

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RAIGAD DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA

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Introduction: Maharashtra is the second largest state in India in terms of Population and has geographical area about 3.08 lakh sq. km. As per Population Census-2011, the population of the State is 11.24 crore which is 9.3 per cent of the total population of India and is highly urbanized with 45.2 per cent people residing in urban areas. Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra and the financial capital of India, houses the headquarters of most of the major corporate & financial institutions. India's main stock exchanges & capital market and commodity exchanges are located in Mumbai. The State has 36 districts, which are divided into six revenue division's (Konkan, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur). (GOM,2016-17,p-2)

There was well developed infrastructure, abundant natural resources; connectivity to all major areas; skilled manpower and quality education make Maharashtra an ideal destination for setting up of new industries. The State has focused on development of infrastructure & smart cities. (GOM,2016-17,p-2)

Raigad is crucial district in the state of Maharashtra. Since 1960, it has contributed in large scale to Maharashtra's development in terms of national income, tourism, employment opportunities, forest and fisheries income, transport etc.

Objective of Paper: Raigad districts per capita income was Rs.1,32,607 in 2012-13 however at the same time the state of Maharashtra's income Rs.1,03,991.(GOM,2014-15,p-2) This is

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enough to elaborate the importance of Raigad district in Maharashtra. This paper is based on following objectives.

- 1) To understand the geographical and environmental background of Raigad District.
- 2) To study the demographic, land holding and irrigation facility those are very important in development in Raigad District.
- 3) To take review of trade commerce and banking development in Raigad district.

Source of data:- This all information is based on secondary data that is collected from website, economic survey, various reports and magazines. Through the secondary information, however, from the point of socio-economic status, the paper is highlighting geographical, historical, social, economic background of Raigad which is mentioned underneath.

Geographical background: - Raigad district is situated in Konkan region of Maharashtra state covering an area of 7148 sq km which is about 2.27 per cent of the total area of the state. It lies between 17° 51' and 19° 80' N latitude and 72° 51' and 73° 40' E longitude with an altitude of 10 to 50 metres above mean sea level (MSL). It also covers 240 km out of 720 km coastal length of Arabian Sea and surrounded by Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghat) in the east, the Arabian Sea on the west. On the land side, it is surrounded by Mumbai Suburban district to the northwest, Thane district to the north, Pune district to the east, Ratnagiri district to the south and Satara district to the south east. The district includes towns/cities of Panvel, Alibag, Mangaon, Roha, Pen, Khopoli, Kharghar, Taloja, Khalapur, Uran, Patalganga, Rasayani, Nagothana, Poladpur, Alibag, Karjat and Mahad. The largest city both in area and population is Panvel. The district also includes the isle of Gharapuri or Elephanta, located in Uran which has ancient Hindu and Buddhist caves. Raigad, the fort that was the former capital of the Maratha leader Shivaji Maharaj and is located in the interior regions of the district, in dense forests on a west-facing spur of the western ghats of Sahyadri range. The present Raigad district owes its name from the historical fort of Raigad built by Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and is the erstwhile Kolaba district of Maharashtra state. The reorganization of state in 1956, the Kolaba district was incorporated in Bombay state. Since 1960, it forms a part of

Maharashtra state. Kolaba district has been renamed as Raigad district from 1st January 1981. Raigad district forms a part of Konkan coastal plain and has a natural scenic beauty and historical background with forts and ports constructed by Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Environment background:-In the development process, environment is crucial. Naturally, Raigad is so rich in soil quality, rainfall, clean air and atmosphere. Soil is the product of parent rocks. Climate, rainfall, humidity and vegetation affect the soil formation in the Konkan region. The soil of the district is essentially derived from the Deccan trap which is the predominant rock formation of the district. The main types of soil found in the district are black soil, khar or salt soil, coastal alluvium and laterite soils. Deccan Trap rock which is completely impervious to percolation, these causing an acute shortage of water in summer, and it receives rain fall varying from 2000 mm to 3500 mm in different parts on the hill slopes. The soil is reddish which is used for grass crop. The shallow sands near the coast are suitable for plantation of coconut. The redish brown and coffee brown soils are excellent for paddy cultivation and are capable of producing crop. The district has coarse soil, medium black soil, deep black soil and lateritic soil. The climate of Raigad district is typical hot and humid that of the west coast of India characterized with plentiful and regular monsoon rainfall. The weather is oppressive in hot months and highly humid throughout the year. The summer season is from March to May followed by the south west monsoon season from June to September. The period from December to February is of winter season. Being a coastal district the diurnal and seasonal variations of temperature are not large. The period from March to May is one of increasing temperatures. May is the hottest month of the year. The onset of south-west monsoon early in June brings down the temperature slightly. After the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon by the end of September the day temperature increase slightly and the weather in October and November is almost like summer months. The average minimum temperature is 17.7°C and maximum average temperature is 31.8°C. Rainfall is also the most critical factor affecting agriculture in the region. Total rainfall and its month wise distribution is an important factor affecting crop production and land use intensity. Region receives the rainfall from the south-west monsoon (Table 2.3 and Fig.

