



ACCESSIBILITY OF TOURIST CENTERS IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Accessibility is a very crucial factor as it is a means by which tourist can reach the area where attractions are located. Tourist attraction of any type would be of little importance if their locations are not accessible by the normal means of transport. If the tourist attraction are located at places where no means of transport facilities these become of little value. The tourist attraction which are located near tourist generating markets; linked by a network of efficient roads and able to be reached easily. The distance factor also plays an important role in determining a tourist's choice of destination. The physical isolation and inadequate transport facilities are handicaps to tourism development. Kolhapur district is located on the border of 'Desh and Konkan'. Roads in between Konkan and Desh pass through the Ghats. These Ghats play a significant role in connecting the Kolhapur district and Konkan. The western part of the district is mainly hilly and undulating. The tourist centers located in hilly areas have low accessibility. The present paper attempts to study the accessibility of tourist centers in Kolhapur district.

Keyword: *Accessibility, Transport Network, Tourist Centers.*

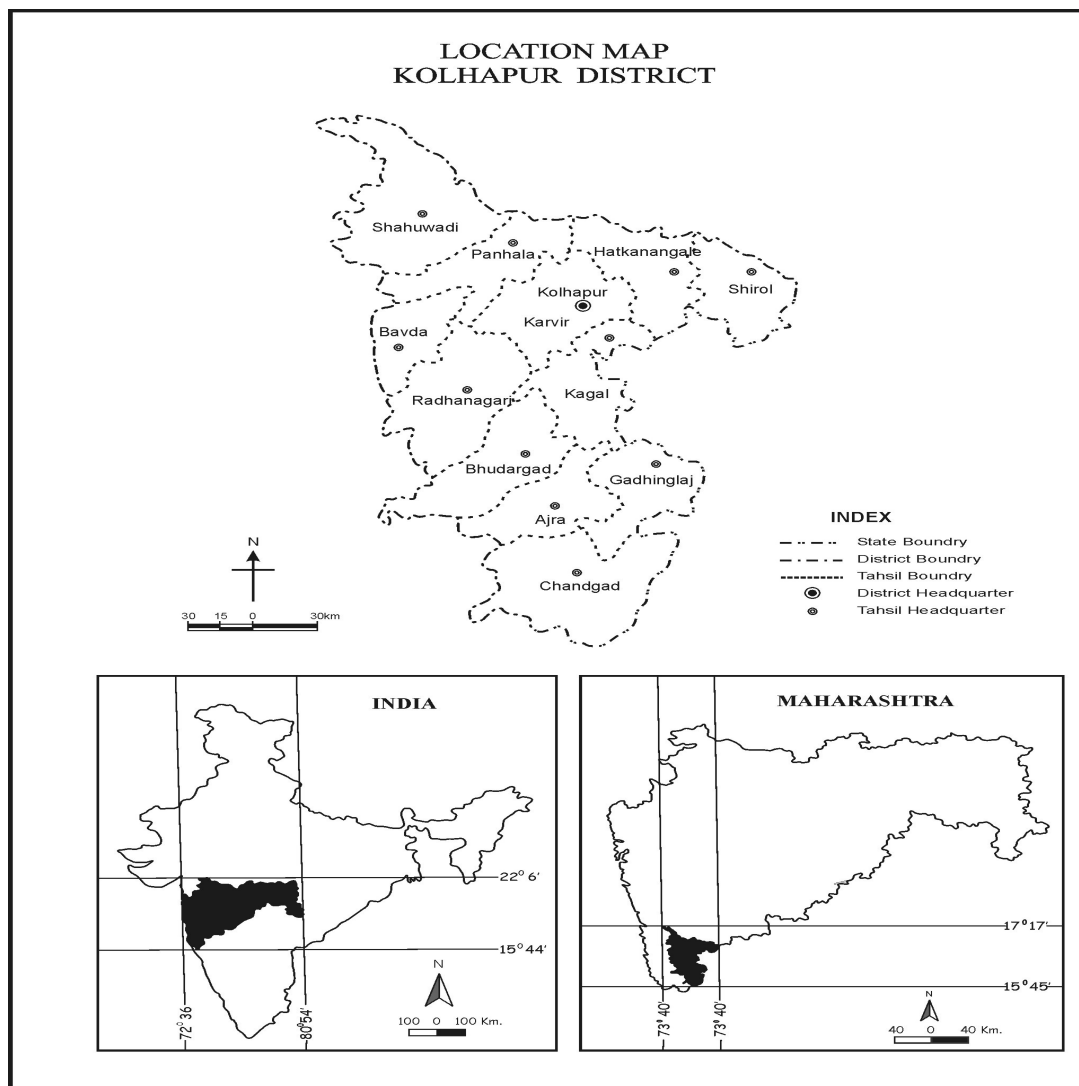
INTRODUCTION:

Accessibility is a very crucial factor as it is a means by which tourist can reach the area where attraction is located. Accessibility is the most important index to study the development of transport network. It denotes the ease of contact with relatively little friction (Heigh: 1996) resulting in less wastage in time and energy. It results in the socio-economic development of an area and provides a measure to examine the effectiveness of the transportation network present in a region (Singh 1967 p.59). Accessibility can be measured theoretically to show the spatial relationship existing between a given element of structure and the remainder of the network (Kansky 1963).

