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Agrotourism In Raigad District - Opportunities And Challenges

* Vaibhav Ramesh Raut ** Dr. R.P. Mhatre

Abstract

Every person who has a love for nature is always attracted by villages, farms, green forests, rivers, mountains, springs, etc., and this rule applies to every person around the world. That is why today, whenever they find time in their stressful and busy lives, such people prefer to spend their time relaxing in the company of nature, and according to their means, they go out of the house for tourism, alone or with friends or with their family. Recognizing this demand of tourists, various branches of tourism are emerging all over the world, such as jungle safari, adventure tourism, historical tourism, rural tourism, etc. In the same way, for tourists who want to go for rural tourism and are interested in the culture of rural areas, their way of life, agriculture and farmers, a new concept called 'Agrotourism' emerged in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and spread all over the world. Similarly, it became popular in India and in the state of Maharashtra as well.

Keywords: *Agrotourism, Raigad District, Opportunities, Challenges.*

Operational Definitions:

- a. **Agrotourism:** *'Agrotourism' can be defined as field trips initiated by farmers to give tourists an experience of agriculture and rural culture. To enjoy these tours and various activities there, some fee is paid by the tourists to the farmers who run the agrotourism centers. At the same time, the local products and agricultural products put up for sale at the agrotourism center are bought by the tourists.*
- b. **Raigad District:** *'Raigad' is a district in the western part of Maharashtra, which is not only historically important but also rich in natural resources. This district is situated on the shores of the Arabian Sea and falls in the Konkan Division of Maharashtra. The hilly area in the district mainly belongs to the Sahyadri mountain ranges. Raigad district is bordered by Mumbai and Thane districts to the north, Pune district to the east and Ratnagiri district to the south and the Arabian Sea to the west. Raigad district has a total of 15 talukas, the major cities of the district include Alibaug, Panvel and Navi Mumbai.*
- c. **Opportunities:** *This includes comprehensive potential opportunities for Agrotourism development in Raigad district, which primarily focusing on economic and social development opportunities.*
- d. **Challenges:** *This has reviewed the current challenges in the development of Agrotourism business in Raigad district, from the perspective of farmers and tourists.*

Objective:

- a) *To study the comprehensive potential and opportunities in Raigad district for the development of Agrotourism business.*
- b) *To study the current challenges in the development of Agrotourism business in Raigad district from the perspectives of farmers and tourists.*

Hypothesis:

- a) *The Agrotourism business has the potential to create many employment opportunities in rural areas.*
- b) *Just as starting an agrotourism center is expensive for the general farmer, similarly, the fees charged by agrotourism centers are not affordable for all ordinary tourists.*

Introduction

Agrotourism is becoming a good option for tourists who want to spend their time in rural areas, away from the stressful and busy lifestyle of cities, in close proximity to nature, and who are also interested in agriculture and rural lifestyle. At the same time, the agrotourism business is

proving to be very beneficial for young farmers in rural areas who want to earn more financial income without any stress on agriculture along with prosperous agriculture. This business has the potential to provide employment to both skilled and unskilled needy people in rural areas. Since this business is completely related to agriculture, farmers cannot ignore agriculture, so the development of agriculture can be achieved through this. Local products from rural areas are purchased on a large scale by tourists, which also contributes to the rural economy. The development of hotels, means of transportation, artists performing rural art, local artisans earning a living through cottage industries is also encouraged.

Research Methodology

This research paper uses the fundamental research method as research methodology and utilizes secondary sources for factual collection. For the collection of data researcher has referred books, research papers, articles, the Internet etc. as sources of data.

Results And Discussion

Agrotourism is becoming popular among farmers as well as among tourists living in urban areas. The nature of Konkan always attracts tourists. If agriculture is properly combined with its beaches, rural culture, rural traditions, special festivals, food culture, rural arts and sports, then there is a good scope for the development of a business like agrotourism here. However, just as every coin has two sides, there are also many challenges in the development of agrotourism here. The opportunities and challenges for the development of agrotourism in Raigad district of Konkan can be stated as follows.

1. We have seen that tourists visiting agrotourism centers mainly come from cities. Raigad district is close to cities like Mumbai, Thane, Panvel, Pune, Nashik. Therefore, for urban tourists, coming to Raigad district to visit Agrotourism centers is more convenient in terms of distance, time and transportation.
2. Raigad district has ancient historical sites, attractive beaches, and wonderful places in the Western Ghats, which are blessed by the nature, and always attract tourists. These include the Matheran a famous hill station all over India, the Ashtavinayak temples in Mahad and Pali, Elephanta Caves on Gharapuri Island and the Raigad Fort, which was the capital of the Maratha Empire during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, as well as Colaba Fort, Murud-Janjira Fort, Sudhagad Fort. If good quality agrotourism centers are established near all these places, they can get a good response from tourists.
3. Tourists who come to visit agrotourism centers come to experience various cropping systems, various methods of farming, emerging technologies, there livestock and to spend time with nature, as well as to taste fresh vegetables and fruits from the fields. Therefore, it is essential for farmers running agrotourism centers to keep their farms prosperous to attract tourists. This in turn contributes to the development of agriculture and nature conservation.
4. Tourists who come to visit agrotourism centers buy agricultural products kept for sale at the center, various food items and goods prepared by self-help groups, handicrafts and decorative items prepared by rural local artisans. This creates a small market and customers there.
5. Various programs like Tamasha, Bharud, Lavani, Vasudev, Gondal, Drama are organized by local folk artists at such agrotourism centers to entertain the tourists visiting the agrotourism centers and to enable them to experience the local folk art and traditions. This provides some financial income to such folk artists for their livelihood.
6. The agrotourism center requires security guards, tour guides, cooks, sanitation workers, etc., which can provide employment to local youth and women. At the same time, activities such as bullock carts, horse carts, horse riding, fishing, boating, etc. are provided for the entertainment of tourists. In such places, the locals who have the above resources can be accommodated and provided employment to them.

7. To start an agrotourism center, along with good agriculture, it is necessary to have some basic facilities for tourists at the agrotourism center, including separate toilets for men and women, sufficient clean water for consumption and drinking, a clean kitchen and a dining arrangement. Along with this, it is also necessary to hire the necessary staff for the convenience of tourists. The cost of setting up all these components is beyond the reach of ordinary farmers, except for a few wealthy farmers.
8. The fees charged by agrotourism centers set up with necessary facilities, which are proportional to all costs and required profits, are often unaffordable for the general tourist.
9. Tourists visiting agrotourism centers mainly come to visit on Sundays and holidays, which causes financial problems for those who are completely dependent on agrotourism centers for their livelihood during the rest of the week.

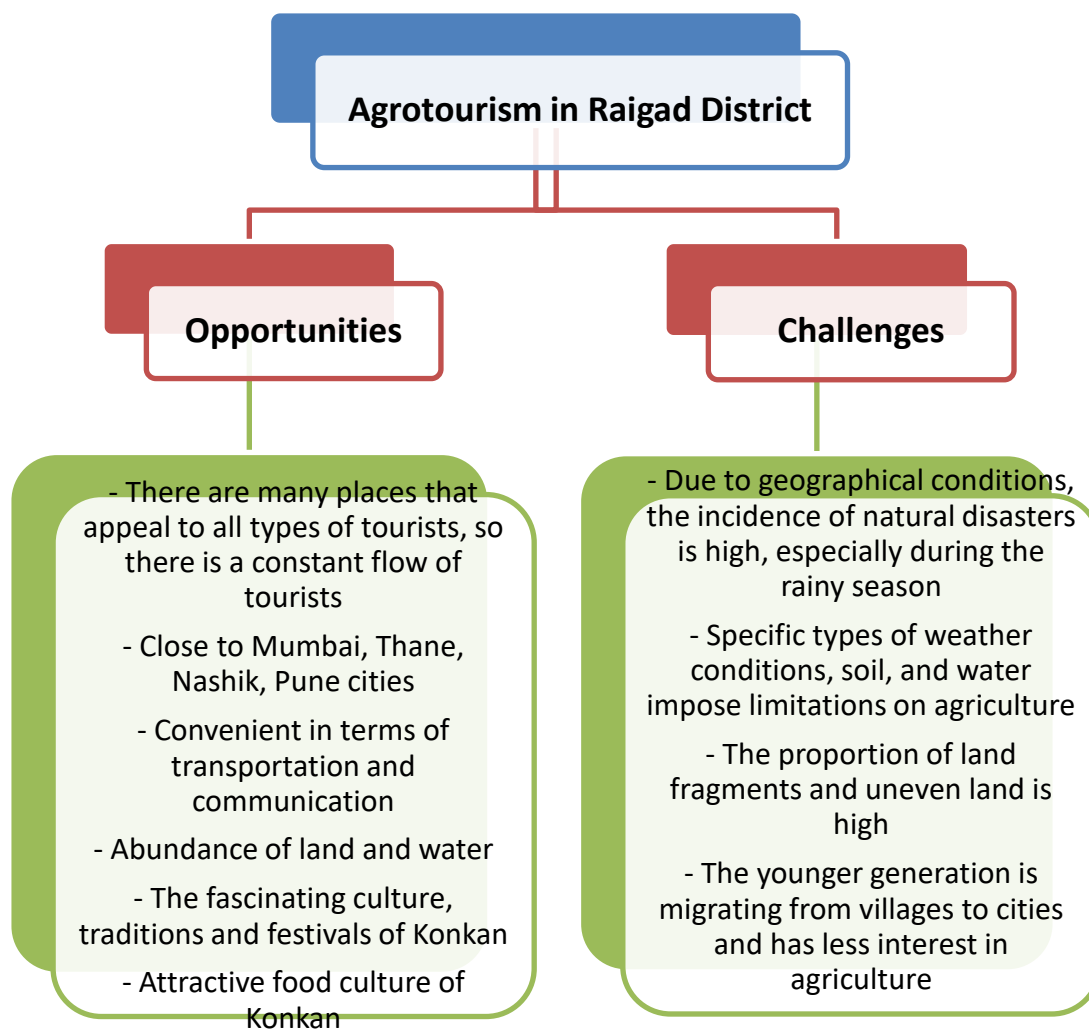


Fig.1. Various aspects of Agrotourism in Raigad district in terms of Opportunities and Challenges

CONCLUSION

1. Farmers and youth who are not financially viable and have small agricultural areas can come together and start an agrotourism center on a cooperative basis. This will not only make it easier to raise financial capital, but will also provide sufficient land and some manpower initially.
2. Farmers running agrotourism centers can keep open the agrotourism centers only on weekly holidays and other holidays, and on other days they can devote enough time to required agricultural activities. This avoids the danger of neglecting agriculture.

3. The staff at the agrotourism centers can be employed by engaging them in agricultural activities on days of the week when tourists do not visit the agrotourism centers.
4. Tourists visiting agrotourism centers use local transportation, shop at local shops, and even dine at hotels, thus indirectly contributing to the progress of other local elements in the rural areas.
5. It is possible that farmers operating agrotourism centers blindly adopt the latest resort culture to attract more tourists, which will undermine the original purpose of agrotourism.
6. If banks provide loans at concessional rates for setting up the agrotourism center, and the government provides subsidies and exemptions on other essential items such as electricity bills and taxes, it will be more affordable for farmers to start and run agrotourism centers. This will also reduce the tourist fees, so that it will be affordable for tourists to visit such tourist centers.

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Caste Dynamics: Contemporary India

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Abstract:

Caste in India is as old as Indian society itself. Caste is a recording history of India. Anybody can understand the Indian society through the Lense of caste. Caste comes from the Portuguese word “Casta” which means to be born into. Caste gives an identity to the people on the basis of birth. Caste is also considered as a system driven by your primordial origin and identity. In Marathi caste is known by the term called “Jati”. We can understand the social stratification through the institution of caste. Caste is a unique institution in India only, its did not present in any other country except India. Caste is a part of Hindu fold. Caste is having both negative and positive connotation and had been an integral part of Indian society.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar called annihilation of the caste because it has certain norms which discriminate and exploit certain caste groups of the society from accessing basic facilities because of restrictions imposed on them by the cultural norms of society.

Competition between the caste. Caste speaks about the empirical nature of Indian society. Caste is a contextual view/ empirical view. And varna is a ideal view. Caste mobility is happening through the point of reference. Different caste has different structure of family and kinship. Caste does not carry a singular hierarchy.

Caste is having two types of hierarchy secular hierarchy and the ritual hierarchy. In secular hierarchy position of caste is determined by the income, occupation, education, political power, huge land, political connect and power relationship. Once you have money, you can take new caste name, new caste occupation, people accept your newfound status because, they are economically dependent on you. Ritual hierarchy in which position of caste is determined by the birth, ritual, way of life, dress, manners, speech, behavior, food etc. for example, brahmins are the one holding highest or top position by the ritual hierarchy.

Keywords: Caste hierarchy, discrimination, disparity, purity and pollution, endogamy, hypergamy, hereditary, norm, twice-born.

Discussion:

Caste had been extensively researched by the foreigners to understand the norms and values of the caste. So that they can be able to rule over them. And Britishers found out that, in Indian society one peculiar institution is present called caste which is known as Jat. Caste is the source of different factors such as social structure is also based on caste. People are getting identity from the caste. Various varieties of entitlements are defined by the caste. Shudra should be serving everybody.

Occupation is also determined by the caste. Such as access to land, access to education, social status is also largely influenced by the caste. So, the caste is one of the most crucial institution in the society. Public positions are influenced by the caste. Colonial rulers wanted to know absolutely about the people so that it becomes easier to rule over the people. They wanted to understand caste for two reasons one is academic and another is administrative interest. To understand the caste, they developed different theories on origin of the caste.

To know the people of India more intensely. such as varna theory to caste, by J. H. Hutton. He advocated people of India are divided on four different varna groups, each varna is entitled to go for a given kind of occupation. common assumption about caste is sub-division of varna is giving rise to caste. European considered caste as a hierarchical system, in which top and bottom positions are fixed brahmins and untouchables respectively, and concluded that caste produces hierarchy. In past both ritual and secular hierarchy are integrated/ interrelated to each other.

John Freier said each linguistic zone in India, there are around 200 caste groups are present all over India.

When modernity comes, every section of the society want larger share over the modernity, that may be government jobs, access to industry, political participation, other kinds of affluence, through caste homogenization and collective caste mobilization taken place, so that they will have a maximum control over progressive modernity.

different sociologist has different views on the caste.

1) Louis Dumont:

For Dumont caste is an ideological system. So, the caste is getting traditional cultural support for everything. Caste conflict is also a conflict of interest over the occupation, power, land position etc. and cultural ideology says that the superiority is our cultural privilege. For example, in entire state of Maharashtra during the 2024 election of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. Main agenda of the campaign was the caste, in which the other backward classes were turned against the large Maratha community to win the election and its has turned into the formation of the government by wining election with huge margin, and equality is a constitutional provision, both the ideological values are contesting with each other, which is the product of caste conflict. Caste conflict or violence is the latent function in the form of power relationship. People of one sub-caste come together to stand opposite or against another caste.

2) G. S. Ghurye:

He did his Ph.D. on caste. Title of his dissertation is *caste and race in India, 1932*. In his work he studies the caste in the perspective of comparative, Indological, historical and integrative. according to him entire Indian society is continued on the feature of caste. Caste acted as an integrative force in the Indian society and this is visible or reflected in the today's context of India. Caste solidarity is strengthening. H said that problem of caste is divided into smaller unit, they instead of calling themselves sub-caste, they are calling caste so that they can distinguish themselves from other caste. Solidarity of caste is getting momentum. Ghurye talks interpretation of text, use historical secondary data to study the caste system.

3) M. N. Srinivas:

He was a structure functionalist. To study caste he used village study method. It was very crucial for the studding the rural social transformation and reservation policy through the view of caste. He offered the field view on caste. He conducted empirical research in different villages of India on caste. He found out that caste is not a static system, it is a dynamic system. He shown that caste and varna had huge differences from one another. Caste is a system of stratification, through which he explained the mobility weather upward or downward by using Sanskritization theory.

He also studied the linkage between the caste and politics which includes relationship between the caste and public policy, such as reservation policy, family system. He wrote essay on obituary to caste, which means caste is dying out, caste may be disappearing in India, its functional role may be squeezing, but in reality, caste is reviving itself with such a great force that it became a part of modern lifestyle in contemporary India.

4) Dipankar Gupta:

He advocated caste is one identity, which is used, misused, abused and overused many times. caste is staying in society but individual and family interest are more important than the caste. Caste is form of mobility is changing its basic paradigm depending on the demand of the situation. People belonging to caste, belonging to different class status will be homogenizing together for reservation.

Family interest, forgetting caste all members of the family will be supporting to each other for economic, academic progress, upliftment, the status improvement of the family. Therefore, India is not driven by caste and always driven by the class. Therefore, what caste

5) Andre Beteille:

Caste is changing its role depending on demands of time and situation. Within a caste people have gone for different kinds of occupation. Within a caste class formation has taken place.

Interpersonal relationship among people is not just confined to caste. Many times, interpersonal relationship are cutting across their caste identity and people are coming together on the basis of class interest. Therefore, one cannot say interpersonal relationship in India are just caste specific. interpersonal relationship is dynamic. interpersonal Relationship cannot be just specified in economic, political terms, specific interest. When caste and class interest go together but family status is different, interpersonal relationship is bound to be different.

6) **Mahatma Gandhi:**

Believes caste as a form of practice, which is unwanted, unsolicited, perversion. caste has to go. caste has nothing to do with the religion.

7) **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:**

He is talking about caste as a system which is Brahminic, Hindu centric, cultural and greatly responsible for marginalization of large section of the society, who are not able to explore their talent and enjoy equality in human society. He believes foundation of caste or caste is coming out of Hindu religion.

Conclusion:

Caste is affecting every bodies life in one form or the other. Caste is there in the air for different purposes. Caste is having different kinds of contemporary relevance, including significance, uses and abuses of the caste. Caste in India is going in the process of fusion and fission. unity and division are one of the features of the caste in India. Man, and caste in India are absolutely inseparable or indivisible. caste is an such an invisible force which have been shaping power sharing in the Indian society.

Sanskritization and secular mobility is taking place in India. secular structure is always dynamic. Through Sanskritization and reference group behavior people intend to tell that getting secular support people belonging to lower caste are improving their social status and position and proclaiming their higher caste status. Substantialization of caste have been takes place and caste as a hierarchy is becoming stronger.

Therefore, what caste was in past, we can not expect same role to play caste in today. Caste is institution changing its basic orientation depending on the changing times. How in contemporary India. Progressive caste groups are secularly asking for reservation for example, Jats, Patidar, and Maratha. Caste is used as platform for collective mobilization for the gratification of the contemporary interest.

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Development of the IT Industry Due to the Special Economic Zones at Pune

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Abstract

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have become a significant driving force behind the development of India's IT industry. Pune, a growing city with a rich technological and educational background, has witnessed remarkable growth in its IT sector, largely due to the establishment of SEZs. This paper explores the development of the IT industry in Pune, with a focus on the role of SEZs in this transformation. The research methodology involves a qualitative approach, utilizing case studies of prominent SEZs in Pune, along with a review of existing literature on SEZs, the IT industry, and their mutual impacts. The paper provides a detailed analysis of the impact of SEZs on job creation, infrastructure development, foreign investment, and the overall economic growth of Pune.

1. Introduction

The role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in fostering economic growth has been a subject of significant research globally. In India, SEZs have proven to be a vital tool in promoting industrial development and export activities, particularly in the Information Technology (IT) sector. Pune, a key city in Maharashtra, has seen its IT industry flourish largely due to the establishment of various SEZs. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the relationship between SEZs and the development of Pune's IT industry, examining the contributions of these zones to the city's technological and economic progress.

Understanding Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are designated areas within a country that are subject to unique economic regulations, often aimed at encouraging business activities, particularly in export-oriented industries. The primary objectives of SEZs are to increase foreign investment, boost exports, and create employment opportunities.

What Are Special Economic Zones?

An SEZ is a geographically defined area within a country where the business regulations differ from the rest of the country. These zones are set up with the aim of attracting investment, providing infrastructure support, and creating jobs. Typically, SEZs offer incentives like tax exemptions, simplified customs procedures, and relaxed labour laws to encourage businesses to establish operations.

Key Features and Benefits of SEZs

1. **Tax Exemptions:** SEZs offer tax incentives such as exemption from import duties, income tax holidays, and exemptions from GST, providing significant financial relief to companies operating in these zones.
2. **Infrastructure Support:** SEZs come with well-developed infrastructure, including uninterrupted power supply, state-of-the-art telecommunications, and dedicated transportation networks.
3. **Export-Oriented Growth:** SEZs are primarily focused on promoting exports, offering businesses easy access to global markets.

Pune's Strategic Location and Infrastructure

Pune, located in the state of Maharashtra, has gained recognition as an emerging IT hub due to its favourable geographical location, robust infrastructure, and proximity to Mumbai, India's financial capital. The city boasts a rich cultural heritage, a strong educational system, and a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem, all of which contribute to its appeal as a destination for IT businesses.

Geographic Advantage of Pune

Pune's strategic location, nestled between Mumbai and Bangalore, places it at the crossroads of two major economic centres. This geographical positioning allows Pune to leverage the connectivity and market access offered by both cities, making it an attractive location for multinational IT firms.

Development of Infrastructure in Pune

The city has invested heavily in upgrading its infrastructure to meet the demands of the growing IT sector. Key developments include enhanced transportation links, expansion of residential and commercial areas, and the construction of modern office spaces, all of which cater to the needs of IT companies and their employees.

Evolution of the IT Industry in Pune

The IT industry in Pune has evolved significantly over the last few decades. The city's transformation into an IT powerhouse began in the 1990s when global companies started setting up operations in the region. Today, Pune is home to over 1,000 IT and IT-enabled service companies, making it one of India's top IT hubs.

2. Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research methodology to investigate the development of the IT industry in Pune due to the establishment of SEZs. The research methodology includes:

- **Case Study Analysis:** We analyze case studies of SEZs in Pune, focusing on their role in fostering the growth of the IT sector. This includes examining infrastructure development, tax incentives, and the creation of business ecosystems conducive to IT growth.
- **Literature Review:** A comprehensive review of existing literature on SEZs, their benefits, challenges, and their impact on industrial development is conducted to provide contextual insights.
- **Interviews and Expert Opinions:** Interviews with stakeholders, such as IT professionals, policymakers, and business owners in SEZs, are used to gather real-time data and opinions on the subject.
- **Secondary Data Analysis:** Statistical data, such as employment growth in the IT sector, tax benefits, and foreign investment in SEZs, is collected from government reports and industry surveys.

3. Literature Review

A thorough literature review highlights the historical development and benefits of SEZs, as well as their influence on the IT industry in Pune.

3.1 The Concept of Special Economic Zones

Special Economic Zones are geographically defined areas where businesses are subject to different economic regulations than those that apply in the rest of the country. The idea behind SEZs is to promote exports, attract foreign investment, create employment opportunities, and boost industrialization. SEZs are characterized by infrastructure development, tax incentives, and simplified administrative procedures, making them attractive to multinational companies (Ganguly, 2005).

3.2 SEZs and Their Role in Economic Growth

Numerous studies have explored the economic benefits of SEZs. According to the World Bank (2007), SEZs have been instrumental in driving industrialization in developing countries by providing a platform for trade and investment. These zones encourage international companies to set up operations due to their favourable business environment. Several authors have pointed out that

SEZs act as engines of growth by generating employment, fostering entrepreneurship, and facilitating technology transfer (Farole, 2011).

3.3 The IT Industry in India

India's IT industry has become a global powerhouse, with cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune playing a central role in this transformation. According to a report by NASSCOM (2020), the IT and business process management sector in India contributes approximately 8% to the country's GDP. Pune, in particular, has emerged as a key player in the IT sector due to its excellent educational infrastructure, skilled workforce, and proximity to Mumbai, the financial hub of India.

3.4 SEZs and the Growth of Pune's IT Industry

The establishment of SEZs in Pune has significantly contributed to the city's IT industry growth. Several scholars argue that the creation of IT-focused SEZs, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park and Magarpatta SEZ, has enhanced Pune's attractiveness as an investment destination. These zones have provided state-of-the-art infrastructure, fiscal incentives, and simplified regulatory processes, thus enabling IT companies to flourish. In their study, Sharma and Ramesh (2018) concluded that SEZs in Pune have acted as a catalyst for the growth of the IT sector, offering facilities that attract both domestic and international players.

3.5 Job Creation and Economic Impact

SEZs have been pivotal in creating job opportunities in Pune. The growth of IT companies in these zones has led to significant job creation, not only in the IT sector but also in related industries such as real estate, hospitality, and retail. Research by the Indian Ministry of Commerce (2016) shows that SEZs in Pune have contributed substantially to employment generation. Furthermore, the impact of the IT industry on Pune's economy has been far-reaching, boosting the city's GDP and contributing to its rapid urbanization.

3.6 Challenges of SEZs

Despite the numerous benefits, there are challenges associated with SEZs. Critics argue that the benefits of SEZs are often unevenly distributed and may lead to environmental degradation and social inequality (Batra, 2015). Issues such as land acquisition, regulatory hurdles, and high operational costs can limit the potential of SEZs in certain regions. In Pune, concerns have been raised about the rising cost of living and land prices due to the expansion of SEZs.

4. Discussion and Analysis

The analysis of Pune's SEZs and their impact on the IT sector reveals several key findings:

- **Infrastructure Development:** SEZs in Pune have spurred the development of world-class infrastructure. IT companies in these zones benefit from reliable power supply, high-speed internet, and efficient transport networks. These facilities attract both national and international companies to set up operations in Pune.
- **Tax Incentives and Financial Benefits:** The fiscal incentives provided by SEZs, such as tax exemptions and subsidies, have made Pune an attractive destination for IT firms. This has allowed many companies to reduce their operational costs and increase profitability, thus contributing to the overall growth of the IT sector.
- **Job Creation and Skill Development:** SEZs have contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in Pune's IT industry. The availability of skilled labour, coupled with skill development programs in partnership with educational institutions, has helped meet the demands of the rapidly growing IT sector.
- **Foreign Investment and Global Recognition:** The establishment of SEZs in Pune has attracted significant foreign direct investment (FDI), boosting the city's global recognition as an IT hub. International companies, including IBM, Accenture, and Microsoft, have set up operations in Pune, further enhancing the city's technological and business ecosystem.
- **Challenges and Sustainability:** While SEZs have contributed positively to Pune's IT growth, challenges related to land acquisition, rising costs, and regulatory inefficiencies need

to be addressed. A balanced approach is needed to ensure sustainable growth and equitable distribution of the benefits of SEZs.

This chart can track various metrics related to the growth of the IT industry in Pune. These might include metrics such as:

- **Number of IT Companies** in Pune (focusing on SEZs)
- **Employment Growth** in the IT sector
- **Investment in Infrastructure**
- **Export Revenue Generated by IT Companies**
- **Increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in SEZs

Data for the Chart (Hypothetical Example)

The data provided below is hypothetical and serves as an example of how the IT industry might have developed due to SEZs in Pune over the last decade. You can adjust this data as per actual reports from industry sources.

