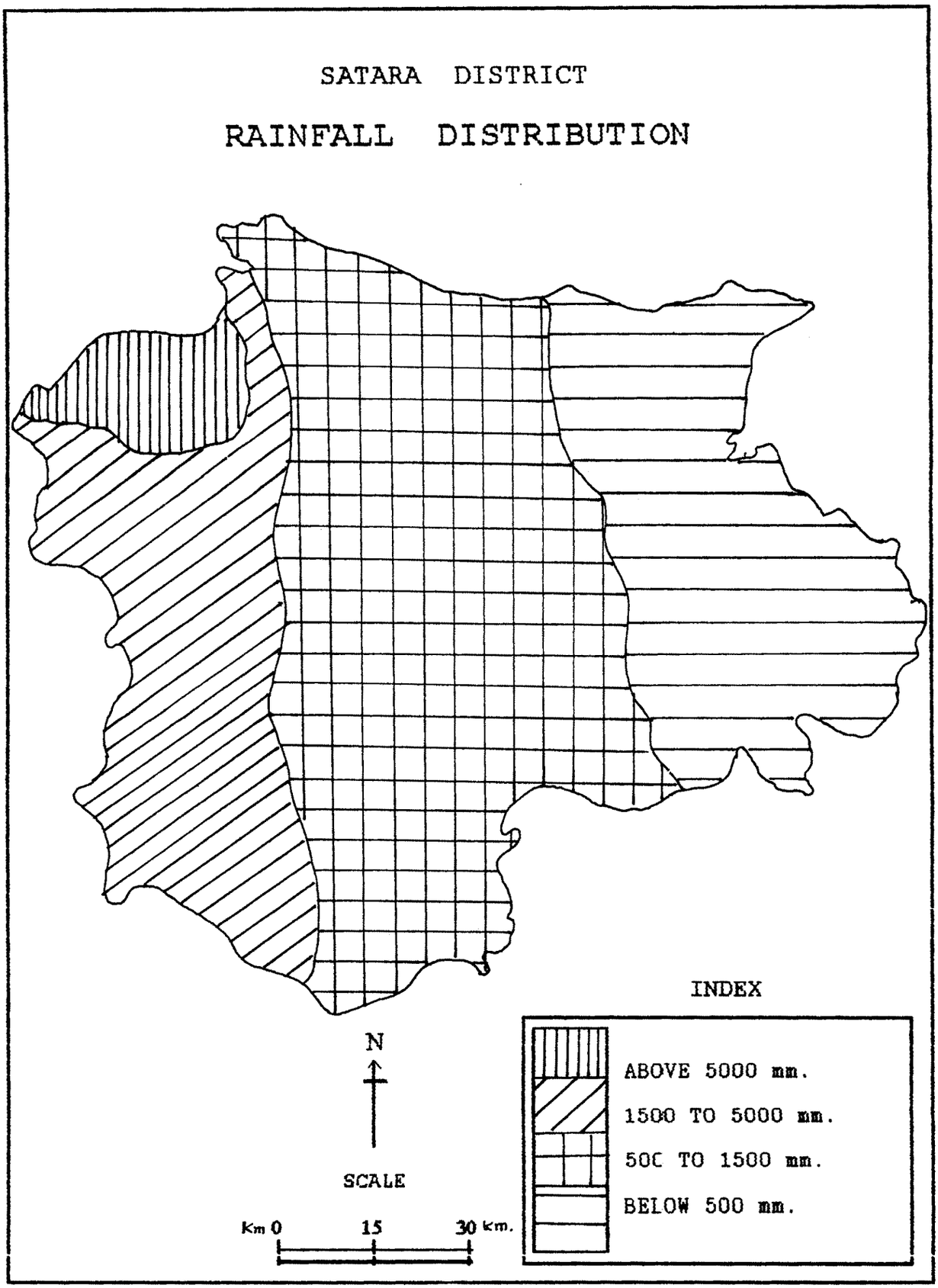

SATARA DISTRICT
RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION
INDEX
ABOVE 5000 mm.
1500 TO 5000 mm.
500 TO 1500 mm.
BELOW 500 mm.
N
SCALE
Km 0
15
30 km.

