



## Occupational Disparities in Kolhapur's Marginalized Villages

**Dr. R. B. Bhaskar**

*Assistant Professor,*

*The New College, Kolhapur*

*Corresponding Author - Dr. R. B. Bhaskar*

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### **Abstract:**

*This research provides a micro-level analysis of the occupational structure and workforce disparities among Below Poverty Line (BPL) Scheduled Populations (SC/ST) across 12 sample villages in the Kolhapur district. Utilizing primary fieldwork data, the study examines workforce participation rates and categorizes employment into cultivators, agricultural laborers, and other occupations, with a critical focus on gender disparities.*

**Keywords:** *Workforce Disparities, Scheduled Populations (SC/ST) Agricultural Labourer.*

### **Introduction:**

The occupational structure of a region is a crucial indicator of its socio-economic development, particularly for marginalized communities such as the Scheduled Populations (SC/ST) living Below the Poverty Line (BPL). This study investigates the workforce participation and occupational distribution within 12 sample villages in the Kolhapur district. An analysis of the working demographics reveals that a significant majority of the population (64.13%) is engaged in the workforce, leaving 35.87% as non-workers. However, this engagement is heavily skewed toward agrarian labor, with agricultural laborers constituting 62.68% of the total workforce, compared to a mere 9.50% who identify as cultivators.

Furthermore, the data highlights distinct gender disparities across occupational categories. While the overall

working and non-working proportions of males are higher than those of females, specific micro-level variations exist. For instance, male workers overwhelmingly dominate the "Any Other" occupational category (with several villages showing 100% male participation), whereas female workforce concentration peaks in specific areas like Kotoli (48.89%). By dissecting these local trends, this research sheds light on the economic realities, lack of land ownership (reflected in the low cultivator percentage), and gender-based labor division among the Scheduled Populations in the region.

### **Study Area:**

The study area is situated in the Kolhapur District, utilizing a micro-level geographical approach. To capture localized socio-economic dynamics, the research focuses on 12 purposively selected sample villages: Shirol, Abdul

Lat, Rukadi, Mangaon, Shirol, Kuditre, Kale, Kotoli, Sangaon, Chikali, Sarawade, and Walawe. The primary target group within this study area is the Scheduled Population (comprising Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) living Below the

Poverty Line (BPL). These 12 villages serve as representative spatial units to evaluate rural employment patterns, agricultural dependency, and gender-specific occupational trends within the district's marginalized communities.

