# CHAPTER - 4

## NATURAL AND AGROBASE TOURIST CENTERS IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>PARTICULARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NATURAL AND AGROBASE TOURIST CENTRES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>BHANDARDARA DAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>MULA DAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>NIGHIJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>KALSUBAI PEAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>RANDHAFALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>RATANGAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>HARISHCHANDRAGAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>TOKA PRAWARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>VRUDDHESHWAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>SHRI HARI HARESHWAR DEVASTAN, TONDOLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>NIZARNESHWAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>PEMGIRI, SANGAMNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>RALEGAN SIDDHI- AN IDEAL VILLAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>HIWARE BAZAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER - 4

NATURAL AND AGROBASE TOURIST CENTRES IN
AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

‘The Vedic Indians had a great love for nature and animal life and the preservation of what nature has bestowed on us. There can be no better example of this love than the following Sanskrit mantra from the Atharvaveda.’\(^1\) Natural tourist centers are abundant in natural scenery and unique geographical features. It can be defined as ‘responsible journey to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the well being of local people’. Thus, eco-tourism demands a responsible travel so that the impacts of ecological footprints are minimized and the benefits of this travel are passed on to the local people.

The Government of India has realized the importance of eco-tourism in the National Tourism Policy 2002. Government of Maharashtra has also followed the same by forest department. The researcher has choose the following natural tourist centers, they are - Bhandardara, Mula Dam, Kalsubai Pick, Nizarneshwar, Randha fall, Harishchandragad, Ratangad, Shri Hari Hareshwar Devastan, Vrudheshwar, Pemgari, Nighoj and Pravara Sangam-Toka.

‘India is a vast land with varieties of villages that give us an ample scope for village tourism. As per 2001 Census, 74% of Indians live in 638,365 different villages. The size of these villages varies considerably. Most villages have their own temple, mosque or church, proving unity in diversity.’\(^2\) Agriculture is the main occupation of the local peoples and development in agriculture is benefited for this community. Agriculture accounts for about half of India’s national income and provides employment to 70 % of working population. The quality and quantity of agriculture development is useful to community.

So the researcher choose the following agro base tourist centers, they are - Mahatma Phule Krushi Vidyapeeth Rahuri, Ralegan Shiddhi and Hiware Bazar.
NATURAL TOURIST CENTERS

From time immemorial, the pilgrimage places in the vicinity of villages and scenic beauty of lofty mountains has attracted tourists. The Natural Tourist Centers in the districts are - Bhandardara Dam, Mula Dam, Vrudheshwar Mandir, Dongargan, Kalsubai, Randhafall, Nizarneshwar, Nighoj, Toka Prawara, Harishchandragad, Shri Hari-Hareshwar mandir and Ratangad.

AGRO BASE TOURIST CENTERS

Agro base tourism in Ahmednagar district is a novelty welcomed by both individual and group visitors. Rural tourism exists in these centers provides the travelers accommodation in a scenic location ideal for rest and relaxation. The role model of water protection effort can be seen at these centers. These centers are- Mahatma Phule Krushi Vidyapith Rahuri, Ralegan Shiddhi and Hiware Bazar.

4.2 BHANDARDARA DAM

Bhandardara Dam is also known as ‘Wilson Dam’. This is located in Akole taluka of Ahmednagar district. This is a holiday resort village on the western coast of Ahmednagar district. It is natural beautiful centre where many tourists visit every year in rainy season. ‘Bhandardara sits by the Pravara River, and is a blend of natural beauty, waterfalls, mountains, tranquility, greenery and invigorating air.’

Bhandardara is full of attractions from Wilson Dam to Arthur Lake. As legend has it, Saint Agsti Rishi meditated here for a year, surviving only water and air, please with this display of devotion god blessed to him and visited a stream of water which is known as Pravara River.
4.2.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Geographically location of Bhandardara Dam is lies between 19° 5’ North latitude and 73° 45’ East longitudes.

4.2.2 RELIEF

Bhandardara dam is natural dam and surrounded by hilly ranges and received heavy rainfall during rainy season. This dam is built between the Baleshwar mountain range to the south and Kalsubai mountain range to the north. Average height of this area is between 900 to 1000 meters from sea level.

4.2.3 SOIL

Because heavy rainfall in rainy season the hills are excavated and the topsoil is completely removed. Lateritic soil is deposited on slope and top of the hills and alluvial soil is spread over the bottom valley, which are very fertile.

4.2.4 CLIMATE
Bhandardara Dam is located in Ahmednagar district, so the climate is monsoon type i.e. summer is dry and hot and winter seasons are cool and healthy. Averagely temperature of summer season is recorded in month of May is $39.5^0\text{C}$ and minimum temperature is $9.4^0\text{C}$ and minimum temperature of $7.6^0\text{C}$ was recorded in the month of December in winter season.

4.2.5 RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall recorded is 57 cm and heavy rainfall goes on increasing water level of this dam. This year rained heavily up to 177 cm when recorded on 2nd September 2012.

4.2.6 DRAINAGE

Tree like drainage pattern is observed here by researcher. The main river is *Pravara*, which originates from the *Ratangad* mountain ranges flows down, and meets to Godavari River at *Pravarasangam* at *Toka* in Newasa taluka.

4.2.7 VEGETATION

Bhandardara Dam site is heavily forested by evergreen trees. The green belt comprises *Kalsubai* and *Harishchandragad* sanctuary. The forest department occupies an area of 3682 hectares. Different types of vegetation are found here which consist of following spices: *Moyen*, *Bahawa*, *Dhawada*, *Apatia*, *Amla*, *Hirda*, *Babool*, *Teak*, *Sandalwood*, *Jambhul*, *Karanji*, *Kavit*, *Moha*, *Neem tree*, *Khair*, *Mahaduk*, *Mango tree* and *Saundad* etc. along with these trees many types of shrubs and herbs are also found here like: *Arati*, *amoni*, *Chillar*, *Henkal*, *Kavand*, *Palasvel*, *Tarwad* etc. The grasses commonly found are *sheda*, *gondal*, *pavana*, *rosha* and *kusali*.

4.2.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Bhandardara Dam side is covered by forest, so it is associated with some important animals and birds, which are found in different parts of evergreen forest and surrounding area of *Kalsubai*, *Ratangad* and *Harishchandragad*, those are: Leopard, wolf, fox, pig, rabbit, monkey, deer, mongoose, porcupine, squirrel etc. and the birds are found like: woodpecker, heron, strokes, ducks, spoon bills, water hen, pewit, Yellow lapwing, black winged stilt, eagle, kite,
brown dove, pigeon, parakeets, crow peasant, cuckoo, butter, blue jay, king crow, bulbul, weaver, lark, shrikes, babbler, magpie, kingfisher, owlet etc. wild birds.

4.2.9 POPULATION

_Bhandardara_ village has population up to 2321. Among them males are 1167 (50.25%) and females are 1154 (49.74%). The total population of schedule caste is 273 (44.51%) where the males are 164 (7.07%) and females are 91 (55.48%). The total people in schedule tribe are 1321 (56.98%) and among them the males are 642 (48.59%) and females are 679 (51.4%). The total literacy rate at this village is 1106 (47%). The primary education and high school education facilities are available here.

4.2.10 OCCUPATION

The main occupations of those peoples are agriculture, forest farming, garage workers, transportation and services. Rather than this people sell forest fruits and medicinal herbs such as _Jambhul, hirda, beheada, mango and karvand_ etc.

4.2.11 SETTLEMENT

The houses here are linear types. Most of them are built by local easy available material like stone, mud, wood, clay plates and steel plates. The Government colony and offices are built in cement and brick. Researcher found 521 houses at this place.

4.2.12 LAND USE

_Bhandardara_ has total 704 hectares of land. In which the land under cultivation is 212 hectares (30%), forestland is 303 hectares (44%) and barren land is 189 hectares (26%).

4.2.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

State transport buses service is available here. Most of the visitors or tourists come with their own vehicles. Private vehicles are also available here. Some where the condition of road is not so good but it can be repaired by PWD.
Bhandardara is easily accessible by road. This place is around 185 km far from Mumbai and from Pune which is around 191 km.

4.2.14 FACILITIES

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) made an arrangement of 20 rooms and two big halls. There is parks, rock garden, water pond and lawn. Visitors can get joy of boating. In the reservoir boating facilities such as paddle boating and diesel boating is serve by minimum charges. Irrigation Department, Zila Parishad and Environmental Department also built there guesthouse. They have deluxe rooms and ordinary rooms. These rooms can be made available to visitors.

4.2.15 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

Bhandardara provides plenty of opportunity for small treks and hikes for adventure lovers and tourists, so the number of visitors and tourists visiting this place. The visitor is arriving here from all over Maharashtra. The number of visitors is increasing day by day. The occupation like hotel, provision store, fruit stall, lodging and boarding are flourishing. The distance communication service like telephone booth is also available here.

4.2.16 CHARACTERISTICS OF BHANDARDARA DAM

Bhandardara is full of attractions from Wilson Dam to Arthur Lake. The Dam was built in British period on Pravara River by Sir Wilson, chief engineer, in 1910. The scenic Umbrella falls also draw visitors, although it can be seen only during the monsoons between July and October. About 10 km away from Shendi village is the Randhaa Waterfall. The Ratangad fort is around 22 km from Bhandardara and is connected by both roadways across luscious forests and tribal villages. Visitors can see Konkankada from where the views of the plains are breathtaking. Harishchandragad is another nearby mountain hiking spot with ancient temples on top.

The dam is mainly for irrigation purpose. The main crop is sugarcane and many sugar factories are flourishing in this region. Three sugar factories, three paper mills, one cotton mill and forty villages are provided with drinking water by it. The wall of this dam is 82.32 meter
high and 507 meter long. The water storage capacity of dam is 11039 million cubic feet. The dam irrigates approximately 182000 hectares of land.

The dam provides water for irrigation to the following talukas: Shrirampur, Rahata - 52%, Sangamner - 18%, Rahuri - 15%, Akola - 12% and Newasa - 3%. There is hydro-electricity power generation project with a capacity of 12 megawatt was constructed. And at another place 9 km from this place, Kondani project of 34 megawatt is also constructed. This project is useful for farmers who come under the command area of this project.

4.2.17 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. The visiting period of tourists is from July to September mostly in holidays.
2. Educational and official trip visit the place to see natural gift of dam.
3. Bhandardara Dam is including a part of syllabus of std.III, in geography textbook. So the school students visit this place with group.
4. The most attractive place is garden which it is near the dam is specially attraction of film shooting and tourist.
5. Tourist visiting the places like Kalsubai, Ghatgahar, Ratangad, Randha fall and stay at Bhandardara during night because of residence facility.
6. Because of the number of tourists are visit this place the local people were benefited.

4.3 MULA DAM

Mula Dam also known as Dnyaneshwar Sagar. Dam is situated on the river Mula in the Rahuri taluka of the Ahmednagar district. It was built from 1957 to 1971. The dam is situated in the vicinity of the Mahatma phule Krishi Vidyapeeth and used for irrigation purposes. Mula Dam provides water to four taluka of Ahmednagar district they are Newasa, Rahuri, Shevgaon and Pathardi.
4.3.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Geographically location of *Mula* dam is between 19° 31’ North latitude and 73° 05’ East longitudes.

4.3.2 RELIEF

*Mula* Dam is an earth fill up and solemnity dam on *Mula* River and 17 km at the south from *Rahuri taluka*. It’s Lies Mountains and is surrounded by hills. The soil found here is brownish and grayish in color. It lies at a height of 600 meters above sea level.

4.3.3 SOIL

The region is rocky and rugged covered with hill ranges. The soil is rocky and full of stones and pebbles. This soil is of low quality having less capacity to hold water. This type of soil is very poor for purpose of agriculture.
4.3.4 CLIMATE

The climate is not different from Ahmednagar i.e. summer season is dry and hot and winter is cool and healthy. Maximum temperature of summer session is above 39\(^0\) C. The average minimum temperature in winter is 10\(^0\) C. The rainfall is not adequate for running smooth agricultural practice. Yearly average of rainfall is 52 cm.

