CHAPTER – I

APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

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CHAPTER – I

APPRAISAL OF THE PROBLEM

1.1 INTRODUCTION

'Food, clothing and shelter are three basic human needs. Though we are able to provide the first two to a fairly large segment of country’s population, much remains to be done in respect of shelter' (Agarwal, 1990). Rural settlements at the point of origin, they are primary residence of human society. Therefore, the study of rural settlements runs like a thread through almost the whole fabric of geographic thought. Since the country is dominated by agrarian economy and most of the population is concentrated in villages, the study of rural settlements should be given prime importance.

Planning means “a strategy which for utilization of regional resources to achieve higher goals to completion of desired objectives.” In India, after independence planning process is implemented for regional development. The Fourth Five Year plan (1969-1974) devoted on rural development. Regional and more specifically district planning have been made significant for rural development and agricultural sector was given prime importance. In Ninth Five Year plan (1997-2002), the strategy was not effective for the rural development because of improper application of an appropriate planning system and implemented approaches.

In the literature of regional planning defining according to Alampiyev (1961), “a region as a distinct spatial entity has always been an interacted problem and has engaged wide attention for planning purpose”. ‘Rural development is designed to improve the economic and social well-being of a specific group of people-rural poor’ (World Bank, 1975). ‘Development of
agriculture and allied activities—village and cottage industries and crafts, socio-economic infrastructure, community services and facilities and above all the human resources in rural area' (Kartar Singh, 1986).

It is in this context that the present study paid attention on rural planning and development with applying the new approaches with special reference to Hilly Area of Kolhapur District. In the present study, only eight tahsils are considered on the basis of hilly area. In the present work, an attempt has been made to study the availability of local natural and human resources and attention has been paid to focus on problems of their utilization as well as the strategy for their fullest use in rural development. It is kept in mind of Dr. V. M. Dandekar’s view that ‘the rural man should be taken into confidence very seriously; it is time to stop considering him as a child, if this childish way of thinking is not stopped, he may start treating us as a child’. Our main attention, therefore, is to centralize hilly rural man for geographical thinking.

1.2 STUDY AREA

Hilly Area of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra is selected for present study. The entire Kolhapur district has 12 tahsils, among them eight tahsils are selected for the present study, which are individually having more than 50 per cent hilly area of their total geographical area. Particularly Shahuwadi, Panhala, Gagan Bavada, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara, Gadhinglaj and Chandgad tahsils are selected for the present work. These tahsils are mainly located in the western part of Kolhapur district, and it lies between 15° 43' to 17° 17' North latitude and 73° 40' to 74° 33' East longitude.

Kolhapur district is situated in the extreme southern part of Maharashtra and surrounded by Sangli district to the north, Belgaum district of Karnataka
State to the east and south and Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the west. Kolhapur district is a part of Deccan trap and the general slope towards the South-east. In general, the physiography of the study area is hilly, having average height about 800 m from MSL. The climate is tropical monsoon. The average temperature of summer and winter is $32.8^0$ C and $19^0$ C respectively and an average rainfall is 2875 mm. The study area has a well-developed drainage pattern, by Warana, Panchganga, Dudhaganga, Vedaganga and Hiranyakeshi.

The study area is having 12,99,252 population as per 2001 census and out of that 12,50,090 habitant in 876 rural settlements and only 49,162 population is living in urban settlements. The population density is 241 persons per sq km and sex ratio is 997 females per 1000 males.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Importance of proposed study and choosing of the study area can be stated by following manner:

1. Much of the work has been made on Regional planning, micro level planning but very less work has been done on rural planning of hilly areas.

2. Rural settlements and habitants are still play pivotal role in Nation building. Main source of food and working population come from the rural sector only.

3. Our National Five Year Plans have certain limitation in paying much more attention for rural development.
4. The regional differences are due to geographical factors. It reflects in rural settlements also. No general policy fulfils the uniform rural development.

5. Hilly region always neglected by researcher, policy makers, politicians and civilized society.

6. More than three fourth of Kolhapur district is having hilly topography, so misconception is always put forth that the entire Kolhapur district is developed, but it is not that case.