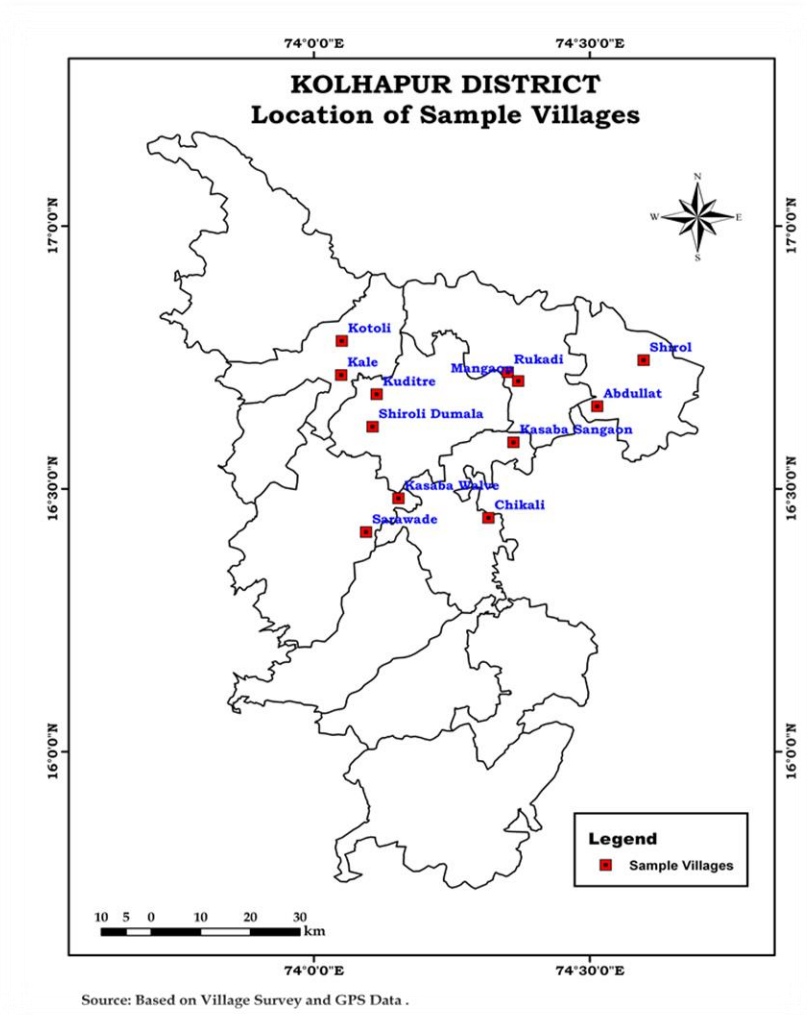


Fig. No.1

### Objectives:

1. To identify and map the male-female disparity within both the working/non-working populations and the specific occupational sectors they inhabit.
2. To compare the occupational structures between the different sample villages

### Database:

The research relies fundamentally on an empirical, micro-level data collection approach to construct a precise occupational profile of the marginalized communities in the study area. Primary Data: The core analysis is built upon primary data collected through an extensive field survey conducted during the year 2022-2023. This fieldwork

involved a direct survey of 650 households, focusing specifically on the Scheduled Population (SC and ST) living Below the Poverty Line (BPL). Secondary Context: While the micro-level tables are derived from primary fieldwork, foundational demographic baselines regarding the Kolhapur district's average working and non-working population distributions are utilized to contextualize the village-level findings.

### **Research Methodology:**

The study employs a descriptive, analytical, and spatial research design to evaluate workforce participation and occupational disparities. The methodology is structured around the following key components:

**A. Sampling Strategy: Study Area:** The micro-level analysis is situated within the Kolhapur district Sampling Technique: A Stratified Random Sampling methodology was applied to analyze and justify the primary survey findings. This approach ensured that the selection of the 12 sample villages (Shirol, Abdul Lat, Rukadi, Mangaon, Shirol, Kuditre, Kale, Kotoli, Sangaon, Chikali, Sarawade, and Walawe) accurately represented the diverse socio-economic and geographical variations across the study area. Target Population: The survey parameters were strictly confined to BPL households within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to isolate the specific economic behaviors of this demographic.

**B. Data Categorization & Variables Workforce Participation:** The surveyed

population was first bifurcated into two primary macroeconomic categories: Total Workers and Non-Workers. Occupational Stratification: To assess the nature of employment, the "Total Workers" category was further stratified into three distinct sectors: 1. Cultivators (land-owning or lease-farming individuals). 2. Agricultural Laborers (landless wage workers). 3. Any Other (non-agricultural, tertiary, or miscellaneous labor). Gender Disaggregation: Every occupational and participation metric was strictly segregated by gender (Male/Female) to map gender-specific labor divisions and identify localized concentrations (e.g., the 100% male participation in the "Any Other" category in villages like Shirol and Kuditre).

### **C. Statistical and Analytical Tools:**

**Descriptive Statistics:** Raw household data was converted into percentage distributions to allow for standardized comparisons between villages of varying population sizes.: Comparative Averages: Village-specific percentages were systematically compared against the calculated district averages (e.g., comparing a village's 72% total worker rate against the 64.13% average) to classify villages as either outperforming or lagging in specific occupational sectors.

### **Distribution of Occupational Structure among the Scheduled Populations in Sample Villages:**

The table 1 shows the percentage distribution Occupational Structure among the Scheduled Populations (BPL) in 12 sample villages of Kolhapur district. The

average total worker was 64.13 per cent and non-workers were 35.87 per cent. The 06 villages like Mangaon (72%), Shirol (66 %), Sangaon (74.74 %), Chikali (72.67 %), Sarawade (64.42 %) and Walawe (70.41 %) are above the average of total workers (64.13 %) of the district. The total Male workers population is highly concentrated in the Walawe village and

which is in 68.12 per cent while female total workers population is concentrated in the Kotoli village with 48.89 per cent. The lowest total workers mail population is found in the Kotoli village with 51.11 per cent and low female total workers population is found in the Walwe with 31.88 per cent.