3.7). The average annual rainfall in the district is 2484.32 mm; nearly 95 per cent of rainfall is received in four months from June to September. July is the month of the heaviest rainfall, the same being 38 percent of the annual rainfall. The rainfall is regular and the year- to -year variations in the annual rainfall of the district are not large. On an average there are 94 rainy days in the year. Therefore crop production is concentrated only in kharip season and there is very little cropping in rabbi or hot season. The rainfall is very high and assured, thus kharip season crops are assured. There are some post monsoons rains in October and November, which enable growing some rabbi pulses and vegetables after harvest of kharip rice on residual moisture. Matheran (4500 mm) is the highest rainfall receiving centre of Raigad district. With the withdrawal of the south-west monsoon, day temperature increases slightly even in October then November. The air is humid throughout the year. During the south west monsoon season skies are overcast with clouds. In May and October the sky is moderately clouded and during the rest of the year the sky is clear to lightly cloudy.

Demographic background: - Population plays a key role in the development of the agriculture of the region. Like other districts of Maharashtra, Raigad is essentially a district of villages. The total population of the district as per census 2011 was 2634200 of which 63.2 per cent is rural and 36.8per cent is urban population. Out of his population 51.03 per cent are male and 49.07 per cent are female population. There are altogether 1919 inhabited places in the district of which 1893 are villages and 26 municipal towns. During the decade 2001-2011 the population of the Raigad district is increased by 19.3 per cent, this growth rate is lower than the Indian average of 23.44 per cent. The highest population living in Panvel area and lowest population living in Tala area. Approximately 59.82 percent population is engaged in secondary and service sector. The growth rate of rural and urban population for the last two decades is compared and it is observed that the decadal growth rate of rural population declined in the subsequent decade, whereas decadal growth rate of urban population is increased. The growth rate of rural population is lower than the density of population in any region indicates the pressure on land. The density of the population in Raigad district was 368 persons per sq. km.2011, that is much less than the national average shown in the. The highest density of population is

observed in Uran tahsil was 753 and the lowest density is found in Sudhagad tahsil which is 135 persons per sq. km.(GOM,2014-15,p-2)

Table 1.1: Raigad Districts Selected indicators

Sr.No	Contend	Raigad	Konkan	Maharashtra
1	Density	368	931	365
2	Sex Ratio	959	894	929
3	%urban population to total Population	36.8	78.8	45.2
4	SC	5.1	6.3	11.8
5	ST	11.6	7.0	9.4
6	Average Population per village	895	1080	1053
7	Male literacy	89.1	90.7	88.4
8	Female literacy	76.9	82.0	75.9
9	SC literacy	86.3	85.2	79.7
10	ST literacy	57.6	60.4	65.7
11	Per lakh Education Sanstha	149	65	90
12	Average village size (rural population per village)	883	1080	1503
13	Average number of villages per tehsils	124	124	115
14	Average population per Tehsils (Thousand)	176	609	317
15	Number of hospitals per lakh population	9	8	9
16	Number of registered deaths by all diseases per lakh population	550	555	566
17	Number of educational institutions per lakh population	149	65	90
18	Number of students per teacher in primary schools (including upper primary)	27	34	31
19	Number of students per teacher in secondary schools	28	27	27
20	Per capita domestic consumption of electricity (kwh)	149.9	383.9	198.2
21	Number of telephones per lakh population	2865	5847	3046
22	Number of commercial banks per Lakh population	11.9	13.0	8.9
23	Number of Co-operative banks per lakh population	0.4	0.3	0.5

Source: **Selected indicators for districts in Maharashtra and States in India 2012-13**

Land holding and irrigation facilities;-Due to fragmentation of land holdings, the average size of the land holding is less than 2 hectares. The total numbers of holdings in the district is 2, 96,866 with an area of 3, 48,147 hectares. In majority of cases, out of

these land holdings in the district as many as 2.57 lakhs land holding are below two hectares. The peculiarity of landholding in the district is that nearly 71 percentage land holdings are marginal and sixteen per cent holdings are small resulting in to high proportion. (Table 3.2) The farmers who have medium and large holdings, possess mostly lands on hill slopes and less fertile lands, which are locally known as 'Varkas Lands'. Although proportion of such farmers is small, they possess large proportion (13 per cent) of the total area. This also shows that there is some inequality in the distribution of land holdings. A large proportion of marginal small farmers, is challenging task for planning and development and for evolving suitable technologies and policy measures.

