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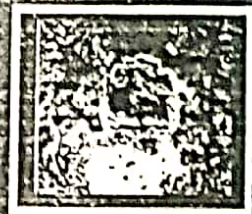
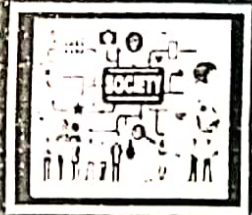
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A Study of the Changing Nature of occupation in the Dhargar Community in Ahmednagar District

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Abstract:

Ahmednagar is one of the largest district in Maharashtra as well it has a very diverse physical and climatic situation i.e. the western part of the district is hilly as well as it is received very high amount of rainfall. On the contrary the eastern part of the district is plateau and it is received very low rainfall so that mostly Dhargar community population depended on their traditional occupation such as sheepherding and livestock breeding. But now a day the climate change affected on Physical, Economical as well as Socio-Cultural factors. The proportion of Grassland has also decreased with decreasing rainfall. There is no grassland left for sheepherding in Ahmednagar District. At the same time two Dams were created in Ahmednagar District first one Bhandardara (Wilson Dam) which is located in the western part of the district it benefited to almost northern Ahmednagar District and second one Muladam is located in central part of Ahmednagar District and it benefited central and partly southern part of Ahmednagar District which resulted increase in area under Agriculture land it means most of grassland area converted into grassland to agriculture land.

Keywords: Rainfall, Maharashtra, Ahmednagar, Eastern part, Western Part, Agriculture, sheepherding

Introduction:

Occupation is the most important element in the Socio-Economic status. Occupation is an index of a person social standing; the occupation of a person regulates the style of life and the class status of that person. One's occupation meaningfully influences ones Socio-Political values and ideology. Occupation is not only significant in the distribution of status and prestige, but also a good measure of Socio-Economic mobility. The structure of occupation depends on the Geographical and Geological pattern of concern area as well as the availability of various types' facilities such as irrigation facilities, transportation and industrialization, etc. Many parts of Ahmednagar district is covered by various mountain ranges and two major river basins. The northern side of the district gets a plenty rainfall, but in the southern part of the district is drought prone zone. On the river of Pravara and Mula government has constructed dams resulted that the irrigation facilities have been available. Therefore about 64 percent respondents have engaged in Agriculture.

Study Area:

Ahmednagar District recognized by the name of Malik Ahmed who was the chief founder. It was the kingdom of Nizamshah in A.D. 1494. Ahmednagar District was established after the end of Peshwa rule in A.D. 1818. Ahmednagar is the largest district of Maharashtra State having geographical area of 17418 k.m. It comprises the 5.66% of the area of Maharashtra State. Out of total areas 391.5 sq. k. m. is urban area while remaining 16,656.5 sq. k. m. comes under rural area. Ahmednagar is centrally located in western Maharashtra. In this district there are 14 blocks or tehsils/talukas, 1,581 villages and 1,308 Gram Sabhas. The Ahmednagar district is laid between 18.2° to 19.9° North latitude and 73.9° to 75.5° East longitude. It is bounded on the north by Nasik district, on the north east by Aurangabad district, in the east by Beed and Osmanabad, on the south by Solapur and in the south west by Thane and Pune district.

Data base and Methodology:

Geography is a science based on empirical studies which require data collection for various sources. A Study of the Changing Nature of occupation in the Dhargar Community in Ahmednagar District

- 1) The present study is based on the primary data obtained from the Dhargar Community people (Respondents)
- 2) Processed and analyzed data has been applied by appropriate methods, cartographic techniques and statistical techniques.

Objectives:

The basic objectives of this paper are -

1. To investigate the occupation structure of Dhargar Community in Ahmednagar District.
2. To Study the Changing Nature of occupation in the Dhargar Community.

Discussion

As mentioned earlier, A Study of the Changing Nature of occupation in the Dhangar Community in Ahmednagar District is mostly based on Primary data which has been collected from the Dhangar Community population (Respondents) in Ahmednagar District.

Changing Nature of occupation of Dhangar Community:

The present study shows the occupation structure of the Dhangar Community and the transformation of occupation into agriculture through shepherding means the nomadic Dhangar community convert into agriculture society.

