Chapter -06
Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Districts
Selected for the Primary Data Collection

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Introduction
Most of the regions of Maharashtra come under rain fed conditions. Twenty out of the total thirty districts, covering more than twenty thousand villages, are classified as drought stricken. The current irrigation cover of Maharashtra stands at around 20 per cent (19.20%) which is less than the national average of 38 per cent. Hence excluding a few regions having availability of irrigation cover, much of the state agriculture depends on the vagaries of monsoon resulting in low productivity and cropping intensity. As a result, the incidence of rural poverty (31%) in the state is still above the national average. Despite a long experience of employment guarantee scheme, the state is far from meeting the requirements of rural infrastructure for its agriculture and allied sectors. Majority of the agriculture in the state being seasonal, the issue of employment becomes more acute. As a result of the drought stricken rural economy of the state and the lack of policy efforts and targeted public investment the state of Maharashtra has become one of the worst affected regions of suicides by farmers in the country. All the nine districts of three regions of the state are also no exception to these peculiarities of the state where the villages selected for present study come under these districts. Average annual rainfall of these districts is limited with major parts having no irrigation coverage. Hence, despite concerted efforts of targeting poverty through national planning, an estimated 301.72 million of Indians still remain in poverty where the state of Maharashtra is not an exception to it. The decline in poverty from 36 per cent in 1993-94 to 27.5 per cent by 2004-05 has been much less than was anticipated. 28.3 (220.92 million persons) of rural whereas 25.7 per cent (80.79 million persons) of urban population of
India and around 32 (rural) and 27 per cent (urban) of Maharashtra cannot afford to spend Rs.356.30 and Rs.538.68 on their monthly consumption as determines the poverty line. GDP oriented economic transformation of the country and the state during the economic reforms has widened the gap between rich and poor.

All the nine districts that have been covered under the present study are characterized by scanty rainfall and limited irrigation cover. Same is the story about other socio-economic characteristics such as income, employment, poverty, rural electrification, health and water availability.

6.1 Ahmednagar

The city which was established by Malik Ahmed in 1494 and later became the capital of Nizamshahi is known as Ahmednagar. Earlier it was a part of Pune region but from 1981 it has been included in the Nashik Region for revenue administration. The Ahmednagar district is located at the Uppar part of Godavri and Bhima rivers which is at the centre of the Maharashtra state. The geographical location of the district is 18.2 to 19.9 degree North Latitude and 73.9 to 75.5 degree East Longitude.

6.1.1 Area and Administrative Services

The area covered by Ahmednagar district is 17413 sq. km. which makes the district as largest in the state. In the proportion of one in each of the tehsil there are 14 panchayt samitees under the Zila Parishad Administration for the rural development.

6.1.2 Natural Features

There are Godavari and Bhima rivers in the district. Pravra is a tributary of Godavari whereas Mula a tributary of Pravra which flow from the northern part of the district. The Bhima River which emerges from Pune
district touches the Southern border part of Ahmednagar district. Seena, Kukadi and Ghod are the tributaries of Bhima River. According to the geographical location, the district is divided into two parts; one the western hilly area and second is the eastern plain area. Except outskirts of the Ahmednagar city and Parner tehsil there are no other economically significant minerals available in the district.

6.1.3 Land
The land of the district can be divided into three parts 1) high fertile soil in the basin of the rivers, 2) black soil with the mixture of stones and boulders on the slope of hilly areas and 3) barren land.

6.1.4 Rainfall and Weather
The weather of the district is generally hot and dry. Ahmednagar district is known as drought stricken region of the Maharashtra. In 2008-09 the average rainfall of the district was 524mm. According to statistics, it can be said that the proportion of rainfall was low during the two years of 2007-2009.

6.1.5 Population
According to the census 2001, from the total population 4040642 of the district 80.11 per cent population (3236945) live in the rural parts and 19.89 per cent (803697) live in the urban areas. The sex ratio of the district is 941. The highest proportion of women per 1000 male is in Parner tehsil i.e. 990 and lowest in Nagar tehsil i.e. 906. From the total population of district, the population of SCs is 484655 (12%) whereas STs population is 303255 (7.51%). The total literate population of the district is 2598597 (75.30%) in which the proportion of literate male population is 85.70 per cent (1517029) whereas female literacy is 64.30 per cent (1081568). The
density of population is 232 persons per sq. km. in the district which is 315 persons per sq. km. for Maharashtra state.

6.1.6 Agriculture
The geographical area of the district is 16.68 lakh hectares. In 2004-05 the total area under crop cultivation was 1185846 hectares. The area under multi crop is around 140310 hectares which is 11.16 per cent of the gross cropped area. According to the 1997 agriculture census, the total number of land holders were 681639 who held 1356322 hectares of land.

