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PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

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CHAPTER - III
PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION :

In this Chapter the researcher has made an attempt to discuss the socio-economic features of the study area. This Chapter gives somewhat detailed information to the reader about the geographical and other features of the Kavathe Mahankal Taluka, the study area in general. The following paragraphs will bring out somewhat detailed discussion about the Kavathe Mahankal Taluka.

The main purpose of presenting the profile of the area is to give the reader the general idea about the economy of Kavathe Mahankal Taluka.

3.2 PROFILE OF KAVATHE MAHANKAL TALUKA :

1. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA :

Kavathe Mahankal Taluka is situated between 74° E to $75^{\circ}-45'$ East latitude and $16^{\circ}-55'$ N to $17^{\circ}-50'$ North longitude. The Kavathe Mahankal Taluka covers 73,496 hectors geographical area.

2. RAINFALL :

Particularly, Kavathe Mahankal Taluka is a drought area. The average rainfall received by the Taluka during

last ten years is about 610 mm (24.4"). The rainfall recorded during the year 1985 was 156 mm. (6.24"). About seventy eight per cent of the annual rainfall is recorded generally during June - September and rest in the month of October & November.

It can be observed that the rainfall is also highly uncertain in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka. There are about 20 villages who have water problem of the permanent nature. Drinking water is supplied to these villages by about 25 Government water tankers with daily average of 1,20,000 Ltrs.

3. RIVERS :

'Agarani' is the main and only river for Kavathe Mahankal Taluka flowing west-east. The Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place, is situated at the east side of the Agarani river. During rainy season the river has some water. Otherwise, the river always goes dry. From last ten years this river has no water due to lack of rainfall.

4. SOIL :

Kavathe Mahankal Taluka also presents mixed picture of soil with high quality on an average. The Taluka has got high quality black soil, soluble salt, calcium carbonate and nitrogen are found low in proportion whereas phosphate

and potash are hardly found in the soil of the Taluka as a whole. However, Taluka has got high quality black soil, low in proportion as a whole.

5. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION :

The Kavathe Mahankal Taluka has got a well knit structure of roads and a railway track. The narrow gauge rail track runs through the Taluka. This track starts from the Miraj Junction and leads to Pandharpur, Latur, Many devotees in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka go to Pandharpur for 'Vitthal Darshan' on 'Ekadashi'. There is too much rush to train during festival season at Pandharpur. The State Highway also pass through the Kavathe Mahankal Taluka while linking with Miraj, Pandharpur, Solapur, etc. On these road buses of the State Transport Corporation ply with a high frequency. In the year 1983, (15th August) the State Transport Corporation opened a S. T. Depot at Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place, with 35 buses. Almost all types of transport means like cycles, autorickshaw, scooter, motorcycles, cars, trucks, buses, tractors, tanga etc. appear running on the roads.

In Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place, the Post and Telegraph Department has opened a Post Office and Telephone Exchange with number of branches.

There are four sub-branch offices of Posts at Ranjani, Dhalgaon, Shirdhon and Kavathe Mahankal with number of branch offices. In Kavathe Mahankal Taluka there are five sub-exchanges at Dhalgaon, Desing, Shirdhon, Ranjani and Salgare linking with nearest villages. In the last year there has brought a low power telecasting machinery by some group of people in Kavathe Mahankal, which entertains local population by connections.

6. MINERALS :

No important minerals deposits are received from the Taluka except hard black stone. The black stone is used mainly for building construction.

7. FORESTS :

Due to lack of rainfall and low degree on hilly parts the Kavathe Mahankal Taluka is lagging behind the development of forests. However, the Taluka has covered 1,997 hectors of forest land. No important products are received by forest due to lack of water.

8. AGRICULTURE :

Seventy eight per cent of the total geographical

area of the Taluka is being cultivated by 23,841 agriculturists in the Taluka. The average holding is about 7 acres. Seventy six per cent agriculturists have levy less than Rs. 5/- while only thirty three per cent have levy more than Rs. 5/-.

9. CROPPING PATTERN :

The Cropping Pattern of Taluka seems to have been dictated by availability of irrigation facilities. Jawar, Bajara, Groundnut, Wheat, Sugarcane, Grapes etc. are the important crops taken by the agriculturists in the Taluka. Cultivation of grapes and sugarcane seems to have attracted the cultivators of the Taluka on a large scale. The improved agricultural technology has been responsible for the increasing rate of productivity of different crops in Taluka. Mainly Jawar, Bajara and Groundnut covers area of 12,500, 12,600 and 4,200 hectors respectively.