Year	No. of IT Companies in SEZs	Employment Growth (%)	Investment in Infrastructure (₹ Crores)	Export Revenue (₹ Crores)	FDI Inflow (₹ Crores)
2014	150	5%	1000	5000	200
2015	170	8%	1200	5500	250
2016	190	7%	1400	6000	300
2017	210	6%	1600	6500	350
2018	240	9%	1800	7000	400
2019	260	10%	2000	7500	450
2020	280	12%	2200	8000	500
2021	310	15%	2500	9000	550
2022	340	14%	2800	10000	600
2023	380	16%	3000	11000	650

Explanation of the Data:

1. **Number of IT Companies in SEZs:** This metric shows the growing number of IT firms setting up operations within Pune’s SEZs. Over the years, the establishment of SEZs in Pune, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park and Magarpatta SEZ, has attracted both domestic and international IT companies.
2. **Employment Growth (%):** The percentage increase in employment in the IT sector due to the growth of IT companies in SEZs. As the number of IT companies increases, the demand for skilled employees rises, leading to significant job creation in Pune.
3. **Investment in Infrastructure:** This shows the increasing investment in infrastructure (such as buildings, roads, and utilities) in the SEZs to support IT growth. Pune has seen significant improvements in infrastructure as a result of these investments.
4. **Export Revenue (₹ Crores):** This tracks the export revenue generated by IT companies in Pune’s SEZs. The favourable business environment created by SEZs has facilitated the growth of the IT export sector, with companies tapping into global markets.
5. **FDI Inflow (₹ Crores):** This shows the foreign direct investment flowing into Pune’s SEZs. Pune’s SEZs have become attractive destinations for international investors, thanks to tax incentives, world-class infrastructure, and access to skilled labour.

Chart Representation

To visualize this data in a chart, you can use a **line graph** or a **bar chart** to show the trends over the 10-year period. Here's how the data can be plotted:

1. **X-axis:** Years (2014 - 2023)

2. **Y-axis:** Values for each metric (you could use a secondary axis if needed for metrics like FDI and Export Revenue to show different scales)

This chart would clearly highlight the growth patterns in each of the areas over the last decade, demonstrating how the SEZs in Pune have driven the development of the IT industry in the region.

5. Conclusion

The development of Pune's IT industry can be attributed to the strategic establishment of SEZs, which have provided the necessary infrastructure, financial incentives, and regulatory environment for growth. The contribution of SEZs in driving employment, fostering innovation, and attracting foreign investment has been significant. However, addressing the challenges related to high operational costs and regulatory inefficiencies will be crucial in ensuring the continued success of Pune as a global IT hub.

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Export and Employment Generation in Pune District's Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

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Abstract

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have emerged as critical hubs for export promotion and employment generation in India. This research paper examines the impact of SEZs on exports and job creation in Pune district, a prominent industrial region in Maharashtra. The study highlights sector-specific contributions, policy frameworks, and the socio-economic implications of SEZ-driven growth.

1. Introduction

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) play a pivotal role in driving economic growth by fostering exports and creating employment opportunities. Pune district, a significant industrial hub in India, has emerged as a key player in this process due to its well-established SEZ infrastructure. The region's strategic location, coupled with strong industrial and technological ecosystems, has attracted both domestic and international investors.

The concept of SEZs was introduced in India to enhance foreign investment, boost exports, and promote industrial development. Pune's SEZs have contributed significantly to these objectives by facilitating the export of goods and services across various sectors such as automotive, information technology, and biotechnology. These zones offer businesses tax incentives, simplified regulatory frameworks, and world-class infrastructure, making them attractive destinations for setting up export-oriented units.

Moreover, the employment landscape in Pune has experienced a substantial transformation due to SEZ-driven industrial growth. With the establishment of export-oriented industries, job creation has increased, leading to economic empowerment and skill development among the local population. SEZs have provided employment across diverse roles, ranging from entry-level positions to specialized technical and managerial roles.

This study aims to explore the contribution of Pune's SEZs toward export enhancement and employment generation. It will analyze how these zones have influenced the district's economic development and assess the challenges and opportunities associated with their growth. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for policymakers, businesses, and stakeholders aiming to optimize the region's economic potential.

2. Literature Review

The role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in promoting exports and generating employment has been extensively studied in the context of developing economies, including India. Researchers have explored various dimensions such as policy frameworks, economic impact, and socio-economic benefits derived from SEZ development. This review focuses on the contributions of SEZs in Pune district, emphasizing export growth and employment generation.

SEZs and Export Performance

Numerous studies have highlighted the positive influence of SEZs on export performance. According to Aggarwal (2012), SEZs in India have been instrumental in enhancing the country's export capacity by offering fiscal incentives and a conducive business environment. Pune, known

for its industrial and IT sectors, has benefited significantly from its SEZs, particularly in sectors like automotive manufacturing, information technology, and biotechnology.

A study by Sharma and Singh (2018) found that the establishment of SEZs in Pune has led to increased export volumes due to reduced trade barriers, improved logistics, and supportive infrastructure. Similarly, Deshmukh (2019) observed that export-oriented units in Pune's SEZs have experienced consistent growth due to streamlined regulatory frameworks and competitive business ecosystems.

Employment Generation Through SEZs

The employment-generating potential of SEZs has been widely acknowledged. Das and Mishra (2015) examined the role of SEZs in job creation and found that these zones have led to significant employment growth in urban and semi-urban regions. Pune's SEZs have created thousands of direct and indirect jobs, contributing to reduced unemployment and skill development in the region.

Research by Kulkarni (2020) revealed that Pune's SEZs have generated employment across various skill levels, from entry-level jobs in manufacturing units to specialized roles in IT services. The demand for skilled labor has encouraged educational and vocational training institutions to collaborate with industries, fostering a skilled workforce.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite the positive impacts, some researchers have pointed out challenges faced by SEZs in achieving their full potential. Issues such as land acquisition disputes, environmental concerns, and fluctuating policy frameworks have been discussed by Patil and Mehta (2017). Their study indicated that while SEZs in Pune have largely succeeded, addressing infrastructure bottlenecks and ensuring policy consistency are critical for sustained growth.

3. Research Methodology

The study uses a mixed-methods approach. Data was collected from government reports, export promotion councils, and SEZ development authorities. Interviews with SEZ officials and industry representatives provided qualitative insights.

Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to evaluate how exports from SEZs contribute to employment generation in Pune district. The descriptive aspect focuses on providing a comprehensive overview of SEZs and their operational framework, while the analytical aspect examines the employment impact quantitatively.

Data Collection Methods

Primary Data

Primary data was collected through structured interviews and surveys targeting SEZ officials, exporters, and employees working within SEZs. A well-designed questionnaire was used to gather data on employment patterns, job creation rates, and export volumes.

Secondary Data

Secondary data was sourced from government reports, SEZ policy documents, research articles, and statistical databases like the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), and the Pune District Industrial Center.

Sampling Technique

A stratified random sampling method was used to ensure representation from various SEZs in Pune district. Key stakeholders, including government officials, business owners, and employees from different sectors within SEZs, were selected.

Sample Size

The sample size was determined based on the total number of operational SEZ units in Pune district. A representative sample of 100 respondents, including company executives, laborers, and government officials, was considered adequate for statistical reliability.

Data Analysis Tools

Quantitative data analysis was performed using statistical tools such as SPSS and MS Excel. Descriptive statistics, regression analysis, and correlation methods were employed to assess the relationship between exports and employment generation.

Reliability and Validity

The research instruments were pre-tested to ensure reliability and validity. Consistency checks were applied, and data triangulation was performed by comparing findings from multiple sources.

Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical research standards by ensuring confidentiality, obtaining informed consent, and maintaining data integrity throughout the research process.

Limitations

Potential limitations include limited access to proprietary company data, changes in government policies during the study period, and the possibility of respondent bias.

By employing this comprehensive methodology, the study aims to provide valuable insights into how SEZs in Pune district contribute to export growth and employment generation, aiding policy-making and economic development strategies.

4. Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Export Performance: Pune's SEZs, including Hinjewadi IT Park and Chakan Industrial Area, have driven export growth, particularly in IT services, automotive components, and precision engineering. Export volumes have steadily increased due to policy support, world-class infrastructure, and global market access.

4.2 Employment Generation: The SEZs in Pune have created direct and indirect employment opportunities. Direct jobs include roles in IT, manufacturing, and logistics, while indirect employment encompasses services like transportation and catering. Government incentives have encouraged firms to hire locally.

4.3 Challenges: Despite successes, SEZs in Pune face challenges such as regulatory compliance, land acquisition disputes, and environmental concerns. Policy revisions and streamlined administrative procedures could enhance performance.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations Pune's SEZs have significantly contributed to export growth and employment creation. However, addressing policy gaps and improving infrastructure will further enhance their effectiveness. Recommendations include fostering skill development programs, simplifying regulatory frameworks, and promoting sustainable practices.

Table 1: Export and Employment Generation in Pune District's SEZs

SEZ Name	Major Sectors	Export	Export Value (₹ Crores)	Direct Employment	Indirect Employment
Hinjewadi IT Park	IT & Services	Software	15,000	100,000	50,000
Chakan Industrial SEZ	Automotive & Engineering		10,500	75,000	40,000
Ranjangaon MIDC SEZ	Electronics & Textiles		8,200	50,000	25,000
Talegaon SEZ	Food Processing & Pharma		5,700	30,000	15,000

Conclusion

The study on export and employment generation in Pune district's SEZs highlights the critical role played by export-driven economic zones in creating job opportunities and boosting regional development. SEZs have been instrumental in attracting foreign investment, fostering industrial growth, and enhancing global trade competitiveness. The findings suggest a positive correlation between export performance and employment creation, reinforcing the importance of supportive

government policies and infrastructure development. Sustainable growth in SEZs can be achieved through policy reforms, skill development programs, and continuous monitoring of employment metrics.

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2. Export Promotion Council of India Publications
3. World Bank Reports on SEZ Policy Impact
4. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. (Various Reports and Publications).
5. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Database.
6. Pune District Industrial Center Records.
7. Research articles on SEZ policy and economic impact published in academic journals.
8. World Trade Organization (WTO) Reports on Global Trade and SEZ Performance.
9. Books and industry reports on export management and regional development.

This research highlights the dynamic role of SEZs in fostering economic development in Pune district, emphasizing the need for continuous policy support and infrastructure development for sustainable growth.

Persistence of Tribal Women in Entrepreneurial Journey

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Introduction

It has been observed that a group of tribal women from Neral region of Raigarh district, Maharashtra, engage in a unique entrepreneurial practice. They travel every alternate day to Parel, Mumbai, to sell a marginal forest produce locally known as “Kuda Leaves” and botanically known as “*Holarrhena Antidysenterica*”. These leaves are mainly used in the making of traditional garlands. These leaves are mainly found in dense forest and are not generally cultivated. It is a popular produce in the region’s flower market. Their objective is to sell the “Kuda Leaves” to traders, adhering to a regular entrepreneurial practice that has become a part of their livelihood strategy.

Throughout the entrepreneurial process, the tribal women encounter a range of challenges. These include the risks associated with the collection of the leaves from dense forest, administrative hurdles, skilled and tiring nature of packing and packaging process, inconvenient transportation. Additionally, they face public reaction and harassment while travelling by train, traffic congestion, infrastructural inadequacies and adverse weather conditions. The perishable nature of the “Kuda Leaves” further complicates the process, as the product must be sold quickly to avoid spoilage. Despite the considerable challenges, these women continue to engage in the sale of “Kuda Leaves” as a means of subsistence.

They typically arrive at Parel, Mumbai late in the evening carrying their produce and depart again late at night, following a routine that has been established over a time. The fact that these women willingly undertake a journey of approximately 200 km (including return) under such constraints is striking, as the financial returns from this work may be uncertain and often insufficient. They have maintained this practice over an extended period, even though their earnings often rarely meet their fundamental needs. This situation raises an important question about the dynamics that drive the tribal women to persist in entrepreneurial journey.

Despite an extensive review of the available literature on tribal women entrepreneurship, no existing research or documentation adequately addresses the previously mentioned question. The absence of comprehensive explanation in the current body of knowledge has motivated investigator to seek a deeper understanding of the dynamics that enable the tribal women to persist in entrepreneurial journey despite the numerous obstacles they face. The identified gap in the literature has formed the base for the investigator's inquiry into the phenomenon, with the aim of uncovering the factors that support their subsistence in such a challenging entrepreneurial environment.

Literature Review

Women entrepreneurship drives socio-economic development and contributes to new job creation (Belitski and Desai, 2021; Pathak, 2021). However, the socio-economic impact of women entrepreneurship may vary depending on the motivations behind it. The size of the enterprise poses challenges for necessity-based women entrepreneurs, as managing a more extensive operation requires more time and energy, potentially encroaching upon their family responsibilities (Zhang *et al.*, 2020). Given the heavy family burdens and financial pressures, the high risks associated with larger enterprises may be untenable for necessity-based female entrepreneurs, leading them to opt for smaller businesses and a limited number of employees (Cesaroni, Pediconi and Sentuti, 2018). Additionally, family support becomes instrumental in providing funding and materials for establishing new startup (Barragan *et al.*, 2018). With strong legitimacy in the private sphere, necessity-based women entrepreneurs can effectively navigate the conflicts between entrepreneurship and family responsibilities, maintaining a positive mental state and allocating more

attention to their business. Consequently, they may expand their operations, create more job opportunities, and hire additional employees.

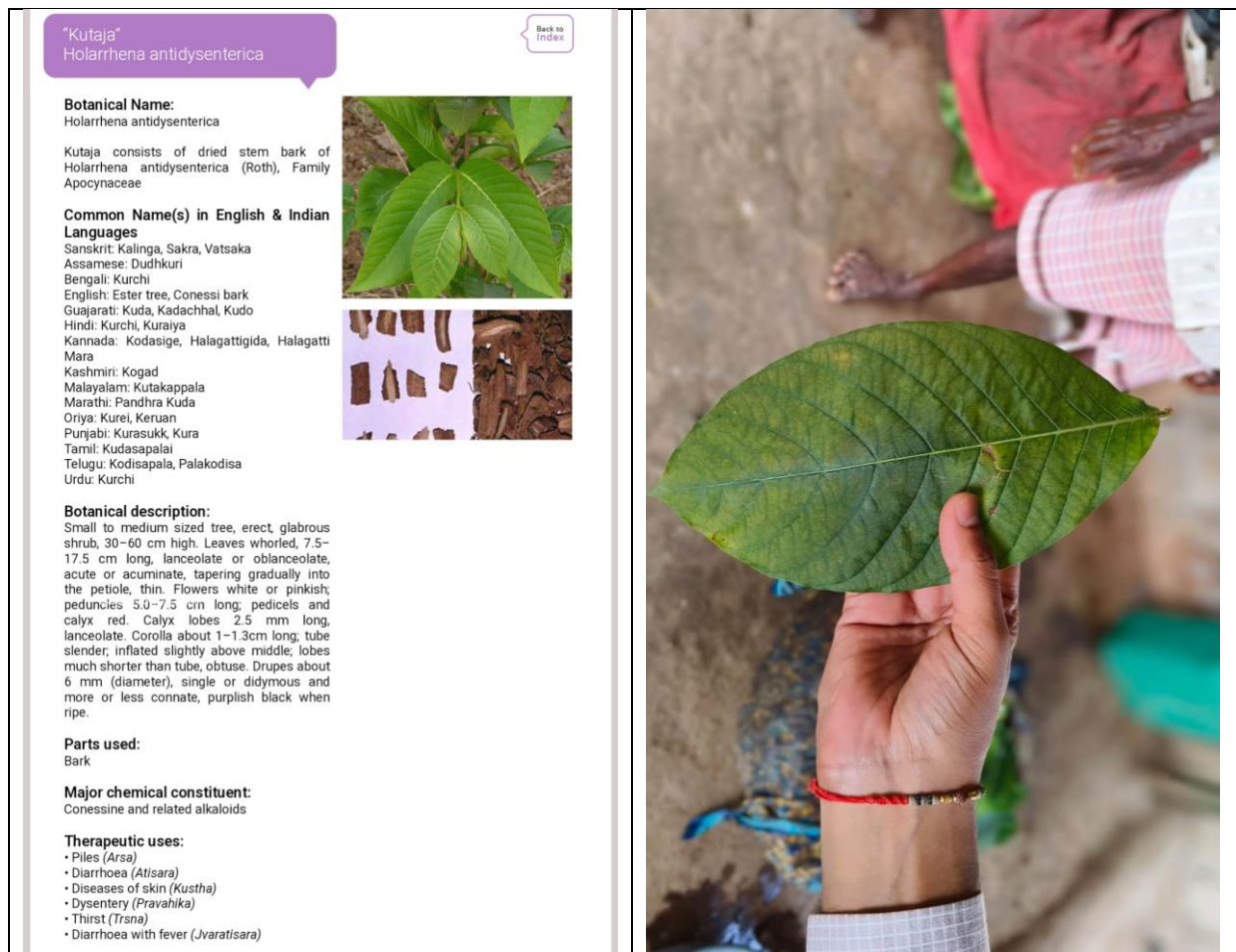


Figure No.1, Description of "Kuda Leaves".

Methodology

The study aims to reveal the contextual insights motivating tribal women entrepreneurs to engage with informal entrepreneur activity. Through snowball sampling, a group of five solo tribal women entrepreneurs participated in this study. The investigator participated in the entire process of entrepreneurial activity on field with the participants to have an experience of real situation. The investigator engaged participants through in-depth interviews conducted in a semi-structured format on field, allowing them to share their experiences freely. The participants were asked open-ended questions focusing on the factors influencing their experience of entrepreneurial ventures. The encoded interview transcripts and observations captured on field enabled investigator to unfold narratives through live experiences. The process of qualitative data analysis begun with data familiarization to make initial notations to establish a foundation for understanding. The initial step laid the groundwork for generating initial codes, which were further categorized to facilitate the identification of potential themes. As the analysis progressed through constant comparison, emerged a coherent theme.

Findings

Using a causal loop diagram in thematic analysis offers a dynamic approach to understand the relationships and interactions between themes identified in the data (Barbrook-Johnson and Penn, 2022). By constructing a causal loop diagram, investigator could map out the relationships graphically as expressed below.



Figure No.2, Causal loop diagram of findings.

Discussion

By visualising a thematic relationship between the variables, the causality has integrated. Thematic relationship offered insight into the dynamics driving the phenomena. The integration of facts into thematic analysis enriched the interpretive process by facilitating deeper insight into the interconnected nature of elements. The knowledge expressed below, provides an illustrative information emerged from the findings.

Self-motivation -

Self-motivation refers to an individual's ability to generate an inner enthusiasm to participate in personal or professional exercise without external force. Self-motivation contributes to better emotional well-being as well. Current study explored that the Self-motivation helped tribal women entrepreneurs to stay positive and persistent during adverse situation. Family Support, Community Engagement, Group Association and Positive Trading Process motivated the tribal women entrepreneurs to persist in challenging situation.

Resilience -

Resilience refers to an individual's capacity to recover from adversity. Resilience helps in managing stress, frustration and disappointment effectively. Resilient entrepreneurs do not easily give up when they face the entrepreneurial discomfort; rather persists in finding solutions and driving their exercise way forward. Current study explored that the Resilience helped tribal women entrepreneurs to cope with uncertainty as part of their entrepreneurial journey. Resilience in Seasonal Offerings, Precise Planning, Physical Ability and Resource Management enabled tribal women entrepreneurs to continue entrepreneurial engagement.

Optimism -

Optimism refers to an individual's capability to maintain a positive and hopeful outlook even in challenging or uncertain situations. Optimism fosters a positive attitude, which influences their approach to challenges as an entrepreneur. Current study explored that the Optimism fostered tribal women entrepreneurs to seek solutions and alternatives when they encountered obstacles rather than being discouraged. Optimistic approach in Honesty/Purity, Ambitiousness, Adjustment and Cooperation/Caring sustained tribal women entrepreneurs in their endeavor.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study investigates the factors motivating the tribal women in persistence of entrepreneurship. It has been uncovered through pull factors that the contextual dynamics explored in current study supports tribal women to persist in entrepreneurial journey for their subsistence. It is an established entrepreneurial ecosystem catering the need of livelihood, which can be strengthened through addressing structural inequalities.

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“Financial Management Among Municipal Corporations of Vasai-Virar”

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Abstract

Financial management plays a critical role in the effective functioning of municipal corporations, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas like Vasai-Virar. The Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) is tasked with managing the city's finances to ensure the delivery of essential services, infrastructure development, and sustainable growth. This paper explores the financial management practices within the municipal corporations of Vasai-Virar, focusing on budgeting, revenue generation, expenditure control, and financial accountability. Given the increasing urbanization and population growth in the Vasai-Virar region, efficient financial management is crucial to address the challenges of urban development, public service delivery, and infrastructure maintenance. By examining the financial practices of VVMC, this report aims to provide insights into how municipal corporations can optimize their financial resources to better serve their communities, promote economic growth, and achieve long-term sustainability. The paper explores the responsibilities and functions of municipal corporations of Vasai-Virar in managing urban areas, including revenue collection, service provision, and infrastructure development. Highlighting the need for sound financial practices to ensure the efficient allocation of resources, transparency, and accountability in governance. Discussion of common challenges faced by municipal corporations, such as limited revenue sources, increasing demand for services, and the need for sustainable development. The study aims to analyze the financial management strategies employed by the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation, identify key issues, and propose recommendations for improvement. This study explores the various aspects of financial management in the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation, analyzing revenue sources, expenditure patterns, budgetary performance, and fiscal sustainability. By examining these factors, the study aims to provide insights into the financial health of the corporation and suggest strategies for improving financial efficiency and service delivery.

Keywords: Financial Resources, Management, Revenue, Sustainable

Introduction

Financial management plays a pivotal role in the efficient functioning of municipal corporations, especially in rapidly growing urban areas like Vasai-Virar. As one of the most prominent municipal corporations in Maharashtra, the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVMC) is responsible for managing a wide array of public services and infrastructure, which are crucial for the well-being of its residents. This necessitates a robust and transparent financial management system to ensure optimal allocation and utilization of resources. The primary objective of financial management in municipal corporations is to ensure fiscal sustainability while delivering high-quality public services. It involves the strategic planning, organizing, directing, and controlling of financial activities, including budgeting, revenue generation, expenditure management, and financial reporting. The Vasai-Virar region has witnessed significant population growth and urban development in recent years, leading to increased demands for better infrastructure, sanitation, water supply, and other essential services. This growth presents both opportunities and challenges for financial management within the municipal corporation. Efficient financial management is crucial for addressing these challenges, ensuring financial stability, and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

Objectives

1. To evaluate the debt-to-revenue ratio, fiscal health and operational efficiency in the financial operations of VVMC.
2. To identify budget utilization, effective infrastructure development and service provision
3. To provide actionable recommendations for improving the financial management practices of VVMC, ensuring sustainable development and efficient service delivery.

Hypotheses

1. H1: The debt-to-revenue ratio significantly affects the fiscal health and operational efficiency of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.
H0: The debt-to-revenue ratio does not significantly affect the fiscal health and operational efficiency of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.
2. H1: Higher budget utilization rates are associated with more effective infrastructure development and service provision in the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.
H0: Higher budget utilization rates are not associated with more effective infrastructure development and service provision in the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.

Research Methodology

The research paper is based on secondary sources. It explores descriptions related to analyze and evaluate the financial management practices of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC). This approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the current financial systems, revenue sources, expenditure patterns, and financial challenges faced by the corporation. Annual financial reports and budgets of VVMC. Government publications, circulars, and audit reports related to municipal finance. Scholarly articles, books, and case studies on municipal financial management in India. Data from the Ministry of Urban Development, Maharashtra State Government, and other relevant authorities to analyze historical financial data, revenue trends, and expenditure patterns. Financial data from reports and budgets will be analyzed using statistical tools to identify trends, patterns, and discrepancies in revenue and expenditure.

Budget variance analysis will be conducted to assess financial performance against planned budgets. Access to certain financial documents or detailed records may be restricted due to confidentiality policies. The study may be limited by the availability of participants and the time required to collect and analyze data comprehensively. The research methodology outlined aims to provide a structured and comprehensive approach to studying the financial management practices of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation. Through the collection and analysis of data, the study seeks to offer actionable insights and recommendations for enhancing financial efficiency and accountability within the corporation. This methodology ensures a robust and in-depth analysis of the financial management systems in VVMC, contributing to the broader understanding of municipal finance in urban governance.

Key Financial Indicators and Performance

Few key financial indicators and performance metrics that provide insights into the financial health, efficiency, and effectiveness of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar.

1. Revenue sources for the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar are the property tax collection, water supply charges, grants-transfers and non-tax revenue. Where as the total property tax collected over the last 5 years. Percentage growth in property tax revenue year- on-year. Revenue from water supply services annually. Trends in water usage and billing efficiency. Amount of state and central government grants received. Proportion of grants in the total revenue. Revenue from other sources such as licensing fees, fines, and penalties. Growth trends in non-tax revenue.

Expenditure pattern of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar included operational expenditure, breakdown expenses, capital expenditure and debt servicing. Total annual operational costs consist salaries, maintenance, etc. Breakdown of expenditure incurred on key services such as sanitation, water supply, road maintenance. Investments of municipality arises in infrastructure projects such as roads, public buildings, etc. The municipal corporation of Vasai-

Virar undertakes major projects with annual capital expenditure trends. Amount spent on loan repayments and interest. Debt-to-revenue ratio over the last few years.

2. Budgetary performance of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar concern to budget allocation, its utilization and fiscal surplus. Total budget allocated actual expenditure in key sectors with adequate percentage of budget utilization in different departments of these sectors. Annual fiscal deficit reduces and surplus growing over the past 5 years.
3. Financial efficiency of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar included the cost efficiency and Revenue efficiency. Cost per unit of service provided such as cost per liter of water supplied reduces over the period of time. Comparison of cost efficiency across different services managed at low cost basis. Due to online services of billing and collection of charges improve the collection efficiency for property taxes and other charges. Percentage of outstanding dues recovered annually became easy and quick over the period.

The key financial indicators of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar.

Table 5.1: Financial Indicators and Performance of the Municipal Corporation of Vasai-Virar

Year	Total Revenue (INR Cr)	Total Expenditure (INR Cr)	Property Tax Collection Efficiency (%)	Fiscal Deficit/Surplus (INR Cr)	Debt-to-Revenue Ratio (%)
2020	1,200	1,150	85%	+50	25%
2021	1,300	1,250	88%	+50	23%
2022	1,400	1,350	90%	+50	20%
2023	1,450	1,400	92%	+50	18%

Source: Annual Budget Reports-Published by the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.

