

Economic Condition of Horsemen and Hand Rickshaw Puller in Matheran

Raigadh District- Maharashtra

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Abstract

Matheran is a hill station and a municipal council in Karjat Tahsil in the Raigad district in the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the smallest hill station in India. There are various income associate activities going on in Matheran. We can find horsemen's, hand rickshaw pullers and artifact seller's can be seen everywhere. Major occupation is tourism that leads to more income activities such as hotels, motels and restaurants. Present study is made to attempt to analyse the economic condition of horsemen and hand rickshaw pullers, because these people are in vulnerable condition. So the present theme has been chosen to assess the economic condition of Horsemen and hand rickshaw puller.

Objective

The main objectives of the study are as

1. To analyse the economic condition of horsemen
2. To analyse the economic condition of hand rickshaw puller
3. To give some suggestion for betterment of the hand rickshaw puller and horsemen

Database and methodology

The methodology adopted for this research paper as a double primary and secondary source of information has been used. Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires. 32 horsemen and 18 hand rickshaw pullers were interviewed for getting the information about their economic condition. Simple statistical technique used to analyse the collected data and it was

processed in the computer for graphical presentation of the facts. Secondary data were collected from the internet like Wikipedia about the Matheran.

Introduction

Matheran is a hill station and a municipal council in Karjat Tahsil in the Raigad district in the Indian state of Maharashtra. Matheran is part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Matheran is one of the smallest hill stations in India. It is located on the Western Ghats range at an elevation of around 800 m (2,625 feet) above sea level. It is about 90 km from Mumbai, and 120 km from Pune. Matheran's proximity to many metropolitan cities makes it a weekend getaway for urban residents *Matheran*, which means "forest on the forehead" (of the mountains) is an eco-sensitive region, declared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. It is Asia's only automobile-free hill station. There are many hotels and Parsi bungalows in the area. Old British-style architecture is preserved in Matheran. Matheran is located at 18.98°N 73.27°E.¹

There are various income associate activities going on in Matheran. We can find horsemen's, hand rickshaw pullers and artifact seller's can be seen everywhere. Major occupation is tourism that leads to more income activities such as hotels, motels and restaurants. According to survey conducted we found that a total 460 horses used in transportation services and 94 hand rickshaw pullers.

To assess the economic status of the Horsemen and hand rickshaw puller in Matheran various variables have been taken into consideration as discussed below.

Economic condition of Horsemen and hand rickshaw puller

Economic conditions refer to the financial position of a person. It also refers to a set of economic reserves or assets, represents a source of security providing a measure of a household's ability to meet emergencies, absorb economic shocks, or provide the means to live comfortably. Here we discuss the economic condition of hand rickshaw pullers and horsemen in the light of such indicators as discussed below.

¹<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matheran>

Tourist inflow per day

During the season time around 3000 people come to visit Matheran and off season time approx. 1000+. As Matheran have beautiful sight scene that attracts tourists. Earning of hand rickshaw pullers and horsemen mostly depend on tourist arrival. It means in season they earn sufficient and off season they hardly get sufficient income.

Table 01: Tourist Inflow	
In Season	Off Season
3000	1000

Source: Primary survey

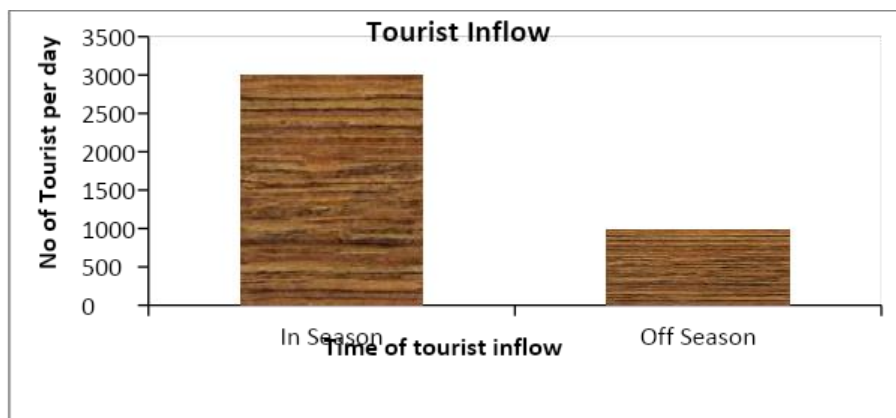


Fig-1

Age of the hand rickshaw puller and horsemen

Table 02 shows that the ages of the hand rickshaw puller and horsemen.