FIG.NO. 2.4.

TABLE II - I

SATARA DISTRICT

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL OF IMPORTANT STATIONS

Sr. No.	Name of the Station	Average annual rainfall in mm.
1	SATARA	1025
2	KOREGAON	706
3	WAI	714
4	KARAD	713
5	DAHIWADI	463
6	MHASAVAD	472
7	VADUJ	512
8	KHANDALA	504
9	PUSESAVALI	640
10	AUNDH	670
11	PHALATAN	473
12	PATAN	1832
13	MEDHA	1724
14	PACHAGANI	1870
15	MAHABALESHWAR	6630

Source : Author.

2.5.0. SOILS :

The district Satara has distinct soil coverage. Generally three types of soil cover found in Satara district. (see fig. 2.5) They are :

1) Regur or black soil.

2) Alluvial soil of river basin.

3) Laterite soil.

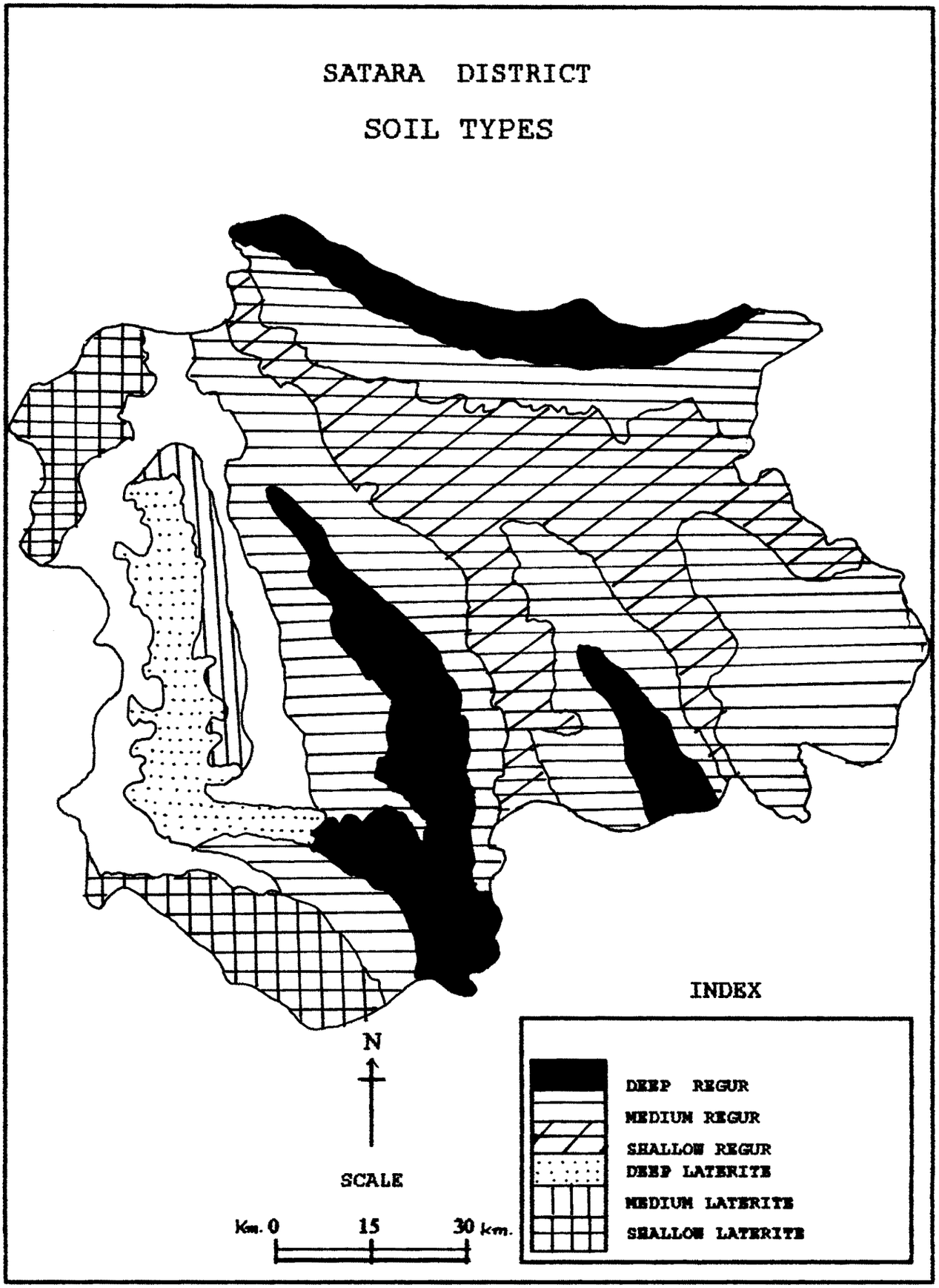

SATARA DISTRICT
SOIL TYPES
INDEX
DEEP REGUR
MEDIUM REGUR
SHALLOW REGUR
DEEP LATERITE
MEDIUM LATERITE
SHALLOW LATERITE
N
SCALE
Km. 0
15
30 km.

FIG. NO. 2.5.

Major portion of the study region is covered by the black soil. This soil is fertile and have more capacity of water holding. This soil is originated from maternal rock basalt. In the eastern margin of the region poor and less fertile soil is found. The alluvial soil is found in Krishna basin and its tributaries. It has made their basins highly fertile and rich. As a result, the entire basins are agriculturally developed. The cash crops like sugarcane, turmeric, vegetables are dominant in this region. The laterite soil almost covers western ghats and is also found on the top of hilly ranges in north and central part of the district.

2.6.0. VEGETATION COVER :

The vegetation cover of the study region is characterised as thick tropical semi evergreen forest in western ghat region, especially, in Jaoli, Patan, Mahabaleshwar and Wai talukas of the district. The major plantation includes Kenjal, Phanas, Ain, Nana, Sewar, Siddum, Hitty, Bibla, Wavali, Kadamb and Sag.The other dominant vegetal covers are Bamboo, Waith, Velu etc.

The remaining part of the study region which receives less rainfall where acaciaous trees

and shrubs are grown along with few other trees. Neem, Babul, Bor, Cactus, Dhaman, Palas, Tamarind, Hivar and like are the trees dominant in this region.

The major forest produce is transported to various market centres of the Satara district.

