CHAPTER 3
EXPLORATION IN GODAVARI BASIN, AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

Archeologically Ahmednagar district is very rich and has continues cultural sequences right from Palaeolithic Period to Medieval Period which was proved by Nevasa excavation (Sankalia et al 1960). The present research carried out the village to village intensive exploration on both the bank of river Godavari which brought to light a number of archaeological sites in Ahmednagar District. During the exploration various materials especially pottery remains has been collected and interpreted in this chapter. To know the regional variation of the early historic settlement patterns through time and space to have as many sites as possible.

The author carried out the third level of settlement pattern studies, i.e., the regional level (Trigger 1968). The study consists of the manner in which communities were arranged over the landscape.

There are four different Chalcolithic cultures, viz., the Nevasa, the late Harappa, the Daimbad and the Jorwe in the central and upper Godavari basin, and apparent variation in the number of sites and in the patterns are bound to occur. I have given adequate attention to sampling procedures and has collected maximum information covering habitational mounds and their environs. A number of ancient settlements are either buried or completely destroyed by human or natural factors; they may no longer be recovered through surface remains.

To understand the trend of regional distribution of settlements during different cultural periods and to locate them, an intensive and extensive field survey was undertaken in the central and upper Godavari basin. Two things led me to select the central and upper Godavari basin as my research field.
This region, being one of the fertile area in the Country, was occupied by the first farmers of Maharashtra, but it also attracted contemporary farmers living in the adjoining regions. Thus the Nevasa people from central India, the late Harappan and the Jorwe people from the Pravara a tributary of Godavari made inroads into the Godavari basin. Thus, the Godavari valley became the transitional zone and attained importance right from the Chalcolithic period. This region, is the cradle of early cultures, was neglected as far as the settlement pattern studies are concerned. S.A. Sali of the Archaeological Survey of India, carried out, in the late sixties and early seventies, archaeological exploration in this region and located over seventy-five Chalcolithic and numerous historical sites, but his work was not followed up since then.

The chronology of the cultures has been decided mainly on the basis of the occurrence of well-known and dated ceramic industries. The extent of the habitational area is measured on the basis of the spread of the habitational deposit, characterized by the whitish soil, and the distribution of pottery. I have measured the extent of sites and the area occupied on the basis of actual distribution of representative pottery types over the surface. It is rather easy to measure the thickness of the habitational deposit. The area under occupation is represented by grayish soil which can be distinguished from that of the virgin black soil. Thus the thickness of grayish soil rising above the surrounding area can be measured. The task of measuring the habitational deposit becomes very easy if the site is disturbed or cut vertically by natural or human agencies.

For locating the sites, I employed the following methods:

- Village to village survey and relying on local information,
- Extensive survey along both banks of river courses, and
- Relying on survey of India maps, prepared between 1880 and 1925 (1 inch= 1 mile)
For locating the ancient sites both summer and winter seasons were ideal. In Maharashtra almost every village in as an ancient site in its jurisdiction. Generally, such ancient sites located away from the present settlements and they are deserted these are considered to be the abodes of ancient people and locals light a lamp, worshiping the site in the evening in many places. These sites are called Pandhari (white) in Maharashtra for the simple reason that the colour of the soil is whitish.

All the 1 inch= 1 mile maps, prepared by the British in India, were referred to understand the terrain, locate marked deserted villages. Most of the sites located were along the river Godavari. In the course of explorations, the possibility of missing a few sites cannot be ruled out. It is very likely that some ancient settlements have got buried under present towns and large-sized villages, in which case it is not possible to trace them. I collected pottery only from those sites which exhibit unusual features.

The exploration brought a total of two Chalcolithic and ten early historic habitational sites on both the banks of Godavari River. Most of the sites are disturbed by human activity (for agricultural, brick manufacturing and others) and some of naturally by river floods. Extension of the early historic sites varies, maximum extension seven to eight acres whereas minimum one and half to two acres. The deposit also varies from half meter to three meters. These explored sites have been discussed in detailed manner, all the pottery types found from the sites mention and there shapes are understood on the basis of line drawings. Details are given below:
3.1 Sanvatsar (74° 30’ 74” E.; 19° 50’ 17” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located two and half kilometer away from Kopargaon town, on the left bank of the Godavari River. The ancient site locally known as ‘Padhri-Tekadi’ is one kilometer away to the north-west of the village. It is spread over an area of one and half acre with a half meter thick habitation deposit and belongs to the Early Historical Period. There is a Peshwa period “Shinde-Wada” in this village. The site is to the north of one small temple called ‘Shringar’ beside an Ashram of Chakradhar Swami. This site lies between the Godavari River and the nearby Narandi Nala.

The ceramic assemblage from this site includes Black and Red, Plain Red, and Coarse Red wares. These pottery types are typical of the Early Historical period. However, some of the Black and Red wares appear to be of the megalithic type. Most of the pieces are wheel turned. In addition to pottery, pieces of jasper and chert were also collected, both worked as well as un-worked. A fair number of pottery rim sherds and base sherds are also present.

Figure 3.1 Habitational mound of Sanvatsar
3.1.1 Pottery shapes of Sanvatsar (Figure 3.2)

1) Fragment of a convex-sided large bowl with featureless rim but flat on top and there is horizontal line on the external surface close to the top of the rim; it also bigger in size (116/22 cm).

2) Fragment of a convex-sided bowl with slightly out-turned rim, which is flat on top and there is a deep horizontal line on the external surface close to the top of the rim (117/18 cm).

3) Fragment of vertical convex-sides bowl with slightly out-turned rim, which flat on top and there are three parallel horizontal lines on the external surface close to the top of the rim (118/14 cm).

4) Fragment of vertical convex-sides bowl with slightly out-turned rim, which is flat on top and there are two parallel horizontal lines on the external surface close to the top of the rim and third one is slightly away from rim (119/22 cm).

5) Fragment of a large bowl with vertical convex-sides with featureless but sharp incurred rim, horizontal line on the external surface little down from the rim (120/24 cm).

6) It is a fragment of a miniature bowl with featureless rim but rounded on top and provided flat or disc base; there are two horizontal lines near the bottom of external surface of the bowl (124/4 cm).

7) It is a fragment of a miniature bowl with featureless rim and slightly bigger uneven base; there are three horizontal lines near the bottom of external surface of the bowl (126/2 cm).
Figure 3.2 Pottery shapes of Sanvatsar
3.2 Kokamthan (74° 30’ 55” E.; 19° 50’ 14” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located twelve kilometers away from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the Godavari River. The ancient site is located to the South-West of the village, and is spread over an area of three to four acre with a one and half meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Early Historical Period. There is a big ‘Hemadpanthi Mahadev’ temple to the North of the site. The temple has two main entrances, one in the north and the other in the East of the river. The two images in the temple are of “Ganesha” and “Shankara”. This temple has more than 25 “Devakostha” and many smaller temples around. The temple is decorated with a Mandapa, Ardha-Mandapa and Sabhamandapa. The shrine has a big Linga. There is a big Nandi in the open Mandapa. There is also a big ghat adjoining the temple.

