



A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF SHEEP FARMING IN LATUR
DISTRICT

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Abstract

The sheep is an important economic livestock species contributing greatly to the agrarian Indian economy, especially in arid, semi-arid and hilly areas. They play an important role in the livelihood of a large number of small and marginal farmers and landless laborers engaged in sheep rearing. Sheep's are mostly reared to obtain meat and wool as commercial goods. Sheep skin and wool is used by a number of rural based industries as raw material. Sheep manure is an important source of organic fertilizer for increasing soil fertility. The aim of present paper is to assess growth, distribution and changes in Latur district of Maharashtra. The entire investigation is based on field observation and secondary sources of data obtained from Scio-Economic review and District Statistical Abstract and livestock census hand book. The study concludes that from last a decade number of sheep population is decreased in throughout the district. The distribution of sheep population in Latur district is uneven. Where Dhanagars community is high in number engaged in this occupation, there sheep distribution is also high in number i.e. Jalkot, Nilanga, and Chakur tahsils. This decrease in sheep population is mostly confined with the tahsils were irrigation, agriculture technology adoption of modern cash crops and fruit crops with modern technology and commercial attitudes has been practiced i.e. Latur, Ausa, Udgir, and Shirur Anantpal tahsils etc.

Keywords: Sheep, Urbanization, Agriculture Development, irrigation facilities, fodder, water, Dhanagars.

Introduction:

In Latur district 71 percentage of people occupation is farming. In 2011 census 68.17 percentage people were living in villages and they were depended upon the income gained by the farming for their livelihood. But climatically Latur district is located in drought prone area. Soil of the district is comparatively of lesser quality, irrigation facilities are less, short and thorny forest patches etc. due to this reasons in the district less development of agriculture is found. So the people in the district engaged in the sheep farming for their livelihood. In other hand sheep possess a special ability to thrive on nature grasses and, except during certain physiological stages of life, do not need to be given any supplemental feed. In fact there is no substitute for sheep as a class

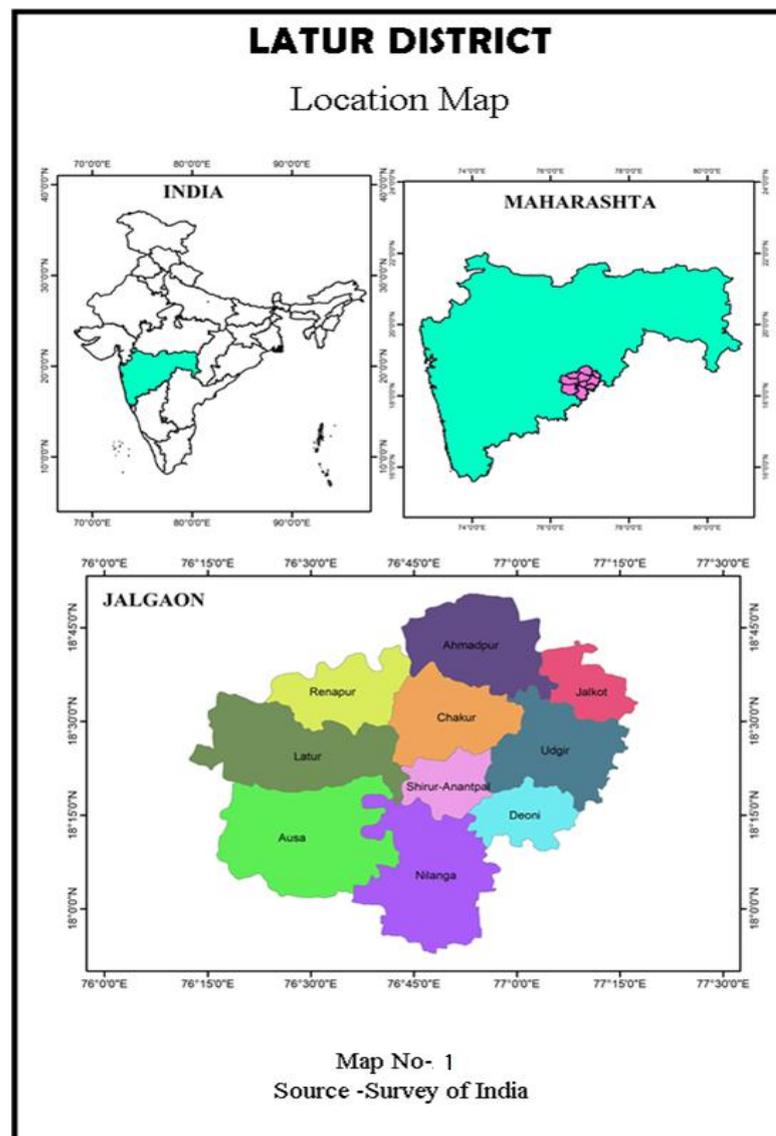
of livestock for utilizing waste land or weeds from the field. As well as in the study region there are large number of small holder and landless labourers. Out of them many have adopted sheep rearing occupation as a means of life and some are doing this occupation with their family members to get additional income from wool, manure and marketing by sheep's. Here, I have attempted to take review of sheep population and its present situation in Latur district.

