

# "A Study of Tribal community in the Thane District"

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## Abstract

*The aim of this study has to find tribal community and their an imbalance in social, economic, political, material legal, administrative, cultural values and economic resources in the Thane District and analyse Characteristics of different tribal group like kokna, warli, Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, katkari and Thakar.*

*Since all above tribal community life is intertwined with forest not only for economic livelihood point of view, their belief system about sacred nature. It is difficult to make them inseparable from the forests and land, hence forest play a significant role in the life of tribal. The undertaken study ensures in tribal development of district. The present study is limited in the frontiers tribal area of Thane district.*

**Keywords:-** *Tribal community, socio-economic status, customs and faiths, social awareness etc.*

## 1. Introduction :-

The Study of tribal Community has been significant in human geography. Because tribal's of the state on finds that there is an imbalance in social, economic, political, material, legal administrative, cultural values and economic resources in the state of Maharashtra. Hence tribals in Maharashtra, popularly known as 'Adivasi' have been living in the forests, valley on the mountains and hills, away from the mainstream population for ages.

According to W.J. Perry, "Tribal means a community habituating in most common regions and speaking a same language."

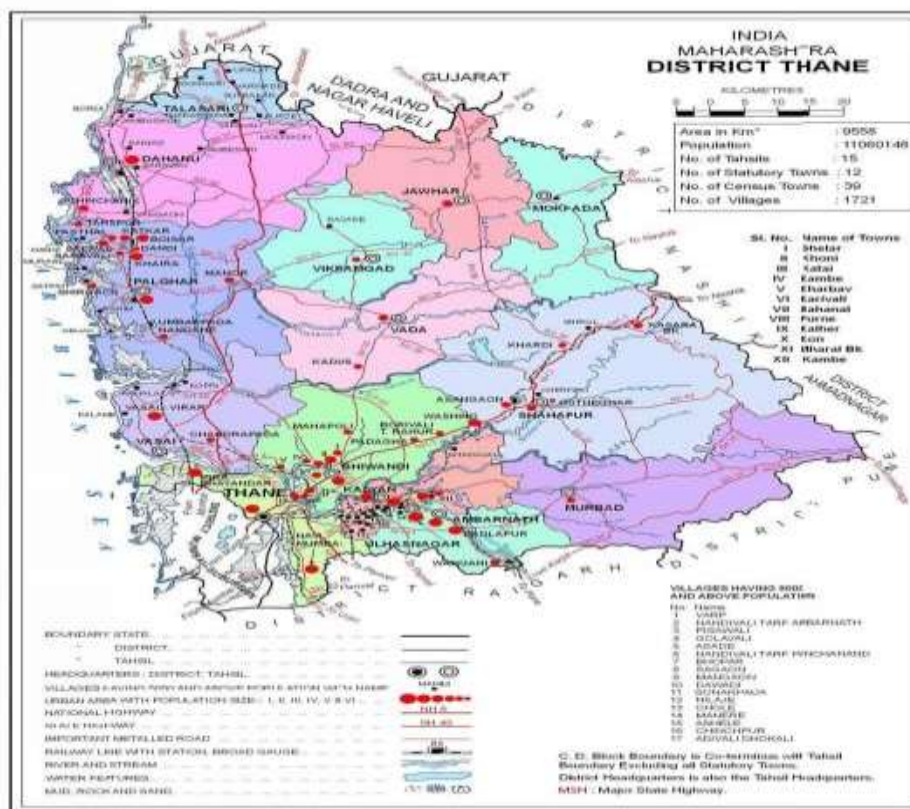
Present study of Thane district the northern and eastern fifteen taluka. In the present study an attempt was made to examine tribals situation, problem and their population. Characteristics of different tribal Community like Kokna, Warli, Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, Katkari and Thakar

## 2. About the Study Area:-

Thane district is the north most part of the Kokan lowlands of Maharashtra. It comprises the wide amphitheater like Ulhas basin. The district is situated between 18<sup>0</sup>42' N to 20<sup>0</sup>20' N latitudes and 75<sup>0</sup>45' E to 73<sup>0</sup>48' E longitudes. This district is spread over fifteen Talukas with a total Geographical area 9558 sq District ranks 16th in Maharashtra in respect of total Geographical area and holds 1st rank in population. The revised area of the district is bounded by Mumbai city district and Mumbai sub-urban district to the Southwest and Raigad district to south. Hence Ulhas basin on the south and hilly Vaitarna valley on the north together with plateaus and slope of the Sahyadri in the east, the land falls through a succession of plateaus in the north and centre of the district to the Ulhas valley in South.