The pottery collected from this site includes Black and Red ware, Plain Red ware and Coarse Red wares. These pottery types are mainly typical of the Early Historic Period. A fair number of pottery rim and base sherds are present. A big jar piece in coarse Red ware is also present. A few sherds have a darker surface which is almost red in colour. This site is extremely interesting. One large vessel fragment shows a black wash on the base of the vessel. This might be an intimation of the effect of Black and Red ware, using a completely different technology. Most of the pottery is wheel made.
3.2.1 Pottery shapes of Kokamthan (Figure 3.4)

1) Fragment of a large shallow bowl with vertical convex sides with featureless but sharp rim; there is horizontal line on external surface (105/20 cm).

2) Fragment of a large vertical basin with flared and featureless rim; there is horizontal line on external surface near the rim (106/22 cm).

3) Fragment of a possibly small globular pot with a narrow mouth, flat prominently projecting rim, which has a border in the form of two ridges on either ends; there is under cut line near the rim (107/8 cm).

4) Fragment of a deep vertical convex-sided bowl with slightly incurved sides and featureless but externally prominent thickened rim. There is a shallow groove on the top of the rim (108/18 cm).
5) Fragment of a thick-bodied medium concave-sided globular pot with slightly everted rim. On the external surface of the rim have three horizontal lines (109/18 cm).

6) Fragment of a large sized globular pot with out-turned rim and; it has three horizontal lines on external surface (111/24 cm).

7) Fragment of a globular pot with wide-mouth, out-turned rim and short neck; it has three horizontal line on external surface at equal distance (112/18 cm).

8) Fragment of a wide-mouthed globular pot with concave neck, short out-turned and rounded rim; there are four horizontal lines on external surface (113/10 cm).

9) Fragment of a thick-bodied medium vertical basin with slightly everted rim (114/12 cm).

10) Fragment of a possibly medium sized basin with slightly out-turned rim which has a border in the form of two ridges on either ends; there is under cut line near the rim (115/16 cm).
Figure 3.4 Pottery shapes of Kokamthan
3.3 Varigaon (74° 30’ 79” E.; 19° 45’ 08” N.) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located seventeen kilometers away from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site located known as “Wada”, a kilometer to the South-East of the village. The site is spread over an area of two and three acres with a two meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Early Historical Period. There is an old “Shinde Wada” belonging to the Peshwa period. This ‘Wada’ is a very fine example of Maratha architecture. Besides, there are two temples, one is a Rameshwar temple, on the South of the village and the other is a Mahadev temple on the north. The habitational deposit overlies the black cotton soil which has developed over the Pleistocene silt.

Figure 3.5 Habitation mound of Varigaon
The most common pottery is a Red ware with a light and thin Red slip. Plain Red wares with finger impressions on the inside of the pot were also recovered. Two sherds showed examples of rustication. It was done by a process of coating fire-sand on the wet surface of the pot and later a part of it was dusted off. A variety of shapes such as carinated bowls, spouted vessels, pots with high necks, small bowls, basins, rimmed and stemmed stands were recovered from the site. Some rim sherds were also collected. The coarser fabrics were used in everyday life and cooking. The Black and Red ware sherds from the site give no indication of the probable shape of the pots.

3.3.1 Pottery shapes of Varigaon (Figure 3.6)

1) Fragment of a large mouthed globular pot with a rounded beaded rim; constricted rim. On the external surface have six horizontal lines (94/24 cm).

2) Fragment of large sized carinated vessel with flared thickened projected beaked rim with short neck there are six horizontal lines on external surface (95/28 cm).

3) Fragment of slightly carinated convex-sided large basin with featureless rounded rim. On the external surface have three horizontal lines (96/24 cm).

4) Fragment of a medium sized globular pot with rounded beaded rim; concave neck. On the external surface have two horizontal lines (97/16 cm).

5) Fragment of a medium sized shallow bowl with flared outside and featureless rim; there are two horizontal lines on external surface (98/18 cm).
6) Fragment of medium sized globular vessel with beaked rim; there are three horizontal lines on external surface of the pot (99/14 cm).

7) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with featureless but externally thickened rim with under cut in interior; concave neck. The top of the rim is slightly rectangular externally. There are four horizontal lines on external surface (100/20 cm).

8) Fragment of a globular pot with sloping shoulders, slightly concave neck and a beaded rim. On external surface have five horizontal lines (101/14 cm).

9) Fragment of a vessel with wide-mouth, concave-neck and out-turned and beaded rim. On external surface have two horizontal lines (102/16 cm).

10) Fragment of a large-sized carinated vessel with flared thickened projected beaded rim with short neck (103/28 cm).

11) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with short out-turned rim which is externally thickened; there are three horizontal lines on external surface of the pot (104/18 cm).
Figure 3.6 Pottery shapes of Varigaon
3.4 Phulthamba (74° 35’ 85” E.; 19° 45’ 04” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 21 km away from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site’s location is known as “Deshmukh Wada”. The site is spread over an area of two and half acres with a one and half meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Early Historical Period. This village is 18 km from Shrirampur. There are more than 325 ancient temples. On the right bank of river Godavari is a big “Ahilya Ghat”. It is surrounded by a number of small temples known as Ganesha temples, Mundleshwar, Khandoba, Bhairoba (Five temples), Maruti, Shani, Lakshmi, Anand Baba, and Sudkal Maruti. The village is surrounded by a fortification wall.

The common types of pottery collected from this Wada are Black and Red ware, Plain Red ware and Plain thick Black ware. Some of them are Coarse Red ware. The large number of rim sherds and base sherds as well as large storage jar fragments also point to this site being an important urban center in the Early Historical Period. The thin layer of habitational deposit overlies the black soil that has developed on Pleistocene silt.

Figure 3.7 Ancient Historical Temple at Phulthamba
3.4.1 Pottery Shapes of Phulthamba (Figure 3.9)

1) Fragment of a medium cylindrical vessel with slightly out-turned rim and slightly concave neck (82/12 cm).

2) Fragment of a globular vessel thickened with featureless rounded rim and sharp on top; short neck (83/20 cm).

3) Fragment of a wide-mouthed globular pot with concave neck, short out-turned and rounded rim (84/16 cm).

