“GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES OF TRIBALS IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT (M.S.)”

*INTRODUCTION:*

Tribals are those people who are living in and around thick forest. These people are still extremely poor and entirely depend upon the resources obtained from forest. Tribals are underdeveloped. They have been “eco-system people” and their living has been more or less compatible to ecological processes. After 64 years of independence of our country, we have not uplifted tribals up to the mark. Due to every type of encroachment, the forests all across the country have been shrinking. This directly affected day to day life of tribals. Social development includes at least: justice and equality, increase in dignity of men and women, increase in per capita income, increase in literacy rate etc.

Historically, the economy of most tribes was subsistence agriculture or hunting and gathering. Tribal members traded with outsiders for the few necessities they lacked, such as salt and iron. A few local Hindu craftsmen might provide such items as cooking utensils. In the early 20th century, however, large areas fell into the hands of non-tribal’s, on account of improved transportation and communications. Around 1990, many regions were opened by the government to settlement through a scheme by which inward migrants received ownership of land free in return for cultivation it. For tribal people, however, land was often viewed as a common resource, free to whoever needed it. By the time tribal’s accepted the necessity of obtaining formal land titles, they had lost the opportunity to lay claim to lands that might rightfully have been considered theirs.

*LOCATION OF STUDY AREA:*

Nandurbar district is surrounded by the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Dhule district of Maharashtra. Madhya Pradesh State lies at its eastern and northern side. Surat and Baroda districts of Gujarat State are at its western side and Dhule district is at southern side. The district lies between 20º 50’ to 22º 17’ North latitude and 73º 30’ and 74º 50’ East longitudes.

The District headquarters, Nandurbar, is the main railway station within the district on the Ahmadabad – Howrah route of the western railway. It is 401 kms. away from the State headquarters i.e. Mumbai. Nandurbar city is connected with other towns and places by railway as
well as by road. There are four Municipal councils viz., Nandurbar, Talode, Shahade and Nawapur, which are the headquarters of respective tahsils in the district.

The district has an area of 5034.23 sq. km. and a population of 1,311,709 as per the 2001 census the density of population is 220 persons per sq. km.

*Natural Wealth:-*

The oldest geological formations are the Bagh Beds in the northern part of the district, which are exposed on the banks of Devganga River and its tributaries. To the east of the river the hills are composed of sandstone with shale beds appearing at places near the summits. Weathering and running water together have formed a layer of alluvial soil in the Tapi valley. This varies from dark brown to yellowish dark brown in colour. The soil is fertile and is known as black cotton soil.

*Forest:-*

This includes all land classified as forest under any legal enactment dealing with forest or administered as forest, whether state owned or private and whether wooded or simply maintained as forest land. Within the forest area itself there may be occasionally cultivated patches or grazing lands, The process of regularization of land grants and effecting relevant changes in the basic records of survey and settlement are somewhat protracted and time consuming. Therefore the information based on records is in some cases at least, likely to be different when compared with the actual field situation

*Minerals:-*

Trap rocks being hard and durable are most suitable for Construction and is used as road metal, railway ballast and in cement concrete. Besides this no minerals of economic importance are found in the district.

*Fisheries:-*

Fishing activities in the district are restricted to inland waters, which are inadequate for the development of a fishing industry. However, in the rivers and streams fishing is done mostly by nets. Cat fist, Murrel and minor varieties of carps are found in the rivers.
**RIVERS:**

Tapi is the main river of the district. Nandurbar district is a part of the Tapi and Narmada basins. The Narmada flows along the northern boundary of the district. The Tapi river flows though the central part of the district. Both the rivers are west flowing. The tributaries Deoganga and Udai meet the Narmada from the south. Several rivers meet the Tapi from the south as well as from the north. The waki, Gomati, shivan and Nesu are the tributaries of the Tapi. Several important towns and cities of the district are situated on the banks of these rivers.

**SOIL:**

The soils of Nandurbar district can broadly be classified into three groups viz (i) Light soils (ii)Medium black soils and (iii) Deep Black soils.

The light soils are largely found in the South and Western parts of Nawapur and Southern part of Nandurbar tahsils. These soils are alkaline in nature with light loams to clay loams in texture. They are low in fertility and needs manure and fertilizers to get good harvest Bajari, Kharif Jowar and Groundnuts are grown in these soils.

Medium black soils are mostly found in northern part of Shahade and Talode and southern part of Akkalkuwa tahsils. These soils are well suited for irrigation and needs manure and fertilizers to get good harvest.

Deep black soils are largely found on the bank of Tapi River particularly in Shahade, southern part of Talode, north-eastern part of Nawapur and northern part of Nandurbar tahsils. These soils cover a width of about 15 kms. On each side of the Tapi river. Soils in Shahade tahsil are supposed to be extremely rich. Groundnut is grown on a wide scale in Nandurbar and Shahade tahsil. Rabi jowar and wheat are also grown here.

Northern part of Akkalkuwa and entire Akrani Tahsils have hilly tract and most of the area is covered with forest. Soils are very poor and mainly found in scattered patches where Kharif millets are grown.

**CLIMATE:**
In general, the climate of the district is dry except during the southwest monsoon season. The district experiences four seasons during the year. The cold season includes the months from December to February which is followed by the hot season from June to September while October and November form the post monsoon season.

The rainfall in the district is uneven and the variations from year to year are quite large. The northern part of the district receives over 1000 mm of rain while the southern parts get around 600 mm. The average annual rainfall in the district is 674 mm. More than 85% of the rainfall is received during the southwest monsoon season between June to September.

The summer season starts from February and temperatures increase gradually till May, which is the hottest month of the year. The mean daily temperature goes above 45º c. Hot dry winds blow during April and May. With the onset of the monsoon temperatures drop and the weather becomes pleasant. From November temperatures fall rapidly. January is the coldest month of the year with the mean daily temperature at around 16º c. Cold waves over northern India effect the district and minimum temperature may drop to about 9º c. For most of the year the skies are clear except during the monsoon season.