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CHAPTER V
PROFILE OF OSMANABAD DISTRICT

V.1 History of Osmanabad District
The Osmanabad district contains some ancient places of great historical interest. The old name of this district was Dharasiva. This ancient place is shown by the caves excavated in the hill at a distance of about eight miles. These caves were originally Buddhist, but were later converted into monuments of the Jain religion and fresh caves were also excavated nearby. Of this we shall speak about Latur, a station on a branch line of the South Central Railway is another ancient place. This place is the home of the Rattas or Rastrakutas. The Rastrakutas king Amoghavarsa I is described as the lord of Lattalura, the best of towns (Lattalura-pura-var-adhisa). (Ind. Ant. Vol.XII, p.218, and Ep. Ind., Vol.VI, p.102.) The Ragas of Saundatti declare in their records that they had emigrated from the town of Lattalura (Lattalura-pura-vinirgata) (J.B.B.R.A.S., Vol. X, pp. 167 f.) Fleet at first identified Lattalura with Ratanpur in Chattisgadh, but later gave up the theory and suggested its identification with Latur in the Osmanabad district, which is now generally accepted. The Rastrakutas seem to have originally belonged to this place.

“The earliest habitations of the people of this period must have been in the river valleys. The thick forests which must have covered them were first cut down with their stone and copper tools. The elevated sides on the banks of the rivers were chosen for a settlement. Each settlement may have consisted of about 50 to 100 huts. The huts were small, measuring 10 ft. by 9 ft. and were either rectangular or round. They were constructed with wooden posts, the walls being of mud and the roof of bamboo matting, dry leaves, etc., covered with a layer of mud. The houses were furnished with large and small storage jars, bowls (vatis) and vessels (lotas) with long spouts. Their red surface was painted in black with geometric designs or figures of animals. They wore garments of cotton and probably also of silk. For their ornaments they used beads of semi-precious stones, crystal, terracotta and rarely of copper and even of gold. Silver was unknown Bangles were made of copper, burnt clay or bone, rarely of ivory.

The Central part of the Deccan was divided into several countries known by different names. Thus, the region to the north of the Godavari, now included in the Aurangabad district, was known by the name of Mulaka. In the year 1853 the district
was temporarily ceded by the Nizam to the British Government. It was reverted to Hyderabad State in 1860. Its headquarters formerly used to be at Naldurg and the district was known as Naldurg district till 1904. The district of Naldurg was abolished and the new district of Osmanabad was formed headquarters at Osmanabad. In 1905, two tahsils with headquarters at Wasi and Naldurg were abolished. Wasi was merged in Kalam and Naldurg in Tuljapur. Headquarters of Ausa tahsil were shifted to Latur and the tahsil was named Latur tahsil. Among the districts of Marathwada, Osmanabad had the biggest area under the Nizam's own estate called “Sarf-e-Khas”. The Sarf-e-Khas was merged with the Government area under the Sarf-e-Khas (Merger) Regulation in the year 1949. All the Jagir areas were also abolished and taken over under direct Government administration in the same year. Consequent upon the integration of Sarf-e-Khas and Jagir areas, the boundaries of all the tahsils were reconstituted in the year 1950. Two new tahsils with headquarters at Ausa and Umerga and a new peta with headquarters at Bhum were created. In the same year (1950), 11 enclave villages from Sholapur were transferred to the district and 52 villages from this district were transferred to Sholapur district. With the reorganisation of the States in 1956, the district came to be included in Bombay State. Three tahsils of Ahmadpur, Nilanga and Udgir were transferred from the adjoining district of Bidar to Osmanabad district.  

The district of Osmanabad together with the adjoining districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Medak and Raichur, now included in the states of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, was probably comprised in the country of Mahisaka. The references to this country occurring in the Puranas and the Epics suggest that it was situated in the Deccan. Mahanubhava cult in that age used Marathi as the medium of his religious teaching. Following his example, several of his followers composed literary works in Marathi. They are counted among the first works in that language. Mukundaraja, the author of the Vedantic works Vivekasindhu and Paramamrta and Jnanesvara the celebrated author of the Bhavarthadipika, a commentary on the Bhagavadgila, are the most illustrious writers of that age.