2.7.0. MINERALS :

Iron ore and bauxite deposition are found in Patan and Jaoli takulas. But the excavation is not yet on. Thus its importance is limited.The quarrying of basalt stones is found almost everywhere in the district, as well as sand deposition is utilised intensively as building material.

2.8.0. POPULATION CHARACTER :

It is very important to study the population characterstic of the area for learning the economic level of the people. The income and production efficiency of the people from the different sources is based on different factors.

The total population of Satara district according to 1991 census is 24,45,000 persons, which is increased by 19.93 per cent than the 1981 census. The annual growth rate of the population is nearly 2.0 percent. The density of population in the year 1991 was 233 persons per sq. kms., whereas in

the year 1981 the density of population was 195 persons per sq. kms.

2.8.1. RURAL-URBAN POPULATION RATIO :

According 1991 census, there are eleven urban centres in the study region. Out of the total population, nearly 87.1 percent was rural and 12.9 percent was urban. When we compare rural-urban population to previous decade i.e. 1981, it is observed that there was very little change in rural and urban population ratio. (see Table II - II) The densities of rural and urban population have also increased than that of previous decades. The sex ratio for the study region is 1035 females per 1000 males, which is always higher in the rural areas as compared to urban areas.

The table II - II shows the rural and urban population, growth rate, percentage to total population, density of population per sq. kms.

TABLE II - II

SATARA DISTRICT

POPULATION CHARACTERS

Sr. No.	Particulars	Year 1971	Year 1981	Year 1991
1	Total population	1727376	2028677	2445000
2	Rural population	500119	1772885	2129407
3	Urban population	227257	265792	315593
	Percentage to total population			
4	Rural population	84.84	86.96	87.1
5	Urban population	13.16	13.04	12.09
6	Growth in Percentage	20.8	18.02	19.09
	Density per sq.Kms.			
7	Rural population	165	175	210
8	Urban population	594	751	892
9	Sex Ratio	1037	1061	1035

Source : Handbook of Basic Statistics of Maharastra.