1. Debt management and total outstanding reductions plays an important role in financial sustainability of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar. Over the period of time various short-term and long-term debts taken by the corporation. But the sound Debt-to-GDP ratio and interest coverage ratio municipalty abl to maintain sustainable finance for the future. Amount of financial reserves held by the corporation increases reserve accumulation.
2. Public services and infrastructure development expenses incurred on variuos infrastructure development projects. Actual completion rates of planned projects also sound of the municipal corporation of Vasai-Virar. Coverage and quality of key services included water supply and waste management creates good citizen satisfaction levels with public services.
3. Financial performance metrics compared with similar municipal corporations. Rankings in terms of revenue generation, expenditure efficiency, and service delivery. The statistical data gathered on financial management provides a comprehensive overview of the fiscal health and operational efficiency of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation. This data can be used for benchmarking, identifying areas for improvement, and formulating policies to enhance financial management and service delivery.

Findings and Observations

1. The Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) relies on a mix of tax and non-tax revenues. Key sources include property tax, water tax, user charges for municipal services, and grants from the state and central governments.
2. A significant portion of VVMC’s revenue is derived from state and central government grants. This dependency limits financial autonomy and flexibility in planning local projects.
3. Property tax, a major revenue source, faces issues like under-assessment, delayed payments, and lack of comprehensive databases for efficient collection.
4. The annual budget preparation process follows standard guidelines, but there are challenges in accurately forecasting revenues and expenditures due to fluctuating grant inflows and unpredictable expenditures.
5. A substantial part of the budget is allocated to operational costs, including salaries, maintenance, and administrative expenses, leaving limited funds for capital projects and infrastructure

development.

6. Observations indicate delays in the implementation of projects due to bureaucratic processes, leading to under-utilization of allocated funds and rollovers to subsequent fiscal years.
7. VVMC is subject to regular audits by state and local audit bodies. However, the effectiveness of audits in enforcing financial discipline and rectifying discrepancies needs improvement.
8. While VVMC publishes financial reports and budgets, there is limited public awareness and engagement in financial decision-making. This gap affects transparency and accountability.
9. Some e-governance initiatives have been introduced to improve transparency in financial transactions and service delivery. However, these are still in the early stages of implementation.
10. Fluctuations in revenue inflows, particularly from non-tax revenues and delayed grant disbursements, create budget shortfalls and hinder planned development activities.
11. The corporation faces challenges in managing its debt and liabilities, which further strain its financial resources.
12. There is a need for capacity building and training for financial management staff to adopt modern financial management practices and improve efficiency.
13. Public participation in the financial management process, such as budget formulation and monitoring of expenditures, is minimal. Increasing community involvement could enhance transparency and accountability.
14. There is a lack of consistent awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of timely tax payments and the benefits of municipal services, which could improve revenue collection.
15. Investments in infrastructure projects such as roads, water supply, and sanitation are prioritized. However, delays in project execution and fund utilization hamper timely completion.
16. There are opportunities for VVMC to explore PPP models to leverage private sector expertise and investment in infrastructure development.

The financial management of the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation faces several challenges, including revenue collection inefficiencies, dependence on external grants, and limited financial transparency. Despite these challenges, VVMC has made strides in implementing e-governance and initiating infrastructure projects. Addressing these issues through better financial planning, capacity building, and increased public participation can significantly enhance the financial health and service delivery of the corporation.

Recommendations

1. There is a need to implement a robust property tax assessment and collection system using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to ensure accurate assessment and reduce evasion. Regularly update property records and enforce penalties for delayed or non-payment to improve compliance.
2. Requirement of explore new revenue sources such as user charges for municipal services, fees for commercial licenses, and monetization of municipal assets. Encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) to generate additional income through joint ventures in urban infrastructure and service projects.
3. Need to develop a comprehensive grant management system to track and ensure timely utilization of state and central government grants. Advocate for more predictable and formula-based grant allocations to reduce financial uncertainty.
4. Requirement of the shift towards performance-based budgeting to link financial allocations with service delivery outcomes and performance metrics. Regularly review and adjust budgets based on actual performance and changing priorities.
5. Need to develop a multi-year financial planning framework to forecast future revenues and expenditures, ensuring long-term financial sustainability. Prioritize capital projects based on cost-benefit analysis and align them with the corporation's strategic goals.
6. It is necessary to implement cost-control measures such as energy-saving initiatives, efficient

procurement practices, and automation of administrative processes to reduce operational expenses.

7. Required to strengthen internal audit mechanisms to ensure timely identification and rectification of financial discrepancies. Implement a transparent follow-up process for audit recommendations to enhance financial discipline.
8. Need to expand e-governance initiatives to cover all aspects of financial management, including online payment systems, budget tracking, and financial reporting.
9. Ensure real-time public access to financial data and reports to enhance transparency and accountability.
10. There is wants to conduct regular training programs for financial management staff on modern financial practices, budgeting techniques, and the use of financial management software. Encourage cross-departmental knowledge sharing and capacity-building initiatives to improve overall financial governance.
11. It is better to study and adopt best financial management practices from other successful municipal corporations in India and internationally. Engage with financial experts and consultants to bring in external insights and recommendations.
12. There is a need to introduce participatory budgeting processes to involve citizens in budget preparation, prioritizing projects based on community needs. Conduct public forums, workshops, and consultations to gather feedback and suggestions from residents on financial matters.
13. Required to launch awareness campaigns to educate citizens on the importance of timely tax payments and the impact of municipal services on their quality of life. Use social media, local media, and community meetings to communicate financial updates and encourage public engagement.
14. Need to explore green financing options such as municipal green bonds to fund environmentally sustainable projects, including renewable energy, waste management, and water conservation initiatives.
15. Require to ensure that infrastructure development projects are sustainable, focusing on long-term benefits, environmental impact, and efficient resource utilization.

By implementing these recommendations, the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation can strengthen its financial management practices, enhance revenue generation, improve accountability, and ensure efficient service delivery. These measures will contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the Vasai-Virar region, ultimately improving the quality of life for its residents.

Conclusion

Effective financial management is crucial for the sustainable growth and development of municipal corporations, especially in rapidly urbanizing regions like Vasai-Virar. The Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) plays a pivotal role in managing the city's financial resources to ensure the provision of essential services, infrastructure development, and overall urban governance. This study highlights several key aspects of financial management within VVMC, including revenue generation, expenditure management, budgeting processes, and financial accountability. The findings reveal that while VVMC has made progress in certain areas, such as leveraging e-governance and initiating infrastructure projects, significant challenges persist. These include dependency on state and central grants, inefficiencies in tax collection, high operational costs, and limited public participation in financial decision-making.

To address these challenges, the study proposes a range of recommendations, such as diversifying revenue streams, adopting performance-based budgeting, enhancing financial transparency, and strengthening capacity building. By implementing these strategies, VVMC can improve its financial health, ensure efficient allocation of resources, and better meet the growing demands of its population. In conclusion, robust financial management is essential for the Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation to achieve its development goals and provide high-quality services to its residents. By adopting innovative financial practices and fostering greater accountability and

citizen engagement, VVMC can set a benchmark for effective urban governance and contribute to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the Vasai- Virar region.

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Opportunities & Challenges of Industrial Development in Tribal Area of Palghar District

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Abstract

Palghar is one developing tribal district of Maharashtra state. It is located between the Arabian sea and Sahyadri mountain. Majority of peoples of rural area of Palghar are migrated for employment to other places. Government have established Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) for industrial development in Palghar district. Industries are developed only urban area of Palghar city. But not adequately developed in the rural area. Industries and their management are facing some challenges for the overall development. This research study focuses on studies of challenges and opportunities of Industrial development in Palghar district.

Keywords: Tribal area, Challenges, opportunities.

Introduction:

Palghar the 36th district of Maharashtra state, came into existence on 1 August 2014 after the division of Thane district, the largest district in the country with maritime-mountainous and civil parts. Palghar district is located in the northern part of Konkan between the range of Sahyadri Mountains in the east and the coast of the Arabian Sea in the west has spread. There are total 8 talukas in the district including Jawhar, Dahanu, Talasari, Palghar, Mokhada, Vasai, Wada, and Vikramgad talukas. Maharashtra State Small Industry Development Corporation is working in Palghar district and various industries have been established in Palghar, Dahanu, Talasari, Wada and Vasai talukas of Palghar district. Maharashtra Government has approved a total of 15 mega projects in Palghar district under Vishal Project Collective Incentive Scheme and out of these 7 projects have started production. A total of 8 mega projects are proposed in Wada taluka. Industrial belts exist in the flat plateau region of the district. These mainly include textile industries, chemical factories, engineering industries, steel industries etc. In Boisar there are steel manufacturing plants like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Viraj Steel, under the Industrial Division of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. Also, there are textile manufacturing companies like D-Decor, Siyaram etc.

Palghar district have one developed Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), three Government Cooperative industrial colonies, 5757 small registered Industries, 1883 temporary small registered industries and 427 large/medium industries exist.

Industries are not sufficiently developed in the rural area of Palghar district. Industries and their management are facing some challenges for the overall development. This research study focuses on studies of challenges and opportunities of Industrial development in Palghar district.

Objectives:

1) To study challenges and opportunities in industrial development of tribal area of Palghar District.

Challenges of industrial Development of Palghar district:

1. Lack of Basic Infrastructure:

Basic facilities are playing the important role in development of industries such as water, light, transportation, telecommunication etc. these are not available at sufficient level to entrepreneurs, which avoid them from starting new business.

2. Political factors:

Political factors create the barriers in the growth of industries in Palghar districts. Psychology of Political leaders can affect on the motivation of industrialists.

3. Poor performance of agriculture Sector:

Industrial development depends on agriculture performance. Palghar district is spread in hilly and costal area. Financial performance is always low due to geographical & environmental factors. Agriculture sector not only produce raw material but also create the demand for finished goods and services from society. Due to poor financial performance of agriculture sector, industries not spread in Palghar district.

4. Financial problem of peoples:

Majority of peoples of Palghar district are belongs to tribal and they lived under below poverty line. Deprived rate of money creation is important challenges of industrial development in tribal area of Palghar district.

5. Unproductive Expenditure:

Tribal people either keep their income hidden or they spend the money for unproductive expenditure like marriages, relatives' functions and traditional occasions and celebrating other events or them mostly invest their additional incomes in Ornaments rather investing the money in some new business ideas.

6. Lack of Education Training facilities:

Education is important in development for human and surround area. Literacy rate of Palghar district 66.65%. Lack of education is challenge of growth of industries in tribal area. They have not proper knowledge about industry and economic development.

7. Limited capital:

Majority of tribal peoples have lived under below poverty line. They have not available sufficient capital for industries. They can start and maintain industries in Palghar districts.

8. Storage:

Palghar districts are located in hilly area and storage facility is available on sufficient levels to Entrepreneurs.

Opportunities of industrial Development of Palghar district:

1. Economic Growth:

Industrial development can be a powerful driver of economic development, leading to increased prosperity, job creation, and improved living standards of peoples of tribal district of Palghar area.

2. Labour Productivity:

Most of labour force are available in overall Palghar district. Majority of population are migrated for employment to nearest district Nashik, Thane and Mumbai and Selves, Surat etc. Industries can train and make skilled workers and create the good opportunities of labor productivity.

3. Government Support:

Most of people have facing the problem of financial needs. Government provides the various funds and subsidies to industries for establishment and working capital.

4. Improvement in technology:

Industries have available the good opportunities of new technology for their business. Now industries can use the AI technology for production and other process in Palghar district.

5. Promotion of tribal products:

Industries can produce tribal product from available local raw materials. Marketing strategies can help to promote the sale of tribal products and good profit.

6. Promotion of sea products:

Palghar district have coastline of 112 kilometer. The district is a major hub for marine production, fisheries, and iron and steel. Industries can produce various products form marine production and export in foreign countries.

7. Increase the Import & Export:

Government of Maharashtra has established the Vadhvan port in Palghar district. It will be India's largest deep-water port and will boost trade with Central Asia, Russia, and the Middle East. Industries have available the goods opportunity for import and export of various goods.

Conclusion:

The study shows that Palghar is one developing tribal district of Maharashtra state. Palghar district is located between the Arabian sea and Sahyadri mountain. Industries of Palghar district have facing the challenges of Basic infrastructure, finance, storage, poor performance of agriculture sector, lack of education training facilities, competitions with big industries, political factors etc. Some opportunities are available for industrial development such as economic growth, labour Productivity, government support, improvement in technology, promotion of tribal products, promotion of sea products, increase the Import & Export etc.

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Problems and Opportunities of Tribal Entrepreneurship in Mokhada Tehsil

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Abstract:

Entrepreneurship is the important part of development of every country. It provides the direction for development to country like as India. Every country should develop the industrial and economic development through insuring employment generation, availability of sufficient goods and services and growth in growth in GDP as well as investment etc. Entrepreneurship generates most of employment to peoples. It helps to society to improving the quality of life of peoples. It helps to reduce the migration of rural peoples of rural area of India as well as Maharashtra.

Mokhada is one the important tribal tehsil of Palghar district of Maharashtra. Mokhada is the rural and remote and hilly area located near the Sahyadri hills. Most of the i.e. 93% peoples known as tribals. Employment is major problem of tribals of Mokhada tehsil. The depends on few seasonable farming and most of peoples migrates in Mumbai, Nashik and nearby cities for employment. Most of peoples have no appropriate knowledge and skill of business and entrepreneurship. Now adays many peoples are engaged in entrepreneurship in rural area of Mokhada tehsil. Now the Tribal entrepreneurs' have good potential for investment and employment. They are facing some problems in entrepreneurship. Therefore, this research paper studies the topic, "Problems and Opportunities of Rural Entrepreneurship in Mokhada Tehsil".

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Tribal.

Introduction:

Entrepreneurship is the important part of development of every country. It provides the direction for development to country like as India. Every country should develop the industrial and economic development through insuring employment generation, availability of sufficient goods and services and growth in growth in GDP as well as investment etc. Entrepreneurship generates most of employment to peoples. It helps to society to improving the quality of life of peoples. It helps to reduce the migration of rural peoples of rural area of India as well as Maharashtra.

Tribal peoples known as very poor peoples of population of rural area of country of India. but they are clever in their occupation. Generally tribal peoples depend on forest, traditional work, agriculture and animal husbandry for livelihood. Now a days they have available the most opportunity in Tribal Entrepreneurship.

Tribal entrepreneurship must be considered as the employment creator in Tribal economy. Tribal entrepreneurial activity is definitely related to Tribal economic development. The promotion of Tribal entrepreneurship is directly related to the socio-economic development of the poor Tribal peoples of the country. The major business of Tribal are deals in the art, craft, painting, aurvedic and herbal medicines, honey, agricultural products including rice, maize, vegetables, minor forest products and furniture made of bamboo and wood. The government playing energetic role in the development of Tribal entrepreneurship through various tribal development programs. Some NGOs and micro finance companies have also engaged in the development of tribal community.

Mokhada is one the important tribal tehsil of Palghar district of Maharashtra. Mokhada is the rural and remote and hilly area located near the Sahyadri hills. Most of the i.e. 93% peoples known as tribals. Employment is major problem of tribals of Mokhada tehsil. The depends on few seasonable farming and most of peoples migrates in Mumbai, Nashik and nearby cities for employment. Most of peoples have no appropriate knowledge and skill of business and

entrepreneurship. Now adays many peoples are engaged in entrepreneurship in rural area of Mokhada tehsil. Now the Tribal entrepreneurs' have good potential for investment and employment. They are facing some problems in entrepreneurship.

Problems of Tribal Entrepreneurship in Mokhada Tehsil:

1. Financial Problem:

Finance is important factor of industries and entrepreneurship it known as blood of business. Poor tribal people are unable to available the sufficient finance for entrepreneurship. They have no any big income source. They can invest only labour force and personal skills. It is problem of tribal entrepreneurship. Majority tribal peoples have no any idea labour government and non-government finance for entrepreneurship. If somebody knows, then they are facing complexities of rules & regulation of borrowing of funds and utilization.

2. Government Policy:

Most of the aged population of Mokhada tehsil is illiterate. Government has continuous change in tribal funding policies. Tribal entrepreneurs not understand the continuous change in government policy. Government policy not focusing the poor and needy tribal entrepreneurs.

3. Lack of technical knowhow:

Technical education is most important for entrepreneurship in rural and tribal area. The Tribal entrepreneur of Mokhada tehsil have facing technical knowledge of production. They produce Alcohol and Aurvedic Medicine by traditional method. They are not using new technology in their production process.

4. Low motivation level:

The Tribal peoples has very low motivation for enterprise because of less informative training and self- sureness. Tribal entrepreneurs have good traditional knowledge and skill for run the enterprise but not available sufficient and proper encouragement. Majority of them don't know monetary value of their traditional skill.

5. Marketing of Product

Marketing of product is one special skills of entrepreneurs. Tribals are produced a products but they no basic concepts of marketing, scientific methods and appropriate knowledge of marketing. So the marketing capacity of Tribal product is very small that's lead to revenue generation. Until Online marketing are not developed in rural and tribal area of Mokhada tehsil. Tribals are depending for sale on middlemen Warehousing, transport, special distribution channel are also the major issues of marketing of tribal entrepreneurs.

6. Lack of infrastructure:

Mokhada tehsil is located in remote and hilly area of Palghar district and nearby Sahyadri hills. Majority of the tribal entrepreneur are financially poor. Water, light, internet, transport etc are main basic facility are needy to entrepreneurship. This basic infrastructure is not available to sufficient level to tribal entrepreneurs.

7. Lack of skilled labour:

There is human resource problem in tribal area. Proper skilled worker not available in Mokhada area due to low literacy, low skill, lack of technical knowledge and lack of low level of learning ability, poor communication etc.

Opportunities of Tribal Entrepreneurship in Mokhada Tehsil:

1. Herbal & Ayurvedic Product:

The most of the herbal product are create from trees and palnts of forest. Tribal peoples are Mokhad area ae expert in some herbal and ayurvedic product. There is best opportunity to tribal peoples for establishing the herbal product manufacturing enterprise. Some ayurvedic medicine plants are known to this people from forest.

2. Handicraft Product-

The handicraft sector is important sector for employment and enterprises in tribal peoples. Some old peoples have appropriate skill for handicraft in Mokhada Tehsil. The government of India

provide the motivation to start-up business in the country. Tribal entrepreneurs have good opportunity to receive the benefit of start -up business through the help of government. The entrepreneur should export handicraft goods such as Bamboo Rakhi, Bamboo craft, bamboo sky lantern, toys etc.

3. Agriculture:

Farming and animal husbandry is the main base of life of Tribal peoples of Mokhada. They should work in farming are at hilly and mountain area. Most of Tribal are involve in the agriculture but they do not know about the Agripreneurship. Maximum opportunities are available in Agripreneurship in this tribal area.

4. Tourism Business:

Mokhada is beautiful area in the winter and rainy season. Various natural places and temples and other public gathering places are situated in Tribal area of Mokhada. There is high need for develop the tourist places. The tourism business in India is growing significantly. The tourism industry has a good contribution in employment.

5. Minor Forest Product Business – Most of the tribal peoples The unorganized minor forest product market in India, witness the less utilization of such type of resources. There is an opportunity to explore them in an organized form.

Conclusion:

Mokhada Tehsil is purely tribal tehsil of Palghar district of Maharashtra. The majority of rural area of Mokhada Tehsil is undeveloped. Tribal entrepreneurs are engaging in small scale industries. They are facing various problem such as finance, marketing, lack of skilled labours, technical problems, technical skills and government policies in their enterprises. Most of the Tribal entrepreneurs have traditional skill and expertise that should be update by new innovative technique of production. They have available the opportunities of herbal & ayurvedic product, handicraft product, agriculture, tourism business, minor forest product business etc. Tribal peoples have opportunity to develop the life style through tribal entrepreneurship. Government should help to tribal through various developmental schemes for entrepreneur.

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“A Study on Agro Tourism as a Catalyst for Sustainable Rural Development: A Pathway to a Better India”

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Abstract

In rural India, agro tourism has become a viable means of promoting environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and economic prosperity. This study investigates the ways in which agro tourism can improve lives, encourage sustainable practices, and strengthen ties between rural and urban areas, all of which can work as catalysts for sustainable rural development. The study intends to contribute to a comprehensive vision of a better India by examining successful agro-tourism models and their effects in order to suggest scalable frameworks that are in line with national and international sustainability goals.

Statement Of Problem

Significant issues facing rural India include unemployment, economic stagnation, urban migration, and the slow loss of cultural legacy. Even though the agriculture industry is the foundation of India's economy, it has challenges with sustainability and low profitability. Rural communities are frequently left economically neglected and underdeveloped as a result of traditional tourism methods' inability to reach them. Innovative strategies are desperately needed to close the economic divide between rural and urban areas while maintaining cultural and environmental preservation. In order to solve these issues, this paper discusses how agrotourism can be a game-changing tactic that promotes sustainable rural development and makes India a better place.

Scope of The Study:

Understanding how agrotourism can promote sustainable rural development in India is the main goal of this project. It investigates the economic, social, and environmental effects of agrotourism projects in various geographical areas. Through agrotourism, the study explores community empowerment, cultural preservation, and sustainable farming methods. It also assesses how regulatory frameworks and technology may help scale agrotourism models. The results are intended to offer practical advice for sustainable and repeatable development plans in rural India.

Objective of The Study:

1. To evaluate the potential of agro tourism in enhancing rural economic development.
2. To analyze the role of sustainable farming practices in agro-tourism ventures.
3. To assess the socio-cultural benefits of agro tourism, including cultural preservation and social inclusion.
4. To explore the contributions of agro tourism to employment generation and community empowerment.
5. To propose scalable models and policy recommendations for integrating agro tourism with sustainable rural development.

Hypothesis

- Agro tourism significantly contributes to rural economic development by generating alternative income sources and supporting local economies.
- Integration of sustainable farming practices in agro-tourism ventures enhances environmental conservation and promotes biodiversity.
- Agro tourism fosters cultural preservation and encourages social inclusion by showcasing traditional practices and heritage.
- The employment opportunities created through agro tourism empower rural communities, particularly marginalized groups and women.

- Scalable and well-designed agro-tourism models, supported by appropriate policies, can drive sustainable rural development and bridge the rural-urban economic divide.

Research Methodology:

The study will use **descriptive and exploratory research designs** to examine the current state and potential of agro-tourism in promoting rural development in India. Primary data will be collected through **surveys** and **interviews** with rural communities, farmers, tourism operators, and tourists involved in agro-tourism activities. **Focus groups** will also be conducted with key stakeholders such as government officials and NGOs to gather in-depth perspectives. **Observational studies** of agro-tourism sites will help assess the infrastructure and sustainability practices in place. Secondary data will be gathered from **government reports, academic literature, and case studies** of successful agro-tourism models, both in India and globally. A **purposive sampling** approach will be used to select participants, focusing on those directly engaged in agro-tourism activities, and a **convenience sampling** method will help identify accessible agro-tourism sites for the study. Data will be analyzed using **descriptive statistics** to quantify economic and social impacts, while **thematic analysis** will be used for qualitative insights from interviews and focus groups. The research aims to test hypotheses such as agro-tourism's impact on rural economic development, environmental sustainability, and social empowerment. Ethical considerations will include ensuring informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, and being culturally sensitive to the communities involved. Limitations such as geographic focus, response bias, and data availability will be acknowledged. The expected outcome is to provide recommendations for enhancing the role of agro-tourism in fostering sustainable rural development across India.

Introduction:

One important instrument for encouraging sustainable development in rural regions is agro-tourism, a rising subset of rural tourism. Agro-tourism has a chance to boost the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural communities in India, where a sizable section of the population still lives in rural regions and depends on agriculture for a living. Visitors can experience rural life, engage in farming, and learn about traditional agricultural practices while also boosting local economies through agro-tourism, which combines tourism and agricultural activities. In addition to increasing farmers' incomes, this type of tourism fosters environmental preservation, job creation, and cultural heritage preservation.

Rural communities in India frequently experience issues including poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, and environmental degradation as a result of the country's fast urbanization. By giving farmers an alternate source of income, encouraging sustainable farming methods, and developing infrastructure that benefits both residents and tourists, agro-tourism offers a solution to address these problems. By encouraging environmentally friendly farming methods, protecting biodiversity, and producing favorable economic results for rural communities, agro-tourism, a rapidly expanding movement, has the potential to completely change rural landscapes.

With an emphasis on its capacity to stimulate economic growth, improve environmental sustainability, and support the sociocultural empowerment of rural communities, this study investigates the role of agrotourism as a catalyst for sustainable rural development in India. The research intends to identify best practices, obstacles, and the wider impact of agro-tourism on India's rural landscape by analyzing different agro-tourism models nationwide. This will give insights into how agro-tourism can be used to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for rural India.

Need Of Study:

Given the many difficulties that rural communities in India confront, it is more important than ever to investigate agrotourism as a driver of sustainable rural development. The foundation of rural India is agriculture, which is frequently characterized by low income, poor infrastructure, and restricted access to contemporary technology. At the same time, people are moving from rural to urban regions, which is causing social unrest and a drop in agricultural production. This situation

emphasizes the need for creative solutions that can guarantee environmental sustainability, boost rural economies, and enhance livelihoods.

Agro-tourism has a special chance to tackle these issues by fusing tourism and agriculture. It might out to be a comprehensive answer that helps the ecology and the local economy. Given that India is one of the world's most agriculturally oriented countries, agrotourism may offer farmers a different revenue stream, lowering their reliance on traditional farming and encouraging economic diversification in rural areas. Additionally, it improves rural inhabitants' quality of life, decreases rural-urban migration, and generates local job opportunities.

Literature Review

1. Agro-Tourism and Economic Development

Several studies have explored how agro-tourism can enhance the economic viability of rural areas. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), agro-tourism generates direct economic benefits by diversifying rural income sources, reducing dependency on agriculture alone, and increasing employment opportunities (UNWTO, 2018). In India, the expansion of agro-tourism has been linked to the creation of jobs not only in farming but also in related sectors such as hospitality, transportation, and local crafts (Saha, 2020). For example, the state of Kerala has successfully integrated agro-tourism with its local agriculture, creating a niche market for organic products and promoting homestays on farms, which in turn generates income for local farmers (Nair, 2017).

Additionally, agro-tourism facilitates the direct sale of agricultural products, which can increase farmers' income. The tourism industry itself becomes a significant consumer of agricultural goods, which reduces the middlemen's role and ensures a better price for local farmers (Sharma, 2019). However, the literature also highlights challenges, such as the lack of marketing and infrastructure in many rural areas, which hinder agro-tourism's potential to become a widespread economic solution (Mishra, 2020).