STUDY AREA:

Kolhapur district is situated in the eastern slope of Western Ghats in South Maharashtra. The district lies between 15° 43' to 17° 17' North latitude

and $73^{\circ} 40'$ to $74^{\circ} 42'$ East longitude. Average height is 390 to 600 meter from MSL. It has occupied 7685sq km. area of Maharashtra and out of this 450000 hect, is net sown area. The Krishna, Panchganga, Warna, Dudhaganga, these are the main rivers and The Kumbhi, Kasari, Bhogavati, Tulsi, these are sub rivers drained the Kolhapur district. There are twelve talukas in Kolhapur district. Out of these Hatkanangale Karveer and shirol talukas are physiographically plain region. Shahuwadi, Gaganbavada and Radhanagari talukas are lies on the hilly area of western Ghat and other taluka are semi mountainous regions.



OBJECTIVE:

To identify the Accessibility of tourist centers in Kolhapur district.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:

There are different methods to measure the accessibility of nodes in the present study the accessibility of heritage and cultural tourist centers in Kolhapur district have been measured with the help of relative method accessibility in relation to the nearest main roads. (National highway, State highway, and major district roads) to find out the accessibility of tourist centers the distance of each center from main road is considered. The map showing accessibility with the help of isopleths and indicators considered as –

- 1) Distant below 5 km from main road, these centers considered most accessibility.
- 2) Distance 5 to 10 km from main road, these centers having moderate accessibility.
- 3) Tourist centers located at 10 to 20 km distance from main road these have low accessibility.
- 4) More than 20 km distance indicates very low accessibility.

ROAD DENSITY:

Table 1: Kolhapur District : Density Of Road Per 100sq Km Area.

Sr. No	Tahsil	Total Geographical area	Total Length	Density of roads in per 100sq km area
1	Karveer	617.13	799	119
2	Panahala	568.13	685	120
3	Shirol	507.90	548	107
4	Hatakangale	609.4	665	109
5	Gaganbawada	385.10	205	53
6	Radhanagari	892.40	721	81
7	Kagal	547.54	682	124
8	Gadhinglaj	481.15	543	113
9	Ajara	548.88	531	96
10	Bhudargad	644.4	666	103
11	Shahuwadi	1043.52	939	90
12	Chandgad	965.15	718	74
	Total	7865	7702	98

