

NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF DANGE TRIBAL IN-MIGRANTS IN KOLHAPUR CITY, MAHARASHTRA

Dr. Ashish Shivram Jadhav
SMDBS College, Miraj

Abstract: - Migration is an important component of population change. The reasons and purposes of migration are changing in the course of time. Dange life in the Western Ghat region has been controlled mainly by the physical environment. Their mode of life has also been associated with the many problems. Moreover, Dange society in the past was isolated, self-reliant and autonomous body with very limited needs. But during the course of time with the changing physical, biological, socio-economic and political, environmental conditions, a number of problems have been emerged out, leading to the question of their survival which compelled them to migrate elsewhere. The investigator has tried to discuss and examine the nature and characteristics of Dange migration. The study is based on primary data, generated through intensive field surveys in the city. The relevant data has been collected for the three different periods taking into consideration the in-migration of Danges in the city i.e. before 1975, 1975-1995, 1995-2015.

It is found from the study nature of in-migration of Danges shows that the first migration of Danges to Kolhapur took place in the regime Chh. Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur *Sansthan*. An assessment of the characteristics of migration shows that the migration of Danges is the part of the strategy for survival and therefore, is not selective with references to age, sex or education but it is family selective. The migration of Danges to Kolhapur city is also a permanent migration and not a seasonal.

Keywords: - Dange, Self-reliant, Emerged, Survival, In-migration, Regime.

I. Introduction: Migration is an important component of population change. Migration is known as the movement of people from one permanent residence to another permanent or temporary residence for a large period of time. The migration may be rural or urban, temporary or permanent it helps to develop the economy of a place either by the leaving or *influx* of its population. The reasons and purposes of migration are changing in the

course of time. Migration studies are of special interest to geographers as migration is closely related with the spatial redistribution of the population (Mandal, 1981).

The migration is considered to be purely economic but the other factors like physical, social, political, psychological also have some bearing. Most studies occur that migrants leave their area of origin primarily because of the lack of employment opportunities and in its hopes of finding opportunities to elsewhere.

Dange life in the Western Ghat region has been controlled mainly by the physical environment. (Ajagekar, 20013) Their mode of life has also been associated with the many problems. Moreover, Dange society in the past was isolated, self-reliant and autonomous body with very limited needs. But during the course of time with the changing physical, biological, socio-economic and political, environmental conditions, a number of problems have been emerged out, leading to the question of their survival which compelled them to migrate elsewhere. The investigator has tried to discuss and examine the nature and characteristics of Dange migration.

II. Study area:

- The study area, undertaken for the present study, is Kolhapur city, a district head-quarter. (Figure-1)
- There are 33 locations (Figure-2 (A)) where the Danges have been concentrated in the city. The total population of in-migrant Danges in the city is approximately 8280, distributed among 1066 households.

III. Objectives: The main objective of the present work is to analyze the nature and characteristics of Dange tribal in-migrants in Kolhapur city.