2.9.0. OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE :

Satara district has dominance of primary activities; especially primary activities like argiculture, livestock, forestry, mining and quarrying. There are 71.3 Per cent people engaged in agricultural sectors; among them 49.8 per cent are cultivators and 21.5 per cent are agricultural labourers; 1.9 per cent people are actively participated in the other primary activities. Male and Female participation is of different kind i.e.

there are 2,77,491 Males engaged as cultivators, at the same time 1,64,272 Females are engaged as cultivators. Here male dominance is noticeable. But in agricultural labourer class number of female are more i.e. 1,08,114 compared to 85,295 ,the male labourers. It reflects the significance of the female participation in rural economy.

The 8.1 per cent of population is engaged in processing activity. Of this, 2.1 per cent is in manufacturing while 6.0 percent is in industries other than household industries. It has the higher number of male than the female labourers.

The other important characteristic that reflects from 1991 census figures is that tertiary activity is second most important activity of the Satara district. The tertiary activities have 18.6 per cent people engaged in services, trade and commerce, transport and construction.

Thus occupational structure of the Satara district; according to 1991 census is prominantly agrarian. (see TABLE II - III)

TABLE II - III

SATARA DISTRICT

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

1991

Sr. No.	Occuation	Male	Female	Total	% to total
1	Cultivators	277491	164272	141763	49.8
2	Agricultural labourers	85295	108114	193410	21.5
3	Livestock, Forestry	13370	2794	16164	1.7
4	Mining,Quarrying	1441	478	1923	0.2
5	Manufacturing, Processing,Servicing Repairing	14680	5209	19889	2.1
6	Industries other than Household	48921	6490	55411	6.0
7	Construction	14667	1350	15997	1.8
8	Trade and Commerce	44080	4873	48995	5.5
9	Transport,Storage, Communication	23967	415	24348	2.7
10	Other Services	84350	14157	78501	8.6
11	Total	5882559	318146	896395	100.00

Source: Handbook of Basic statistics of Maharashtra.1991.

2.10.0. LANDUSE PATTERN :

The Landuse pattern of any region reflects the economic levels of that region.Therefore, it is essential to study the landuse pattern to know economic level of the region. In the study region 58.4 per cent of land is under cultivation.It shows

the agricultural dominance in this region. Agriculture is prime activity in the study region. Nearly 1.7 per cent land is under forest. Non-agricultural and grazing land cover 16.3 per cent, while cultivable waste accounts 3.9 per cent and barren and fallow land accounts 7.7 per cent of the total land. All these figures show the utilisation of land for various purposes. (see Table II - IV and Fig. 2.7)

TABLE II-IV

SATARA DISTRICT

LANDUSE PATTERN

1991

Sr.No.	Land Utilisation	Area in hect.	% to total
1	Cultivable land	6,18,102	58.4
2	Cultivable waste	41,428	3.9
3	Forest	1,44,901	13.7
4	Non-agriculture and grazing land	1,72,249	16.3
5	Barren and fallow land	81,743	7.7
6	Total	10,58,243	100.00

Source: Handbook of Basic Statistics of Maharashtra. 1991.

2.11.0. AGRICULTURE :

As like other parts of Maharashtra the study region is welknown for the agricultural practice. Nearly 49.8 per cent of the working population works as cultivators while 21.5 per cent