4.3.5 DRAINAGE

This region is located on hilly and mountainous area. Mountain ranges are there on both sides of dam. River *Mula* originates from *Harishchandragad* and carries large quantity of water. During the rain seasons numbers of small streams flow down the slopes to the local land areas. The *Mula* River provides water that is main source of irrigation for agriculture.

4.3.6 VEGETATION

The area of *Mula* Dam is hilly and mountain area covered by trees and shrubs. So the varieties of trees found like: *Ain, Salai, Bahawa, Moyen, apta, Hirda, Jamhul, Amla, Teak, Kaeanji, Mango Neem* and *Khair*. Among the shrubs they are: *Amony, Henkal, Karvand, Supli, Palasvel, Chiller* and *Tantani* are found.

4.3.7 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Because of hilly area and forest there are so many verities of Animals and birds found. They are as follows: rabbit, monkey, mongoose, boar, fox, wolf, wild cat, squirrel and chameleon etc. and the birds are Woodpecker, strokes, pewit, heron, eagle, kite, brown dove, sun bird, magpie, owlet, pigeon, lark, parakeets, cuckoos, blue jay, king crow, bulbul, fly catchers etc.

4.3.8 POPULATION

The population of this village is 1600 including 870 (64\%) males and 730 (64\%) females. Sex ratio is 1000:839 females.
4.3.9 OCCUPATION

Most of the people here are engaged in agriculture and fishing. Fishing is the money making business of these peoples due to availability of dam. The people also engaged in diary business.

4.3.10 SETTLEMENT

The houses here are mostly maid by easy available building materials. Old style and new style houses are found here. The *Mula* colony is built by using cement and it has the pattern of rectangular type. The total numbers of houses are 305. For lodgings and boarding, a rest house is constructed by the Irrigation Department. Two VIP rooms and general halls are constructed specially for tourist.

4.3.11 LAND USE

The whole area is covered by hills and mountains. So most of land is under the forest, very little lands are available for cultivation.

4.3.12 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

ST buses and private jeeps, taxi and rickshaw play from *Rahuri* to *Mula* Dam. ST buses are available from *Ahmednagar* and *Rahuri*. There is a post office and Telephone booth also available.

4.3.13 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

The number of visitors visiting this place is increasing day by day that is why the different sources of occupation are also mounting. The occupation like hotel, lodging and boarding, provision stores, fruit stalls and flourishing were increasing day by day. Now a days the Telephone booth, mobile phone service are also available and income source to local people. The newspaper stall, handbooks, the book stall and guide are also increasing rapidly. All this development plays an important role in tourism. These all above occupations have provided the people with employment. So this pace is an earning source for local people and helped the people to develop their standard of living.
4.3.14 CHARACTERISTICS OF MULA DAM

1. Official name  
   *Mula Dam*

2. Location  
   *Rhuri*

3. Impounds  
   *Mula River*

4. Type of dam  
   Earth fill Gravity

5. Type of irrigation project  
   Storage dam

6. Year of commencement of work  
   1958

7. Year of completion of work  
   1972

8. Height of dam  
   48.17 m (158.0 ft.)

9. Volume  
   7,594 km$^3$ (1,822 cu mi)

10. Total water storage capacity of dam  
    26000 (mc. Feet)

11. Live storage capacity of dam  
    21500 (mc. Feet)

12. Dead storage capacity of dam  
    4500 (mc. Feet)

13. Catchment area  
    2274 sq. km.

4.3.15 BENEFICIAL IRRIGATED AREA UNDER MULADAM

Table No. 4.1 BENEFICIAL IRRIGATED AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Name of Town</th>
<th>Total catchment (hectares)</th>
<th>Actual canal irrigation(hec.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rahuri</td>
<td>20825</td>
<td>20083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pathardi</td>
<td>14018</td>
<td>11397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shevgaon</td>
<td>20825</td>
<td>6816</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Amrapur</td>
<td>16056</td>
<td>15291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Newasa</td>
<td>18816</td>
<td>17920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kukana- Ghodegaon</td>
<td>9792</td>
<td>9303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Total.</td>
<td>86644</td>
<td>80810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.Mula Dam.com](http://www.MulaDam.com)
4.3.16 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are made available to researcher –

1. The *Mula* Dam is one of the major sources of water in the *Ahmednagar* district of Maharashtra.
2. This dam is a natural spot and man-made features.
3. Mostly the visitors are educated, school-college students, nature lover and as well as servicemen.
4. Agricular, industrial and social development is made by this dam.
5. Local people get varities of occupations because of this dam.

4.4 NIGHOJ

*Nighoj* is a village in *Ahmednagar* district. *Nighoj* is located 25 km away from *Parner taluka* to west side and 24 km from *Shirur taluka* to north side. This village is famous for the naturally created potholes on the riverbed of river *Kukadi*. Experts from all over the world come here every year to study the phenomenon of their formation. It is said that many years ago there was a huge amount of rainfall in this area and the River *Ghod* flood from the gorge-like structure with such force that erosion of the rocks rook place and resulted in the formation of these potholes.
PHOTO NO -4.3 POTHOLE KUKDI RIVER

4.4.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

This village situated between 18°55’ North latitude and 74°15’ East longitudes.

4.4.2 RELIEF

Nighoj is lies at a height of 600 meters from sea level. The river Kukadi forms the boundary between Pune and Ahmednagar districts where the land surface is having descending slope to northern side by Shirur taluka and southern side by Parner taluka. Geographically structure of the land is made by lava (magma) erupted from surface of earth. The basalt rock occupies the channel of the river Kukadi. The bed of this river is having potholes.

4.4.3 SOIL

This village is situated Kukadi River valley; the alluvial of clay soil is found at the bank of river and due to withering of basalt rock rigor soil has been formed here.

4.4.4 CLIMATE

Parner taluka enjoys monsoon type of climate, in which summer is hot and winter is healthy and cool. There is seasonal change in the wind system and during summer the southwest wind blow. The rainy season starts from June and lasts up to September, during the summer the
average temperature is constantly above 39\textdegree C. The days are extremely dry reducing the humidity below 10%.

4.4.5 RAINFALL

Rainy period is from June to September from southwest monsoon and 80\% of rain is received from this monsoon. After this period from 20\textsuperscript{th} September to October rainfall is due to north-east monsoon i.e. retreating monsoon. Yearly average rainfall is up to 50 cm. As rainfall is not consistent, it affects agriculture from year to year.

4.4.6 DRAINAGE

*Kukadi* River flows through the village Nigage in west to east direction which originates south of *Harishchandragad* in Junner taluka in Pune district. The *Kukadi* River joins *Bhima* River near Shirur city.

4.4.7 VEGETATION

The village *Nighoj* is having different types of vegetation such as sandalwood, *babool*, jujube, mango, neem, tamarind, kavit etc. Among the shrubs the following are found: amoni, chiller, tantani, trwad and different types of vines and local grasses like gondal kusali, pavansa, kunda, etc.

4.4.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Because of *Kukadi* valley, there are many wild animals are fond like: wild cat, mongoose, wolf, rabbit, fox, iguana, chameleon, squirrel and porcupine. The bird’s blue jay, falcon, crow, owlet, owls, woodpecker, pewit, brown dove, pigeon, parakeet, cuckoo, butter, sunbird, larks and flycatcher etc. are found here.
4.4.9 POPULATION

The population of the village Nighoj is 9483, which includes 4737 males and 4746 females. Hence the sex ratio is 1007 females to 1000 males according to census 2001. Out of 4737 males, 2877 (61.73%) are literate while out of 4746 females, (38%) are literate. Percentage of boys and girls in primary school is 52% and 48% respectively.

4.4.10 OCCUPATION

Agriculture is one of the popular occupations and it plays a major role in the total occupation. In Nighoj 1972 males and 1991 females are engaged in agricultural activities. Livestock play an important role in the economy. Hence it has become a major source of employment. Livestock, mining and manufacturing, processing, repairing, construction, transportation are the supplementary sources of occupation. 217 males and 84 females are in Government and semi-government services.

4.4.11 SETTLEMENT

When researcher visits this place there are 1782 houses. The houses are made by stone, mud, bricks, cement, steel plates and wood. Most of houses are reconstructed. Most of houses newly situated at side of Nighoj – Parner road.

4.4.12 LAND USE

The land under cultivation is 2753 (92.76%) 127 hectares of land is under canal irrigation, 357 hectares of land is under well irrigation while 238 hectares of land (7.34%) is not irrigated. The percentage of fallow land is only 9.8%.

4.4.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

The village Nighoj is situated in the Parnaer taluka on boundary of Ahmednagar and Pune districts. Maximum transport facilities such as ST buses and private vehicles like jeeps,
tempo were available to visit this place. The distance from Parner to Nighoj is 26 km. and this village is 24 km away from Shirur.

4.4.14 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

The village Nighoj land is irrigated; agricultural activities are carried on extensively. People in this village are industrious and prosperous. Different shops such as medical, grocery, general, worship materials, banks, cloth, fertilizers, agricultural goods, workshops etc. are available. This shows that there are many types of business activities are carried on in this village. The flow of visitors enhances the income of the local people and thus it supports the economic development. Many people are turning towards non-agricultural activities.

4.4.15 CHARACTERISTICS OF POTHOLES

The potholes are one of the interesting features of land forms produced by stream abrasion. The pothole is a cylindrical hole carved in the hard bedrock of a swiftly moving stream. Pothole ranges in diameter from a few inches to several feet, the larger one many feet deep. There are a spherical or discus shaped stone is found in the pothole. It is apparently the tool or grinder with which the pothole was depending. A spiraling flow of water in the pothole causes the grinder to be rotated at the base of the hole. Many other features of abrasion such as plugs pools, chute, and through lead variety to the rock channel of a swift mountain stream.

4.4.16 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. This place is natural place, many nature lover, students, researchers and common people visit this place.
2. This is the only place of potholes in Ahmednagar district.
3. The temple of Malganga Devi is also attracting the visitors.
4. The cultural programs at the time of Malganga Devi fair are famous in area.
5. Increasing the numbers of visitors is one of the sources of income to local people.

4.5 KALSUBAI PEAK
Kalsubai Peak is located in Akole taluka of Ahmednagar district. The Kaslubai temple is situated at the topmost peak of Sahyadri mountain range of Maharashtra, its commands a beautiful view. At the summit there is a plain ground with a small temple of Kalsubai, a very Jagrut idol. The natural peak of Kalsubai is located 10 km away from Bhandardara dam. Kalsubai the tallness of 1646 meters is well-known as one of the highest peaks in Maharashtra state.

PHOTO NO. 4.4

KALSUBAI

4.5.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Kalsubai is located between 18°41’ North Latitude and 73°20’ East longitudes.

4.5.2 RELIEF

The land surface of this place is hilly terrain with sharp cliffs and valley. It is very difficult to climb. The average height of this area is between 950 to 1200 meters from sea level. Village Bari is situated at the foot of Kalsubi peak. Krishnavati River race from this place, this is tributary of Pravara River.

4.5.3 SOIL

The place Kalsubai Peak is the highest peak in mountain range of Sahyadri mountain range, which has conical shape having steep slope and sharp edges. The entire hilly region is
formed by basaltic rocks. It is very hard and massive. The basaltic rock after erosion yields black soil, which is fertile for agriculture and intensive cropping. Due to erosive work of water the soil has been deposited in valley forming plain alluvial surface. At some places the land is rocky. In other parts is associated with laetrile soil.

4.5.4 CLIMATE

The monsoon type climate is found here. Summer is dry and hot and winter is cool and healthy. The average temperature of Kalsubai ranges during the summer is 37.2\(^{\circ}\)C and the lowest temperature recorded 9\(^{\circ}\)C.

4.5.5 RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall is 751 mm. The highest record of rainfall was 955 mm noted at 7\(^{th}\) July 1994. At that time rainfalls creates much destruction and damages to livestock and standing paddy crops.

