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## Development of Industries in Kolhapur District: A Review Study on Irrigation

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### Abstract:

*The origin of the word 'Kolhapur' is controversial. Another explanation suits the topography of the place, according to which, the words 'Kolia' and 'Kholla' have been derived from an original Kannada word meaning 'low ground'. Kholla also means a river valley and therefore 'Kollapur' means a town situated in the valley of a river [13]; while the word 'Koll' means "a low lying trough between mountain ranges, a town situated in such a place being named as 'Kollapur', later transformed into Marathi form 'Kolhapur' [14].*

### KEYWORDS:

Soil, Cropping, Dairy, Cultivation.

### Introduction:

Kolhapur District lies between 17° 17' North latitude and 73°40' and 74°42' East longitude and sprawls across the Deccan Plateau in the rainshadow region of the Sahyadrian mountain ranges on the southernmost tip of the State of Maharashtra. It is bound by Sangli District to the North, Belgaum district of Karnataka State to the east and south, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts to the west. The Sahyadri ranges to the west and the river Warana to the north form natural boundaries. The district has an area of 7685 sq.km., which is about 2.5 per cent of the total area of Maharashtra State. The district thus ranks 24th in the State in terms of its size [16]. The District has north-south length of 160 km and east-west length of 60 km. Out of the District's total area, only 140 sq.km is an urban area and the remaining 7,545 sq.km is a rural area [17].

### Soils and Cropping Pattern:

Physiographically the district can be divided into three broad soil zones: (i) the western zone of heavy rainfall covered with laterite soils; (ii) the central part with more or less assured rainfall covered with fertile, well drained brownish soils of neutral reaction; and (iii) the dry eastern zone with precarious rainfall covered with medium black soils of varying depths.

Laterite soils occur mainly in the western hilly tracts of heavy rainfall, on the hill tops not covered by forests. They are red to brownish-red in colour, mostly eroded and shallow. They do not retain moisture and yield mainly coarse hill millets (Wachani). With applications of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, paddy can also be taken from these soils. Under forests of valuable trees like teak, Undi, Jambhul, etc., these soils are fertile and rich in humus.

In the valleys, lateritic soils are mixed with trap soils. They vary in colour from brown to black, are

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fairly deep and retentive of moisture. Paddy is the main crop of this area, and in the rabbi season, cereal Val is also grown.

Brown soils are found in the central zone. They are mainly derived from trap and are dark brown in colour, with a reddish tint. They are rich and fertile with excellent granular structure, almost neutral in reaction and well supplied with calcium. As this zone receives moderate and fairly regular rainfall, rice, jowar and groundnuts are grown in the kharif season. Sugarcane and vegetables are grown wherever irrigation facilities are available. Jaggery produced from the sugarcane grown in these soils is well-known throughout the country and the Middle-east.

Medium and deep black soils are found in the eastern zone. They are also derived from trap and vary considerably in depth. Medium deep soils are grey in colour with good granular structure and drainage. The deeper soils are more black in colour and more clayey. The soils are quite fertile and good crops of jowar and groundnut are obtained. As drainage is good, the soils are amenable to irrigation and consequently paddy, sugarcane and vegetables can be successfully taken from them.

#### **Minerals:**

Bauxite is the chief mineral of economic value. It occurs in large quantities as laterite cappings in the hills along the eastern margin of the district. Irregular nodules of Kankar occur in the soils, especially in the eastern part of the district, which on burning yields good lime. Copper, Gypsum, Iron and Kaolin are found in small quantities but are not important economically. The district is well endowed with building stones. Hard, compact, fine to medium grained Kaladgi sandstones and quartzites are quarried for construction. Trap rock being hard, dense and durable is a suitable material for building purposes.

#### **Fisheries:**

Unlike seafront, there are no concentrations of fishing villages in the district. The six main rivers in the district, however, have numerous dams and weirs, thereby providing a suitable habitat for a large number of fish. Besides fishing is also carried out in many natural lakes, irrigation tanks, reservoirs and perennial ponds. Vam, Vadshi, Alkut, Dandvam, Mhasheed, Catla, Rohu, Mirgal, Valshivada, Shingalu and Gorami are a few of the important fish in the district. However, fishing does not provide a full-time job, hence fishermen are obliged to work as farm laborer and construction workers.

#### **Cultivable Area and Irrigated Lands:**

The total cultivable area in the district is approx. 4,18,295 ha., (54.43% of the total area). The irrigated area in the district is distributed into 1056 villages (88.89% of the total 1188 villages).

#### **Forests:**

The total area under forests is about 1,65,545 hectares distributed in about 489 villages mostly in the western hilly areas, which is about 21.5% of the total land area of the district. Among the 12 Talukas, only 4 Talukas (Chandgad, Bhudargad, Radhanagri and Shahuwadi) together account for nearly 69.18% of the total forest area. However, about half of this area is barren and without tree cover, thus the actual forest is only about 11-12% of the total land area. Firewood, timber and the Hirda fruit (used for extracting tannin) are the main marketable products from these forests. The minor forest produce are Shikekai, honey, wax, Karvi and Tembhorni leaves, etc. [19].

#### **Horticulture and Floriculture:**

This activity is fast growing in this region. A separate Department of Government is functioning in the District. The climate of the district is suitable for horticulture and floriculture. Guavas, mangoes, bananas, papaya, oranges, lemons and, to some extent, grapes are grown in the district.

