



**GENERAL LANDUSE PATTERN IN KHODASHI DAM
COMMAND AREA IN KARAD TAHSIL OF SATARA
DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)**

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ABSTRACT:

Present research paper looks into the general landuse pattern in Khodashi Dam of Karad tehsil, Satara district. The land use pattern for present study means the proportion of area under different land use at a point of time. Land use pattern is invariably determined by physico-socio-economic and organizational factors. The land utilization has acquired a special significance in the region, where agriculture is predominant occupation. The study area includes 14 villages namely Saidapur, Govare, Sayapur, Tembhu, Koregaon, Karve, Wadgaon, Kodoli, Dushere, Shere, Gondi, Julewadi, Khubi and Rethare BK. which falls in Krishna canal command area. The data thus collected through primary and secondary sources.

Keywords: *Landuse, Forest, Cultivation, Net Sown Area*

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the present paper is to describe and analyse the general land use pattern in Khodashi Dam Area in Karad Tahsil of Satara District. It indicates how intensively the net sown area is being utilized for various crops. Land use is a geographical concept since it involves specific area. The land use study in its spatial context is essential to understand the regional zonation of the areas of optimum land use, degraded areas etc. (Shinde; etal-1986). The land use pattern for present study means the proportion of area under different land use at a point of time. Land use is an important aspect of graphical studies particularly relevant to agricultural geography (Symons, 1970). The importance of the such studies is increasing with continuous increase in population, because to get the best out of land, the diversity of topography and soil should be studied carefully in order to put land to the most agricultural use and the development

programme should be properly fused and implemented. As the present study deals with the the land use of the region under study.

STUDY AREA:

The region is located to south eastern part of Karad tahsil, comprising area of 8846.59 hectares It lies between $17^{\circ} 8'N$ and $17^{\circ} 18'$ North latitudes and $74^{\circ} 10'E$ and $74^{\circ} 16'$ East longitudes. The study area includes 14 villages namely Saidapur, Govare, Sayapur, Tembhu, Koregaon, Karve, Wadgaon, Kodoli, Dushere, Shere, Gondi, Julewadi, Khubi and Rethare BK. which falls in Krishna canal command area. The river Krishna drains the entire region.(Fig No.1.)