India won its Independence in 1947. The future of Hyderabad was now to be settled. Public opinion in Hyderabad was overwhelming in favour of joining the Indian Union. This was opposed by the leader of the Razakars who now controlled the government. All efforts of moderates like Sir Mirza Ismail and Sir Sultan Ahmad to
establish the relation between the Indian Union and Hyderabad in consonance with the realities of the situation were opposed by the Razakars. The movement of the State Congress to force Hyderabad to join the Indian Union was strongly attacked by the communal elements. In the latter struggle thousands went to jail and suffered strongly at the hands of the administration. Due to the activities of the Razakars hundreds of thousands of Hindus had to flee the state and take shelter in numerous camps set up by the sympathetic Indian opinion across the borders. The district of Osmanabad too had its share of public workers who fought and suffered. At last the Government of the Union moved into the Nizam's State and after a brief but brilliant police action put an end to the intolerable conditions prevailing in the State. Soon after, elections were held in the State and a representative government was set up. The State of Hyderabad acceded to the Indian Union. 2

In 1956, following the reorganization of states the district of Osmanabad along with the other districts of Marathwada became a part of the then Bombay State and in 1960, of the Maharashtra State with creation of that State. Osmanabad district was divided in to two districts i.e. Osmanabad and Latur on 16th August 1982.

The restructured Osmanabad district had 6 Tahasils. In June 1999 Lohara and Washi Tahasils were created. Osmanabad district has now 722 villages spread over 8 Tahasils viz., Bhoom, Kalamb, Lohara, Omerga, Osmanabad, Paranda, Tuljapur, and Washi. 3

Osmanabad district is located in the southern part of the state of Maharashtra. It is situated between 17035°N to 18040°N latitudes and 75016°E to 76040°E longitudes (Map No.1V.2.1). Most of the area of the district is surrounded by Small Mountain called "Balaghat". Bhoom, Washi, Kalamb, Osmanabad & Tuljapur Tahasils lie in the range of this Balaghat Mountain. The district is surrounded by Solapur to the south-east, Ahmednagar to the North-West, Beed to the North, Latur district to the East and Bidar & Gulbarga districts of Karnataka to the South.

V.2 A Glance of Osmanabad District
Osmanabad District is one of the eight districts of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra State. Osmanabad town is the districts headquarter. Osmanabad & Bhoom are Revenue Sub-divisional headquarter.
Osmanabad, Tuljapur, Omerge, Lohara, Kalamb, Bhoom, Vashi and Paranda are the eight blocks/taluka of the district.

The district is surrounded by the Balaghat mountain hills. Omerge & Paranda blocks are situated at plains whereas all other blocks are surrounded by the Balaghat Mountain. The District is located at an average height of 600 meters from the sea level. Total area of the district is 7512.4 sq.km.

Map No.V.2.1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No.V.2.1</th>
<th>Statistical Information of Osmanabad District (as per 2011 Census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>7.5124 Lakhs sq. Kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>1,660,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>864,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>795,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gram Panchayat</strong></td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Towns/Villages</strong></td>
<td>8/732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy percent</strong></td>
<td>76.33 (Male:85.31, Female:66.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages Spoken</strong></td>
<td>Marathi, Hindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Folk-Arts (Lok Kala)</strong></td>
<td>Gondhali, Aradhi, Potraj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance from Mumbai</strong></td>
<td>438 kms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Roads and Means of Transport** | Main Airport-1  
Railway Stations-1  
ST Buses  
Length of Railway Track:50Kms  
National Highway:203 Kms  
State Highway:837 Kms  
Main District Road: 1259 Kms  
Other District Road:1014 Kms  
Rural Road:2024 Kms |
| **Sex Ratio**  | 920(Females per 1000 Males)                                                                  |
| **Agriculture** | Cultivation Area: 5,82,451 hector  
Kharip:3.63 Lakhs Hectar  
Rabbi:4.8 Lakhs Hectar  
Fruit Cultivation:10.263 thousands hector |
| **Animals**    | 9,18,267                                                                                        |
| **Main Crops** | Jowar, Wheat(Gahu), Bajra, Tur, Harbara, Soyabin, Udid, Bhuimug, Kardai, Sugarcane              |
Climate: Climate of the district is dry, as daily mean maximum temperature range between 30°C to 39°C and minimum temperature range between 18°C to 21°C, with the highest temperature of 45°C recorded in the month of May. The average annual rainfall is registered 760 m.m. (2011).

