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CHAPTER NO. III

* HUMAN INTERACTIONS *

I) RELIGIOUS IMPACTS

II) POLITICAL IMPACTS

III) SOCIAL IMPACTS

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

V) ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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कुईवाडी

KURDUVADI.



A TRAIN AT KURDUVADI, ON THE WAY FROM NERAD TO LATUR.



A VIEW OF THE NARROW GAUGE PLATFORMS.

(KURDUVADI)

* Our calculations have outrun conception;

We have eaten more than we can digest . *

P.B.Shelley, In Defence of Poetry.

Geographers have not been particularly successful in dealing with behaviour. Their interest, in a large way, revolved round the extent to which man's actions were conditioned by his environment. The determinists advocated a rigidly dependant relationship whereas the possibilists related their doctrines to man's free will. Interestingly many a geographers adopted middle of the road positions. This according to Hagerstrand has put geographers one step behind the reality i.e. ~~the~~ behaviour per se or behaviour & products have become a variable !

From all we hear and all ~~the~~ we see, human behaviour takes place on space. It demands space and consumes space. Ouringly it gives characteristics to the areas as well as to the people. Transport Geography has been and continues to be a neglected sub-field of Economic Geography. It was, in fact, spoken as a "Cinderella of EconomicGeography"! But in recent years it has started emerging as a distinctive sub-field on its own right. Its major concerns, today, are:-

- (i) nodes or centres
- (ii) linkages and flows, and
- (iii) hinterland or hierarchical connections

Essentially Transport is a "need satisfier" and an 'Optimiser of needs'. It will be, therefore, worthwhile to describe and even to explain how 'BLR' evolved and established impacts with land and people of these three drought-prone districts of Southern Maharashtra. This is being done under following activities:-

I) Religious Impacts

II) Political Impacts

III) Social Impacts

IV) Administrative Impacts

V) Economic Impacts

I) RELIGIOUS IMPACTS:

Different people speak differently about religion. So what religion is or is not very much depend upon who interprets it when, where and why so. According to E.B. Taylor religion is the belief in spiritual things. It is a matter of experience of Brahmadarsana- insight into reality in a direct world of values. It includes beliefs, practices, feelings, moral attitudes etc. It is related to mental and psychical conditions.

The strength of the religion as an operating force in the cultural landscape of this drought-prone area comprising three districts of Southern Maharashtra is clear and striking. Its spatial expressions in the crowded cultural landscape aretemples and shrines, Mosques and Idgahs and Churches etc. In fact, 'BLR' acted as a candle in this region suffering from scarcities and famines. The people, therefore, have become god fearing as well as God loving.

Among the religiousⁿ Hinduism is the oldest and the most strongest of all. It is the creed and culture of the region. Its important aspects are associated with art, architecture and sculpture- Hinduism is taught by tradition and belief. One may, therefore, say that spiritual life is the true genius of India.

Of all the places on 'BLR', pandharpur holds a significant position in the life and thoughts of this cultural region. ~~Ram~~ Pandalik was the first great devotee of Lord Vitthal. In fact, he was responsible for bringing the Lord Vitthal to the

In fact he was responsible for bringing the Lord Vithal to the banks of Chandrabhaga River. Thereafter it became Kashi of Southern Maharashtra- a religious refuge of poor, traditional maratha agriculturists of the region. Associated with Lord Vithal is the "Warakari" cult which is concentrated upon this area. It may be suggested that one may move towards studying spatial diffusion of "Warakari" cult and what it has done or is doing to the regional life.

The "initiation" into this faith is usually done by a "Guru", and as a mark of initiation they wear "tulshi bud rosary". For this reason he is also known as Malakari. His two chief characteristics are :-

- (i) He is vegetarian in diet, and
- (ii) He observes fast on ekadashi days. Hereafter than not e they sing Bhajans in praise of Lord Vithal with the accompaniment of Tala or Pakhhvaj. These are written by the saints of Maharashtra.