In the Kharif season the food crops like Bajara, Jowar, Paddy, Nachni, Varai, etc. and Cereals like Kulith, Mung, Math and oil seeds like Groundnuts and Sunflower are cultivated. Paddy and Nachani are the crops cultivated especially in Akole tehasil. Jowar, Wheat and Gram are the crops of Rabbi Season. In summer season the crops like Groundnut, Corn, Sunflower and Vegetables are cultivated where the irrigation facilities are available. In 2004-05, food crops covered 75.45 per cent and cereals 6.35 per cent of the total irrigated area of 1326156 hectares. The total area under Sugarcane is around 6.12 per cent and area under fruits and vegetables around 2.83 per cent. The area under fodder crops is about 9.26 per cent. Because of the use of organic and bio-fertilizers, the use of chemical fertilizers is reduced by 6.5 per cent in 2008-09 as compare to 2007-08. The agriculture produce is stored in the warehouses of Maharashtra government and co-operative societies particularly available in the northern parts of the district. There are 76 state government warehouses which have the capacity of 49.01 thousand metric ton. The marketing of the agricultural produce is carried out through 14 Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees and 26 Sub-centers of the
same located in the districts. Around 1994 sq. km. of the area is covered by forest. The income sources from the forestry are based especially on Sandal wood, Grass, Meditational plants, Curry leaves, Tendu leaves and other Ayurvedic plants.

6.1.7 Irrigation
The wells and large, medium and small lift irrigation projects are the main sources of irrigation available for the district. In 2004-05, 5.96 lakh hectares of the area was under irrigation. The percentage of it was 44.98 of the gross cropped area. Of the 4.32 lakh hectares of gross irrigated area, 0.90 lakh hectares of area was under cannel irrigation and 3.36 lakh ha. was under well irrigation.

6.1.8 Animal Husbandry
The distribution of total 30 lakh animal husbandry, according to the 2003 animal census, is as under;
Cattle- 47.44%, Goats and Sheeps- 43.39%, Horses- 0.10% and remaining 9.07% has consists others. The percentage of Cows and Bulls from the district is highest in the state. There are 2822 co-operative dairies in the district with the total membership of 143922. These dairies collected 2583.6 lakh liters of milk in the year of 2008-09. The average daily collection of milk in the year is 7.08 lakh liters.

6.2 Aurangabad
In 1610 the city named Khadki was renamed as Fattepur and later became known as Aurangabad during the course of time. The Agurangabad district mainly located in the basins of Godavari and Tapi Rivers.
Aurangabad district is located at 19 to 20 degree North latitude and 74 to 76 degree East Longitude. The total area of the district is 10,100 sq. km., which is 3.28 per cent of the total area of Maharashtra state. Out of this 141.1 sq. km. (1.40%) covers urban area and 9958.07 sq. km. (98.60%) comes under the rural parts. The government of Maharashtra has established Marathwada Statutory Development Board on 25th June 1994 for the removal of the regional financial backlog of development.

6.2.1 Rainfall
Generally the district is known as one of the drought stricken regions of the state with scanty rainfall. According to the data, there was 643.58 mm. of rainfall in the district in 2009 and comparing other tehasils the highest rainfall was registered in Kultabad tehasil which was 826.87 mm and the lowest 496.52 mm. in Sillod Tehasil.

6.2.2 Population
According to the 2001 census, the total population of the district is 2897013. Of the total population, the rural population is 1809863 whereas urban population is 1087150. The decadal growth rate is 30.86 per cent. The total area covered by Aurangabad district is 3.28 per cent of the state whereas population consists 3.02 per cent of the total state population. The density of population is about 287 persons per sq. km. The sex ratio of district is 924. The sex ratio for urban is 905 and for rural 980 (women per 1000 male population). The population of SCs is 376181 which is 13 per cent of total population of the district whereas STs population is 100416 (3.5%). The working population of the district is 1176 lakh which is 40.62 per cent of total population of the district. According to the survey of the
ministry of rural development 2002, there were 110190 households which were below poverty line.

6.2.3 Agriculture

The type of land in the northern part of the district is low fertile and the land in the basin of Godavri is black and high fertile. Crops are cultivated both during the rabbi and kharif seasons. Out of the total (10.7 lakh. ha.) geographical area, 0.81 lakh ha. is covered by forest i.e. 8.04 per cent of the total area in 2000-01. Out of the gross cropped area (8.52 lac ha.), 7.5 lac hectare is net cropped area. Mainly the crops for the kharif season are Hybrid Jowar, Bajara, Arhar, Mung, Urad, Kulad, Cotton and Groundnut. The Sugarcane and Banana are cultivated throughout the year and in summer the crops cultivated are Groundnut, Sunflower, Vegetables and Fruits, etc. In 2000-2001, out of the gross cropped area (852170 he.) the percentage of rabbi Jowar was 23.80, kharif Jowar-3.19, Bajara-18.89 and cereals were cultivated in the area of 490957 hectare which accounted for 57.61 per cent. The percentage of cereals was 13.95 out of the gross cropped area. Whereas Cotton and Oilseeds were 15.59 and 7.49 per cent respectively. According to the available figures for the year 2005-06, per hectare production of crop was registered as; Wheat 1654, Jowar 2214, Bajra-1142, Gram-729, Tur-617, Mung-666 and Cotton-219 k.g.