Soil: The soil of the district is essentially derived from the Deccan Trap. The soil of the district can broadly classified into four groups- shallow soil, medium soil, medium deep, and deep soil.

Area under irrigation: 1,18,676 hectares

Industries: Big-6, Medium - 4, Small - 902 as per 2011 census.

Population: The district having geographical area of 7569 sq.km, consists eight tahasils and is inhabited by 1,660,311. Populations (as per 2011 census). Male-864,674, Female-795,631, Literacy- Per cent-76.33 Total- 1,115,057, Male-645,792, Female-469,265.(as per 2001 census).
Tulja Bhavani, revered deity of Maharashtra, at whose feet Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja received inspiration to establish Hindvi Swaraj is at Tuljapur, is in this district in which Shree Sant Goroba was born. Naldurg fort is an architectural marvel and its palace below water attracts tourists and researchers alike, even after five
centuries. The Osmanabad goat is a tough breed, always in-demand by farmers across the country. Omerga and Sastoor were uprooted in the massive earthquake of 1993. They have risen again from the ruins, just like Phoenix, highlighting the courage the people of the district.

V.3 Statistics of RTI Application details of Maharashtra State

Around 5.49 lakh RTI applications were filed in Maharashtra last year, making it one of the most powerful tools in the hands of the common man against the corrupt and opaque bureaucracy. There has been a rise of 1.08 lakh RTI queries over 2009, when 4.40 lakh queries were filed, with the magic of the sunshine act spreading even to rural areas. During the study period (last five years) 18.44 lakh queries were filed, making Maharashtra the RTI capital of the country. The RTI act has no doubt changed the lives of lakhs of people. We have for the first time seen people seeking more accountability in public affairs.

Thus there is large scope for improvement and the public information officers (PIOs) should provide accurate information within the stipulated 30 days.

1. “In the long run, the RTI act’s effectiveness will be measured in the number of public interest causes and issues it served rather than just remaining as a utilitarian tool for the common man. There is an urgent need to file more such RTI queries so that the corruption in public life comes down.’’

2. Last year the six information commissioners imposed Rs 34.38 lakh in penalties on 523 public information officers. Information commissioners for the first time also directed departmental action against 602 officers for late or false information.

1. RTI applications filed | 5.49 lakh
2. Appeals received in 2010 | 19,483
3. Appeals disposed | 17,266
4. Complaints received | 4,592
5. Complaints disposed | 3,911
6. Public information officers penalized | 523
7. Total penalties | 34.38 lakh
8. Departmental action against PIOs | 602
Chart V.4.1 RTI Application Appeals, complaints received and disposed

(Source: State Information Commission)
## V.4 Statistics of RTI Application details of Osmanabad District

### Table.V.3.1

**Number of RTI Applications received, rejected, Pending applications and amount collected during 2007-08 to 2010-11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key aspects</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening balance of RTI Application (as on 1st Jan of the reporting year)</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>1007</td>
<td>1083</td>
<td>1172</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications received during the year</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>1377</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>1373</td>
<td>1312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of requests at the end of reporting year</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>2384</td>
<td>2468</td>
<td>2545</td>
<td>2312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application rejected</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pending Applications (as on 31st Dec of the reporting year)</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>1082</td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Amount collected in the reporting year</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>N A</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>1291</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data collected from Osmanabad district office
V.5 Role of farmers in implementing Right to Information Act

The economic activity of these people is mainly concentrated around agricultural practices and livestock rearing, thus, agriculture plays a vital role in Osmanabad district. As compared to other district the fertility of the soil are on average and also rainfall is not adequate in this region. The major crops are Jawar, Maize, Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane, and Groundnut. India is among the first countries in the world to have passed legislation granting Farmers' Rights in the form of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. Information is an important resource to solve problem, to take decision, education and to update our knowledge etc. As we know that information is required to achieve our goals and objectives. Therefore, RTI Act 2005 plays important role in Agricultural and Education sector. Incase of farmers, they have a right to get information about Co operative Society, Fertilizers & Agriculture seeds (pricing, Market charges, Transportation cost, Storage cost and Margin of middlemen’s). By this they can take right decision. So if we are aware about this act then it will give fruitful solution for social transformation.