4) Fragment of a medium-sized basin with incurved featureless rim and sharp on top. On the outer side of the rim is a prominent ridge separated from the rim by wide and deep grooves (85/20 cm).
Figure 3.9 Pottery Shapes of Phulthamba
5) Fragment of a large sized globular pot with a flared-out rim; concave neck (86/26 cm).

6) Fragment of a medium-sized basin with incurved featureless rim. On the outer side of the rim is a prominent ridge separated from the rim by wide and deep grooves (87/18 cm).

7) Fragment of possibly medium sized globular pot short out-turned thickened with featureless rim; slightly rectangular exterior and under-cut (88/10 cm).

8) Fragment of vessel with flared thickened rounded rim sharp on top and concave neck (89/24 cm).

9) Fragment of a carinated vessel with flared thickened projected rim sharp on top with short neck (90/24 cm).

10) Fragment of a vessel with wide-mouth, short neck; flared out-turned and rounded rim (91/26 cm).

11) Fragment of a globular vessels with short neck and out-turned rim (92/18 cm).

12) Fragment of globular vessels with thickened featureless out-turned rim and sharp on top; concave neck. On external surface of the rim have two horizontal grooves line (93/10 cm).
3.5 Babthar (74° 35’ 74” E.; 19° 45’ 06” N) Vaijapur, Ahmednagar

The village is located 25km away from Kopargaon town, on the left bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site located known as “Juna Gavthan”, half km to the North-West of the village. The site is spread over an area of seven to eight acres with a half meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Proto-historic period. On the South of the village is a small broken “Babareshwara” temple. This temple is on a small mound. On the surface of the mound is alluvium white soil with gravel.

The pottery collected from this site includes Black and Red, Thick Red and Black ware, Plain Red, burnished Black and Coarse Red wares. These pottery types are typical of the Chalcolithic period. Some of the sherds are concave while others are convex in shape. The pottery assemblage from this site appears to be somewhat similar to that reported from Nevasa (Sankalia et al 1960). The Black and Red ware is coarse, both well burnished and un-burnished. It is well known that the Black and Red surfaces of this ware are a result of what is known as “inverted firing”.

Figure 3.10 Habitation mound of Babthar
In the former variety, the inner surface and a part of the outer surface are invariably burnished. The clay shows mixture of sand and particles and grass and also sometimes lime particles. The typical shapes are the rimless bowls, dishes, some type of cooking vessels and water pots. Shapes are common in both these varieties. The Black and Red ware is different in technique. When compared to the thin Black and Red ware. The core is gritty like that of the thin Black and Red but shapes seem to differ. In Red ware three varieties are available which is the most abundant when compared to other wares. First is the coarse Red with dull brown surface, second is the thin, dark Red ware. The last shows better shapes while the first two has variations in strictly utilitarian shapes of day to day use.

3.5.1 Pottery shapes of Babthar (Figure 3.11)

1) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with out-turned thickened rim and slightly flat on top. It has a concave neck; on external surface have four horizontal lines (72/18 cm).

2) Fragment of a globular pot with slightly out-turned beaded rim and top is rounded externally. On external surface of have three horizontal lines (74/18 cm).

3) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with long vertical neck and out-turned projecting rim flat on top. On external surface have six horizontal lines (74/18 cm).

4) Fragment of a globular pot with beaded rim; it have slightly concave neck, on external surface has three horizontal lines (75/16 cm).

5) Fragment of a round pot with short out-turned rim, which externally thickened. On external surface have three horizontal lines (76/22 cm).

6) Fragment of a large flared-side basin with a featureless rounded rim. On external surface have five horizontal lines (77/18 cm).
Figure 3.11 Pottery shapes of Babthar
7) Fragment of a carinated vessel with out-turned flared rim and rounded on top. It has vertical neck (78/12 cm).

8) Fragment of a possibly globular pot with short out-curved rim with thickened on top. There are three horizontal lines on external surface (79/10 cm).

9) Fragment of a wide-mouthed carinated vessel with out-turned flared rim and below the rim has a horizontal groove; it has vertical neck (80/22 cm).

10) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with short out-turned rim; slightly flat on top. The neck is concave; on external surface have four horizontal lines (81/16 cm).

3.6 Dauch-Budrukh (74°25’ 63” E.; 19° 50’ 15” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 6km from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site known as “Thiradi” is located to the North-West of the village. The site is spread over an area of three and half acres with three meter thick habitation deposit and belongs to the Historical Period. On the surface of this mound is brown and white coloured soil with little gravel. The mound is very close to the river. There is a small nullah which joins the Godavari on the right bank. This site is between this nullah and river.

The pottery from Dauch-Budrukh consists mainly of Red wares. The slip is burnished and the core is thick and black in the center. One large fragment shows a black wash on the base of the vessel. This might be an imitation of the effect of Black and Red ware using a completely different technology. Black thick ware and Coarse Red ware is also present. The most common pottery is the Red ware. Dishes and rimless bowls abound. The shapes represented in this ware are comparatively few and simple. A few of the lids
are handmade, treated with a slip and burnished. The knobs of the lids are handmade, treated with a slip and burnished. These knobs are flat topped or tapering or sometimes with an umbrella pinnacled top. The thick Coarse ware is mainly handmade, and generally without a slip. The lids in this ware are also handmade.

Figure 3.12 Habitation mound of Dauch-Budrukh

3.6.1 Pottery shapes of Dauch-Budrukh (Figure 3.13)

1) Fragment of a globular pot with vertical neck and slightly out-turned rim with thickened externally and round on top. On external surface have two horizontal grooves (62/18 cm).

2) Fragment of a medium-sized dish with vertical convex sides with featureless but sharp rim (63/16 cm).

3) Fragment of a storage jar with wide-mouth; thick nail headed flat rim and tapering towards the base (54/30 cm).
4) Fragment of a pot with long neck and beaked shaped rim; flat on top. On external surface have four horizontal lines (65/14 cm).

5) Fragment of a large convex-sided bowl with short out-turned rim, which sharply curved prominently inward; flat on top. On external surface have two horizontal lines (66/14 cm).

6) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with slightly out-turned beaded rim which externally thickened and round (67/14 cm).

7) Fragment of a medium-sized dish with strait featureless rim; sharp on top. On external surface have three horizontal lines (68/14 cm).

8) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with short out-turned rim which is externally thickened and under cut. It has vertical convex neck (69/14 cm).

9) Fragment of a medium-sized dish with vertical convex incurved sides with featureless but slightly round on top (70/18 cm).

10) Fragment of a convex sided small deep cup with slightly out-turned rim which sharp on top. On external surface have four horizontal lines (71/8 cm).
Figure 3.13 Pottery shapes of Dauch-Budrukh
3.7 Dharangaon (74° 25’ 62” E.; 19° 50’ 19” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 5km upstream from Kopargaon town on the right bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site known as “Rajwada” is located to the North-East of the village. The site is spread over an area of two and half acres with a 1 m thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Historic period. There is a broken old “Rajwada”, around which is a stone wall.

