



Landuse Pattern: A Case Study of Buldhana District

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Introduction:

Landuse is the actual use of land by house, apartments and industrial location which are categorized the term as residential, industrial and agricultural. It refers to a system of land utilization implying roads, neighborhood retail and service activities as well as location of industries and the carrying of agricultural pursuits. In a real area, tree crop or row crop would identify landuse, whereas orcharding, truck farming and grazing indicate a system of land utilization. Landuse in geographical concept involves specific areas. The landuse study in its spatial context is essential to understand the regional zoning of the areas of optimum landuse, degraded areas etc. A geographer can not ignore the study of land tenure system which plays significant role in the regional distribution of settlements.

Study Area:

Buldhana is a district in the Amravati division of Maharashtra state in western India at the westernmost border of Vidarbha region and is 500 km from the state capital, Mumbai. Buldhana district is located in the central part of the state of Maharashtra. Akola, Jalgaon, Jalna, and Parbhani districts are the adjoining districts to the East, West, and South respectively. The Nemad district of Madhya Pradesh is in the North. The Buldhana district lies between 19°51' to 21°17' North Latitude and 75°57' to 76°49' East Longitude. The district



consists of five subdivisions and thirteen blocks. The district Head Quarters is at Buldhana. Buldhana district has an area of around 9,680 square kilometers. The distances of the other major towns from Buldhana is Aurangabad (180 KM), Pune (425 KM), Amravati (200 KM), Nagpur (350 KM).

Landuse Pattern :

The study of landuse pattern covers the proportion of area under different landuse at a point of time. Based on the census classification, the land is grouped under five major types. The landuse pattern of Buldhana district is depicted in table 1. The total geographical area of the district is 9634 hectares. The net sown area is 679800 hectares that comes to 70.56 percent to total geographical area of region. The agricultural land includes net sown area with crop and orchard. Cultivable land represents the net sown area in the region. It includes the irrigated and un-irrigated. However the rest land is used for different purposes like forest (6.73 percent) land not available for cultivation (7.91 percent) other un-cultivable land (7.08 percent) and fallow land (7.72 percent).

Area under Forest: The percentage of forest land was 6.37 percent for the whole region. The tahsilwise like Sangrampur, Mehkar, Chikhli and Khamgaon has more than 10% area under forest. About 5% to 10% area under forest is observed in Buldhana and Motala tahsil whereas below 5% area under forest is observed in Shegaon, Nandura, Malkapur, Lonar, Sindkhedraja, Deulgaonraja and Jalgaon Jamod tahsil.



**Table 1 : Buldhana district: Landuse Pattern
(Area in '00' hectares)**

Categories / Tahsil	Area Under forest	Area not available for Cultivation	Unculti-vable land	Fallow Land	Net sown Area	Total Geographical Area
Jalgaon (Jamod)	26 (4.45)	35 (5.99)	31 (5.31)	75 (12.84)	417 (71.40)	584 (100)
Sangrampur	84 (13.23)	28 (4.41)	14 (2.20)	60 (9.45)	449 (70.71)	635 (100)
Shegaon	6 (0.72)	110 (13.29)	118 (14.25)	66 (7.97)	528 (63.77)	828 (100)
Nandura	10 (2.22)	20 (4.44)	15 (3.33)	18 (4.00)	387 (86.00)	450 (100)
Malkapur	11 (2.44)	14 (3.10)	11 (2.44)	18 (3.99)	397 (88.03)	451 (100)
Motala	57 (7.62)	70 (9.36)	49 (6.55)	22 (2.94)	550 (73.53)	748 (100)
Khamgaon	115 (10.61)	108 (9.96)	74 (6.83)	99 (9.13)	688 (63.47)	1084 (100)
Mehkar	116 (12.28)	38 (4.02)	55 (5.82)	82 (8.68)	654 (69.21)	945 (100)
Chikhli	99 (11.02)	41 (4.57)	28 (3.12)	7 (0.78)	723 (80.51)	898 (100)
Buldhana	38 (5.39)	95 (13.48)	96 (13.62)	25 (3.55)	451 (63.97)	705 (100)
Deulgaon raja	35 (4.17)	67 (7.98)	89 (10.60)	151 (17.98)	498 (59.29)	840 (100)
Sindkhed raja	30 (3.79)	51 (6.44)	61 (7.70)	83 (10.48)	567 (71.59)	792 (100)
Lonar	21 (3.12)	85 (12.61)	41 (6.08)	38 (5.64)	489 (72.55)	674 (100)
District Total	648 (6.73)	762 (7.91)	682 (7.08)	744 (7.72)	6798 (70.56)	9634 (100)

Source: Socio-Economic Abstract of Buldhana District, 2011



Land not available for cultivation:

The land not available for cultivation includes such land as barren, uncultivable land and land put non-agricultural uses such as settlement, roads, railways, canals etc. The regional average to total geographical area is 7.91 percent. Below 5% area under this category is observed in Malkapur, Mehkar, Sangrampur, Nandura, and Chikhli tahsil whereas 5% to 10% area is observed in Buldhana and Motala tahsils. Above 10% area is observed in Khamgaon, Chikhli, Mehkar and Sangrampur tahsils.

Other uncultivable Land:

The share of other uncultivable land was 7.08% percent of the total geographical area of the region. It is observed that the tahsils like Sangrampur, Malkapur, Chikhli, Nandura has below 5% area under uncultivable land whereas 5% to 10% area under this category is observed in Jalgaon Jamod, Mehkar, Lonar, Motala, Khamgaon, Sindkhedraja tahsil. Above 10% area under this category is observed in Deulgaonraja, Buldhana and Shegaon tahsil.

Fallow Land:

The fallow land includes the land under current fallow and permanent fallow. The regional average of this category to total geographical area is (7.72). Below 5% area under fallow land is observed in Chikhli, Motala, Buldhana, Malkapur and Nandura tahsil whereas 5% to 10% fallow land is observed in Lonar, Shegaon, Mehkar, Khamgaon and Sangrampur tahsils. Above 10% area under this category is observed in Sindkhedraja, Jalgaon Jamod and Deulgaonraja tahsil.



Net Sown Area:

The percentage of nets own area for the entire region was 70.56 percent. Below 70% area under this category is observed in Deulgaonraja, Khamgaon, Shegaon, Buldhana and Mehkar tahsil whereas 70% to 75% area under this category is observed in Sangrampur, Jalgaon Jamod, Sindkhedraja, Lonar and Motala tahsils. Above 75% area under this category is found in Chikhli, Nandura and Malkapur tahsil.

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