2. Agro-Tourism and Environmental Sustainability

Agro-tourism promotes sustainable farming practices by encouraging eco-friendly agricultural methods and resource conservation. A study by Singh (2020) shows that agro-tourism can incentivize the adoption of organic farming, water conservation techniques, and soil preservation practices as tourists are often interested in experiencing environmentally conscious farming. Furthermore, agro-tourism offers farmers the opportunity to showcase their sustainable farming methods to a larger audience, thus increasing awareness of environmental issues in rural areas.

According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2019), agro-tourism has the potential to contribute to biodiversity conservation by creating incentives for farmers to preserve local flora and fauna. Additionally, agro-tourism encourages the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner, such as promoting solar energy or rainwater harvesting systems on farms, which can reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture (Gupta & Sharma, 2021). However, the literature also cautions against the risk of over-tourism, which can lead to environmental degradation, including pollution and overuse of resources (Khanna, 2021).

3. Agro-Tourism and Social Empowerment

One of the key advantages of agro-tourism is its ability to empower rural communities socially and culturally. Studies by Sharma (2020) indicate that agro-tourism enhances the social fabric of rural areas by fostering community participation and strengthening local traditions. It provides an avenue for rural residents to share their cultural practices with tourists, preserving traditional knowledge related to agriculture, crafts, and rural life. This exchange fosters mutual respect and cultural understanding between urban and rural populations.

Furthermore, agro-tourism can contribute to women's empowerment in rural areas. According to a study by Singh and Agarwal (2018), women in rural India who are involved in agro-tourism activities, such as organizing farm tours, cooking classes, and handicraft sales, experience increased autonomy and financial independence. The income generated from agro-tourism can also improve

the educational opportunities for rural children, particularly girls, by funding their schooling (Jain & Purohit, 2020).

However, there are concerns that agro-tourism may not equally benefit all members of the community. The benefits often accrue to those who own land or have access to tourism infrastructure, leaving poorer, landless households with little economic advantage (Rathore & Verma, 2019).

Suggestion:

Enhancing rural infrastructure, encouraging environmentally friendly farming methods, and offering skill development to local populations are all crucial for utilizing agro-tourism as a catalyst for sustainable rural development in India. To increase the visibility of agrotourism, governments should put supportive policies into place, such as marketing campaigns and financial incentives. Further ensuring that the economic advantages are fairly distributed can be achieved by supporting community-based models, empowering women, and cultivating public-private partnerships. Furthermore, ongoing study and observation of the effects of agrotourism will direct future advancements and contribute to the establishment of a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable agrotourism industry in rural India.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, by fostering environmental sustainability, empowering local communities, and diversifying rural economies, agro-tourism offers India a promising route towards sustainable rural development. Agro-tourism may create economic opportunities while maintaining agricultural and cultural traditions by enhancing infrastructure, encouraging skill development, and putting in place sensible regulations. Agro-tourism has the potential to significantly contribute to the development of rural India into a more affluent and ecologically aware area with proper management, stakeholder cooperation, and an emphasis on sustainability.

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Technology-Based Approaches for Rural Transformation: A Roadmap for India's Vision 2047

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Abstract:

This research paper delves into the potential of technology to bridge the gap between urban and rural India, focusing on sectors like agriculture, education, healthcare, and governance. It analyzes existing government initiatives such as BharatNet, AI in agriculture, and blockchain for transparent governance, highlighting their contributions to rural development. Additionally, the paper proposes future technology-driven strategies, including AI-powered agricultural robotics, 5G connectivity, smart rural energy grids, and blockchain for land record management, to further strengthen digital infrastructure and empower rural communities. By harnessing emerging technologies, India can achieve sustainable and inclusive growth by 2047, aligning with its Vision 2047 goals. The paper also addresses challenges like last-mile connectivity, low digital literacy, and infrastructure inadequacies, offering solutions to ensure scalable and effective interventions. It provides a roadmap for the government to implement innovative solutions that foster economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in rural India.

Keywords: Technology, Rural Transformation, India Vision 2047, E-Governance, Sustainability.

Introduction:

India's rural regions, home to a significant portion of the population, grapple with substantial challenges in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The disparity between urban and rural areas hinders inclusive growth. Technology, however, offers a promising solution to transform rural India by enhancing access to essential services, boosting agricultural productivity, and stimulating economic development. Government initiatives like BharatNet, Digital India, and PMGDISHA have made strides in expanding connectivity and digital literacy, yet challenges persist in achieving widespread digital inclusion.

This paper delves into the role of technology in bridging the urban-rural divide, focusing on sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and governance. It assesses current government initiatives, pinpoints challenges, and proposes future technology-based strategies like AI-driven agriculture, 5G connectivity, blockchain for land records, and smart rural energy grids, which are aligned with India's Vision 2047. These innovations have the potential to create a digitally empowered rural India, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth.

Research Objectives:

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of current technology initiatives in rural India.
2. To identify the barriers to technology adoption in rural areas.
3. To study the role of technology in the development of rural India.
4. To propose future technology strategies for rural development in alignment with India's Vision 2047.

Research Methodology:

This research paper adopts a descriptive research design that relies on secondary data to explore the role of digital technology in the development of rural India. The research methodology is designed to assess how emerging digital technologies, such as 5G, AI, blockchain, and IoT, are contributing to the socio-economic development of rural areas.

Government Initiatives in Developing Digital Infrastructure in Rural India:

The Indian government has been actively working to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas. This involves improving connectivity, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring access to essential services through technology. Here's an overview of key initiatives:

1. Expansion of 5G and Satellite Connectivity: The Government of India has made substantial progress in expanding broadband connectivity in rural areas through initiatives like BharatNet. This initiative aims to connect gram panchayats with high-speed internet and is the world's largest rural broadband project, already connecting over 1.9 lakh gram panchayats (as of 2024). Additionally, the government is working on enabling 5G networks to enhance mobile connectivity in rural areas, providing faster internet speeds and improved communication. In remote areas where terrestrial infrastructure is challenging, satellite communication is being utilized.

2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture: The government has been utilizing AI and machine learning (ML) to boost agricultural productivity. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana employs technology for direct benefit transfers (DBT) to farmers. Furthermore, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has collaborated with tech firms to leverage AI for precision farming, pest management, and weather forecasting.

3. Blockchain for Transparent Governance: Blockchain technology is being employed in various domains, including land record digitization. States like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have implemented blockchain-based systems for land transactions to ensure transparency and minimize disputes. The government is also considering blockchain technology for e-governance applications in rural areas, such as voting, record management, and welfare schemes.

4. Solar-Powered Smart Villages: The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) scheme aims to provide electricity to every rural household using solar power. States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh have successfully implemented solar-powered microgrids and irrigation pumps. Furthermore, several rural villages are utilizing solar-powered cold storage for agricultural products.

5. Digital Literacy and Skill Development Programs: The government initiated PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan) to impart digital literacy to rural households, particularly focusing on women, marginalized groups, and youth. This program aims to train individuals in basic computer skills, internet usage, and digital transactions. In addition to PMGDISHA, Skill India and Digital India initiatives are actively training rural youth in vocational skills like plumbing, electrical work, and IT-related skills.

6. Rural E-Commerce Platforms: The government has supported e-commerce platforms like Amazon India and Flipkart, connecting rural artisans and farmers to urban markets. Additionally, platforms like eNAM (National Agriculture Market) enable farmers to directly sell their produce to buyers, eliminating middlemen and ensuring fair prices.

7. Telemedicine and Remote Health Services: eSanjeevani, a national telemedicine service, was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide remote consultations to rural residents. The government has also established telemedicine centers in various districts to ensure that rural populations can access basic healthcare without traveling long distances.

8. Smart Agriculture with IoT (Internet of Things): The government has implemented IoT-based solutions to monitor soil moisture, weather conditions, and crop health. Additionally, Kisan Call Centers and smart irrigation systems have been integrated into various agricultural schemes. These systems provide real-time data to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions about irrigation, pesticide use, and harvesting.

9. Virtual Education and Skill Platforms: Platforms like DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) and SWAYAM offer free online education, covering primary to higher education, to rural students. Additionally, the National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) provides open educational resources accessible to rural areas.

10. Smart Rural Transport Systems: The Bharatmala Pariyojana and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aim to improve rural infrastructure, including roads and connectivity. Rural roads are being upgraded to enhance transportation links for people and goods. The introduction of ride-sharing apps in rural areas has also improved mobility.

11. Public Wi-Fi Hotspots in Backward Districts: The Digital India program has focused on improving internet access in rural areas by establishing public Wi-Fi hotspots in remote locations. Initiatives like Wi-Fi Choupals, launched by BSNL, provide internet access to rural populations, and the government is also expanding public Wi-Fi access through Wi-Fi Hotspot Projects in underserved areas.

12. Waste-to-Energy and Sustainable Solutions: The Swachh Bharat Mission and other schemes focus on waste management in both rural and urban areas. Initiatives like biogas plants and waste-to-energy technologies have been adopted in rural regions to manage organic waste, provide cooking fuel, and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

13. Crowdsourcing for Rural Development: Platforms like MyGov encourage citizens, including rural residents, to contribute ideas and feedback for governance and development projects. Crowdsourced solutions for rural development projects, such as infrastructure and healthcare, have also been promoted through collaborations between the government and non-governmental organizations.

14. Mobile Health Diagnostics and Monitoring: The government has introduced mobile applications for health diagnostics and monitoring, including mHealth initiatives. These apps offer services like real-time tracking of vital signs, medication reminders, and preventive healthcare services for rural communities.

15. Smart Waste Management Systems: The government has promoted smart waste management systems under the Swachh Bharat Mission. In some rural areas, IoT-based sensors are being used to improve waste collection efficiency and reduce manual labour.

16. Smart Water Management Systems: Initiatives like the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) have aimed to improve water management in rural areas by promoting smart water meters and improving water distribution systems.

17. Blockchain for Agricultural Supply Chains: eNAM (National Agriculture Market), which is a digital platform for farmers to sell their produce directly, is being enhanced to incorporate blockchain technology for greater transparency in the agricultural supply chain.

18. Virtual Agronomy and Extension Services: The government has extended **virtual agronomy services** through Kisan Call Centers and agricultural universities to provide expert advice to farmers through mobile and internet platforms.

Challenges In the Development of Digital Infrastructure in Rural India:

- 1. Last-Mile Connectivity:** Remote and geographically challenging areas, particularly in hilly or forested regions, lack reliable internet connectivity. The absence of proper infrastructure and high operational costs for extending broadband networks in such regions makes last-mile connectivity a significant challenge.
- 2. Low Digital Literacy:** Despite various initiatives, a large portion of rural populations, especially older adults and women, still lack the basic digital skills required to use technology effectively. This limits their ability to access government services, educational resources, and financial tools.
- 3. Inadequate Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure in terms of electricity, internet connectivity, and telecommunication networks hampers the delivery of digital services. Power outages and insufficient broadband coverage are common in rural areas, disrupting the functionality of digital platforms.
- 4. Affordability:** High costs of digital devices such as smartphones and data plans make it difficult for economically disadvantaged households in rural India to access digital services. This contributes to the digital divide between urban and rural areas.
- 5. Maintenance and Sustainability:** Many rural digital infrastructure projects face challenges related to maintenance, as there is often a shortage of trained personnel to manage and repair systems. Without proper upkeep, digital infrastructure becomes ineffective over time.

6. **Cultural and Social Barriers:** In some rural areas, there are cultural and social barriers to adopting digital technologies. Gender disparities, in particular, prevent women from utilizing digital tools, while some communities may be resistant to change due to traditional mindsets.
7. **Lack of Awareness:** Despite the availability of digital services, many rural residents are unaware of the benefits and usage of technology. This lack of awareness limits the adoption of government schemes, e-commerce platforms, and digital financial services.

Role of Technology in The Development of Rural India:

1. **Agricultural Transformation:** Technology has revolutionized farming practices in rural India. Agri-tech innovations like mobile apps for weather forecasting, soil health monitoring, crop advisory services, and precision farming tools help farmers make data-driven decisions. These tools improve yields, reduce crop failures, and provide farmers with better market prices by connecting them directly to buyers.
2. **Improved Access to Education:** Digital platforms have expanded access to quality education in rural areas through online courses, virtual classrooms, and skill development programs. Programs like e-learning and online certification courses empower rural students and adults, enhancing employability and providing lifelong learning opportunities.
3. **Healthcare Services:** Telemedicine and mobile health apps have enabled remote consultations with doctors, providing healthcare services to underserved rural populations. Rural residents can now access diagnostic services, medical advice, and health monitoring without having to travel long distances to urban centers, improving overall healthcare access.
4. **Financial Inclusion:** Digital banking and mobile payment platforms have brought financial services to rural India through the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) Trinity. This initiative has facilitated Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs), making welfare schemes like subsidies, insurance, and pension schemes more efficient and transparent. Additionally, mobile banking and financial literacy programs are promoting savings, insurance, and credit access in rural areas.
5. **E-Governance and Public Service Delivery:** Digital platforms for e-governance enable rural populations to access government services such as land records, pension schemes, subsidy transfers, and social welfare programs. By reducing the need for intermediaries, technology ensures greater transparency, efficiency, and accessibility.
6. **Digital Entrepreneurship:** Technology opens new avenues for entrepreneurship in rural areas. Rural entrepreneurs can use e-commerce platforms, social media, and digital marketing to promote and sell local products, thus connecting them to national and international markets. Digital tools are also helping small businesses manage their operations and finances more effectively.
7. **Infrastructure Development:** Technology is playing a key role in enhancing rural infrastructure through initiatives like BharatNet, which connects rural areas to high-speed internet, and solar-powered solutions for energy access. These innovations provide reliable energy and connectivity, which are essential for economic growth.
8. **Social Empowerment:** Digital literacy programs and initiatives like Common Service Centres (CSCs) empower rural populations, especially women and marginalized communities, by providing access to education, government services, and economic opportunities. These programs improve social inclusion and reduce gender disparities in rural areas.

Unlocking Rural Potential: Technology-Based Strategies for a Digital Future:

While the Government of India has made significant strides in rural development through technology-driven initiatives, several emerging and innovative strategies have not yet been fully implemented on a large scale. These strategies could greatly contribute to the transformation of rural India, fostering economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Here are some technology-based strategies that could be explored:

1. AI-Driven Agricultural Robotics: Use robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) to develop autonomous robots for tasks like planting, weeding, harvesting, and crop monitoring in rural agriculture. These robots can be designed to work with minimal human intervention, optimizing labour and improving productivity.

Impact: Reduced labour costs, increased efficiency, and better yield for farmers, especially in areas with labour shortages.

2. 5G Connectivity for Rural Areas: Implement 5G networks in rural areas to offer faster, more reliable internet connectivity. 5G will enable innovations in agriculture (precision farming), telemedicine, smart villages, and e-governance. It will also support the large-scale deployment of IoT devices for smart monitoring systems (e.g., for water, energy, and agriculture).

Impact: Improved digital infrastructure, enabling high-speed internet access and enabling real-time data collection, enhanced service delivery, and economic growth.

3. Smart Rural Energy Grids Using AI and Blockchain: Develop smart energy grids powered by renewable sources like solar and wind. Integrating AI and blockchain can help manage distributed energy production, storage, and consumption. AI can forecast energy demand, and blockchain can ensure secure transactions for energy credits or trading between rural producers and consumers.

Impact: Improved energy access, sustainability, and efficiency in rural areas, reducing dependency on traditional grid power.

4. Digital Agriculture Marketplaces with Blockchain: Establish blockchain-enabled digital platforms for agricultural trade that directly connect farmers with consumers, buyers, and processors. These platforms can ensure price transparency, reduce middlemen, and improve farmer access to fair market prices.

Impact: Increased income for farmers, better price realization, and elimination of market inefficiencies.

5. Virtual Farming Extension Services: Leverage augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies to provide virtual agricultural extension services. Farmers can participate in real-time, interactive training sessions on crop management, pest control, and advanced farming techniques through AR/VR platforms.

Impact: Improved knowledge transfer to farmers, access to expert advice without needing to travel, and increased productivity through better farming practices.

6. AI-Based Water Conservation and Management Systems: Deploy AI-driven water management systems to monitor and manage water resources for irrigation in rural areas. Using satellite imagery, sensors, and predictive analytics, AI can help optimize water usage and detect leaks or inefficiencies in irrigation systems.

Impact: Sustainable water usage, better drought management, and enhanced crop productivity.

7. Blockchain for Land Record Management: Strategy: Implement blockchain technology for secure, transparent, and immutable land record management. Blockchain can eliminate land disputes, prevent fraud, and streamline property transactions.

Impact: Increased security and trust in land transactions, reduced land disputes, and easier access to credit for farmers and rural populations.

8. Smart Village Ecosystems with IoT and AI: Develop smart village ecosystems that use IoT to optimize daily life ranging from waste management, water distribution, smart street lighting, and security to healthcare services. Integrating AI can enhance decision-making for resource allocation and management.

Impact: Improved quality of life, efficient use of resources, and sustainable living in rural areas.

9. Remote Work and Digital Livelihood Platforms: Create digital platforms for remote work and livelihood generation in rural areas. These platforms can connect rural populations to global job markets, offering remote work opportunities in fields like customer support, content writing, data entry, and IT services.

Impact: Reduced migration to urban areas, creation of local employment opportunities, and increased income levels in rural communities.

10. AI-Driven Smart Healthcare Solutions: Implement AI-based healthcare systems for early diagnosis, predictive analytics, and remote patient monitoring in rural areas. AI can help in diagnosing diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and diabetes by analyzing medical images or patient data collected through mobile health applications.

Impact: Improved healthcare access, early detection of diseases, and reduced healthcare disparities between rural and urban populations.

11. Drone-Based Precision Delivery and Surveillance: Use drones for precise delivery of goods, agricultural inputs, medicines, vaccines, and for monitoring natural resources. Drones could also play a crucial role in surveying rural areas for infrastructure development and disaster management.

Impact: Faster delivery of goods and services, especially in remote areas, and improved disaster response capabilities.

12. Green Smart Agriculture Practices: Promote green smart agriculture technologies, including precision farming tools that use AI, sensors, and data analytics to reduce the environmental impact of farming (e.g., water and pesticide use). Technologies such as vertical farming and hydroponics can be used to maximize agricultural output with minimal resources.

Impact: Sustainable farming practices, reduced environmental degradation, and better yield per acre.

13. AI and Big Data for Rural Education Systems: Implement AI and big data analytics in education systems to personalize learning for rural students, helping them catch up with urban counterparts. AI can adapt learning materials based on students' progress, and big data can track educational outcomes to optimize teaching methods.

Impact: Better learning outcomes, reduced dropout rates, and improved quality of education in rural areas.

14. Smart Mobility Solutions for Rural Transportation: Create smart rural mobility systems using electric vehicles (EVs), autonomous vehicles, and ride-sharing platforms tailored for rural transportation. These systems can improve access to markets, education, and healthcare while reducing transportation costs and environmental impact.

Impact: Improved rural mobility, reduced carbon footprint, and enhanced connectivity for rural communities.

15. Smart Solar-Powered Cold Storage for Agriculture: Deploy solar-powered cold storage units across rural areas to help farmers store perishable produce. These units could use IoT sensors to maintain optimal storage conditions and improve the shelf life of agricultural products.

Impact: Reduced post-harvest losses, increased income for farmers, and a sustainable energy solution for rural areas.

16. Rural Fintech Solutions Using AI and Blockchain: Develop AI-driven financial services platforms to provide micro-loans, insurance, and savings tools for rural populations, using blockchain for secure and transparent transactions. These platforms can offer services to underserved populations, ensuring financial inclusion.

Impact: Increased financial inclusion, better access to capital for rural entrepreneurs, and reduced dependency on informal lending sources.

17. Artificial Intelligence for Rural Disaster Management: Use AI to predict and manage natural disasters in rural areas. Machine learning algorithms can analyze historical data to forecast events like floods, droughts, and cyclones. Drones and remote sensing can provide real-time data for effective disaster management.

Impact: Improved disaster preparedness, reduced loss of life, and faster response times during natural calamities.

18. Crowdsourced Data Collection for Local Development: Develop **crowdsourcing platforms** that allow rural residents to contribute data about local issues such as infrastructure gaps, agricultural challenges, or health problems. This data can be used for more effective local planning and resource allocation.

Impact: Community-driven development, improved infrastructure planning, and more targeted policy interventions.

Conclusion:

Technology has the potential to significantly transform rural India, bridging the urban-rural divide and driving socio-economic development. Initiatives like BharatNet, PMGDISHA, and the integration of AI, IoT, and 5G are already paving the way for growth. However, challenges such as digital literacy, poor infrastructure, and affordability need to be addressed for broader impact.

The paper highlights emerging technologies like AI in agriculture, blockchain for governance, and smart energy grids as key future strategies. With the right policies and partnerships, these technologies can empower rural communities, contributing to India's Vision 2047 of an advanced, inclusive society.

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Reimagining Rural India: The Power of People Participation in Sustainable Development

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Abstract

India's rural development is critical for the country's progress and sustainability. However, achieving sustainable rural development requires active participation from rural communities alongside government and private sector efforts. This paper examines the transformative potential of people's participation in rural development, focusing on its economic, social, and ecological dimensions. The analysis highlights existing gaps in engagement, the challenges faced in fostering participation, and innovative strategies to mobilize rural communities for collective action. By emphasizing inclusive and participatory approaches, this paper proposes actionable recommendations to drive sustainable development.

Introduction

Rural India, which is home to nearly 65% of the country's population, plays a vital role in the socio-economic fabric of the nation. According to the World Bank, "Rural development involves efforts to enhance the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas." While the Indian government has made significant strides in rural development through various policies, schemes, and investments, these efforts often fail to bring about lasting change without the active and meaningful participation of the rural communities themselves.

The concept of people's participation is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of rural development programs. It empowers individuals and communities by fostering a sense of ownership, accountability, and inclusivity. Engaging rural populations in the decision-making processes, planning, and execution of development initiatives helps ensure that these initiatives are not only relevant but also responsive to the specific needs, challenges, and priorities of the communities they aim to serve. This participatory approach results in more tailored, effective solutions that have a lasting positive impact on rural livelihoods.

This paper examines the role of people's participation in driving sustainable rural development, delves into the various challenges faced by communities in engaging with development processes, and proposes actionable strategies to enhance community involvement. The importance of grassroots mobilization, local leadership, and capacity-building for communities will also be explored as key components of a successful and sustainable development framework.

Challenges in People's Participation

1. **Lack of Awareness and Education** Rural communities often struggle with a lack of awareness regarding the development programs and policies that could significantly improve their socio-economic conditions. This knowledge gap, compounded by limited access to quality education, hinders informed participation in governance and development processes.
 - **Policy Awareness:** Many rural residents remain unaware of the various government schemes and programs available to them, such as those related to healthcare, agriculture, or infrastructure development. Without awareness, individuals cannot take full advantage of these opportunities, which reduces their ability to improve their livelihoods.
 - **Capacity Building:** The absence of training programs, workshops, and initiatives designed to build skills and provide information about local governance, project management, and community development limits the ability of rural communities to engage in development initiatives. Without the necessary knowledge and skills, even if people are aware of

development opportunities, they are unable to actively participate or contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes.

2. **Socio-Cultural Barriers** In many rural areas, deep-rooted socio-cultural barriers pose significant challenges to people's participation in development efforts. These barriers often arise from traditional practices, social hierarchies, and discrimination, which limit the involvement of marginalized groups such as women, lower castes, and indigenous communities in community decision-making processes.
 - **Gender Inequality:** Gender-based barriers, including restricted mobility, limited access to education, and cultural norms, prevent women from actively participating in governance and development activities. Women's voices are often sidelined in local decision-making bodies, despite their crucial role in managing household and community resources. These inequalities hinder the development of more inclusive and sustainable rural communities.
 - **Caste Dynamics:** The persistence of caste-based social stratification in many rural communities reinforces inequality and prevents marginalized groups from engaging in local governance. Lower-caste individuals often face discrimination and exclusion from critical community activities, leading to unequal development outcomes and further entrenching socio-economic disparities.
3. **Resource Constraints** Rural communities frequently face financial and infrastructural limitations that hinder their ability to engage fully in development activities. Lack of resources in both human and material terms can make it difficult for communities to participate in, contribute to, or benefit from development initiatives.
 - **Financial Exclusion:** Many rural residents face financial barriers that prevent them from contributing to community projects or accessing the funds required for local development. Lack of financial resources also limits their ability to invest in opportunities such as entrepreneurship, education, and health programs, further entrenching poverty and underdevelopment.
 - **Technological Gaps:** Rural areas often suffer from inadequate access to digital tools and technologies, which limits their participation in modern governance and economic activities. Without access to the internet, smartphones, or digital platforms, rural communities miss out on opportunities for e-governance, online education, digital financial services, and other resources that could enhance their participation in development processes.
4. **Weak Institutional Support** The effectiveness of people's participation in rural development heavily depends on the strength and capacity of local institutions, such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), which are meant to act as conduits for community engagement. However, these institutions often face significant challenges that hinder their ability to mobilize and support local populations effectively.
 - **Coordination Gaps:** Poor coordination between local institutions (like PRIs) and higher administrative bodies (such as district or state-level authorities) often creates obstacles in the implementation of development projects. This lack of synchronization leads to inefficiencies, delays in project execution, and the failure to align local needs with broader policy objectives.
 - **Limited Autonomy:** In many cases, PRIs lack the decision-making authority and financial resources needed to implement community-driven development initiatives. This limitation often results in a lack of ownership and accountability at the local level, preventing meaningful community participation in governance and development processes. Without the power to make key decisions, PRIs become ineffective at fostering participatory development that is responsive to local needs.

These challenges highlight the complex barriers that hinder people's full participation in rural development. Overcoming these obstacles requires comprehensive and targeted interventions that address both the structural and socio-cultural issues faced by rural communities. Empowering local populations, building institutional capacity, and creating an enabling environment for inclusive

development are critical steps toward ensuring that people in rural India can actively contribute to and benefit from sustainable development initiatives.