The Concept of irrigation implies the existence of source of water supply within a reasonable distance and an arrangement to regulate the supply of the water according to the day-to-day needs of the crops raised in these fields. Naturally therefore all areas, which are cultivated under purely rain fed conditions, are treated as unirrigated lands. The irrigation is not much developed in the region. There is no source of good quality irrigation during rabi season in the coastal region of the district. The underground water is brackish and not suitable for irrigation. In some region the rain water can be harvested by excavating the farm ponds and construction of small check dams and this water is used for crops with protective irrigation. During the year 2008-09, the net sown area as 1.58 lakhs hectares and the net irrigated area were 11701.42 hectares farming 7.74 per cent of the net cropped area. The total number of irrigation dug wells in the district were 5709 out of that 2767 wells were fitted with electrical pump sets and 458 wells were fitted with diesel pump sets. (Table 1.2)

Trade , Commerce and Industry: The chief manufactured articles of the district are medicines, chemicals products, cloths, drugs, pepsi soft drink, beer, yeast, steel pipes, ingots, alloy, benzene, chikki, copper utensils, Lord Ganpati idols, medical oil (bat oil), leather goods, sticks, timber, mango, cashew nut, bricks, rice, poha, bullock cart wheels, colour, tiles, cement products, clay pots, ayurvedic medicine, grinding wheels, handlooms cloths and ice etc. The chief export articles in the district are dry fish, coconut, cloths, chemical products, medicines, colour, rice, vegetables, pulses, milk,

beer, yeast, steel pipes and rods, acetic acid, benzene, copper utensils, wari, nachani, chikhi, leather goods, honey, timber, mango, paddy, cashew nut, betel nut, fish, bricks, poha, bullock cart wheels, ayurvedic medicine statues and idols, grinding wheels, handloom cloths etc. Most of these are sent to Mumbai. Maharashtra is one of the industrially advanced states of India. Raigad district on the whole is not much developed industrially except for Khopoli, Karjat, Panvel, Rassayani, Taloje Panchnad, Nagothane and Roha towns. (Table 3.2) These towns have industrial units of manufacturing steel pipes, chemicals and medicines. M.I.D.C is encouraging industrial units in Panvel tahsil to increase industrial productions. Existing industrial units in the district are in general on a small scale, salt manufacturing at Uran and Panvel, Paper and Pulp, coated fabric and chemicals at Khopoli, R.C.C. pipes at Pen, grinding wheels, segments stones and sticks etc at Mora (Uran) are the main large scale industries in the districts. Agro based industries are Rice, Barli food and yeast powder. The industrial policy of the state is based on the basic decision to encourage industries in the developing and under-developed areas in the district and to disperse industries from the heavily congested area of Mumbai, Thane and Pune. In the district there are industrial estates in Panvel, Rassayani, Uran, Mahad and Roha. The small scales as well as large scale industries are running in these areas. Petrochemical industry at Nagothane (Roha tahsil) and fertilizer project at Thal-Vayshet near Alibaug are large scale industries in the district. Hindustan Organic chemicals and Reliance chemical industries are the other private projects located at Rassayani and Patalganga industrial area. The most important small scale industry is the manufacturing of Gansh idols, located in Pen tahsil. Thousands of these idols are sent to Mumbai and Pune during Ganpati festival. Brick manufacturing industry is located in Mahad, Alibaug, Roha and Khalapur tahsil. Brass and Copper utensils manufacturing industry is located at Mahad, Roha and Pali (Sudhagad tahsil). Pharmaceutical and Chemical industries are located at Mahad and Panvel tahsil. Handloom sarees are made in Goregaon, Mahad, Murud, Mangaon and Roha tahsils and leather goods industries are located at Matheran, Mahad, Murud and Roha tahsils. The numbers of Rice mills are found in Alibaug, Mahad, Pen and Panvel tahsils. In Panvel tahsil there are many mills making 'Poha' from paddy. Plastics goods manufacturing industries are located in Panvel tahsil. The total employment in industries and services in 2001 was 69,943. Primary

industries such as stock-raising, forestry; fishing, mining, quarrying, processing and manufacture of food-stuffs, textiles, leather products, metals and chemicals, etc. employed 31 per cent of the total employment in the industrial sector.(Table 1.2)