4.5.6 DRAINAGE

Kalsubai Peak is conical shape the rainwater flows from all the side and divides into radial pattern. The streams flow in all the direction. The water of the streams are poured into Bhandaradara dam. The water flows westwards and eastwards side of the peak and further give birth to Krishnavanti River which is known as a tributary of Pravara River.

4.5.7 VEGETATION

Around the village Bari and Kalsubai Peak there is dense forest. This whole area is declared as a ‘Birds Sanctuary’ from the year of 1986. The region occupies an area of 362.01 hectares including Kalsubai Peak and Harishchandragad and all the surrounding hills. This area includes 30 villages occupied by reserved forest.

4.5.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Because of dense forest so many wild animals are found here such as wolf, fox, boar, monkey, rabbit, deer, mongoose, porcupine, squired, iguana, wild cat chameleon, etc. The bards
are found here are: crow, sparrow, sunbird, magpie, owlet, woodpecker, kite, shikra, brown
dove, pigeon, lark, parakeets, heron, strokes, pewit, eagle, cuckoo, blue jay, king crow, bulbul,
maina, fly catchers, etc.

4.5.9 POPULATION

The total population is 983 people out of which 476 are males and 507 are females. All
the people belong to Tribal (Thakar, Adivasi) community. Their life is totally depended upon
forest goods and agriculture.

4.5.10 OCCUPATION

The main occupation of the people is hunting and agriculture. In animal husbandry 13
persons are engaged. 12 persons are engaged in transportation. 9 persons are in forest service.
The local Adivasi people collect the fruits like hirda, behda, karwand, jambul, mango and
medicinal herbs and sell in the market.

4.5.11 SETTLEMENT

The researcher found 197 houses here. They are sloping roof type so as to protect them
from heavy rainfall. These houses are made of bricks mixed stone or rice husk thatched roof and
walls are made of mud bricks which are baked and half baked. The houses are in row and
linearly arranged.

4.5.12 LAND USE

The village Bari is situated at the foot of Kalsubai Peak covering area of 630.67 hectares.
Among which 80 hectares area is under forest, 120.67 hectares of land is fallow, barren and hilly.
Only 330 hectares of land is under cultivation of which 270 hectares is non-irrigated depending
upon the monsoon and 60 hectares of land is irrigated by well water.

4.5.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

To the east of Kalsubai Peak at a distance of 1 km the state highway Shevgaon –Ghoti,
S.T. buses and private vehicles are available here. It is on the West side and situated along
highway running from shevgaon, Newase, Shirampur, Sangapur, Akole, Rajur, Bhandardara to Ghoti Igatpurs. No communication facility is there

4.5.14 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

70 to 80 thousands tourists visit here during July to November and summer vacation period in every year. ‘People come to visit and enjoy the beautiful scenery of this place. This is benefited to local people.’

There are two rooms of Government rest house. Visitors purchase fruits, herbal medicine and local people gate money from them. In the month of October during the period of the Navratra to Vijayadashmi at the temple Kalsubai many followers and worshipers visit in large number. At that time program of local people song and focal dance, is attraction of visitors.

4.5.15 CHARACTERISTICS OF KALSUBAIPEAK

Height: 1646 meters.
Ideal for: Beginners
Ideal time: October to June
Water supply: none
Cave: can’t stay without a tent.

4.5.16 CONCLUSION

1. During monsoon whole area remains beautiful and green so all visitors visit to Kalsubai Peak.
2. Most of tourists are young who are interested in climbing the rugged hilly tracks.
3. There are no lodging facilities. The visitors have to go Bhandardara after visiting to stay a night – time.
4. If fundamental facilities are provided this centre will emerge out as an important tourist place.
5. Cultural activities are attraction of visitors at the period of *vijayadashmi*.

4.6 RANDHAFALL

*Randha* fall is a natural beautiful spot situated 11 km west of *Rajur* town in Akola *taluka* of *Ahmednagar* district. The tranquility of *Bhandardara* is shattered only by the roar of *Randha* falls. The *Pravara* River plunges 170 ft into a gorge creating a breathtaking sight and the third largest waterfall in India. There is a temple on the banks of the river. A lookout point just above the *Randha* fall provides a great view.

PHOTO NO – 4.5 RANDHA FALL

4.6.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

*Randha* fall lies between 19°4’ North Latitude and 73°11’ East longitudes.
4.6.2 RELIEF

The topography of this area is made up of Deccan trap lava made rock surface. This is Akole natural part of western part. It includes the Baleshwar mountain ranges having height about 1000 meters from sea level.

4.6.3 SOIL

The region of Randha fall is surrounded by mountain ranges. The soil is absent on the slope and plateau top. But valley and depression have black soil. This is deposited at the valley bottom due to erosion of upper surface by rapidly flowing streams. Rainfall is heavy in rainy season leading to heavy erosion and deposition of the silt in the valley areas.

4.6.4 CLIMATE

The Climate is Ahmednagar district monsoon type i.e. Summer season are dry and winter season are cool and healthy. Yearly average maximum temperature of winter season recorded as 29.6\(^0\) C and minimum temperature in winter is 10.9\(^0\) C. The average winter temperature recorded on 29\(^{th}\) December 2001 was only 8\(^0\)C. And the average summer maximum temperature is 38.9\(^0\)C and when recorded on 10\(^{th}\) May 2001 the maximum temperature was 42.7\(^0\)C.

4.6.5 RAINFALL

The rainfall occurs during June to September. The average rainfall in Akole taluka is 59.6 cm from the region of Bhandardara the amount of rainfall goes on increasing up to 200 cm as we go towards western side during the year 1994 to 2001, rainfall was quite heavy above 200 cm.

4.6.6 VEGETATION

The kalsubai region of Randha fall occupies an area Harishandraged scanty. The total area covers 361.71 sq km. including 30 villages. Following species of vegetation are found; Dhawada, Ain Moyen, Salai, Bahawa, Amla, Apta, Teak, Hirda, Sandalwood, Babool, Jambhul, Karanji, Kavit Moha, Neem, Khair, Dhaman, Maharuk, Saundad, Mango, tree etc. The shrub
which are found there are Amoni, Chiller, Tantani, Henkal, Karvand, Tarwad, Arati, Palasvel etc.

4.6.7 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

The Randhafall region is surrounded by evergreen forest in valleys, hills and in some patches of land. In this region, the wild animals found are; Leopard, Wild cat, Wolf, Fox, pig, Rabbit, Monkey, Deer, mongoose, porcupine, Iguana, Squirrel, Chipmunk.

The following birds are found: Magpie, kingfisher, sunbirds, owls, rarity, woodpecker, heron, strokes, pigeon, spoonbill, water hen, black wings, pewit, yellow lapwing, kite, eagle, brown crow, larks, babbler, crow pheasant, rarity etc.

4.6.8 POPULATION

The total population of Randha village is 220 persons where males are 102 and females are 118. Among them the total population of schedule caste is 18 consisting 9 male and 9 females and schedule tribe population is 189 of which females are 102 and males are 87.

4.6.9 OCCUPATION

These people engaged in primary occupation like agriculture, animal husbandry and forest gathering. Some people are engaged in small service sectors and providing the services of catering and transportation. The total numbers of 53 persons are engaged in agriculture among them 47 are males and 6 females. 52 males and 46 females are engaged in animal husbandry, while 3 males and 2 females are engaged in mining. a copal is engaged in small hotel and 2 males are engaged in transportation.

4.6.10 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

This village is on the root of Rajur - Bhandardara dam. From bus stop to Randha fall there are private vehicles, rickshaws are available. Road is better.
4.6.11 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

This place is away from the main area, it is least developed. The people are earning their livelihood by certain occupations like fruit stalls, sweet stalls, small tea stall etc. as the region is an Adivasi region and no more facilities are available here.

4.6.12 CHARACTERISTICS OF RANDHA FALL AND VILLAGE

Randha fall is situated in the Igatpuri region, near the lake Arthur Hill. Located at a distance of 11 km from the famous Wilson Dam, the flow of water generally falls from a height of 45 meter. ‘This is considered to be the third largest waterfall in the country, which gets water from the Pravara River’.

There is a temple of Ghorpada Devi which is built in memory of wild reptile (Iguana). This is worshipped by local people. In ancient times the same animal Iguana was used for climbing mountain by tying in a rope of its back. The local people do not hunt this animal. Newly married couples come here to worship at this temple which is built in memory of this animal. At every Chaitra Pournima a fair is celebrated here. At that time the local people arranges focal dance and singing song. This cultural activity has saved their heritage.

4.6.12 CONCLUSION

1. Randha fall is famous all over Maharashtra and it is included in syllabus of std.III so school students were visit this place by group.
2. The best visiting period is July to October.
3. Most of the tourist, visitors come by their won vehicles.
4. The tourist visit Randha fall and Ghorpada Devi temple.
5. The local people do not hunt wild reptile so natural balance is not disturbed.
6. Traditional methods are obeyed by new generation in tribunal community.
4.7 RATANGAD

*Ratangad* is ancient fort which was one of Shivaji Maharaj’s favorites. Very popular with nature lovers and trekkers, it offers spectacular views from its ramparts. *Ratangad* is located, western side in Akola *taluka* of Ahmednagar district. It is 20 km to the west side of *Bhandardara* water reservoir. This is a potential tourist center and beautiful landscape in its surrounded region. ‘There is old temple of lord Shiva which is built in 12th century by the *Yadav*.’ This temple has been constructed in the distinct *Hemadpanthi* style.

**PHOTO NO- 4.6**

**RISES OF PRAVARA RIVER**

4.7.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

*Ratangad* is lies between 19°3’North latitude and 73°9’ East longitudes.

4.7.2 RELIEF

*Ratangad* is located in mountain range of *Sahyadri*. The height of this place is 1297 meters from sea level. It is surrounded by Sharp Mountain which is called Kokankada to west, east lays *Bhandardara* water reservoir, to south lies *Sahyadri* mountain range with beautiful
natural forest and a fort Harishchandragad and to the north lays Kalsubai peak the highest spot in Maharashtra.

4.7.3 SOIL

Sahyadri Mountain have steep slope. It receives heavy rainfall resulting into the heavy withering and formation of alluvial soil which deposit hollow region and at the bottom, of the valley. Some places are associated with rocky land and laetrile soil which is not very useful for agriculture.

4.7.4 CLIMATE

Ahmednagar district climate is of monsoon type i.e. summer seasons is dry and hot and winter seasons is cool and healthy. Maximum temperature of this place, in summer it goes above 38°C and minimum temperature goes below 9°C.

4.7.5 RAINFALL

The rainfall occurs during June to September and the maximum rainfall reordered is more than 100cm. There was heavy rain during 2nd July and 12th July 2001 damaging paddy crops and kills 120 livestock. According to local people, if the backwater of the Bhandardara dam touches the steps of the Hanuman temple, the reservoir below overflows and generally it is a sign of good monsoon.

4.7.6 DRAINAGE

Ratanged is located at a greater height. Many small tributaries, brooks, streams gather to foot of Ratangad giving rise to birth to Pravara River.

4.7.7 VEGETATION

The forest region of Ratanged area is declared as sanctuary since 1986. The total protected forest area is 517.21 hectares. The forest is inhabited by small villages where tribal population is of MahadevKoli. In this forest different species of vegetation found are as follows. Salai, moyean, Dhawada, Ain, bahava, amiå, teak, hirad, sandal wood, jambul, Karanji, noha,
neem khain, dhaman, mango the shrubs found are amony, tantani, henkal, tarwad, supli and palasvel. There are many medical plants also found in this forest like Raktachandan, gulwel, nagarmotha etc.

4.7.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

In the mountain hilly area and valleys in which following animals are fond: leopard, tiger, panther, wild cat, fox, wolf, hyena, wild pig, monkey, deer, mongoose, porcupine, rabbit, squirrel, iguana, chameleon, chipmunk etc.

4.7.9 POPULATION

According to 2001 census the population was 1057. There are numbers of females are more than males. Sex ratio is 1048 females’ for1000 males. Majority of the people belong to scheduled tribes locally known a Mahadev Koli.

