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## INDUSTRIAL PROFILE OF THE KONKAN REGION AND SOCIO-POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES: A CRITICAL REVIEW

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### **Abstract:**

*The present study is broadly covered social response and conflict in industrial profile in the Konkan region. Konkan region is basically known for natural assets and industrially backward despite there are many industries including small scale and large scale. Local natives are very scare and disappointed by these activities. Social mind is against these factories and industries but still industrial sector is developing day by day. As a researcher tries to understand this industrial crisis. The scope of this study is not focus entire Konkan but especially central and south Konkan, because of this is rural and sub-urban area. Also political exposure from local politicians is very different than others. In the many cases it can easily realise active hidden political agenda, that means protest and oppose against industrial sector is mostly politically charged.*

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### **Introduction:**

The present study is emphasizes on industrial profile of the Konkan region and the role of socio- political factors. Researcher has considered current industrial projects and social response towards them. Several industrial projects have been rejected by the local communities in Konkan, some projects are suffering by huge oppose of locals.

### **Review of Literature and Development in the field:**

**Touraine Alain (1985):** The author

expresses his thoughts on social movements in present article entitled, “*An Introduction to the Study of Social Movements.*” Social movements transform itself from ancient period. Social movement is associated to various elements likes external and internal resources, deprivation, notions, role of activists, direction of movement, participation of the stake holders, government’s approach towards that movement, state’s interference and perception of whole community about movement etc. The above factors are

accordingly change as per the nature of social movement. The author discussed some concepts with examples here following concepts: Pursuit of collective interests, reconstruction of social, cultural and political identity, political force, the defence of a status and privileges and creates a new order. One class of population vs established capitalist system is one of the structure of society. Mainstream of society doesn't consider resistance and collectiveness. At a glance the existing article is introduced background and basic principles of social movements.

#### **Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project, (2012)**

NPCIL has published own booklet entitled, "*Informative booklet Published by NPCIL.*" The booklet is covered list of plants under operations and constructions in India. Introduction to nuclear energy, land acquisition process, types of nuclear reactors, safety features, how to protect environment by nuclear energy, nuclear waste management, misconceptions and the facts, frequently ask questions (FAQ), cash compensation and other facilities and services for affected people. The main objectives to publish this booklet that, to reduce aggression of stake holders about JNPP. Farmers and fisherman were played key role in that protest so the book is given answer of their questions.

According to the company, proposed JNPP will be eco-friendly source of energy, there is no chance to harm environment. Marine life will be safe after

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established this project. As well as this book explained actual radiation causes, impacts and tried to remove roomers of nuclear radiations.

**Yousef Mohammad (2012)** The author is analyzing types of data in this book entitled, "*Review of Social Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches.*" Meaning and definition of operational terms and concepts can make clear nature of the first part of this book. Quantitative data section is arguing on quantitative research deals with the numbers, logic, and an objective stance. It is also focuses on numeric and unchanging data (constant). We can do comparison, classification and segmentation very easily this kind of data. Another side of this work is engaging with advantage of using qualitative methods is that they generate rich, detailed nature data that leave the participants perspectives intact and provide multiple contexts for understanding the phenomenon under study. In this way, qualitative research can be used to brightly determine phenomena as well as to conduct cross-case comparisons and investigation of individuals or groups. The author did explain entirely both type of data likes, conceptual based, practicality, application and ability etc.

#### **Goode William and Hatt Paul (2006)**

The book is very famous entitled, "*Methods in Social Research.*" The readers will get answers of various

research and methodological questions after reviewing/ referred this book. We found simple analysis of how to take review of previous studies, basic research concepts, research questions, methodological queries, data collection tools and techniques and data analysis etc. The book is providing some simple judgments for example, Review of Literature - what is already known, Research Design - overview of methodological decisions taken, Data Collection - how collect necessary information, Data Analysis: how to process using quantitative and qualitative data, Results - research outputs/ how to display data and results of analysis. Interpretation of Results - how to make sense of the findings Work. The book is also focuses on research design, sample selection methods, qualitative and quantitative methods, research objectives, hypothesis, methodologies of social research, how to present our proper view towards research topic, these are many contents handled by the authors here which are delivers a lot of knowledge in social research world.