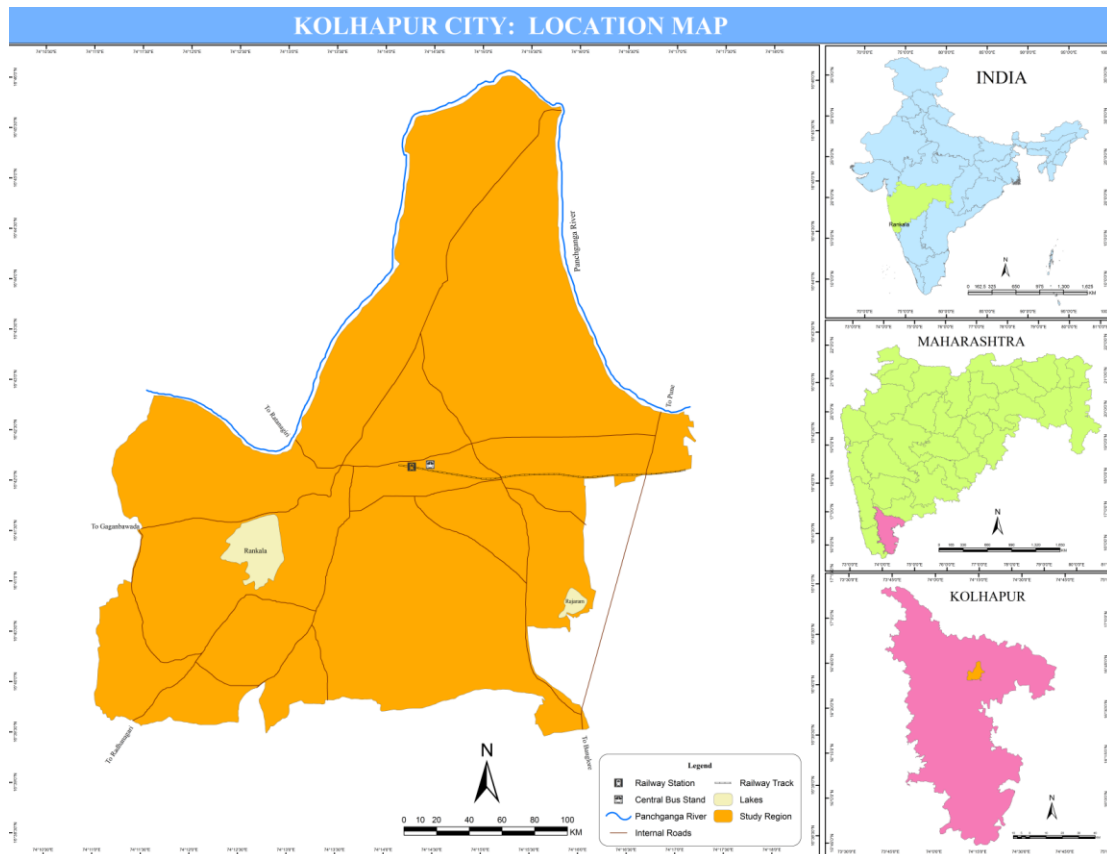


Figure 1

IV. Database and methodology: Since no secondary data, pertaining to Danges at the place of origin and destination are available, the present work is mainly based on primary data which is generated through intensive field surveys. Out of 33 Dange in-migrant locations (1066 families) in the city, 25 have been selected randomly for sampling. (Figure-2 (B)) The relevant data has been collected for the three different periods taking into consideration the in-migration of Danges in the city i.e. before 1975, 1975-1995, 1995-2015. Out of the total in-migrated families (1066), 320 families have been selected randomly for different periods of their migration.