4.7.10 OCCUPATION

Main occupation of the people is agriculture. Some educated people are engaged in government services. The agriculture is done mostly in rainy season. The people collect hirada, behada, karvand, jambhul, mango, and medicinal herbs etc. From the forest and sell it in local market. Some of them are engaged in animal husbandry, transportation and boating.

4.7.11 SETTLEMENT

This region lies in Sahyadri mountain ranges with deep valleys. So the region is remained undeveloped and isolated. In Ratanwadi total numbers of houses are 197. Houses are built with the plain roofs sloping to face heavy rain during rainy season. The roofs are made with corrugated sheets tiled and iron costing sheets. Walls are built with mud and stones.

4.7.12 LAND USE

The total area of Ratanwadi has 1776.41 hectares. Total area is covered by forest that is 715.21 hectares (40%), land under mountain forest and Bhandardara dam backwater is 587.52
hectares (33%), land under irrigation is 80.52 hectares (5%) and un irrigated land is 507 hectares (29%).

4.7.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

*Ratanwadi* is a remote village which is quite far from the main town. Travelling by road to this village is not easy, as the connecting roads are rough and not well maintained. Boat rides from Arthur Lake to this village is a better option as compared to travelling by road. Moreover, it takes around 20 minutes to walk from the place where the boat drops the travelers to reach *Ratanwadi* village. S.T. bus facility is available during non-rainy season. The bus travels *Sangamner via Mudkhel – Bhandardara – Rajur– Akole*. Private vehicles are available to reach this place.

4.7.14 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

The number of visitors and tourists visiting the place are increasing day by day and thus the self employment opportunities are also increasing. The people are engaged in different occupations such as floriculture and horticulture. If a nursery of medicinal plants is developed, it could fetch a good income to the people.

4.7.15 CHARACTERISTICS OF RATANGAD

The fort of *Ratangad* lies 2 km away from village *Ratanwadi*, was built before 16th century. The river *Pravara* rises from one of the water tank of stone, lying at *Ratangad*. This water tank is the old cave from where continuous fresh and cold water flows. The stream flowing through this place and many other brooks join to make basin of river *Pravara*. There is a famous temple of *Mahadeva*, its call ‘*Amruteshwar*’. This temple is built in ancient *Hemadpanti* style.
4.7.16 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. There is only one bus available from Sangamner via Mudkhel – Bhandardara – Rajur – Akole, in non-rainy season.
2. The boat journey during rainy season is not possible due to heavy winds and rain.
3. The place is very beneficial for natural studies. There are number of varieties of species of plants and animals are available in forest.
4. The natural environment still exists here as the region is potential and unknown to many people.
5. The people rushes only on Mahashivaratri day, when local people come together and worship god with many cultural activities.
6. Ratanwadi is the base point for trekkers coming here for trekking.

4.8 HARISHCHANDRAGAD

Harishchandragad is situated north-west side in Akole tahluka of Ahmednagar district. It is mountainous region with full of natural beauty, wild animals and birds as well as waterfalls are here. The local area is associated with adivasis such as Thakar, Warli, Katkari, Mahadev Koli etc. and their life style is different from the non-tribal people.
4.8.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Harishchandragad is lies between 17°56’ North latitude and 73°20’ East longitude.

4.8.2 RELIEF

The Harishchandragad lies between the watershed region of Godawari River and Bhima tributaries. This mountain ranges form as covering of boundaries between Ahmednagar district and Pune district. The hilltop of Harishchandragad is flat surface or plateau up to 7 km diameter like irregular table land. The hill-tops are divided into three parts. The names are, Rohidas, Taramati and Harishchandra called by local names. This place is located at average height between 900 to 1000 meters from sea level.

4.8.3 SOIL

The soil at the hill-tops is reddish in color, which shows that it contains large amount of iron compounds. At the slopes of the hill adjoining the river valley, artificial terraces are formed.
which stands as a dam of natural earth and settled stones stands across transverse numerous streams to this region. This land is fertile which is favourable for growing rice.

4.8.4 CLIMATE

The temperature is like monsoon type. The summer remains very hot and the maximum temperature goes up to 39°C during the period March to May. And minimum temperature comes to 8°C in winter session.

4.8.5 RAINFALL

The place of Harishchandragad lies at the apex of mountain or hill where the watershed catchment area of river Bhima and Godawari drainage system is spread over. The area of mountainous region receives average rainfall up to 90 cm.

4.8.6 DRAINAGE

Mula River and its tributaries rise on the slopes of Harishchandragad. The main stream rise from the temple of Harishchandragad, it’s called as ‘Mangal Ganga’ by local people. The Mula River runs parallels to Pravara River draining the southern part of the Kotul valley. The river is inside or in let in a deep valley almost from its deep sources to its sleep valley side is highly dissected by deep gullies formed by mountain torrents which rush into the main stream.

4.8.7 VEGETATION

The area of Harishchandragad is covers with deep evergreen forest with different species for trees and plants. The area of 361.71 square km is declared as sanctuary, so there is verity of vegetation like: Apata, amla, teak, hirda, shandalwook, babool, jambhul, karani, kavit, moha, dhawadee, ain, moyen, salai, bahava, neem, khair, dhaman, mango etc. The shrubs and herbs found here are amoni, karvand, supli, travad, plasvel, karvi, chillier, tantani and henkal etc.

The region is associated with wild grass such as sheda, gondal, krsali, pavana, etc. along this many medical plants like bel, behada, sagargota, hilsal, korphad, bahava, tulas etc. are found here.

4.8.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS
The following animals are found in the forest of Harishandranged and its surrounding area; Leopard, Wild cat, Fox, Wild Boar (pig), Rabbit, Monkey, Deer, Mongoose, Porcupine, squirrel, Chipmunk, Chameleon, and Iguana etc. The birds found here are Sunbirds, Owlet, Owls, Woodpecker, Heron, Stork, Pewit, Eagle, Kite, Shikers, Magnic, and Babbler etc.

4.8.9 POPULATION

The population of Panchanai village population is 713; including only 108 houses are there, 341 males and 362 females. The total population belongs to schedule tribes of Thakkar community. This village is economically backward or not developed. There is very less sources of education. Till now only 78 people are educated, among them male 45 and females are 33. Now a day’s educational facilities have been reached to this people. Zilla parishad schools are available and total 113 students go to school, including 66 boys and 47 girls.

4.8.10 OCCUPATION

The main occupation of this people is agriculture, where 196 males and 187 females work in the field. Rest of the population depends upon forest for their livelihood. They earn by collecting food permitted by forest department./ the things collected are Hireda, behada, mango, jambhul, black jujube, honey, jungalroots, medicinal herbs, various types of seed, etc.

4.8.11 SETTLEMENT

In the village Panchanai all tribal people are there. The total numbers of houses are 112. The houses are built with readily available materials like mud, stone, wood, rice husk, brown tiled roof etc. The settlement is in semicircle position. The walls of the houses are made up of mud, stone, and little branches of shrubs etc.

4.8.12 LAND USE

The village of panchanai is situated at the bottom of Harishchandragad. The village occupies an area of about 2558.34 hectares. Out of this, 2192 hectares is covered by forest, 29 hectares land is fallow land and about 337.34 hectare is uncultivable. Most of the land for farming is un-irrigated. This village considered as dry land and economically backward as it is depends upon monsoon rain.
4.8.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

There is no good way to reach Harishchandragad. Vehicles can be used from Panchanai to Lavali, but there is no other way from Lavali. The distance from Panchanai to Lavali is 8 km. From this place there are S.T. bus service and private vehicles are available.

4.8.14 SPECIAL FEATURES OF HARISHCHANDRAGAD

Harishchandragad lies at the apex of mountain where the watershed catchment area of river Bhima and Godawari drainage system is spread over. The region of hilly tracks forms as plateau region with flat surface about seven kin in diameter creating an irregular table land forming with deep gorges. This area is surrounded by cliffs and deep gorge. On the high centre of peak, half a mile east of the summit, is the situation. Citadel (Black Killa) where the way is in broken form and decaying with the blown up cisterns at the foot of the citadel where the gate is build at some places are the remaining houses. It is believed that the commander and other authorities lived in these caves.

Harishchandragad Shiva Mandir was built during 8th century with beautiful decorative design sculpted. Due to harsh weather – temperature, rainfall and humidity the temple is ruined to a large extent. The temple is similar to the temple of Buddha Gaya at Banaras. The glossary of this temple is mythological base. It is believed that the king of Ayodhaya named Harishchandra was impassionate king. He found a water pool and at the edge of the pool, he built a Linga. This pool always remains filled with water now-a-days it is known as ‘Mangal Ganga’ and at the same place the magnificent temple was built. There are small doors to east and west of the temple. In the western side of the door, there are idols of Gandesh and sculpting of Gandharva, Shiva and Parvati, GujLaxmi Devi.

This temple is surrounded by stone carved inscriptions at eight different places. The inscriptions cannot be correctly deciphered due to faintness. Every year Mahashivaratri day is celebrated as fair when around 10,000 people come for Darshan and worship ‘Lord Shiva’ and Lord ‘Ganesh’.
4.8.15 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. This center is situated on the difficult terrain so selected tourist visit the place such as mountaineers, geographers, natural research scientists and archaeologists.
2. Not any tourist facility is available here.
3. Mostly young men and women visit this place because of hilly region and difficult route.
4. This center is potential natural tourist centre, there is scope for development and in future many tourists may be attracted towards this centre.
5. Nearly 10,000 people visit the place at fair day ‘Mahashivratri’.
6. At time of fair there are cultural programs by local people like: Bhajan, Parayan, Prawachan etc.

4.9 TOKA PRAWARA

The village Toka-Prawarasangam is located in Newasa taluka in Ahmednagar district. It is located on the bank of Godavari River and Pravara River confluence side. So it is called as Pravarasangam. The village is located on the Aurangabad-Pune state highway No.60. This is border of Newasa taluka and Gangapur taluka of Aurangabad district. Tonka is at a distance of 14 km in the northeast of Newasa and 45 km in the southwest of Aurangabad.
4.9.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The village Toka-Prawarasangam is located between 19°37’ North and 75°07’ East longitude.

4.9.2 RELIEF

The village is situated on the bank of Prawara, which meets Godaavari at their confluence place. The height of village is 480 meters from sea level. The slope of surface is towards the direction of river basin.
4.9.3 SOIL

The village is situated on the bank of river loam calcium carbonate soil and sand mixed soil is found below the layer. Alluvial soil is observed on the upper layer of 10-15 feet. The soil is very fertile for agricultural activities.

4.9.4 CLIMATE

The climate experienced in this part is monsoon type i.e. summer season is hot and dry and winter season is cool and healthy. Average temperature in summer days is around 38°C. In winter season, minimum average temperature is around 9°C. Rainy period is from June to September, 80% of rain is received from monsoon. Yearly average rainfall is up to 54 cm. this rainfall is not consistent, it affects agriculture from year to year.

4.9.5 DRAINAGE

The River Pravara joins River Godavari at this place. The Jayakwadi dam is built near Paithan city on Godavari River. The dam is downstream some 15 km from Newasa. This place is Aurangabad district. The drinking water for Aurangabad is supply from this dam.

4.9.6 VEGETATION

Because of confluence of two rivers the natural vegetation like neem, baboole, avavia etc. and common grasses like gondal, haral, kunda, kusali, etc. are found here.

4.9.7 SANIMALS AND BIRDS

Different wild animals like rabbit, wolf, fox, wild cat, iguana, mongoose, squirrel etc. and aquatic animals like tortoise, frog, crab and various types of fishes are also found. Birds viz. parrot, dove, egret, stork, water hen, crow, pewit, duck, peacock, goose, kingfisher kite etc found her.

4.9.9 LAND USE

Total area of the land available here is 1166 hectares. Out of this 858 hectares is bought under cultivation, 346 hectares of land is irrigated of which 75 hectares is irrigated by Mula
canal, 200 hectares is irrigated by backwater lift irrigation of Jayakwadi dam. 70 hectares land is irrigated by wells, and 312 hectares of land is under dry farming cultivation and uncultivated area is 309 hectares.