7. Our main intention is to study such neglected and remained far from development strategies on geographical consideration.

1.4 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

From the beginning at the core of the studies in Human Geography prior to World war II, the countryside as a field of geographical investigation. Land and its utilization have been the focal points of research in various disciplines especially Economics, Sociology and Geography. The Economists have viewed it as most important input of production. The Sociologists have examined its ownership system together with various agrarian reform systems. On the other hand, Geographers have by and large, explained its existing use, productivity, cropping pattern, nature and levels of resource utilization etc.

The credit goes to E. Ahamad and R. L. Singh. E. Ahamad (1952), in the particular branch of Human Settlements studied both rural and urban settlements of Uttar Pradesh. N. D. Bhattacharya explained the details of Evolution, Growth Morphology of Settlements in relation to physical features.
R. L. Singh (1957), studied the ‘Evolution of Settlements in Middle Ganga Valley’.


Few studies have been done which have assessed resource potential with development. At world level, a book written by Davis (1985), deals with natural resources and rural development in Sudan. It examines production of staple food, the impact of improved rural water supplies on the environment, wood and their use and planner’s and participant’s perception of development.

The Babikir (1988) in his paper deals with vegetation, soil and land use changes in Jebel Marra and other mountains in the Republic of the Sudan. According to him, proper introduction of agro-forestry system will maintain the soil and vegetation cover and these are the only ecologically sound solution for this area. The micro level study by Wiese (1988) shows that land use, conservation, developed strategies and planning in the mountains and highland of south-eastern Africa must be viewed against the background of changing socio-economic conditions.


1.5 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are as follows —
1. To identify the physical, economic and cultural setting of the study area.

2. To evaluate the resources and their co-relation with rural development.

3. To study the spatial distribution of rural settlements and their relationship with physical and cultural factors.

4. To find out the constraints for rural development of hilly area.

5. To measure the level of rural development and its planning in hilly area.

1.6 DATA COLLECTION

A research program is always based on certain technical procedures. In the beginning of the research data – primary as well as secondary, are collected which are further analysed to get the meaningful results.

A) Primary Sources of Data

Secondary sources of data do not provide complete comprehensive and even very authentic data at micro and meso levels for all the parameters of resource use, potential and levels of development as well as socio-economic condition. Therefore, there is basic need to collect primary data based on certain research design, which includes respondents and formulation of questionnaire, interviews, field observations and photographs. Moreover, the researcher belongs to this part of the hilly area of Kolhapur district and as such he is well acquainted to the changing socio-economic conditions, which have taken place in the recent past.
1) **Schedule 1:**

It includes questions related to the general characteristics of the respondents, his educational status, characteristics of out-migrants and size of the family.

2) **Schedule 2:**

It inquires about the total land, landuse pattern and agricultural land.

3) **Schedule 3:**

It emphasizes on cropping pattern in Kharif and Rabbi season for present and past 20 years. It includes the questions related to impediments of development as well as available resources.

4) **Schedule 4:**

It deals with the main potential or possibility for land particularly resource development.

**B) Secondary Sources of Data**

Secondary data has been used for the detail analysis of geographical background, socio-economic conditions, land use and cropping pattern, land resource potential, levels of development. Secondary data is collected from the government and semi-government departments in whatever form – 'published' or 'unpublished', they were available. Secondary data is collected from tahsil and circle levels. They have been taken from various sources.

1. **Topographical Sheets and Map**

For this purpose, the original map and topographical maps on the scale of 1:50000 (i.e. 47 G/16, 47 H/9, 47 H/10, 47 H/11, 47 H/13, 47 H/14, 47 H/15,
47 H/16, 47L/1, 47 L/2, 47 L/3, 47 L/4, 47 L/7, 47 L/8, 47 l/1, 47 l/2 and 47 l/5) and 1:250000 have been collected from different organizations.

b. District Planning Map Series – Kolhapur District, Maharashtra.