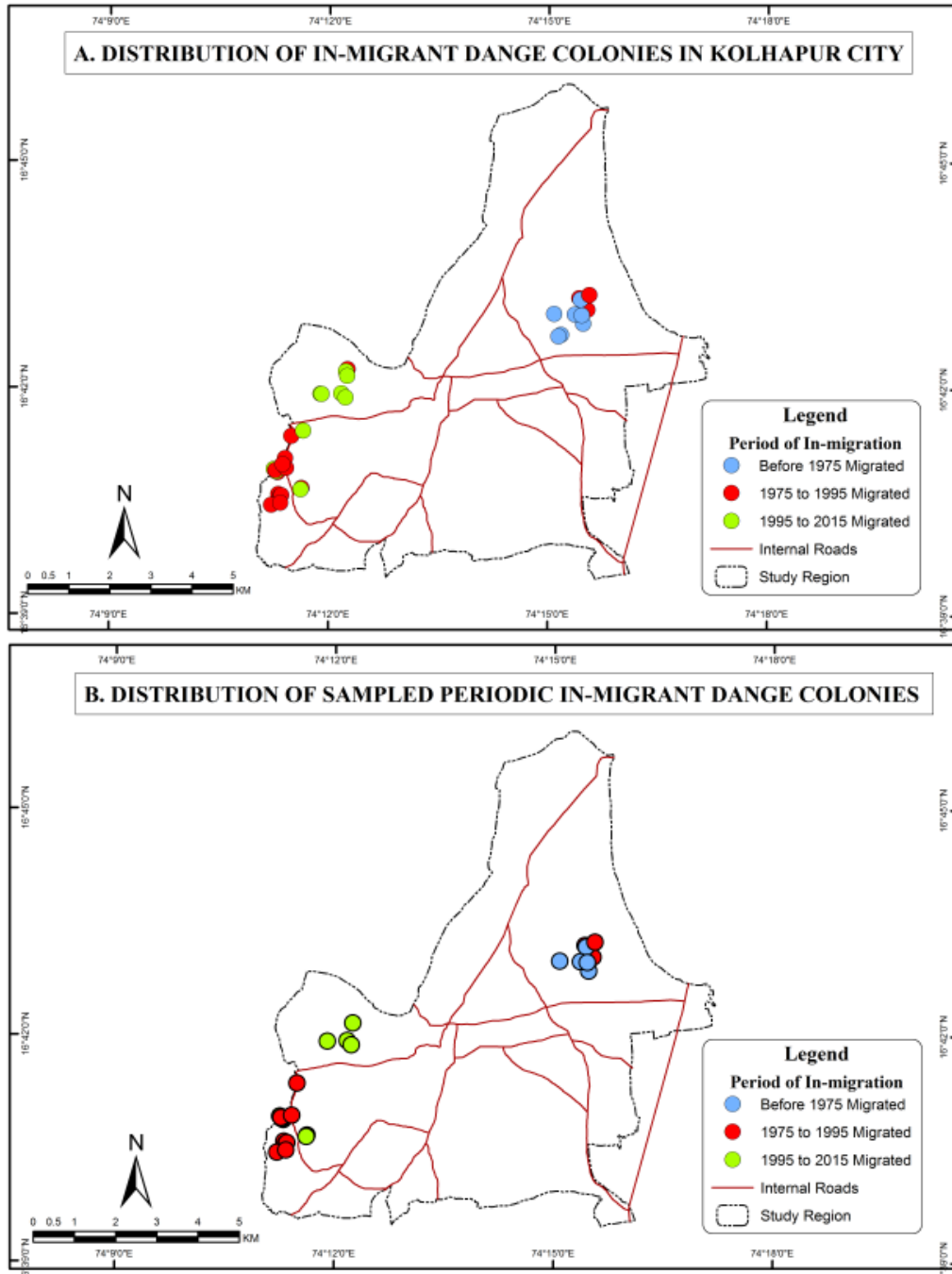


Figure 2

V. Discussion:

A. Nature of dange migration: The migration of Danges from the adjacent area of Kolhapur city has been taking place for the last 60 years. The nature of Dange migration has been discussed by the investigator.

1) Period of Migration : It is observed during the field survey that the migration of Danges has taken place since 1910. While discussing with the old Danges it is realized that few families were in-migrated to Kolhapur to work in *Shahu Sansthan*. In course of time these families disintegrated into number of families. To accommodate those Dange families Shahu Maharaja devoted them a separate land at Kadamwadi. Then the Dange families started attracting to Kolhapur. The table 1 shows period-wise migration of sampled Dange families in the city.

Table 1: Period-wise In-Migration of Dange Households

Periods of In-migration	No. of Households	In Percentage
Before 1965	48	15.00
1965-1975	34	10.62
1975-1985	59	18.43
1985-1995	43	13.43
1995-2005	79	24.68
2005-2015	57	17.81
Total	320	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

It is found from table 1 that before 1965 to 2015 there has been a constant migration of Dange families to the city. Before 1965 out of the total 320 sampled in-migrated families 15 percent are recorded. In the 10 years of migration interval there after more than 10 percent of families have been in-migrated. Highest numbers of families (24.68 %) have been migrated in the period 1995-2005. In the recent period (2005-2015) the in-migration of Danges has been continued (17.81 %).

2) Motivation to Migration: People migrate from one place to another as they are motivated by some other persons. Such motivating persons may be relatives, friends, neighbours, etc. Sometimes, the decision of migration can be self-motivated. The investigator made an inquiry about such motivating factor with the sampled Dange households. Thus, the collected information is shown in the table 2.

Table 2: Motivation for Migration of Dange In-migrant Households
In Kolhapur City

Period of Migration	Motivating Factors and Number of Households				Total
	Relatives	Friends	Neighbours	Self/Own	
Before 1975	32 (39.02)*	09 (10.97)	10 (12.19)	31 (37.80)	82
1975-1995	27 (26.47)	11 (10.78)	18 (17.64)	46 (45.09)	102
1995-2015	45 (33.08)	18 (13.23)	15 (11.02)	58 (42.64)	136
Total	104 (32.50)	38 (11.87)	43 (13.43)	135 (42.18)	320

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

* Figures in bracket indicate percentage to total households

It is clearly found from table 2 that highest numbers of households (42.18 %) have migrated with self-motivation followed by relatives (32.50 %), neighbours (13.43 %) and friends (11.87 %). It is also observed that in all the three periods of migration the Dange in-migrated are self-motivated. Before 1975 highest numbers of in-migrated families (39.02 %) have been migrated as they are motivated by their relatives.

3) Contacts with the Native Families (Ancestral Locations): A person who migrates to another place cannot forget his old destination. He uses to visit his ancestral place for various purposes. The investigator made an inquiry as to why and when they visit to their ancestral place. It is found that the Danges have been visiting their original places for agricultural work, marriage ceremony, fairs and festivals, in the harvesting, etc.

It is found while enquiry that almost all Danges families visit to their ancestral place at least once in a year. At the time of fairs and festivals and marriage ceremony at their original places the in-migrated Danges visit to such places. Some elderly people in the household go for agricultural work and at the time of harvesting for the collection of grains.