4.9.10 SETTLEMENT

Researcher found 1245 houses here. The houses are built by using locally available material and modern houses are also here which is built by cement and bricks. The settlement pattern of this village is rectangular type because this village is rehabilitated by Jayakwadi project. The most of displaced persons have settled in this village.

4.9.11 POPULATION

According to census 2001 the population is 4677, out of which males were 2408(51%) and females were 2270 (49%). Among this the population of Scheduled cast was 852 (18%) out of which males were 445 and females were 407. The total population of scheduled tribe was 265 out of which males were 128(48%) and females were 137(52%). The sex ratio was 942 females against 1000 males. The rate of literacy is more in younger age group the educational facilities are recently made available from primary to secondary school.

4.9.12 OCCUPATION

The main occupation of these people is agriculture, where 1815 males and 1025 females are engaged in this occupation. 112 males and 23 females are engaged in fisheries. 107 males and 19 females are engaged in manufacturing, servicing, repairs and household industry. In government and semi-government department 115 males and 57 females are employed.

4.9.13 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

This village situated on Aurangabad – Pune State highway No. 60. All types of transportation facilities are available here. Boating facility is also available here at Sangameshwar temple and Siddheshwar temple. Communication facilities like post, telegraph and telephone booth are also available here.

4.9.14 SPECIAL FEATURES OF TOKA PRAVARASANGM
The old village is recognized as a holy place and has many small temples. The objects of interest in the village are the temples of God Shiva dedicated to Siddheshwar, Ghateshwar, Sangameshwar and Gangamata near the confluence of Pravars and Godavari Rivers the construction of these temples is in Hemadpanti style. Very attractive idols of Shivalingas and Nandi’s are made of black stone.

The temple of Siddheshwar belongs to the period of the Peshvas. There are six flights of steps on the bank of the river Godavari which lead from the temple to the river. The temple is a solid structure built in black stone. It bears some elegant carvings of God and also those depicting mythological themes on the temple building are seen. There are temples dedicated to Durga Devi, Maruti, Ganesh, Dattatraya and Lord Vishnu Within the compound of the main temple.

Mahashivratri is the main festival. At that time 50 to 60 thousand pilgrims attend the fair. The main items of entertainment at the fair are folk dramas, swings, circus, magic feats, touring theaters etc. The programs of Kirtan, Bhajan, Pravachan, Kathas are also attended by the pilgrims at night.

4.9.15 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. A special bridge built for Siddheshwar temple from Aurangabad – Pune highway.
2. Boating facility are also available here.
3. This is holy place because of Godvari and Pravara confluence, so people are visit this place around the year.
4. Mahashivratri is the main festival, at time thousand people attend to take holy bath at the confluence on river.
5. Because of this temple cultural and social activities are done on the confluence.
6. Garden, Park can be made on the bank of river that can attract the visitors.
4.10 VRUDDHESHWAR

Vruddheshwar is located 6 km away from Kalyan – Vishakapatnam National Highway No. 222 near the village Deorai in Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district. This place is an exceedingly beautiful nature. It is famous for the ‘Hemadanti’ style temple of God Shiva. The temple is surrounded by many trees of various kinds. This holy place is lies between two hills of Garbhgiri Mountains. The temple of Lord Shiva is architectural marvel and it cost an unforgettable impression on those who visit it. A tributary of river Dhora is originated from this place. In rainy season this landscape becomes very green and it fascinates all visitors. July to November is the proper time to visit this famous and sacred place. Mahashivratri is the main festival of this holy place.

PHOTO NO-4.9

VRUDDHESHWAR TEMPLE

4.10.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The geographical location of this place is between 180 39’ North latitude and 740 32’ East longitudes.
4.10.2 RELIEF

It lies in the eastern part of Ahmednagar district. It is 600 to 700 meters high above the sea level. This area is located from the Dhora river basin. Small and large valleys are here. Surface is very rough. Some of the peaks are above 750 meters.

4.10.3 SOIL

In the hilly areas the soil is reddish in color having lot of sandy materials. On the lower hill slopes there is brownish colored soil with the mixture of small pebbles. The soil has minimum water holding capacity.

4.10.4 DRAINAGE

A great flow of water arises from the north side of temple from the mountain rays as Dhora River. In rainy seasons flow of water is continuous and is remains up to the end of November.

4.10.5 CLIMATE

The nature of climate is moderate. The average daily range of temperature is in June to September and it is maximum in December to March. The period of March to May is of increasing temperature. In the month of May the temperature is $27^\circ$ C. In the month of November, temperature remains low and the mean daily minimum temperature recorded is $10.5^\circ$C in the winter season.

4.10.6 RAINFALL

Vrudheshwar is situated in Ahmednagar district. It receives about 58 cm of rainfall. From June to September receives more rainfall. The maximum rainfall occurs in July descending downwards in August and almost nothing in December to April.
4.10.7 VEGETATION

Vruddheshwar is a hilly area near village Ghatsiras. It is covered with natural vegetation such as Dhawada, Moyen, Ain, Salai, Bahawa, Apta, Hirda, Jambhul, Amla, Teak, Karanji, Moha, Neem, Khair, Dhaman, Mango etc. The following shrubs are found: Amony, chiller, Tantani, Henkal, Moha, Neem, Khair, Dhaman etc. The common grass like sheda, pavana, rasha, kusali, gondal, shed etc. found here.

4.10.8 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

The deep forest is here, so many animals are found here like: monkey, wolf, fox, wild cat, rabbit, deer, mongoose, porcupine, squirrel, rabbit, etc. The birds found here like: magpie, owlet, woodpecker, heron, sunbird, strokes, pewit, eagle, kite, brown dove, crow, pigeon, lark, parakeets and bulbul, fly catchers, etc.

4.10.9 POPULATION

The total population of this place is 3178 consisting of 1618 males and 1550 females. Hence sex ratio is 995 females to 1000 males. In case of schedule caste and scheduled tribes the sex ratio is 781: 1000 and 912: 1000 respectively. There is a primary and secondary education facilities are available. So the percentage of literacy in new generation is near about 100%.

4.10.10 OCCUPATION

About 75% of population is working in agriculture sector. Rests of the people are working as shopkeeper, transportation and Govt. and Semi-Govt. services. Tea stall and pooja sahitya stalls are run by local people, and earning money.

4.10.11 SETTLEMENT

The total numbers of houses are 612 in Ghatsiras village. Old fashioned and new constricted houses are found here. The houses are built by available material. The houses are in row and linearly arranged. Most of houses are shifted near road side from village.
4.10.12 LAND USE

1303 hectares of area is available for this village. Mostly agriculture is dependent upon rainfall. 1251 hectares of land is under cultivation which in terms of percentage comes to 95.7% of the total geographical area out of which 335 hectares 25.6% land is under well irrigation while 916 hectares 70.1% of land is dependent upon rainfall. The Cotton and Bajra is the predominant crop in the area.

4.10.13 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FACILITY

ST buses are available from Ahmednagar, Pathardi, Shegaonvia Tisgaon-Deorai-Ghatsiras to Vridheshwar. There is one more route available from Pathardi via Dhamangaon – Madhi – Vrudheshwar. At the No Moon Day private vehicles are also available from Pathardi and Deorai. Post office and Telephone boot facility is available here. Roads are in good condition.

4.10.14 ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT

This area is not properly developed yet. In 1975 a trust is founded by the people of Ghatsiras and Satwad. The trust is working on behalf of the people and they had undertaken an area development program. The new building is constructed for accommodation and for the purpose of parasdalya. There issabhamandap built by MLA Rajiv Rajale. Drinking water, sanitary blocks, cooking instruments and blocks are available here. Forest department built a guest house and Natural center.

4.10.15 CHARACTERISTICS SHRI KSHETRA VRUDHESHWAR

The temple of Lord Shiva is architectural marvel and it cast an unforgettable impression on those who visit it. ‘A tributary of river Dhora is originated from this place. Local people call this river Vrudhaganga7’. In rainy season this landscape becomes very green and it fascinates all visitors. July to November is the proper time to visit this famous and sacred place.

According to Vishnupuran, Lord Shiva has come here for doing mediation. At that time he looks like an old person. So the people call the place as Vraudheshwar. There is another reference in ‘Navnath Granth’. Kanifnath has organized a Bhandara. And invited all gods for
meal. The Shiva Linga worship is being performed here. This Shivalinga is very great and made up of basalt stone block. There are four types of windows to temple. In the morning sunlight ventilate on the Shivalinga.

**4.10.16 CONCLUSION**

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. This place lies between two mountains and deep green forest.
2. It is found that 45% of the total devotees stay here for a day or two to attend the programs and the remaining 60 % returns to their houses on the same day.
3. Among the visitors, the percentage of male is more than female.
4. Trust arranged social and cultural program which is beneficial to visitors.
5. Many medical plants are available in the deep forest nearby Vrudheshwar.

**4.11 SHRI HARI HARESHWAR DEVASTAN, TONDOLI**

*Shri Hari Hareshwar* is a mythological as well as natural place. It is located in eastern side of Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district. Geographical location of the village is also unique and can attract the tourists. It is believed that lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu stay here some days. Two Lingas are witness of it.
4.11.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Shri Hari Hareshwar Devastan, Tondoli is located between 19°29’ North latitude and 75°18’ East longitudes.

4.11.2 RELIEF

The surrounding area of Pathardi taluka is a plateau like portion, which runs from northeast to southeast. Shri Hari Hareshwar is located on this tableland. The village is situated on the plateau top. This tableland separated by mountains Garbhagiri. The height of this place from sea level is averagely 700 meters.

4.11.3 SOIL

The land surface of village Tondoli is hilly terrain structure and rocky structure. The soil which is found here is formed out of this basaltic rocky surface. It is of low quality soil and at lower level there is deposition of black color (Rigor soil). It shows the good proportion of iron compounds and due to depositional work of tributary of Dhora River alluvial soil is also found. Both rigor and alluvial soil is good for agricultural purposes.
4.11.4 DRAINAGE PATTERN

The village Tondoli is situated at the last part of Baleshwar mountain range which is locally known as ‘Grabhagiri’. A natural valley is created which is known as ‘Happy Valley’. The Hari Hareshwar temple is situated at the backside. A deep flight of rock into cut steps near the temple of Hari Hareshwar temple, which natural spring gushes out from rock and small sterns about four feet deep. This beautiful green valley meets to Dhora River.

4.11.5 VEGETATION

The valley is surrounded by forest covering nearly 347 hectares of land. The following species of trees are found here like: sandalwood, neem, karanji, babool, teak, jujube etc. Among the shrubs the following species are like: tarwad, tantani, amoni, chiller and different types of vines and common grass found here.

4.11.6 ANIMALS AND BIRDS

There is a forest near-by Shri Kshetra Bhagwangad. In the surrounding forest area animals like Fox, Wolf, Deer, Rabbit, Squirrel, Chameleon and Snakes are found. Birds like peacock, kite, eagle, hawk, falcon, skylark, parrot, sparrow, battler and crow are found here.

4.11.7 CLIMATE

Shri Hari Harishwar is situated in the eastern side of Pathardi taluka in Ahmednagar. So climate is of monsoon type. The nature of climate is moderate during winter and hot in summer. The temperature is high in June to August it goes up to 38°C, and low in December to February it comes to 11°C. For remaining months it is moderate, weather is humid and warm. Rainfall is not adequate for agriculture.

4.11.8 LAND USE

Shri Hari Hareshwar is situated in the area of Tondoli grampanchayat. This village is an agriculture village having 1050 hectares of land out of total 1111 hectares under signal irrigation
which in terms of percentage comes to 93% of the total geographical area. 45 hectares of land is un-irrigated and 16 hectares of land is under settlement which is 5% and 2% respectively of total geographical area. The crops taken in this region are \textit{wheat, sugarcane, maize, jowar, bajra and sunflower}.

\textbf{4.11.9 SETTLEMENT}

Researcher fond, old type houses as well as modern; both types’ of houses in this village. Most of houses are built from locally available building materials like stone, brick, mud, wood, steel plates and modern building materials, cement and concrete. The total number of houses is 612.

