



## PILGRIMAGE TOURISM AND INCREASING SLUMS: A CASE STUDY OF PANDHARPUR, MAHARASHTRA

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**ABSTRACT:**

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*Tourists always visit a particular place in search of pleasure. Sometimes this motive is supplemented by other motives like business, education, religious, medical, friends and relatives etc. Now a day's tourism is called as the fourth dimension of modern economics. An impact of tourism has become an important part of economy especially in the developing country like India. Tourism is classified as International, Domestic, Eco-tourism, social tourism, pilgrimage tourism, heritage tourism, adventure tourism, agri-tourism, educational tourism, conference tourism, etc. Thus the purpose for which tourist comes becomes the type of tourism. Tourism plays an important role to national integration of our country.*

*Besides this development of tourism has also given rise to many problems like social and environmental pertaining to pollution, sewage, hygiene facilities, and the important one is a slum problem etc. In order to minimize the above problems and to increase the economic benefits of tourism study of problems of tourism is needed for proper planning.*

*In the present paper an attempt has been made to study the pilgrimage tourism and increasing slums in pandharpur city. The importance of present study lies in the fact that it is based on primary and secondary data which collected through visits and survey of destinations and record of municipal office of pandharpur city.*

**Key words:** *Tourism, pilgrimage, slums, environment, problems*

### **Introduction**

Tourism has become the world's largest and fastest growing industry in terms of revenue and the number of people involved. Therefore, it is called the fourth dimension of modern economics. An impact of tourism has become an important part of economy especially, in the developing country like India. Being a service industry, it creates employment opportunities for the local population. It also helps to improve infrastructural facilities like road, electricity, railway, water supply, buildings etc. in tourist centers and ultimately helps to develop the region by adding national income. Tourism is classified on the basis of motives. Among the various types of tourism like International, Domestic, eco-tourism, social tourism, pilgrimage tourism, heritage tourism, adventure tourism, agri-tourism, educational tourism, conference tourism, etc. It is pilgrimage tourism which has occupied an important place. Pilgrimage tourism must be emphasized because of its importance to economic, social and cultural benefits.

Thus the increasing significance of tourism as a source of income, employment and amenities for the population of many areas, particularly the developing ones, has drawn the attention of the government as well as regional and local authorities and researchers. Beside this development of tourism adversely affects on the socio-cultural setup of the region, it may create shortage of things needed in daily life and also increase cost of land, accommodation, food cloths etc. it has also given rise to many problem like social and environmental like slums, pollution, sewage, hygiene facilities etc. in order to minimize the above problems and to increase the economic benefits of tourism study of problems of tourism is needed for proper planning.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of present study is to study the increasing slums problem of pilgrimage tourism in Pandharpur.

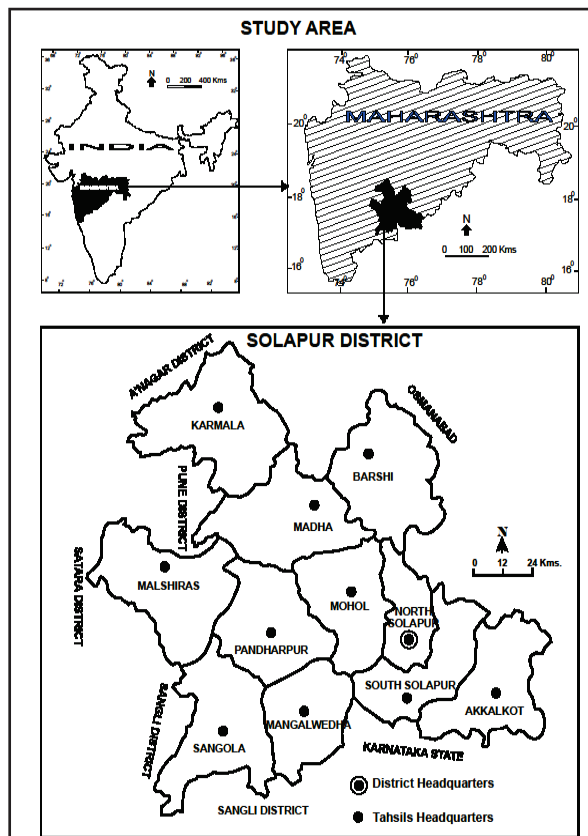
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### Database And Methodology

For the present study primary and secondary data is used. Present is mainly based on intensive fieldwork, observations and information Pandharpur musical council recorded. In the present paper the special attention has been given to the slums in the pilgrimage centre Pandharpur and, for this purpose data has been collected from municipal office Pandharpur and the observations regarding building types, their living standard etc.