The habitational deposit over-lies the black soil, developed on Pleistocene silt. This mound has no modern occupation but a part of the mound is disturbed due to digging by the villagers. The pottery from Dharangaon consists mainly of Black and Red wares. Dishes rimless bowls abound. A few of them are handmade, treated with a slip and burnished.

Figure 3.14 Habitation mound of Dharangaon
3.7.1 Pottery shapes of Dharangaon (Figure 3.15)

1) Fragment of slightly deep bowls with slightly incurved sides, featureless rims and convex profile (32/20).

2) Fragment of a small globular pot with sloping neck and have horizontal lines on the thickened portion of the out-turned rim (33/8 cm).

3) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with slightly out-turned and externally thickened rim (34/18 cm).

4) Fragment of a basin with wide-mouth, slightly thick nails headed flat rim and tapering towards the base (35/24 cm).

5) Fragment of a large globular pot with almost vertical sides and having beaded undercut with out-turned rim. On external surface have six horizontal lines (36/20 cm).

6) Fragment of a large vessel with long out-turned rim slightly thickened. On external surface have four horizontal lines (37/24 cm).

7) Fragment of a medium-sized cylindrical vessel with beaked rim (38/18 cm).

8) Fragment of a medium-sized vessel with strait cylindrical neck and externally thickened out-turned rim which has a slightly border in the form of two ridges on either ends (51/22 cm).

9) Fragment of a deep bowl with slightly incurved sides and a featureless but externally thickened and slopping rim (52/16 cm).
10) Fragment of a globular vessel with incurved rounded rim; thickened in internal (53/30 cm).

11) Fragment of a globular vessel with wide-mouth, out-turned rim, round on top (54/18 cm).

12) Fragment of a probably globular vessel with out-turned rim and concave neck, it have two ridges on exterior portion of the centre of neck and shoulder portion (55/20 cm).

Figure 3.15 Pottery shapes of Dharangaon
3.8. Suregaon (74°20’ 54” E.; 19°55’ 22” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 22km upstream from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site known as “Juna Rajwada” (Inamdar or Jagirdar) is located half km to the North-West of the village. The site lies between the village and the river Godavari. The site is spread over an area of two and half to three acres with two meter thick habitation deposit. It belongs to the Early Historical period. There is a well decorated old Mahadev temple near the site. The small habitational mound is close to the Rajwada. The surface of this mound is made up of alluvium soil with gravel and silt.

The most common wares collected from this site are the Black and Red ware, Plain Red ware, thick Coarse Red ware and thin Red wares. They are handmade and well fired. The shapes and fabric of these are similar.

![Figure 3.16 Habitation mound of Suregaon](image-url)
The Coarse Red ware is the most common ware. This ware is made up of a very coarse type of clay which contains a lot of variegation. The coarse variety is more abundant. The surface and the core of this ware are black. There is yet another variety whose outer surface bears a thick coating of reddish slip which makes the surface smooth. It is not burnished and hence appears dull red. So far only two shapes, mainly a globular and a carinated vessel have been noticed. The thick coarse ware is mainly handmade without a slip. The main shapes are mostly bowls, vases and dishes.

3.8.1 Pottery shapes of Suregaon (Figure 3.17)

1) Fragment of deep bowl with featureless rim; slightly diminishing oblique sides (45/20 cm).

2) Fragment of a basin with featureless rim and external surface have a slightly ridge (46/22 cm).

3) Fragment of a vertical-sided deep basin with slightly out-turned upper sides and featureless rim (47/16 cm).

4) Fragment of a bowl with slightly incurved, sharpened rim and convex sides (48/26 cm).

5) Fragment of a bowl with slightly incurved, thickened rim on top and convex sides (49/20 cm).

6) Fragment of a bowl with externally grooved incurved featureless rim and diminishing convex sides (50/20 cm).

7) Fragment of a bulbous vase with out-turned beaded rim, short neck (24/20 cm).

8) Fragment of a bowl with flared mouth and featureless rim; thickened on end and slanting sides (25/16 cm).
Figure 3.17 Pottery shapes of Suregaon
9) Fragment of a bowl with featureless rim; thickened on external (26/14 cm).

10) Fragment of a storage jar with everted beaded rim, and short neck (27/30 cm).

11) Fragment of a basin with internally chamfered rim and externally grooved incurved sides (28/12 cm).

12) Fragment of a bowl with internally thick, featureless rim and sides turning downwards to the base (29/18 cm).

13) Fragment of a bowl with internally obliquely cut rim (30/12 cm).

14) Fragment of a shallow bowl with slightly out-curved rim (31/12 cm).

3.9 Suregaon-Sangwi (74° 20’ 55” E.; 19° 55’ 23” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 24km upstream from Kopargaon town, on the right bank of the river Godavari. The site is spread over an area of three and half acres with two meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Historic period. There is an old Mahadev temple near this site. Around this temple there are a number of small temples dedicated to Dev Maruthi, Ganesha and others. This site is very close to the river Godavari. It is a habitational site, with white soil and gravel.

The plain Red ware found here is represented by a couple of sherds. There is nothing artistic about them. The Red slip is thin and was done crudely by means of fingers dipped in red ochre. There is no further treatment given to this Red slip ware. Some pot sherds are handmade, and some wheel made and well fired. The pottery as a whole suffers from a definite degeneration not only in fabric and surface treatment but also in shapes. The Red ware is on the whole much more than the Black ware. Rim sherds were few for the Red slipped ware.
3.9.1 Pottery shapes of Suregaon-Sangwi (Figure 3.19)

1) Fragment of vessels with beaded rim; short concave neck with ridge (2/48 cm).

2) Fragment of a basin with featureless thickened rim having grooves on both sides (11/20 cm).

3) Fragment of a basin with broad mouth and it having a slightly incurved rim round on top. It has a groove on internal tapering side (12/20 cm).

4) Fragment of a deep bowl with slightly out-turned rim having round on end (19/20 cm).

5) Fragment of a small globular pot with almost vertical neck and externally beaded rim (20/12 cm).
Figure 3.19 Pottery shapes of Suregaon-Sangwi
6) Fragment of a bowl with thickened, externally beveled rim showing incurved profile (21/12 cm).

7) Fragment of a basin with long splayed out featureless rim; sharp on top (22/20 cm).

8) Fragment of a globular pot with high vertical rim having two shallow grooves on outer surface. On slightly concave neck has incised groove (39/10 cm).

9) Fragment of a broad vessels with out-turned rim and thickened on external. It has an incised groove inside the rim; slightly concave neck (40/24 cm).

