

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH JAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI**

**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF SENDING THE
FINAL REPORT OF THE WORK DONE ON THE PROJECT (2013-2015)**

1. Title of the Project: “A study of the Scheduled Tribes of *Khandesh* & adjacent Gujarat border with special reference to *Bhils* and *Kolis*”
2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Madhuri Dattatray Mandlik, B-7, Siddhi Prerna Complex, Sai Chauk, New Sangvi , Pune-27
3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE INSTITUTION: Fergusson College, Pune-4
4. UGC APPROVAL LETTER NO AND DATE: UGC Reference No: 23-277/12 (WRO), dated: 20/02/2013
5. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION: 09/04/2013
6. TENURE OF THE PROJECT: Two years
7. TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATED: Eighty thousand (80,000)
8. TOTAL GRANT RECEIVED: Sixty thousand (60,000)
9. FINAL EXPENDITURE: forty thousand nine hundred & three rupees (40,973/-)
10. TITLE OF THE PROJECT: “A study of the Scheduled Tribes of *Khandesh* & adjacent Gujarat border with special reference to *Bhils* and *Kolis*”
11. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT: To study History and Present condition of the tribal communities of *Khandesh* in general and *Bhils* and *Kolis* in particular.
12. WHETHER OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED: Yes. To study History of the *Bhils* (GIVE DETAILS) and *Kolis* & their present condition were the objectives and it is achieved.
13. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PROJECT: A research work which focuses on the history, current situation, role of the State Government and law and its implementation is compiled.
14. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS: (see next page)

(IN 500 WORDS)

15.CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY: A book of Historical references of the (GIVE DETAILS) tribes of Khandesh. It would be useful for the general readers and the state Government of Maharashtra.

16.WHETHER ANY PH.D. ENROLLED/PRODUCED OUT OF THE PROJECT: No

17.NO. OF PUBLICATIONS OUT OF THE PROJECT : two paper presentations
(PLEASE ATTACH)

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS:

The present study mainly focuses on Bhils, Kolis and other tribal communities with their current situations and problems.

History

The Rewa Kantha and some other gazetteers of the state of Gujarat give immense information on Kolis and Bhils communities. These tribes were also described in Khandesh Gazette which is on the borders of Gujarat state. The present study attempts to compare and study these communities of both the areas. It has been identified that Koli and Bhil were the major tribes of Gujarat state. According to some historians, these tribes also existed in Khandesh region from the 14th century to the British period. Most of the historians and British administrators always referred these communities together. In Gujarat, the Kolis were most troublesome for the British administrators. They were the main owners of lands in Gujarat. The Bhils were also the largest tribe of Gujarat and were the chief of the large group of tribes of Khandesh. The other tribes were as large as the Kolis and the Bhils in both the territories.

Present Situation

It has been observed that though the Bhils and the Pawaras (and other tribes too) are recognized as scheduled tribes by the state government of Maharashtra, the government has done very little for their empowerment. It is not difficult for these communities to get caste certificates, but it has been noticed that the government has failed to uplift these tribes in the districts. It has also been noticed that on paper, the Tribal Development Department has done a lot of

things for their empowerment, but there is nothing in reality. A lot of things have been written about corruption in newspapers. 'According to a news item in Maharashtra Times, dated 2nd November 2012, in 3 years the Tribal Development Department has looted Rs. 6 thousand crore in the districts of Nandurbar and Dhule'.ⁱ

It is always observed that the tribal communities of Gujrat are more progressive than the tribes of Khandesh region. The Kolis are more advanced than the other tribal communities of Gujarat. It should also be noted that in present day (2016), in the assembly of Gujarat, there are 40 Koli MLAs and 8 MPs. This indicates that this community has got a lot of freedom and they are more progressive. The Kolis in urban Gujarat are a living better life and therefore the urban Kolis are included in the list of OBC whereas, the Kolis (Koli, Tokare Koli) of the tribal belt are listed as Scheduled Tribe by the state government. Therefore, there are no difficulties created by the Government of Gujarat for the STs of the State. The Kolis or any other community is not harassed by the Tribal Development Department in regards to the Caste certificates or any other facilities.

Policy of Tribal Development Department:

It should also be noted that some state ministers of Tribal Development Department have harassed the two tribal communities of Khandesh, Kolis and Thakurs for the last 20 years. They have blocked every possible step from getting any facilities like, reservation in education, promotion, etc. The government should take a proper step to stop the harassments of the Kolis, the Thakurs and the other minor communities in the region. These communities have every right to get their caste certificates in easy ways.

One must not forget that these communities have strong and valid reasons to get their facilities and certificates

SPECIAL BACKWARD CATEGORY (SBC):

The state govt. of Maharashtra has excluded the Kolis from Scheduled Tribe Category, and included them in the SBC without any Constitution Order. The creation of SBC is unconstitutional. There is no reservation for the SBCs in the

central or the state government jobs or education. Thus, the Kolis neither get facilities of Open Category, nor of ST and SBC categories.

The lack of willingness from the government shows that the tribal communities of Khandesh region, including Bhils and Kolis are backward in education and in economic condition.

The state Government should take initiative in quality education of the tribal and general population of Khandesh region.

ⁱ Maharashtra Times 2nd November 2012, Mumbai edition p-1