Table 02: Age					
	< 15 years %	15-25 Years %	25-30 Years %	30-35 Years %	> 35 Years %
Hand Rickshaw Puller	0	6	34	41	19
Horsemen	0	8	30	51	11

Source: Primary Survey

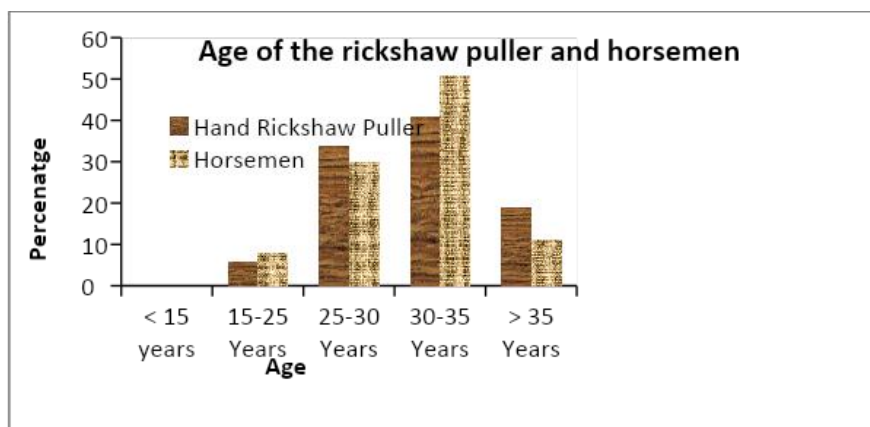


Fig-2

It reveals that most of the hand rickshaw pullers and horsemen are between 25 to 35 year age. More than 35 years, only 19 and 11 percent respectively are found in this activity.

Marital Status

Marital status refers to status of married means that a person wed in a manner legally recognized by their jurisdiction. He and she have some responsibility for their families.

Table 03 : Marital Status				
Marital Status	Married %	Unmarried %	Divorced %	Widower %
Hand Rickshaw Puller	80	17	2	1
Horsemen	85	11	2	2

Source: Primary survey

This table 03 indicates the marital status of the hand rickshaw puller and horsemen, are found in different status like, Married are 80 and 85 percent, Unmarried are 17 and 11 percent, Divorced are 2 percent, and Widower are 1 percent were found.

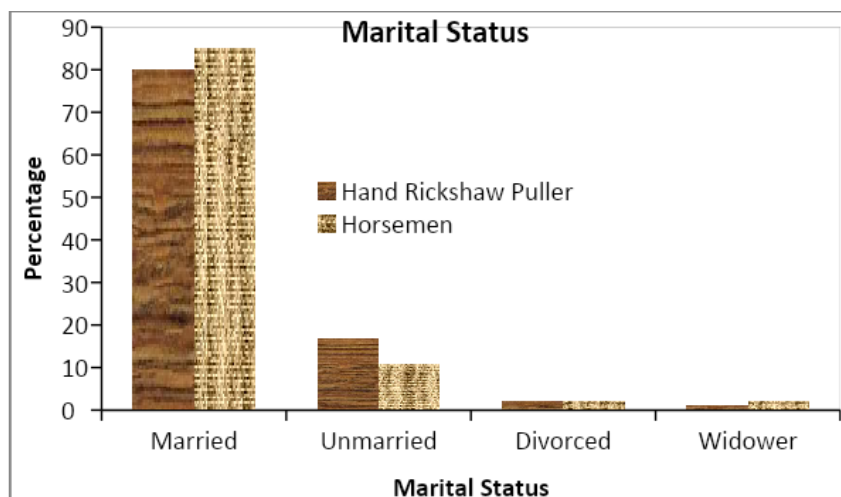


Fig -3

Educational Status

Education is one of the most important things in today's world which can make a person incomplete to survive with the demand of goods and needs. And it is important to get employed. So here table 4 shows the literacy rate of hand rickshaw puller and horsemen. It clearly reveals that 65 percent hand rickshaw pullers are uneducated and 50 percent Horsemen uneducated are found during survey. 30 percent HRP and 42 horsemen are studied till primary and only 5 and 8 percent studied till 8th class.