6.2.4 Irrigation

In 2000-01, the total irrigated area was 146683 hectares in which 14830 hectares was through cannel and 107351 hectares was irrigated by the wells. The percentage of it was 17.01 of the gross cropped area. From the total irrigated area 62.82 per cent was under food-grains, 13.96 % under
Sugarcane, 3.07 per cent under Cotton and remaining is used for Fruits and Vegetables.

6.2.5 Animal husbandry
Dairy farming is used as a supplementary source of income generation in the district. Which is beneficial for farmers and agricultural labourers. There are 1134 co-operative dairy societies in the district. Which have 62370 members. The milk is collected through government dairy. In 2008-09, 26382 thousand liters of milk was collected every day. There are 10 APMCs and 19 sub centers of the same to regulate the marketing of the agricultural produce in the district. The total turnover of produce was 64,258.41 metric ton and the value of the same has been Rs.6286.10 lakh (2008-09).

6.2.6 Electrification
12 mega vat electricity is produced through Jayakwadi multipurpose river valley project. 100 per cent of electrification is achieved by the district by the end of March 2009. Out of total electricity consumption 29.64 per cent of the electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.2.7 Employment
During the year 2008-09, there were 147328 workers in the district in different occupations. The classification of these workers is as; 38260 government, 49313 semi-government and remaining 59755 are engaged in private sector.

6.2.8 Education
In the year 2008 there were 2755 primary, 603 secondary and 185 higher secondary schools in the district. However there were 106 colleges and several other professional education institutions in the district.
6.2.9 Health Facilities

The medical/health facilities are provided through 23 rural hospitals, 66 primary health centers and 66 sub-centers of the same in the district.

6.3 Buldhana

Buldana city is the district's headquarter from the year 1867. The geographical location of the district is 19.51 to 21.17 degree North Latitude and 75.57 to 76.59 degree East Longitude. The area covered by Buldhana district is 9661 sq. km. It is 3.14 per cent of the state. For the convenience of administration, 13 tehasils are divided into five sub-divisions. Painganga is the main river of the district. The weather of the district is hot and dry. In 2008 the highest rainfall i.e. 671.20mm was registered at Malkapur centre and lowest of 401mm at Deulgaon Raja center.

6.3.1 Population

According to the census of 2001, the total population of the district is 2232480. In which there are 1147403 male and 1085077 female. During the last decade (1991-2001) the growth rate of population has been 18.35 per cent which was less than the state average. The density of population was 231 persons per sq. km. 79 per cent of population lives in rural whereas 21 per cent in urban areas. The sex ratio was 946. The population of SCs is about 10.82 per cent of the total. It is higher than (10.20 per cent) of the state average. The working population is around 45.51 per cent. And 32.53 per cent population is involved in agriculture related activities. The literacy rate is 75.80 per cent of which 86.90 per cent are male and 64.10 per cent the female.
6.3.2 Agriculture
The total geographical area of the district is 967099 hectares of which 79.77 and 79.65 per cent was the cultivable area during the year 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively, whereas 582 and 712 thousand hectare was net cropped area for the period. During the same period 437416 and 455996 hectares area was under food-grains which was 57.24 and 60.19 per cent of the gross cropped area. Jowar contributes highest share with 33.44 and 31.58 per cent of the total area under food-grains. Whereas in other crops; Pulses- 54.18 and 58.18, Wheat- 5.42 and 4.62, Cotton- 28.80 and 30.92 and Oilseeds contributes 11.48 and 6.83 per cent of the gross cropped area during the period 2000-01 and 2002-03. In the year 2007-08 Wheat and Jowar registered an increase in production over the year 2006-07. During the year 2007-08 the productivity of major crops was as under;

Jowar- 1710 kg., Wheat- 1999 kg., Tur-994 kg., Gram- 960k.g. and Cotton- 379 kg. per hectare. During the year 2001-02 the total area under fruits and vegetables was 11888 hectare. In the year 2008-09, 158387 metric ton of chemical fertilizers were distributed in which 10 per cent through the institutional and 90 per cent were distributed by the private sources. The marketing of agricultural produce carried out through 13 APMCs and 20 sub centers of APMCs in the district. These trading centers handled total of Wheat- 47108, Jowar- 31218 and Arhar- 48838 metric ton in the year 2008-09. The district has 1165 sq. k.m of forest cover which is 12 per cent of the total area of the district. The state government earned Rs.15.85 lakh from the district forest royalty during the year 2008-09.
6.3.3 Irrigation
During the year 2001-03 only 5.80 and 6.29 per cent of the area was under irrigation. Of the total irrigated area 79.23 and 75.38 per cent was irrigated through wells and 9.82 and 9.39 per cent through cannels. By the end of the year 2008-09, Nalganga, Dnyanganga, Koradi, Mas, Paldhag and Mandwa small irrigation projects were completed with creating of the additional irrigation potential of 26022 hectares.