Being an active cultural movement it gives colour to the cultural life and ^{blend} thinks the religious atmosphere in the regional landscape. We may distinguish it by :-

- 1) "Crowding" of palanquins of the various saints to Pandharpur during Ashadi & Kartika Fairs,
- 2) Publishing and spreading of literature devoted to Lord Vithal, and
- 3) The actual diffusion or spread of Warakari cult.

This cult is also known as the "Bhakti Cult". It reaches people from various castes and callings.

By now you the warakaries are attached to Lord Vithal and they perform annual/biannual pilgrimage to Pandharpur. But

their identity as a separate religious group is never emphasized.

"I have travelled far and wide, seen many countries
and lands. However, nowhere was my mind attached. -
- - - -". Chokha Nela.

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II) POLITICAL IMPACTS :

According to H.A. Douglas Jackson "the study of political phenomena in their areal context whether it involves an analysis of boundaries, the geographic patterns resulting from the application of government authority or the political validity of new state units ". To the British Geographer A.E. Hoddie "Political Geography is fundamentally the analysis of the relationship between Community and environment". The Scholars like Aristotle also recognized the relationships " - - - In Asia the people are endowed with skill and intelligence but are deficient in spirits and this is why they continue to be people of subjects and slaves. "

In the past political analysis of geographic areas or the geographic study of political phenomena was considered "Wayward child of the geographic family". - the field that was least scientific, in which "method and material" are free of to the choice of the student and whose relationship to the field was difficult to determine.

To start with this British Company had to manage the area in pieces-the British Union, Nizam's Marathwada and the Deccan States of Jath, Miraj and Sangli. Its functioning units concentrated unequally i.e. at Kurduwadi, Barai Town, Latur, and Pandharpur and Miraj. Gradually the forces of disunity and

Separatism became less significant and disappeared. The sequence of events that followed can be analysed and measured by taking up Electoral results to the vidhan Sabha and the Lok Sabha. However, two generalisations may be useful at this stage i.e.:-

- (i) It is difficult to make political judgements in this "dryland region".
- (ii) The operational unity depends upon a strong central authority or a responsible government.

This regional entity has been comparatively isolated. It is because it was a negative area- a disadvantaged landscape. The scarcities led to instability and uprisings. Thus the arrival of 'BLR' was a blessing in disguise, gave it an access i.e. the problem of the access was over. Ultimately the area shares the common destiny of Maharashtra State and the Republic of India.

"Federation does not create unity out of diversity, but it enables the two to co-exist". It is a great equaliser or a great eliminator of differences. May be that it is a relatively new phenomena. It thrives on the recognition of regional differences and it survives on the claims of the component area to perpetuate their claims.

The construction of the railway was a new method of controlling famine. No better illustration of the pace and methods of growth of British administration could be ~~seen~~ found than the development of the organisation to deal with famines. This new attitude became apparent from 1880. Its net result was that the region which had become worst by the Maratha invasions and Pindari raids could now look forward to efficient assistance

without incurring disastrous expenditures.

The main principles of the famine code were four in number, namely,--

(i) The state must provide work for all able-bodied persons at the time of actual or prospective famine.

(ii) The voluntary aid of independent persons may be utilised but the Government accepts the responsibility of relieving all persons.

(iii) The government has a right to intervene in the supply and distribution of food, and

(iv) The revenue is not to be collected under pressure. Suspension and collection of revenue and rent may be granted.

Each state, thereafter, evolved its own famine relief policy.