10) Fragment of vase of with externally chamfered rim making a ridge, turning inwards to form a short concave neck (41/12 cm).

11) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with slightly out-turned thickened rim and rounded top (42/12 cm).

12) Fragment of a globular pot with short concave neck and externally bulbous rim (43/20 cm).

3.10 Kandles-Budruk (74° 15’ 45” E.; 19° 55’ 27” N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The site is located 30km upstream from Kopargaon town, on the left bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site is known as “Gadi”, and is located one km to the west of the village. The site is spread over an area of three and half acres with two meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Historic period. There are two temples in this village; one is a Krishna temple and the other a Mahadev temple. There is a small Ghat near the Mahadev temple. The mound is small and is located close to a Ghat on the river Godavari. This mound is shown on the topography sheet. It has no modern occupation but a part of the mound is disturbed due to digging activity.
The pottery from Kandles consists mainly of Black and Red ware, plain Black and thin Red ware, gray ware and thick coarse Red ware. In one type of the Red ware the surface is burnished. The sherds collected were mainly base sherds and rim sherds. Dishes are present. Most of the pottery was wheel made and a few of them were handmade.

Figure 3.20 Habitation mound of Kandles-Budruk

3.10.1 Pottery shapes of Kandles-Budruk (Figure 3.21)

1) Fragment of a globular vessel with simple externally beaded rim with undercut groove. It has a short concave neck (1/22 cm).

2) Fragment of a globular vessel with out-turned thickened rim having undercut groove. It has a slightly convex vertical neck (3/16 cm).

3) Fragment of a vessel with almost straight vertical neck and slightly flaring rim (4/26 cm).
4) Fragment of a possibly globular pot with outgoing rim, short concave neck with grooved and sloping shoulder (5/20 cm).

5) Fragment of a medium storage pot with slightly rounded out rim (8/16 cm).

6) Fragment of a medium-sized globular pot with narrow vertical neck and beaded rim (9/14 cm).

7) Fragment of a basin with long splayed out featureless rim; concave neck (10/20 cm).

8) Fragment of a medium-sized globular vessel with externally beaded rim; slightly concave neck (13/10 cm).

9) Fragment of a bowl with splayed out rim, externally as well as internal grooved neck (14/14 cm).

10) Fragment of a bowl with featureless incurved rim and thickened on externally (15/12 cm).

11) Fragment of a bowl with flaring sides and featureless rim; sharp on end (17/16 cm).

12) Fragment of a globular pot with slightly flared mouth and banded externally; with having outer grooved (18/14 cm).
Figure 3.21 Pottery shapes of Kandles-Budruk
3.11 Ajanapur (74° 15’ 44’’ E.; 19° 55’ 27’’ N) Kopargaon, Ahmednagar

The village is located 32km upstream from Kopargaon town, on the left bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site is known as “Gadi”. The site is spread over an area of four to five acres with one and half meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Proto-historic period. There is a small dilapidated “Datta” temple near the ancient site. It is a very rich habitational mound. The mound lies opposite the village, across the river Godavari.

3.11.1 Pottery Description

There are various types of pottery were found in large amount on the surface of the site. The most common wares are the black and red ware and some of painted black on red ware, plain red ware, thick coarse red ware, black ware, red slipped ware and burnished gray ware.
The pottery assemblage from this site appears to be somewhat similar to that reported from Nevasa (Sankalia *et al.* 1960). A small test excavation is necessary to confirm the cultural sequence at the site.

A fair number of pottery discs and some grinding stones are present. The Black and Red ware is represented by shapes like small bowls, dishes, cooking pots etc. It was made by the inverted firing technique. The bases of the pots are Red while the tops and interiors are black. The surfaces are highly burnished and the walls of the pots are quite thin. Some of them have a darker surface which is almost dark red in color.

The red polished ware from the village (Aajanapur) is well fired. This site is extremely interesting from the point of view of the pottery assemblage which appears to belong to the proto-historic period. Here also the habitational deposit overlies the brown soil which has developed over the Pleistocene silt.

In addition to pottery, one quartz bead, a terracotta bead and a round ear-stud of jasper were collected. Some un-worked pieces of jasper were also collected. Other miscellaneous objects found were shell bangles, discs, beads, lids, and knobs, unidentified terracotta figure, grinding stone and stone lamps.
Figure 3.23 Pottery from Ajanapur
3.11.2 Terracotta Objects

1. Unidentified figurine (Figure 3.24)

An unidentified terracotta figurine was collected from the Aajanapur, partially dull black and dull red in colour; it is well baked and outer surface is smooth. It appears like human figurine, above portion broken from waist line. The fabric is coarse to medium.

Figure 3.24: Unidentified terracotta figurine of Aajanapur

2. Bead (Figure 3.25)

There are two terracotta beads found on surface, among one is in *Ghat* shape and bigger in size and perforation. It is dull red in colour, medium to well fire and medium fabric. Another specimen is small in size and slightly round in shape. It is medium to well fire and medium fabric; dull red in colour.
3. Perforated disc (Figure 3.26)

There are two terracotta perforated discs found on the surface collection from Aajanapur. One is bigger in size and round in shape; made of red slipped ware sherd. It is approximately 3 cm in diameter and having 0.7 cm thickness. It has big perforation in the centre, coarse to medium fabric and fired. Another is very thin in size and round in shape. Made of dull red in colour, coarse to medium fabric and fired. It has small perforation in the center (Figure 3.26).
3.12 Kolgaon-Sangwi (74º 10’ 14” E.; 19º55’ 58” N) Niphad, Nasik

The village is located 33km upstream from Niphad (Taluka), on the left bank of the river Godavari. The ancient site known as “Bhari” is located half a kilometer to the West of the village. The site is spread over an area of two to three acres with two meter thick habitation deposit. The site belongs to the Early Historical period. There is a ‘Kate-Maruti’ temple to the North of this village with its entrance facing south towards the village. The habitational mound is very close to the river Godavari. There is no bus service to this village.