Table 04:-Educational Status			
	Uneducated	Primary	8 th Class
Hand Rickshaw Puller	65	30	5
Horsemen	50	42	8

Source: Primary survey

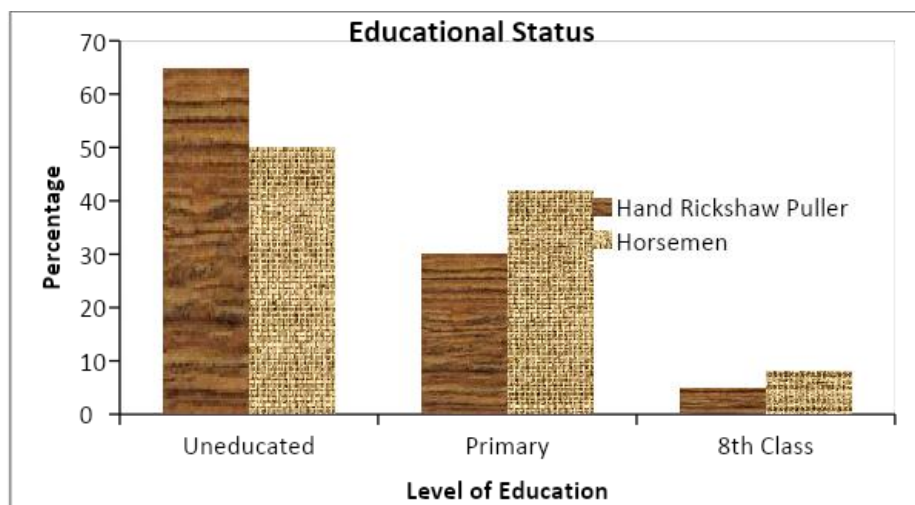


Fig-4

Ownership of Horses and Rickshaw

It is clearly revealed by table 05 that 88 % rickshaw pullers have their own rickshaw and 30 % Horsemen have their own horses. During the survey 70 % of horsemen don't have their own horse and only 12 % rickshaw pullers don't have their own rickshaw.

Table 05: Ownership		
Ownership of Horse or Rickshaw	Owned%	Rented%
Hand Rickshaw Puller	88	12
Horsemen	30	70

Source: Primary survey



Fig-5

Financial Assistant

During the survey it is found that no one has got any financial assistant from the govt. most of them taking horses on rent and rickshaw pullers have their own rickshaw.

Table 06: Financial Assistant by Govt.		
Financial Assistant	yes%	No%
Hand Rickshaw Puller	0	100
Horsemen	0	100

Source: Primary survey

Trips of horses and Rickshaw per day

As Matheran is a tourist destination we find more tourists in the months of April to May and November to December. No tourists are found in the months of January to March as it's off season. Even foreigners do come to visit Matheran in large numbers. In a day every horse rider ride at least 6 rounds of 5 different points and 2 rounds of 12 different points in season and off season hardly any.

Table 07: Trips per day		
Trips per day	In Season	Off Season
Hand Rickshaw Puller	4	1
Horsemen	6	2

Source: Primary survey

Hand rickshaw pullers mostly ride only for carrying the load from down to up and up to down. So they get very few trips per day.