6.3.4 Animal Husbandry
As per the animal census 2003 there were 1047280 animals in the district. In which Cows and Bulls were 50.51, Buffalos- 0.30, Sheeps and Goats- 41.19 and others-07 per cent.

6.3.5 Fishery
13681.50 hectares of the area was under controlled and natural fishery. In the year 2008-09 fish production of the district was 6889 metric ton with the value of Rs. 20.69 lakh.

6.3.6 Industry
During the year 2007, 421 factories were registered in which 379 were operating which generated employment for 6958 persons.

6.3.7 Electrification
The target of 100 per cent electrification is achieved by the district by the end of March 2009. Out of the total electricity consumption 41.20 per cent of the electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.3.8 Education
In the year 2006 there were 1574 primary, 295 secondary, 131 higher secondary schools and 14 colleges and few other professional education institutions in the district.
6.4 Wardha
The geographical location of the district is 18 to 20 degree North Latitude and 21 to 21.8 degree East Longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 6309 sq. km. which accounts for 2 per cent of the state. There are Satpuda hill ranges in the North whereas the district is located in the basin of Wardha and Venna Rivers. Wardha is the big river which emerges from Satpuda hills and passes through north-west border of the district. Yashoda, Venna and the Bakali are tributaries of the main river flowing from the district.

6.4.1 Weather and Rainfall
The weather conditions of the district are uncertain characterized by extreme hot during the summer and cold wave during the winter. The average rainfall of the district is 828.82mm.

6.4.2 Population
According to the census of 2001, the total population of the district is 1236736 in which 638990 are male and 597746 female with a decadal growth of 15.87 per cent. Out of total population 911695 (73.72%) lived in villages and 325041 (26.28%) is urban population. The density of population is 196 persons per square kilometer. Sex ratio of the district is 935 which is higher than state average (922). The total SC population of the district is 158630 (12.83%) whereas STs consists 154415 (12.49%). The total working population of the district is 44.50 per cent, which was 42.21 per cent in 1991. From the total working population 50.97 per cent is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The total literate population of the district is 80.10 per cent in which 87.20 per cent are male and 72.50 per cent the female. As per the current prices, gross per capita income of the
district in 2007-08 was Rs.41578/- whereas net per capita income was Rs.36685/-. However per capita income as per constant prices was Rs.28249.

6.4.3 Forest
Around 16 per cent of the geographical area of the district is under forest cover which is mostly in the northern parts of the district. High value trees like Tik wood, Dawada, Salai, Tendu, Malai, etc. are found in the forest of the district. The state government earned revenue for Rs.876 lakh from the district forestry during the financial year 2008-09.

6.4.4 Agriculture
In 2001, 73 per cent of the area was cultivable in which net cropped area was 80 per cent. In the year 2000-01 total of 138 thousand hectare area was under food-grains. In which Oilseeds consisted 56 thousand hectare, Jowar- 38 thousand hectare and Wheat- 19 thousand hectare whereas area under Cotton cultivation was 150 thousand hectare. In the year 2005-06 the total production of food crops was 40200 metric ton which was 41200 metric ton in the earlier year. During the same year the production of Cereals increased by 0.74 per cent. According to the available figures for the year 2008-09 per hectare productivity of major crops was; Jowar- 737, Paddy- 949, Wheat- 1714, Gram-712, Arhar- 1030, Urad- 386, Mung- 437, Til- 500 and Groundnut- 1263 kilo gram. And for cash crops Sugarcane-58 ton and Cotton 327 kg/he. In the year 2008-09, 837.97 hectare of the area was under horticulture and floriculture. During the year 2008-09, total of 101961 metric ton chemical fertilizers were used. In which 99 per cent fertilizers were distributed through private sources and only one per cent through the institutional sources such as the co-operatives and
panchayats. There are 07 APMCs in the district which control the marketing of agricultural produce. The crop wise turnover of these APMCs in 2008-09 was; Wheat- 13401, Cotton- 107141, Arhar- 38185, Groundnut- 355 and Soya bean- 118946 metric ton. The storage capacity of government and co-operative warehouses is 8000 and 9250 metric ton respectively.

6.4.5 Irrigation
In the year 2001-02, out of total irrigated area, 16 per cent was under cereals, Sugarcane- 17%, fruits and vegetables- 57%, Oilseeds- 3% and 7 per cent of the irrigated area was under other crops. The irrigation projects such as; Bore, Dham, Panchdhara, Dongargaon and Pothara were completed in the year 2008-09 which now can provide additional irrigation to 10789 hectare of the land in the district.

6.4.6 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census 2003 there were 569876 animals in the district. The classification of them is as follow; Cows and Bulls- 60.11%, Buffalos- 10.98% and Sheeps and Goats- 28.46 per cent. The daily collection of milk was around 27000 liters during the year 2008-09.