**Rohr Lopes Amandha (2014)** The present research work entitled, “*The Impact of Social Media on Movements: The New Opportunity and Mobilizing Structure.*” This study seeks to explain and test the construction process of social movements by addressing two central interconnected factors such as opportunity structures and mobilizing structures. The *Dr. P. T. Nargude & Dr. T. B. Rokade*

author claimed that social movements are caused by opportunity structures for example economic, institutional and social contexts of a country conditioned by its access to social media. Social movements are not created by a single (individual) variable but rather by some multiple variables that create an interaction effect. Social movements have been implemented in many different forms and on different levels in order to transform societies. The introduction of social media into the discussion is thought to have completely changed the way people are able to organize. New studies are now looking at social media as a tool in shaping social movements’ agendas and aiding collective action both online and offline at the local or global level. Study on the usage of social media in stimulating social movements has only begun to surface in the last decade. The work is mainly highlighted on media and social movement interlinking.

**Kothari C. R. and Garg Gaurav (2014)** The present book entitled, “*Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*” principally, explained what is research methodology, methods and appropriate techniques. The book is designed to include necessary statistical concepts to allow scholars to make good sense of the statistical figures and numbers that they are uncovered to in daily life. After reading the book, students should understand the basics of quantitative research and be able to critically review

simple statistical analysis. The book is intended to be self-contained but does not include mathematical confirmations. The book also talks about how to handle qualitative data and applied analyse techniques. The author argues on types of social theory ad research, basic concepts of research, data collection tools and techniques, hypothesis testing and how to present findings etc. The book uses simple language, so there is no difficulty for understanding. As well as this work definitely helpful to research proposal and report writing.

**Mohan Aniruddha (2016)** The author explained nuclear journey in the Indian context through current study entitled, “*The future of nuclear energy in India.*” As well as do some predict regarding nuclear energy. India's over population and energy deficiency remains a huge challenge. The present study uses technical language to understand associated terms and mechanic concepts. Fast Breeder Reactors, Advance Heavy Water Reactors and Capacity Projection Reactor types explained with details. The second section of this work is noted that factors influencing nuclear power growth like land requirement, fuel requirement and manufacturing needs. Financing and cost are very important factor in energy dealing for any country. Nuclear energy needs much investment; it is very difficult to afford huge investment for developing countries like India. The matter is not just only capital but social

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acceptance is there also. Nuclear energy is unknown for major class in society so it is not easily get social acceptance. At a glance the author tried to explained international scenario and Indian perception about nuclear energy is quite different. At present nuclear energy is controversial and the baseline of oppose will be continue for next some years.

**Singh Surbhi (2017)** The research work entitled, “*Scientific Controversies in India- Case Study of Jaitapur and Kudankulum Nuclear Power Plants*” analysed two nuclear controversies in India. Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited still accepting nuclear projects. The author also discussed international consequence of nuclear dealing. The present study is trying to underline a dialogue of activists with the higher government authorities. The methodology is based completely on the secondary literature. The study helps to understanding two case studies using the framework of Public Engagement with Science and Technology. The study has engaged with Jaitapur and Kudankulam nuclear plant. Both protests were unfortunately heard off. All authorities and regulations gave green signals to this project. Land holders also accepted compensation amounts by the government. But Local people fear danger of earthquakes since Jaitapur is a seismically sensitive area. NPCIL promised that about 02% of the net profit will be spent for local communities. Kudankulum project is not a big different

story. So, the present work is highlighted some controversial issues between both projects.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

1. To know the Industrial profile in Konkan Region.
2. To understand the social response towards Industrial profile in Konkan Region.

### **Research Methodology:**

The study is based on Primary and Secondary Sources. Researcher has used Interview- Schedule Method to understand entire scenario about Industrial Practices and Role of the Local Communities.