Study Region:-

Latur district is one of the most important districts in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The study of animal husbandry is very new concept. Many farmers and agricultural laborers have been engaged in animal husbandry occupation in Latur district. Latur

districts economy is mostly depends on agriculture and agriculture is much related to animal husbandry occupation. Latur district is located in the South-East part of the Maharashtra state and it lies between $17^{\circ} 52'$ North to $18^{\circ} 50'$ North Latitudes and $76^{\circ} 12'$ East to $77^{\circ} 18'$ East Longitudes. It is bounded by North Beed and Parbhani districts and North-East Nanded district, on the South-East and South to the Karnataka slate and on the North-West, West and South bounded by Osmanabad district. For the administrative purpose Latur district divided into two revenue divisions Latur and Udgir. In the Latur district 10 tehsils like then Latur, Ausa, Udgir, Renapur, Chakur, Ahmadpur, Devani, Nilanga,

Shirur Anantpal and Jalkot. Devani, Shirur Anantpal and Jalkot these three tehsils are newly created. Total geographical area of Latur district is 7157 sq. km. Out of Total geographical area of Maharashtra it covers 2.39 percent (Map No. 2.1& 2.2). Latur district. Separated from Osmanabad district on 16th August 1982. The Manjra, Manyad, Terna, Tawarja, Gharni and Lendi river basins are very useful for agricultural and number of animals are less in this area. The major portion is flat in the tehsils Latur, Ausa, Nilanga, Renapur and Deoni tehsils hence it support to high concentration of agriculture. There are 5 towns and 922 villages are habited and 23 villages are inhabited as per 2011 census.



Objectives:

Following are the specific objectives of the present investigation.

1. To study the geographical determinants of Sheep's in the study region
2. To take an account of Sheep's in the study region.
3. To study the growth, distribution and changes of Sheep's population in the study region.

Data Source And Methodology:

Present study is based on field observation and secondary source of data. The secondary sources of data obtained from the Socio-Economic review and district Statistical abstract of Latur district.

$$D = \frac{T.A.}{\text{Area (F+CE+F+N)}}$$

Where,

D =Density ofsheep population

T.A. =Triennial average of sheep population

F =Forest land CE Cultivable waste exclude fallow.

F=Fallow land

N Net shownarea.

To calculate the tehsil wise density of sheep we have considered land use categories of F, CE, F and N land. Because

District census handbook and livestock census hand book. 2007 sheep's population data obtained from the Zilla Parishad Pashu Sanvardhan Khate Z.P. Latur. Collected data is processed and presented in the forms of tabular and graphical. Tabular form using statistical techniques, such as the growth and changes of sheep population will be calculated with the help of following formula.

Where,

GRC = Growth Rate and Changes

P2 = Second values or Numbers

P1 = First values or Numbers

The density of sheep population is calculated with own idea, the formula given below.

sheep are reared on these lands or fodder grass etc. are made available as a sheep feeds from these land.

Analysis:- India has 65.69 million sheep as per 2012 livestock census and ranks sixth in the world. The involvement of sheep through export of meat is 8 per cent of the total export value of agricultural and treated food products. Sheep skin in the form of leather and leather products is also exported. Sheep make a valuable involvement to the livelihood of the economically weaker sections of the society.