Table 1.2:Sector-wise Raigad District income and Per Capita income (in Lakh)

Name of Sector	Net Income(2010-11)	Net Income(2011-12)
Agriculture	95786	124393
Forest	81560	96111
Fishing	11310	12951
Coal and Mining	455	4901
Primary Sector(Total)	189110	238356
Registered Industries	911084	1046909
Non-registered industries	104006	105698
Construction	176335	204840
Power, Gas water supply	47193	48119
Secondary Sector (Total)	1238617	1405565
Railway	8819	10085
Transport & Storage	156071	185239
Communication	29104	31631
Trade and Hotel	321556	358066
Banking & Insurrance	160058	185064
Services	256061	305912
Public administration	89582	98273
Others	145154	174441
Total Service Sector	1166364	1348712
Total District income	2544101	2992633
Per Capita District Income(Rs.)	104439	119215
Per Capita State Income(Rs.)	88458	93748
Proportion of district income with state Income	2.73	2.81

Source:-Raigad district Report 2014

Banking development in Raigad district: In the beginning, State Bank of India was opened at Alibag on 7th December 1956. Arrangements are in progress to open offices of the Bank at Mahad and Panvel. The State Bank conducts Government business and affords remittance and exchange facilities to local banks and public. All the joint-stock banks in the district including the State Bank of India provide the usual banking facilities to the public including the financing of trade and agriculture and storage and

movement of agricultural produce. The main object of many of these banks is to encourage the habit of banking especially in rural areas and to cater to the financial needs of rural population through their offices. Table 1.3 stated that actual banking structure in Raigad district. There were 25 nationalized banks which have 351 branches. Most of nationalized bank have open our branch in Panvel area. Actually there working total 161 banks and given 28102 lakh agricultural loan and 170419 lakh to non-agricultural purpose.

Table 1.3: Banking Development in Raigad District

Name of Talukha	Villages	No.of Bank	Nationalised Bank	No.of Branches	deposit(lakh)	Agri loan	Non-Agri loan
Uran	53	12	11	27	2645	462	10742
Panvel	157	37	25	106	677116	4209	70608
Karjat	176	10	12	22	148189	2026	5585
Khalapur	120	9	12	22	150235	1342	9674
Pen	151	10	13	25	148119	1912	12612
Alibag	193	18	15	37	253918	6503	29852
Murud	72	8	4	12	84639	1160	1843
Roha	167	10	7	17	106598	2271	719
Sudhagad	97	3	4	6	42230	1044	2671
Mangaon	185	13	9	24	148189	2091	5456
Tala	63	1	3	3	21160	322	102
Shreevardan	78	7	6	15	105000	1134	3185
Mahasala	81	8	3	10	63480	1060	1750
Mahad	181	11	7	18	127606	1766	7605
Poladpur	86	4	4	7	36712	800	1534
Total	1860	161	25	351	2115836	28102	170419

Source:-Raigad district Report 2014

The co-operative movement, in the main, covers the growth of co-operative credit societies, multi-purpose societies, land mortgage banks, non-agricultural credit societies and the central co-operative bank. The movement may be said to have started in Kolaba District in 1910, when the first co-operative society was established at Dahiwali in Karjat Taluka. The object in starting this movement was to make available to the agriculturists cheap credit and to develop amongst them a sense of co-operation, mutual help and

economy. Most of the earlier co-operative societies were established in this district with this object in view. Later, the scope of this movement was enlarged considerably as it helped to solve varied problems relating to rural development. As per Raigad districts report 2014, there were working 137 agricultural credit societies and 485 non-agricultural credit societies.

Conclusion: Raigad is crucial district in Konkan region in Maharashtra. It has covering an area of 7148 sq km which is about 2.27 per cent of the total area of the state. It has also covers 240 km out of 720 km coastal length of Arabian Sea and surrounded by Sahayadri ranges (Western Ghat) in the east, the Arabian Sea on the west. On the land side, it is surrounded by Mumbai Suburban, Thane and Pune. The study has reviewed socio-economic background of Raigad districts. There have discussed historical, geographical, industrial, trade, commerce and banking variables which are crucial to determine socio-economic status of Raigad.

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