

**CHAPTER - III**

**UMBRAJ : A PROFILE**

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Satara is one of the districts in South Maharashtra. It is famous as a historical and cultural centre.

A ) LOCATION OF VILLAGE UMBRAJ -

Umbraj is situated, 35 Kms. Southward of Satara district. National Highway No.4 ( Poona - Bangalore Highway ) divides this village into two parts .

Umbraj is situated on latitude 10°-20' west and on longitude 10°-1' east. It covers a total area of 4 Sq.Km. Twenty Km. east ward of Umbraj is situated Masur, a famous commercial market centre. There is the famous Ram Temple of Chafal on 10 Km. Westward . There is Karad Taluka on 16 Km. southward.

B) POPULATION -

According to 1991 census the population of Satara district is 24,45,000. Of which 12,01,336 are male and 12,43,664 are female.

The village Umbraj has a population of 15,000. Of which 7570 are male and 7460 are female. The Gosavi population of Umbraj is 1000.

Table No.1

Division of population on the basis of Sex.

Sr.No.	Gender	Total Number	Percentage
1	Male	483	48.3%
2	Female	517	51.7%
Total		1000	100 %

The Gosavi community constitutes about 6.66 % of the village population.<sup>1</sup>

C) ECONOMIC CONDITION.

The rivers Tarli and Krishna flow of about 1/2 Km. from Umbraj. It makes the soil of Umbraj fertile and a garden land. The village has extension towards west. There is Industrial estate southward.

D) CLIMATE / ATMOSPHERE -

The climate of village Umbraj is seasonal. The summer is mild. The average temperature is between 25°C and 19°C maximum and minimum respectively. The yearly average rainfall is between 1120 and 1260 mm. Thus the winter season is prominent. In the west of the village, there are hilly regions of Sahyadri mountain. In all the weather of the village is marvellous.

E ) HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF UMBRAJ -

There are some big and large ancient temples in Umbraj. For instance Umeshwar temple, Shiva temple. These temples were repaired in 1642 by a ~~Sax~~ Chandrakant Shivyogi. There is the famous Ram temple at Chafal. Ramdas Swami established this temple during 1630-1680 . It has been said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had been to Chafal to see Ramdas. These temples and the culture reveal the influence of Brahmin community.

Chhatrapati Shahu offered Balaji Vishwanath the sceptre of 'Peshwa ' at Masur a village very near to Umbraj. Peshwe went to Pune from this village afterwards.

There is a village, Talbeed on 4 Km. from Umbraj, Southward. It is the birth place of Hambirrao Mohite, the famous commander of Chhatrapati Shivaji's army. His daughter was the wife of Chhatrapati Rajaram. She founded the Kolhapur State.<sup>2</sup>

There are many stories told for the origin of the name Umbraj. There is Umeshwar Temple. We also can see the ~~Yuis~~ ruins of Umeshwar temple at present. It is said that this village has been named after God Umeshwar. Umbraj may be the corrupted from of Umeshwar.<sup>3</sup>

F ) STATE OF GOSAVIS AT UMBRAJ -

At first, some 20-25 families from Gosavi community came to Umbraj in 1932. They used to wander to earn their livelihood throughout the day and come back in the evening at Umbraj. They were living on the bank of the river. The population grew afterwards. In 1962, they had a natural calamity. The powerful rainfall at the time covered up their inhabitats. They became