\textbf{4.11.10 POPULATION}

The village is inhabited by different castes and communities. The total population of Tondoli village is 2833 out which 1616 (51%) are males and 1517 (49%) are females. The sex ratio is 1000 males for 977 females. The literacy rate is very low in the village Tondoli because most of the peoples are work as a sugarcane cutter. They are going on sugar factory for six months. Their children’s are also with them in those days. So they can’t go to school. Very few children learn in Z.P. Primary school. Now-a-days secondary school is there so young generation is totally take benefit of this facility.

\textbf{4.11.11 OCCUPATION}

Tolnoli is an agriculture village and it is situated in hilly region. The percentage of rainfall is very less. They are working in their farms signally. Because of less rainfall there is no work in farming. Most of peoples go to sugar factory as sugarcane cutter labour (77 %). Secondary occupation is dairy farming and poultry (13%). Transporting, tea stall, general stores, engaged in Govt. and Semi Govt. services are (10%) in this village.

\textbf{4.11.12 TRANSPORTATION}

Maharashtra state bus service is available there. From \textit{Pathardi} to \textit{Bodhegaon} buses are available. Private vehicles are also available from \textit{Pathardi} and \textit{Koradgaon}. Post office is in
Kordgaon. It is 3 km away from Pathardi – Bodhegaon road. PCO Booth is also available here in the village Tondoli.

4.11.13 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF HARI HARESHWAR TEMPLE

The village Toldoli lies 15km to eastern of Koradgan town. ‘Happy Valley’ lies between two spurs of Ahmednagar plateau. Near it is a deep height of rock-steps runs passing to temple of Hari Hareshwar. By the Hindu mythology Hari means Lord Vishnu and Har means Lord Shiva. During summer season where there is dry everywhere beautiful trees gives the shade here. Every year during the months July to September visitors are visit here.

4.12 NIZARNESHWAR

Nizarneshwar is located in Sangarmner taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is one of the holy places and natural pilgrim centre and well-known tourist spot in Ahmednagar district. Nizarneshwar is famous for its God Shiva temple and devotes visit this place regularly no moon day and Mahashivratri. The village Kokangaon and Machi lie at an equal distance from this pilgrim centre. It is on the state highway hardly 1.5 km away from Kokangaon.

4.12.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Nizarneshwar, lies between 18° 57’ north latitude and 73° 43’ east longitudes.

4.12.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is believed by the local people that, streams have transported the holy stone (Linga of Lord Shiva) and later people have built a temple on the site of the holy stone. Thus the shrine of Nizarneshwar is originated. The holy Shivalinga is large size stone having three small stone. The upper part of holy stone is representing the holy gods of Hindu trinity i.e. Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. The temple is constructed near the original spring where water flows naturally and therefore it is called spring god or Nizarneshwar.

Now the people of Nizarneshwar have constructed a new temple with a compound wall of 95×70 feet surrounding the whole temple. There are open porch have been constructed where at a time more than 100 people can sit.
4.12.3 RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Every year during the period of ‘Mahashivratri’ and the Monday of Shravani month 7000-8000 devotees gather here and arrange religious ceremonies such as Bhajans and Kirtans. On the day of Mahashivratri large No. of people are assemble here to worship the God Shiva.

4.12.4 NATURAL BEAUTIFUL AREA

Nizarneshwar is situated in the hilly region covered by the thick vegetation in Sangamner taluka. This place is located 1.5 km. away from the taluka road or district highway. A dam is constructed on the river and 573 hectares of land is brought under irrigation. The sprinkle irrigation is generally practiced here by farmers and fruit gardening is raised.

Previously this part was unirrigated but due to dam, the area has been totally changed. The rusty life of local people has been changed into busy and happy farming community and it has brought great prosperity in the life of this people. The forest department is also paying much attention to the project of planting vegetation care of it. This area attracts more tourists from the adjacent places. The Trust as well as the forest department does not permit the construction of big hotels and restaurant because it can be harmful to the environment.

4.12.5 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

This place is situated in the hilly region. There is a kaccha road to reach the temple from Sangamner. The tourists have to walk down a distance of 1.5 km. to reach the temple. The nearby post office is at Sangamner.

The drinking water is provided by pipeline laid down from the site of the dam. There are some general stores, small tea stall, selling sweets and flowers. The visitors can get the material like coconut, flowers for performing worship. There are no other facilities like hotels, restaurants because the ban of forest department.

4.12.6 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are made available to researcher –
1. Because of deep forest and variety of vegetation this place may become a natural pilgrim's spot.

2. Fundamental facilities are not available so people do not stay here for long time.

3. This place is away from the main road, and only private vehicles can reach here so this place has remained undeveloped.

4. Only male pilgrims are allowed to enter the main cave or Gabhara.

5. Because of natural beauty and Lord Shiva temple the visitors are encouraging in number.

6. At the time of fair the cultural programs are arranged by local people so it save cultural heritage.

### 4.13 PEMGIRI, SANGAMNER

Pemgiri is in Sangamner taluka of Ahmednagar district. This place is 30 km from Sangamner and 12 km from Akole. There is an old banyan tree, sprawling and very huge. It is told that, this tree is 400 years old and about one hectare land is covered by this tree. There is a small pool in front of the temple of Goddess Pema. It is a wonder of nature.

**PHOTO NO- 4.11**

**OLD BANYAN TREE.**
4.13.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The geographical location of this place is 19° 27’ North latitude and 74° 5’ East longitudes.

4.13.2 RELIEF

Pemgiri is 600 to 800 meter high above the sea level. The surface is very rough, highly and rocky. There are no ways to climb on Pemgiri god. So it is a very difficult to reach of the goddesses Pema temple.

4.13.3 DRAINAGE

This village is situated on the bank of river Pravara. In rainy season the flow of water is continuous and it remains till summer.

4.13.4 SOIL

In the hilly areas the soil is reddish in color and having lot of sandy material. On the lower hill slopes here is brown colored soil with the mixture of small pebbles. The soil has less moisture, retentive capacity and at the same place black colored soil is also found here.

4.13.5 CLIMATE

Climatic is same as of Ahmednagar district and the nature of climate is moderate. The average range of temperature is 38°-40°C. And the mean minimum temperature is 22.9°C. In the month of November temperature remains low and the mean daily minimum temperature is 12°C.

4.13.6 RAINFALL

Pemgiri receives about 54 cm of rainfall occurs in rainy season. Rainfall occurs in July to August and almost nothing in December to April. During 20011 from June to August. There is 47.7 cm rainfall.
4.13.7 VEGETATION

*Pemgiri* is situated in hilly area, so various types of trees are here. Thorny shrubs and vine are also found here. The type of vegetation found here are *dhavada, apata, harda, sandalwood trees, babool, tambhul karanji, neem trees, mango trees, banyan trees* etc. The following types of shrubs are found here – *amoni, tantani, karvand, tarward*, and common grasses like *sheda, gondal and rosha* etc.

The whole land around the *Pemgiri* is occupied by the forest department. On the hills, valleys and the whole area is surrounded by verities of trees. The forest department is getting a good income from the trees in valleys.

4.13.8 ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Mainly the following type of animals are found here *Owlet, owls, woodpecker, heron, strokes, kite, pigeon, cuckoo, crow, butter, larks, shrike, maina* etc,

4.13.9 LAND USE

Out of 1820.54 hectares, 180.79 hectares (10%) is forest, 1318 hectares is cultivated area, 1200 hectares of land (90%) is under irrigation and 72 hectares (8%) is uncultivated land.

4.13.10 CROPS

The following type of crops are seen here like- *jowar, groundnut, Wheat, pulses, oil seeds, vegetable, fruits like tomatoes, grapes,’ pan male* etc. crops are taken by farmers.

4.13.11 SETTLEMENT

The total settlements are 689. Both the types of settlements such as *kaccha and pucca* houses are here. The houses are built with locally available building materials like wood, mud, stones, and bricks, Modern houses are built in bricks, cement concrete etc. The settlement pattern is in ‘U’ shape.
4.13.12 POPULATION

Total population of the village is 3797 including 1876(49.40%) males and 1921(50.60%) females. The population of S.C. category is 178(48%) males and 179(52%) females. 156(47%) females and 53% males belong to S. T. category.

4.13.13 LITERACY

In Pemgiri, primary and secondary educations facilities are available people are interested to educate their children. Near about 35% females and 60% males are literate. The percentage of literacy is neat about 65%.

4.13.14 OCCUPATION

About 75% of the total population is working in agriculture sector. Some people works carpenters, shopkeepers, Builders, painters, animal’s husbandry, Processing, manufacturing transportation etc.

4.13.15 FACILITIES

Health centre- There is two private hospitals. Akola is just 12 km away from this village. So people take advantage of all type of facilities available in Akola.

Transportation and Communication - S.T. buses, private jeeps, trucks are available S.T. Buses ply from Akole to Pemgiri Market The weekly market is held on every Friday. People sell and purchase goods.

Lodging; lodging facility is not available here.

4.13.16 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available
1. The second largest Banyan tree in India, which is 400 years old, is in Pemgiri. This tree covers an area of one hectare land. The first largest Banyan tree is in Calcutta Botanical garden in West Bengal. This tree covers two hectares land.
2. This natural centre is isolated.
3. No lodging and boarding facilities are available here.

**AGRO BASED TOURIST CENTERS**

**4.14 MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI**

India is an agricultural country. Large population is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is one of such basic activities that not only fulfill man’s need of food but also many other industrial raw material. Agriculture accounts for about half of India’s national income and provides employment to 74% of working population. Rahuri based Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth is working to improve the quality and quantity of agriculture yield in the surrounding agricultural belt of western Maharashtra. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is located in Rahuri taluka of Ahmednagar district. It is located on the Nagar-Manmad state highway approximately 5 km away from Rahuri town. This centre is new modern developed Agriculture University in India.
4.14.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Geographically it is located between 19° 50’ North latitude and 74° 25’ East longitudes.

4.14.2 RELIEF

The area is locally flat. It is 495m to 555 m high from sea level. Here the soils are essentially made up by the denudations of basalt rocks. Two types of soils are found here – low capacity soil and high capacity soil. Low capacity soil means rocky soil, which is not fertile and used for dry farming cultivation. This is part of Decan plateau and made up of basaltic rocky. Top soil is formed due to weathering and deposition of hard rock’s into clay with a gray to deep black color rigor soil. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri

4.14.3 DRAINAGE

Mula River is flowing through this area and providing water to fulfill the agricultural needs of the region.
4.14.4 CLIMATE

The average range of daily temperature is minimum in December, January and February. The period from March to May is of increasing temperature. The hottest maximum temperature is 38.9°C. In summer seasons weather is hot and dry due to high temperature.

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is situated in Ahmednagar district. It receives about 85 cm of rainfall. This year in June, July, and up to 23rd August 2001 it received about 60 cm rainfall. The maximum rainfall occurs in July descending downwards in August and almost no rainfall in December to April. The duration of rainy seasons is hardly for 4 months ie. June - September.

4.14.5 SOIL

This area is plain rocky and the soils are essentially formed due to denudation of basalt rocks. Alluvial soil is found in the lower plain area which is fertile and its depth is from 25 cm to 60 cm. Reddish colored soil is mostly found in areas of rocky shrubs and bushes.

4.14.6 VEGETATION

Climate, particularly rainfall is primarily determination factors for the growth of trees and production of many varieties of crops. It is a typical monsoon type area. Many varieties of trees are predominant. Sandalwood tree, acacia, tamarind, jujube, etc. trees are found here. Since this is a region with semi-arid climatic condition, much type of plants and varieties of various shrubs can be seen.

4.14.7 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

The following animals are found in the forest- wild cat, wolf, fox, boar, monkey, rabbit, deer, mongoose, porcupine, squirrel, iguana, chameleon, etc. The following birds are found here- sun bird, magi, owlet, woodpecker, heron, strokes, pewit, eagle, kite, brown dove, pigeon, lark, parakeets, cuckoos, blue, jay, king crow, bulbul, fly catchers, etc.
4.14.8 LAND USE

It is an agricultural University. It occupies an area of 2877.04 hectares out of which 1897.14 hectares of land is under cultivation which in terms of percentage comes to 65.32 of the total area of the Agriculture University 997.90 hectares of land is not under cultivation. It comes to 34.68%. This area is occupied by administration, blocks, hotels, workshop, laboratory etc. 865 (46 percent) hectares of land of total cultivable area is irrigated while 1813.48 hectares (54 percent) of the cultivable area is not irrigated.

