CHAPTER-VI

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT OF THE CENTRES

The researcher collected demographic data pertaining to the twelve villages included in the sample from both the districts—Satara and Ahmednagar. The objective of collecting these data was to understand the background of the villages, where the NCECs and CECs were located. The data were collected on the following aspects:

- Total population of the village including information on male and female population.
- Literacy rate of the village.
- Types of religions and castes the people belonged to and domination, if any, of a particular caste.
- Educational facilities available in the village.
- Medical facilities available in the village.
- Common diseases prevalent in the village.
- Source of drinking water.
- Supply of electricity.
- Sewerage facilities
- Communication facilities available.
- Characteristics / special feature of the village, if any.
• The main occupation of the people, and other employment facilities available

• Unemployment levels

• Government welfare programmes implemented in the village

• Special programmes implemented for the upliftment of the BPL families

• Availability of Gram Panchayat

• Local dominant political party

The data were collected from the preraks of the NCECs and CECs. The analysis of these data is given in the following section.

(I) DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF VILLAGES SITUATED IN SATARA DISTRICT

❖ The average population of the villages was 3155. It ranged between 745 and 8185

❖ In all the villages, the male literacy rate was higher as compared to the female literacy rate

❖ Three out of 12 villages had temporary migration of people and four out of 12 villages reported permanent migration.

❖ All villages reported that, there were Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims in their villages. In addition, some reported Christians, Jains and Parsis as the inhabitants

❖ Amongst Hindus, Marathas were there in all the villages

❖ The Hindu religion was dominant in all the villages. Within Hindus, the Maratha community was dominant. In two villages, the Mali community was dominant
Anganwadis and primary schools were available in all the villages.

Only five villages had Balwadis and seven villages had secondary schools. There were only two villages, where there was a junior college and one village had a vocational training college.

The medium of instruction in all the schools was Marathi.

Only seven villages had medical facilities, such as private dispensaries and a sub-centre of PHC. In one village, a CHW (Community Health Worker) visited the village regularly.

The most common diseases prevalent were malaria, jaundice, diarrhoea / dysentery, cholera and fever.

In ten villages the sources of drinking water were either the well or tap water. In eight villages, hand pumps were used for getting water. In three villages, water was supplied through tankers.

Except one village, all the villages had electricity supply.

Ten out of twelve villages were connected with a pucca road to other cities. Two villages were linked by kaccha road.

Fifty per cent of the total villages had the facility of State Transport. Remaining fifty per cent villages were dependent on private transport facilities.

None of the villages was connected by railways.

People usually used two wheelers, private Jeeps, autos, bullock carts, tractors and trucks for travelling from one place to another place. The frequency of State
Transport buses was very infrequent. Hence, people had to remain dependent on the 
private transport services.

- One of the villages was known for a very ancient temple of Shiva.

- Six villages had open drainage facility

- Fifty per cent of the villages had common toilets.

- The major occupation of the people is agriculture.

- The traditional occupations practiced in these villages include: cane work, pottery, 
carpentry, masonry and blacksmith. These were practiced in only two villages. 
Others did not have any particular traditional occupation.

- Employment opportunity available in the villages was agriculture—either in their own 
farms or as agricultural labour on other’s farms. There was a industrial area in the 
vicinity of Satara Road. People sometimes got jobs in industries or factories

- Unemployment was found in all the villages. Its rate varied between 20 per cent and 
80 per cent.

- Ten out of twelve villages had following different welfare programmes/schemes. 
Integrated Child Development Scheme, Jawahar Yojana, Prime Minister’s Special 
Project, Family Welfare, Fruit-tree gardening, Rojgar Hami Yojana, Annapurna 
Yojana, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Niradhar Yojana, 
Vishesh Ghatak Yojana, Krushi Yojana, Health Schemes, Gharkul Yojana, Watershed management

- In all the villages, welfare programmes for the BPL families were implemented. They 
included: housing facilities, toilet facilities, supply of rationing at lower rates, free
education for children, house construction and repairing facilities, Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Yojana, Bio-gas plant, Vindhan-vihir Yojana, Saving groups. Gobar gas and Annapurna etc.