6.4.7 Industry and Employment
There were 169 registered industries in the year 2007. Out of total registered industries 134 were operating and providing employment to 7252 persons. In the year 2009 there were 364789 employees in different sectors. In which 17469 were in private, 11584 in semi government, and 7426 were in the government sector. It means 52 per cent were employed in public and 48 per cent were in the private sector.
6.4.8 Electrification
By March 2008, there was 93 per cent electrification available in the
district. Out of total electricity consumption, only 8.03 per cent of the
electricity is used for agricultural purpose which is far less than the state
average and the average of other districts.

6.4.9 Education
In the year 2008, there were 1098 primary, 271 secondary and higher
secondary schools and 72 colleges in the district. There were 280396
students enrolled for education in the district during the year 2008-09. As
well as, there are 2 medical, 03 technical, 01 engineering, 14 education and
12 industrial training institutions in the district.

6.4.10 Health Facilities
There are 11 hospitals, 44 dispensaries, 14 maternity homes, 27 primary
health centers available in the district.

6.5 Washim
Washim district is located at the Middle East region of the state of
Maharashtra. The geographical location of the district is 19.61 to 21.16
degree North latitude and 76.7 to 77.14 East Longitudes. The total
geographical area of the district is 5196 sq. km. which is 1.65 per cent of
the state. Painganga, Katepurna, Morna, Adan, Arunvarti and Benbala
are the major rivers of the district. The geography of the district is
characterized by Runoff Zone hence rain water runs/flows away from the
district. As a result the level of underground water table is very poor
thereby creating the problem of water for drinking and irrigation in the
district.
6.5.1 Weather and Rainfall

Generally the weather conditions of the district are characterized by high temperature. During the summer, the temperature increases up to 48 degree Celsius, whereas in winter it is around 8 to 10 degree Celsius. The average rainfall of the district is 750 to 1000 mm.

6.5.2 Population

According to the census 2001, total population of the district is 1020216 in which 526094 are male and 494122 females. It is 1.05 per cent of the total state population. Density of population is 196 persons per square kilometer. Out of the total population 82.50 per cent live in rural and 17.50 per cent in urban parts. The sex ratio of the district is 939. Among the total population SCs and STs are 15.94 and 8.95 per cent respectively. The literacy rate of the district is 73.40 per cent in which 57.60 per cent is rural literacy and 82.40 per cent of the urban. However male literacy is 85.40 per cent and female 60.60 per cent. The total working population of the district is 44.63 per cent of which 71.77 per cent are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. As per the current prices of 2007-08 the per capita income of the district was Rs.29853.

6.5.3 Agriculture

The total cultivable area of the district is 429706 hectare. Out of the total cultivable area, the area covered by food-grains is 267256 hectare in which 61527 hectare is under Jowar whereas cereals consisted 180735 and 15097 hectare was under Wheat. Jowar and Cotton cultivated in dry land and Wheat and other rabbri crops in the irrigated area. Mainly the district agriculture is characterised by dry land farming due to the inadequate irrigation resources. 94 per cent of the total cultivable land comes under
dry land farming. In the year 2006-07 per hectare productivity of foodgrains was 1259 kilograms. The agriculture produce marketing is controlled by 06 APMCs and 10 sub centers of the same located in the district. There is no major irrigation project available in the district. In the year 2009, 56843 hectare of the area was under irrigation through 2 medium, 60 minor, 203 small irrigation projects and 152 Kolhapur type wares. The state government earned Rs.135.19 lakh from the forest royalty of the district in 2008-09.

6.5.4 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census 2003, there are 688122 different types of animals in the district. Out of total animals 3,37,055 are Bulls and Cows, Buffalos 83579 and Sheeps and Goats consist 185951. There are 2 government milk chilling plants in the district with daily capacity of 15000 liters. During the year 2008-09, total of 543485 liters of milk was collected from 216 dairy co-operative societies.

6.5.5 Industry and Employment
In the year 2008-09 there were 142 registered industries in the district. Out of the total, 121 are in working and provide employment to 1719 persons. As per the data from different organizations, there are 9371 employees in the district. In which 3076 are in government, 2987 in semi-government and 3308 working in the private organized sector.

6.5.6 Electrification
By March 2009, 93 per cent of electrification of the district was completed. Out of total electricity consumption 33441 thousand kilo vat electricity is used for agricultural purpose.
6.5.7 Education
In the year 2008, there were 911 primary, 194 secondary, 94 higher secondary schools and 09 colleges in the district. During the year total of 290896 students were enrolled in the education sector of the district.

6.5.8 Health facilities
Up to the year 2008-09, there were 8 hospitals, 11 dispensaries, 25 maternity homes, 27 primary health centers which have been providing medical facilities in the district.

6.6 Akola
Akola district is located at the Middle East of the state at 20.17 to 21.16 degree North Latitudes and 76.7 to 77.4 degree East Longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 5428 sq. km. which accounts for 1.76 per cent of the state. Weather conditions of the district are very uncertain. In summer temperature goes above 48 degree and in winter it is around 8 to 10 degree Celsius. The average rainfall of the district is 750 to 1000 mm per year.