**Table 1:**

**Percentage Distribution of Occupational Structure among the Scheduled Populations in Sample Villages**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Total Workers			Non Workers		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Shirol	58.72	56.44	43.56	41.28	52.11	43.56
2	Abdul Lat	63.16	51.28	48.72	36.84	51.65	48.72
3	Rukadi	63.98	52.59	47.41	36.02	44.74	47.41
4	Mangaon	72.00	55.56	44.44	28.00	39.29	44.44
5	Shirol	66.00	54.55	45.45	34.00	41.18	45.45
6	Kuditre	60.67	57.41	42.59	39.33	42.86	42.59
7	Kale	61.35	55.00	45.00	38.65	46.03	45.00
8	Kotoli	44.12	51.11	48.89	55.88	49.12	48.89
9	Sangaon	74.74	54.93	45.07	25.26	45.83	45.07
10	Chikali	72.67	51.28	48.72	27.33	52.27	48.72
11	Sarawade	64.42	59.70	40.30	35.58	43.24	40.30
12	Walawe	70.41	68.12	31.88	29.59	51.72	31.88
	<b>Average</b>	<b>64.13</b>	<b>54.99</b>	<b>45.01</b>	<b>35.87</b>	<b>47.54</b>	<b>45.01</b>

*Source: Based on the Fieldwork, 2022-23*

The non-workers in 6 villages like Abdul lat (36.84%), Shirol (41.28 %), Rukudi (36.02 %), Kuditre (39.33%), Kale (38.65%) and Kotoli (55.88%) are above the average of non-workers (35.87 %) of the district. The working and non-working proportion of male is highest as compared to female proportion respectively. The male non-workers are highly is found in Chikali village with 52.27 per cent and a lesser amount of male non-workers found in the Shirol village with 41.18 per cent.

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While the Female non-workers highly concentrated in the 48.89 per cent and while low concentration is found in the walawe village 31.88 per cent.

The average proportion of agricultural labourers is found with (62.68 %) as compare to cultivators (9.50%) and any other (27.83%). The 08 villages like Shirol (15.84 %), Shirol (10.61 %), Kuditre (14.81%), Kale (11 %), Kotoli (17.78 %), Sangaon (9.86 %), Chikali (13.68%) and Sarawade (10.45 %), are

above average (9.50 %) of the cultivators. The highly male cultivator's population is found in the Abdul Lat village with 66.67 per cent while low male cultivators found in the Kuditre and Kotoli with 37.50 per

cent. The female high percentage of cultivators in a Kotoli village with 62.50 per cent and low female cultivators found in the village Shirol with 28.57 per cent.

**Table 2:**

**Percentage Distribution of Occupational Structure among the Scheduled Populations in Sample Villages**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Cultivators			Agricultural Laborers			Any Other		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Shirol	15.84	56.25	43.75	57.43	36.21	63.79	26.73	100.00	0.00
2	Abdul Lat	1.92	66.67	33.33	73.08	37.72	62.28	25.00	89.74	10.26
3	Rukadi	5.19	57.14	42.86	57.78	30.77	69.23	37.04	86.00	14.00
4	Mangaon	6.94	60.00	40.00	69.44	40.00	60.00	23.61	100.00	0.00
5	Shirol	10.61	71.43	28.57	59.09	38.46	61.54	30.30	80.00	20.00
6	Kuditre	14.81	37.50	62.50	57.41	41.94	58.06	27.78	100.00	0.00
7	Kale	11.00	63.64	36.36	72.00	50.00	50.00	17.00	70.59	29.41
8	Kotoli	17.78	37.50	62.50	64.44	44.83	55.17	17.78	87.50	12.50
9	Sangaon	9.86	57.14	42.86	56.34	42.50	57.50	33.80	75.00	25.00
10	Chikali	13.68	50.00	50.00	64.10	40.00	60.00	22.22	84.62	15.38
11	Sarawade	10.45	42.86	57.14	56.72	57.89	42.11	32.84	68.18	31.82
12	Walawe	7.25	40.00	60.00	52.17	47.22	52.78	40.58	100.00	0.00
<b>Average</b>		<b>9.50</b>	<b>53.00</b>	<b>47.00</b>	<b>62.68</b>	<b>41.06</b>	<b>58.94</b>	<b>27.83</b>	<b>87.03</b>	<b>12.97</b>