### **Industrial Disputes in Konkan Region:**

At present, it is difficult to overcome the financial crisis in developing countries. External and internal investment is essential for infrastructural development. It is a challenge to fulfil materialistic need and create employment opportunities without developing such projects or industries. Maharashtra State has rich historical, political, social, cultural and economic aspects.

Government and Private Investors also want to establish their industrial projects in Konkan because of the availability of resources such as land, pure air, peace, greenery, sufficient and water availability, transport facilities, railway tracks and ocean. Supplementary benefit is that NH 66 (Mumbai – Goa) and Ratnagiri

– Nagpur NH 166 passes through Konkan region. Now-a-days, highway expansion work is going on. Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Chiplun, Rajapur, Kankavli, Kudal and Sawantwadi are the premier cities in Konkan and are connected to Mumbai and South India (Madgaon, Mangalore and Trivandrum) by railway routes. There is sufficient availability of human resource. There is no trouble of other things likes social insecurity or safety concerns. Due to all these factors, Government and Capitalists prefer Konkan for establishing their projects.

Principally, the West Coast of Maharashtra is known as Konkan. This is a vital part of Maharashtra, especially in concern of Natural Assets, Tourism, Greenery, Ancient Temples, Alphonso Mango, Coconut, Cashew and Jackfruit. Konkani people wish an eco-friendly development like development in tourism, fish processing, Mango canning and Cashew Nut processing. They also work to save natural wealth and local natural resources. They do not want any industrial sectors which may interrupt and destroy, simultaneously, their natural comfort and ecology.

Central and South Konkan is an economically backward area. Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts are included in Konkan province. Thane is close to the Mumbai city.

There are some constraints in Central and South Konkan like lack of capital, infrastructural facilities and traditional

mind set of local people, negative experiences about Government and capitalists etc. These are some reasons why they do not want to consider any such project in Konkan.

Thinking about family setup in Konkan, there is at least one person from each family who works in Mumbai. New generation wants to settle in Mumbai or other metropolitan cities. They do not think about the establishment of industries in Konkan. Local people continuously take a stand against industrial projects. Mind-set of youth is different from the older generation as they want to settle in Mumbai after graduation and aspire for jobs in private sector. The migration has been taking place from Konkan to Mumbai generation by generation.

Following examples speak about the success stories from social resistance in Konkan. Many industrial projects were rejected by local villagers in Konkan like Star Light Project, Dabhol Gas Project, Henko Chemical Phase II and Finolex Phase II and are still pending. Jaitapur and Nanar Refinery Project are burning issues at this time. Livelihood struggle is going on in Konkan since many years and in spite of this some power projects are actively working namely- Enron, Jindal and Finolex, Lote-Parshuram Industrial Colony, Chiplun MIDC as well-established industrial sector. Further projects are proposed by the Government for Ratnagiri district: Ajgaon project, Nanar Petrochemical refinery project and Jaitapur

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Nuclear Power Plant at Rajapur. Ratnagiri is located on West Coast of Maharashtra. The key factor of Konkan is negative attitude towards industrial projects and strong opposition made by the natives due to which it is almost impossible to find mega industrial sectors in Konkan. Only small-scale industries can work smoothly. The natives do not want to prefer bulk industries under any circumstance.

Most of the population is busy in some practices like Government and Non-Government services, agricultural sector, tourism, small scale business and fishing business in Konkan. Some political parties and NGOs support the local community in opposing particular industries, companies, factories and projects.

Thinking about pending projects in Konkan with invested capital and proposed years. Tillari Interstate project from Sindhudurg district was proposed in 1986 with an investment cost of Rs. 1030 Crores, Gadnadi Medium project from Ratnagiri is settled down, which was proposed in the year 1994 and invested amount was Rs. 743 Cr, Nardave Medium project from Sindhudurg is settled down, which was proposed in the year 2001 and invested amount was Rs. 325 Cr, Talamba Irrigation from Sindhudurg is settled down, which was proposed in the year 2001 and invested amount was Rs. 142 Cr, Jamada Medium project from Ratnagiri is settled down, which was proposed in the year 2004 and invested amount was Rs. 317 Cr. and



Sarambala Medium Project from Sindhudurg is settled down, which was proposed in the year 2006 and invested amount was Rs. 69 Cr.