6.6.1 Population
According to the census 2001, total population of the district is 1630239 in which 51.60 per cent are male and 48.80 per cent the female. It is 1.68 per cent of the state population. The density of population is 300 persons per square kilometer. Out of total population 1002742 (61.51%) are in rural and 627497 (38.49%) in urban areas. The sex ratio of the district is 938 which is higher than state average of 922. Among the total population SCs and STs consist 10.33 and 6.14 per cent respectively. The proportion of the literate population is around 81.41 per cent in which 78.80 per cent is rural and 85.53 per cent of urban literacy. According to gender perspective,
88.91% males and 73.43% females of the district are literate. The per capita income of the district at current prices of 2007-08 is Rs.37042/-.

6.6.2 Agriculture
In 2001-02 the gross cultivable land of the district was 528077 hectare in which 242671 hectare was under food-grains whereas 144502 hectares under cereals and 231354 hectare was under Cotton. Generally the nature of agriculture is dry land farming. The irrigation facilities are not satisfactorily available in the district. In 2001-02 only 29712 hectares of area had the irrigation facility. Jowar is the major food crop and Cotton is cultivated as a major cash crop in the district. Per hectare productivity of the major crops in 2007-08 of; Jowar- 2925, Wheat- 2709, Arhar- 1078, Gram- 885 and Groundnut was 1444 kilogram. There are 7 APMCs and 8 sub centers of APMCs to control the agricultural produce marketing in the district.

6.6.3 Irrigation
In the year 2001-02, 79.71 per cent of the total irrigated land was under well irrigation and 20.29 per cent under cannel irrigation. Up to the year 2007-08, 1 major and 3 medium irrigation projects have been completed. Which can provide now the irrigation to 44797 hectares of the land of the district.

6.6.4 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census -2003, there are 555780 different types of animals in the district. Of which together the Cows and Bulls- 301024, Buffalos- 60714 and 186021 are Goats and Sheeps. There are 285351 Hens in poultry farms in the district.
6.6.5 Industry and Employment
There were 539 registered industries in 2006 in the district. It provided an employment to 7919 persons. According to the available data, 41849 workers were engaged in different sectors. In which 10660 in government sector, 17691 in semi government, and 13498 were in private sector. It means 67.57 per cent of organized sector workers were in public sector and only 32.25 per cent work in private sector. The average wage rate for agricultural labourers was Rs.100 for male and Rs.70 for female. Total of Rs.122.84 lakh was spent under employment guarantee scheme which generated an employment of 1.81 lakh man days.

6.6.6 Electrification
There is 98 per cent of electrification available in the district. Out of total electricity consumption, 137906 units of electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.6.7 Education
Education facilities are provided through 1176 primary, 255 secondary, 127 higher secondary schools and 15 colleges in the district. There were 394409 students enrolled in the education sector of the district during the year 2008-09.

6.6.8 Health Facilities
Up to the year 2008-09, there were 10 hospitals, 32 dispensaries, 33 primary health centers and 185 sub-centers of primary health centers provide medical and health facilities in the district.

6.7 Amaravati
The district is located at 20.32 to 21.46 degree North Latitude and 76.37 to 78.27 degree East Longitude. The total geographical area of the district is
12212 sq. km. which is 3.96 per cent of the total state area. The weather conditions of the district are normally hot and dry. The average rainfall of the district is 850 to 1000 mm. per year.

6.7.1 Population
According to 2001 census, total population of the district is 2607160. The density of population is 214 persons per square kilometer. Out of total population, 65.50 per cent live in rural whereas 34.50 per cent in urban areas. The sex ratio of the district is 938 which is higher than state ratio of 922. The total working population of the district is 42.02 per cent in which 70 per cent are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Among the total population, SCs and STs consist 17.1 and 13.7 per cent respectively. 82.5 per cent of the district population is literate, in which 88.9 per cent are male and 75.7 per cent the females. As per the current prices of 2007-08 the per capita income of the district is Rs.30017/-.

6.7.2 Forest
High value trees such as Tikwood, Bamboo, Dhawad, Salai and Tendu leaves are available in the forest of the district. In the year 2008-09 the revenue of Rs.80411 thousand was earned by the government from the forest royalty of the district.

6.7.3 Agriculture
Out of the total land, 63.61 per cent is under cultivation in the district. In which 41 per cent is under food crops. Among the food crops, Jowar constitutes 28.78 per cent area which is followed by Arhar 23.63 per cent. Whereas, cash crops consist 30.10 per cent of the total area under cultivation. Per hectare productivity of different crops is as; Paddy- 823, Wheat- 1890, Jowar- 1359, Bajara- 540, Gram- 1057, Arhar- 1070 and
Mung - 362 kilogram. In the year 2007-08, area under fruits and vegetables was 4.49 and 0.47 per cent respectively. Among the total fruit crops the area under Orange was 28935 hectares which was highest with 92.15 per cent of the total area under fruits. Warud, Morshi and Achalpur tehasils are famous for the Orange and Anjangaon Surji for Bananas. In all 140495 metric ton chemical fertilizers were used in the district during the year 2008-09. In which 40 per cent were channelized from institutional sources and 60 per cent through non-institutional private sources. There are 14 APMCs in the district which provide storage facility along with the marketing of agriculture produce. The crop wise turnover of these APMCs for the year 2008-09 was as; Wheat- 7292, Jowar- 1194, Til- 04, Groundnut- 01, Arhar- 14610, Gram- 9774, Bajara- 11, Urad- 131, Mung- 674 and Soyabean- 18256 ton.