SATARA DISTRICT

LAND-USE PATTERN

1991

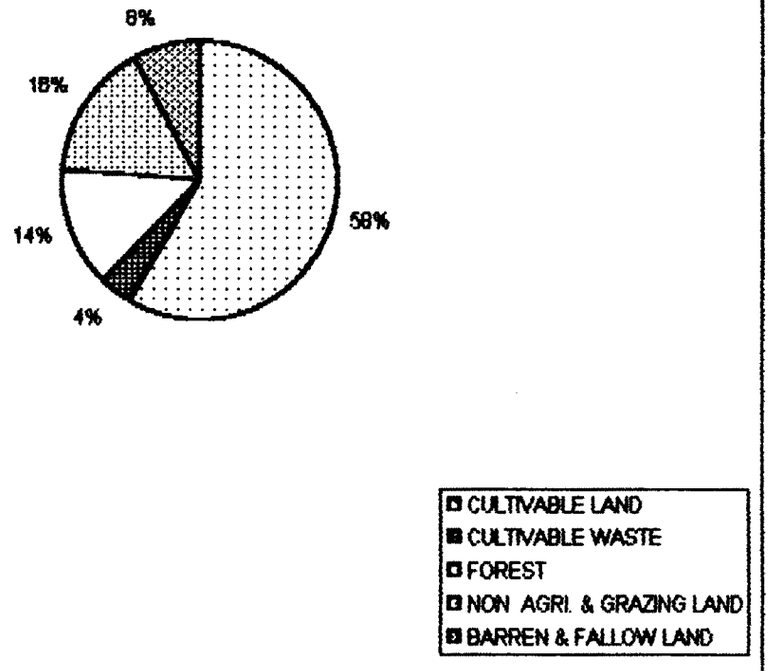


Fig . No . 2 . 7

works as agricultural labourers. It means that 71.3 per cent of population is directly involved in agricutural activties and also supports to the dominance of an agrarian economy in the study region.

There is lot of change taken place in agricultural practices in the study region. The traditional bindings are being weakened. It has resulted into the adoption of modern agricultural techniques and methods. The mechanisation of agriculture started earlier in these current decades. The practices like improved high yielding seeds, use of the different plant protection measures have increased agricultural production. It improves the economic position of the people.

2.11.1. CROPPING PATTERN :

The cropping pattern of the study region reflects the dominance of the agrarian economy. But the most important thing is the remarkable increase of cultivable land to 6,85,000 hectares. Net sown area is about 5,74,000 hectares, while gross sown area is about 7,30,000 hectares. But remarkable feature in current decades is that land under cash crops and vegetable crops is increasing steadily. It happens due to increase in irrigation facilities in the

study region. Yet in the study region, Jowar, Bajara, Rice and Pulses are the major crops.

In the study region nearly 58.91 per cent area is under Cereals i. e. Jowar, Bajara, Rice and Wheat. Among these Cereals-Jowar covers 33.80 per cent area. The previous important Sugarcane cultivation has declined from 4.55 per cent to 3.79 per cent. Same is the case regarding the oil seeds. there is remarkable increase in the vegetable farming. More than 20.31 per cent area is found under these crops. It is because the policies regarding the sugarcane prices leading to the decline the area under this crop.

TABLE II-V

SATARA DISTRICT

CROPPING PATTERN

1991

Sr.No.	Crops	Area in hect.(000,)	% to Total
1	Cereals	42,698.3	58.91
2	Jowar	24,496.0	33.80
3	Bajara	11,511.5	15.89
4	Wheat	2,557.6	3.52
5	Rice	4,133.2	5.70
6	Pulses	5,629.9	7.77
7	Sugarcane	2,746.8	3.79
8	Oil seeds	6,685.4	9.22
9	Other crops	14,716.1	20.31
10	Total		100.00

Source:Handbook of basic statistics of Maharashtra.1991.

2.12.0. TRASPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION :

Transportation and communication development encourages economic activities. It results into the steady development of any region. The study region is having well developed network of transport and communication, which helps to accelerate economic development of the region. The major railway route and national highway pass through the region. The major state highways and other important metalled roads connect almost all important towns and cities of the region. All these combinely help in overall development of the region. (see Fig. 2.8)

The Pune-Banglore Broad gauge railway route which is about 124 km. passes through this region. Recently some routes were introduced which increase importance of the region. Among them Maharashtra Express which extends further from Nagpur to Gondia; Nijjamaudin Express connects Goa to Delhi.