As per the 2011 census the District Thane has a considerable tribal population. Tribal population in the district is 15,42, 451 which constituted 13.95 percent of the total population. These tribal communities are Kokna, Warli, Mahadev Koli, Malhar koli, Katkari and Thakar.

## LOCATION MAP OF STUDY AREA



### 3. Objectives:-

1. To analyze tribal group on the basis of their settlement,
2. To Study tribal cultural and art aspect of the study region.

### 4. Data Collection and Research Methodology:-

For this work primary and secondary data will used. Collective information is year 1990 to 2011 periods, primary data will include preparation of conducting interview to collect information from the tribal people and local resident of that particular pada located in dense forest.

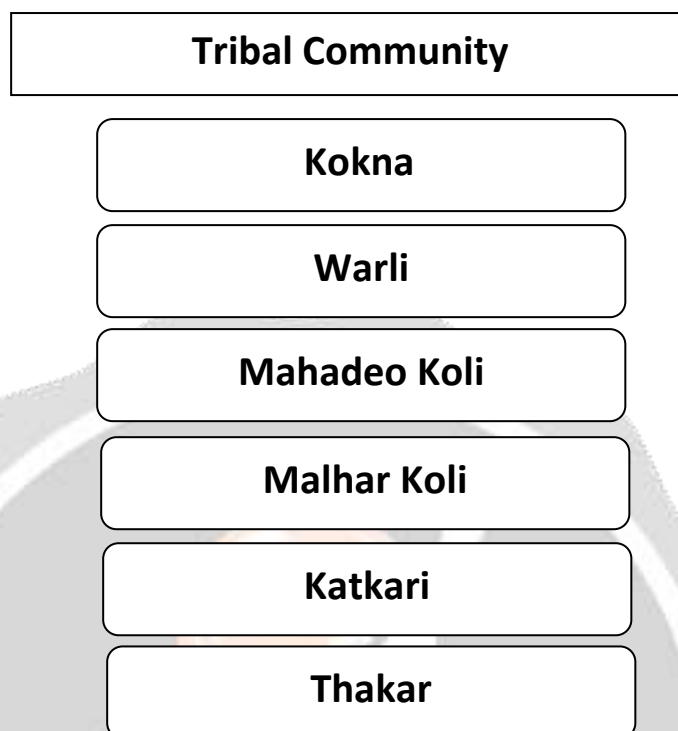
Secondary data will be collected through the books, reference, papers, District census hand books and web encyclopedia.

### 5) Tribal community livelihood:-

Since the age tribal communities live in the lap of the nature. Their economy and culture are closely associated with the nature is like the womb of the mother. The life style and tradition of each indigenous community is unique and is related to the utilization of natural resource and particular type of work. The interaction between human being and nature has always been reciprocal. this evident in tribal communities where there always exist a symbiotic relationship between their live hood pursuits and the surrounding natural resource base like the forest, land, water bodies, mineral resource and other flora and fauna. For tribal people land is important source of livelihoods. Around 90% of tribal population in the Thane district was depending on land directly or indirectly for survival. Their economy was primarily agro based land is the source asset for them. Apart from the land forest is the second source of their live hood. They used to collect various minor forest products from their survival. There economy was subsistence in nature.

## 6) Tribal community :-

The tribal communities commonly understood as forest dwelling or people living in the hills these community are Kokna, Warli, Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, Katkari and Thakar. This community has its own cultural and economic differentiation besides specific ethnic identities.



