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Article : Role of Geographical Environment on Environmental : Degradation Cognition in Tribal and Non-tribals

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Abstract :

Environmental Degradation is the complex process involving transformation, material loss from any one of the environmental components. Environmental degradation process arise by natural processes or by man-made activities. The primary knowledge about environmental degradation, causes and consequences of environmental degradation and planning measures views about environmental degradation are the three main parameters selected to know the cognition about environmental degradation in different geographical environment in the Jalgaon district of the Maharashtra state is considered for the study. Among the geographical environment location, slope of land, physiography, climate, soils, resources, accessibility, socio-economic status, population etc. are considered to demarcate the tribal and non-tribal zones of the study region. Geographical environmental zones and its relation with environmental degradation cognition is studied with the help of statistical method.

Key words *– Material Loss, Natural Process, Consequences, cognition process.*

Introduction :

The major form of environmental degradation varies from region to region, depending upon the geographical environment. The major form of the environmental degradation are water pollution and scarcity, air pollution, globe atmospheric changes, solid and hazaradous wastes, congestion and noise in various areas, soil loss, forest loss in rural area, depletion of raw materials and energy resources, ecosystem losses. The main consequence of the environmental degradation is on health,. Productivity and amenity in the region. In this study investigator have studied role of geographical environmental factors on cognition about environment degradation.

Study Region :

In this research work Jalgaon district of Maharashtra state is selected for study due to sizable variations in geographical environment. Northern part of the study region is occupied by Satpura Mountainous area, steep slope, undulating relief, lower agricultural land, unfertile soil, low accessibility, inhabitance of tribal

community like Pawara, Tadavi, Bhil. The extreme Southern part is occupied by Ajanta hills a offshoots of Sahyadri Mountain in habited by tribal community Banjara. The central part of the study region is occupied by Central Tapti river plain, agriculturally fertile, prosperous, high literacy area, accessible are inhabited by non-tribal community Hindu, Muslim, Harijan population. This area is well developed area known as cotton and banana belt of India. the tribal and non-tribal zones dominated the monsoon climate.

Objectives :

1) To study and mark the geographical environmental zones in the study region.
2) To know the environmental degradation cognition among the tribal and non-tribal population
3) To study the comparison between environmental area and cognition of environmental degradation.
4). To suggest some planning measures to improve cognition of environmental degradation.

Source Data and research Methodology :

To complete this basic and applied research work, investigator has used the secondary data for the study and demarcation of geographical environmental zones. Gazetteers, census handbook, general population report, atlas, socio-economic data is gained from secondary sources. To achieve our objectives primary data is generated from door to door to survey with the help of questionnaire, interview of experts and field observations. The identified ten questions related to three parameters like primary knowledge about environmental degradation, cognition about causes and consequences of environmental degradation and planning measures, views about environmental degradation are included in questionnaire. From the both tribal and non.-tribal environmental zones, ten villages are selected by stratified sampling method. From these villages one hundred houses were selected for questionnaire survey with the help of stratified samples. The questionnaire data is developed in tabulation and process by statistical method. the comparative study is done and the results were obtained.

Geographical environment and cognition of environment degradation :

In the study region two environmental zones are demarcated i.e. central Tapti river plain, a agriculturally prosperous region inhabited by non-tribal population and northern Satpura isolated hilly area, inhabited by tribal

community. For this study two geographical environmental region are considered. Both the regions are having identical environment reflect the environmental degradation cognition among the population..

Table I : Tribal environment and Cognition of environmental degradation

Sample Villages	**% of Population (Males)**			**% of Population (Females)**		
	Primary Knowledge in Env. Degradation	**Cognition about cause & Consequences of Env. Degradation**	**Planning about Env. Degradation**	**Primary Knowledge in Env. Degradation**	**Cognition about cause & Consequences of Env. Degradation**	**Planning about Env. Degradation**
Borkheda	53.50	38.50	28.50	52.50	35.80	25.70
Nimade	54.30	37.40	27.50	51.60	36.90	26.50
Garbardi	51.50	40.15	29.30	50.15	38.50	28.50
Haripura	52.80	40.80	28.50	51.80	39.80	27.30
Mohammadali	50.70	35.90	25.10	51.00	36.80	23.10
Lalmati	47.80	37.80	28.50	50.10	37.50	25.50
Jamne	51.90	38.90	26.10	50.80	35.30	25.90
Sakshtrali	52.80	39.40	27.80	51.50	32.10	26.10
Langdaamba	53.50	38.50	28.50	52.80	33.50	27.50
Chichati	52.50	39.50	29.10	51.50	34.10	28.90
Avg.	**52.13**	**38.68**	**27.89**	**51.37**	**36.03**	**26.50**