The National highway No.4 known as Pune-Banglore highway also passes through the region and its length in the study region is about 137 kms. Which connects important towns of the study region.

1) Pune - Mahabaleshwar - Mahad.

2) Mahad - Bhor - Lonand.

3) Satara - Mahabaleshwar.

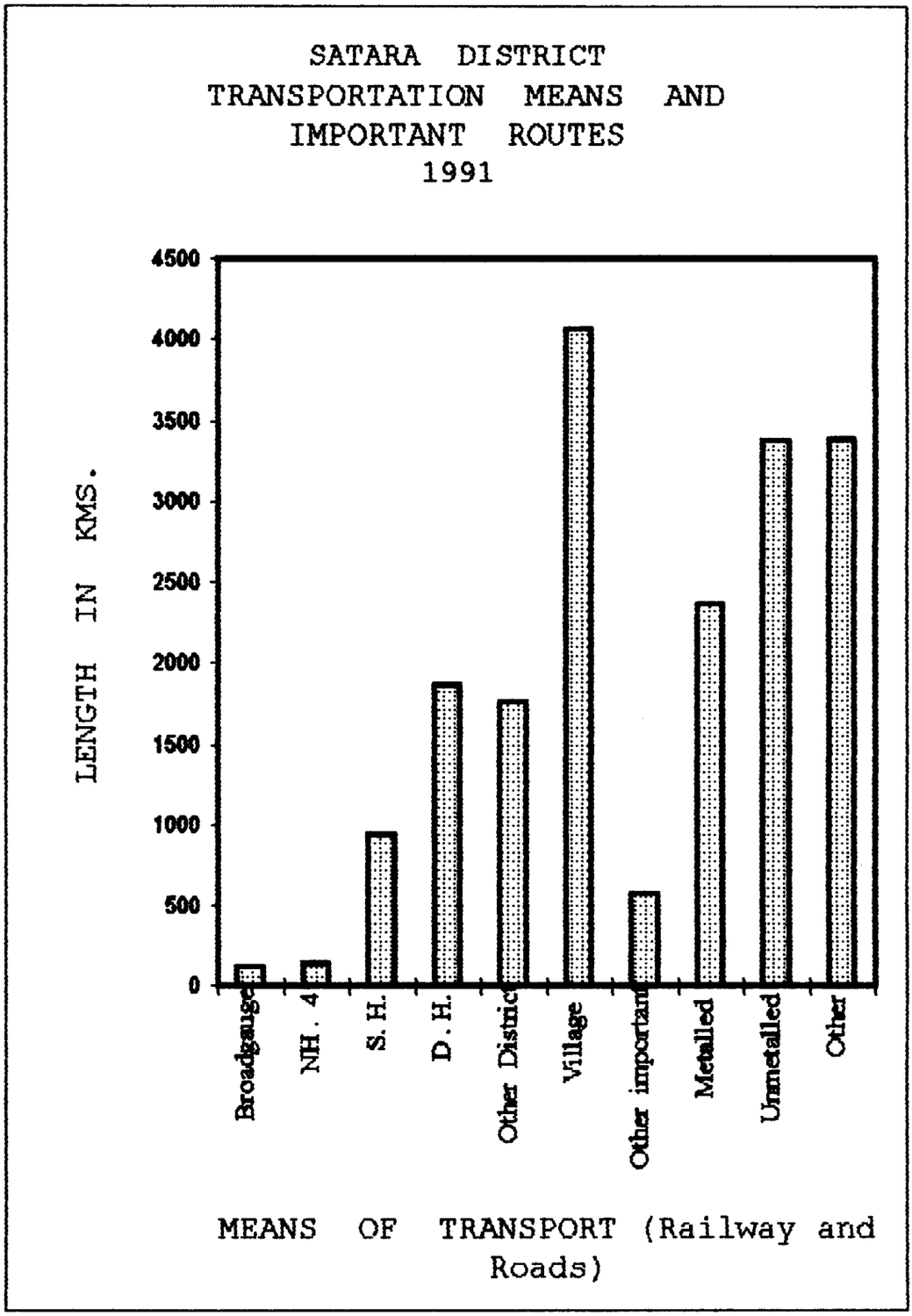


Fig . No . 2 . 8

4) Chiplun - Umbraj - Atpadi.