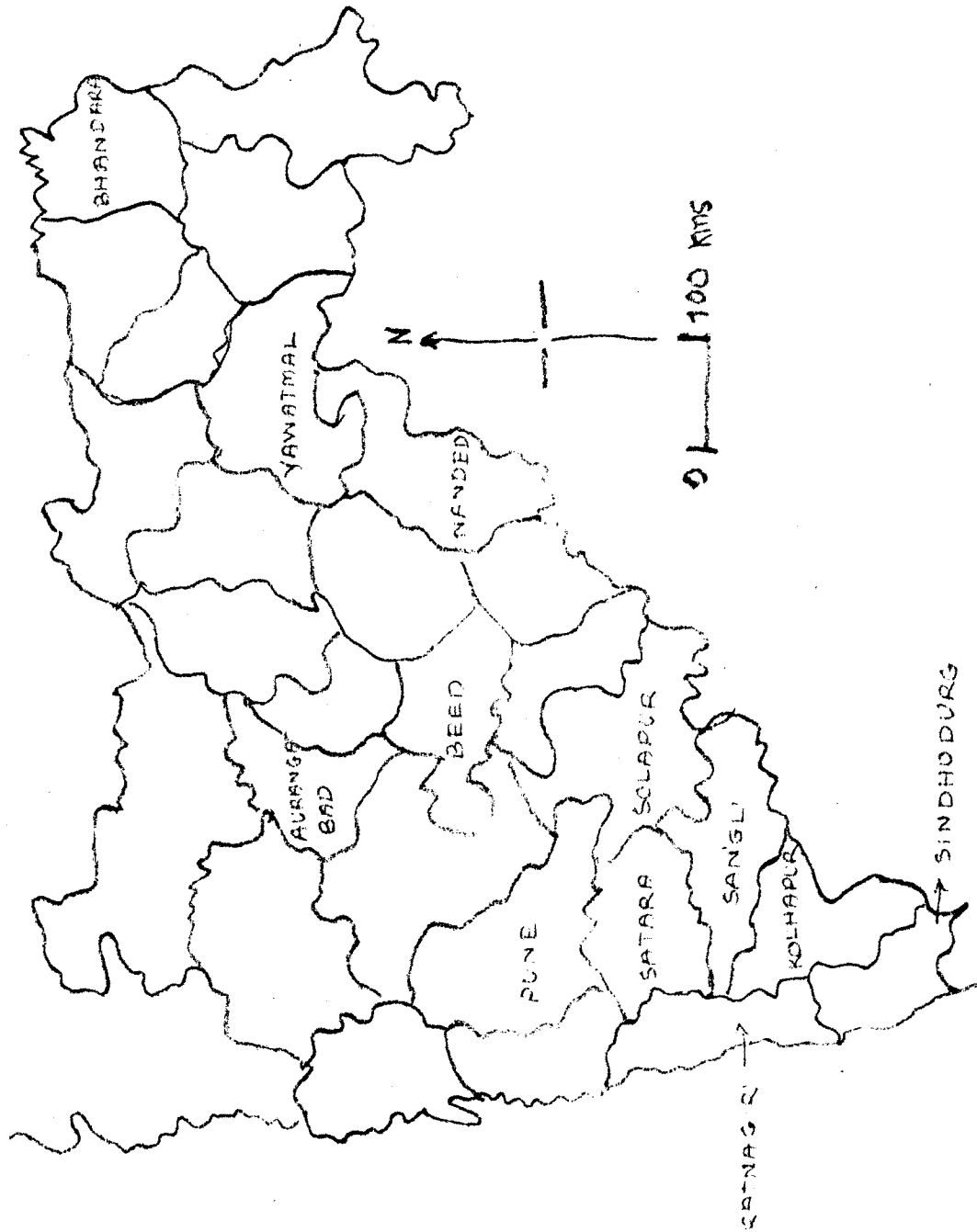
homeless due to the flood.

