

Study of Minerals In Sindhudurg District: Geographical Perspective

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Abstract

The land of Culture and Natural beauty. Sindhudurg is famous for its natural beauty like Beaches, Backwater, Waterfalls and Pilgrimage centers. The major attraction here is the long and narrow stretch of beaches. Sindhudurg District is situated along the west coast and the south part of the Konkan. The Sindhudurg District covers an area about 5207 sq.km. Administrative district is sub-divided into eight Talukas. The district has a coast-line of about 121 km. Physiographical thick area is very rugged and complex one. Sindhudurg is one of the important maritime districts in Maharashtra. The important fishery centers in the district are Vengurla, Malwan and Devgad. Most of the district area covered by dense rain forest. District area is most suitable habitat for wild animals like leopard, wild cats, rabbits, wild hen & sometimes wild buffalo also appears in winter season. All the districts in Konkan Division, Sindhudurg district seems to be favorably placed with regard to the availability of some of the important minerals. Iron, Magnesium, Silica sand, Silica stone, Granite Laterite & Boxite is found in the district. Distribution of minerals is uneven in the district. These minerals are located in the middle belt of the district. Sawantwadi & Dodamarg talukas are covering maximum area of minerals.

Keywords- Resources, Minerals, Biodiversity, environment

Introduction -

A Natural Resource anything that people can use which comes from nature. People do not make natural resources, but gather them from the earth. Natural resources occur naturally within environments that exist relatively undisturbed by humanity, in a natural form. A natural resource is often characterized by amounts of biodiversity & geo diversity existent in various ecosystems. Natural resources are derived from the environment. Natural resources are the gift from the God to us. Natural resources are naturally occurrence substances that are considered valuable in their relatively unmodified form. A natural resource value rests in the amount of the material available & the demand for it. The latter is determined by its usefulness to production. A commodity is generally considered a natural resource when the primary activities associated with it are extraction & purification, as opposed to creation. Sindhudurg district is one of the districts which have many varieties of natural resources. It is famous for its natural beauty, Numerous coasts, waterfalls, backwaters. It is very rich for dense forest, fisheries, wild animals & varieties of valuable minerals Sindhudurg natural resource are part of the large biodiversity of western Ghat. The area is one of the world's "Hottest biodiversity hotspots"

Objectives-

To study the importance of Resources
To focus on various types of Minerals
To study the Talukawise distribution of Minerals

Data base and Methodology-

The data and information for the proposed study will be collected from various secondary sources. Secondary information's collected from the annual reports, District census Hand Book Sindhudurg, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Sindhudurg. and other Programme summery etc. For this research collected data has been tabulated & for its interpretation various quantitative techniques has been used. Data has been shown with the help of various cartographic techniques.

The Study Region-

Sindhudurg District is one of the districts of the South Maharashtra situated along the west coast and the part of the Kokan. Sindhudurg district was earlier a part of the Ratnagiri district. For administrative convenience and industrial and agricultural development Ratnagiri district was divided into Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg with effect from 1st May,1981.The Sindhudurg District lies between 15⁰ 37' North to 16⁰ 40' North latitude and 73⁰ 19' East to 74⁰ 13' East longitude covers an area about 5207 sq.km. There are 748 inhabited villages and 8 towns having Population density 163 persons per sq.km. Administrative district is sub-divided into eight Talukas. The district has a coast-line of about 121 km. The stream which Flow from the Sahyadri towards the sea have formed basins at place between the hill ranges and on the coastal plains. The height of the region is varies from sea level up to 1300 mt.

Discussion and Result-

Importance of Resources-

In the initial stage of development man was dominated by the environment. With the development in science and technology man was able to understand reasoning behind the natural phenomenon in science. Thus he formulated laws which govern these phenomenon. Then man developed technology for using natural forces for his benefit e.g. principles of magnetism and electricity are used in the preparation fan. Thus there was emergence of the concept of Natural Resource; Resource means anything which is useful to man. If the resource is derived from the nature it is termed as the Natural Resource. e.g. Soil, Vegetation, Water, Minerals, Sunshine, light, temperature etc. Resources which are created by man by modifying natural resources are termed as Man-made or cultural resources. e.g. Buildings, Roads, Factories, Canals etc. Even human qualities are also considered as human resources. The use of natural resources has increased tremendously due to increase in (a) Population (b) development in science and technology.

Minerals-

Among all the districts in Bombay division, Sindhudurg district seems to be favorably placed in regard to the supply of some of the important minerals. Magenese ore occurs almost

side with the belts of iron are in this district. The southern part of the coastline, Kudal and Kankavli tahsils have important deposits of minerals. Iron ores found at Vengurla, Dodamarg & Sawantwadi tahsil. The proportion of ore carrying between 58-60 percent of iron is found particularly in the district. Bauxite and limenite are found at a few places along the coast near Vijaydurg, Devgad and at Amboli of Sawantwadi tahsil. The reserves of lavish chromite are found in Kankavli tahsil. Kankavli tahsil is also blessed with deposits of silica sand and annually thousands of tons of silica sand is being dispatched to places like Mumbai, Pune, Kolhapur, Belgaum, Ichalkaranji etc. Manganese is found in the district at Phondye, Sasoli, Netarde and Dingne. Feldspar, a minor mineral found in this district, can be used in the manufacture of potteries. Other minor minerals found in the district are mica, mineral pigments such as clay, asbestos, building, stones, glass sand, copper, salt, limestone etc. Radioactive minerals like Uranium oxide are also found in some parts of the district.