Case of farmers Implementing RTI Act

On Tuesday, Vilas Daula Suryavanshi, 50, a farmer from Dhanuri village in the Lohara taluka of Osmanabad district in Marathwada, ended his life by consuming pesticide after realising that his loans will not be waived as he had half-an acre of land in excess to the stipulated five acres. According to fellow villagers, Vilas had
mentioned in his suicide note that he had borrowed from the local banks to meet family demands and was under tremendous mental pressure. When he came to know that he had missed the waiver, he lost all hope and ended his life.

V. 6 Existing Industries in Osmanabad district

Existing Industries

The following large and medium scale Industries are at present functioning in Osmanabad district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name and address</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Production capacity Per annum</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The Maharashtra State Co-operative Federation Ltd… Sr.No.146,Andur Tq. Tuljapur</td>
<td>Mixed granules Fertilizers</td>
<td>36000MT</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dr, Babasaheb Ambedkar, S.S.K. Ltd, Keshegaon, Tq. Osmanabad</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>4000.00</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Terna Shetkari Sah. S. Karkhana Ltd, Termanagar Dhoki. Tq; Osmanabad</td>
<td>Spirit, ext</td>
<td>294.40</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Renuka Polychem Ltd, MID, Osmanabad</td>
<td>Basic dyes</td>
<td>Information Not available</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Vithal Sai Sah. S. K. Ltd Murum, Tq: Omerga</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>3760.00</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sl. No.</td>
<td>Company Name</td>
<td>Product</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Shivshakti S. S. K. Ltd, Tq: Washi</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Natural Sugar &amp; Allied Ind. Ltd, Tq: Kalamb</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Shambhu Mahadeo Sugar &amp; Allied Ind. Ltd, Tq: Kalamb</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td></td>
<td>26.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Shri Tuljabhawani S. S. K. Ltd, Tq: Tuljapur</td>
<td>Ethyl Alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td>786.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Kathare Spinning Mill Ltd, Tq: Tuljapur</td>
<td>Cotton Yarn</td>
<td></td>
<td>3387.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Balaji Amines Ltd, Tq: Tuljapur</td>
<td>Ethyl &amp; DMAHCL</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Shri Kulswamini Sah. Sut Girni Ltd, Tq: Tuljapur</td>
<td>Cotton Yarn</td>
<td></td>
<td>1346.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Century Egg Farms Pvt. Ltd, Tq: Tuljapur</td>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td></td>
<td>120000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V.7 The Ways for healthy and sound society through Implementing RTI Act.

The implementation of the RTI law on right to know for setting up information regime therefore augurs well for strengthening the knowledge society as well as for increasing the accountability of public bodies. The trend in improvement in delivery of services, due to the perceived good governance, provides sufficient indication for alleviation of poverty and liquidation of illiteracy in a much shorter duration than envisaged for the realization of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). RTI has enabled people to participate in the process of development, which has resulted in reduction of corruption. It has just begun to happen for the first time for establishing an open and participatory governance system that protects and promotes the socio-economic interests of every citizen, particularly the poor, who are receiving the benefits of development as per their entitlements.

As the functioning of public authorities becomes more transparent and ensure proactive disclosure of the policies, programmes and their outcomes, there would be greater participation by people in every sphere of development. It is important therefore to enhance the capacity of public authorities as well as the citizens to develop awareness and understanding of information, to make its effective use for the benefits of citizens. In effect, endeavours should be made to increase the effective demand for improvement in delivery of services. Only about 10 per cent of over 300 million populations of the poor are aware of the RTI, as a tool for reaping the benefits of assured entitlements. It, therefore, calls for making concerted efforts by the Government, NGOs and media for creating mass awareness among the people, particularly to educate them, as to how to seek information and how to make the best use of such acquisitions of wealth of knowledge in every day’s life. The role of NGOs is critical in respect of both to constantly exert pressure for maximum disclosure of information relating to public activities and to participate in designing and implementation of socio-economic programmes. The task is challenging but easy to cope with provided of course mass media like radio and TV channels are utilized to reach the target population. In view of diversity of situations in which people live in different parts of the country, a multimedia approach should be adopted to promote information literacy and to democratize knowledge, which, in turn, are vital for
people’s empowerment, ensuring the reach of entitlements to the beneficiary groups and for equalizing opportunities for sharing the benefits of development.

**Future Strategy for RTI Act**

The following strategy of RTI act in future may help to make our society healthy and sound. Two fold future strategy common people and authorities are needed to develop capacities for access to information.