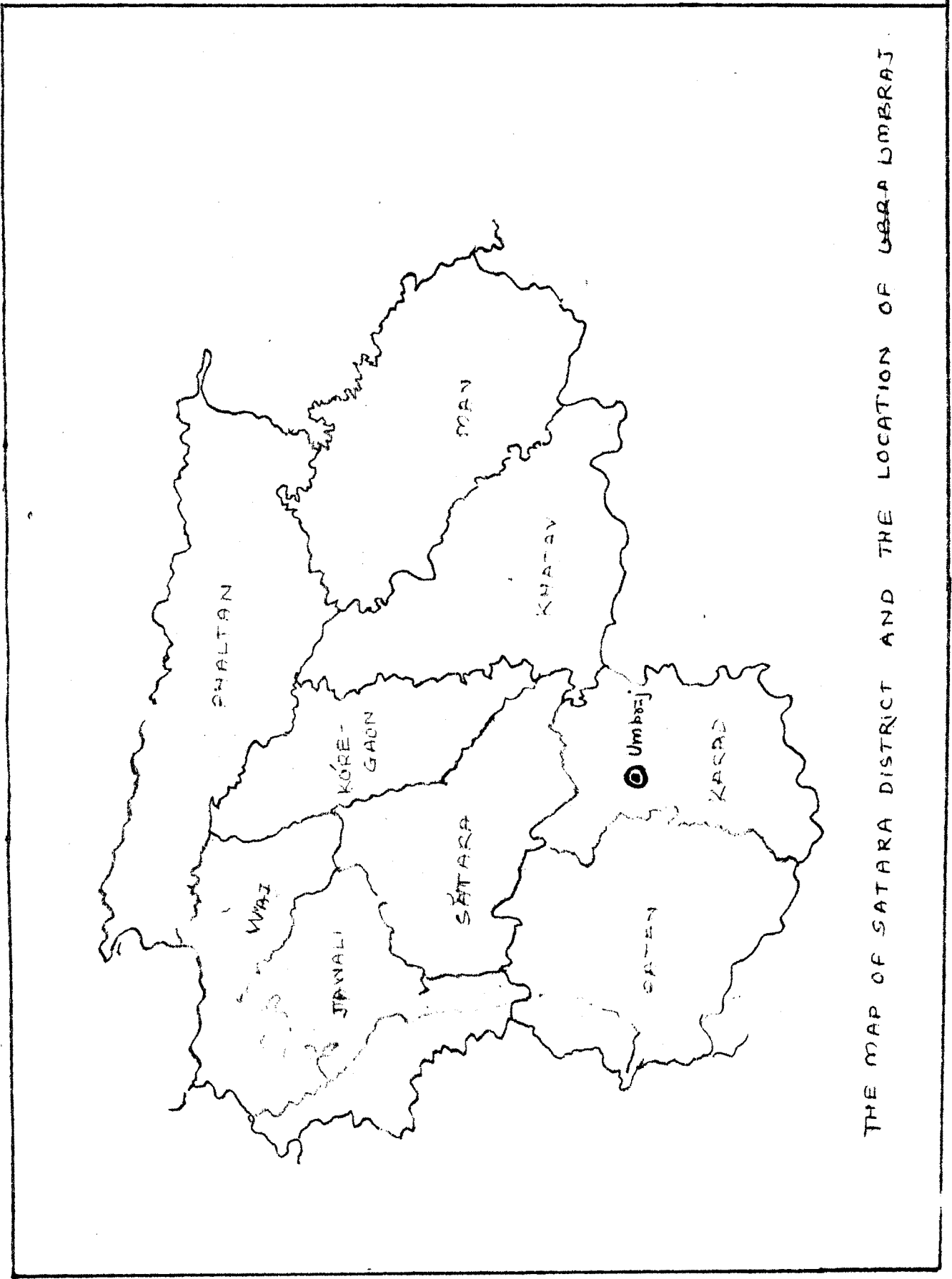
Now they are living westward of the highway. The Land Acquisition Department took possession from the owners of the 1.27 acres barren land for their rehabilitation.