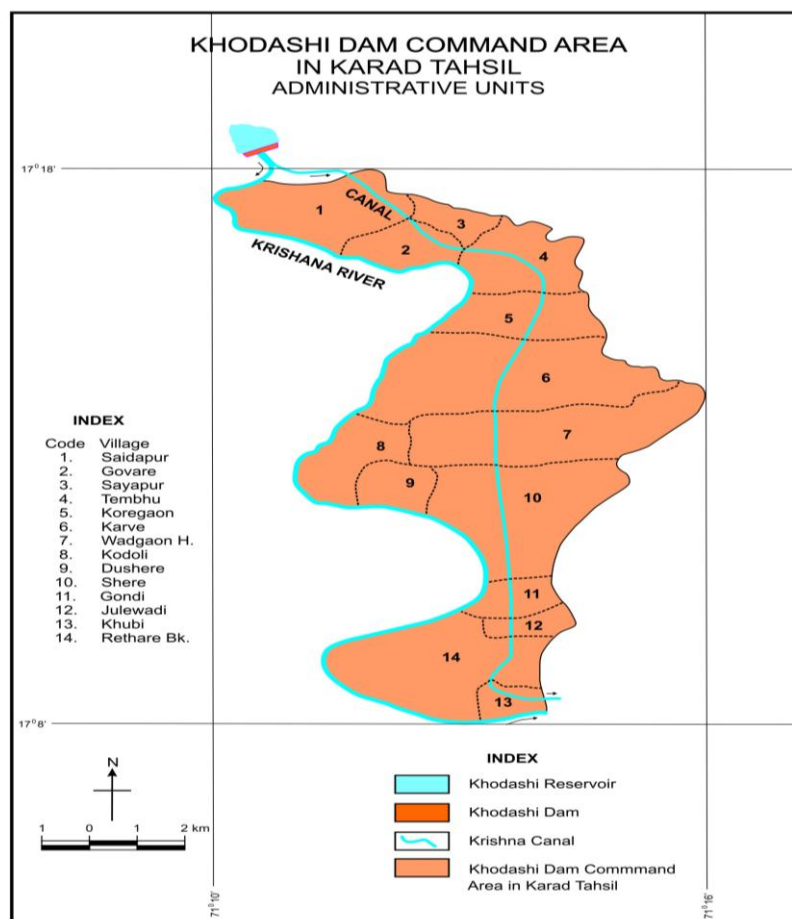


Fig.No.1

The dam has been constructed in the year 1868. And from this dam a canal has been constructed in the year 1870, which is known as Krishna canal. Out of the total length of canal 30 Km lies in Satara district and 42.5 Km in Sangli district. About 1310 lakh rupees have spent in the construction of this

canal. The irrigable command area is 2425 hectare in Satara district and 7196 hectare in Sangli district.

Climatically, the study region is a part of the monsoon land and the monsoon affects every aspects of our life. The temperature and sunshine are available throughout the year and provide ripening conditions for crops within the study area and the weather is cool and healthy. Khodshi dam command area of Karad tahsil has black soil. Because of the floods of Krishna river soils are renewed every year. The soil is mainly black suitable for sugarcane, rice soyabean, groundnuts and jowar.

OBJECTIVE:

Present study aims to study the general landuse Pattern in Khodashi Dam in Karad Tahsil of Satara District (Maharashtra)

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The present study is based on secondary data. The primary data is collected through different sources for which special questionnaire and schedule were prepared. Personal visits to villages of command area and taluka and district headquarters were made. The micro-level study includes survey of land covering information of relevant aspects such as landuse, Ten percent farmers were selected from each village by using stratified random sampling method. Socio-Economic Review and District statistical abstract, District census gazetteer, Agricultural Epitoms, and season and crop reports published by the Department of Agriculture, Maharashtra state. The data thus collected through primary and secondary sources, were processed and represented by statistical and cartographic techniques .Landuse pattern are represented on the map by divided circles.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Based on census classification, the land is grouped under five major types of uses namely, forest, land not available for cultivation, other uncultivated land excluding fallow, fallow land and net area sown.

Table No.1. reveals that about 85.52 percent of the total geographical area is cultivatable. This ranks first among all land use categories. The fallow land constitutes 2.76 percent of the total area. Area under forest is reported nil as most of the area is plane and brought under cultivation, whereas area not available for cultivation shares about 2.89percent, other uncultivated land excluding fallow occupies about 8.55 percent However, the area under different land use categories varies remarkably in different villages.

i) Land Not Available For Cultivation:

About 3.21 per cent of the total geographical area comes under this category. (11.87% district average). The village level analysis reveals that the Tembhu is the first ranking village having about 16.13 percent area under this category followed by Koregaon, Govare and Sayapur. The other villages have very insignificant area under this category. It is due to exposition of agriculture being a fertile and plain area.

Table No.1: General land use pattern (2007-08)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Area in Hectares	Percentage of Reported Area
1.	Forest	0.00	0.00
2.	Land not available for cultivation	283.69	3.21
3.	Other uncultivated land(Excluding Fallow)	752.69	8.51
4.	Fallow land	243.97	2.76
5.	Net Sown area	7566.24	85.52
Total Geographical area		8846.59	100

Source: Record of circle Inspector (Taluka Namuna No. 20) and Compiled by the Researcher.

The two categories viz forest and land not available for cultivation is non-agricultural land (Singh, 1979). As most of the area is brought under cultivation, the area under forest is not reported in the study region.

ii) Other Uncultivated Land (Excluding Fallow):

About 8.51 per cent of the total area belongs to this category. (13.17%, District average). This is a potential agricultural land which will be available for extension of agricultural but has not been cultivated owing to different reasons.

