



# REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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## A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF NIMGAON KHANDOBA, A RELIGIOUS TOURIST CENTER

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### ABSTRACT:

*Tourism is tertiary activity. This is largest industry in the world. On the tourist place various types of tourist are coming. So infrastructure facilities play an important role. The distance between tourist place and native place of tourist also takes influence on spatial distribution of tourist. Mode of transportation also took influence. Tourism and its economic effects is study matter in tourism geography.*

*Pune district is important District for tourism in Maharashtra. In Pune District, Khed tehsil is more important for religious and Historical Tourism. In Khed Tehsil Bhimashankar, Alandi, Rajgurunagar, Nimgaon Khandoba, Bhamchandra Hills, Gulani, Kanhersar are religious places. In this paper attempt has been made to study distribution of tourists arrive to Nimgaon Khandoba.*



**KEYWORDS:** Religious place, Tirthakshetra, Tirthyatra, Regional Distribution, Pilgrims.

### INTRODUCTION

In religious Tourism religious tourist place has been studied as at tourist place. Geography of tourism also studied these places, In Hindu religion Religious holy tourist places called as Tirthakshetra. To going these pilgrim centers called Thithyatra. One Indian Philosopher gave this type of definition of Tirthakshetra – “Places of Gods and Munies, Holy land or mountain is called Tirthkshetra.” ( Abhyankar, 2008) These holy places having specific geographical setup. Hindu holy places are situated on origin of rivers, bank of rivers, confluence of rivers, mouths of river, seashores, mountains, peaks of mountains etc. Devotee’s visits that places. That is called Thithyatra.

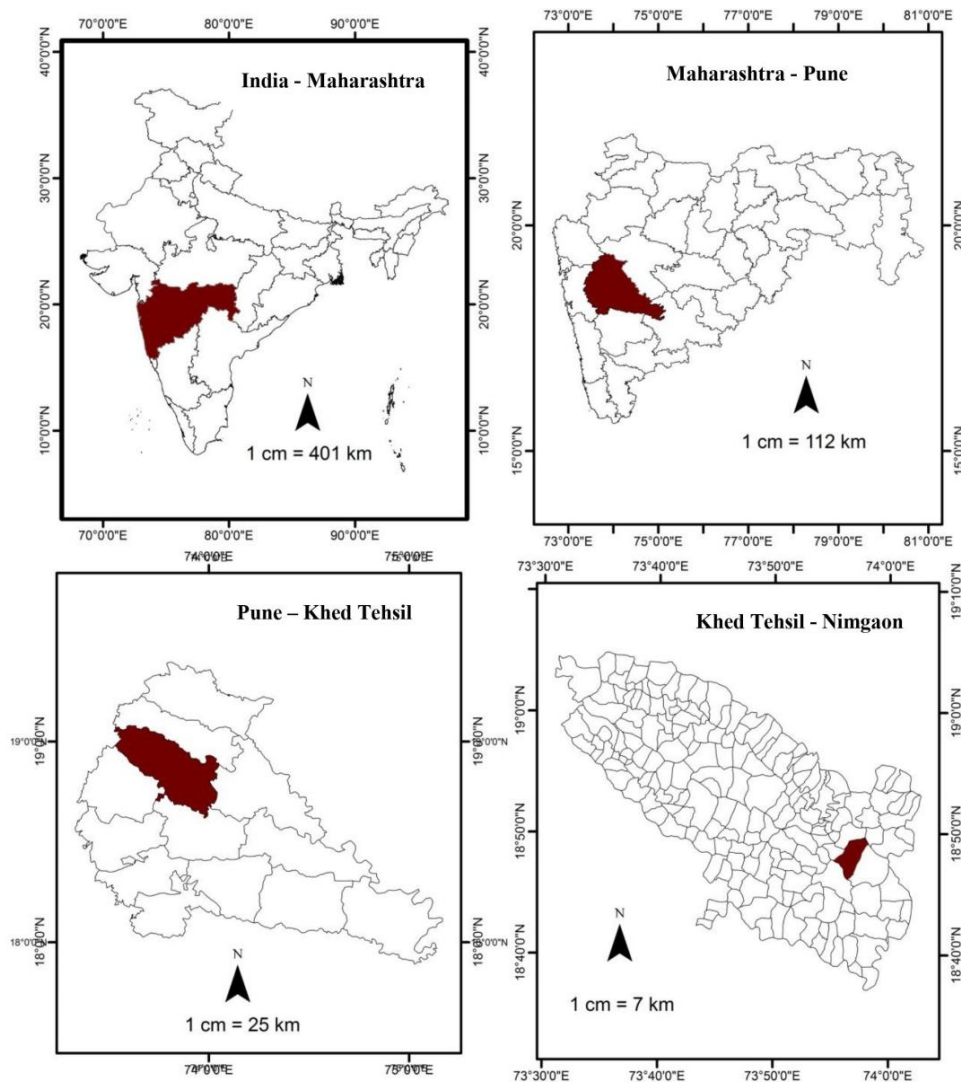
Pune District is situated in western Maharashtra. Pune district is important district for tourism in Maharashtra. “Pune district Known for the pilgrimage tourism, it is one of the old form of tourism. Five Astvinayak Ganpati temples, Bhimashankar Jyotirlings, Lord Khandoba temple in Jejuri, Dehu and Alandi pilgrim centers of varkari sampradaya and and Ekvira devi temple of karla in district which provides a massive spiritual tourism potential”( More Jyotiram, Gandhile Ganesh (2019)