STATEWISE INHABITANTS OF GOSAMS  
IN INDIA



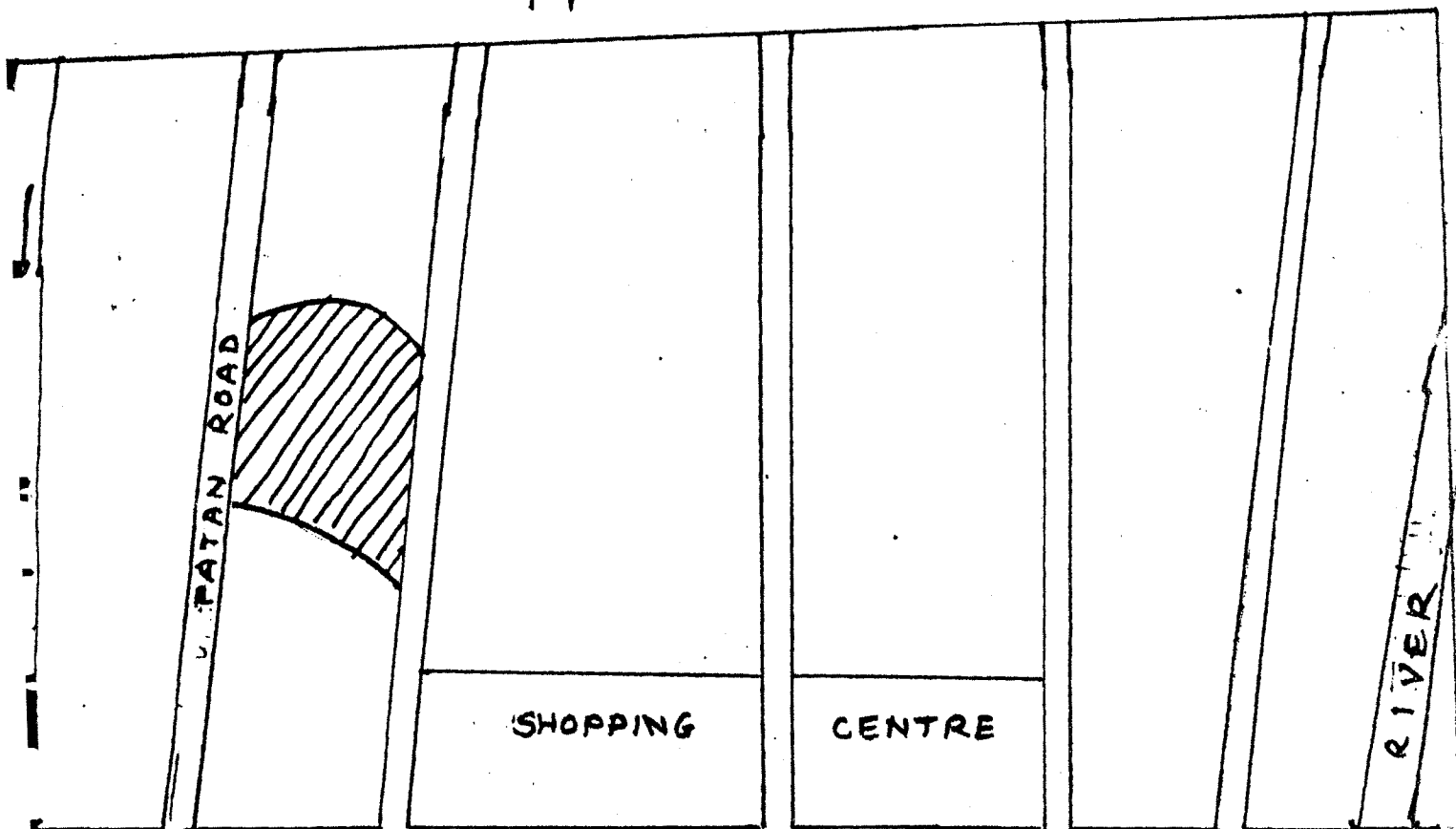
DISTRICTS IN MAHARASHTRA HAVING  
A LARGE POPULATION OF GOSAVIS -





THE MAP OF SATARA DISTRICT AND THE LOCATION OF UMBREJ





MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF UMBRAJ

NOT TO SCALE

 → LOCATION OF GOSAVI COMMUNITY.

REFERENCE

- 1 Umbraj Grampanchayat records.
- 2 Dr.Jaysingrao Pawar ' Shivaji Wa Shivkal '
- 3 Old Persons from Umbraj and Gosavi community.