6.7.4 Irrigation
In the year 2001-02, only 8.15 per cent of the total area of cultivation was under irrigation. Upper Wardha is major irrigation project and Shahanur is the medium irrigation project available in the district. From the total area under cultivation 63821 hectare have the irrigation facility.

6.7.5 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census 2003, there are 997977 different types of animals in the district. In which Cows and Bulls are 48.50, Buffalos- 8.48, Sheeps and Goats- 31.44, Horses- 0.38 and other animals consist 11.20 per cent.

6.7.6 Industry and Employment
By the year 2006, there were 374 registered industrial units in the district. Of which 295 units were functioning. These units have created an
employment for 2420 workers. There were 66726 workers engaged in different sectors in the district. In which 18643 are in private, 23860 in semi government and 24223 are engaged in government sector.

6.7.8 Electrification
There is 100 per cent cover of electrification available in the district. Out of total electricity consumption, 46.68 per cent electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.7.9 Education
Education facilities have been provided through 1924 primary, 492 secondary, 232 higher secondary schools and 106 colleges in the district. In all 615127 students had enrolled in the education sector of the district during the year 2008-09.

6.7.10 Health Facilities
During the year 2008-09, there were 19 hospitals, 117 dispensaries, 56 primary health centers and 333 sub-centers of primary health centers providing medical facilities in the district.

6.8 Yeotmal
The Yeotmal district is located at 19.26 to 20.42 degree North Latitude and 77.18 to 79.98 degree East Longitudes. The total geographical area of the district is 13584 sq. km. which is 4.4 per cent of the state. The weather conditions of the district are hot and dry with very high and low temperature during summer and winter season respectively. The average rainfall of the district is 900 to 1100 mm per year.

6.8.1 Population
According to the census 2001, the total population of the district is 2458271 in which 51.48 per cent are male and 48.52 per cent of female. 81.40 and
18.60 per cent of the population lives in rural and urban areas respectively. The density of population is 181 persons per square kilometer. The sex ratio of the district is 942 which is quite higher than the state ratio of 922. There are 10.29 per cent of SCs and 19.24 per cent of STs in the total population of the district. 1118937 (44.45%) is the total working population of the district. In which 63.99 per cent are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Out of the total population of the district, 70.62 per cent are literate with 85.54 per cent male and 58.48 per cent of female literacy. With 70.61 per cent of rural and 86.38 per cent of urban literacy. As per the current prices of 2007-08, per capita income of the district was Rs.34938 and Rs.25464 at the constant prices.

6.8.2 Forestry
Out of total geographical area the district has a forest cover of 2956 sq. km. (21.76%). The district is the largest producer of Tik wood in the state. As well as, the trees such as Bamboo, Hirda, Behada, Tendu and Moha, etc. are found in the forest of the district. The state government earned a revenue of Rs.1364 lakh from the district forest royalty during the year 2008-09.

6.8.3 Agriculture
During the year 2007-08, 74.75 per cent is the cultivable area from the total geographical area of the district. In which 337010 hectare (37.52%) area is under food-grains. Among the total cropped area 44.74 per cent is under Cotton which is followed by Jowar with 14.10 per cent, Wheat 2.49 per cent and Pulses 19.70 per cent. 1.24 per cent area is under Sugarcane and 15.40 per cent under Oil seeds. The total production of cereals during the year 2008-09 was 224200 metric ton. The per hectare productivity of
major crops of the district is as; Jowar 1082kg, Mung 577kg, Wheat 1803kg, Gram 848kg, Urad 399kg, and Cotton 412kg. During the year 2008-09, 152255 metric ton chemical fertilizers were made available and used in the district in which only 4 per cent distributed from institutional and 96 per cent from the non-institutional sources.

6.8.4 Irrigation
The gross irrigated area of the district is 60520 hectares whereas the net irrigated area of the district is 45958 hectares. Which is 5.12 per cent of the total cultivable area of the district. Crop wise irrigated area is as; Food crops 45.54%, Cereals 15.80%, Sugarcane 18.52%, Fruits and Vegetables 5.68%, Cotton 1.11% and Oil seeds 6.69 per cent. Out of total irrigated area, 64.82 per cent comes under well irrigation whereas 35.18 per cent under cannel irrigation.

6.8.5 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census 2003, there are 1349321 different types of animals in the district. In which Cows and Bulls consisted 54.56%, Buffalos 9.99%, Sheeps and Goats 28.07% and other constitute 7.38 per cent.