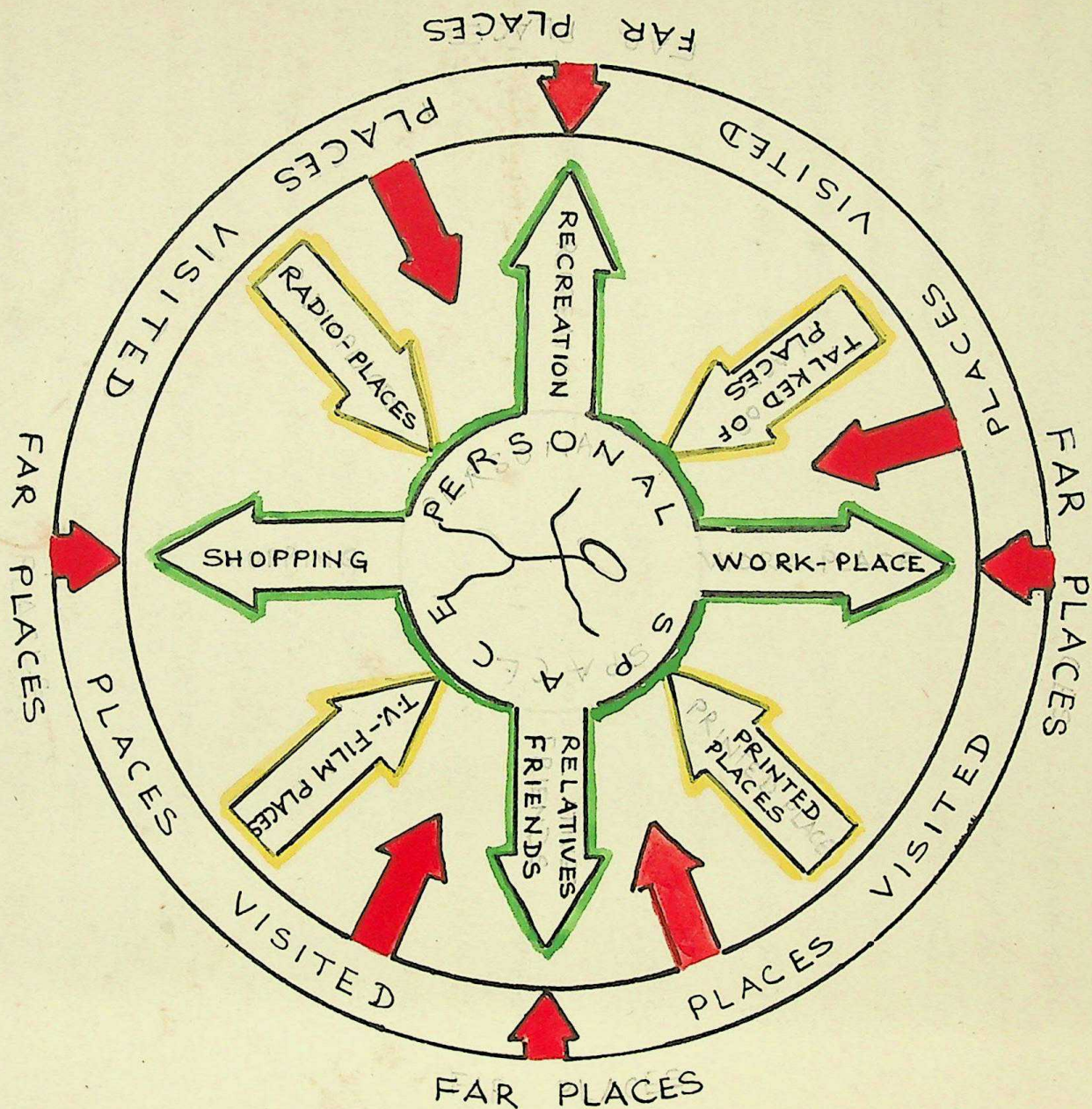
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III) SOCIAL IMPACTS : :

The analysis of the social patterns and processes arising from the distribution of and access to, scarce resources is a very important and useful field of study. It is here that sociologists and geographers would willingly interact their fields of research at the core and the peripheral levels. They may balance the equation between man and environment in favour of man like the French School of Geographers or show how the society reacted to the habitat or how it organised itself- an outcome, in fact, of its culture.