![Figure 3.27 Habitation mound of Kolgaon-Sangwi](image)

3.12.1 Pottery Description

The different wares from this mound are Painted Black on Red ware, red slipped ware, plain Red ware, coarse thick Red and Black ware and Gray ware. A fair number of rim sherds, vessels, dishes and bowls were collected. Mostly wheel made types are found here. Most of the pottery types were of everyday use. Some of these show evidence of being used for cooking. The Black and Red ware is either well burnished or un-burnished and is coarse. In the former variety, the inner surface and parts of the outer surface are invariably burnished. The typical shapes are rimless bowls and dishes.
The Coarse Black and Red ware is un-burnished and does not represent a separate ware since most of the shapes are common to both these varieties. The Red and Black ware was represented by very few sherds. It is different in technique. Here the outer bases are black while the rim and the interiors are red. Three varieties are available in the Red ware which is the most abundant. i) These varieties are is the Coarse Red with dull brown surfaces, ii) the Red ware with thin dark red wash, iii) the slipped Red ware.
3.13 Pastoral Community settled around the ancient explored sites in Ahmednagar District

Nomadism is one of the oldest patterns of adaptation of the people of their environment. It is spread over large part of Africa, the Middle East, Persia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Historical evidence shows that political, economic, cultural and geographical factors such as topography, climate, vegetation, hydrology, etc., have combined to give rise to nomadism as a way of life. In India, pastoral nomadism is chiefly to be found in the arid parts of Western India, forest and hilly regions of Central India, and sub mountainous regions in North India, where availability of grazing land makes possible the raising of livestock, but their maintenance at one place for long periods is difficult, because topography, climate, vegetation and water-resources cannot sustain this pattern of land use (Bose 1975: 1).

Maharashtra, being at the confluence of the north and the south, houses a large number of nomadic and de-notified communities who have originated from both the directions (Bokil 2002:148). Though they are termed as tribes, for all practical purposes they were treated as castes in the traditional rural society. They were not considered untouchables but occupied lower-most positions in social hierarchy (Bokil 2002:148).

The two nomadic communities in the explored area are the Pardhi and Dhangars.

3.13.1 Pardhi

The Pardhi are traditional hunters (Singh et al. 2004:1650). Presently, they are partly engaged in small game hunting. According to Russell and Hiralal (Singh et al. 2004:1650) the word Pardhi is derived from the Marathi word ‘pardh’, which means hunting. However, the community themselves prefer to be called as ‘buri’. They say that they have migrated from Gujarat and at present are found only in settlement areas of Maharashtra. They speak among themselves in Gujarati. They also know Marathi and Hindi. They are
easily identified by their dressing style. The men are seen with a turban on their head; particularly the older people and the woman wear *ghagra*. They are grouped under Scheduled Tribes in Maharashtra State (Singh *et al.* 2004: 1650). They have a very strong caste or tribal council. Almost all the decisions pertaining to their domestic and social life are negotiated in the caste council (Bokil 2002:148).

Being nomadic they have strong ecological connections. Many of them are dependent upon various types of natural resources and carve out intricate ecological niches for their survival. The changes in ecology and environment seriously affect their livelihood options (Bokil 2002:148).

Generally Pardhi have carved their livelihoods through a variety of activities, they could be suitably classified in four categories: (a) pastorals and hunter-gatherers (b) goods and service nomads (c) entertainers and (d) religious performers (Bokil 2002:149-150). They also call themselves as the Phanse-Pardhi/Bauri (hunters who use snares and loops for hunting). There are other groups like; 1) Raj-Pardhi, 2) Gai-pardhi, 3) Pal-Pardhi (those who stay in tent (*pal*) and collect herbs from the forest) (Singh *et al.* 2004:1650).

During fieldwork it was observed there are other Pardhi sub-groups like: Haran-Pardhi (who hunt only deer), Takar-Pardhi/Takankar (grinding stone worker), and Langoti-Pardhi (who wear only a narrow strip of cloth around the waist).

Domesticated animals form an integral part of their economy. Various types of animals - horses, donkeys, bullocks, cows, sheep, dogs, monkeys and bears - are reared, trained and used by the nomads. A variety of wild game like foxes, boars, deer, lizards, mongooses, snakes and hares trapped, hunted, and sold. They also have a close relationship with flora. A number of vegetative products are obtained, processed and sold by them. As they are constantly on the move, they do not have any permanent home. Though many of them have now begun to settle down, but traditionally they did not possess land rights or house titles (Bokil 2002:148).
The staple food of the Pardhi is chapatti (bread) of jowar, wheat, nachni, or bajra. They also eat urad, tur, masoor on eaten on different occasions. Vegetable available in the area are also consumed. They eat chicken, mutton, pork and fish occasionally. Alcoholic drinks are consumed occasionally by the males. It is reported that they also brew liquor from molasses in their houses. As they are traditional hunters they also consume the meat of various kinds of birds viz. pigeon, pheasants and partridges (teetar) etc. But now they have taken up various occupations for their livelihood. These occupations consist of white collar as well as blue collar jobs. The traditional occupation of hunting has now become a recreational activity and generally ventured by landless. The people are settled in the fringe area (Singh et al. 2004:1652). They use firewood as fuel and groundnut oil as the cooking medium (Singh et al. 2004:1650).

The community is endogamous but the surnames are exogamous (Singh et al. 2004:1651). The family type among the Pardhi varies from extended to nuclear and the size varies from small to medium (Singh et al. 2004:1651).

The Pardhi have their own traditional council known as the Jat panchayat and the leader is known as the Pudhari. This post is hereditary and reserved for the people holding surnames Kale. The succession of this office is by primogeniture. The traditional panchayat deals with the disputes of the community, viz. petty quarrels, adultery and disrespect for the traditional norms of the community (Singh et al. 2004:1650-51).

The Pardhi are Hindus and also worship village deities. The traditional inter-community linkages are maintained with potters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, and the cobblers to meet certain necessities of their day to day life; they accept food and water from neighbouring Hindu castes and communities. Inter community marriage is not allowed. The dead are buried among the Pardhi. The Pardhi bury their dead in the same cremation ground where the other Hindus cremate their dead bodies. They do not observe any ritual in this connection. (Singh et al. 2004:1652-1653).
Though outward expressions differ in different communities, the underlying socio-religious feature is that women are considered a piece of property. Child marriages are common. Among Pardhis, women are sold, exchanged, mortgaged and even leased out (Mane 2001:54). In most of the communities dowry is paid to the bride and, hence, parents frequently indulge in extracting as much price as possible (Bokil 2002:151).

3.13.2 Dhangar (Figures 3.29 to 3.54)

The word Dhangar is derived from the Sanskrit word dhenu i.e. cow, this community is described as a quiet and innocent group of people who wander with flocks and herds. They are called by different synonyms like Dhangar and Dhangad (Singh et al. 2004:495).

According to Enthoven (1920), the Dhangar are descended from a Shudra father and a Malista woman. The Malista again is said to be the offspring of a Kshatriya man and Vaishya woman. They have various social sub-groups such as Bandi, Asal Fuiekar, Zade, Vartade, Ladshi, Kurmar, Railcar, Iolkar, Golkar, Katttewadi, Maratha Gauali etc (Singh et al. 2004:495).

