

## A STUDY OF DEFORESTATION IN NASIK DISTRICT ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES: A GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

Avhad Baban Arjun  
Assistant Prof, Dept of Geography,  
Mahilaratna Puspatai Hire Mahila Mahavidyalay,  
Malegaon Camp, Dist- Nashik

### Abstract:

The various values of the forest have been seen. Forest has a major contribution on the global economy and supports livelihood of the majority of rural populations in the world. But Latest findings in the state of forest report show that the forest cover of Nashik has shrunk from 1,089 square km in 2015 to 1,068 sq km in 2017. The report is prepared by the Dehradun-based Forest Survey of India, an arm of the Union ministry of forest and environment. The survey found that the green cover of moderate forest area of Nashik district has decreased by one km. The green cover in the open forest area the land with tree cover of canopy density between 10% and 40% has gone down by 20 km. Therefore to explain Causes and Consequences of Deforestation in Nashik District I choose this topic for research paper.

**Key words:** Deforestation in Nashik District, Causes of deforestation.

### Introduction

Deforestation is one of the major causes to the environmental degradation which is affected by the agents like small farmers, ranches, loggers and plantation companies. There is a broad consensus that expansion of cropped areas and pastures are a major source of deforestation. Deforestation is one of the most pressing environmental issues that the world is facing currently. It is the conversion of forested land to non-forested land by humans. Deforestation occurs when a land dominated by naturally occurring trees is converted to provide certain services in response to the human demand. But Latest findings in the state of forest report show that the forest cover of Nashik has shrunk from 1,089 square km in 2015 to 1,068 sq km in 2017. The report is prepared by the Dehradun-based Forest Survey of India, an arm of the Union ministry of forest and environment. The survey found that the green cover of moderate forest area of Nashik district has decreased by one km. The green cover in the open forest area the land with tree cover of canopy density between 10% and 40% has gone down by 20 km. Therefore to explain Causes and Consequences of Deforestation in Nashik District I choose this topic for research paper.

### Objectives of research

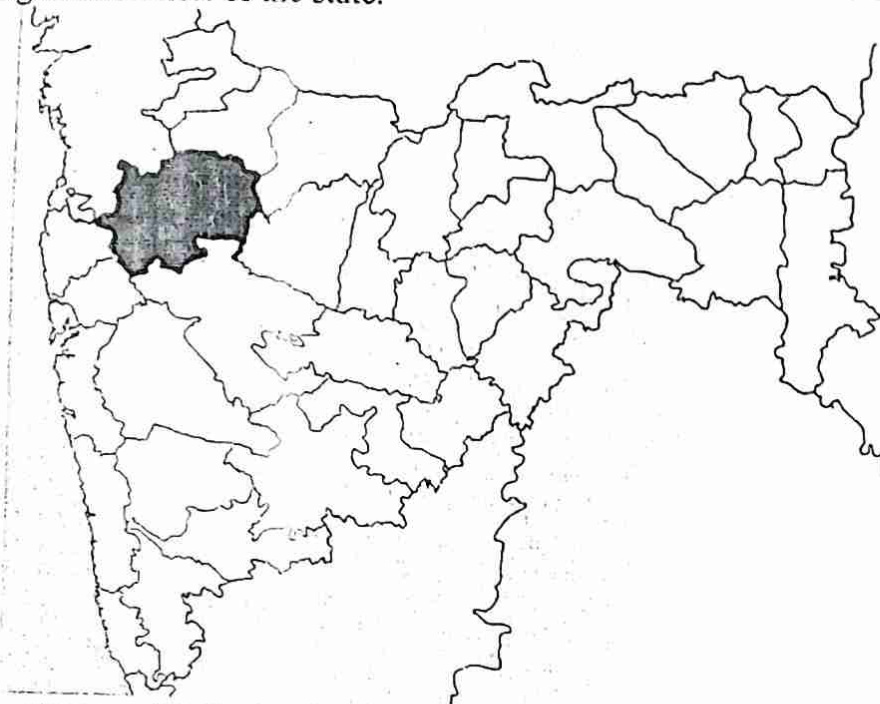
1. To study the importance of forests in human life.
2. To overview on of causes of Deforestation in Nashik District.
3. To explain Consequences of Deforestation in Nashik District.

### Research Methodology:

For the purpose of this study used geographical science research methodology. to study the research topic Used scientifically analysis. In this method used secondary data tools. In this secondary data tool used reference books. Research articles, newspapers, journals, published and unpublished materials and also taken help of internet facilities.

**Geographical view on Nashik District as study area**

Nashik district is situated partly in the Tapi Basin and partly in the upper Godavari Basin. It lies between 19°35' 18" North latitude to 20° 53' 07" North latitude and 73° 16' 07" East longitudes to 74° 56' 22" East longitudes. Nashik district has an area of 15530 square km and a population is 4987923 (2001 Census). It ranks third in terms of area and fourth in terms of population amongst the district of the state.