2. Published

b. Administrative Reports
c. Socio-economic Review of Kolhapur District
d. The Gazetteer of Kolhapur District
e. Report (Soil, Natural Vegetation, River system and Agriculture etc.)
f. Journals
h. Report of Public Work Department of Kolhapur District.

3. World Wide Websites (Internet)

1.7 METHODOLOGY

The present study of Western Ghat hilly Area of Kolhapur district is based mostly on primary data, collected through pre-tested schedule and secondary sources of data. The collected data is then tabulated with the help of various quantitative, statistical methods and mathematical treatments are carried out and the inferences may arrive. We have applied rate of change, growth, co-relation of co-efficient, ‘Rn’ values, centrality score, levels of development and imbalances etc. Cartographic techniques are used at appropriate places. The maps, photo plates and diagrams are depicted for various data and their interpretation support to the present work.
The details of methodology wherever required, has been discussed in concerned topics.

1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The research work undertaken has certain limitations of its own as it is based on primary data. Some of the limitations are as follows:

1. In the respect of biomass the sugar industry did not provide satisfactorily data of biomass production.

2. Due to financial constrains researcher unable to use GIS techniques in present Geographical work (particularly in the respect of imagery).

3. Physically inaccessibility of the area has put limits in the collection of information. The area being hilly and forested it is difficult to approach easily.

4. Nearly all departments have become computerized due to this past decades data is not available in concerned department.

1.9 CHAPTER OUTLINE

The entire research work has been organized into eight chapters.

The first chapter entitled ‘Appraisal of the Problem’ deals with the concept of planning and development, hilly area, significance of the problem and review of the literature. It contains objectives, sources of data, methodology and also outline of the chapters.
The second chapter entitled ‘Geographical Setting of the Study Area’ deals with areal profile, includes introduction about the area, location and extent, physical setting of the study area, geological structure, climate, drainage, forest, soils, land use pattern, cropping pattern, population characteristics, occupational structure and irrigation of the area.

The third chapter entitled ‘Resource Inventory’ deals with the introduction, meaning of resource, classification of resources. Physical resources, includes rock resources, mineral resources, water resources, climatic resources, soil resources and forest resources. The human resources include population growth, sex ratio, rural-urban ratio and working population etc. The study deals with the economic resources, which concern to livestock resources and industrial resources. The resources like tourism and biomass deal with the category of other resources.

The fourth chapter entitled ‘Spatial Distribution and Growth of Settlements’. In this chapter, an attempt is made to study the settlements. The distribution of settlements is affected by several factors in which physiography, drainage, population and transportation have considered. In the present chapter, an attempt has been made to find out the influence of various factors on the distribution of settlements in the study area. In the same chapter growth of settlements has been considered, also the growth of settlements is related to various geographical factors and changing economic situation. Further attempt has been made to study the settlements pattern and the growth individual settlements and their class-wise growth rate.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the study the ‘Socio-Economic Setting of Hilly Area’. An attempt has been made to throw light on the growth of population, the change in proportion of circle-wise population, density of
population, social analysis of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, female population, literacy, working population that includes primary and non-primary working population (growth and change in proportion). Gross Sown Area, Net Sown Area, and in the same chapter tahsil level area under cereals, area under pulses, area under oil seeds and area under sugarcane have been considered as a growth and change in proportion.

The chapter six has been devoted to the study the ‘Identification of Growth Centres and Levels of Development’. Service centres are central settlements, which provide the goods and services to the surrounding rural area. In the present chapter, growth centres have been identified and hierarchic structure of the growth centres has been proposed. In the same chapter levels of the development, constraints of development and imbalances have been studied.

The chapter seventh is entitled with ‘Areal Functional Gaps and Proposal for Integrated Area Development’. In this chapter, the study is conducted at the tahsil level rather than the settlement level because this approach may help better in identifying the adequate or inadequate services within each tahsil. This process can helpful to indicate functions and areas that need for socio-economic development. As per this work deals with proposal for the planning of the study area. The planning proposal concerns with a plan, functional gaps are identified on the basis of population thresholds of functions. Further, attempt is also made to identify the prospective growth centres providing services in the study area.

Chapter eight deals with the conclusions and suggestions.
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