



Concentration of Lohar Community in Satara District of Maharashtra

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Abstract:

The present research paper is based on the concentration of Lohar community in Satara district. The Lohar population spread over all in Satara district, but their distribution is uneven. They have no sustainable income source; therefore, they spared for the searching of job. Present study is based on the data received from Primary Survey. Bhatia's Location quotient methods have been applying for the present investigation. The distribution and concentration affected socio-economic-cultural condition of the region and source of occupational platform. The high concentration is observed in Satara Tahsil; whereas, Phaltan Tahsil and Karad Tahsil having moderate concentration and remaining tahsils comprises low concentration of Lohar NT population in Satara district.

Keywords: Satara District, Lohar Community, Socio-Economic Status, Bhatia's Location Quotient Methods, Population Concentration, Pattern, Distribution.

Introduction:

In the complex social fabric of Maharashtra, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes represent a historically significant yet socio-economically marginalized segment of the population. Among these, the Lohar community (traditionally known as blacksmiths or ironsmiths) holds a unique position as one of the essential artisan groups of the traditional village *Balutedari* system. Historically associated with the craftsmanship of agricultural tools and weaponry, the Lohars have transitioned from vital village artisans to a nomadic tribe (NT) facing severe modern-day economic challenges.

The Satara district, situated in the western part of Maharashtra, presents a diverse geographical and economic landscape that directly influences the settlement and migration patterns of its inhabitants. While the district's economy is primarily driven by agriculture, the

community of Lohars within this region often finds itself without a stable or sustainable income source. The decline of traditional ironwork due to industrialization and mass production has stripped many Lohar families of their ancestral livelihoods, forcing a widespread, yet uneven, distribution across the district as they move in search of employment.

Understanding the spatial concentration of such a community is critical for effective socio-economic planning and the delivery of targeted welfare schemes. The distribution of a population is rarely uniform; it is often governed by the availability of "occupational platforms"—pockets of economic activity where their skills remain in demand or where alternative labour opportunities exist. In the context of Satara, these platforms vary significantly between the industrialized hubs and the drought-prone or hilly rural tahsils.

This research paper aims to analyse the spatial concentration of the Lohar community within the eleven tahsils of the Satara district. By utilizing Bhatia's Location Quotient method, a quantitative geographical technique typically used to measure regional concentration, this study identifies areas of high, moderate, and low demographic density. Based on a Primary Survey, the investigation explores how the community's uneven distribution is a direct reflection of their socio-economic and cultural conditions, highlighting the urgent need for a structured framework to improve the occupational stability of this nomadic tribe within the region.

Study Area:

Satara district is the most important region of the western Maharashtra and Deccan

plateau region. The Satara district is located in the western Indian state of Maharashtra. Spread across an area of almost 10484 square kilometers, the district is bordered by Solapur in the east, Ratnagiri in the west, Pune in the north and Sangli in the south. The Satara District Map clearly shows that the Rivers Krishna and Koyna flow through this place. Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar, Karad, Wai, Koregaon and, Koyananagar are the chief towns of Satara District. The region extends between 17° 5' North to 18° 11' North latitude and 73° 33' East to 74° 54' East longitude. Administratively the district has divided in to 11 tahsils, namely Satara, Karad, Wai, Mahabaleshwar, Phaltan, Maan, Khatav, Koregaon, Patan, Jaoli, and Khandala.