5) Chiplun - Patan - Karad - Khanapur.

6) Pune - Phalatan - Pandharpur.

7) Vita - Vaduj.

8) Satara - Pusegaon - Dahiwadi - Pandharpur.

9) Karad - Vaduj.

10) Satara - Lonand - Pune.

All above mentioned routes are important state highways which link important cities of Maharashtra and other neighbouring states. All these state highways countribute 939 Km. road network in the study region.

The table (II-VI) given below gives clearcut idea about the transport network of the study region. The important places, towns and villages from the study region link to important places of Maharashtra through important modes of communication i.e. Telephone, Telegraph, Post-Offices provide such facilities to the people from study region. All the parts of study region except the remote areas of Sahyadri are aquainted with these facilities.

TABLE II - VI

SATARA DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION MEANS AND IMPORTANT ROUTES

1991

Sr. No.	Means of Transport	Length in kms.
1	Broadgauge Railway	120
2	National Highway No. 4	137
3	State Highway	939
4	District Highway	1861
5	Other District Roads	1757
6	Village Roads	4063
7	Other Important Roads	576
8	Metalled Roads	2368
9	Unmetalled Roads	3374
10	Other	3380

Source : Author.

2.13.0. INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE :

Satara district is well known for agricultural prosperity. The agriculture plays an important role in economic development of the region. There are many key industries which give rise to subsidiary or secondary industries. The Krishana river basin is famous for the sugarcane cultivation. There are eight sugar factories located in sugarcane growing areas. The groundnut producton promotes to develop oil mills in this area. Thus Karad, Koregaon,Khandala, Phaltan, and Satara all these talukas are famous for oil mills. Instead of these

talukas agricultural commodity processing units are also located at Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani. The floor mills, Tomato-sauce, Ketchups, Gining mills, Food processing, Jam production and Fruit pulp production, show agrarian dominance in the study region. Jaggery production is carried in Karad, Khatav, Phaltan, Khandala and Satara talukas. Another subsidiary industry flourished in recent years is dairy industry. There are 865 co-operative milk collection centers in study area. There are 21 Fisheries co-operative societies in study area. Instaed of these agrobased industries and many other subsidiary industries are developed at Karad, Shirval, Satara, in MIDC areas. Agricultural implements, trailors, parts of diesel engines, wire and plastic, building structures like production took place. Many taluka places have been surveyed to develop as MIDC Areas.

2.14.0. DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS :

According to 1991 cencus, there are 1573 rural settlements spread all over the study region. They function in various capacities. According to their functional importance each one can be classified hierarchically. The table II - VII shows talukawise distribution of settlments.

TABLE II - VII

SATARA DISTRICT

TALUKAWISE DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL SETTELEMENTS

1991

Sr. No.	Taluka	No. of Rural Settelements
1	Satara	202
2	Wai	113
3	Khandala	65
4	Koregaon	110
5	Phaltan	121
6	Man	98
7	Khatav	138
8	Karad	179
9	Patan	279
10	Jaoli	213
11	Mahabaleshwar	55
	Total	1573

Source : Handbook of Basic Statistic of Maharashtra.1991.

The highest number of settlements found in Patan taluka next to Jaoli taluka; 279 and 213 respectively. The number of settlements is maximun due to sparsely distributed population in the hamelts and wadi settlements. It is because the entire region is undulating and thus little land is available for cultivation and for inhabitat. Mahabaleshwar taluka consists of minimum number of villages, i.e. 55. Here physical factors influence the