As the explanation of man's works and his behaviour lay in the environment, a pupil of the German Geographer Ratzel-
Herr E. Semple boldly

MAN'S PERCEPTUAL MAP



Man E. Sample boldly spoke out "that Man is a product of the earth surface --- the earth has mothered him, fed him, set him tasks, directs his thoughts". This popular debate may be briefly summed up as Environmental determinism Vs. -possibilism-. The study leads us to following ideas viz social space, Social values, Social distance, Social landscape, Social Monitoring, Social scale, social rank, social indicators & social planning. etc. etc.

Man's perpetual map provided by Goodey may provide thoughts wherein future research can be done !

'BLR' may be taken as an example like a river it constantly flowed into a the reservoir of this region new goods, new services, new ideas, fashions and culture which did not permit it to become stagnant. It provided cheap, safe and speedy corridor in this drought prone area where the land and the people have become used to a constant challenge of the environment. It may be used as a measure of development and social progress. Here 'the people either do not try hard' or "the circumstances are beyond their control". In other words one may say that they have lost their faith in initiative and in their own industry. This ~~sent~~ social image has arisen out of two geographic realities, namely,

- (i) it is an economically backward region, and
- (ii) it is in the habit of being visited and by droughts and famines.

'BLR' heralded a golden opportunity to improve matters in the region which hangs on a dilemma,. The dilemma is: Man has impoverished the land, and the land has been left with the poor people. The people have been endowed with three behavioural characteristics :-

- (i) hardened by tradition,
- (ii) mutual conflicts have split them socially,
- (iii) variety in social life, especially, widening gap between 'the rich' and 'the poor' has invited generosity at group levels.

People make places- rich and the poor. The latter may be grouped into 'Urban poor' and the 'Rural poor'. Their problems * can be solved only with foresight, dedication and selflessness ?

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IV) ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS :

Administration is a skillful art emerging into a 'Master Science'. "In simplest terms administration is determined action taken in pursuit of a conscious purpose". It is concerned with 'the what' and 'the how' of the government. It may also be used for "those patterns of behaviour that are common to many types of co-operating groups and that do not depend upon either the specific goals towards which they are co-operating or the specific technological methods used to reach these goals".

Administration is a separate activity with its own well marked fields and principles. Its field is demarcated on the basis of the so-called politics-administration dichotomy. The field of politics is policy-making while that of administration was implementation of that policy. The two should not be permitted

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- (i) It was taking a longer period- say months,
 - (ii) It was unsafe, dacoits and robbers were feared,
 - (iii) journeys were undertaken by consulting astrologers.

either to meddle & or to interfere with each other. Administration has its own techniques and goals also independent of the government under which it might function. The British administration which had a long period of rule over this shilly area was endowed with following features :-

- (i) impersonality or 'rule of the law'
- (ii) equality of each and everyone before the law,
- (iii) recognition of the right of each man to be judged, in a wide range of matters by personal law.
- (iv) The growth of professional and a trained Judicial Hierarchy.
- (v) economy and efficiency.

Its contents according to Willoughby and others regarded the Poudscorb or common techniques such as Planning, organisation, staffing, direction, co-ordination, recording and budgeting. Its machine-like character has, therefore, made it more complex and complicated. Nevertheless one may generalise, the functions of administration into (i) Legislative, (ii) Executive and (iii) Judicial.

'BLR' traversed initially through areas which possessed the following three uniquenesses :-

- (i) the administration was pivoted on one-man.
- (ii) The people lacked personal freedom, and
- (iii) The administration was rigid, parochial and unprogressive.

'BLR' provided a unifying influence. In its train came a uniform system of administration, produced by interactions of a, the evolution and development of parliamentary control, the emergence of district administration and the growth of

administrative services at multi-levels.

The administrative areas consist of 'head quarters' and 'the field' in which people have developed a tendency to depend upon Government for everything. The Government has become next to God only ! Secondly the indigenous system of administration has become a part of the history. Mr. Gokhale in respect of British said "The blessings of peace, the establishment of law and order, the introduction of Western education and the freedom of speech and appreciation of liberal institutions which have followed in its wake-all these are things which stand to the credit of your rule". The foundations were laid with the arrival of 'DLR' which lead the region towards development and prosperity- a fuller collective life.