The mother tongue of the Dhangar is Marathi, but they know Hindi, Telugu and Gujarati. The script used by them is Devanagari. The males and females, of the community wear a typical dress which helps to identify them. The male dress comprises of pheta on the head, barakashsi phatei to cover the body, hand-rings, stick in hand, typical shoes, the tilak or kharidoba on the forehead, wakat for sleeping, pot of water in hand, ghongadi on shoulder etc. The female dress comprises an oval-shaped kumkum mark on the forehead, choli (blouse)/Lugada with red border, white bangles and silver patalya on the wrists, jodure on the second toes of the feet, the husband's name on the forehead, nose ring, akdani on the neck etc (Singh et al. 2004: 495).

Dhangars are pastoral-nomads. They are greatly associated with their surrounding environment. They have rich idea about the surrounding flora and fauna of different place and are mostly dependent on land and forest.
Their main occupations are as shepherds, cattle breeders, cattle sellers and blanket weavers. Those who live in the plains rear horses, called Dhangars horses which are famed for their hardiness and endurance. They deal in wool and weave coarse blankets called *chavales* (Singh *et al.* 2004: 498). Their subsistence also includes hunting (partial) and fishing.

During the fair seasons they graze their sheep in the countryside. They move from one place to another for exploiting the natural resource of their surrounding environment. They occupy any place or land and live their very short period of time. As their lifestyle is nomadic in nature moving from one place to another, they have rich experience and knowing about the environment, climate, weather and flora-fauna. They receive considerable quantities of grains in return for holding their sheep and goats in agricultural fields to provide manure.

They place their settlement where the availability of water and vegetation resources is rich. So they chose thin forest (for grazing the animal) and stream, pond, well, *nala*, river, lagoon, or artificial dam (for drinking purpose). They have a great reputation for forecasting weather, which they do by observing planets. Some of them have abandoned their original occupation and work as brick layers petty shopkeepers, messengers and money lenders (Singh *et al.* 2004: 498).

Some fifty to sixty years ago the Dhangars were considered to be professional predators, but after independence the government, in order to prevent them from indulging in illicit profession, seriously undertook certain measures. The land was distributed among them and maximum facilities were extended which enabled them to resort to agriculture. The agricultural operations are conducted by both male and females jointly but fishing and gathering is mainly done by women and children, whereas males are involved in small game hunting. Domestication of animal is their prime occupation in spite the agricultural activity.
The Dhangar practice two types of cultivation; shifting axe cultivation in the forest with the help of hoes and permanent cultivation with the help of ploughs. Hill slopes are also used for cultivation. The farming is characterized by the rotation of crops; like the summer and the winter crops on the same plot in different seasons (Bhowmik 1971). Some of the tools such as plough and seed drill are made by the Dhangar (Karve 1961). They have a tradition of ash cultivation in which the branches of trees, small bushes and grass are brought to the field and allowed to dry. They are burnt down when fully dried. It is on this ashy surface that the seeds are sown. Before sowing, the field is ploughed and leveled. The most common agricultural implements used are a plough, hoe, digging stick, axe, crowbar, rake, iron point and weeder. The energy of cattle, especially bulls and buffaloes, is mainly harnessed for dragging ploughs, while their dung serves as manure for the fields.

The Dhangar grow a variety of crops which include dadar (*Sorghum vulgare*), banter (*Panicum cressgalli*), kodra (*Pospalumscrobiculatum*). Out of these dadar is their staple food. *Bajara, jawar, nachni*, wheat and rice also regarded main their diet. The other crops grown on a small scale are rice, Indian sun hemp (*San*) (which is mainly used for making ropes), tobacco, etc., for domestic consumption. A number of vegetables such as brinjal, papaya, gourd, pumpkins, etc., are grown.

Collection of fruits and other forest products, and poultry farming also play an important role in their subsistence. Fruits and other forest products are collected mainly by women and children. They collect fruit of *almo, akano, amra, banana, charoli, dhaman, guler, ghamrel, gopal, jarnun, kado, khatamana, mahava, clan, sitaphal, timro*, and *umro*. Collecting of honey and *mahua* flowers (*Bassia latifolia*) is considered to be very lucrative, for both these items fetch handsome cash. The *mahua* flowers are used for manufacturing wine, and the seeds are useful for extraction of oil (Karve 1961: 29). Wine which is locally manufactured from the *mahua* flowers, are consumed occasionally. They sell bamboo products such as baskets, mats,
etc., for cash. Sometimes a small quantity of chili, raw and ripe mangoes and wild fruits are also sold by these people in the local market. The babul and khair (Acacea catechu) trees are gum yielding. A variety of berries and plants are collected, many of them of medicinal value. Thus, they are well versed in the properties of different plants and fruits. The Pujaro, who is supposed to be the medicine-man, obtains medicine from certain plants, roots, barks and flowers. Sick persons are cured by the Pujaro with the help of herbal medicine.

Every Dhangar family possesses a number of fowls which are mainly used for eggs and chickens. But, being limited in number, they cannot afford to consume either eggs or chicken daily. However, they enjoy these on a particular feast daily. Sometimes, for appeasing god or ghost, a fowl is sacrificed, or eggs are offered.

The term "wadi" is derived from the Sanskrit word Vātikā meaning a garden plot. A "wadi" in modern Marathi means a garden plot of fruit trees and vegetables or a small group of hutments near the corn fields. Wadis are thus small settlements not big enough to be called villages. Originally, they are part of villages and are administered and looked after by the hereditary village officers. Every village generally has wadis. All the Wadi-names have been classified under the following twelve heads. Wadis are named after (1) Villages, (2) Other kinds of settlements, (3) Castes, (4) Family names, (5) Personal names, (6) Trees, (7) Crops, (8) Animals, (9) Topographical positions, (10) Gods, Spirits and Temples, (11) Miscellaneous names, and (12) Unclassified names (Mehendale vol-8: 404).

In permanent settlement, pastoral activity is the most important activity next only to agriculture. Generally, each and every family possesses the wealth of sheep-goat, considerably in good number. A pair of bullocks is found in each house, for they supply essential energy not only for pulling ploughs but also for bullock carts. Sometimes buffaloes are also yoked, but never a cow, cattle and sheep/goat are grazed on pasture which is public property.
Milk is a good source of protein, besides they supply curd, buttermilk and clarified butter.

The most common form of family structure is the nuclear family. Joint families are very few. (Singh et al. 2004: 497). The dead body is buried or cremated. The death rituals are carried out by religious purohit (Singh et al. 2004: 498). They have a council (panchayat) presided over by a hereditary president, the Chaudhuri, which meets for caste related business on occasions of marriage and death and for caste offences. The community professes Hinduism, and belongs both to the Shiva and Bhagavat sects. (During the fair seasons they graze their sheep in the countryside. They receive considerable quantities of grains in return for holding their sheep and goats in agricultural fields to provide manure. The Dhangar worship the ghosts of their deceased ancestors and keep images of their ancestors in their house (Singh et al. 2004: 499). They follow the oral tradition. Folk songs and dances are performed by the men and women together; they learn the verses from some learned person and recite them at their religious rituals and fairs (Singh et al. 2004: 500).