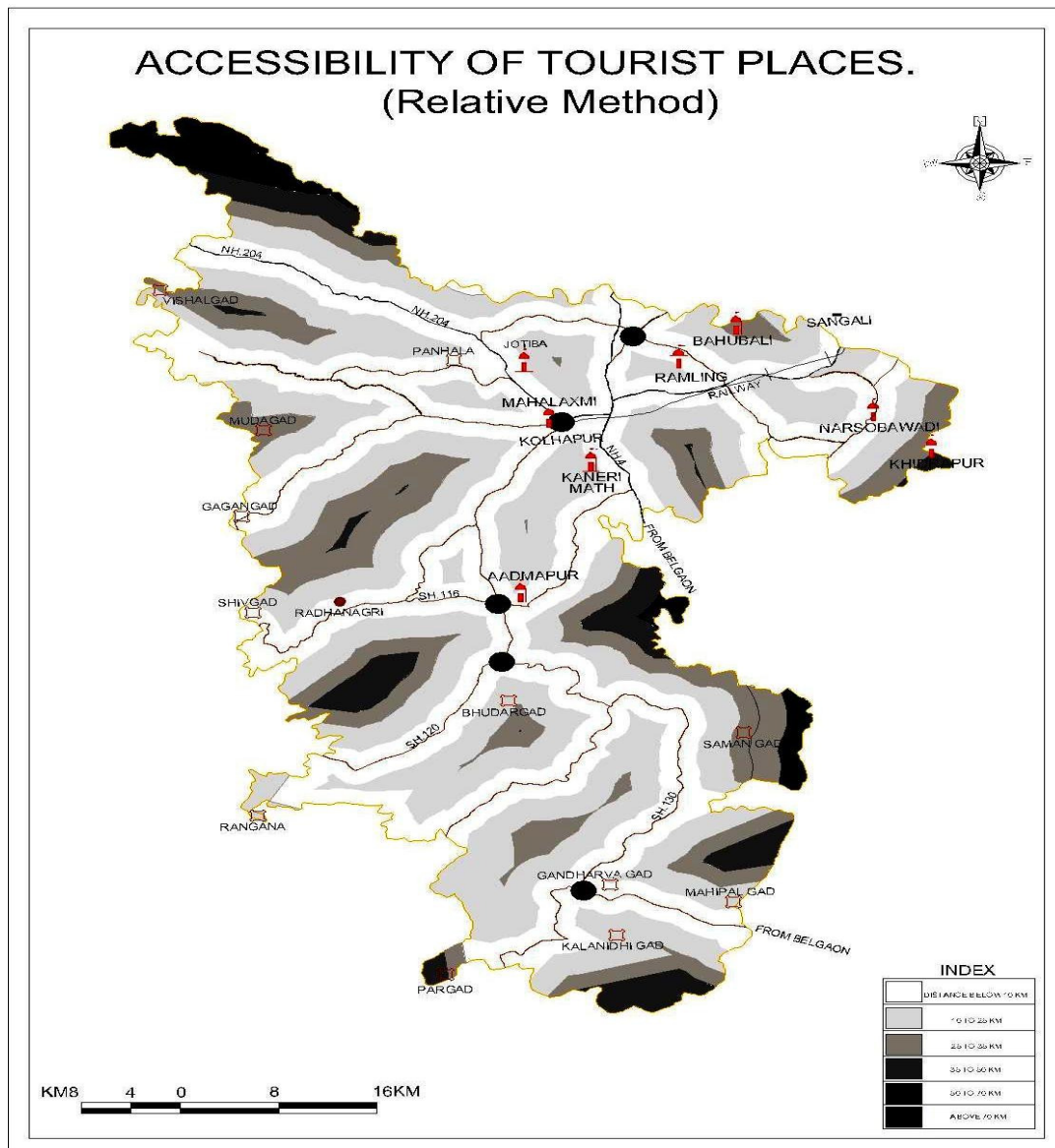
Source: Kolhapur District Abstract

According to data shows in Table 1 the development of road is uneven it is affected by terrain elements. Density of roads in Gaganbawada and Chandgad tahsil is low, it is less than 75 km per 100sq km. area in

Shahuwadi, Radhanagari, Bhudargad tahsil density of roads is moderate it is in between 75 to 100 kms. to per 100sq kms. area. But in plain region of district namely in Shirol, Kagal, Hathkangale, Gadhinglaj, tahsils density of road is comparatively high. It is a maximum in Karveer and Kagal tahsil it is more than 115 km. per100sq kms.

ACCESSIBILITY OF TOURIST PLACES (*Relative Method*):

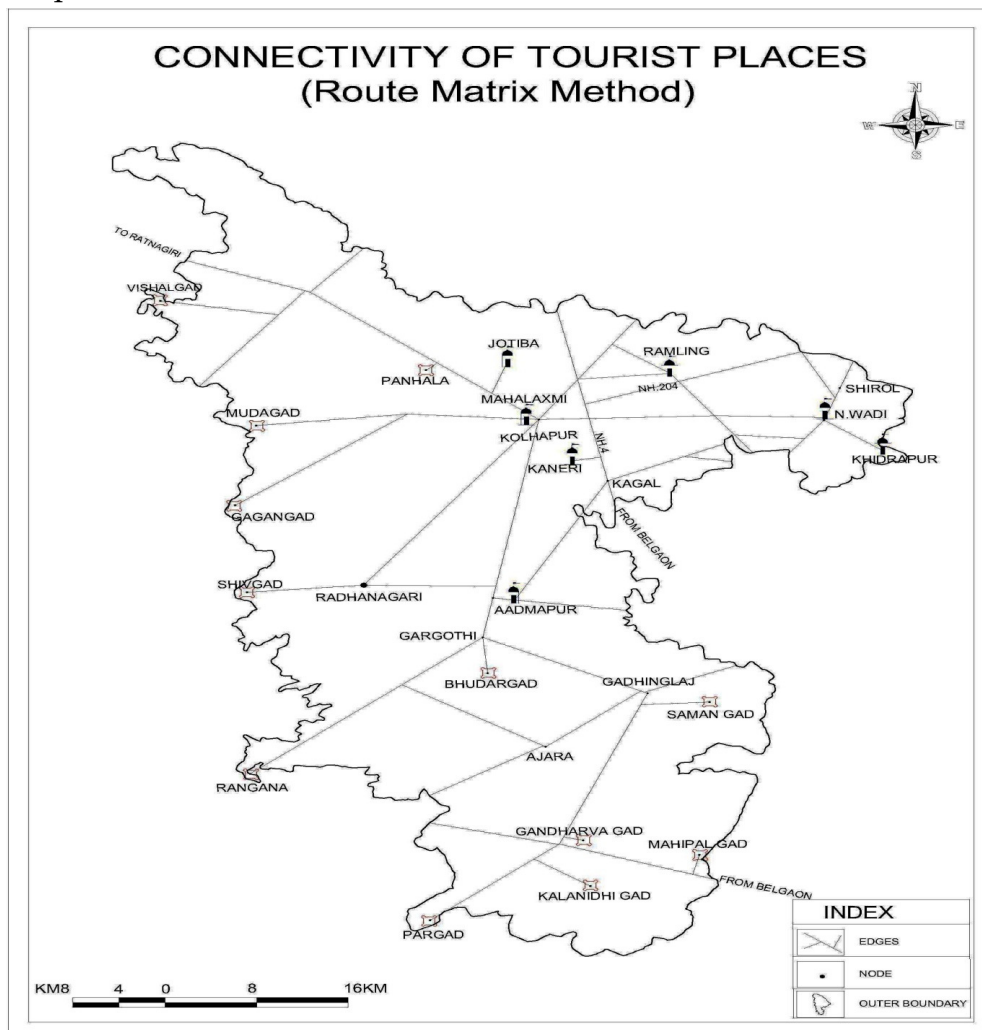
According to figure 1 accessibility of tourist places in Kolhapur district have been analysis. It reveals that major Historical fort in the district having hill top location. The height of these forts in more than 800 to 900 meter and because of hill top location accessibility of these places is low. Only Pannahalagarh, Gaganbawada have good accessibility.