Table No: 1 Distribution of Sheep in Latur District

Tehsils	1997		2003		2007		2012		Changes	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Latur	6624	12.23	4189	9.38	4839	12.40	2014	5.61	-4610	-69.60
Renapur	1894	3.50	1060	2.37	1469	3.76	1488	4.14	-406	-21.44
Ahmadpur	7496	13.84	2455	5.50	1668	4.27	1852	5.16	-5644	-75.29
Jalkot	0	0.00	5948	13.32	4199	10.76	7129	19.86	7129	100
Chakur	4248	7.84	5127	11.48	4472	11.46	5288	14.73	1040	24.48
Shirur Anantpal	0	0.00	2515	5.63	1662	4.26	1395	3.89	1395	100
Ausa	9246	17.07	5050	11.31	5967	15.29	2732	7.61	-6514	-70.45
Nilanga	12669	23.39	8373	18.74	6018	15.42	6651	18.53	-6018	-47.50
Devani	0	0.00	4435	9.93	3512	9.00	3044	8.48	3044	100
Udgir	11992	22.14	5516	12.35	5224	13.38	4308	12.00	-7684	-64.08
District	54169	100.00	44668	100.00	39030	100.00	35901	100.00	-18268	-33.72

Source: 1. Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract. Latur District. 2001, 2005, 2010, 2015.

2. *Livestock censuses 1997,2003,2007,2012.*

Sheep in the district are shown In the Table-3.1 indicate. In the year1997, (table-3.1) there were 54169 (100%) Sheep in the district and in the 1997 the highest number of Sheep were recorded 12669 (23.39%) in the Nilanga tehsil and lowest Sheep 1894 (3.50%) in the Renapur tehsil and remaining tehsils Latur 6624 (12.23%), Ahmadpur 7496 (13.84%), AUSA 9246 (17.07%), Udgir 11992(22.14%) Sheep in this tehsils and not recorded Sheep in the Jalkot, Shirur Anantpal, Devani tehsils. In the year 2003, (table-3.6) there were 44668 (100%) Sheep in the district and in the 2003 the highest number of Sheep were recorded 8373 (18.74%) in the Nilanga tehsil and lowest Sheep 1060 (2.37%) Renapur in the tehsil and remaining tehsils Latur 4189 (9.38%), Chakur 5127 (11.48%), AUSA 5050 (11.31%), Udgir 5516 (12.35%), Jalkot 5948 (13.32%) Shirur Anantpal 2515 (5.63%), Sheep in the tehsils.

In the year 2007, (table-3.6) there were 39030 (100%) Sheep in the district and in the 2007 the highest number of Sheep were recorded 6018 (15.42%) in the Nilanga tehsil and lowest Sheep 1469 (3.76%) in the Renapur tehsil and remaining tehsils Ahmadpur 1668(4.27%), Chakur 4472 (11.46%), Udgir 5224 (13.38%), Jalkot 4199 (10.46%), Renapur 1469 (3.76%), Latur 4839 (12.40%) Sheep in the tehsils.

In the year 2012, (table-3.6) there were 35901 (100%) Sheep in the district and in the 2012 the highest number of Sheep were recorded 7129 (19.86%) in the Jalkot tehsil and lowest Sheep 1488 (4.14%) in the Renapur tehsil and remaining tehsils Ahmadpur 1852 (5.16%), Chakur 5288 (14.73%), Latur 2014 (5.61%), Udgir 4308 (12%), Nilanga 6651 (18.53%), Shirur Anantpal 1395 (3.89%), AUSA 2732 (7.61%) Sheep in the tehsils. In the year of 1997 to 2012, (table-3.6) there were decrease 18268 (33.72%) Sheep in the district and in the 1997 to 2012 the highest number of Sheep were decrease 5644 (75.29%) in the Ahmadpur tehsil and lowest decrease Sheep 406 (16.31%) in the Renapur tehsil and remaining tehsils, Nilanga 6018 (47.50%),

Latur 4610 (69.60%), AUSA 6514 (70.45%), Udgir 7684 (64.08%) and Devani 3044 (100%), Jalkot 7129 (100%), Shirur Anantpal 1395 (100%) Chakur 1040 (24.48%) increase in the tehsils.

Conclusions:-

In the year of 1997 to 2012, there were decrease 18268 (33.72%) Sheep in the district and in the 1997 to 2012 the highest number of Sheep were decrease 5644 (75.29%) in the Ahmadpur tehsil and lowest decrease Sheep 406 (16.31%) in the Renapur tehsil.

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