### Study Area

Pandharpur is a famous pilgrimage center in western Maharashtra. The town Pandharpur is a tahsil head quarter in Solapur district of Maharashtra. It is located on 17°40' North latitude and 75°02'3" East longitudes at the height of 465.12 meters above mean sea level and has general slope from west to east. The town is having 91,381 populations according to 2001 census. The town has an area of 19.53 sq.km. As municipal limit and located on right bank of meandering Bhima River, a tributary of Krishna. The railway line (Miraj -Pandharpur – Kurdawadi) passes through the town in north-south direction dividing the town in two parts, the new part and the old part. The area to the east of railway-line up to river is occupied by the old town while the new town has developed along the railway-line.



Pandharpur is holy town and famous pilgrimage centers in the western Maharashtra, acquired fame as a place of many saints and is known as 'DakshinKashi'. Since it is associated with Lord Vitthal worshipped by the millions of people not only from all over the Maharashtra but also outside the state

also. Such a large number of pilgrims lead to considerable strain on existing facilities available in the town, which has given rise to many problems like environmental, slums, water pollution, etc.

### Problems Of Pilgrimage Centre

Pandharpur as a pilgrimage centres attracts many people. Some of them live there which increases slums in the town. Slums are low income population residing on the open places. It becomes impossible to provide all the necessary amenities to the slum area. The slums are very big problem in allpilgrimage centers. This area is generally low developed. The major problem of slum area is low standard of living, lower income of people, no education facilities, water supply problem, drainage, inadequate healthfacilities, road problem, electricity etc. In this area has high populationand different type of pollution such as drainage water, air pollution. Most of the slums in Pandharpur town are situated on the lands belonging to municipal council; many of the slums are on the lands of sites, which are reserved for public purpose in the sanctioned development plan. Nearly all the slums are declared by municipalcouncil under the Maharashtra slum development, clearance and improvement, Act 1971. In Pandharpur there are 23 slum dwellings area.

### Location of slum dwellers:

There are 23 slum dwellers. These slums mostly located near to stand and river area of main city.

### House type and pattern:

The house types and settlement pattern of the slum area is different than remaining part of city In Pandharpur the low income of people adversely affects on the house building type of the city . There is Houses building are absolutely single story and roof has not concrete and very simple roof found in the slum area of the Pandharpur. The walls are mostly of mud or somewhere simplebrink material used for it. There are very small widths roads and houses are close Toether. In this way congested house pattern observed in different slum of Pandharpur.

**Table -1**  
**Pandharpur: Demographic Characteristics of Slum Dwellers**

Sr No.	Name of Slum	No. of Houses	Population	Area Sq. Km.	Pop. Density
1	Dynaneshwar Nagar Slum	362	2495	0.138	18079.71
2	Slum behind Shete Petrol pump	103	567	0.04	14175.00
3	Gatade plot	19	432	0.037	11675.68
4	KoleGalli	73	322	0.028	11500.00
5	Badave Char.	570	3177	0.27	11766.67
6	KampostDepo	129	507	N.A.	
7	Behind school No.9	72	757	0.045	16822.22
8	VitthalNager	53	235	0.027	8703.70
9	Santpeth Mutton Market	131	944	0.05	18880.00
10	Umadipatangan	72	509	0.049	10387.76
11	Anil Nagar	325	1653	0.388	4260.31
12	Solapur Naka	36	181	0.0045	40222.22
13	Amambay Patangan	74	633	0.043	14720.93
14	Rambag	181	334	0.069	4840.58
15	Front of Namaland Maharaj Math	89	497	0.012	41416.67
16	Old Aklhuj Naka	30	182	0.023	7913.04
17	SulemanChal	61	580	0.018	32222.22
18	Padmawati	111	570	0.0575	9913.04
19	Ambedkar Nagar	165	550	0.161	3416.15
20	Behind GagananMaharaj math	134	975	0.06	16250.00
21	Lepracy Colony	24	81	0.023	3521.74
22	LakhubaiPatagan	35	194	0.009	21555.56
23	Narayan (undeclared)	---	NA	0.278	
	<b>Study Region</b>	<b>2849</b>	<b>16375</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>8948.09</b>

Source: Municipal Council, Pandharpur-Records.