### 6.1) Kokna :-

The kokna, kokni constitutes the principal tribal in Maharashtra. The community of kokna tribe is mainly spread over in the districts of Thane.

The present name of tribe is derived from 'Kokani' which is the the Western Coastal halt of Maharashtra. The area between the coastal line and Sahyadris in the original abode of the kokna tribal community. Historical accounts says that it is one of the ethnic segment of nag race known as konkan by which the present territorial name kokan has given. Epic and some ancient Indian literature had a mention about 100 race (kula) of nagas, one of them was kunkana nag which latter become the identity of konkan as a territory on coastal area.

### 6.2) Warli :-

The warlis are an aboriginal tribe living at the foothills of the sahyadris in the Thane District Warli was hunters and gathers living in the forest with time, they were forced to settle down at the base of the hills, and so they adopted an agro pastoral lifestyle.

Waral is brushwood which the original settlers had to clear in order to settle down. Waral also refers to the brushwood used to burn on the fields as rab.

This could be the origin of name of their tribe warli. After ripen crop primitive man decided to bury the corn stocks in a deep pit, its bottom lined with ash and teak leaves and its top covered with mud to bury them safely. This system of saving the corn stock was called as warli.

The human beings who made a warli under the ground are known as warli people and they make warli paintings are also a mean of communication. Thus understanding the symbolism in them becomes crucial for grasping the true meaning.

### 6.3) Mahadeo Koli:-

Both tribal community live in the Thane district. Mahadeo Koli also Known as Dongar Koli and Raj Koli is a sub-cast Koli. The Mahadeo Koli tribe the predominant tribal group, formed the move army, a troop of shivaji Maharaj. Which helped in controlling the mountain passes of the sahyadri. Tanaji was the lieutenant of Shivaji Maharaj. The Mukne clan which ruled Thane from Jawhar fort too was Mahadeo Koli, after consider being a criminal tribe by the British till 1927.

**6.4) Malhar Koli :-**

The Malhar are a semi nomadic Kolharian tribe. They are also found in Thane district where they enjoy S.T. status as Koli and Malhar. They Process their autonomous tribal religion based on 'animism' which is amalgamated with few elements of Hinduism.

**6.5) Katkari :-**

Many of the tribes like the katkaris do not even have their own village and they are settled in the finges of the caste Hindu villages other names and spelling include kathkari, kathodi and kathodia. The Katkari are one of only a few tribal groups that eat rodents, including the little Indian field mouse the black rat and the Greater of Indian Bandicoot. They believe that their strength and long life comes from eating the meat of rodents.

**6.6) Thakar :-**

Thakar is tribe this tribe was originally living in hilly areas of Thane district and is now also found scattered all over Maharashtra they also called by names like thakar Thakur, Ka Thakur, Ma Thakar, Ka Thakur, and Ma Thakur, however, the surname Thakar belongs to Deshasth Brahmin cast in Maharashtra .

**Tribal population of thane District (Sub-District)**

Sr. No	Name of Sub- District	Total Population	Total Scheduled tribe population
1	Talasari	1548818	140273
2	Dahanu	402095	279904
3	Vikramgad	137625	126368
4	Jawhar	140187	128462
5	Mokhada	83453	76842
6	Vada	178370	101709
7	Palghar	550166	168152
8	Vasai	1343402	98298
9	Thane	3787036	74940
10	Bhiwandi	1141386	92664
11	Shahapur	314103	112183
12	Kalyan	1565417	54516
13	Ulhasnagar	506098	6576
14	Ambarnath	565340	36221
15	Murbad	190652	47343
	Total Tribal Population of Thane District	11060148	154251

**7) Conclusion:-**

The study of tribal community has been significant in human geography. Because tribals of the state and Thane district on find that there is an imbalance in every condition. They dependable on forest. All the tribal leave in remote area. kokna, Warli, Mahadeo Koli, Malhar Koli, Katkari and Thakar these tribal has

considerable population in the thane District is 15,42,45, the present study try to understood the culture, art, occupation and their tradition. These tribal communities (group) had different from each other.

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