Innovative Strategies to Foster People's Participation

1. Empowering Local Governance Effective local governance is central to facilitating meaningful people's participation in rural development. Strengthening institutions like Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) can enable these bodies to act as platforms for community engagement and empower rural residents to take active roles in decision-making processes.
 - **Strengthening PRIs:** Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions by providing them with adequate training, resources, and decision-making autonomy is crucial for building their capacity to engage effectively with communities. This can include offering training in leadership, governance, and community mobilization, ensuring that these institutions can act as facilitators of participatory development. Additionally, giving local governing bodies the necessary financial and administrative authority will enable them to implement projects that directly reflect the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.
 - **Participatory Budgeting:** Involving community members in the process of planning and allocating budgets for local development projects ensures that the resources are directed toward projects that are most relevant to the community's needs. This process fosters a sense of ownership and accountability, and enables community members to prioritize issues like education, infrastructure, healthcare, and sanitation based on local concerns.
2. Promoting Education and Awareness One of the key barriers to people's participation in development is a lack of awareness and understanding of government programs, policies, and opportunities. Addressing this gap through education and awareness-building initiatives is fundamental to enabling rural populations to engage in development activities effectively.
 - **Community Education Programs:** Organizing workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns is essential to inform rural communities about government schemes, sustainable agricultural practices, health programs, and other initiatives. These programs can use local language and culturally appropriate methods to ensure that information is accessible and relevant, helping people make informed decisions about their participation in development initiatives.
 - **Skill Development Initiatives:** Offering training programs in leadership, communication, technical skills, and project management can empower rural residents to take active roles in development projects. This includes equipping individuals with the skills necessary for organizing, managing, and sustaining local initiatives, thereby boosting their confidence and competence in contributing to the development of their communities.
3. Leveraging Technology In the digital age, technology offers tremendous potential for enhancing people's participation in rural development by facilitating communication, information sharing, and real-time monitoring of community projects.
 - **Digital Platforms for Engagement:** Developing mobile applications and online portals that provide access to information, updates on government schemes, and spaces for community feedback can greatly enhance people's participation. These platforms allow rural communities to stay informed, voice concerns, and engage in decision-making, even in remote areas. Additionally, they can be used to facilitate community voting, surveys, and consultations on various local issues.
 - **E-Governance Tools:** Implementing digital solutions, such as e-Governance platforms, helps ensure transparency in the development process by providing real-time updates on project progress, fund allocation, and resource utilization. These tools can be used to collect feedback from the community, track the effectiveness of development initiatives, and allow citizens to monitor the delivery of services, ensuring accountability and responsiveness.
4. Fostering Inclusivity It is essential to design development strategies that are inclusive, ensuring the active participation of marginalized groups like women, lower-caste communities, and

indigenous populations. Fostering inclusivity ensures that no one is left behind in the development process.

- **Gender-Sensitive Policies:** Designing policies and programs that prioritize women's participation is crucial for overcoming barriers such as restricted mobility, gender-based violence, and limited representation in local governance. Gender-sensitive programs should focus on creating safe spaces for women, offering leadership training, and addressing their specific needs in sectors such as healthcare, education, and agriculture, thereby empowering them to take an active role in local development.
- **Social Equity Committees:** Establishing local groups or committees dedicated to ensuring the representation of marginalized communities in decision-making processes can help address historical social inequalities.
- 5. Encouraging Community-Led Initiatives Empowering communities to lead their own development initiatives can drive sustainable and locally relevant solutions. Community-led initiatives often foster a greater sense of ownership, accountability, and long-term success.
- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Supporting and expanding Self-Help Groups (SHGs) allows communities to pool resources, share knowledge, and take collective action for the common good. SHGs have proven successful in many rural areas by enabling members to access microfinance, improve livelihoods, and address local development challenges such as healthcare, education, and sanitation.
- **Cooperative Models:** Promoting cooperative societies, where communities share ownership and management of resources such as irrigation systems, renewable energy projects, and agro-processing units, helps ensure equitable access to resources and sustainable development. Cooperative models encourage collective decision-making, resource-sharing, and self-sufficiency, thereby reducing dependence on external aid and fostering economic resilience.
- 6. Building Partnerships Collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community groups, can significantly enhance the impact and sustainability of rural development initiatives.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Encouraging collaborations between government agencies, private companies, and NGOs can leverage the strengths of each partner to develop and implement rural development projects. For example, private companies can contribute technology, financial resources, or expertise, while NGOs can offer community mobilization, training, and capacity-building support. These partnerships can create more holistic, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to rural development challenges.
- **NGO Engagement:** NGOs play a crucial role in mobilizing rural communities, providing technical expertise, and offering capacity-building support. Partnering with NGOs allows local communities to access specialized knowledge, resources, and networks that they might otherwise lack. NGOs can also act as intermediaries between communities and government bodies, ensuring that the voices of rural populations are represented and their needs addressed in development plans.

These innovative strategies represent a comprehensive approach to fostering people's participation in rural development. By empowering local governance, promoting education and awareness, leveraging technology, fostering inclusivity, encouraging community-led initiatives, and building strong partnerships, rural communities can play an active role in shaping their own future and contributing to sustainable development.

Conclusion

Reimagining rural India requires placing people at the center of development processes. People's participation is not just a tool for achieving sustainable development but a transformative force that empowers communities and fosters inclusive growth. By addressing barriers to participation and implementing innovative strategies, India can unlock the potential of its rural population and ensure long-term progress. Collaborative efforts between governments, private

sectors, and communities are essential to realizing this vision of a sustainable and self-reliant rural India.

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गोषवारा

मोखाडा हा पालघर जिल्ह्यातील डोंगराळ दुर्गम भागातील व आदिवासी बहुल लोकसंख्या असलेला तालुका आहे. या तालुक्यामध्ये मोठ्या प्रामाण्येन आदिवासी लोकवस्ती आहे. या भागातील लोकांचा मुख्य व्यवसाय शेती व पशुपालन हा आहे. मोखाडा तालुका हा डोंगराळ भागात असल्याने सर्व शेती डोंगर उतारावर व पावसाच्या पाण्यावर अवलंबून असते. शेतीतून पुरेसे उत्पन्न मिळत नाही. तालुक्यामध्ये कोणतेही मोठे उद्योग नाहीत. परिणामी लोकाना पुरेसा रोजगार उपलब्ध नसतो. त्यामुळे येथील ग्रामीण भागातील लोक रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतरित होतात. आर्थिक उत्पन्न पुरेसे नसल्याने तसेच शिक्षण व गुंतवणुकीची योग्य माहिती नसल्याने लोकांमध्ये बचत व गुंतवणुक करताना लोकाना अनेक समस्यांना समोरे जावे लागते. परंतु लोकाना गुंतवणुकीसाठी काही संधि सुद्धा उपलब्ध आहेत. सदर संशोधन लेखामध्ये मोखाडा तालुक्यातील आदिवासी लोकांना गुंतवणुकीच्या समस्या व संधी याचे विवेचन करण्यात आहे.

प्रस्तावना :

मोखाडा हा पालघर जिल्ह्यातील डोंगराळ दुर्गम भागातील व आदिवासी बहुल लोकसंख्या असलेला तालुका आहे. या तालुक्यामध्ये मोठ्या प्रामाण्येन आदिवासी लोकवस्ती आहे. या भागातील लोकांचा मुख्य व्यवसाय शेती व पशुपालन हा आहे. मोखाडा तालुका हा डोंगराळ भागात असल्याने सर्व शेती डोंगर उतारावर व पावसाच्या पाण्यावर अवलंबून असते. शेतीतून पुरेसे उत्पन्न मिळत नाही. तालुक्यामध्ये कोणतेही मोठे उद्योग नाहीत. परिणामी लोकाना पुरेसा रोजगार उपलब्ध नसतो. त्यामुळे येथील ग्रामीण भागातील लोक रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतरित होतात. आर्थिक उत्पन्न पुरेसे नसल्याने तसेच शिक्षण व गुंतवणुकीची योग्य माहिती नसल्याने लोकांमध्ये बचत व गुंतवणुक करताना लोकाना अनेक समस्यांना समोरे जावे लागते. परंतु लोकाना गुंतवणुकीसाठी काही संधि सुद्धा उपलब्ध आहेत.

उद्दिष्टे

- १) मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागातील गुंतवणूक समस्यांचा अभ्यास करणे
- २) मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागामध्ये असणाऱ्या गुंतवणूक संधीचा शोध घेणे

मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागातील गुंतवणूक समस्या

१) पिढी जात दारिद्र्य - मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागात पूर्वीपासून पिढ्यान् पिढ्या शेती हा व्यवसाय पारंपारिक पद्धतीने चालत आला आहे. आदिवासी भागातील शेतीमधून फारसे आर्थिक उत्पन्न मिळत नाही परिणामी ग्रामीण भागातील लोकांकडे गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी आर्थिक उत्पन्न नसते.

२) व्यावसायिक ज्ञान नसणे - मोखाडा तालुक्यातील जास्तीत जास्त आदिवासी लोक हे निरक्षर आहेत. त्यांच्याकडे व्यावसायिक ज्ञानाची कमतरता आहे. गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी त्या क्षेत्रातील व्यावसायिक ज्ञान

असणे गरजेचे असते परंतु ग्रामीण भागातील आदिवासी लोकांकडे व्यवसायिक ज्ञान नसल्याने त्यांना व्यवसायात गुंतवणूक करणे शक्य होत नाही आणि व्यवसाय सुरू केला तरी तो अपूर्ण ज्ञानामुळे अयशस्वी होण्याचा धोका असतो.

३) **कमी उत्पन्न** - मोखाडा तालुक्यात ग्रामीण भागामध्ये उद्योगधंदे कमी आहेत. तसेच येथे दळणवळणाच्या चांगल्या सुविधांची कमतरता असते त्यामुळे अशा ठिकाणच्या लोकांना रोजगार उपलब्ध होत नाही. त्यांना कायम रोजगार मिळत नाही आणि त्यामुळे आर्थिक उत्पन्न कमी असते म्हणून ग्रामीण भागातील लोक पुरेशी गुंतवणूक करू शकत नाहीत.

४) **व्यावसायिक व उच्च शिक्षणाचा अभाव** - गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी चांगल्या व्यवसायिक शिक्षणाची आवश्यकता असते परंतु मोखाडा भागातील लोक फारसे उच्च व व्यावसायिक शिक्षण घेत नाहीत. कमी शिक्षणामुळे गुंतवणुकीसाठी पूरक ज्ञान नसते म्हणून ते गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी पुढे सरसावत नाहीत.

५) **गुंतवणुकीबद्दल जाणीवजागृती** - मोखाडा परिसरातील लोकांमध्ये गुंतवणुकीची जास्त माहिती नाही. शेअर मार्केट, म्युचुअल फंड, विमा, वित्तीय संस्था, बँकेतील विविध योजना या विषयी या भागातील लोकांना पुरेशी व योग्य माहिती नाही. तसेच निरक्षर लोक तंत्रज्ञानाचा वापर करत नाही. त्यामुळे परिसरातील लोकांची गुंतवणूक जास्त झाली नाही.

६) **धोका पत्करण्याची तयारी नसणे** - ग्रामीण भागामध्ये राहणाऱ्या लोकांना असे वाटते की आपण ज्या परिस्थितीत आहोत त्याच परिस्थितीत ठीक आहोत यातच त्यांना सुरक्षितता वाटते नवीन गुंतवणूक करायचे किंवा एखादा नवीन व्यवसाय सुरू करायचा म्हणजे त्यांना ते धोक्याचे वाटते कारण नवीन व्यवसाय चालेल की नाही जर नाही चालला तर तोटा होईल नुकसान होईल अशा प्रकारची भीती त्यांना वाटत असते

७) **उपभोग प्रवृत्ती** - ग्रामीण भागातील लोक जेवढे उत्पन्न मिळवितात तेवढे सगळे उत्पन्न उपभोगावर खर्च करून टाकतात मागे शिल्लक काही राखून ठेवण्याची अथवा उत्पन्नातील काही भागाची गुंतवणूक करण्याची त्यांची मानसिकता नसते. बचतीचे महत्त्व मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागातील अनेक लोकांना माहिती नाही त्यामुळे ते बचत करत नाहीत त्यामुळे त्यांच्याकडे आर्थिक स्वरूपात शिल्लक काही राहत नाही.

९) **व्यसनाधीनता** - वाढती व्यसनाधीनता ही ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्थेला लागलेली कीड आहे. या तालुक्यातील बरेच लोक व्यसनाच्या आहारी गेलेले आहेत त्यामुळे ते आपल्या उत्पन्नातील बराचसा भाग व्यसनावर खर्च करतात परिणामी उत्पन्नातील बचत होणारा भाग व्यसनावर खर्च झाल्याने या लोकांना गुंतवणुकीसाठी मर्यादा येतात.

१०) **बेरोजगारी** - बेरोजगारी हा मोखाडा तालुक्यातील जनतेला भेडसावणारा मोठा प्रश्न आहे. कारण उद्योगधंदे तसेच शेतीचा विकास झालेला नाही. लोकांना उपलब्ध होणारा रोजगार हा अत्यल्पस्वरूपात असून अशा रोजगारातून मिळालेले उत्पन्न हे फक्त उपभोगा पुरतेच असते पुरेसे उत्पन्न नसल्याने ग्रामीण भागात याची उणीव असल्याने गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेले उत्पन्न मिळत नाही.

मोखाडा तालुक्यातील ग्रामीण भागातील गुंतवणुकीच्या संधी

१) **शेअर मार्केट मधील गुंतवणूक** - मोखाडा सारख्या ग्रामीण व आदिवासी भागातील लोकांना शेअर मार्केट मध्ये गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी मोठ्या प्रमाणावर संधी आहे.

- २) बँक – आदिवासी भागातील लोकांसाठी बँक ही बचत व गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी एक मूलभूत संधी उपलब्ध आहे. त्यामध्ये लोकानी गुंतवणूक करावी.
- ३) पोस्टातील बचत – ग्रामीण भागातील लोकांसाठी पोस्टमध्ये गुंतवणुकीसाठी सरकारकडून विविध योजना उपलब्ध आहेत. कमी उत्पन्न असणाऱ्या लोकांना पोस्टातील बचत व गुंतवणुकीच फायदा होतो.
- ४) व्यवसाय गुंतवणूक – आदिवासी तरुणांना व्यवसायात गुंतवणूक करून मोठ्या प्रमाणावर नफा कमावता येईल. आदिवासी ग्रामीण भागात शेती, कुक्कुटपालन आणि पशुपालन, कुटीर उद्योग व मत्स्य पालन व विविध व्यवसायमध्ये आर्थिक गुंतवणूक फायद्याची ठरेल.

सारांश

मोखाडा तालुका हा दुर्गम व डोंगराळ भागात वसलेला आहे. या तालुक्यामध्ये मोठ्या प्रमाणावर आदिवासी लोक राहतात. हरमिन भागात आर्थिक उत्पन्नाची साधने कमी असतात. त्यामुळे गुंतवणुकीचे प्रमाण अतिशय कमी आहे. या परिसरातील लोकाना गुंतवणुकीसाठी मर्यादा आहेत. त्यांना त्यासाठी विविध समस्यांना सामोरे जावे लागते. तसेच सध्याच्या काळात लोकाना बँक, पोस्ट, शेअर मार्केट व विविध व्यवसायामध्ये गुंतवणुक करण्यास संधी आहे.

संदर्भ

१. कृष्णमूर्ती सी (2009), भारतीय बचत आणि वित्तीय सेवांचे बदलणारे नमुने, RVS जर्नल ऑफ मॅनेजमेंट, 2 (1) 79-90.
२. दिनेश दरनाल १, अभिजित दत्ता (2024), आदिवासी गुंतवणूकदारांच्या वर्तनाचे अनुभवजन्य विश्लेषण - उत्तर पूर्व भारतातील निवडक राज्यांचा अभ्यास, International Research Journal on Advanced Engineering and Management, e ISSN: 2584-2854 Volume: 02 Issue: 03 March 2024
३. <https://mokhada.zppalghar.in/pages/rachna.php>

कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या आदिवासी महिला उद्योजकांना

येणाऱ्या समस्यांचे विश्लेषण

(संदर्भ: मु.देवपाडा, ता.कर्जत, जि.रायगड)

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कीर्ती महाविद्यालय, दादर, मुंबई-२८

प्रस्तावना :

आदिवासी समाज हा पूर्वीपासून भारतात वास्तव्य करत आला आहे. आजही महाराष्ट्रासह संपूर्ण भारतात आदिवासी समाजाच्या भिन्न-भिन्न भाषा, संस्कृती आणि परंपरा असणारे लोकसमूह विखुरलेल्या स्वरूपात पहायला मिळतात. स्वतःच्या मूलभूत गरजा भागवण्यासाठी ते निसर्गाचा आधार घेतात. शेती त्यांचा प्रमुख व्यवसाय असून बदलत्या काळानुसार आदिवासी समाजातील युवावर्ग नोकरी आणि उद्योगधंद्यांमध्ये पुढे येताना दिसतो. व्यवसाय करताना विक्रीयोग्य असणाऱ्या बहुतांश गोष्टी या निसर्गातूनच उपलब्ध होत असल्यामुळे व्यवसाय करणे त्यांच्यासाठी सोपे झाले आहे. प्रस्तुत शोधनिबंधात अभ्यासत असलेल्या पांढऱ्या कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या आदिवासी महिला या प्रामुख्याने रायगड जिल्ह्यातील कर्जत तालुक्यातील देवपाडा या गावासभोवताली विखुरलेल्या आदिवासी पाड्यांमधील राहणाऱ्या आहेत. फुलांचे हार किंवा तोरण बनवण्यासाठी वापरल्या जाणाऱ्या पांढऱ्या कुडाच्या पानांचे संकलन आणि विक्री असा अनौपचारिक स्वरूपाचा व्यवसाय त्या करतात. ही पानं विकण्यासाठी त्या (नेरळ-देवपाडा) ते (दादर-परळ, फूल मार्केट) असा दर दिवसाआड प्रवास करतात.

कुडाच्या पानाची प्राथमिक माहिती :

पांढरा कुडा, कुडा, कुतजा व कुटराज या नावाने ओळखल्या जाणाऱ्या या पानांना आयुर्वेदामध्ये विशेष मान्यता प्राप्त आहे. या पानांपासून आयुर्वेदीय कुटजारिष्ट, कुटज घनवटी अशी आयुर्वेदीक औषध बनवली जातात जी डायरिया सारख्या आजारांवर गुणकारी म्हणून ओळखली जातात.



आकृती क्रमांक.१ - कुडाच्या पानांचे छायाचित्र

सुचक शब्द : आदिवासी महिला, महिला उद्योजकता

गृहीतक : आदिवासी महीलांना कुडाच्या पानांच्या व्यवसायामुळे आरोग्य विषयक समस्या उद्भवतात.

संशोधनाची उद्दीष्टे : कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या आदिवासी महिलांच्या समस्या जाणून घेणे.

संशोधनाच्या मर्यादा :

प्रस्तुत शोधनिबंध हा देवपाडा गावाच्या (ता.कर्जत, जि.रायगड) आसपास विखुरलेल्या कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करण्यासाठी दादर-परळ भागात येणाऱ्या महिलांपुरताच मर्यादीत आहे.

संशोधन पद्धती व माहितीचे विश्लेषण :

सदर संशोधन कार्य पूर्ण करण्यासाठी न्यायिक नमुना निवड पद्धतीनुसार ५ आदिवासी महिला उद्योजकांची निवड करण्यात आली असून यामध्ये वय वर्षे ३० ते ६० या वयोगटाच्या महिलांचा समावेश आहे. तसेच माहिती संकलनासाठी प्रत्यक्ष मुलाखत आणि निरीक्षण या साधनांचा वापर करण्यात आला. मिळालेली माहिती गुणात्मक स्वरूपाची असल्यामुळे सर्वप्रथम सदर माहितीचे विस्तारीकरण करून शास्त्रीय भाषेमध्ये रूपांतरण करण्यात आले आणि रूपांतरित माहितीतील सहसंबंध ओळखून पुढीलप्रमाणे माहितीचे विश्लेषण करण्यात आले.

आदिवासी महिलांना व्यावसायिक जिवनात येणाऱ्या समस्या पुढील प्रमाणे :

1. जंगलातील हिंस्र श्वापदांपासून धोका :

कर्जत माथेरान भाग हा सह्याद्री पर्वताच्या घनदाट अरण्याने व्यापलेला वन भूभाग असून येथील जंगलात रानटी डुक्कर, रानगवे, बाकींग डियर आणि बिबट्या यांसारखे वन्य प्राणी वास्तव्य करतात. पांढऱ्या कुडाची पानं ही हिवाळ्यात मुबलक प्रमाणात उपलब्ध असल्यामुळे पानांच्या शोधात जंगलात खूप आत जावे लागत नाही ज्यामुळे मनुष्य आणि प्राणी असा संघर्ष होण्याची शक्यता कमी असते. परंतु थंडी ओसरे पर्यंत ही पाने कमी-कमी होत जातात आणि ती शोधण्यासाठी, जंगलात दुरवर जावे लागते. या भागातील वन्य प्राण्यांचा मुक्त संचार पाहता कुडाची पाने गोळा करायला जंगलात गेलेल्या आदिवासी महिलांच्या जीवाला या काळात धोका निर्माण होण्याची दाट शक्यता आहे.

2. वाहतुकीच्या मर्यादा :

गृहनिर्माण प्रकल्पांच्या वाढत्या मागणीमुळे आणि माथेरान सारखे थंड हवेचे ठिकाण व पर्यटन स्थळ जवळच असल्यामुळे नेरळ-कर्जत भागात मोठ्या प्रमाणावर मूलभूत सोयी सुविधांचा विकास झाला असल्याचे निदर्शनास येते. जरी असे असले तरी या भागातील स्थानिक वाहतूक व्यवस्था मात्र आजही मागास असल्याचे पाहायला मिळते. आदिवासी समाज वास्तव्य करत असलेल्या वाड्या-वस्त्यां पर्यंत रस्ते पोहोचले असले तरी शासनाकडून वाहतुकीसाठी वाहनांची योग्य व्यवस्था नसल्याचे जाणवते ज्यामुळे कुडाच्या पानाचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या स्त्रीयांना ऑटो रिक्षाच्या सहाय्याने मालाच्या बोजासह प्रवास करावा लागतो जो त्यांच्यासाठी फार खर्चिक असल्याचे कळते.

3. असंवेदनशीलता आणि असुरक्षितता :

आदिवासी महिलांना आपले उत्पादन विकण्यासाठी खूप मोठा प्रवास करावा लागतो. या प्रवासादरम्यान अनेक वेळा त्यांना इतर प्रवाशी महिलांच्या भांडणाचा व टोमण्यांचा सामना करावा लागतो. अनेक वेळा रात्री-बेरात्री प्रवास करताना पुरुष प्रवाशांच्या वाईट नजरांना सामोरे जावे लागते. मार्केटमधील गर्दीचा फायदा घेऊन विनयभंग करणाऱ्या विकृत मानसिकतेचा त्रास सहन करावा लागतो. बऱ्याच वेळेला मार्केटमधील व्यापारी किंवा इतर घटकांची असंवेदनशील भाषा सहन करावी लागते. तसेच ठग किंवा

चोर प्रवृत्तीच्या लोकांपासून सुद्धा सावध रहावे लागते. अदिवासी भागातून येणाऱ्या विशेषकरून तरुण महिलांना या सर्व प्रकारांचा विशेष त्रास होतो ज्यामुळे त्यांचा मनात असुरक्षिततेची भावना निर्माण होते.

4. आरोग्य विषयक समस्या :

कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या मधीलांमध्ये काही महीला या ४५ ते ६० या वयोगटातील आहेत तर काही तरुण म्हणजे २५ ते ३५ वयोगटातील आहेत. पायी जंगलात जाऊन कुडाची पाने गोळा करणे, गोळा केलेली पाने घरी घेऊन येणे, त्या पानांना स्वच्छ धुणे, धुतलेल्या पानांच्या एका विशिष्ट पद्धतीने पुड्या तयार, पुड्या बांधण्यासाठी नैसर्गिक पद्धतीने वाक तयार करणे, २५० ते ३०० पुड्यांचा ३० ते ३५ किलोचा बोजा तयार करणे आणि हे बोजे मार्केटला आणून पुन्हा ५०-५० पुड्यांचे गठ्ठे तयार करणे. तसेच हे बोजे डोक्यावर घेऊन घरापासून ते रिक्शा स्टॅन्ड पर्यंत, नेरळ रिक्शा स्टॅन्ड पासून नेरळ रेल्वे स्टेशन पर्यंत, दादर रेल्वे स्टेशन पासून ते संकलन केंद्रापर्यंत या महिलांना प्रवास करावा लागतो ज्यामुळे या महीलांना डोक्या सोबतच मान व मनक्याचे त्रास उद्भवतात.

5. अनियमित वेळ :

उद्योग-व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या व्यक्तीला कोणत्याच प्रकारे वेळेची मर्यादा नसते. स्पर्धेत कायम राहण्यासाठी त्यांना नेहमीच धडपड करावी लागते. कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या स्त्रीया या नेरळ ते दादर असा रेल्वे प्रवास करतात यात कित्येकदा ट्रेन सुटने, मालाचा बोजा रेल्वेच्या डब्यात सुटणे किंवा चालत्या गाडीतून बोजा बाहेर पडणे अश्या समस्या अनियंत्रित उद्भवतात ज्यामुळे पुढे मार्केटला पोहोचायला उशिर होतो. तसेच मालाचा बोजा व्यापाऱ्यांच्या हवाली करण्या आधी ५०-५० पुड्यांच्या स्वरूपात वेगळा करावा लागतो ज्यामुळे त्यांना परतीच्या प्रवासास उशीर होतो. तर कित्येकदा घरी परतताना शेवटची लोकल ट्रेन पकडावी लागते व ती देखील चुकल्यास रात्र स्थानकावरच व्यतीत करावी लागते.

निष्कर्ष :

सदर संशोधना अंती देवपाडा, नेरळ भागातील कुडाच्या पानांचा व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या आदिवासी महिलांना व्यावसायिक जीवनात आरोग्य विषयक समस्यांसोबतच इतर सामाजिक समस्यांना देखिल सामोरे जावे लागते हे स्पष्ट होते.

शिफारशी :

1. माल डब्यातील पुरुषांचा मुक्त संचार आणि डब्याचे बंदिस्त स्वरूप पाहता, सुरक्षेच्या कारणास्तव कुडाच्या पानाचे बोजे घेऊन महिलांसाठी राखीव असणाऱ्या डब्याने आदिवासी महिला प्रवास करतात ज्यामुळे इतर महिला प्रवाश्यांना त्रास होतो. सदर अडचण लक्षात घेता शिफारस करण्यात येते कि, रेल्वेमध्ये महिलांसाठी आरक्षित असणाऱ्या डब्यासोबत माल डब्यातही पोलिसांची नियुक्ती करण्यात यावी ज्यामुळे कुडाच्या पानाचे बोजे घेऊन कोणालाही त्रास न देता आदिवासी महिला सुरक्षित प्रवास करू शकतात.
2. कुडाची पाने गोळा करण्यात येणाऱ्या शारीरिक अडचणी आणि वन्य प्राण्यांपासून असणारा धोका लक्षात घेता शिफारस करण्यात येते कि, कुडाच्या पानाची शेतात लागवड करण्याचा प्रयोग करून

पाहावा जेणेकरून कुडाची पाने गोळा करणाऱ्या आदिवासी महिलांचे श्रम कमी होऊन उत्पादनात वाढ होईल.

3. कुडाच्या पानाच्या बोजाच्या वाहतुकीमध्ये अपेक्षित असणारे मानवी बळ लक्षात घेता सदर वाहतुकीचे काम करण्यास आदिवासी पुरुषांना प्रोत्साहित करण्याची शिफारस करण्यात येत आहे ज्यामुळे आदिवासी महिलांच्या शारीरिक व्याधी कमी होण्यास मदत होईल.