### **Demographic aspects of slums:**

The demographic aspect of slum is also different than the remaining city. Population growth of this particular area is high. There are about 2849 households in the Pandharpur as per slum area is concern. The highest houses holds are found at Badave char. On the other hand the Gatade plot has lowest households. The highest population observed at Badave char slum where 3177 population resides. The highest area covered by Anil nager (0.388 sq. Km.) and lowest area is of Solapur naka slum i.e. 0.0045 sq. Km. Slums are characterized with high population density. In Pandharpur the average population density of slum area is 8948.09 per sq. Km. Where highest density observed at Soalpur naka slum with population 40222.22 per sq. Km. The lowest population density is in Leprosy colony slum where 3921 population per sq.km has been observed.

### **Problems in slum:**

In reality slum are not the problems they are the solution of the problem. Slums are solution of land problems, employment problem, transportation problem etc. Though slums are not the problem but they have different types of problems to face. It is observed that roads slum are very small and inadequate and the road is not metal. Electricity facility is also low in this area. Water supply and drainage facilities are also inadequate in this area. Solid waste management is also not done properly in the slum area. Slums have of the Pandharpur become dirty places and they have to develop.

### **Living standard of slum:**

Low living standard is major characteristics of the slums. The slum of Pandharpur has low income. In the sampled houses 80% worked as laborer. Due to uncleanness and low income the health status of the slum dwellers is also not satisfactory and they face different types of health problems.

### **Leprosy colony- Are they Urban:**

Only 24 houses and 81 people of literacy colony have very hard life in the study region. This colony located near Gopalpur road. The house hold size is small. The severity of problems is very much in this area. The people have diseases and economical income of these people is low. Here the urban facilities are nearly not available.

### **Conclusion And Suggestions:**

Pandharpur is river site urban center and pilgrimage tourism is significant here. On four big fairs (Ashadi, Kartiki, Maghi, Chanitri) monthly ekadashi lakhs of pilgrims visit Pandharpur. Transport and communication uses are mainly at of railway land in the town and land acquired by S.T. stand under. Residential user is 10.63% of today area whereas that under industrial development is negligible. Public and Semi public user seems on larger side due to Gajanan Maharaj, Kaikadim Maharaj, Tanpure Maharaj Maths etc. in the town. Warkari acquired lands for math purpose, unauthorized development occurred in the no development zone. The recreational activities such as gardens, parks are sufficient for the inner area but not a single Garden for inner area and Railway ground in railway land for outer area. The town has no swimming tanks, stadium and there is deficiency of amenities like market, playgrounds, parking and sport facilities. Slum of the Pandharpur are mostly in main city with kuchha houses and dense population. The slum has different problems and inadequate urban amenities. The standard of living of slum dwellers is low. Especially, leprosy colony of Pandharpur faces serve problems. Slum of the Pandharpur mostly located in main city with kuchha houses and dense population. The slum has different problems and inadequate urban amenities. The standard of living of slum dwellers is low. Especially, leprosy colony of Pandharpur faces serve problems. The problem of flood as well as air, water and noise pollution are the environmental problems of the study region, which increase its severity as one goes to the interior of the city. The drainage facility is needed to the slum area and as well as to the peripheral area of the city. The open drainage should be close to prevent its effects. The check up of drainage timely cross checked. The flood occurrence should prevent to the residence. To reduce the problem of air pollution, the

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awareness of people is important but at the same time stopping the dust occurrence in their needed. It is recommended that the water pollution should be checked and the washing of automobiles, cloths, animals and toilet in the bank of river should be prohibited. The cleaning of the Bhima River is the need of time and community participation for this purpose is essential.

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