### STUDY AREA -

Nimgaon Khandoba is a place in Khed tehsil in Pune District. Pune District is one of an important district in western Maharashtra. It situated  $18^{\circ} 50'$  North Latitude and  $74^{\circ}$  East longitude. In the Pune District there are 14 Tehsils. Junnar, Ambegaon, Khed, Maval, Mulshi, Velhe, Bhore, Purandar, Baramati, Indapur, Dound, Shirur, Haveli and Pune.

Nimgaon Khandoba is village of Khed tahsil. Rajgurunagar is tehsil place of Khed Taluka. Nimgaon is situated on Rajgurunagar Dawadi road above 8 K.M. From Rajgurunagar at south east direction. Village is situated left bank of Bhima River. At the North side of Village on 1 K.M. distance Khandoba temple is Situated on Martand Hill. Near Nimgaon one road goes on Martand Hill and then it meet to Rajgurunagar Pabal road near Khed City. Khandoba Temple on Martand Hill like fort.

Location Map of Nimgaon Tourist Place (Khed, Pune)



### OBJECTIVES -

1. To Study Religious and Historical background of Khandoba Temple.
2. To Study Spatial Distribution of Pilgrims

## METHODOLOGY -

For collect the information about tourist's questioner has been used. Questioner filled by 160 tourists. Communicated to local priests for more information. Books, journals, photographs are used for study reference for information. Used flow chart map for show distribution of pilgrims.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND -

Nimgaon is a medieval villageage by History. From 1425 A.D. this village is recorded. At that time south side of Nimgaon there was village named Nagna. That was on south bank of Bhima River. So that Purpose Nimgaon callad Nimgaon Nagna in Historical period. Now a day's Nagna village is ruined and there is only white soil remained. There is only one temple of Hanuman.

Nimgaon is Historical Village. It was rewarded to Brahmin Named chandrachood. This is native place of Gangobatatya Chandrachood, Divan of Ahilyabai Holkar. In the Nimgaon near bank of Bhima River there are two wadas (homes) of Chandrachood. One of them partly in good situation. This wada is situated near Vishnu and Shiv Temple. Raghunathrao Peshva was kept his son Bajirao - II in This place for few days. Nimgaon was vedic educational center in Maratha period. Mostly Brahmins have lived in this village in Maratha period.

## LEGEND OF KHANDOBA -

Legend about Khandoba in Nimgaon is prevailed. Origin place of Khandoba is Jejuri. In ancient period Khandoba had come at Arudmal. Then he went at Dhamantek. And Then had come on Kadepathar of Nimgaon. Then he moved toward Martand hill near Nimgaon. Margashirsh Shuddha Panchami, Krodhnam Sanvtsar, Saturday shaka 1347 ( 26 November 1424) in this night people had dreams like this-

Shaka 1347 Krudhana Nam Savatsare Margshirsh Shuddha 5 Saturday God had come. There was one rock under a tree. Under that rock there was Shivlings. All people have come at that place. People had dreams like this.

"Then another day, people gathered at one place and they communicated, told to each other about their dreams. that place, what they saw in dream. They went with singing and playing musical instruments. They picked up the rock and they saw shivlingas under the rock. Where that shivling, Bhandara and dead body of Bhagata was laying. Villagers planted Bhandara on his forehead. Then he lived. Villagers asked him ,who are you? He answered I don't remember, I don't know." ( Bhagat 2015)

The villagers built small temple there. Before the construction of the present temple, there was a small Hemadpanti temple and near was Padshala. This old temple must have been built by the villagers of Nimgaon. The present temple, the kalas and the Deepmala were built by Chandrachud in 1660. The pilgrims who are pleased with God have done the work of the temple. Damaji Gaikwad visited Khandoba of Nimgaon around 1720 and went to Baroda. He established a state at Baroda. Therefore, his devotion to this Khandoba settled. In 1792, Fateh Singh Gaikwad built the fort and Nagarkhana.