The main stream of hills in the Sahyadri which is runs north-south in the western proportion of the district. Some of the ranges are flat topped and regular in height and slope, while others are conical and irregular. The district is broadly divided into three major geographical regions: I) Downghat Konkan Tract, II) The Girna Basin and III) The Godavari basin. The district is drained by two main rivers, viz. Girna and the Godavari and their tributaries. The climate of the district is generally dry except during the South-West monsoon season. The average annual rainfall for the district as a whole is 1035.5 mm. Within the district there are considerable variations in rainfall. The soil of the district is essentially derived from the Deccan Trap which is the predominant rock formation of the district.

**Present status of Forest in India**

The forest cover was found to be increased by ca. 1% for the year 2017 which is 21.54% of the total geographic area when compared to that of forest cover status in 2015 which is a positive sign towards the constant efforts that are being put in to protect the forest. This positive change in the forest cover is mainly attributed to the conservation and management practices that include afforestation activities, participation of local peoples for better protection measures in plantation areas and traditional forest areas, expansion of trees outside forest, etc. Also, with this increase in the forest cover, the country has procured 8th position among the top countries reporting the greatest annual forest area gain.

**Causes for Deforestation:****Explosion of population in Nashik district**

The needs also increase and utilize forests resources. To meet the demands of rapidly growing population, agricultural lands and settlements are created permanently by clearing

forest. According to the 2011 census Nashik district has a population of 6,109,052, (11th in INDIA) (3rd in Maharashtra), roughly equal to the nation of El Salvador or the US state of Missouri. This gives it a ranking of 11th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 393 inhabitants per square kilometre.

#### Lands Agricultural use

Conversion of forests to agricultural land to feed growing needs of people. There are an estimated 300 million people living as shifting cultivators who practice slash and burn agriculture and are supposed to clear more than 5 lakh ha of forests for shifting cultivation annually. The total 101741.3 sq km (6.6%) irrigated area plays the important role in agricultural development as well as road, railway, agricultural labour, bank, good climate and modern technology give the support to agricultural development.

#### Mining:

This causes environmental impacts like erosion, formation of sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, and contamination of soil, groundwater and surface water by chemicals from mining processes. In some cases, additional forest logging is done in the vicinity of mines to increase the available room for the storage of the created debris and soil. Contamination resulting from leakage of chemicals can also affect the health of the local population if not properly controlled. Extreme examples of pollution from mining activities include coal fires, which can last for years or even decades, producing massive amounts of environmental damage.

#### Urbanization and industrialization:

Since Industrialization and Urbanization needs land to grow, so major amount of forest lands are cut in order to promote Industrialization and Urbanization. This creates harmful effect on environment and forest ecological balance. Nashik is an important city of Maharashtra, economically and socially the most advanced state in India. Geographical proximity to Mumbai (Economic capital of India) has influenced its growth in post independence years. Developments of past two decades have completely transformed this traditional pilgrimage centre into a vibrant modern metropolis and Nashik is poised to become a metropolis with global links. New Nashik has emerged out of the dreams, hard work and enterprising spirit of local and migrant people. Nashik can boast of an industrial region producing goods from pins to Aeroplanes! Industrialisation has boosted the spirit of Nashik district. Each Tehsil (an administrative unit of district) is planned with a mini industrial estate, including the tehsils where the population is predominantly Adivasi (tribal and aboriginal). There are now 12 co-operative industrial areas besides the MIDC estates.

#### Construction of dam reservoirs:

For building big dams, large scale devastation of forests takes place which breaks the natural ecological balance of the region. Floods, droughts and landslides become more prevalent in such areas. Forests are the repositories of invaluable gifts of nature in the form of biodiversity and by destroying these we are going to lose these species even before knowing them. These species could be having marvellous economic or medicinal value. These storehouses of species which have evolved over millions of years get lost due to deforestation in a single stroke. There are 29 dams in Nashik. Nashik district has made many river-linking projects with the dams, which have provided ample supply for drinking, electricity and agriculture in the area.

#### Consequences of Deforestation:

Deforestation can also mean the conversion of forest land to productive land for agricultural uses. This results in better and more abundant production of food and materials. Most of the area Once deprived of their forest cover, the lands rapidly degrade in quality, losing

their fertility and arability. The soil in many deforested areas is also unsuitable for supporting annual crops. Deforestation can result to watersheds that are no longer able to sustain and regulate water flows from rivers to streams. Trees are highly effective in absorbing water quantities, keeping the amount of water in watersheds to a manageable level. The forest also serves as cover against erosion. Once they are gone, too much water can result to downstream flooding, many of which have caused disasters in many parts of the world. Deforestation can cause the climate to become extreme in nature. It increases CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in atmosphere and contributes to global warming. The occurrence and strength of floods and droughts affecting the economy. It also leads to loss of future markets for ecotones. The value of a forest is often higher when it is left standing than it could be worth when it is harvested.

#### Conclusion

The value of forest is simple to understand but sometimes tough to quantify. The various values of the forest have been understood. Forest has a major contribution on the global economy and supports livelihood of the majority of rural populations in the world. The state of forest report shows that the forest cover of Nashik has shrunk from 1,089 square km in 2015 to 1,068 sq km in 2017. But the findings are baffling since there has been no major deforestation or tree cutting in past two years in Nashik. The loss of forest cover influences the climate and contributes to a loss of biodiversity. The economic activity is adversely affected by siltation, flooding, soil degradation and reduced timber supplies. Thus, in turn, threatens the livelihood of people.

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