As seen in recent past most nomadic communities, depend on begging as a supplementary activity. Many Dhanagars though traditionally nomadic pastorals had not established right over land and, hence, most of them are now being forced to cultivate small tracts of marginal lands which have resulted into substantial lowering in the quality of life (Malhotra and Gadgil 1981:59). At present, the Dhangar are gradually leaving their traditional occupation and have started working in textile mills, sugar mills, educational institutions, government and private jobs. They entirely depend on the market for their requirements. The mode of transaction is cash (Singh et al. 2004: 499). Some of them work as brick layers petty shopkeepers, messengers and money lenders (Singh et al. 2004: 498).
3.13.3 Salient Features of Pardhi and Dhangars of Ahmednagar

1. The Ahmednagar district is divided into 14 talukas. Among these talukas, Parmer, Karjat, Phulthamba and Shrigonda are the most important, where the Pardhi and Dhangar communities settle. Some of them settle permanently outside the village/town and some members of the community move from one place to another for pasture land and other subsistence requirements.

2. The Pardhis visit to the weekly markets of Sanvatsar and Babthar villages for exchange of goods. They follow the exchange pattern of trade called ‘barter system’. Generally they exchange the goods and material which they collect during theft. On other hand they purchase material for daily needs from the traders.

3. The purpose of the Dhangar settlement is totally different. Dhangar come to Sanvatsar and Babthar to settle temporarily outside the village especially in the cultivated land. They villagers allow them to graze around the area with their pastoral animal. Usually they are also engaged with the exchange of trade items in local bazar, by selling the milk products and dry vegetables and fruits.

4. Presently, Dhangars and Pardhis make temporary settlements in various taluka of Parner, Karjat, Phulthamba, Shrigonda, Akola, Rahuri and Shevgaon. Among all, Parner and Karjat have more population of these communities; the reason of large occupation is the pasture land and nearness to Pune district. A local market is held twice a week in Parner and Karjat Taluka where these communities sell goods.
5. It was observed that due to less rainfall from last twenty years agricultural production has decreased substantially and because of that people of this area especially Pardhi and Dhangar are turning to crime and looting activity which is increasing day by day. The basic difference between Pardhi and Dhangar is that Dhangar are more hardworking and honest whereas Pardhi are apposite of Dhangar, they are doing crime like looting to the people.

6. Permanent settlements of Dhangars are seen in Shevgaon, Akola, Rahuri and Pathurdi villages. The reason being that these areas have number of water source such as artificial lakes, streams, small river tributaries and nullas. Due to availability of plenty water they are cultivating various crops, pulses and vegetables.

7. There are many members of Kunbi community living in Singoda, Nevasa and Jamkhed Taluka and have made small permanent settlement. They are basically agriculturist and cultivate vegetables and now consider themselves as Dhangar.

8. Where Rivers Godavari and Pravara meet is called ‘Pravera Sangam’, here we can see large settlements of Dhangar. It is historically and geographically this area is very important and surrounded by Sahyandri ranges. Near Akola and Sangamner there is a big dam called ‘Bhandarwada dam’, around the dam Dhangars have made large permanent settlements.

9. The reasons for the decline of Early Historic Settlement of Godavari Basin might be due to many factors such as earthquake, floods and diseases. Anthropologist Prof. John Luckas and Prof. S.R.Walimbe (assisted by researcher) have carried out a detailed survey in the tribal community of Maharashtra. Prof. Walimbe visited to the Ahmednagar district near the Godavari basin where many tribal communities reside.
During the survey it was observed that cause of illness is due to malnutrition, scurvy (Vitamin ‘C’ deficiency), and Malaria (personal communication).

10. Effects of ecological changes are a constant phenomenon in Ahmednagar District, mainly due to fluctuation in rainfall; agricultural practices are affected considerably and so has pasture land. In Nevasa, Shrigonda and Jamkhed agricultural practices have increased in comparison to Godavari basin. Whereas in Seogaon, Akola, Rahuri and Pathori agricultural practices have reduced.

11. Due to river shifting and changes of the ecological factors, large settlements along the Godavari and its tributaries are now reducing to smaller settlements.

Following are the photographs taken among the Dhangars in the study area;
Figure 3.29 Interview being conducted in the temporary camp of Dhangars in village Phulthamba

Figure 3.30 An Dhangar head man and his wife in their traditional attire
Figure 3.31 A Dhangar couple in their traditional attire in their temporary camp

Figure 3.32 A temporary camp of Dhangar in a sugarcane field
Figure 3.33A Dhangar woman engaged in her daily work

Figure 3.34 Utensils used by Dhangar family in temporary camp
Figure 3.35 Dhangar women collecting dry roots

Figure 3.36 Three-stone open hearth of Dhangars in their temporary camp
Figure 3.37 Open storage of food and grocery in the Dhangar temporary camp

Figure 3.38 Temporary pen made by *acacia* bush for young lambs and kids
Figure 3.39 Nets used to barricade pen

Figure 3.40 Dhangar taking sheep for grazing
Figure 3.41 Dhangar taking goats for grazing

Figure 3.42 Net being installed in the agricultural field where sheep/goat can graze
Figure 3.43 Nylon net is installed temporarily as barricade

Figure 3.44 Net barricade is for protection from wild animal and theft in night, the droppings of sheep/goat works as manure in agricultural field
Figure 3.45 The stalk and grass are eaten by sheep/goat by the roots, hence Dhangars are called upon on regular intervals after and before the harvest.

Figure 3.46 Packing of items at temporary camps of Dhangars before move to next destination.
Figure 3.47 Dhangar woman stacking materials on horse

Figure 3.48 Dhangar woman tightening the rope: the material on the back includes basket, blankets, wood and grains
Figure 3.49 Dhangar woman placing newly born lamb in the basket to be carried on the horse

Figure 3.50 Items like iron implements, agricultural tools and basket with fowl are carried on the horse
Figure 3.51 Young Dhangar girl with her pet dog: dogs are useful for taming sheep and goat and also for their protection.

Figure 3.52 Dhangar woman caring her young child on the horse along with other the goat and young domestic animal (chicken, hen and rooster).
Figure 3.53 Dhangar families settle and move together from time to time depending on the grazing area and demand by the agriculturist

Figure 3.54 Dhangars on move to new destination
Figure 3.55 Dhangar woman mainly carry the moveable item collected from the temporary camp on the horse while men take flock of sheep and goat