4.14.9 CROPS

Two or three crops are taken in a year, as irrigation facilities are available. Jowar, Bajra, wheat, pulses and groundnuts are the major crops. The University itself produces different varieties of fruit and vegetables, different kinds of flowers are also grown. Research work has been going on in the number of agricultural produce; especially the high yielding varieties of seeds, fruits have been evolved in this University.

4.14.10 SETTLEMENT

Since it is mostly established area the settlement is modern with architectural design and magnificent in scale. This is an institution where concrete structures are for various purposes.

4.14.11 POPULATION

The total population of this area is 1289 of which 647(50percent) are males and 642(50perencent) females. Sex ratio is 992 females for 1000 males. People belonging to all castes and religious are found here. 99% of people are found to be educated.

4.14.12 LITERACY

All kinds of educational facilities are available here. This place is near to Rahuri town. Primary and secondary school are available here. Therefore the percentage of literacy is more.

4.14.13 OCCUPATION
Many people are engaged in agriculture. Many people are employees of the Agriculture University and working in different departments. The females are attending household duties.

4.14.14 FACILITIES

Medical facilities; All type of health facilities are available here. A private hospital is available in the premises of the University which is only 4 km away from Rahuri; Private Doctors have set up huge clinics in Rahuri. They are providing all type of medical facilities to the patients. People from other parts of the region are also coming to this place for medical checkup and treatment.

4.14.15 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

This place is situated on the Ahmednagar-Manmad state highway. This highway passes from west side of the town and is laid down in 1979-80. Railway station is about 5 km to the east side. The town has post office and telegraph office. There is a telephone exchange office and a state transport bus stand. Private vehicles like jeep, rickshaw and truck are also available here. All the modes of transport and communication facilities are available here.

4.14.16 MARKET FACILITIES

Rahuri is the market place. The weekly market is held on every Thursday. A cattle market is also held at this place. University is a research centre producing different types of fruits and vegetables. The University has a special shop to sell the fruits and other product of the University.

4.14.17 LODGING AND BOARDING FACILITY

There are many hotels, lodges and guesthouses. In the University campus VIP guesthouse is there. Hostel facility is available for research students.

4.14.18 INFORMATION ABOUT UNIVERSITY
Indian economy is mainly depending upon agriculture. So research in agriculture is necessary. Various research projects in Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth has been undertaken in the field of agriculture. It is founded in 1968. It is situated on 2877.4 hectares of land on Ahmednagar-Manmad state highway. Hundreds of professors and research students are engaged in carrying out research work. They work hard and trying to improve the quality of seeds. The Government runs this University. Only meritorious students can get admission. This is a well-developed University. Only meritorious students can get admission. This is a well-developed University and one of the best Agriculture Universities in Maharashtra. The first vice-chancellor of this Vidyapeeth was Shri Nanasaheb Pawar. Present vice-chancellor of the Vidyapeeth is Dr. More.

4.14.19 RESEARCH WORK

Library, Hostel, Teachers staff quarters, Electric substation, Guesthouse, Water reservoir these all facilities are available here. The main thrust area in the field of investigation is to decrease the price of production and increase the yield output per hectare. The main purpose of this work is to give maximum production by using minimum capital. It is based on biotechnology. It gives maximum production in less investment and less cost of production.

4.14.19.1 PULSES- There are research seed plots of following pulses- Gram (phule-5), wheat, jowar (Maldandi), hybrid jowar, bajra, green gram (mug), etc. Oil seed crops are very profitable and are called as cash crops. Research work is going on to increase the yield productivity, to improve the quality and to produce new type of seeds. Improvement is made by the Vidyapeeth in oil seeds like groundnut, sunflower and cotton.

4.14.19.2 FODDER CROPS - In a particular plan nearly developed and modern techniques are used to increase fodder crop yield also to improve their quality. The plain is very useful. Under such a plan improvement is made in case of crops like pewana, stay to hamata, deshereth, marwel, siratro, maize etc.

4.14.19.3 VEGETABLE CROPS- Under certain plan improvement is made in the crops like onion, chilly, radish, tomato, cucumber etc.
4.14.19.4 FLOWER FARMING - Different varieties of flower are produced and research work is going on to produce the variety of flowers like rose, gladiolas, carnation, jasmine, lily, chrysanthemum and fresh marigold. Ayurvedic Planning (Medicinal plants cultivation) Under this plan 300 medicinal plants, 300 perfume plants (herbal trees) are grown on a particular place. Shatavari, Aloe (Korped), Osmium (Tulas), Amla, Hirda, BehadaAduls, Khair etc.

4.14.19.5 LIVESTOCK – in the department of animal husbandry and dairy farming, there are 200 cows. They can be divided into categories like gircows, shabala cows and hasten cows. An outstanding experiment has been made there from the hybridization of a goat called Sangamneri and he goat belong to the species of goat which give us wool and better amount of goat meat. These goats are 110 in number. Here the farmers are trained in animal husbandry.

4.14.19.6 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY - Research work has been going on to produce new type of instruments useful for the farmers. The use of technology becomes necessary in the field of agriculture. University is contributing more in the work. They produced different sewing machine, token machine, different instruments for uprooting seeds and grass, sunflower, harvester, power filter, etc.

4.14.19.7 FRUIT PROCESSING – In connection with fruit processing farmers are given training about marking jam, jelly, fruit juice, squash, powder and dry fruit from jujube, mango, banana grapes, amla, watermelon, etc.

4.14.20 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. Agricultural University is a research centre and research activities are undertaken for the benefit of the farmer and improvement an agricultural practice
2. Here research is being done on different crops, vegetables; animals fodder crops, horticultures and roots, etc.
3. People on or after all over the country visit this centre to make more information about new agricultural technology.
4. People of all categories, castes and religions visit this centre.
5. Tourists, students and farmers also visit this centre.
6. Mostly the visitors are males who are directly connected with agricultural activities.
7. University organizes training camps, lectures concerning with new agriculture techniques and exhibition every year.
8. Most farmer always use seeds produced by this University.
9. This is one of the very famous Universities in Maharashtra State.
10. Every year on an average 25000 to 30000 people visit this place.

4.15 RALEGAN SIDDHI - AN IDEAL VILLAGE (PARNER)

RaleganSiddhi is an ideal village in Parner taluka. It is being developed by social reformer Shri Annasaheb Harare an ideal person, who worked very hard to make this village a self -sufficient and model village to be irritated by other follow development strategy adapted for this village.

This ideal village is situated westward 5 km away from the Pune-Aurangabad state highway. It was a small village in the beginning but because of continuous effort and inspiration of Annasaheb Hazare, this small village turns into famous village and growing rapidly in prosperity. The effort of Annasaheb Hazare and co-operation of the villagers the resources of the village are efficiently managed and properly used and the village became self sufficient in all respects. Many people visit this village to see the wonderful development project implemented sincerely by the villagers. The village located between 18\(^{0}\)24’ north latitude and 740east longitude.
4.15.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The geographical location of RaleganSiddhi is between 18° 92’ North latitude and 74° 41’ East longitudes.

4.15.2 RELIEF

Relief of this village is smooth and flat. The height is 650 m above sea level. At underneath of the surface the hard basaltic rock is unbranded. Hills are flat on top and terrace like in appearance. They are made up of Lava, which cool down and the hills are formed. The land is made up of rigor alluvial soil and reddish in color contain more iron components. So soil is more fertile here.

4.15.3 SOIL

The soils are formed due to erosion of the basalt. It contains rich mineral iron and phosphate. It is very fertile and has much water holding capacity. The soil becomes very sticky when it is wet and very hard when it is dry. This type of soil is good for cotton and sugarcane. Farmers can easily take 2 or 3 crops in a year if arrived water supply is made.
4.15.4 DRAINAGE PATTERN

The village has developed elaborate water conservation technique by constructing small dams, *nala* bonding, check dam etc. to preserve water and maintaining water level. The village has overcome the shortages of water supply and has sufficient water for irrigation and for other purposes. There are number of wells, tube wells dug at various laces to utilize underground water. All the resources are commonly developed and commonly shard by the villagers. The balance of environment is also properly maintained. The prosperity of the village has increased manifold due to all these new practices adopted among all these years.

4.15.5 VEGETATION

The total area of the land occupied in the village is 982.31 hectares. There are natural vegetation in the form of various species such as Sandalwood, *Babool*, *Jambhul*, *Neem*, Mango tree, Jujube tree, *Karanji*, *Nilgiri* etc. Other shrubs found here are *Amoni*, Chiller, Tantani, *Tarward*.

4.15.6 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

The wild animals found here are wild cat, fox, wolf, rabbit, mongoose, squirrel, chameleon and iguana. Birds like woodpecker, ducks, water hen, pewit, yellow, lapwing, kite, pigeon, cuckoo, crow and sparrow.

4.15.7 CLIMATE

The maximum temperature during winter from November to February is 28.3°C and minimum temperature is 11.3°C this year during winter on 29th December 2001 the minimum temperature was 9°C. In the summer period, maximum temperature is increasing to 38.7°C. This year on 10th May 2001 the maximum temperature recorded was 43°C.

4.15.8 RAINFALL

The region of *Ralgaon* receives annual rainfall up to 52 cm from June to September and this year 2001 has recorded the average rainfall amount 58cm.
4.15.9 LAND USE

The village occupies 982.31 hectares of land totally among which irrigated land is 460 hectares (18.21%), fallow land is 40.43(4.11%) and barren land 108.66 hectares (11.06%) and forest is 194.28 hectares (19.78%).

4.15.10 CROPS

The crops like Jower, wheat, Bajra, pulses are cultivated by the farmers along with crops; vegetable groundnuts and onion are also taken. The crops are cultivated by rotation.

4.15.11 SETTLEMENT

We can find both (kaccha and pucca) types of settlement here. The houses are built from locally available building material like stone, mud, brick, steel, plate, and modern houses are built in cement concrete. The total numbers of houses are 405. The roads in the village are very clean and in good condition. Population of the village Ralegan Siddhi is 2577 persons of which 1355(52.58%) are males and 1222 (47.42%) are females. Sex ratio is 1000 males for 901 females.

4.15.12 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The village is developing very fast. The educational facilities of primary school and high school are available. The higher education facilities are available in the surrounding towns of Parner, Shirur, Takali, Dhokeshwar etc.

4.15.13 OCCUPATION

The main occupation of the people is agriculture. Except this there are some people who are depend upon other occupations such as manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing houses and construction. The people working in household industry are 27 males and 3 females, in construction 7 males, in trade and commerce 13 males and 6 females, in transport storage and communication 13 males and 1 female, in marginal workers males are 5 and females are 139.

4.15.14 SELF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The number of tourist visiting the place is increasing day by day. Different sources of occupation are also increasing, like household industries, servicing, construction, telephone booth, transpiration trade and commerce.

4.15.15 HEALTH FACILITY

The primary health centre run by ZP is available along with a big hospital. For treatment, serious patients are taken to Parner or Shirur.

4.15.16 MARKET FACILITIES

This village is developing and market facilities are available. There are numerous shops catering the needs of the people. This place of RalegaonSiddhi has become a market place. For higher purchase the people have to go to Parner and Shirur for marketing.

4.15.17 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

The place of RalegaonSiddhi is situated 5km away from Pune-Aurangabad state highway. There are S. T. buses, private vehicles like jeep, tempo ready to carry passengers to RaleganSiddhi at the Bus stop on the highway. The means of communication like telephone are available here.