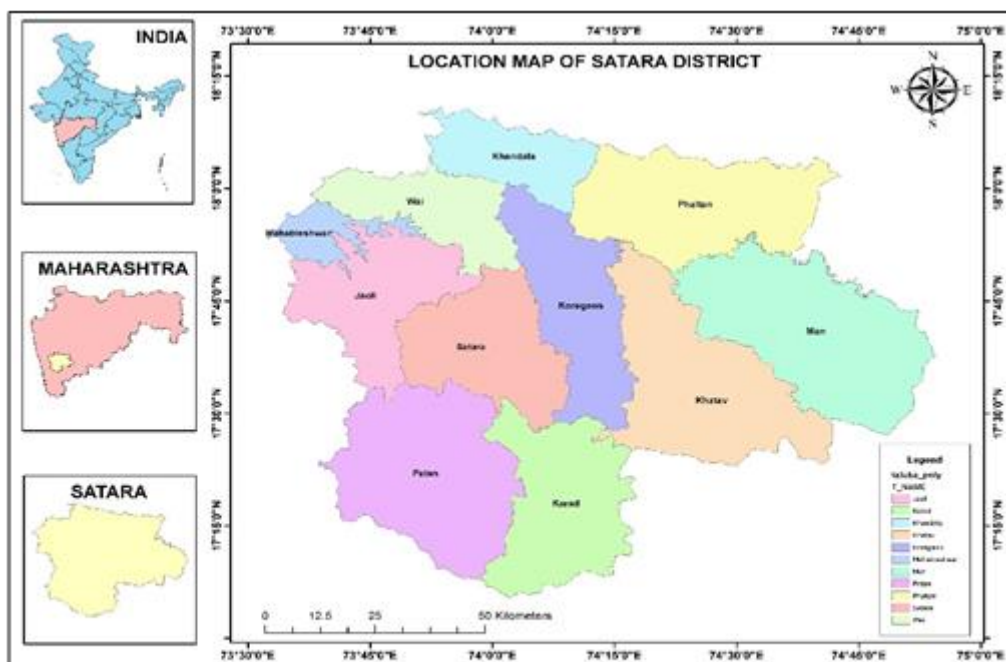


Fig. Location Map of the Study Area

Research Objectives:

1. To Concentration of Lohar Community in Satara district.

Research Methodology:

Primary Data:

Researcher collecting primary data by interviews with the help of well-prepared questionnaire.

Secondary Data:

No secondary data, pertaining to Lohar Community at the place of origin and destination are available, the study is mainly based on primary data which is generated through field surveys.

Concentration Of Lohar Population In Satara District:

Bhatia's (1965) location quotient method has been used to determining the patterns of concentration of Lohar population in the study area. Location quotient nearness the degree to which a specific region has more or less the area's Lohar-Nomadic Tribe population its share. Location quotient (Sign, 1984) has been determined with the help of following equation:

Formula:

The Location Quotient (LQ) method is often used to calculate the Index of Concentration.

Index of Concentration

$$= \frac{\text{Area of Popu.'x' in the Tahsil}}{\text{Area of all Popu. in the district}} \div \frac{\text{Area of Popu.'x' in the district}}{\text{Area of all popu. in the district}}$$

Index of Concentration = $\frac{\text{Area of Popu.'x' in the Tahsil}}{\text{Area of all Popu. in the district}} \div \frac{\text{Area of Popu.'x' in the district}}{\text{Area of all Popu. in the district}}$

- **Value > 1:** Indicates a high concentration of that popu. in the specific region compared to the national average.
- **Value < 1:** Indicates a low concentration

Population: Lohar Community Male-Female Population in Satara district

Male Female Ratio				
Sr.No.	Tahsil	Male	Female	Total
1	Mahabaleshwer	112	117	229
2	Wai	435	438	873
3	Khandala	191	185	376
4	Phaltan	639	656	1295
5	Man	351	404	755
6	Khatav	491	521	1012
7	Koregaon	490	511	1001
8	Satara	1151	1234	2385
9	Jawali	201	305	506
10	Patan	499	604	1103
11	Karad	831	876	1707
	District	5391	5851	11242

Source: Data Compiled and Computed by the Researcher based on Primary survey conducted during 2023-2024.

1. Overall District Trend:

The district exhibits a favorable sex ratio where females outnumber males. Out of a total population of 11,242, there are 5,851 females and 5,391 males. This results in a district-wide sex ratio of approximately 1,085 females for every 1,000 males.

2. Tahsils with High Female Representation:

Several areas show a significantly higher female population compared to males:

- Jawali: This tahsil has the most striking gap, with roughly 1,517 females per 1,000 males.
- Patan & Man: Both show a substantial female majority. In Patan, females

account for about 54.7% of the local population.

- Satara: As the largest tahsil in the dataset (2,385 total), it maintains a healthy lead of 83 more females than males.

Sr. No.	Category	Tahsil(s)
1	Heighest Female Ratio	Jawali, Patan, Man
2	Highest Total Population	Satara, Karad, Phaltan
3	Male Majority Area	Khandala
4	Most Balanced	Mahabaleshwar, Wai

- The Exception: Khandala
- Khandala is the only tahsil in the list where the male population (191) is higher than the female population (185). While the gap is small, it stands out as the sole exception to the district's general trend of female majority.
- 4. Near-Equal Distribution
- Tahsils like Mahabaleshwar and Wai are very closely balanced. In Mahabaleshwar, the difference is only 5 persons, indicating a near 50/50 split, though still leaning slightly female.

Conclusion:

The Lohar community in Satara shows strong demographic stability. The higher number of females in 10 out of 11 tahsils suggests a progressive demographic trend or specific migration patterns where males may move toward industrial hubs outside their home tahsils, while the core community base remains localized.

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