Table No.1, Distribution of Respondents and his/her Family member by Occupation

Sr.No.	Tehsil	Agriculture	Shepherding	Service	Other	Total
1	Sangamner	59.46	29.73	5.95	4.86	185
2	Kopargaon	77.53	7.24	10.86	4.35	138
3	Rahata	86.36	2.72	5.45	5.45	110
4	Shrirampur	70.70	09.09	14.14	6.06	99
5	Newasa	85.71	4.08	6.12	4.08	147
6	Shevgaon	74.42	4.65	6.98	4.65	86
7	Pathardi	66.67	10.42	10.42	12.5	96
8	Nagar	42.42	30.30	21.21	6.06	99
9	Rahuri	63.86	19.28	12.05	4.82	166
10	Parner	34.28	53.71	8.57	3.42	175
11	Shrigonda	46.63	41.35	8.27	3.76	133
12	Karjat	63.33	20.00	4.44	12.22	90
13	Jamkhed	64.71	05.88	11.76	17.65	102
	Total	1037	332	154	103	1626
	Percentage	63.78	20.40	09.48	06.33	100

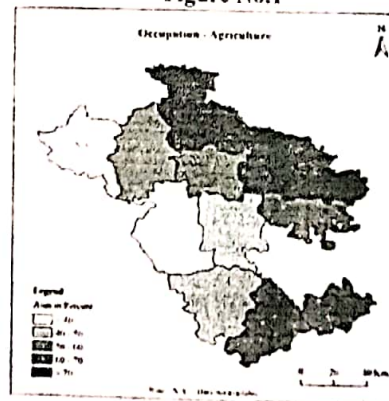
Source: - Compiled by Researcher

Occupations :

Agriculture:

The figure no.1 indicates that the Agriculture activity made by respondents. More rainfall receiving area as well as river basin area is more suitable for agriculture activity. Kopargaon, Shevgaon, Shrirampur, Rahata, and Newasa are prominent tehsils in agriculture because the river Godavari and its tributary Pravara and Mula are flowing west to east through these tehsils and giving avail the opportunity of irrigation.

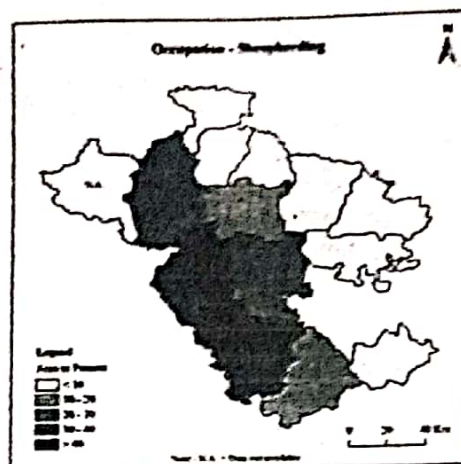
Figure No.1



Shepherding:

The figure no.2 displays that shepherding activity of respondents. In this figure the plateau area as well as the drought prone area is the most suitable for the shepherding, so Parner, Shrigonda, Sangamner, Rahuri and Nagar are more valuable tehsils in shepherding.

Figure No.2



Service Sector:

The Table no.1 indicates that in Nagar tehsil is leading in service sector due to the urbanization and industrialization. The Maharashtra Industrial development corporation means MIDC is here which is most significant to avail the job so which respondents live this particular area they get the job.

Other Sectors:

The Table no.1 shows that other occupation of respondents. In this figure Jamkhed, Pathardi and Karjat which are less rainfall receiving tehsils so thesheepherding as well as agriculture activities did not develop a large scale consequently respondents do the other various types occupation such as sugarcane cutting in the sugarcane belt in the rabbi season.

Conclusion:

In table No. 1 mentioned the information that 63.70 percent respondents are doing in agriculture sectors while 20.40 percent belonging to the shepherding and 9.48 percent belonging to the service sectors as well as government sectors and finally 6.33 percent belonging to self-employment and others sectors such shopkeeper, electrician and other business etc. The finding is clear that the majority respondents are engaged in Agricultural that means many people have shifted from their traditional shepherding occupation to Agriculture

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