![Graph V.7.1 Future Strategy for RTI Act](image)

### Promotion of Information Literacy (PIL)

The issue of promotion of information literacy among both educated and not so well educated citizens is critical, because the people and the government functionaries share the responsibility of expediting the process of development. Accordingly, under Section 26 of the Act, provisions have been made for advancement of understanding of the public through education and training programmes. A multimedia strategy for
promotion of information literacy should be designed by all the public authorities, including educational institutions, in collaboration with media agencies so as to ensure greater interface between the stakeholders. The task is challenging, as less than 10 per cent of the poor have some awareness about the law on RTI and the manner in which it could be used by them to claim for their entitlements. The potential of IT resources and widespread educational institutions of all types and levels should be exploited to promote information literacy.

**Disclosure of Procedure (DP)**
Under the Act, the public authorities are required to adopt open and transparent procedures and methods of delivery of services. They ought to reveal what they do, how they do and what are the outcomes of the policies, programmes and public expenditures. In a democratic society, the citizen, NGOs and media have the right to know as to how they are governed and they also have right to exercise their options to indicate how they ought to be governed and served by the Government.

**Grassroots Level Plan (GLP)**
- To make a five year plan to spread awareness about RTI Act 2005 to the grassroots level in the district.
- To monitor proper implementation of the Act at the district level yearly.

**People Movement (PM):**
The movement for the right to information has caught the imagination of disparate sets of people. It has touched the middle classes as well as the poor, because of the despair of their unending interface with a corrupt and unaccountable bureaucracy. It has also reached the middle classes through the consumer and environmental movements. The media have a major professional stake in the right to information because it would greatly aid the investigation of executive action.

**Use as a Developmental tool (UDT)**
The right to access information is not only a right in itself, but a tool for exercising other rights. That is to say, if for example, a citizen wishes to know if the State is developing policies to counter discrimination in access to education, it is necessary to have access to certain information related to those policies. In order to know if the government is developing a campaign that aims to prevent certain illnesses, it is necessary to know how public health policies are being implemented. In other words,
we need information to monitor the delivery of political commitments to uphold our fundamental rights.

The interaction of the right to information and social rights can be highly instructive of a government’s attitude towards the realization of human rights in general. States should allow individuals access to information that may have an impact on their life, which will allow them to exercise other rights. Information is important for learning about the existence and protection of social rights. Individuals should know about public policies and measures that the government has taken in relation to these rights, in order to control the development of such policies. They should also be aware of the content of said policies, so as to analyze how measures are considered in the budget and how budgetary commitments are delivered. On the contrary, the failure to provide information or access to certain information constitutes a violation of obligations that the State agreed to fulfill.

**To Conclude**
The law passed by the central government that is RTI Act, 2005 has become a boon for the present society to protect their rights. The active participation of people leads to success of RTI Act. Thus RTI act is useful to equal distribution of income, equality in Right, Social values and Social & Economic Development. Laws by themselves are not adequate. What is required is that common people should take the benefit of Right to Information Act, so that corruption and malpractices could be controlled and which leads to social transparency and accountability. The Act like Right to Information Act 2005 empowers the common people as a tool of enquires the various scheme and policies for their upliftment.

The right to information is a key tool for enabling citizens to participate in the political processes of their country. Information provides the public with the means of equipping themselves with knowledge about what the government is doing and how it is choosing to respond to changes in the evolving political landscape. Armed with this knowledge people are able to scrutinize official policies and suggest alternatives they feel could be more effective. In this manner, access to information can be the key to moving from a formal to a responsive and consultative democracy.

But today, we also say that the Osmanabad District is backward because there are possibilities of non-implementing the various schemes by the department and their officials or any other related section. There is also the possibility of non participation
of the people. In that sense there question about the responsibility of the schemes and policies that not implemented properly.

In the context of Osmanabad District, the number of RTI Application increased in the year 2009 but decreased in the year 2011 accordingly. Thus there is a need to implement this act effectively at grass root level as well as at administrative and public sector.

Law by themselves are not adequate, what is needed is that people’s should take maximize benefits of this laws. A law for Right to Information can be made effective only through people’s active involvement. Still there is wide information gap in grass root level; many of the common people don’t know how, where to whom they should apply their application under RTI Act. For that purpose government should take keen interest towards creating awareness among the people to take its ultimate benefit by giving them knowledge about RTI Act.
References:-