*Source: Based on the Fieldwork, 2022-23*

The 04 villages like Abdul Lat (73.08 %), Mangaon (69.44 %) Kotoli (64.44 %) and Chikali (64.10 %) are above average (62.88 p%) of the agricultural labourers. The male highly agricultural labourers are found in the Sarawade village with 57.50 per cent while low in the Rukadi 30.77 per cent. The female highly agricultural labourers are found in the Rukadi village 69.23 per cent while low in the Sarawade village with 42.11 per cent. The 5 villages like Rukadi (37.04 %), Shirol (30.30%), Sangaon (33.80 %), Sarawade (32.84 %) and Walawe (40.58%) are above average (27.83 %) of the any other. The Shirol, Kuditre, Mangaon and Walwe village are found in the 100 male population is engaged in any other work while the female any other population is highly found in the Sarawade village with 31.82 per cent and lowest in the Shirol, Mangaon, Kuditre, and no one was found in Walawe. The cultivators, agricultural labourers and any other proportion of males are highest as compared to female proportion respectively.

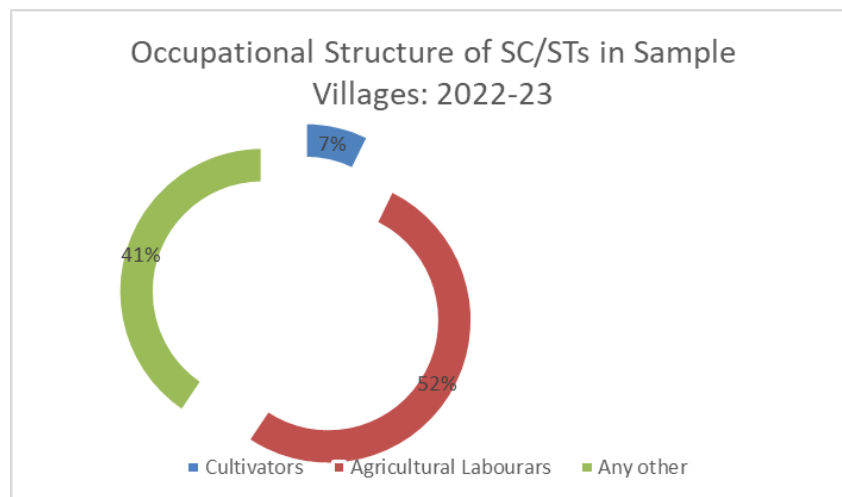


Fig. 2

### Conclusion:

The micro-level analysis of the 12 sample villages in Kolhapur district reveals profound occupational and gender disparities among the BPL Scheduled Populations. While overall workforce participation is relatively high at 64.13%, this figure masks a severe agrarian dependency and widespread landlessness within these marginalized communities. A staggering 62.68% of the workforce is engaged as agricultural laborers, compared to merely 9.50% operating as land-owning cultivators. Furthermore, the occupational landscape is rigidly gendered. Male workers not only exhibit higher overall economic participation but completely dominate the non-agricultural "Any Other" sector, with villages like Shirol, Kuditre, Mangaon, and Walawe showing 100% male exclusivity in this category. Conversely, the female workforce is overwhelmingly confined to low-wage agricultural labor (reaching 69.23% in Rukadi) or remains economically inactive, as evidenced by Kotoli's high 48.89% female non-worker rate. Ultimately, these

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localized trends underscore that economic empowerment requires more than just job availability; it urgently demands policy interventions focused on female skill diversification and equitable access to non-agrarian job markets to break the cycle of poverty. Based on the occupational data, regional focus, and methodological framework of your research paper, here is a compiled list of 19 highly relevant academic references. These references cover the core themes of your study: rural workforce disparities, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) employment, agricultural labor dynamics, micro-level geography, and gender disparities in the Indian economy.

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