Vishalgarh fort is connected by tar road up to Gajapur. Gajapur to Vishalgarh there is Kachha road. Bhudargad is located 10 km. away from Gargoti. Kolhapur to Gargoti there is a state highway. But Bhudargad is located on hill top there is a small tar road connected this fort. Samangarh and Pargarh these forts also less accessibility because of their hill top location other hand Kolhapur city. Bahubali, Narsobawadi, Panahala, Jyotiba these tourist places having good accessibility. All these places are connected by state high ways and tar roads. Khidrapur is located on the bank of Krishna river, up to Akiwat and tkali village there is good roads but Akiwat to Khidrapur very small rough roads due to this khidrapur have moderate accessibility.

ACCESSIBILITY OF TOURIST PLACES (*Route Matrix Method*):

The route matrix method is applied to measure the accessibility of tourist centers in Kolhapur district. This helps to find out the most accessible centers. This method is based on the use of typology of transport network in the Kolhapur district.



To arrive at the results a geographic matrix is prepared. The result of geographic matrix is presented in figure -2 according to this result Kolhapur center have very good accessibility Kolhapur city is connected more than 5 road links Narsobawadi, Bhahubali, these destination having good accessibility but main fort heritage centers having low or moderate accessibility because only one or two road links. These places are located on hilly region; because of the undulating topography transport facilities are poor. Khidrapur is located in plane region but it is located far away from main state highway hence this destination have moderate accessibility, as well as the condition of road is not good.

CONCLUSION:

Kolhapur district has great history; cultural variety and natural gifts, all these provides lot of tourism potential. The land of Kolhapur district revels a treasure for tourism. The different geographical components are plays important role in the development of tourism. The geographical location of tourist center is most important components. Which is influence on climate and accessibility of tourist centers spatial distribution of tourist places in the Kolhapur district is studied it reveals that major historical forts are located on hill top. They have excellent mountain scenery and historical importance. This natural scenery and history attracts tourists to visit this fort center. But accessibility of tourist centers are depends upon development of roads. Development of roads and railways are playing an important role in the process of tourism development. Physiography of the region is influenced o the road density. Shahuwadi, Gagnabawada, Chandgad, Ajara and Radhanagri tahsil are located in westrn hilly area. In these tahsil have low and moderate road density, in other hand Shirol, Karveer, Kagal, Hathkangale, Gadhinglaj tahsil have good road density. Accessibility of tourist centers are depends upon location, except Panhala other fort tourist centers have low accessiblity. An easy access is most important factor in the development of tourist destinations. Tourist centers like Kolhapur have good accessibility and connectivity hence thousands of tourist centers are also well developed. Khidrapur is one of the important heritage centers in Kolhapur district, but road connectivity is not good only one small road connect this place. Few tourist visited Khidrapur.

SUGGESTION:

Roads are plays important role in the tourism development. Good roads are essential in western hilly region of the district. Fort tourist centers like

Vishalgarh, Panhala, Bhudargarh, Samangarh have less accessibility. All these fort centers should be connected by good tar roads.

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