4.15.18 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This village is situated in Ahmednagar district in Parnertaluks. The village took real change in 1975 and then onwards still 1975, Ralegan was not well developed. Farmers having only one acre land and that also less irrigated at that period. Total irrigated land during that period was 50 acres. Some of the land was depending upon monsoon season and most land is covered by erosion work and so this land is fallow land and thus there was no employment and people used to go for work to other villages. Some wine shops were opened up and this affected the young men who adopted this habit. And because of this the boys and girls did not attend school and remained uneducated till 1975. ‘The school was up to 4th standard’⁸. The period after 1975 was a golden era for the village RaleganSiddhi, because in real sense the changes took
place after 1975. Asocial reformer named *KisanBaburaoHazare* was retired soldier, who fought war of 1965, and came through clutches of death. After that he returned to his village *RaleganSiddhi*, he started social work. He got Rs. 20000 (P.F.) after retirement from army. With this provident fund he started social work such as building temple, school facilities etc. Looking at this, other also started helping him and automatically the social development started. The whole credit for changes in *RaleganSiddhi* goes to *KisanBaburaoHazare* who is also called as Anna. Five year planning and other program of Govt., the village of *RaleganSiddhi* is developed by grace of *AnnaHazare*, the social reformer. He started different programs such as –

1. Family planning,

2. Prohibition over Addict wine

3. Prohibition on grazing animals

4. Devotion of people as labor work.

Not only above programs had raised but other social programs also raised so as the village has become the real ideal village. They are as follows;

**4.15.18.1 Soil and Water conservation program** – Now days these people had made the program by implementation such as “Arrest Water, Percolate Water” All villagers have built hounds (small dams) to store water by percolating it. After then villagers have 85 wells and 8 tube-wells to provide water for agriculture and thus the people had made proper use and water shade development program.

**4.15.18.2 Planning of water resources and its uses** – Through they use most water for agriculture but they do not take yearly crop like sugarcane but the people make alternate changes in growing crops such as *Jowar, Bajra, Groundnut, Onion and Vegetables* etc. Water is not wasted but used economically for agriculture.

**4.15.18.3 Arrangement of drainage water facilities** – Farming structure has changed the village *RaleganSiddhi*. As these people are taking alternative crops everyone are involved to grow more and more green vegetables. More water is provided and wastage of water is avoided. Everywhere more and more greenery has been tried to bring here.
4.15.18.4 Grain Bank – As alternative crops are taken, nearly 2/3 crops are taken yearly. More food grains are grown as much as possible to store more. Big storehouses are built to store more quantity of food grains. It is called ‘Grain Bank’

4.15.18.5 Prohibiting untouchability – People from all castes and communities including scheduled castes and tribes live with love and harmony and peace. They do not accept untouchability. People of all castes and religions attend every function/fair/marriages etc. People behave with open heartily with each other.

4.15.18.6 Participation of females in village development – Not only the males but female also participate in different social program and participate and attend different programs and meeting.

4.15.18.7 Life Education (Providing education as task of life) – Everyone small or big, rich or poor- is provided compulsory education. For that school are available. Even the failure students have separate school as ‘school of failures’.

4.15.18.8 Village meeting – All the members or people come together to suggest and discuss on village development and also help each other in development of village.

4.15.19 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Due to economic development, the village life has changed. Green revolution has brought much income through vegetable. Most of the people are engaged in all types of occupation. The total population engaged in farming - 80, Construction – 7, Household industries -27, commerce and trade – 13 (female 6), transport and communication-13 males and 6 females and other services 196. Taking the percentage of total working population in different occupation- The people working in office service must be getting 5-6 thousand rupees nearly in a family mostly 4 people are dependent. So the different people surveying gets much income. There is give and take people economy. In this way economical development has been created

4.15.20 CONCLUSION
According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. The program raised by Smoking and wine drinking prohibition brought may changes and consequence has become successful.
2. Members are elected unanimously.
3. Both male and female take part in different social programs.
4. Common flourmills are set up for all people from different castes and communities.
5. Marriage programs are followed so as to avoid dowry system.
6. Sanitary toilet, bathrooms are commonly utilized as well as goober gas plants are well developed commonly.
7. For entertainment and amusement interesting common programs are arranged.
8. Donation of labou who think that the social work is the gift for them.
9. Tree plantation and growing food garden plants to keep economical and ecological balance, common grain bank and credit bank providing loans for development of agriculture.
10. 750 acres of land is irrigated through water supply of Krishna river basin water.
11. Prohibiting untouchability where people from all castes and communities are allowed to participate in each and every social program.
12. Technical as well as primary, high school and college educational programs are also provided so as to spread education. A special education school “School of education” is also well developed for failure students.

4.16 HIWARE BAZAR

HiwareBazar is a model village in the Ahmednagar district. It is located about 17 km west of Ahmednagar city. This village is well-known for its irrigation system and water conservation program, with which it has fought the drought and drinking water problems. In 1990, Shri Popatrao Pawar young college student was elected as the Sarpanch. He makes every social change in villagers. The program included rainwater harvesting and digging trenches around the hill contours to trap water. He builds a percolation tank with the help of villagers.
There is a ban on liquor, adoption of family planning, mandating HIV/AIDS testing before marriages. These initiatives were complemented by a program for social change in village.

PHOTO NO-4.14 HIWARE BAZAR GRAMSABHA

4.16.1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The geographical location of HiwareBazar is between 19° 4’ North latitude and 74° 36’ East longitudes.

4.16.2 RELIEF

HiwareBazar is lies at a height of 600 meters from sea level. This area is hilly area. There is no big river. The surface is rough, highly and rocky.

4.16.3 SOIL

In the hilly areas the soil is reddish in color having lot of sandy materials. On the lower hill slopes there is brownish colored soil with the mixture of small pebbles. It contains rich mineral iron and phosphate. It is very fertile and has much water holding capacity.
4.16.4 VEGETATION

The total area of the land occupied in the village is 976.84 hectares. Natural vegetation is the form of various species such as Sandalwood, Babool, Jambhul, Neem, Mango tree, Jujube tree, Karanj Nikgiri etc. This village used EGS funds to undertake massive plantation and forest regeneration activities. The villagers built more than 40,000 contour trenches around the hills and 660 water harvesting structures of various types to conserve rainwater and recharge ground water.

4.16.5 WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Because of deep forest covered by trees and shrubs, so it is associated with some important animals and birds, which are: wolf, fox, pig, rabbit, monkey, deer, mongoose, porcupine, squirrel etc. and the birds are found like: woodpecker, heron, strokes, ducks, spoon bills, water hen, pewit, Yellow lapwing, black winged stilt, eagle, brown dove, pigeon, parakeets, crow peasant, cuckoo, butter, blue jay, king crow, bulbul, weaver, lark, shrikes, babbler, magpie, kingfisher, owlet etc. wild birds.

4.16.6 CLIMATE

The climate is monsoon type i.e. Summer seasons are dry and hot and winter are cool and healthy. During summer the temperature lies above 37°C. May is a hottest month. In the winter maximum temper lies nearly 26°C and minimum 9°C.

4.16.7 RAINFALL

This village receives some 400mm of rain a year, but all of it falls in about 125 hours. Prior to the water conservation work there was little in the village but denuded hills, with only stumps for goats to graze on, and a local kiln.

4.16.8 LAND USE

Total geographical area of HiwareBazar is 976.84 hectares. The Cultivatable land is 795.23 hectares, forest land 070.03 hectares, pasture land 006.75 hectares, irrigated land 100.40 hectares and No. of functioning wells 190.
4.16.9 CROPS

Agricultural activity in HiwereBazar used to be just like a typical village in the low-rainfall, drought-prone, hard-rock area in India. Farmers now often grow three crops a year. Agriculture has been diversified and cash crops, Bajara, oil seeds, fodder for cattle, flowers, onions and green beans as well as drip-irrigated tomatoes and vegetables etc.

4.16.10 SETTLEMENT

Researcher found 217 houses here. The houses are built by using locally available material and modern houses are also here which is built by cement and bricks. The settlement pattern of this village is round type.

4.16.11 POPULATION AND LITERACY

Total population of HiwareBazar is 1215 in which 608 are male and female were 607. Because of educational facility and eventually, coupled with adult education program, the ratio of literacy in the village grew from 30% to 95%.

4.16.12 OCCUPATION

About 55% of the total population is working in agriculture sector. 10% people were works as a carpenter, shopkeeper, Builders, painters, animal’s husbandry, Poultry, transportation etc. and 35% people were working in Government, semi Government and non Government sectors.

4.16.13 TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Maharashtra state bus service is available there. From Ahmednagar and Parner buses are available. Private vehicles are also available. Post office and PCO Booth is also available here.

4.16.14 INFORMATION OF HIWARE BAZAR

HiwareBazar philosophy is paying attention on the growth of a shared group of people feeling and drew its motivation from Gandhaian philosophy and principles. The principles is based on
basic things such as Sharamdan (Voluntary Labor), prohibit on hierarchy wounding, ban on graze of farm animals in forest or in paddock land, ban on liquor and family planning.

‘In the past, scenes 1972 this village and area frequently suffered from draughts, drinking water scarcity and no work in farm, unavailability of fodder and frequent migration of the villagers to urban areas in search of employment.’

So people in villages are selling and preparing illicit liquor. This business becomes giving birth to all other evil activities generated by the liquor.

In the year of 1989-90 the Maharashtra Government declared elections for Village Panchyats. Some of the visionary good people invited to Shri Popatrao Pawar, (who has completed his M. Com.) for Gramsabha (Village meeting) and elected him as the Sarpanch (Chief of Village Council) for five years. Popatrao’s first steps involved repairing communal building, such as the temple and the school. The main issues of this village are poor availability of water for drinking and irrigation, low productivity of agriculture. He slowly began to gain the trust of the villagers and create a sense of community among them and decided to work on watershed management. He formed a local NGO. The funds they received themselves were added in this NGO. He took all design by Gramsabha. The villagers implemented a drip-irrigation system to conserve water and soil, so increase the income of villagers. They decided to avoid crops like sugarcane and bananas, which require large water. In 1992 the village benefit from the ‘Adarsh Gram Yojana’.

Following activities are run by villagers – contour bunding, continuous contour trenching on hill slopes and planting of local, hardy trees, bushes and grasses over the watershed. In the village there are total ban on – using a bore well for irrigation (use only for drinking water), cultivating water intensive crops, selling of land to outsiders, any feeling of full and private ownership of groundwater occurring in individual farms.

The Government of Maharashtra has now appointed to Shri Popatrao Pawar, as the chief of its ‘Ideal village program’ under which 300 villages are to be developed on HivereBazar’s Pattern. Delegates from 122 nations have so far visited this village. He has won several Honors and Awards so far, including the National Agricultural Award, National Productivity Award and AGRI GOLD Award etc.
4.16.15 CONSERVATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM

_HiwareBazar_ lies in the drought-prone area of _Ahmednagar_ district. Prior to 1989, the community was in front of quite a lot of problems such as movement of the villagers to the close urban area for work, high crime, preparing and sealing of liquor and scarcity of water. In 1990, young age student _Shri Popatrao Pawar_ who was complete master’s degree in commerce was elected as the _Sarpanch_. He used finances from government schemes and launched a agenda to renew its natural possessions with the help of villagers. _Hiware Bazar_ was modeled after _Ralegan Siddhi_, another village noted for its ecological protection initiatives in _Ahmednagar_ district.

Visitors can observe changes in the lifestyles of the inhabitants. All families now have _pukka_ houses and functional toilets in this village. The _gramsabha_ convenes once every month, it may be asked to convene whenever required. Rising the literacy and better health, there are also changes in consumption patterns.

4.16.16 CONCLUSION

According to the survey, actual visit and local people interview following observations are available

1. Water harvesting can change lifestyle of rural people.
2. The development of _HiwareBazar_ is based primarily on the _panchasutri_, ro five principles they are – _Nasbandi_ (vasectomy), _Nasabandi_ (prohibition of liquor), _Charaibandi_ (no open grazing), _Kurhadbandi_ (no tree felling) and _Shramdan_ (voluntary labor).
3. Maharashtra’s state employment guarantee scheme (EGS) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NAREGA) were change the rural development.
4. Internal leadership and management can change the face of each village.
5. Social communication, _Gramsabha_ empowers them to plan for themselves.
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