Source – Field Work, 2010

Table I revels the gender variations of cognition among the tribal population among the ten tribal villages. There are variations in environmental degradation, cognition among the tribal males and females. There is also variations in

environmental degradation parameter like primary knowledge about environmental degradation, cognition about causes and consequences of environmental degradation and environmental planning. Among the ten tribal villages there are sizable variations in primary knowledge about environmental degradation i.e. ranges from 50.70 % to 53.50% among the male population. Among the male population we can see lower level of cognition about environmental degradation i.e. 35.90 % to 40.80 %. The tribal parameter of environmental degradation planning is lowest among the tribal males population. i.e. 25.10% to 29.10%. As compared to tribal male population tribal female population with lower level of environmental degradation parameter. As we see in table a sizable tribal women with primary knowledge about environmental degradation i.e 50.15 % to 52.80%. While cognition about causes and consequences of environmental degradation is lower than first parameter i.e. 32.10% to 38.50%. The planning views about environmental degradation is lowest among the tribal women i.e only 23.10 %to 28.90%. There are sizable variations among the tribal women about environmental degradation among the ten sample villages. Lastly we can see than tribal male population having the higher environmental degradation cognition than tribal females in the study region.

Tribal literacy and cognition about Environment degradation :

In this study, investigator have studied the co-relation between illiterate and literacy population and cognition about environmental degradation. From the ten villages illiterates and literates males and females are surveyed by identified questionnaire to study the relationship between literacy and cognition about environmental degradation.

In the identified questionnaire about cognition about environmental degradation, 50 questions of illiterate and literates was keenly observed and from that it was noted that there is close relationship between literacy and cognition of environmental degradation. The illiterate males and females are having the lower level of cognition about environmental degradation than the tribal literates in the study region. There are gender variations in cognition about environmental degradation. Males having the higher cognition about environmental degradation than tribal females. In the representative questionnaire we can see that there are variations in environmental degradation parameter. Almost tribal males and female are having higher cognition about primary knowledge of environmental degradation, than cognition about causes and consequences of environmental degradation and environmental degradation planning. The same pattern we can see in the Table II about environmental parameters among the tribal males and females.

Non-tribal environment and cognition of environmental degradation :

The central part of the study region is occupied by Tapti river basin, it is extensive fertile plain, accessible area and socially and economically developed region, inhabited by non-tribal Hindu population. This area is agriculturally prosperous region known as cotton and banana belt of India. This area with higher infrastructure facilities. Ten villages from this environmental zone is selected for case study and one hundred questionnaire from each village is considered as sample study. While selecting the samples for study males, females, literacy levels are also considered

Table II : Non-tribal environment and cognition of environmental Degradation

Sample Villages	**% of Population (Males)**			**% of Population (Females)**		
	Primary Knowledge in Env. Degradation	**Cognition about cause & Consequences of Env. Degradation**	**Planning about Env. Degradation**	**Primary Knowledge in Env. Degradation**	**Cognition about cause & Consequences of Env. Degradation**	**Planning about Env. Degradation**
Hingone	65.50	52.50	45.90	64.50	51.50	42.80
Mohorale	66.80	53.80	42.95	65.80	52.30	41.90
Bhadali	67.50	54.50	43.80	66.60	53.50	42.80
Nashirabad	65.30	53.00	45.80	65.80	50.80	44.50
Anjale	68.35	52.80	49.30	68.20	51.90	45.90
Dhanova	69.15	51.50	46.50	67.50	51.30	45.50
Mehunbare	6.20	52.30	45.80	65.10	51.50	44.80
Fattehpur	65.50	51.90	46.60	63.30	52.00	46.50

Bodwad	62.50	50.80	47.50	61.50	51.00	46.80
Anturli	65.90	51.50	46.30	64.30	51.20	45.50
Avg.	**60.27**	**52.46**	**46.04**	**65.26**	**51.70**	**44.70**

Source – Field work 2010

Table II shows that the gender variations of cognition about environment degradation among the non-tribal population in the study villages. There are sizable variations in cognition about environmental degradation among males and females. In the environmental degradation study we have considered the three parameters primary knowledge about environmental degradation cognition, causes and consequences of environmental degradation and planning view. Among the non-tribal male population we can see higher cognition about environmental degradation than the non-tribal females. The basic knowledge about environmental degradation value ranges from 62.50% to 69.15% for the males. The second parameter causes and consequences effect view value ranges between 50.80% to 54.50% for males. The third parameter planning measures value is lowest for the males. Among the non-tribal females we can see variations in the environmental degradation parameters. As our expectations lower value about causes and consequences and planning measures about environmental degradation among females.

To study the relationship between educated level and cognition about environmental degradation investigator selected fifty questionnaire of literates and non-tribal persons. The detail observation of these questionnaire and interviews shows there are very close relationship between cognition about environmental degradation and literacy levels. As our expectations illiterates having lower level of cognition about environmental degradation.

Observations and Findings :

* There are sizable variations about cognition environmental degradation among tribal and non-tribal population.
* There is difference in cognition about environmental degradation among the males and females in both geographical environment.
* In both environment zones male and females are having higher level of cognition about primary knowledge about environmental degradation than other parameters.
* All most all the population of the study region with lowest level of planning measures about environmental degradation

* To improve the environmental degradation cognition among the population awareness programs like documentary films, posters, exhibitions, street plays, essay competition etc. should be implemented.

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