The Shere village rank first with 30.28 percent of the total area. (Fig.No.2) followed by Saidapur, Rethare Bk. Tembhu & Govare. The rest of villages have less area under this category these villages are Saidapur, Koregaon, Kodoli, Karve, Wadgaon H. Dushere, Khubi, Julewadi, Gondi and Sayapur. This can be well attributed to the higher proportion of area under settlement, road, and canal.

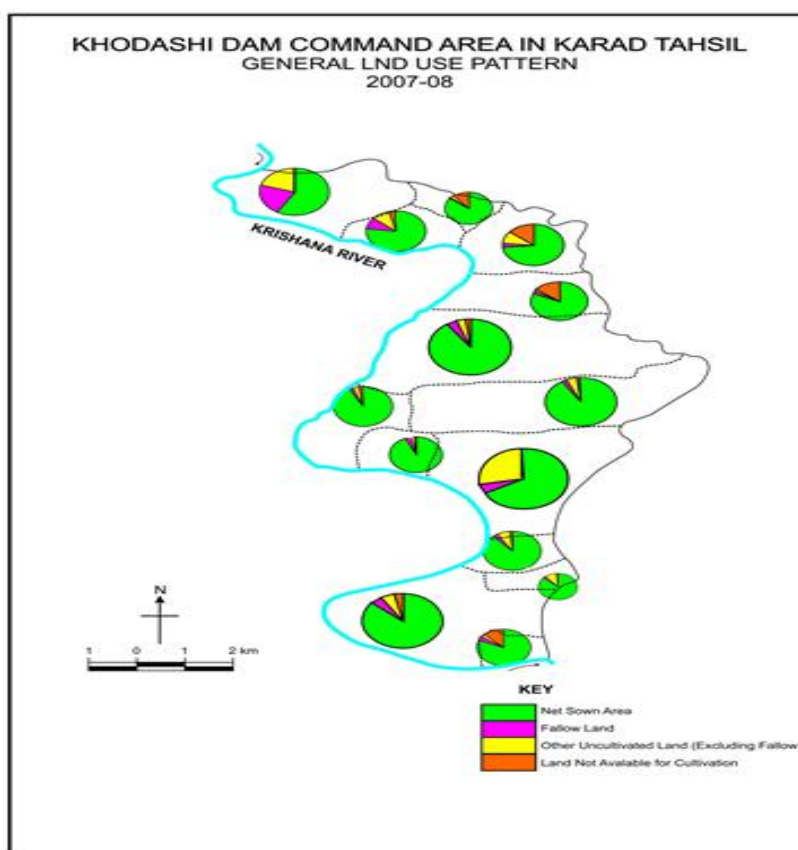


Fig. No 2.

iii) Fallow Land:

The fallow land includes current as well as permanent fallow land covering about 2.76 percent area which is lower than district average of about 6.28 percent. Fallow land is commonly related to the agricultural practices adopted by the farmers owing to the scarcity conditions, nature of terrain,

texture and structure of the soil. Such land is kept fallow. The proportion of fallow land differs in the region.

In this category only two villages are represented. These are Saidapur and Govare (Fig.No.2). Saidapur village is the first ranking village in percent area under fallow land and Govare villages is having 9.76% area under fallow land. The remaining villages have not recorded fallow land as most of the cultivable land is under plough by the farmers.

iv) Net Sown Area:

In the study area out of the total available land 85.52 percent land is actually brought under plough. This is due to plain topography and fertile soil which is highly suitable for agricultural practices. However the proportion varies at village level (Fig.No.2) .Khubi, Rethare, Kodoli, Gondi, Julewadi villages have high percentage under this category. Remaining villages have relatively low proportion under this category.

CONCLUSION:

The influence of irrigation on land use is assessed by considering the percentage strength under individual crop. It is observed that area under forest is absent as it is plane area most suitable for agricultural practices. In case of general landuse Net Sown Area is dominant covering 85.52 per cent of geographical area. It is followed by other uncultivated land excluding fallow (8.51 per cent). The area under fallow, though it is less (2.76 per cent) could be brought under cultivation.

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