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स्थलांतरित आदिवासी कुटुंबांच्या समस्या

डॉ. प्रकाश विष्णू घरत

सोनोपंत दांडेकर महाविद्यालय पालघर ता. जि. पालघर

प्रस्तावना :-

आपल्या देशाला अतिप्राचीन आणि वैविध्यपूर्ण अशी संस्कृती लाभली आहे. यामध्ये अनेक धर्म, पंथ, जाती त्यांचे उपगट एकत्र वास्तव्य करून राहतात. या सर्वांमध्ये आदिम जमात म्हणून आदिवासी समाजाला ओळखले जाते. आदिवासी समाजाची संस्कृती, त्यांचे वेगळेपण आजही प्रकर्षाने दिसून येते.

भारतात जवळपास ७०० आदिवासी जमाती आहेत. आपल्या महाराष्ट्रात ४७ आदिवासी जमाती आहेत. यातील प्रत्येक आदिवासी जमातीच्या रूढी, परंपरा, संस्कृती, व्यवसाय वेगवेगळे व पारंपारिक दिसून येतात. त्यामुळे आदिवासी समाज इतर समाजापासून वेगळा व मागासलेला दिसून येतो. कारण या समाजाची वस्ती डोंगर पायथ्याशी शेतीयोग्य जमीन अल्प उदरनिर्वाहाचे, उत्पन्नाचे ठोस साधन नसल्याने मोलमजुरी करूनच आपल्या कुटुंबाचा उदरनिर्वाह केला जातो. निसर्ग सान्निध्यामुळे दैवतपूजेतही पंचमहाभूते, वनस्पती, प्राणी आणि पूर्वज यांची ते पूजा करतात.

स्थलांतरित आदिवासी समाजाच्या समस्या - आदिवासी समाजाचे वास्तव्य शहरी व ग्रामीण समाजापासून अलिप्त, डोंगर सान्निध्यात असल्यामुळे शेती योग्य जमीन फारच कमी प्रमाणात असते. बहुसंख्य समाज भूमिहीन त्यामुळे इतरांच्या शेतीत शेतमजूर म्हणून काम करत असतात. या समाजाच्या वास्तव्याच्या ठिकाणी वाहतूक, दळणवळण, शिक्षण, वीज, आरोग्यसेवा या सुविधांची कमतरता. शिवाय व्यवसाय विषयक कौशल्याचा अभाव पर्यायाने मिळेल ते काम करून आपला व आपल्या कुटुंबाचा उदरनिर्वाह चालवावा लागतो.

ग्रामीण भागात रोजगाराचे प्रमुख स्रोत म्हणजे शेती क्षेत्रातील रोजगार होय. मात्र शेतीचे स्वरूप कोरडवाहू स्वरूपाची शेती, त्यामुळे पावसाळी हंगामात शेती केली जाते. त्यावेळी शेतीत रोजगार उपलब्ध होतो व पावसाळ्या नंतर शेतीत रोजगार उपलब्ध होत नाही. पर्यायाने शेतमजुरांना पावसाळ्या नंतर रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतर करण्याची वेळ येते. शेतीत शेतमजूर म्हणून आदिवासी समाजाच्या लोकांचे प्रमाण सार्वधिक आहे. म्हणूनच स्थलांतरित कामगारांमध्ये आदिवासी कुटुंबाचे प्रमाण अधिक आहे. हे स्थलांतर करतांना आपले घर, गाव, परिसर सोडून रोजगाराच्या ठिकाणी जावून राहावे लागते. अशा ठिकाणी कौटुंबिक व आरोग्य विषयक सेवा सुविधा उपलब्ध नसतात पर्यायाने अनेक समस्यांचा सामना करावा लागतो.

रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतरित होणारे आदिवासी कुटुंब हे प्रामुख्याने शेती हंगामानंतर केले जाणारे व्यवसाय आहेत, त्यामध्ये काम करण्यासाठी स्थलांतर करतात. उदा. वीटभट्टी व्यवसाय, रेती व्यवसाय, खाणकाम व्यवसाय, मासेमारी व्यवसाय या सारख्या व्यवसायात रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतर करतात. हे व्यवसाय हंगामी स्वरूपाचे असून ते बंदिस्त जागेत न करता मोकळ्या जागेवर केले जातात. शिवाय या व्यवसायाचे स्वरूप बघता त्या ठिकाणीच राहून काम करावे लागते. अशा वेळी

तेथील परिस्थितीशी मिळते जुळते घेवूनच तेथे वास्तव्य करून काम करावे लागते. त्यामुळे समस्यांना सामोरे जावे लागते.

रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतर करतांना या कुटुंबांना आपली घरे बंद करून स्थलांतर करावे लागते. अशा वेळी त्यांच्या घराकडे दुर्लक्ष होते. घरावरील कौले फुटणे, लाकडांची चोरी होणे, फळझाडांचे नुकसान होणे, जनावरे (गाई, बैल, शेळ्या) कुणाकडे तरी सोपविणे या सारख्या समस्या उदभवतात.

स्थलांतर करतांना कुटुंबातील मुलांच्या शिक्षणाचा प्रश्न निर्माण होतो. अशा वेळी नातेवाईक किंवा वृद्ध आईवडील यांच्यावर जबाबदारी सोपवावी लागते. मुलांच्या शिक्षणासाठी निवाशी आश्रम शाळेचा आधार घ्यावा लागतो. मात्र जी लहान मुले आहेत त्यांना सोबत घेवूनच स्थलांतर करावे लागते. शिक्षण घेणाऱ्या मुलांची काहीच व्यवस्था झाली नाही तर अर्ध्यावर शिक्षण सोडून मुलांना सोबत घेवून जावे लागते. यामुळेच शिक्षणाच्या गळतीमध्ये आदिवासी समाजातील मुलांचे प्रमाण हे सार्वधिक आहे.

कामाच्या ठिकाणी वास्तव्य करून राहत असतांना अनेक समस्यांना तोंड देवून राहावे लागते. त्यामुळे आरोग्याचे अनेक प्रश्न निर्माण होतात. वास्तव्याच्या ठिकाणी पुरेशा प्रमाणात शुद्ध पिण्याचे पाणी नसते. अशा वेळी ओढा, खड्डा, विहीर, नाला या मधील मिळेल ते पाणी प्यावे लागते दुषित पाण्यामुळे आरोग्याचा प्रश्न निर्माण होतो.

वास्तव्याच्या ठिकाणी पुरेशी लाईट व्यवस्था नसते, शिवाय उघड्यावरच झोपडी वजाघर बांधून तातपुरती निवासाची व्यवस्था केली जाते. त्यामुळे सर्प दंश, विंचू दंश होण्याच्या घटना घडत असतात. त्यातच ऊन, वारा, पाऊस यांचाही सामना करावा लागतो.

आदिवासी समाजातील स्थलांतरित कुटुंब हे अल्पशिक्षित, निरक्षर असल्याने कामगार विषयक कायद्यांची त्यांना काहीच माहिती नसते. त्यामुळे कामगार म्हणून मिळणारे अधिकार, हक्क या पासून ते वंचित राहतात. शिवाय कामाच्या ठिकाणी काम करत असताना एखादा अपघात घडला, काही नुकसान झाल तरी त्याबद्दल नुकसान भरपाई, मदत मिळत नाही.

या स्थलांतरित कुटुंबाच्या कामाचे स्वरूप म्हणजे वीटभट्टी, खाणकाम, रेतीकाम, यामध्ये कामगार म्हणून मिळेल ते काम करावे लागते. त्यामुळे अशा कामात कोणत्याही प्रकारची सुरक्षितता नसते. जोखीम स्वीकारूनच कामे करावी लागतात. अशा वेळी लहानसहान अपघात होणे, दुखापत होणे, हे नेहमीचेच असते. मात्र याकडे दुर्लक्ष करून आरोग्याची हेळसांड करून काम करत असतात. कारण दुखापतीने किंवा अपघातामुळे आराम करावयाचा झाल्यास तितक्या दिवसांच्या मजुरीला मुकावे लागते. त्यामुळे दुखापतीकडे आरोग्याकडे दुर्लक्ष करून सतत काम करावे लागते. याचा परिणाम त्यांच्या एकूण आरोग्यावर दिसून येतो. म्हणून आरोग्य विषयक समस्यांचे प्रमाण आदिवासी समाजातील व्यक्तींमध्ये अधिक असल्याचे दिसते.

आदिवासी समाजातील स्थलांतरित कुटुंबांचे हित साधायचे असेल, त्यांचा विकास करावयाचा असेल तर शासनाला या स्थलांतरित आदिवासी समाजातील कुटुंबांकरीता काही ठोस उपाय योजना करणे आवश्यक आहे.

या स्थलांतरित कुटुंबांची नोंद ठेवणे, कामाच्या ठिकाणी वास्तव्य करतांना त्यांच्या निवासाची व्यवस्था करणे, शुद्ध पिण्याच्या पाण्याची व्यवस्था, लाईटची सोय, शौचालाय व्यवस्था, मुलांच्या शिक्षणाची व्यवस्था, नियमित आरोग्य तपासणी, राशन व्यवस्था अशा किमान गरजा भागतील अशी व्यवस्था निर्माण करणे आवश्यक आहे.

स्थलांतरित कुटुंबांचे सामाजिक प्रश्न सोडविण्यासाठी कामगार विषयक कायद्यांची माहिती करून देणे, कामाचे स्वरूप व कामाचे तास आणि मिळणारी मजुरी, वेतन यासाठी निश्चित आराखडा करणे, त्यांचे होणारे शोषण या बाबत ठोस उपाययोजना करणे गरजेचे आहे.

सारांश-

भारता सारख्या ग्रामीण व शेती प्रधान देशात सामाजिक व आर्थिक विकास साध्य करावयाचा असेल तर ग्रामीण समाजाच्या विकासावर लक्ष केंद्रित करणे आवश्यक आहे. ग्रामीण भागातील दुर्बल, आदिवासी कुटुंबांना शेती हंगामानंतर रोजगाराचा प्रश्न निर्माण होतो. त्यामुळे ग्रामीण भागातील विशेषतः आदिवासी समाजातील कुटुंबांना आपला उदरनिर्वाह करण्याकरीता स्थलांतर करण्याची वेळ येते. त्यातून अनेक समस्यांना सामोरे जावे लागते. या समस्या सोडविण्यासाठी काही ठोस उपाययोजना करणे आवश्यक आहे.

संदर्भ -

- १) भारतातील आदिवासी जीवन आणि संस्कृती -डॉ. संजय सालीवकर -श्री मंगेश प्रकाशन - नागपूर
- २) भारतातील आदिवासी समाजाच्या समस्या -डॉ. प्रभाकर गांजे -गोदावरी प्रकाशन -औरंगाबाद
- ३) भारतीय आदिवासी - प्रा. गुरुनाथ नाडगोंडे - कॉन्टिनेन्टल प्रकाशन -पुणे
- ४) संकेत स्थळे -आदिवासी जीवन विषयक कायदे

सर्वांगीण विकासाचे रोल मॉडेल असलेल्या खोमारपाडा गावाचा अभ्यास

(संदर्भ : तालुका विक्रमगड, जिल्हा पालघर)

डॉ. अंकिता चंद्रकात वर्तक

समन्वयक, ग्रामीण विकास, दूरस्थ आणि ऑनलाइन शिक्षण केंद्र, मुंबई विद्यापीठ.

गोषवारा

सर्वांगीण विकासाचे रोल मॉडेल असलेल्या खोमारपाडा गावाचा अभ्यास (संदर्भ : तालुका विक्रमगड, जिल्हा पालघर) या शोधनिबंधात विक्रमगड तालुक्यातील खोमारपाडा हे अतिदुर्गम गाव कसे विकसित गाव झाले आहे याचा अभ्यास करण्यात आला आहे. देशात आणि राज्यात अनेक गावे अशी आहे जेथे विकासाची गंगा पोहोचली नाही. अशा गावांमध्ये लोक रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतरित होतात. गावाला दिशा देणारा प्रवर्तक लाभला आणि गावकऱ्यांनी इच्छाशक्तीच्या पाठबळावर शासकीय योजनांचा वापर करून गावाला स्वयंपूर्ण होता येऊ शकते असे खोमारपाडा या गावाचा मागील चार-पाच वर्षांच्या प्रगतीचा आलेख दर्शवतो. गावकऱ्यांच्या स्थलांतराचा प्रश्न निकाली लावताना त्यांचा आर्थिक स्तर तर उंचावला आहे पण त्याचबरोबर गावातील मुलांची शैक्षणिक प्रगती उंचावून एकंदर 'विकास' या शब्दाला साजेशी प्रगती केल्याने खोमारपाडा हे गाव राज्यासह देशात ग्रामीण विकासाचे रोल मॉडेल झाले आहे.

प्रस्तावना

विक्रमगड तालुक्यातील खोमारपाडा या गावात पावसाच्या पाण्यावर भात शेती हे प्रमुख पीक घेतल्यानंतर पाण्याअभावी स्वतःच्या मालकीची घरे व शेती सोडून चार ते पाच महिने इतर तालुका किंवा जिल्ह्यात हंगामी स्थलांतर करून दुसऱ्यांच्या शेतात शेतमजुरी, वीटभट्टीवरील कामे, मासेमारी, गवंडीकाम आदी कामे करून आपल्या परिवाराचा गाडा हाकणारी मंडळी विकासाच्या प्रवाहात आल्याने लखपती झाली आहेत. याचबरोबर त्यांच्या शिक्षण, आरोग्यामध्ये देखील अनेक सुधारणा झाल्या असून गावातील विकलांगांच्या हाताला देखील काम मिळाल्याने ते देखील स्वावलंबी झाले आहेत. विविध योजनांच्या माध्यमातून खोमारपाडा हे गाव सर्वांगाने विकसित झाले आहे.

शोध संज्ञा

खोमारपाडा, सर्वांगीण विकास, आदिवासी, हंगामी स्थलांतर, मनरेगा.

संदर्भ साहित्याचा आढावा

१. **Rural Planning Problems, Edited by Gordon E. Cherry, 2023.** सदर पुस्तकात लेखकाने ग्रामीण परिस्थितीवर प्रकाश टाकला आहे. ग्रामीण भागातील गरिबांची घरे, रोजगाराचा प्रश्न हे शहरातील समस्यांपेक्षा कसे वेगळे आहेत आणि या प्रश्नांच्या निराकरणासाठी वेगवेगळ्या दृष्टिकोनांची कशी गरज आहे याचे विवेचन केले आहे. याखेरीज लोकसंख्येतील बदल, ग्रामीण समुदाय, ग्रामीण घरे, रोजगार, मनोरंजन, पर्यटन आदींचे सविस्तर विवेचन केले आहे.

२. 'आदर्श ग्राम योजना' मार्गदर्शिका, संकलन आणि लेखन रचनात्मक प्रकोष्ठ / ग्राम प्रबंधन, प्रकाशन श्री वेदमाता गायत्री ट्रस्ट (टीएमडी), उत्तराखंड २०१६. सदर पुस्तकात आदर्श गावासाठी कोणकोणत्या योजना, विकास कार्यक्रम राबवणे गरजेचे आहे याची विस्तृत माहिती देण्यात आली आहे. यात गावाच्या विकासासाठी गावातील लोकांची, अधिकाऱ्यांची कर्तव्य, सर्वेक्षण, गावातील समस्यांचा आढावा, वैयक्तिक विकास, बेरोजगारी, गरिबी निवारण, आरोग्य स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम, प्रदूषण, जलसंधारण, सामाजिक सुरक्षा आणि न्याय, दारूबंदी, धार्मिक स्थळे, वाहतूक, रस्ते आदींबाबत सविस्तर विवेचन करण्यात आले आहे.

३. सकाळ अँगोवन, गाव अन शिवार, १६ फेब्रुवारी २०१७, पृष्ठ क्र. ९, 'एकच ध्यास - गावाचा विकास', या लेखात बुलढाणा जिल्ह्यातील मोताळा तालुक्यातील सिंदखेड लपारी या गावाने 'क्रांती तलवारीने नाही तर चांगल्या विचारांनी आणि दृढ निश्चयाने घडते' या विचाराने प्रेरित होऊन गावाने बदलाचा मार्ग स्वीकारला. विविध प्रकारच्या विकास कामांमधून खेडे कसे आधुनिक गाव बनले याचे सविस्तर विवेचन करण्यात आले आहे.

समस्या विधान

१. बारमाही पाणी आणि उत्पन्नाअभावी स्थलांतराचे प्रमाण दिसून आले आहे.
२. हंगामी स्थलांतरामुळे शालेय विद्यार्थ्यांच्या शिक्षणात घट दिसून आली आहे.
३. शिक्षणाअभावी सामाजिक समस्या तसेच आरोग्य विषयक समस्या दिसून आल्या आहेत.

संशोधनाची गरज

महात्मा गांधी रोजगार हमी योजनेद्वारे खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांच्या हाताला काम मिळाल्याने राहणीमानाचा दर्जा उंचावू लागला आहे.

संशोधनाची उद्दिष्टे

१. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांची आर्थिक स्थिती अभ्यासणे.
२. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांची सामाजिक स्थिती अभ्यासणे.
३. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांची आरोग्य विषयक स्थिती अभ्यासणे.

संशोधनाची गृहीतके

१. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांची आर्थिक स्थिती उंचावली आहे.
२. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांची सामाजिक स्थिती उंचावली आहे.
३. खोमारपाडा गावातील लोकांच्या आरोग्यात सुधारणा झाल्या आहेत.

संशोधन साधने

सर्वांगीण विकासाचे रोल मॉडेल असलेल्या खोमारपाडा गावाचा अभ्यास करताना निरीक्षण, मुलाखती व चर्चा, क्षेत्रभेटी, संवाद कार्यक्रम, पुस्तके, वर्तमानपत्रातील बातम्या यांचा वापर केला आहे.

संशोधनाच्या मर्यादा

१. सदर संशोधन हे विक्रमगड तालुक्यातील खोमारपाडा गावापुरतेच मर्यादित आहे.
२. शेतकरी, ग्रामस्थ, अधिकारी त्यांच्या कामात व्यस्त असल्याने माहिती घेताना अडचणी आल्या.

३. सदर संशोधनाचे निष्कर्ष इतर तालुक्यांना लागू होतीलच असे नाही.

माहितीचे विषदरीकरण

पालघर जिल्हातील विक्रमगड तालुक्यात डोल्हारी बुद्रूक गुप ग्रामपंचायती अंतर्गत असलेले खोमारपाडा हे गाव विकसित झाल्याने त्या गावातील गावकऱ्यांचे शेतीपूरक व्यवसायाच्या उपलब्धतेमुळे रोजगारासाठी होणारे हंगामी स्थलांतर थांबले आहे. या गावाच्या यशोगाथेची प्रत्यक्ष पाहणी तत्कालीन राज्यपाल मा. रमेश बैस यांनी ७ मार्च २०२४ रोजी करून या पॅटर्नची प्रशंसा करत देशातील ग्रामीण भागासाठी हा अभिनव प्रयोग अनुकरणीय आहे असे प्रतिपादन केले. मनरेगा योजनेमार्फत तसेच स्वयंसेवी संस्थांच्या सहकार्याने सिंचन प्रणाली विकसित करून पाण्याची उपलब्धता झाल्याने बारमाही शेतीबरोबरच जोड व्यवसायांच्या माध्यमातून या गावातील लोक स्वयंपूर्ण झाली आहेत.

खोमारपाडा गावाची रचना व स्थिती :

विक्रमगड तालुक्याच्या मुख्यालयापासून सुमारे १५ किलोमीटर अंतरावर उत्तर-पश्चिमेला डोंगराळ भागात खोमारपाडा हे गाव वसले आहे. एक दशकापूर्वी येथे रस्ता देखील नव्हता आणि संपर्काची साधने नसल्याने या गावातील नागरिकांचा जगाशी संपर्क मर्यादित होता. त्याकाळी या गावात पोलिसांचे वाहनही येथे येऊ शकत नव्हते. १२०० लोकवस्ती व ३५० कुटुंब असलेल्या या गावात इयत्ता चौथी पर्यंत प्राथमिक शाळा असल्याने गावातील बहुतांश विद्यार्थी शिक्षणासाठी आश्रमशाळेत शिकण्यासाठी जात असत. पावसाच्या पाण्यावर भातशेती हे एकमेव पीक घेतले जात असे. भात पिकाची झोडणी झाल्यानंतर येथील बहुतांश कुटुंबे मुला बाळांसह रोजगारासाठी मुंबई व उपनगर, ठाणे, वसई व पालघर येथील भागात चार ते पाच महिने स्थलांतर करीत असत. या कालावधीत गाव ओसाड पडत असे आणि गावात केवळ वृद्ध व काही प्रमाणात शाळकरी मुले राहत असत. ही मंडळी भात पिकातून जे उत्पन्न मिळेल त्यातून पुढील हंगामात पाऊस पडेपर्यंत जेमतेम आपली उपजीविका करीत असत.

खोमारपाड्याच्या परिवर्तनाची सुरुवात :

ऋतुचक्रा नुसार वर्षानुवर्षे खोमारपाडा गावाचा ऱ्हाटगाडा चालला असताना गावात २०१५-२०१६ साली जिल्हा परिषद शिक्षक बाबू चांदेव मोरे यांनी शाळेतील ३५ पैकी २० विद्यार्थी स्थलांतरित होतात व नंतर पावसाळ्यात स्थलांतरित झालेले विद्यार्थी पुन्हा शाळेत यायचे असे निरीक्षण केले. विद्यार्थ्यांच्या गैरहजेरीचा परिणाम विद्यार्थ्यांच्या शैक्षणिक गुणवत्तेवर होत होता. ही बाब जिल्हा शिक्षण विभाग आणि नंतर शिक्षण सचिव यांच्यापर्यंत बाबू मोरे यांनी पोहोचवली. गावातील सर्व विद्यार्थी गावात राहावेत याकरिता मोहीम आखण्यात आली. विद्यार्थ्यांची गुणवत्ता वाढवून पालकांचा विश्वास संपादन करण्यात आला.

२०१६ साली शाळेत विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी परसबाग योजना राबवून विद्यार्थ्यांना परसबागेतील उत्पादित भाजी आहार म्हणून देण्यात आली. परसबागेच्या माध्यमातून गावात वेगवेगळी पिके होऊ शकतात हे पालकांना दाखवून देण्यात आले. पालकसभा घेऊन पालकांना शेती करण्यास प्रवृत्त केले व गावात पहिला ३५ शेतकऱ्यांचा गट तयार करण्यात आला. सन २०१७ मध्ये शिक्षक बाबू मोरे यांनी प्रायोगिक तत्वावर गावकऱ्यांना सोबत घेऊन गवारीचे पीक घेतले. त्यात जीवन गहला या पहिल्या शेतकऱ्याने दीड लाख रुपयांचे

उत्पन्न मिळविल्याने शेतीच्या माध्यमातून आर्थिक विकास होऊ शकतो हा विश्वास गावातील इतर शेतकऱ्यांना दिला.

कोरोना काळ आणि मनरेगा योजनेचे साहाय्य :

सन २०१९-२० या कोरोना काळात बाबू मोरे यांनी महात्मा गांधी रोजगार हमी योजनांचा (मनरेगा) अभ्यास करून कशा प्रकारे या योजनांमधील कामांचा अंतर्भाव गावात करता येईल याचा अभ्यास केला. यादृष्टीने ११ मार्च २०२१ मध्ये गावातील शेतकऱ्यांसाठी लखपती शेती कार्यशाळा आयोजित करून शेतकऱ्यांचे मनोबल उंचावण्यास साहाय्य झाले.



गावकऱ्यांनी स्वतःचा आर्थिक विकास करण्याच्या दृष्टीने कामांना सुरुवात झाली. यादृष्टीने गावातून जाणारा अडीच किलो मीटरच्या नाल्याची रुंदी व खोली वाढवून त्यामधील उपलब्ध झालेल्या मातीतून बांधनिर्मिती केली. २०२१-२२ मध्ये दत्त ठाकरे आणि विनोद गहला यांच्या शेतात प्रायोगिक तत्वावर शेततळे बांधले. गायगोठे, कुक्कुटपालन शेड, शेळीपालन शेड, गांडूळखतासाठी टाकी या योजनांचा अंतर्भाव मनरेगा योजनेमध्ये शासकीय वरिष्ठ पातळीवर करण्यात आला. तसेच शेतकऱ्यांना मोगरा लागवडीसाठी रोपे, फळ लागवडीसाठी आंबा, काजूच्या रोपांचे वाटप करण्यात आले. सुरुवातीला जी निवडक लोकं शेतीकडे वळाली त्यांना झालेला आर्थिक नफा पाहून त्यांचे अनुकरण उर्वरित गावकऱ्यांनी केले. यादृष्टीने गावात २८ शेततळी असून ३० शेतकरी मोगरा लागवड करीत आहेत. मोगरा लागवड रोखपीक असल्याने त्यांना चांगले उत्पन्न मिळत आहे. भाजीपाल्यामध्ये गवार, वांगी, टोमॅटो, काकडी याबरोबरच दुग्धव्यवसाय, शेळीपालन, कुक्कुटपालन, मत्स्यव्यवसाय हे जोड उद्योग देखील केले जात आहेत. गावात सध्या ३६ हजार मोगरा, आठ हजार आंबा, पाच हजार काजू व काकडी लागवड २५ शेतकरी करीत आहेत.



सरासरी प्रत्येक शेतकऱ्याला भातशेतीमधून ३० ते ४० हजार, भाजीपाला पिकामधून ७० ते ८० हजार, शेळीपालन व मत्स्यपालनातून किमान दीड ते दोन लाख उत्पन्न मिळत आहे. पूर्वी या गावकऱ्यांना वर्षाला भात पिकातून मिळणाऱ्या उत्पन्नावर भागत नसल्याने चार ते पाच महिने स्थलांतरित होऊन मिळणाऱ्या

रोजगारातून २५ ते ३० हजार मिळत असे. मात्र मनरेगा योजनांच्या माध्यमातून तसेच विविध सामाजिक संख्या व बाबू मोरे यांच्या सहकार्याने गावातील मंडळी आत्मनिर्भर झाली आहेत.

पाणी अडविल्याने बारमाही शेतीवर भर :



विक्रमगडच्या डोंगराळ भागात मोठ्या प्रमाणात पाऊस पडत असला तरी पाणी साठविण्याचे माध्यम नसल्याने पावसाचे पाणी वाहून जात असे. केवळ पावसाच्या पाण्यावर भातशेती करून रब्बी हंगामात रोजगारासाठी स्थलांतर केले जाई. मात्र मनरेगा योजनेच्या माध्यमातून शेततळ्यांची निर्मिती करण्यात आल्याने पावसाचे पाणी अडविले जाऊ लागले. परिणामी बारमाही शेतीबरोबर इतर जोड व्यवसाय केले जात आहेत.