The concerned projects are from Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts within the last 35 years. The project cost has rapidly increased day by day and invested capital cannot be refunded to the investors. There are many limitations of natural resources due to delay. A number of projects are suffering from local opposition as well as delay in technical and administrative clearance.

#### **Coal-Based Power Projects in Konkan:**

- Shahapur, Raigarh (Tata) 3000 MW
- Bhopani, Dapoli (GMR) 1800 MW
- Dhopave, Guhagar (NTPC) 1600 MW
- Jaigarh, Ratnagiri (JSWEL) 3200 MW
- Ranpar, Ratnagiri (Finolex) 1000 MW
- Munage, Devgarh (Ultramega) 4000 MW
- Dhakore, Ajgaon, Sawantwadi (Bharat Power) 1050 MW
- Total – 15,650 MW

(Source: <http://www.moef.nic.in>)

Coal is a premier and dominant resource of electricity in India. Thinking about Konkan, same facts are found as

well. Coal based projects in Konkan generate total 15, 650 MW electricity. Tata - Shahapur at Raigad generates 3000 MW electricity, GMR – Bhopani at Dapoli generates 1800 MW electricity, NTPC Dhopave at Guhagar generates 1600 MW electricity, JSWEL Jaigarh at Ratnagiri generates 3200 MW electricity, Finolex, Ranpar at Ratnagiri generates 1000 MW electricity, Munage, Devgarh generates 4000 MW electricity, Bharat Power at Sawantwadi generates 1050 MW electricity. Total 15,650 MW Electricity is generated from the above-mentioned projects in Konkan.

#### **Nanar Petro-Chemical Refinery:**

Nanar Petro-chemical Refinery is another proposed major project to face conflict in Konkan after Jaitapur plant. The estimated project cost is Rs. 3 lakh Crore. Bharatiya Janata Party is in the support of this project but Shiv Sena wants to reject the project. The refinery proposed to be built by Saudi Aramco which is the world's largest refinery. Nanar village also belongs to Rajapur Taluka. Nanar and Jaitapur are close to each other. The distance is only 61 km by road. According to the environmentalists and experts, it is not secure to place Petro-chemical refinery and nuclear power plant altogether at a place. After huge opposition, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnis has declared that Nanar Refinery is to be relocated at Raigad (May 2019). However,

it is said that the refinery will be set up in Nanar village because Grampachaynats of neighbouring villages have approved this refinery in June 2021; even though some organizations and Shiv Sena are have been against it. Political leaders from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region want to establish this refinery at Vidarbha. They have written a letter to Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan (Former Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas) regarding shifting this refinery in Vidarbha province. Many people are curious to know what decision the Government will take about the refinery.

As per the level of risk factor, both nuclear power plant and petro-chemical refinery are dangerous and they will be unsafe for natives and biodiversity as well. Nanar refinery issue is also trapped in social and political controversy. Political interference is also active in this crisis. The natives and other Activists have decided to reject this refinery project in any condition.

#### Major Findings:

1. Konkan region is basically known for natural beauty and eco-sensitive zone therefore, local people are does not want to support any industry project and plant.
2. Local people mind-set is not ready to accept industrial practices in their territory.
3. The role of activists is inspired by

local politicians and NGO members.

4. It has been observed that youth of this region have a trend to move to the metropolitan cities for better career opportunities and good income.
5. There is an approach of people they are not allow to all industries to set-up region because of political issues and the traditional mentality of the local community.
6. Highway expansion work is also going on such as Mumbai – Goa (NH 66) and Ratnagiri – Kolhapur (NH 166) land acquisition work is done still oppose for that is alive.

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