B. Characteristics of dange in-migrants: The in-migrants have different characteristics. The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the characteristics of the population of the place of origin and the population of the place of destination. (Joshi, 1997) Permanent migration remains a selective process with regard to age, sex, marital status, education and the economic status etc. In-migrated Danges have the following characteristics:

1) Selectivity of Migration : In developing countries the migrants are from rural to urban. They are predominantly young adults (15-34 years) and relatively better educated than those who remained at the origin. The old people have a strong attachment to their property, family and home-land. The Dange migration to Kolhapur city is neither male selective, female selective nor age selective, it is family selective. The young couple in the family has migrated with their children and parents to Kolhapur.

2) Chain of Migration : It is natural human behaviour that the persons follow the path of the earlier migrants. The Danges, too, followed the same attitude of migration. In the beginning few families decided to migrate to Kolhapur city and then other families followed in the same way. Due to this chain of migration majority of the families have left the villages and migrated to the city. The Kawaltekwa like villages in the process of chain migration are totally deserted.

3) Satisfaction with the Life and Work: Migration from original location to a new location is not an easy act as the people are highly attached with their homeland. Still people have to migrate for various reasons. The migrated people may or may not be satisfied with the new environment. The investigator tried to understand the reaction of Dange family heads about their level of satisfaction. After migration in the city whether

they are highly satisfied, satisfied or fairly satisfied. The information thus collected is given in the table 3.

Table 3: Level of Satisfaction of a Sampled Dange Family Heads, 2015

Period of Migration	Level of Satisfaction and Family Heads			Total
	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Fairly Satisfied	
Before 1975	15 (18.29)*	18 (21.95)	49 (59.75)	82
1975-1995	13 (12.74)	21 (20.58)	68 (66.66)	102
1995-2015	15 (11.02)	29 (21.32)	92 (67.64)	136
Total	43 (13.43)	68 (21.25)	209 (65.31)	320

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

* Figures in bracket indicate percentage to total households

Table 3 indicates that highest numbers of family heads (65.31 %) are fairly satisfied 21.25 percent are satisfied and 13.43 percent are highly satisfied. It is observed that the highly satisfied family heads possess well settled families than the other two categories. It is also found that the fairly satisfied family heads have been migrated recently who are yet to stable in the city.

VI. Conclusions: Dange, a pastoral (nomadic) tribe, is in-habited in geographically contiguous area of Western Ghats. It is one of the 23 sub-groups of Dhangar community in Maharashtra. During the last 60 years Danges in their original habitat have been facing a scarcity of forest resources as their main source of livelihood which has posed serious problems of their survival. Therefore, the Danges have been migrating towards the cities and the agriculturally reach areas in Maharashtra. In the same way they are migrating to Kolhapur city.

A study nature of in-migration of Danges shows that the first migration of Danges to Kolhapur took place in the regime Chh. Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur *Sansthan*.

Relatively, a sizeable migration started from 1960 and it accelerated from 2000. The inquiry about the motivating factor of migration states that the in-migrant Danges is mostly self-motivated and the relatives and neighbours also have been the important motivating factors. The in-migrant Danges have always been in touch with their ancestral place. They have been visiting their original places to participate in the marriage ceremony, fairs and festivals and agricultural operations, etc.

An assessment of the characteristics of migration shows that the migration of Danges is the part of the strategy for survival and therefore, is not selective with references to age, sex or education but it is family selective. When migration takes place with the family as a unit of migration, it tends to become permanent. The migration of Danges to Kolhapur city is also a permanent migration and not a seasonal. The highest numbers of families 65.31 percent are fairly satisfied, 21.25 percent satisfied and 13.43 percent are highly satisfied. The fairly satisfied families heads have been migrated recently who are yet to stable in the city.

References:

- Ajagekar, B. A. (2002): ' Spatial Pattern of Habitat, Economy and Society of Dange Tribe in Wn. Ghats of Kolhapur District (MH)' Ph. D Thesis, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
- Bansode R. P. (2007): ' Educational and Economic Status of Slum Dwellers in Kolhapur City: A Geographical Analysis' , Ph. D. Thesis, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
- Joshi, Y. G. (1997): ' Tribal Migration' , Rawat Publication, New Delhi, PP.85-86, Pg.89.
- Malhotra K. C. and Gadgil M. (1981): ' The Ecological Basis of the Geographical Distribution of The Dhangars: A Pastoral Caste-Cluster of Maharashtra' , South Asian Anthropologist, Vol.2, No.2, PP.49-59.
- Mandal, R. B., (1981): ' Frontiers in Migration Analysis' , Concept Pub. The Company, New Delhi, Pg.1, 272.
- Sabat and Dash, (1976): ' Socio-economic and Demographic Profile of Kandh Village of Easter Ghats, Orissa' , Man in India, 2, PP.127-140.