6.8.6 Industry and Employment
For industrial development, grossly the district lags behind other parts of the state. People are engaged in the traditional occupations such as; carpenter, oil meals, bakery, etc. The district has some agro processing industries such as; gleaning and pressing of Cotton, Oil seeds processing etc. In the year 2007, there were 275 registered industrial units in the district. In which 232 were in actual working and provided the employment to 2068 persons.
6.8.7 Electrification
Up to the year 2009, 80 per cent of electrification is achieved by the district. Out of total electricity consumption, 259757 thousand kilo vat electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.8.8 Education
Education facilities have been provided at different level through 2562 primary, 620 secondary, 189 higher secondary schools and 24 colleges available in the district. 686912 students were enrolled in the education sector of the district during the year 2008-09.

6.8.9 Health facilities
In all 21 hospitals, 20 dispensaries, 73 maternity homes and 63 primary health centers are providing medical facilities in the district.

6.9 Beed
This is one of the most drought stricken districts with dry land farming of the state. The location of the district is 18.28 to 19.28 degree North Latitude and 74.54 to 76.57 degree East Longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 10440.35 sq. km. which is 3.39 per cent of the state of Maharashtra. The 41.24 sq. km. is under urban and 10399.11 sq. km. is the rural area. Generally the weather of the district is hot and dry. The average rainfall of the district is 650 mm per year.

6.9.1 Population
According to the 2001 census, the total population of the district is 21.61 lakh which is 2.23 per cent of the state population. The density of population is 207 people per square kilometer. The proportion of urban and rural population is 81.96 and 17.88 per cent respectively. The sex ratio of the district is 936 which is higher than the state ratio of 922. The
proportion of SCs and STs population in total population is 13.01 and 1.12 per cent respectively. The proportion of working population is 44.24 per cent of the total. 84.36 per cent population of the district is literate. Where the urban literacy is 84.69 per cent and rural is 84.26 per cent.

6.9.2 Agriculture
There are two cropping seasons in the district i.e. kharif and rabbi. In kharif; crops like Jowar, Bajara, Arhar, Urad, Cotton and Groundnut and in rabbi season; Jowar, Wheat, Gram, etc. are cultivated. The crop wise total production for the cropping year 2008-09 was; Food-grains 3.81, Cereals 1.57 lakh metric ton and Cotton 1614 bales. Per hectare productivity of different crops was; Wheat 1054, Jowar 1401, Bajara 676, Gram 533, Arhar 991 and Groundnut 581 kilograms. In the year 2008-09, 98364 metric ton of chemical fertilizers have been distributed and used in the district through institutional and private sources. The marketing of agricultural produce is regulated through the 08 APMCs in the district. The total turnover of these APMCs for the year 2008-09 was 52847 metric ton with net value of Rs. 8661.77 lakh.

6.9.3 Irrigation
Majalgaon and Manjara are the two major irrigation projects in the district. As well as, there are 10 medium and 1007 minor irrigation projects in the district with village level tanks, percolation tanks and bunds. The total potential of these irrigation projects is 43517 hectares which is 14.62 per cent of the gross cropped area of the district.

6.9.4 Animal Husbandry
According to the animal census-2003 there were; 1.70 lakh Cows in the district. Dairy farming is the significant supplementary source of income
generation available to the farmers of the district. In other animals; Buffalos consisted 213, Bulls 265 thousand, Sheeps and Goats 4.89 lakh, also there were 8.14 lakh birds in different poultry farm of the district.

6.9.5 Industry
The district is one of the backward districts in industrial development in the state. Among 119 registered factories, 34 factories already have been closed. 3012 workers are engaged in different factories. Out of total of 85 factories, 45 are timber factories in which 546 workers are employed. According to the data for 2008-09 from the employment exchange, 49423 workers are engaged in different occupations in the district.

6.9.6 Electrification
Parali-Waijanath is the atomic energy project located in the district. There is 100 per cent electrification achieved in the district by the end of March 2009. Out of total electricity consumption, 32.09 per cent electricity is used for agricultural purpose.

6.9.7 Education
Education facilities for the district are provided through 2153 primary, 609 secondary, 94 higher secondary schools and 64 colleges operating in the district. There are 310 thousand students enrolled in the education sector of the district.

The foregoing analysis on the socio-economic and demographic characterisation of the districts that have been selected for the primary data collection for the present study brings out that almost all the districts fall under the category of underdevelopment. The agriculture of all districts is dependent on monsoon thereby making the cultivation more difficult than the irrigated regions. Looking at the other socio-economic
indices of all these districts, it is clear that these districts are far away from rest of the regions of the state of Maharashtra.

Reference Notes

6.1 Socio-economic survey of Ahmednagar district, 2008-09
6.2 Socio-economic survey of Aurangabad district, 2008-09
6.3 Socio-economic survey of Beed district, 2008-09
6.4 Socio-economic survey of Amravati district, 2008-09
6.5 Socio-economic survey of Yeotmal district, 2008-09
6.6 Socio-economic survey of Wardha district, 2008-09
6.7 Socio-economic survey of Washim district, 2008-09
6.8 Socio-economic survey of Akola district, 2008-09
6.9 Socio-economic survey of Buldana district, 2008-09