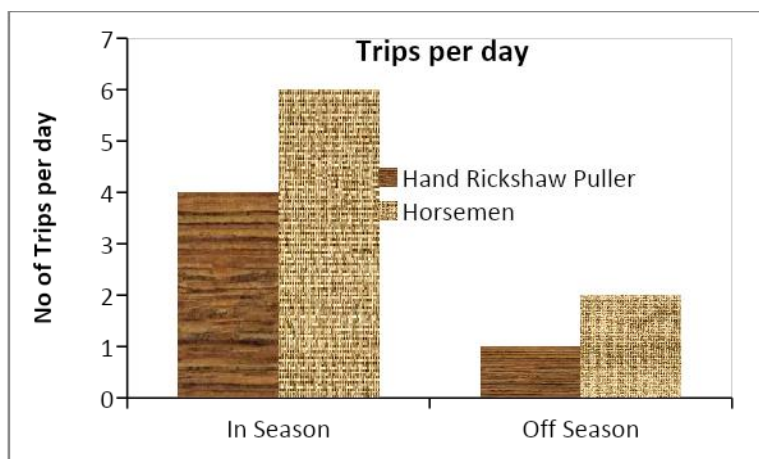


Fig-6

Charges of Trips per person

Horsemen and rickshaw pullers charge differently from seasons to season and points to point. 5 points 500 rupees or less in off season and 1000+ for 12 points maximum they charge 2500 rupees in season to foreigners.

Table 08: Charges per trips in Rs		
Charges of Trips	In Season	Off Season
Hand Rickshaw Puller	600	200
Horsemen	1000	500

Source: Primary survey

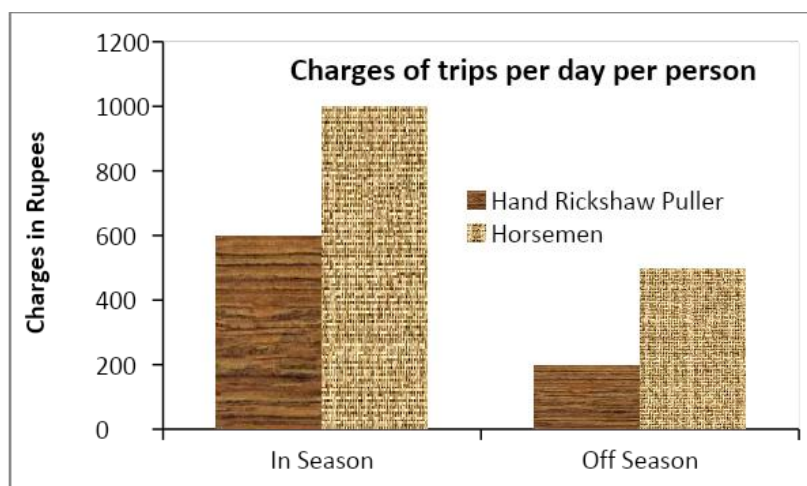


Fig-7

They earn around one thousand every day in off season and near about four thousand every

day in season time. Hand rickshaw pullers have less income rates than any other; they charge less than 200 rupees in off season and maximum 600 rupees in season and they don't have any other sources of income when there is no tourism.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above discussion it may be concluded that most of them are above the age of 15 years and mostly married people have the family responsibilities. Mostly they are less educated and their livelihood is depending on the tourist inflow. If the tourist arrival is less that means their earning is less. Rickshaw pullers are more vulnerable because they charge less for the trips. In a day every horse rider rides at least 5 rounds of 5 different points and 2 rounds of 12 different points in season and off season hardly any. They charge differently from seasons to season and points to point . 5 points 500 rupees or less in off season and 1000+ for 12 points maximum 2500 rupees in season. They earn around one thousand every day in off season and near about four thousand every day in season time. Hand rickshaw pullers have less income rates than any other they charge less than 200 rupees in off season and maximum 600 rupees in season and they don't have any other sources of income when there is no tourism.

Suggestion

Some suggestion has been made for the betterment of the hand rickshaw puller and horsemen are as follows

Government should pay attention towards them. They should be provided financial assistance by the govt. to purchase the horse and rickshaw.

They should be provided education facilities either by the government or by the NGOs in the form of Night School etc.

Tourism is only the means of livelihood of the horsemen and hand rickshaw puller. So they get another means of earning in the off season.

References

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