- Three villages had group Gram Panchayats. The remaining nine villages had their own, independent Gram Panchayats.

- The number of members of Gram Panchayat varied between 7 and 15. In all Panchayats, 33 per cent reservation policy for women was followed.

- In fifty per cent of the villages, National Congress Party (NCP) was predominant. In one village, Congress (I) and in another Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was dominant. In other villages, not a single party enjoyed a majority.

- Seven villages had a river flowing through the village. The names of the rivers are Vasana, Yerala and Morana.

- Taluka headquarter was the nearest big city for the villages, and for talukas, district headquarters was the nearest big city.

(II) DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF VILLAGES SITUATED IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

- The average population of the villages was 8570. It ranged between 1,575 and 30,338.

- The literacy rate among males was more in all the villages as compared to the female literacy rate.

- Six out of 12 villages had temporary migration of people and three out of 12 villages had permanent migration.
Ten out of 12 villages reported that, there were Hindus, Muslims and Christians in their villages. In addition, some reported Jains, Lingayats and Buddhists were also the residents of their villages.

Amongst Hindus, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, nomadic tribes, vimukta jamati, other backward class and special backward class were present. But, the Maratha community was predominant in the villages.

All the villages had Anganwadis and primary schools. In addition, seven out of 12 villages had Balwadis and secondary schools. Only two villages had junior colleges. One village had a senior college as well as a technical college.

The medium of instruction in all these pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools was Marathi. The colleges had both the media of instruction, namely, English as well as Marathi.

Nine out of 12 villages had private dispensaries, whereas seven villages had a sub-centre of PHC.

The major diseases in all these villages were: fever, cough and cold, malaria, and dysentery. In addition, a few reported skin diseases, typhoid, jaundice, HIV positive and cancer.

All the villages depended on tankers for water supply, as they belonged to drought-prone area. Only three villages reported that they got tap water for a few months in a year. A few villages reported that, they have wells, hand-pumps and irrigated water supply as well.
Electricity was available in all the villages though it was not regular, and there were fluctuations in the voltage, too.

All these villages were well connected to other villages by a pucca road.

Except one village, all the villages had State Transport bus facility.

None of the villages was connected by railways.

The transports commonly used by the people were two wheelers, tempos, private Jeeps and three- and/or six-seater autos.

None of the villages had any places of historical importance.

Only one village had a place of archeological importance, namely, old Barav and a masjid.

Seven villages had the drainage facilities. This included open and/or closed (underground) drainage pipes, shosha khadda, nallas and charis.

Most of the villages (seven out of twelve) did not have the facility of common toilets.

Fifty per cent of the villages had traditional occupations like Pashupalan, dairy, leather work, cane work (Burud).

The major occupation in these villages was agriculture.

Employment opportunities in these villages were mainly related to work in the farms, either one's own farm or as agricultural labour in others' farms. Two villages had the facility of working as a labourer in sugar factories. As these villages belonged to drought-prone area, agricultural work was temporary. It depended on the rainfall...
The unemployment level was very high ranging from 60 per cent to 80 per cent.

Only seven villages reported that, they had some government schemes implemented in their villages. These schemes included Indira Awas Yojana, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Rojagar Yojana, Hagandarimukta Gaon, Polio Drive, Antyodaya Yojana, Gharkul, Rojgar Hami Yojana and Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.

The special schemes implemented for the welfare of the BPL families included Gharkul Yojana, Antyodaya Yojana, distribution of cheap ration, Rojgar Hami Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Small Saving Groups formation, distribution of sewing and/or pico machines, cycles and loans for papad production.

Except one village, all the other villages had independent Gram Panchayats. In one village, Nagar Palika existed.

The number of members in the Panchayat varied between seven and seventeen. Each one had 33 per cent reservation for women.

In five villages, Congress (I) was dominant, whereas in three villages Nationalist Congress Party was dominant. In two villages, it was BJP and Shiv Sena dominant parties, respectively.

Fifty per cent of the total villages had river in their villages. Out of these, three rivers did not have names, as they are very small. Others included Cina, Kautuki and Hanga.

The nearest big city to the villages was the taluka headquarters; and for talukas, it was district headquarters.