#### **Dairy Development:**

This is the most profitable agro-ancillary activity in the District. The district has three large scale milk processing cooperatives (Gokul, Warana and Mayur) besides a few private dairies [20].

#### **District Administration:**

The District is within the administrative jurisdiction of Pune Revenue Commissionerette and has its own collectorate. For administrative purposes, the district is divided into four sub-divisions, namely, Karveer, Shahuwadi, Ichalkaranji and Gadhinglaj, and 12 Talukas. After 1962, the administration was decentralized by opening of Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis. The Collector is responsible for the overall supervision of the administration. He is assisted by Prant Officers who control sub-divisions with the help of Tahsildars, Circle Officers, Circle Inspectors and village Talathis. Patils are appointed on village

level. They are like judicial administrators of the village. Talathi is mainly concerned with revenue work, while Kotwal is the lowest post in the revenue service. (20a)

The District Collector, along with the District Judge, Superintendent of Police, Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad and other senior officers of the State Government, looks after the developmental and regulatory functions in the district. At the Taluka level the Tahsildar, Block Development Officer, Judicial Magistrate, Deputy Engineers and other officers look after their respective departments for developmental and regulatory functions.

As far back as 1854, Major Graham, a British Officer attached to Kolhapur Darbar, had carried out a survey that recorded the number of people engaged in lime-, charcoal-, paper-, glassbangle-, bamboowork-, ink-making, oilmen, saddlers, perfumers, cloth-weavers, coppersmiths, liquor-distillers, etc., divided into 20 different trades in which were engaged about 1200 people. [35] In 1926, Dr. Balkrishna carried out a 'Commercial Survey of the Kolhapur City covering the industrial establishments in the town which revealed the presence of such activities as leather-tanning, edible-oil extraction, printing and publishing, motor repairs, fireworks, electric supply, cine-film production and licensed country liquor breweries. The number of people engaged in these activities was 3,778. [36] Evidently, within about seventy-five years since Maj. Graham's survey, manufacture in Kolhapur had left behind the traditional and taken up the contemporary.

The foundation of the modern industry in Kolhapur was laid with the setting up of 'Shahu Chhatrapati Spinning and Weaving Mills' on 27.9.1906 as a joint-stock concern, partly to utilize the cotton being grown in about 30,000 acres in the State at that time. [37] After several changes in its ownership over the years, the Mill now operates as a Unit of Maharashtra State Textile Corporation, a Government of

#### **Maharashtra Undertaking:**

Since mid-19th century, Kolhapur had the reputation of producing quality 'Gur' (jaggery). Chh. Shahu established a separate jaggery market adjacent to the railway station. The market prospered and now functions on an area measuring 145 acres.

'Kolhapur Sugar Mills' was established under State's patronage in 1932. In 1951-52, jaggery prices crashed to an all time low, forcing the canefarmers to torch the standing cane-crop to clear the land. Gradually, Phoenix-like, from the ashes of the burnt-down cane-stalks rose the cane-sugar industry in the cooperative sector. Growth of sugar industry proved a boon to the infantile engineering industry as it gave impetus to indigenous manufacture of diesel engine pumpsets used for irrigating the cane-fields. Several workshops came up for repairing pumpsets, farm equipment and implements.

The first-ever cast-iron foundry in Kolhapur was set up by an enterprising individual, Yamanaji Anandrao Ambale, under Chh. Shahu's patronage in 1920 for producing bullock-driven cane-crushers. The foundry, however, could not survive [38]. In 1941, one S.Y. Kulkarni started yet another cast-iron foundry on the capital of Rupees Two. He was another enterprising genius and in the early days of his venture, he used to give working demonstrations of his diesel engine and pumpset to the farmers right in their villages. His zeal and selling talent boosted the sale of his products and also made the farmers realize the potential of irrigation for harvesting bountiful double or even triple crops, but mostly the sugarcane [39]. Gradually, increasing use of oil-engines, pumps and crushers in sugar and jaggery industry helped to start many new engineering workshops, in which oil-engines, gas-plants, centrifugal pumps, storage batteries, hullers, crushers were manufactured. Gradually, increasing use of oil-engines, pumps and crushers in sugar and jaggery industry helped to start many new engineering workshops, in which oil-engines, gas-plants, centrifugal pumps, storage batteries, hullers, crushers were manufactured.

Latter-day industrial entrepreneurs in Kolhapur modelled themselves on the lines of the enterprise and tenacity displayed by the pioneers like S.Y. Kulkarni, Hemaraj Samani and Mahadeo Shelke in setting up small and medium sized ventures, initially to meet the increasing demand for farm equipment from the agricultural sector and subsequently diversifying, for better capacity utilization, into engineering and automotive ancillary sectors.

Kolhapur District today is one of the industrially advanced districts in the State. Excluding 22 cooperative sugar factories, there are 20 large scale industries and 35 medium scale industries (textile, sugar, chemicals, automotive spares and steel foundries, milk processing, etc.), besides 8000 registered small scale industries in the District in 2002-03 [40].

At a rough estimate, the organized industrial sector employs about 50,000 workers. There also are approximately 50,000 people working in the central and state government departments and undertakings as also local autonomous bodies in the district [41].

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