He was given two lands, Devbagh and Bhagatjyot, for the flowers of the temple and for the welfare of Bhagat. In 1873. The Governor of Bombay granted permanent land to Bhagat and Gurav and gave them a charter accordingly. After that, Sayajirao Gaikwad filed a writ petition in the Civil Court at Khed in 1901 and obtained a decree against Bhagat and Gurav regarding this land. At present, the land of Devbagh is in the possession of Choughadewale on behalf of Gaikwad government.

## DISCUSSION ABOUT PILGRIMS -

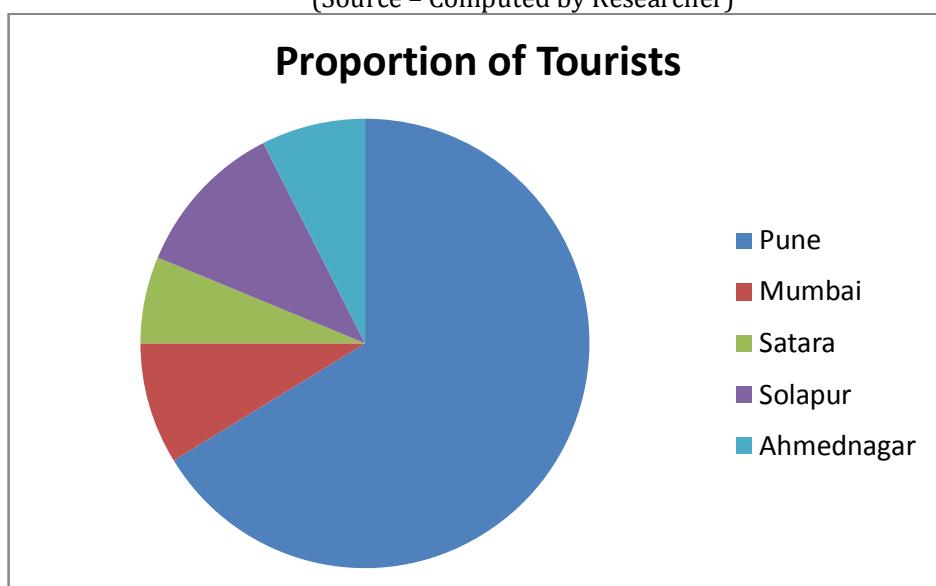
Nimgaon is one of the twelve major Khandobas in India. 1)Shri Martand - Jejuri, 2) Mhalsakant - Pali, 3) Mallappa - Mangasuli Karnataka, 4) Maltesh - Degudda Karnataka, 5) Mylar - Billori Karnataka, 6) Mylarsingh Mylapur Karnataka, 7) Adimalar Khandoba - Bidar, 8) Malhar Khandoba, Malegaon Nanded, 9) Khanderao Naldurg, 10) Malhar Martand Satare Aurangabad, 11).Shedud Khandoba Ahmadnagar, 12)Nimgaon Khandoba Khed are the places of twelve Khandobas. Just as tourists visit Ashta Vinayaka or visit Charidham or Bara Jyotirlinga, at the same time there is a tradition of visiting all these twelve Khandobas. Nimgaon Khandoba comes last. Nimgaon Khandoba is a pilgrimage site full of

religious tourists and pilgrims for twelve months. Tourists come here in four types of time. Everyday tourists are regular tourists! Approximately 500 tourists visit the place every day, said the local priest. The number of tourists was reduced due to the Corona epidemic. The temple was completely closed during the severe lockdown. However, at that time, an average of 200 tourists used to come from outside to pay obeisance, said Puja. This is about regular tourists!! Occasional tourists include pilgrims arriving on Sundays, full moons. About one thousand devotees visit Nimgaon Khandoba every Sunday. Three Lakh pilgrims comes at yatra period in Magh month.

Tourist which arrived at Nimgaon, 160 tourists were interviewed. They answered their native place like this. They were came from various Districts and Talukas. Tourist came from various districts such as –

S.N.	Name of District	No.of Tourist	Percentage
1.	Pune	106	66.25
2.	Mumbai	14	8.75
4.	Satara	10	6.25
5.	Solapur	18	11.2
6.	Ahmednagar	12	7.5
	Total	160	100

(Source – Computed by Researcher)