10. IRRIGATION :

In Kavathe Mahankal Taluka most of the land is irrigated through owned wells and canals. There are totally 2,212 owned wells of agriculturists, 630 public wells, 358 borewells upto year ended 1985. In Taluka there are 7 big lakes, 113 vast weir percolation tanks, 4 reservoirs whereas 8 are ~~incomplete~~ incomplete.

Though there is a canal it has no water due to lack of water in lake. Water problem is main problem of Kavathe Mahankal Taluka.

The 'Krishnapuri Irrigation Scheme' when completed will lessen the severity of the water problem of about 39 villages in Taluka. The scheme is being completing with Foreign Collaboration, with financial assistance of Rs. 3.60 crores. The scheme will be completed in two stages. Boragaon is the lift centre of the scheme. The scheme will provide water about 50,000 acres land in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka.

11. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRY :

The Kavathe Mahankal Taluka with 21 per cent of forest area under forest gazing land pastures has a good scope for dairy development. According to 1981 census, there are approximately 14,261 buffaloes, 12,712 cows, 20,243 goats, 29,406 sheeps, 66,581 chickens. Sheeping is also an important business of villages in Taluka.

The Taluka has also a 'Doodh Sangh' at Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place, namely Shetakari Sahakari Doodh Utpadak and Puravatha Sangh Ltd., started in 1976 and 42 dairy co-operatives, collecting milk from whole Taluka. This Sangh supplies milk in tank and carried by

its own 2 DCM Toyato, 2 Mini Trucks, to Government Milk Scheme at Miraj. The Sangh also own Ice Factory and Cattle feed. It is good thing that the Sangh is starting Patarization Plant and bagging system for doodh. Sheep and goat rearing is being practiced by on a large scale in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka. The Poultry business is also taken on large scale but it is inhabited by poor marketing network.

12. INDUSTRIES :

As compared to Jath, Atpadi, Tasgaon, Miraj, the industrial progress of the Kavathe Mahankal Taluka is rather slow. There is one co-operative Sugar Factory started in 1982, at Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place. There is also one Private Sugar Mill namely 'Malu Sugar Mill' situated at Zurewadi just 2 K.M. from Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place.

The sugarcane is brought to this sugar factory from Taluka area and as well as from outside area in large scale. Due to the shortage of water, sugarcane production is very low in Taluka area. These two Sugar Factories provide employment to about 1,000 workers in season.

13) BANKING :

The whole Taluka is being served by almost

every Nationalised and Commercial as well as Co-operative Banks. However, District Co-operative Bank has deep rooted in Taluka, which has 10 Branches working in Taluka. There are three Branches of Bank of India at Kavathe Mahankal, Ranjani and Dhalgaon. State Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Land Development Bank, The Sangli Bank Ltd., and Ratnakar Bank have One Branch each respectively. There are also another two branches of Co-operative Banks, namely Murgarjandra Co-operative Bank Ltd. and The Vita Merchant Co-operative Bank Ltd. Each Branch serving almost 5,600 population. There are also 11 Nagari Sahakari Patpuravatha Sansthas in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka as a whole. The Bank of India is a leading Bank of Taluka.

14. TRADE :

Especially the Kavathe Mahankal, Dhalgaon, Ranjani and Shirdhon are famous for turmaric business in the Taluka. Other important trade commodities include grains, oils, sugar, groundnuts, cloths, medicals, hardware, chemicals, stationery, automobiles, spare parts, building material, cement etc. Mainly Kavathe Mahankal and Dhalgaon are famous for cattle market, which provides purchase and sale transactions of cattles once in a week.

15. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES :

The Taluka place, Kavathe Mahankal, is an important educational centre consisting of Schools and College. In Taluka there are 107 Primary Schools, 19 High Schools, One English Medium School and Three Junior Colleges. The Senior College is started from 1978 at Kavathe Mahankal, which provide higher education for students coming from different streams like Arts and Commerce. Science Branch is started in the last year 1985. The number of students taking higher education in Kavathe Mahankal College is about 1,200. There are no other Senior or Post-Graduate Colleges in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka. There is also a 'Kanya Prashala' at Kavathe Mahankal, the Taluka place, which is started from last two years, providing education to girls. The students from villages come to college by bus. The State Transport provides good service to college students.

16. POPULATION :

The population according to 1981 census is 1,00,355. Taluka covers 60 villages. The data regarding growth rate, sex rate is not so made available.