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V) ECONOMIC IMPACTS :

Ordinarily it deals with the location of economic activities, the spatial organisation and growth of economic systems and man's use and abuse of earth's resources- The basic activities included in it may be classified under, consumption, production and exchange, of goods and services-They vary, and, in turn, produce a mosaic of ideas and disciplines, structures and patterns. The processes that produce these range from simple to most complex-Without a shadow of doubts, these are need-based and want-based.

More recently interest in spatial patterns, structures and processes has been generalised to include.

1) the philosophy of environmentalism

- 2) the concept of areal differentiation,
- 3) locational analysis, and
- 4) dynamics of spatial systems.

The approaches adopted in their study may be classified as-(i) inductive or institutional, and (ii) deductive or theoretical. Each one separately and in interaction gives interesting and exciting results !

'BLR' was essentially a means and not an end over the crisis ridden area endowed with limited hopes. It received sporadic help! According to United Nations terminology its status may be equated with the 'Fourth World'. Its conspicuous features were epidemics resulting in short life expectancy and high mortality rates. Secondly 'BLR' has a spatial dimension in the narrow sense as a corridor as well as in the broader or the regional sense. As Bery observed "the geographical point of view is spatial- the integrating concepts and processes of the geographer relate to spatial arrangements and distributions, to spatial integration, to spatial interactions and organisation, and to spatial processes". It is the spatial viewpoint which gives her a distinctive personality in the complex railway-network of India. All these have developed a group of interest, interdependence ~~an~~ interconnections, interlinkages and interrelations. The economic activities are large in number and have a vast and ever expanding dimension. It traversed a region whose economy shows following :-

(1) The region is gripped in a vicious circle of poverty'. The people have a low level of income and a low productivity. There is a lack of capital to save and to invest. But to achieve

economic well-being they need capital both for the efficient use of labour and for the exploitation of her scarce resources !

(ii) There is a marginal inducement to invest because of the limited size of the market. It is because of its relative isolation !

(iii) This region was politically fragmented. The loyalties of the people were, therefore, conflicting. Unprogressiveness was the general characteristic of the administration. Many attempts have been made to explain it. They put it as -

- a) natural result of the Hindu Philosophy,
- b) rigidity of the caste system,
- c) parochialism on account of isolation

(iv) There has been a discontinuous, unequal exodus of rural population to the areas designated as urban. Hence there is an "unproductive surplus" labour which is sustained by 'productive labour'. The dependency ratio is very high !

(v) There are huge disparities in the growth of the region from historic times to the present day. Consumption and more advanced ways of living have created a charming vision of hope and faith - "Creative entrepreneurs" may initiate and diffuse conditions towards "higher Stages" in the economic growth.

Nevertheless there is a vast scope for in-depth studies of (i) imbalances in incomes (ii) dislocations and inequalities among and within the Central Places and (iii) conflicts between - - .
The more direct economic effects of 'BLR' may be summarized as:-

(i) the levelling of prices, especially, those of food grains and other essential commodities

(ii) the loss of tonga traffic and disappearance of bullock carts from Barsi town to Kurduwadi

(iii) The affluence from cotton trading by Barci corresponds with the rise of Mulji Jetha Cloth Market near Crawford Market in Greater Bombay. Here is a good theme for research by geographers pursuing studies in Marketing and Transport.

(iv) The rise of towns viz. Latur, Barci, Kurduwadi, Pandharpur, and Miraj owes much to railway construction, maintenance and operations, especially, in two ways:-

(i) it increased the trade of the town, and (ii) it created new centres of trade through which it passes. Their ^hinterland studies are significant and always look forward for serious work on them.

(v) "outside help is necessary". At the same time "self reliance is to be developed". These two slogans when brought into action with dedication and selflessness will bring prosperity and affluence into the regional life. The life will, then, become fuller and worthy of living !

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