SATARA

DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS

1991

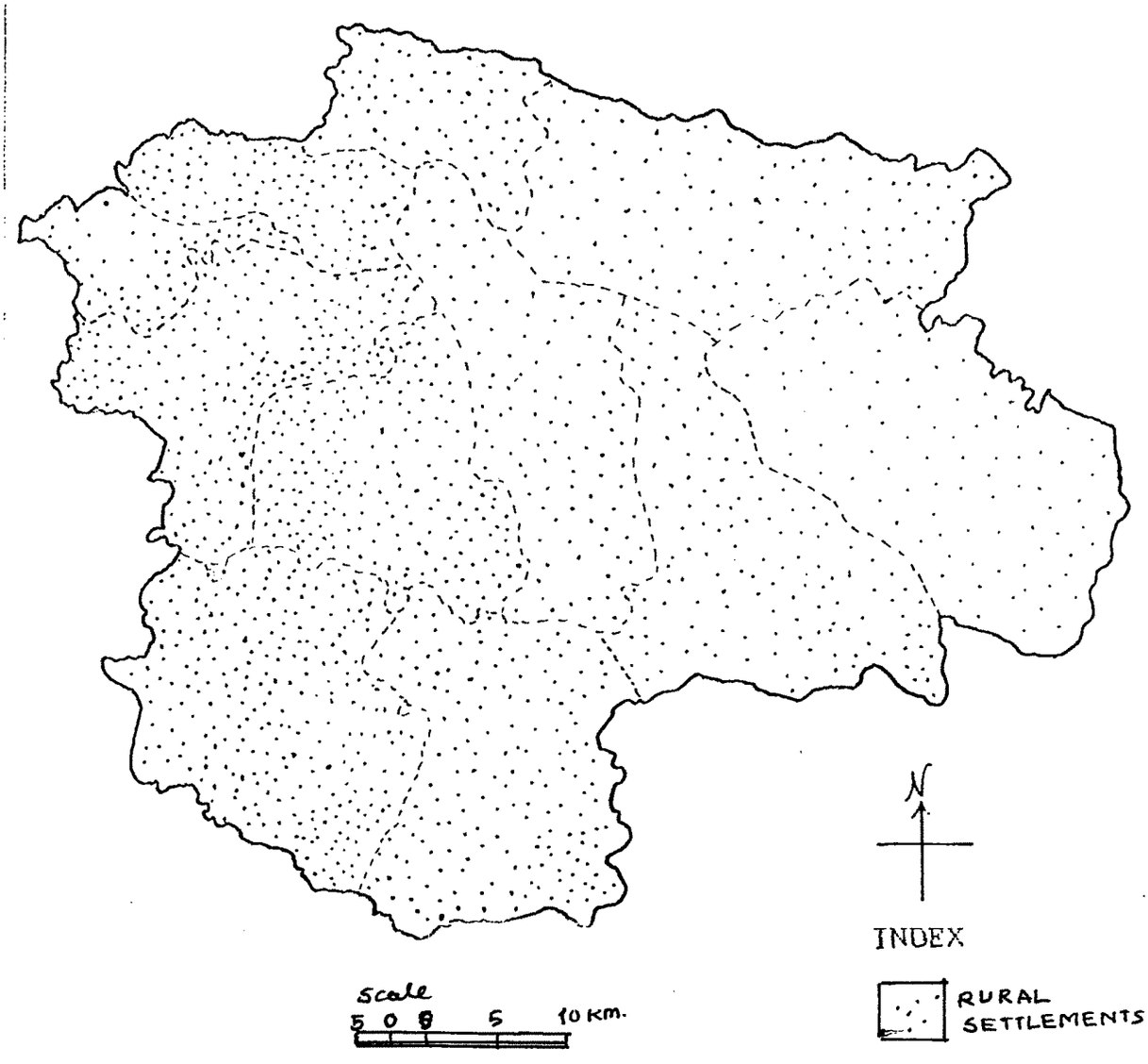


FIG NO. 2.9.

distribution of population and thus, distribution of settlements also. Talukas situated in the central part of the study region have moderate number of rural settlements. Here influence of urbanisation is seen lessening the number of rural settlements. This region is agriculturally prosperous so the villages are aglomerated in nature thus, number of villages are less. In the eastern part of the study region, rain shadow region influences the distribution of rural settlements thus in Man taluka 98 rural settlements are found. Overall picture shows that in the western part, number of settlements are more; in the central part it is moderate and in the eastern part it is less. (see Fig. 2.9)

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