दत्त झाला दत्त शेत :



पावसानंतर पालघर, सातपाटी, वसई या भागात बोटीवर तसेच बिगारी म्हणून १५-१६ वर्षे काम करणाऱ्या दत्त ठाकरेला वर्षाला भातशेतीतून २० ते ३० हजार व स्थलांतरादरम्यान १५ ते २० हजार मिळत असत. मात्र गावात झालेल्या शेतीच्या प्रयोगात दत्त ठाकरे यांनी त्यांच्या शेतात पहिले शेततळे बांधल्याने शेतीला पाणी उपलब्ध झाले. यामुळे वर्षाला ते भातशेतीतून २० ते ३० हजार, डांगर, कलिंगड व मोगऱ्याच्या उत्पन्नातून सुमारे दोन लाख रुपये, मत्स्योत्पादनातून दोन लाख रुपये उत्पन्न घेत आहेत. त्यांनी १५० आंबा झाडांची लागवड केली आहे. शेतीच्या पाठबळामुळे आर्थिक स्थिती उंचावण्याने पूर्वी गावात दत्त म्हणून संबोधणारे आता दत्त शेत म्हणून संबोधू लागले आहेत.

दारिद्र्याकडून शेतकऱ्यांची लखपतीकडे वाटचाल :

स्वतःची शेत जमीनीचे मालक असूनही पाण्या अभावी गावातील बहुतांश शेतकरी जे दारिद्र्यात खितपत पडले होते ते आता भात शेतीबरोबरच भाजीपाला लागवड, फुल शेती, फलोत्पादन याबरोबरच शेळीपालन, दुग्धव्यवसाय, कुक्कुटपालन, गांडूळखत, मत्सोत्पादन या जोड व्यवसायांमुळे वार्षिक किमान दोन ते तीन लाखांचे उत्पादन घेऊ लागल्याने गावातील शेतकरी लखपती झाले आहेत.

कुपोषणमुक्त गाव :

२०१६-१७ साली खोमारपाडा या गावातील बालकांचा समावेश अती तीव्र कुपोषण (सॅम) व तीव्र कुपोषण (मॅम) यामध्ये समावेश होता. मात्र गावातील शेतकरी भातशेती व्यतिरिक्त इतर शेती करू लागल्याने आर्थिक उत्पन्नाबरोबरच आहारात भाज्या, डाळी, फळे, अंडी, दूध यांचा समावेश होऊ लागल्याने तसेच शाळेत दिल्या जाणाऱ्या पोषण आहाराला स्वयंसेवी संस्थाकडून देण्यात येणाऱ्या आहाराची जोड मिळाल्याने हे गाव आता कुपोषणमुक्त झाले आहे.

शिक्षक बाबू मोरे हे विकासाचे दूत :

खोमारपाडा गावाचा सर्वांगीण विकास व्हावा या विचारांनी झपाटलेल्या शिक्षण बाबू चांदेव मोरे यांनी गावातील प्रत्येक कुटुंब स्थलांतरित होऊ नये यासाठी प्रत्येकाच्या हाताला काम मिळावे म्हणून केलेल्या प्रयत्नातून भूधारक, अल्पभूधारक, भूमिहीन तसेच विकलांग व्यक्तींना स्वयंरोजगाराचा मार्ग उपलब्ध करून दिला.

खोमारपाड्यातील विकास कामे	संख्या
गायगोठे	६०
कुक्कुटपालन शेड	१८
शेळीपालन शेड	०२
शेततळी	२८
सिंचन विहिरी पूर्ण	०८
सिंचन विहिरी नवीन प्रस्तावित	३३
कंपोस्ट खत प्रकल्प	१३५

संदर्भ : प्राथमिक स्रोत

लागवड केलेली झाडे	संख्या
मोगरा	३६०००
आंबा	८०००
काजू	५०००
काकडी लागवड शेतकरी	२५

संदर्भ : प्राथमिक स्रोत

शोध

एका समस्येतून अनेक समस्या जन्माला येतात त्याचप्रमाणे एक समस्या सुटली की अनेक समस्या देखील सुटतात. याप्रमाणेच खोमारपाडा येथे बारमाही पाण्याचा प्रश्न शेततळ्यांमुळे सुटल्याने शेतीबरोबर जोड व्यवसायांमध्ये वाढ झाली. त्यामुळे स्थलांतर थांबेल तसेच गावातील लोकांच्या आर्थिक दर्जेबरोबर सामाजिक स्थिती उंचावली आणि आरोग्य, शिक्षण यात सकारात्मक बदल होऊन गाव स्वयंपूर्ण झाले आहे.

निष्कर्ष

1. गावातील गरिबीचे उगमस्थान हे बारमाही पाण्याची उपलब्धता नसणे हे होते.
2. खोमारपाडा हे स्वयंपूर्ण गाव दुष्काळी भागातील गावांसाठी आदर्श पॅटर्न ठरले आहे.
3. बारमाही पाण्याअभावी गावातील लोक इतर तालुका किंवा जिल्ह्यांमध्ये हंगामी स्थलांतर करत होती.
4. बारमाही पाण्याच्या उपलब्धतेमुळे शेती व जोड व्यवसायांमुळे गावातील लोकांचा आर्थिक स्थर उंचावला आहे.
5. आर्थिक स्तर उंचावल्यामुळे सहाजिकच शेतकऱ्यांची सामाजिक स्थिती देखील उंचावली आहे.
6. स्थलांतर थांबल्यामुळे गावातील शाळकरी मुले जी शिक्षणापासून वंचित राहत होती ती शिक्षणाच्या प्रवाहात पुन्हा आली आहेत.
7. शेतमालाला योग्य बाजारभाव मिळाल्याने शेतकऱ्यांना शेती करण्यास प्रोत्साहन मिळाले आहे.
8. गावातील बहुतांश लोक ही लखपती झाली आहेत.
9. भाजीपाला, फळे, कडधान्य गावातच पिकवली जात असल्याने पौष्टिक अन्नाच्या पूर्ततेमुळे गाव कुपोषण मुक्त झाले आहेत.
10. खोमारपाडा या अतिदुर्गम गावाची ओळख विकसित गाव म्हणून झाली आहे.

शिफारसी

1. गावात सार्वजनिक वाहतूक व्यवस्थेत वाढ होणे गरजेचे आहे.
2. गावात डिजिटल बदल होण्यासाठी मोबाईल टॉवर व इंटरनेट सुविधा उभारणे गरजेचे आहे.
3. गावात किमान दहावीपर्यंत शिक्षणाची सुविधा निर्माण करणे आवश्यक आहे.
4. खोमारपाडा हे विकासाचे आदर्श गाव असल्याने येथील शेतकऱ्यांनी इको टुरिझम आणि पर्यावरणीय पर्यटन हे उपक्रम सुरू केल्यास गावात पर्यटक वाढून आर्थिक उपलब्धता वाढण्यास सहाय्य होईल.
5. खोमारपाडा येथे अनेक औषधी वनस्पती उपलब्ध असल्याने याबाबत अभ्यास होणे गरजेचे आहे.

संदर्भसूची

1. मा. राज्यपाल महोदय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांच्या विकसित गाव खोमारपाडा, ता. विक्रमगड येथे कामांना भेट व गावकऱ्यांशी संवाद कार्यक्रम माहिती पुस्तिका, २०२४.
2. खोमारपाडा सुसंवाद कार्यक्रम भेट, ७ मार्च २०२४.
3. महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स, ३ जुलै २०२०.
4. लोकसत्ता, १६ मार्च २०२४.

आदिवासी संस्कृती जतन व संवर्धन मेळावा भिवाळी- गणेशपुरी.

प्रा. भावेश शनवार करपट

(इतिहास विभाग)

(अंबिकाबाई जाधव महिला महाविद्यालय, वज्रेश्वरी ता. भिवंडी जि. ठाणे.)

प्रस्तावना

आदिवासी संस्कृती जतन व संवर्धन करण्यासाठी भिवाळी- गणेशपुरी येथे दिनांक 17 फेब्रुवारी 2024 रोजी आदिवासी मेळावा पार पडला. हा मेळावा आदिवासी क्रांती सेना आणि आद्य आदिवासी क्रांतीसूर्य राघोजी भांगरे संस्था यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने आयोजित करण्यात आला. या दोन्ही संस्थांचा प्रमुख उद्देश आदिवासी संस्कृतीचे जतन व संवर्धन करणे हा आहे. याच पार्श्वभूमीवर मेळाव्याचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आणि विविध प्रकारचे प्रदर्शन सादर करण्यात आले. या प्रदर्शनात आदिवासी संस्कृतीच्या जतनासाठी महत्त्वाच्या गोष्टींना वाचा फोडण्यात आली. त्यामध्ये शेतीसाठी वापरण्यात येणाऱ्या पारंपरिक अवजारांचे प्रदर्शन, जंगलातील विविध प्रकारच्या बी-बियाण्यांचे प्रदर्शन, तसेच आजच्या तरुण पिढीला आदिवासी देवतांची ओळख करून देण्यासाठी कुलदेवतांचे प्रदर्शन आयोजित करण्यात आले.

त्याशिवाय, आदिवासी समाजातील पूर्वीच्या दैनंदिन जीवनावर प्रकाश टाकणारे विविध प्रदर्शन मांडण्यात आले. समाजातील तरुण पिढीतील कलागुणांना वाव मिळावा यासाठी संगीत व नृत्याचे कार्यक्रम सादर करण्यात आले. या प्रदर्शनाच्या माध्यमातून आदिवासी समाजाला त्यांच्या प्राचीन आणि मौल्यवान संस्कृतीचे जतन करण्याचे व ती पुढील पिढ्यांसाठी टिकवून ठेवण्याचे आवाहन करण्यात आले.

संस्कृती जपण्याचा हा प्रयत्न निश्चितच आदिवासी समाजासाठी प्रेरणादायी ठरेल.



तारपा:

तारपा हा महाराष्ट्रातील आदिवासी समाजात प्रचलित असलेला एक पारंपरिक वाद्य आणि नृत्य प्रकार आहे. तारपा केवळ एक वाद्य नसून तो आदिवासी समाजाच्या सांस्कृतिक ओळखीचा अविभाज्य भाग

आहे. तारपा वाद्य लाकूड, बकरीचे कातडे आणि बांबूपासून तयार केले जाते. या वाद्याला मोठ्या फुंकणीच्या स्वरूपात बांबूची लांब नळी असते, ज्यामुळे विशिष्ट प्रकारचा ध्वनी निर्माण होतो. वाद्याला आकर्षक स्वरूप देण्यासाठी रंगकाम केले जाते. तारपा मुख्यतः सण, उत्सव, लग्नसोहळे, आणि हंगामांच्या सुरुवातीला वाजवले जाते. तारप्याचा उपयोग आदिवासी नृत्याच्या तालासाठी केला जातो. तारपा वाजवताना त्यातून निघणाऱ्या लयबद्ध ध्वनीमुळे नृत्याला उर्जा आणि जोश मिळतो. वादक संपूर्ण वेळ वाद्य फुंकत राहतो, ज्यामुळे नृत्य करणाऱ्यांची गती आणि लय कायम राहते. तारपा वादकाच्या सभोवती आदिवासी स्त्री-पुरुष गोल रचून नाचतात. सर्वजण एका लयीत पुढे-मागे जात सामूहिक नृत्य करतात. नृत्य हे प्राचीन काळापासून आदिवासी जमातींमध्ये एकत्रितता आणि एकोपा वाढवण्याचे साधन राहिले आहे. तारपा नृत्य सामाजिक संवाद आणि आनंदाचा प्रतीक आहे. नृत्य करताना आदिवासी स्त्री-पुरुष पारंपरिक पोशाख परिधान करतात. महिलांचे पोशाख पांढऱ्या साड्या (वारली पद्धतीतल्या) असून पुरुष डोक्यावर पगडी व पारंपरिक लुंगी घालतात. तारपा वाद्य आणि नृत्य लोकांना एकत्र आणते आणि समाजातील बंधुता टिकवते. आदिवासी जीवनशैलीतील आनंदाचे क्षण साजरे करण्यासाठी तारप्याला महत्त्व आहे. कापणीच्या वेळी, हिवाळ्यातील शेतीचा हंगाम संपल्यानंतर आणि इतर सण-उत्सवांदरम्यान तारपा वाजवले जाते. तारपा हा आदिवासी परंपरेचा वारसा असून तो आदिवासींच्या सांस्कृतिक ओळखीचे प्रतीक आहे. आजही, अनेक ठिकाणी तारपा वाद्य व नृत्य पारंपरिक स्वरूपात जपले गेले आहे. आधुनिक काळात आदिवासी परंपरांवर होणाऱ्या प्रभावांमुळे तारप्याचे महत्त्व कमी होऊ लागले आहे. तथापि, आदिवासी कला, वाद्ये आणि नृत्यसंस्कृती जतन करण्यासाठी काही संघटना कार्यरत आहेत.

लेप:

ज्या पद्धतीने मासे पकडण्यासाठी अनेक साधने असतात, अगदी त्याच पद्धतीने पक्षी पकडण्यासाठी लेप हा एक प्रकार आहे. यासाठी प्रथमतः मुहू या झाडाचा आणि साबर या वेलीचा चिक काढून त्यावर प्रक्रिया करून एक चिकटपणा असलेला लेप तयार केला जातो. हा चिकटपणा असलेला लेप टोकराच्या काड्यांना लावला जातो. त्याचबरोबर मोठ्या पोकळ टोकरासारख्या तुकड्यात लेप लावलेल्या काड्या ठेवल्या जातात. हा लेप पक्षी पकडण्यासाठी अत्यंत उपयुक्त ठरतो.

लेबड:

लेबड हे पक्षांची शिकार करण्यासाठी वापरले जाते. लेबड तयार करण्यासाठी तीन गोष्टी लागतात. एक म्हणजे शंकूच्या आकारात बनवलेली फांदी, दुसरी म्हणजे बाजारातून आणलेला पट, आणि तिसरी म्हणजे कपड्याचा तुकडा, ज्याचा गाठोडा तयार केला जातो. या तिन्ही गोष्टींचा संगम होऊन तयार झालेले लेबड पक्षांची शिकार करण्यासाठी उपयुक्त ठरते.

आडा:

झाड कापण्यासाठी अनेक साधने असतात. यापैकी झाड किंवा लाकूड कापण्यासाठी वापरले जाणारे साधन म्हणजे आडा होय.

कुऱ्हाड:

आदिवासी समाजामध्ये सुके लाकूड तोडण्यासाठी किंवा चुलीसाठी लाकडे आणण्यासाठी वापरले जाणारे शस्त्र म्हणजे कुऱ्हाड होय.

बोचकरवत:

झाड किंवा लाकूड कापण्यासाठी वापरले जाणारे आणखी एक महत्वाचे साधन म्हणजे बोचकरवत होय.

कंबरची घोडी:

विला किंवा कोयता ठेवण्यासाठी वापरले जाणारे साधन म्हणजे कंबरची घोडी होय. बकऱ्यांचा गोवारी किंवा गाई-म्हशींचा गोवारी कामासाठी जाताना, विला किंवा कोयता सोबत ठेवला जातो. त्याची कधीही आवश्यकता भासू शकते, म्हणून कमरेला कंबरची घोडी बांधली जाते.

बावाची शेंग आणि खर शेंग:

बावाची शेंग आणि खर शेंग या दोन्ही प्रकारच्या शेंगा जंगलात सापडतात. यापैकी खर शेंग भाजीसाठी वापरली जाते.



बोथड (भोतर)

मासेमारीसाठी वापरले जाणारे महत्वाचे साधन म्हणजे बोथड. हे लहान माशांची मासेमारी करण्यासाठी विशेषतः उपयुक्त असते. बोथड प्रामुख्याने रात्री मांडले जाते आणि पहाटे काढले जाते.

कपडा:

कपड्याचा वापरही मासेमारीसाठी महत्वाचा मानला जातो. बोथडाचे तोंड लहान असल्यामुळे त्यामध्ये जास्त पाणी जात नाही. त्यामुळे बोथड मांडण्यापूर्वी कपडा मांडला जातो. कपड्याद्वारे पाणी गाळले जाते, ज्यामुळे बोथडाच्या तोंडात मोजकेच पाणी जाऊन सर्व मासे त्यामध्ये अडकतात. याशिवाय, मासे पकडण्यासाठी छोटे नाले अडवून खाली कपडा मांडला जातो, जेणेकरून मासे पळून जाऊ नयेत. अशा प्रकारे कपड्याचा उपयोग मच्छी पकडण्यासाठी केला जातो.

तोंड्या:

आदिवासी समाज मासे पकडण्यासाठी लहान नाले किंवा ओहळांना (छोट्या नद्यांना) कीव तयार करतो. संपूर्ण पाणी अडवून मधोमध झरा ठेवला जातो. झऱ्याखाली तोंड्या मांडला जातो. माशांना वाटते की झऱ्याच्या होळीतून खाली जाण्याचा मार्ग आहे, परंतु तोच आदिवासींसाठी मासेमारीचा ठिकाण असतो. म्हणूनच, त्या ठिकाणी तोंड्या मांडला जातो.

मलय:

मलय हे मासेमारीसाठी वापरले जाणारे आणखी एक साधन आहे. मलय विशेषतः अशा ठिकाणी मांडली जाते, जिथे मासे प्रवाहाच्या उलट दिशेने चढतात. अशा परिस्थितीत मासे मलयमध्ये अडकून जातात.

मुसळ:

भूतकाळात भात कांडून तांदूळ काढण्यासाठी मशीन नव्हती. त्यामुळे मुसळाचा वापर करून भात कांडला जात असे. परंतु आज मशीन आल्यामुळे मुसळाचा वापर मुख्यतः धार्मिक विधी किंवा लग्नसोहळ्यांमध्ये केला जातो.

टोपली:

टोकऱ्यापासून तयार केलेली टोपली भात किंवा इतर वस्तू ने-आण करण्यासाठी वापरली जाते.

सुपली:

सुपली (किंवा सूप) या साधनाचा वापर सुकलेले तांदूळ निवडण्यासाठी तसेच भाताचा कणा वाढवण्यासाठी केला जातो.

उखळ:

मशीन येण्यापूर्वी भात कांडण्यासाठी उखळीचा वापर होत असे. मुसळ साग किंवा खैर या झाडांच्या लाकडापासून बनवलेले असते, तर उखळ दगडापासून तयार केली जाते.



कणगा:

भात झोडणीनंतर त्याचे साठवण सुरक्षित करण्यासाठी कणग्याचा उपयोग केला जातो. कणग्यात भात दोन-तीन वर्षे सुरक्षित राहतो.

खुरमेड:

खुरमेडला "खेडमेड" असेही म्हणतात. भात मळणीसाठी खुरमेड अत्यावश्यक आहे. बैल किंवा म्हशी खुरमेडीत जुंपून भात मळणी केली जाते.

दातेली:

भात मळणीसाठी खुरमेड उभारल्यानंतर म्हशी किंवा बैल खुरमेडीच्या सभोवताली फिरण्यासाठी दातेली टाकली जाते. दातेलीच्या साहाय्याने बैल किंवा म्हशी सुरक्षितपणे फिरू शकतात.

बैलगाडी:

बैलगाडी ही शेतीत व वाहतुकीसाठी उपयोगी पारंपरिक साधन आहे. परंतु ट्रॅक्टरच्या वाढत्या वापरामुळे बैलगाडी आज दुर्मिळ होत चालली आहे. बैलगाडी तयार करण्यासाठी दोन बैल, बड्या, शिवळ्या, चाके, साठी आस, जोता, धुरांड्या इत्यादींचा उपयोग होतो

चाबूक: बैलगाडी चालवण्यासाठी चाबूक वापरला जातो. चाबूक वापरल्याने बैलांना धाक वाटतो आणि ते पुढे जाण्यास प्रवृत्त होतात.

चालन: तांदूळ किंवा भात निवडण्यासाठी किंवा साफ करण्यासाठी चालनीचा उपयोग केला जातो.

पंजा: पंजाचा उपयोग राबणी करताना पाळापाचोळा जमा करण्यासाठी, भाताचे दाणे जमिनीत रोवण्यासाठी, तसेच भात झोडणीदरम्यान कचरा काढण्यासाठी केला जातो.

टोपला: भात किंवा इतर वस्तू वाहून नेण्यासाठी टोपल्याचा उपयोग होतो. याशिवाय कोंबड्या आणि त्यांच्या पिल्लांना झाकण्यासाठीही टोपल्याचा उपयोग होतो.

भाताचा कणा: भात झोडणीदरम्यान भात साफ करण्यासाठी किंवा वाढवण्यासाठी अर्धवर्तुळ तयार करून भात वेगळा केला जातो.

विला: भात कापण्यासाठी किंवा इतर वस्तू कापण्यासाठी विलाचा वापर केला जातो.

खराटा: खराट्याचा उपयोग घरात, अंगणात किंवा खाल्ल्यानंतर स्वच्छता करण्यासाठी केला जातो.



भुसा: भुसाला दुसरा पर्यायवाचक शब्द म्हणजे जाळा. मच्छी पकडण्यासाठी जाळ्याचा (भुसाचा) उपयोग होतो.

जाता: डाळी भरडणे, तांदळाचे पीठ तयार करणे इत्यादी कामांसाठी वापरण्यात येणारे दोन गोलसर आकाराचे दगड म्हणजे जातं. हे जातं पारंपरिक स्वरूपाचे असून दगडांपासून बनवलेले असते. आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञानामुळे (जसे की मशीन) जातं आजकाल लुप्त होत चालले आहे.

माठ: थंड पाणी पिण्यासाठी पूर्वी माठाचा वापर केला जात असे. फ्रीज आल्यानंतर माठाचा वापर कमी झाला आहे. मात्र, माठातील पाणी पिण्याचा अनुभव आगळा-वेगळा असतो. आजकाल माठ फार क्वचितच पाहायला मिळतात.

पांजरा: आदिवासी समाज शेतीबरोबरच पशुपालनही करत असे. कोंबडी पिल्लांना जन्म दिल्यानंतर ती पिल्ले सुरक्षित राहण्यासाठी पांजऱ्याचा वापर केला जात असे

चूल: आधुनिक काळात गॅसच्या वापरामुळे चुलीचे महत्त्व कमी झाले आहे. मात्र, पूर्वी चुलीवर अन्न शिजवले जाई. चुलीवर तयार होणाऱ्या अन्नाला आगळी चव असे. आज चुली लुप्त होण्याच्या मार्गावर आहेत.

बकऱ्यांचा माच:

आदिवासी समाज पूर्वी मोठ्या प्रमाणावर शेळीपालन करत असे. बकऱ्यांना राहण्यासाठी लाकडाचे माच (छोटे घर) बांधले जात असे. मात्र, आजकाल या पद्धतीचा वापर कमी होत आहे.

चमचा गल: चमचा गल हा मच्छी पकडण्याचा एक प्रकार आहे, ज्याच्या सहाय्याने मोठ्या माशांचा वेध घेतला जातो.



हिरवा देव

हिरवा देव ही आदिवासी समाजातील कुलदेवता आहे. ही देवता स्वभावाने रागीट असल्याचे म्हटले जाते, परंतु ती भरभराट आणि बरकत देणारी आहे. हिरवा देवाच्या सात नाऱ्या (स्त्रिया) असल्याचे मानले जाते. या देवाची चांदीची मूर्ती माणसाच्या आकाराची असते. काही ठिकाणी हिरवा देवाची मूर्ती एका आतमध्ये अनेक कापडी पिशव्यांमध्ये ठेवलेली असते. सर्वात आतील पिशवीत देवाची मूर्ती असते आणि त्या पिशवीच्या भोवती मोराच्या पिसांची कुंची लावलेली असते. ही पिशवी भिंतीला टांगून ठेवतात. शेंदूर लावलेल्या चार आणि शेंदूर न लावलेल्या तीन अशा सात सुपाऱ्या एका टोपलीत ठेवतात. शेंदूर न लावलेल्या सुपाऱ्यांना "कोरड्या नाहीर" म्हणतात, आणि त्यांना कोंबडी बळी दिला जात नाही. दरवर्षी नवीन पीक आल्यावर हिरवा देवाची पूजा केली जाते. यावेळी देवाची मूर्ती नवीन पिशवीत ठेवून पुनरस्थापना केली जाते. हा मोठा धार्मिक विधी असतो, ज्याचा शेवट "तळ काढणे" या विधीने होतो. या विधीत उकळत्या तेलात

केळाचे काप आणि आठ आप्याचे नाणे टाकलेले असते. भगताने हे इजा न होऊ देता तेलातून काढायचे असते.



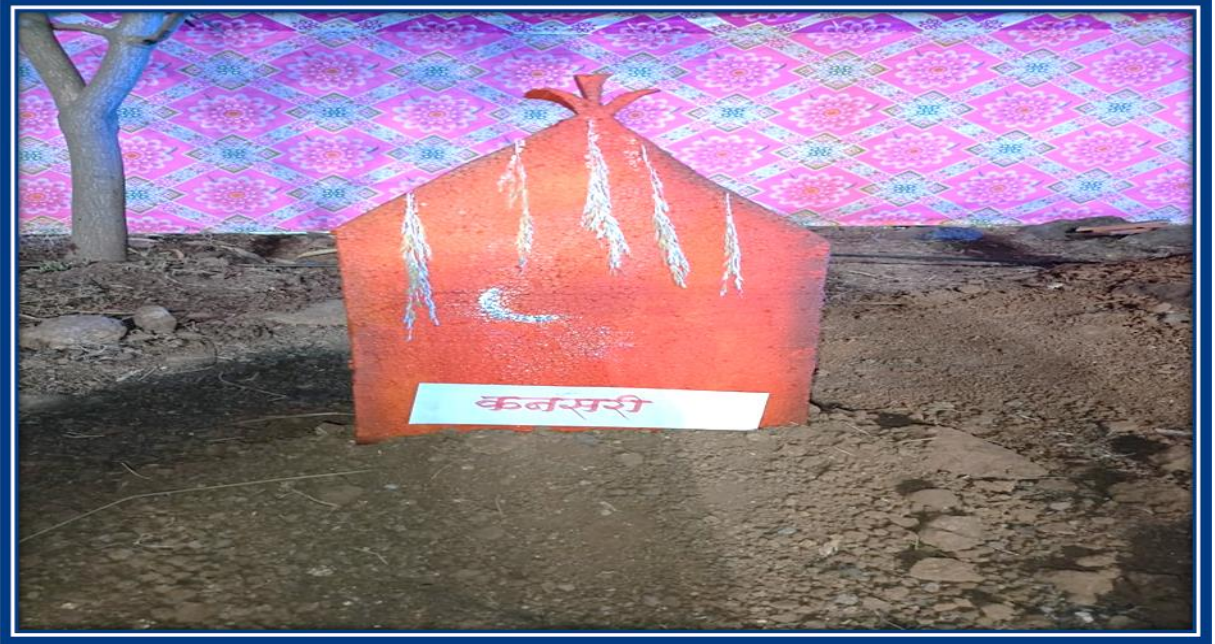
वाघोबा देव:

वाघोबा हा आदिवासी समाजाचा गावदेव आहे. वाघोबा म्हणजे निसर्गदेवतांची पूजा करण्याचे एक प्रतीक. वाघोबा ही शक्ती मानली जाते, जी हिंस्र प्राण्यांपासून मानव व त्यांच्या जनावरांचे संरक्षण करते. वाघोबाची मूर्ती साधारणतः 3 फूट उंच लाकडी किंवा दगडी खांबावर कोरलेली असते आणि तिची प्रतिष्ठापना गावच्या बाहेर केली जाते. दिवाळीच्या प्रारंभी, म्हणजे अश्विन वद्य द्वादशीला वाघोबाची पूजा केली जाते. या दिवसाला "वाघबारस" असे म्हणतात. या पूजेसाठी गावातील सर्व लोकांकडून वर्गणी गोळा केली जाते. पूजेच्या दिवशी वाघोबासमोर गोड्या तेलाचा किंवा तुपाचा दिवा लावला जातो, त्याला शेंदूर लावतात, आणि कोंबडीचा बळी देतात. दर तीन ते पाच वर्षांनी बकऱ्याचा बळी दिला जातो. पूजेच्या समाप्तीनंतर प्रसाद म्हणून मांस आणि खोबरे वाटले जाते. वाघोबाला कोणतेही स्पष्ट रूप नाही; मात्र, तो हिंस्र प्राण्यांपासून संरक्षण करतो, रोगराईपासून बचावतो, आणि पीकपाण्याला भरभराट देतो. वाघोबाचा राग किंवा कृपा व्यक्तीच्या जीवनातील सुखदुःख निश्चित करते, असे मानले जाते.