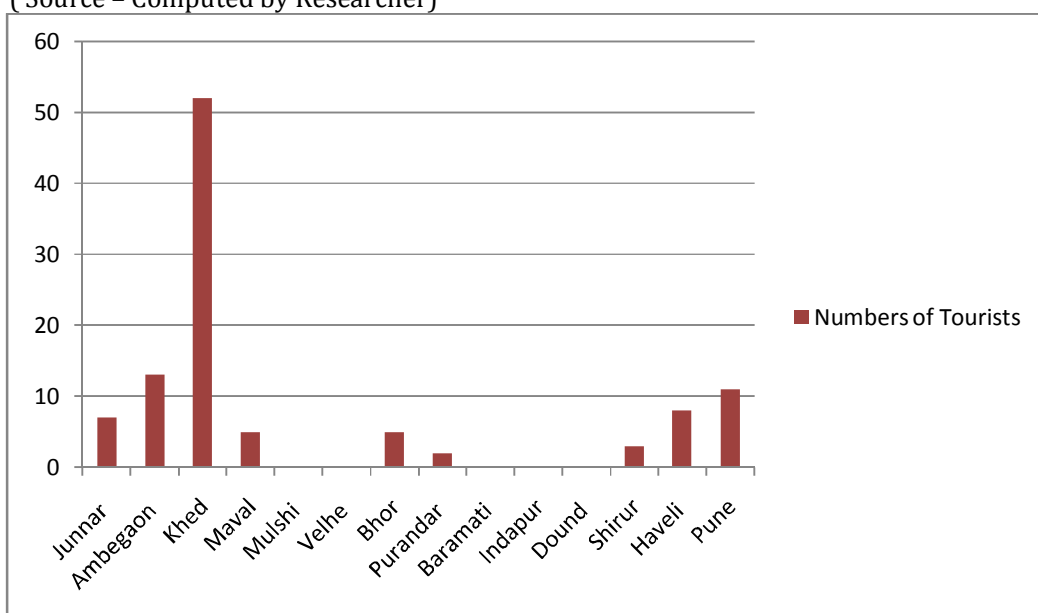


From the divided circle graph, it can be seen that most of the tourists visiting Nimgaon Khandoba are from Pune district. This is because Nimgaon Khandoba is located in Pune district and it is in Khed taluka. This place is approximately 43 km from Pune. It is located in the heart of Pune district. Therefore, surveyed 160 out of tourists, 106 (66.25%) tourists are from Pune district. 14 (8.75 %) from Mumbai, 10 (6.25 %) from Satara district, 18 (11.2 %) from Solapur district and 12 (7.5 %) from Ahmednagar district. Apart from the yatra, the survey has found tourists from the nearest district of Pune district. Tourists from distant districts also come during the pilgrimage.

Many tourists from various talukas of Pune district visit Nimgaon Khandoba, a religious tourist place. It is an important tourist place in North Pune district. Tourists come to Nimgaon Khandoba from various talukas of Pune district. It was found that tourists came to Nimgaon from these taluka from Pune district.

S.N.	Name of Taluka	No. of Tourist	Percentage
1.	Junnar	7	6.6
2.	Ambegaon	13	12.3
3.	Khed	52	49.05
4.	Maval	5	4.7
5.	Mulshi	0	0
6.	Velhe	0	0
7.	Bhor	5	4.71
8.	Purandar	2	1.9
9.	Baramati	0	0
10.	Indapur	0	0
11.	Dound	0	0
12.	Shirur	3	2.8
13.	Haveli	8	7.5
14.	Pune	11	10.3
	Total	106	100

( Source – Computed by Researcher)



From the above graph it can be seen that most of the pilgrims are coming to Nimgaon Khandoba from Khed taluka. Because Nimgaon Khandoba is in Khed taluka. Out of 106 tourists from Pune district, 52 (49.05 %) pilgrims come from Khed taluka only. This proportion is large. Khandoba of Nimgaon is the deity of many people in Khed taluka. Therefore, many pilgrims from Khed taluka come to visit, pay their vows and do Jagaran programme. Many newlyweds come to Khandoba in Nimgaon for darshan. Many people also come here for holidays. Therefore, the proportion of pilgrims coming from Khed taluka is highest. Ambegaon taluka is to the north of Khed taluka. It is close to Khed taluka. Out of the total tourists from Pune district, 13 (12.3 %) tourists are from Ambegaon taluka. 7 (6.6 %) from Junnar taluka, 11 (10.3 %) from Pune city, 8 (7.5 %) from Haveli taluka, 5 (4.7 %) from Bhor taluka, 3 (2.8 %) from Shirur taluka and 2 (1.9 %) from Purandar taluka. No pilgrims were found from Mulshi, Velhe, Baramati, Indapur and Daund talukas of Pune district during the survey period.

## RESULTS –

1. Nimgaon is medieval village by History.

2. Most pilgrims comes to Nimgaon Khandoba from Pune District In Maharashtra
3. In Pune District, Most tourist comes from Khed Talsil to Nimgaon Khandoba

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