Sindhudurg District having 5207 km² area. In this area 13797.07 he. area under the various types of minerals. Iron is found in 9212.41 he. area i.e.66.76%. Remaining 33.24% area is under the other minerals. These areas as 1418.72 he. area under the Silika sand, 1371.16 he. Is Granite mineral. Silika stone & magnisse is found under the 857.4 he. & 638.75 he. Area respectively. Laterite is found under the 298.99 he.

Talukawise distribution of Mineral area in Sindhudurg District in Hectore

Minerals	Sawantwadi	Vengurla	Dodamarg	Kudal	Kankavali	Malvan	Vaibhavwadi	Devgad
Iron	4363.5	115.9	4733.01					
Iron & Mg	377.66	261.09						
Silica sand		497.74		102.18	355.37	141.87	273.95	47.61
Silica stone		783.29			73.75			
Granite	25.68		1295.1	50.38				
Laterite	92			12.25	17.74	80	15	82
Total	4858.84	1658.02	6028.11	164.81	446.86	221.87	288.95	129.61

(Fig No 2)

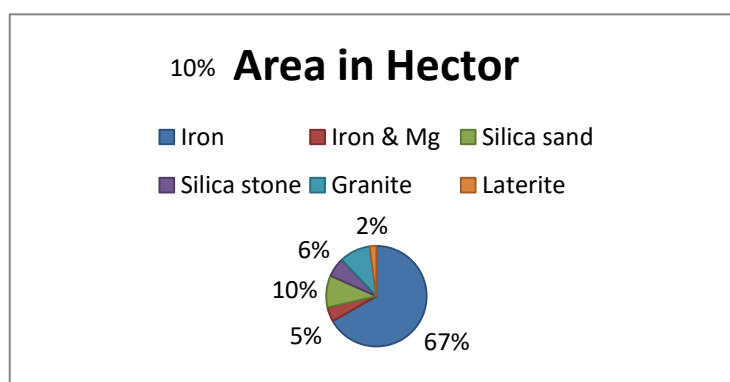
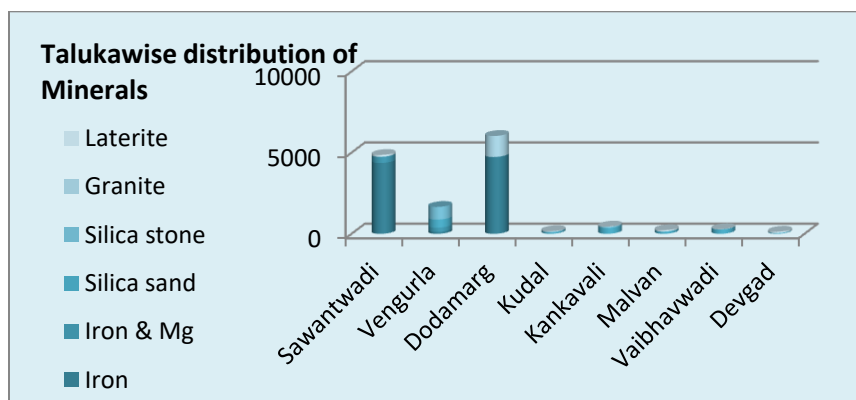


Figure No. 01 & 02 shows that In the Sawantwadi taluka 4 types of minerals are found i.e. Iron, Iron & manganese, Granite & Laterite stone. It is the second one largest area of Sindhudurg district under the minerals. Maximum 4363.50.50 he. Area i.e. 89.81% area Iron is found in this taluka. This area is located at the east & south east part of the taluka which is under the Sahyadri hills. Iron& Mg area is 377.66.00 he, Granite found in 25.68.09 he. Area& Laterite is found in nearby 92 he. In the taluka Vengurla also found 4 types of minerals. Iron & Manganese is found at the south part of Vengurla which is near the costal line. Large amount of Silika & silica stone is found in middle of the Vengurla. Total area under the minerals nearly 76% area is under the silica sand & silica stone. Dodamarg is the highest area under the minerals in District Sindhudurg. Large quantity of Iron is found in Dodamarg taluka i.e.4733.01.43 he. Area (78%), which is located at the eastern belt of Dodamarg. In the 1295.10.50 he. Area Granite stone is found in this taluka. In Kudal taluka silica sand is found in 102.18.76 he. Area. Very few quantities of Granite & Laterite are also found in this area, which is 15.38 & 12.25 he. Respectively. In Kankavali taluka 355.37.39 he. area is under the Silica sand.

Conclusion-

1. Sindhudurg district is rich for natural resources. The area is one of the worlds “Hottest biodiversity hotspots”
2. Distribution of natural resources is uneven in Sindhudurg district.

3. In Sindhudurg district verity of minerals are found in 13797.07 hector area.
4. Maximum area under the minerals is found in Dodamarg taluka & minimum area is in the Devgad taluka.
5. In all the minerals Iron ore is found in maximum area i.e. 9212.41 hector.
6. Minerals are located in middle belt of the district, means it is not found in 'Khalati & Walati' area.

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