गावदेवी:

गावदेवी ही आदिवासी समाजाची प्रमुख संरक्षक देवी मानली जाते. प्रत्येक आदिवासी गावात गावदेवीला पवित्र स्थानी विराजमान केले जाते आणि ती गावाच्या रक्षणकर्त्या देवतेचे स्वरूप आहे. गावदेवी गावाला आपती, रोगराई, वाईट शक्ती, आणि संकटांपासून संरक्षण देते, अशी श्रद्धा आहे. गावदेवीची पूजा प्रामुख्याने वर्षातून एकदा, गावातील लोकांनी एकत्र येऊन केली जाते. या विधीमध्ये बलिदान, प्रसाद अर्पण, पारंपरिक गीत-नृत्य, आणि सण साजरे केले जातात. गावदेवीची पूजा ही गावातील सामाजिक एकतेचे प्रतीक आहे. या वेळी गावातील सर्वजण भेदभाव विसरून एकत्र येतात. गावदेवीची पूजा जंगल, नद्या, डोंगर, आणि अन्य नैसर्गिक घटकांशी जोडलेली आहे. ती निसर्गाशी आदिवासी जीवनातील भावनिक आणि आध्यात्मिक नाते अधोरेखित करते. गावदेवीचा गाभारा साधारणतः उघड्यावर, झाडाखाली किंवा पारंपरिक पवित्र ठिकाणी असतो. ती स्थानिक परंपरांच्या आणि विशिष्ट रितीरिवाजांच्या माध्यमातून पूजली जाते. गावदेवी ही आदिवासी संस्कृतीची एक पवित्र देणगी असून, ती परंपरेचे, सामाजिक बांधिलकीचे आणि निसर्गाशी जोडलेल्या जीवनशैलीचे प्रतीक आहे.



कनसरी:

कनसरी देवी ही आदिवासी समाजातील एक प्रमुख आणि पवित्र देवता आहे, जिला प्रामुख्याने कृषी आणि निसर्गाशी संबंधित मानले जाते. कनसरी देवीला धान्याची देवी किंवा धान्याची आई असेही संबोधले जाते. कनसरी देवी ही आदिवासी समाजाची परंपरा, संस्कृती आणि कृषी जीवनातील महत्त्वाचे स्थान अधोरेखित करणारी देवता आहे. तिच्या पूजेच्या माध्यमातून समाज एकत्र येतो, आपल्या परंपरा साजऱ्या करतो आणि पुढील पिढ्यांना या परंपरा जतन करण्याचा संदेश देतो.



नांगर:

आदिवासी समाजामध्ये शेतीसाठी सर्वात महत्वाचे साधन म्हणजे नांगर. नांगर खैर किंवा साग या झाडांच्या लाकडापासून तयार केला जातो. या झाडांपासून नांगर तयार करण्याचे कारण म्हणजे तो मजबूत असतो, लवकर मोडत नाही आणि दीर्घकाळ टिकतो. मात्र, आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञानामुळे आज नांगराचा वापर कमी होत असून तो नाहीसा होत चालला आहे.

बड्या: बड्या म्हणजे बैलगाडीचा महत्वाचा भाग होय. बैलगाडी बड्याशिवाय अपूर्ण असते. बड्या हे बैलगाडीला जोडले जाते आणि त्याला बैल जुंपून गाडी ओढली जाते.

मांडव: भात झोडणीनंतर मांडव तयार केला जातो. मांडव उभारण्यासाठी आठ-दहा फूट उंचीचे चार किंवा नऊ लाकडी खांब रोवले जातात आणि त्यावर आडवे वासे टाकून मांडव तयार केला जातो.





करंजाचा-बी
काटस कोंबला-बी
रानघोटीचा-बी
बिल कांद
जेपालीचा-बी
कारवीचा-बी
माळूचा-बी
आंबोडाचा-बी
कायडोलीचा-बी
कोशेरी-बी
मरुडच्या शेंगा
रुद्राक्ष
अभयच्या शेंगा
सागाचा-बी
रानकेळीचा-बी
मुहाचा-बी

रेठीचा बी
सागरगोटा
कुकवेरीचा-बी
गाळाची-बी
बिबल्याची-बी
गुंजचा-बी
रानकुत्रा-बी
शिवनीचा-बी
धावडा-बी
सिताफळ-बी
काली कुडई भात
तुळशीचा-बी
टाकल्याचे-बी
टोकराचा-बी (इंदा)
बिलकांद
ऐरंडाचा-बी

संदर्भ ग्रंथ सूची:

प्राथमिक स्रोत: अहवाल आदिवासी क्रांती सेना आद्य आदिवासी क्रांतीसूर्य राघोजी भांगरे संस्था

संदर्भ

महाराष्ट्रातील आदिवासी (शौनक कुलकर्णी डायमंड पब्लिकेशन पुणे) आदिवासींचे सण आणि उत्सव (सरोजिनी बाबर लोकसाहित्य प्रकाशन पुणे) जंगलातील छाया (आचार्य भिसे साधना प्रकाशन पुणे)

मुलाखत:

श्री शनवार करपट
श्री नथू करपट
श्री शनवार दोडे
श्री लाडक्या नगरे
श्री मनोज ठाकरे
श्री परशुराम फडवले

“भारतीय समाज व्यवस्थेच्या परीपेक्षातील आदिवासी आणि जागतिकीकरणाच्या रेट्यातील स्थलांतर एक समस्या.”

संशोधक

सहा. प्रा. इब्राहीम जमन तडवी

राज्यशास्त्र विभाग, पी. डी. कारखानीस कला व वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय, अंबरनाथ (पूर्व) जि. ठाणे, महाराष्ट्र.

प्रस्तावना:

कुठलाही भौतिक समाज हा त्याच्या प्रारंभिक अवस्थेमध्ये एक परंपराप्रिय समाज असतो. आपल्या भौतिक परिघात येऊ घातलेला कुठलाही बदल ते सहजपणे स्विकारत अथवा अंगीकारत नाही कारण कुठलाही बदल अथवा परिवर्तन हे रूढीवादी परंपराप्रिय समाजावर आघात करणारे असल्याने प्रारंभिक अवस्थेत हा समाज त्याला विरोध करतो. मात्र नव्या आर्थिक, सामाजिक हितसंबंधात्मक बदलांशी जुनी मुल्ये हळुवारपणे परंतु निश्चित पणे जुळवून घेताना ती प्रवाहित होताना दिसतात. यासाठी मात्र बराच कालखंड जाऊ दद्यावा लागतो. याला भारतीय समाजही अपवाद नाही. प्रस्थापित हितसंबंधात्मक समाजव्यवस्था असलेल्या भारतीय समाजातही बदलाची हि बाजू काही फारशी उजवी नव्हती. कारण परिवर्तनाच्या आरंभला एका पिढीकडून दुसऱ्या पिढीकडे पिढी दर पिढी हस्तांतरित केलेले हितसंबंध सोडायला हा समाज सहजगत्या तयार नसतो तर त्याला तो जोरकसपणे विरोध करत असतो.

गतकाळाच्या प्रवाहात युरोपात तर्क, बुद्धीप्रामाण्यवाद, विवेक व सोबत विज्ञान जस-जसे पुढे सरकले तस-तसे युरोपीयन समाजाने ते स्वीकारले देखील, नव्हे अंगिकारले. भारतीय समाजव्यवस्था या ठिकाणी काहीशी अपवाद ठरल्याचे दिसते.

संशोधन अभ्यास पद्धती:

वरील संशोधनात्मक अभ्यास करण्यासाठी विश्लेषणात्मक, तुलनात्मक, अन्वेषणात्मक साहित्य सर्वेक्षण पद्धतीचा वापर केलेला आहे.

संशोधनाची साधने:

वरील संशोधनात्मक अभ्यास करण्यासाठी दुय्यम साधने, ग्रंथलेखन, अहवाल, मासिके यांच्या अवलोकनातून संबंधित शोधनिबंधला आकारात्मक रूप देण्याचा प्रयत्न करण्यात आलेला आहे.

संशोधनाची उद्दिष्ट्ये:

१. आदिवासी समाजाच्या पारंपरिक जीवनशैलीचे अध्ययन करणे:

भारतीय समाजव्यवस्थेतील आदिवासी समाजाची सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक, आणि सामाजिक परिस्थितीचे विश्लेषण करणे.

२. आदिवासींवरील जागतिकीकरणाचा प्रभाव समजावून घेणे:

जागतिकीकरणामुळे आदिवासी समाजावर होणाऱ्या आर्थिक, सांस्कृतिक, आणि सामाजिक बदलांचा अभ्यास.

३. स्थलांतराच्या कारणांचा शोध:

जागतिकीकरणाच्या रेट्यात आदिवासी समाजाचे स्थलांतर करण्यामागील कारणांची चिकित्सा.

४. परिणामांचा अभ्यास करणे:

स्थलांतरामुळे आदिवासी समाजाच्या जीवनशैलीत, रोजगाराच्या संधींमध्ये, आणि सामाजिक संरचनेत होणाऱ्या बदलांचा आढावा.

५. समस्यांचे समाधान आणि धोरणनिर्मितीचे प्रस्ताव:

आदिवासी समाजाच्या समस्या सोडवण्यासाठी आणि त्यांच्या विकासासाठी प्रभावी धोरणांचे प्रस्ताव मांडणे.

गृहितके:

१. परंपराप्रिय भारतीय समाजव्यवस्थेत आदिवासी वर्ण व्यवस्थेच्या चौकटी बाहेर जरी असला तरी त्याला सामाजीकीकरणाच्या प्रवाहापासून दूर ठेवले.
२. जागतिकीकरणामुळे आदिवासी समाजाच्या पारंपरिक जीवनशैलीवर ताण येऊन त्यांच्या पारंपरिक जीवनशैलीचा न्हास होत आहे.
३. जागतिकीकरणामुळे आदिवासी समाज आणि मुख्य प्रवाहातील समाजामध्ये आर्थिक दरी अधिक वाढत आहे.
४. आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञान आणि शहरीकरणामुळे आदिवासी समाजाची सांस्कृतिक ओळख नष्ट होण्याच्या मार्गावर आहे.
५. रोजगाराच्या शोधात आणि चांगल्या जीवनमानासाठी आदिवासी लोक स्थलांतर करण्यास भाग पडतात.
६. आदिवासी समाजाच्या समस्यांसाठी ठरवलेल्या शासकीय धोरणांमध्ये अंमलबजावणीची त्रुटी आहे.
७. स्थलांतरित आदिवासी समाजाला शहरी जीवनाशी जुळवून घेणे कठीण जाते, ज्यामुळे सामाजिक आणि मानसिक समस्या निर्माण होतात.
८. सामाजिक व शासकीय पटलावर विवेकी व विकासाच्या धोरणांतून आदिवासींची भौतिक परिस्थिती सुधारू शकते.

हिंदू समाजव्यवस्था जात आणि आदिवासी उत्पत्ती:

जातींची उत्पत्ती नेमकी कशी झाली? या संदर्भात अजूनही अभ्यासकांत एकमत नाही. काही अभ्यासकांच्या मते प्रारंभिक अवस्थेत समाज हा निःसंदेह भटकंतीच्या अवस्थेत जीवन जगत होता. हा समाज भटकंती करण्याच्या सहज मानवी स्वभावामुळे भटका बनला नव्हता किंवा त्याची तशी मानसिक विकृतीही होती म्हणून ही तो भटका बनला नव्हता तर आदिम समाजाच्या संपत्तीचे मुख्य रूप हे त्यांचे गुरे होते. या गुरांच्यासाठी नवनवीन कुरणांच्या शोधात सातत्याने त्यांना फिरावे लागत होते आणि आपल्या गुरांवरील प्रेमाखातर जिकडे वा ज्या दिशेला गुरे जातील तिकडे या प्रारंभिक समाजालाही जावे लागत असेल. पुढे कालांतराने जेव्हा संपत्तीचे नवे प्रकार शोधण्यात आले तेव्हा हा समाज स्थिर सावर होण्यास सुरुवात झाली.

समाज व्यवस्थेत हे स्थित्यंतरे होत असताना एकाच वेळी स्थित्यंतरे घडून आलेले नाही तर यासाठी बराच कालखंड जाऊ द्यावा लागला. सर्वच भटक्या जातीं एकाच वेळी स्थिरस्थावर झाल्यानाहीत काही स्थायी झाल्या तर काही भटक्याच राहिल्या. परिवर्तनाच्या या स्थितीतून जातअसताना या टोळ्या अथवा समूह कधीही आपापसात शांतीपूर्ण, सलोख्याने राहिल्या नाही. त्याचे कारण तो पर्यंत लागलेला संपत्तीचा शोध. संपत्तीच्या स्रोतांपैकी पहिला स्रोत होता गुरे-ढोरे तर दुसरा

स्तोत होता शेतीचा व अन्न-धान्याचा. याच काळात जेव्हा मनुष्य स्थिर स्थावर व्हायला सुरुवात झाली तेव्हाच संपत्तीच्या लोभापोटी एक टोळी हि दुसऱ्या टोळीवर आक्रमण करत होती. या टोळ्यांतील परस्पर युद्धांमुळे एखाद्या टोळीचा पूर्णतः नाश होत नसे तर खेळ अथवा युद्ध यातील निसर्ग नियमा नुसार कुठल्यातरी एका टोळीचा पराजय होण व दुसऱ्या टोळीचा विजय होण निश्चित होत. परिणामी पराजित झालेल्या टोळीतील लोकांसमोर दोनच पर्याय होते एक पुन्हा जंगलाचा आश्रय घेणे दुसरा विजयी झालेल्या टोळीतील लोकांची गुलामगिरी पत्करणे. पराजित झालेल्या टोळीतील काही लोकांनी विजयी झालेल्या टोळीतील गुलामगिरी पत्करली तर काहींनी जंगलाचा आश्रय घेतला. खऱ्या अर्थाने इथेच आदिवासित्वाची बीजे पेरली गेली. कारण ज्यांनी पुन्हा जंगलाचा आश्रय घेतला ते कधीच परिवर्तनाच्या काळात सामाजीकीकरणाच्या प्रवाहात आले नाही. भारतीय समाजव्यवस्थेपासून दूर त्यांनी आपली स्वतःची एक वेगळी संस्कृती, आचार, विचार जोपासले त्यांनाच पुढे आदिवासी संबोधले जाऊ लागले.

“तर गुलामगिरी पत्करलेल्या लोकांचे करायचे काय? हा प्रश्न विजयी टोळीतील लोकांसमोर होता मात्र या विजयी टोळीतील लोकांनाही अजून कुठल्यातरी तिसऱ्या टोळीच्या आक्रमणाची भीती होती. या तिसऱ्या टोळीतील लोकांच्या आक्रमणापासून स्वतःचा बचाव करण्यासाठी म्हणून विजयी टोळीतील लोकांनी त्यांचा वापर करायला सुरुवात केली. पराजित लोकांना ते राहत असलेल्या वस्तीच्या ठिकाणापासून विशिष्ट अशा अंतरावर त्यांच्या राहण्याची व्यवस्था केली जाऊ लागली जणे करून तिसऱ्या टोळीचे आक्रमण झालेच तर झालेले आक्रमण प्रथम हे लोक थोपवतील.” डॉ. आंबेडकरांच्या मते देवाण घेवाणीच्या या करारानुसार पराभूत झालेल्या लोकांनी गावाच्या सीमेवर राहावे व त्यांची घरे गावाबाहेर असतील. प्रारंभिक समाजाच्या श्रद्धेनुसार केवळ एका टोळीतील वा एका रक्ताचे लोकच एकत्र गावात सोबत राहू शकत होते. पराभूत टोळीतील लोकांचे स्थान मात्र करारानुसार गावाच्या बाहेर परकीय भटक्या टोळ्यांपासून संरक्षण करण्यासाठी होते. कालांतराने पराभूत झालेल्या व गुलामगिरी पत्करलेल्या तसेच गावाबाहेर राहणाऱ्या या लोकांनाच पुढे अस्पृश्य समजण्यात आले. या साठीचा पुरावा म्हणून डॉ. आंबेडकर महाराष्ट्रातील ‘महार’ या जमातीचा देतात. हि जमात महाराष्ट्रातील एक अस्पृश्य जमात आहे की जीचे वास्तव महाराष्ट्रातील प्रत्येक खेड्यात मात्र गावाच्या वेशीवर दिसून येते. आणि इथे भारतीय जातीसंथेची बीजे रोवली गेली. ”

युरोपीय राष्ट्रवाद आणि भारतीय आदिवासी:

वर्चस्ववादी हितसंबंधात्मक भारतीय समाजव्यवस्थेतून ज्या पद्धतीने शुद्र वर्णीय लोक सामाजीकीकरणाच्या प्रवाहा बाहेर दैवी सिद्धांताच्या आड बाहेर ठेवला गेला अगदी त्याच पद्धतीने आदिवासी समूहालाही सामाजीकीकरणाच्या प्रवाहाच्या बाहेर ठेवला गेले. त्याला कारण जाती संस्था तर आहेतच त्याच बरोबर परंपराप्रिय हिंदू समाजास अशीही एक भीती होती की, आदिवासी सुधारला तर तो भविष्यात कधीकाळी आपल्या हितसंबंधांचा मोठा वाटेकरी होईल या भीतीपोटी त्यांना व्यवस्थेने रानटी अवस्थेतच ठेवणे पसंत केले. ”

युरोपात राष्ट्रवादाचा उदय झाल्यानंत ‘जमात’ हा शब्द एका विशिष्ट भूप्रदेशात राहणाऱ्या मानवी समूहांचा निदर्शक ठरला. भारतावर व भारतीय आदिवासींवर लिहिणारे पाश्चात लेखक आणि भारतीय काही मानववंशतज्ञ त्या संदर्भात हा शब्दप्रयोग करू लागले. भारतीय जमाती या प्रामुख्याने नेग्रीतो, माँगोल, भूमध्य या तीन समूहांशी निगडीत आहे असे सांगण्याचा प्रयत्न केला.^{iv}

नेग्रीतो- हे प्रामुख्याने अंदमान-निकोबार बेटावरील ऑगे, ग्रेट अंदमानी, जारवा तसेच केरळ मधील कदर, इरुल आणि पनियान हे आहेत.

माँगोल- आसाम, मेघालय, मिझोरम, मणिपूर, नागालँड, सिक्कीम व अरुणाचल या राज्यांच्या मध्ये वास्तवाला आहे.

भूमध्य- यांना साधारण द्रविडीयन म्हटले जाते.

वसाहतीक कालखंडातच खऱ्या अर्थाने आदिवासी समूहांना समाज उत्थानाच्या प्रवाहात खेचले. जनगणनेच्या माध्यमातून भारतीय आदिवासींच्या बाबतची वर्गवारीमुक्त माहितीचे संकलन केली गेली. १८९१ च्या प्रथम जनगणनेत आयुक्त जे. ए. बैन्स यांनी त्यांना 'वन जमाती' म्हटले. १९०१ च्या जनगणनेत त्यांना 'पशुपालक' किंवा 'आदिवासी' धर्म पाळणारे लोक अस म्हटलं गेल तर १९३१ च्या जनगणनेत 'आदिम जमाती' संबोधले गेले.^v

जागतिकीकरणाचा आदिवासींच्या जीवनावर होणारे परिणाम:

जागतिकीकरण हा मानवी विकासाचा गतीमान टप्पा आहे, जो तंत्रज्ञान, व्यापार, आणि आर्थिक संबंधांच्या सुधारणा यांच्यावर आधारित आहे. मात्र, वर्तमान स्थितीत आदिवासी समाजासाठी जागतिकीकरणाचे अनेक दुष्परिणाम आपणास पहावयास मिळत आहे. आज सार्वजनी हिताच्या प्रकल्पांसाठी अथवा धोरणांपोटी तसेच ग्रामसभेला देऊ केलेले अधिकचे अधिकार यामुळे वनहक्क धारकांवर वर्षानु वर्षे अन्याय होत असल्याचे निश्चित झाले आहे.^{vi}

१. नैसर्गिक संसाधनांवर अतिक्रमण:

जंगलतोड, खाणींची उभारणी, जंगल कायदे आणि औद्योगिकीकरणामुळे आदिवासींचे निवासस्थान नष्ट होताना दिसत आहे.

२. आर्थिक असमानता:

पारंपारिक समाज जेव्हा पारंपारीकतेतून आधुनिकते कडे गतिमान होत असतांना हितसंबंधात्मक अर्थव्यवस्थेत आदिवासी समाजाला कमी स्थान दिले गेल्यामुळे आणि जागतिकीकरणाच्या स्पर्धेमध्ये त्यांची आर्थिक परिस्थिती अधिकच बिघडली आहे.

३. सांस्कृतिक न्हास:

पाश्चात्य आधुनिक जीवनशैलीचा आणि शहरीकरणाचा आदिवासी संस्कृतीत झालेल्या प्रवेश याच्या मुळे आदिवासींच्या भाषा आणि त्यांच्या परंपरा त्यांना जपणे हे एक मोठे आव्हान त्यांच्या समोर उभे राहिलेले आहे.

स्थलांतराचे कारणे:

१. रोजगाराच्या शोधासाठी स्थलांतर:

आज कृषी आणि पारंपरिक उद्योगात घट झाल्यामुळे तसेच जंगल कायद्यांन मुळे वनांच्या मध्ये असलेल्या उपजीविकेच्या साधनांना आदिवासींना मुकावे लागत असल्याने आदिवासी लोक शहरी भागात स्थलांतर करतात.

२. शैक्षणिक संधी:

आधुनिकतेच्या लाटेत शिक्षणाचे वाढते महत्व व खाजगी करणाच्या रेट्यात शासकीय शाळांचे ग्रामीण भागात होणारी कोंडी या मुळे चांगल्या शिक्षणाच्या शोधात अनेक कुटुंबे गावांमधून शहरांकडे स्थलांतर करताना दिसत आहे.

३. विस्थापन:

सार्वजनिक विकासाच्या नावाखाली उभ्या केल्या जाणाऱ्या मोठ्या प्रकल्पांमुळे, जसे की धरणे आणि खाण प्रकल्प, आदिवासी समाजाला जबरदस्तीने विस्थापित केले जाते.

स्थलांतराचे परिणाम:

२. सामाजिक विसंगती

पारंपरिक नैसर्गिक समाजातून बाहेर पडल्याने आदिवासी लोकांना शहरी समाजाशी भाषिक, बोली, खानपान या स्तरावर जुळवून घेण्यात अडचणी येतात.

३. सांस्कृतिक ओळख गमावणे:

शहरीकरणामुळे भारतातील इतर सामाजिक संकृतीच्या संपर्कात आदिवासींच्या सांस्कृतिक परंपरा आणि जीवनशैली जोपासण्यावर विपरीत परिणाम होताना दिसतो आहे.

४. मानसिक तणाव:

नवीन सामाजिक पर्यावरणातील बोलीभाषा, वेशभूषा, राहणीमान या वातावरणाशी जुळवून घेण्याच्या प्रक्रियेत आदिवासी लोकांमध्ये कळत-नकळत मानसिक समस्या वाढत आहे.

उपाययोजना:

१. आदिवासींसाठी विशेष धोरणे तयार करणे:

आदिवासींच्या शिक्षण, रोजगार, आणि आरोग्यासाठी विशेष योजना राबवणे.

२. सांस्कृतिक जतन:

आदिवासींची परंपरा आणि संस्कृतीचे संवर्धन तसेच ती टिकून राहण्यासाठी सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक व राजकीय स्तरावर विशेष प्रयत्न करणे. जणेकरून आदिवासी तिची ओळख टिकऊन ठेवेल.

३. स्थलांतर थांबवण्यासाठी विकास प्रकल्प:

आदिवासींचे होणारे स्थलांतर व पर्यायाने होणारे सामाजिक असंतुलन संतुलित ठेवण्यासाठी आदिवासी भागांतच शिक्षण, आरोग्य, रस्ते, रोजगार आणि विकासाच्या संधी निर्माण करणे.

४. स्थानिक नेतृत्वाला प्रोत्साहन:

ग्रामपंचायत, पंचायत समिती व जिल्हापरिषद या सारख्या स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थांच्यामध्ये आदिवासी समाजातील लोकांना(महिला व पुरुष) नेतृत्वाची संधी देऊन त्यांचे लोकशाही सामाजिकीकरणातून हित साधणे.

निष्कर्ष:

जागतिकीकरण हा अपरिहार्य बदल असला तरी, त्याचा प्रभाव आदिवासी समाजावर अधिक तीव्रपणे जाणवतो. त्यांच्या पारंपरिक जीवनशैलीचे संरक्षण करणे आणि त्यांना मुख्य प्रवाहात समाविष्ट करणे हे समाज व शासनाचे कर्तव्य आहे. स्थानिक विकासाच्या माध्यमातून त्यांना स्थलांतर करण्याची गरज भासणार नाही, याची काळजी घेतली पाहिजे. जागतिकीकरणाच्या युगात आदिवासी समाजाच्या अस्तित्वासाठी ठोस उपाययोजना करणे ही काळाची गरज आहे.

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