

Vol 6 Issue 3 Dec 2016

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

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A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF DROUGHT CONDITION IN LATUR DISTRICT (2015 -2016) OF MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT :

In this research paper attempts have been made to study of variations in average daily and monthly rainfall (mm) of June, July, August, September and October months of 2015 and 2016 year. The study area is Latur district of Maharashtra state, India. This study of rainfall is important and useful for future planning of Latur district . In 2015 Latur district faced meteorological drought condition whereas 2016 faced hydrological drought condition. It shows changing pattern of climate.

KEY WORDS: Rainfall, Meteorological drought, Hydrological drought, Climate change.

INTRODUCTION:

Rainfall variability has serious impact on agriculture , livestock, industries , economy etc. Mountain barriers, altitude, latitude, land and water resources are the major factors of climatic control. Orographic barriers increase both cyclonic and orographic rainfall in india. Latur district is in rain shadow area. Average rainfall in



the district is 600 -800 mm during July – October months.

OBJECTIVES:

To study average daily and monthly rainfall of June, July, August, September and October months of Latur district of 2015 and 2016 years comparatively.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on secondary sources of rainfall data collected from Indian Meteorological Department and Latur District Official Site. The average monthly rainfall has been collected from 2010-2016. The average daily rainfall data has been collected for the June, July, August, September and October months of the year 2015 and 2016. The trend of rainfall is calculated and represented by graphs and

cholropleth map.

PHYSIOGRAPHY:

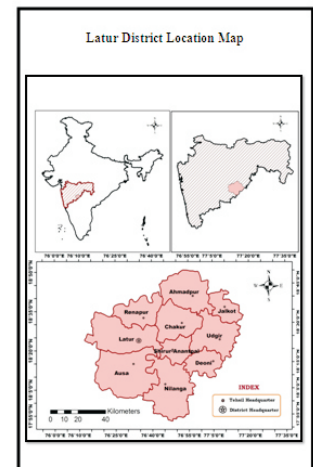
The Balaghat hills spread in almost all part of the district. The Manjara plateau lies in the western part of the district, 540 to 638 mts from the mean sea level. In between the two landforms lies the Manjara river basin. The Manjara is the major river of the district. Terana, Tavarja and Gharani are the tributaries of the Manjara.

STUDY AREA:

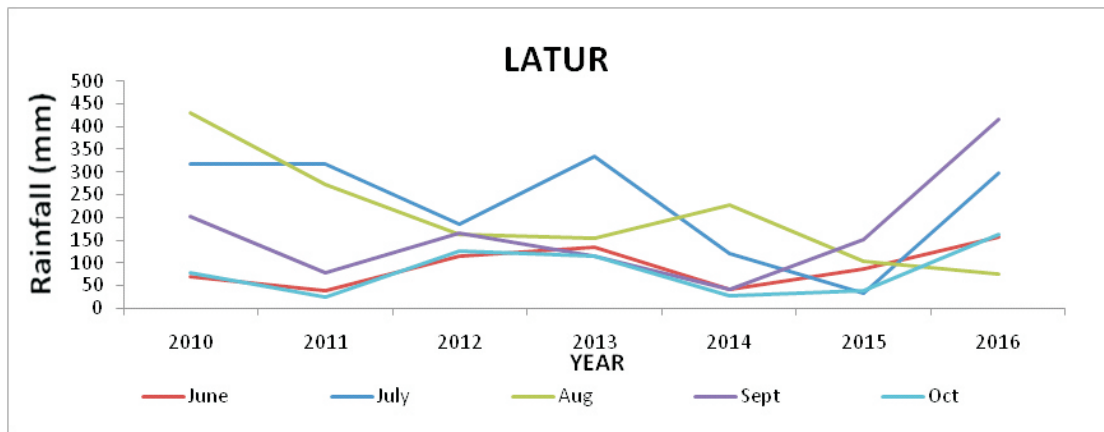
The Latur district is in the southeastern part of the Maharashtra state. Latur is situated on 17° 52' north latitude to 18° 50' north latitudes and 76° 12' east longitudes to 77° 18' east longitudes. The Latur district is situated on the Maharashtra Karnataka boundary. It is surrounded by Bidder district of

Karnataka on its eastern side, whereas Nanded is on the Northeast, Parbhani on the North, Beed on the Northwest and Osmana- bad on the western and southern side.

The area of Latur district is 7372 sq. kms., with population of 24,54,196 according to 2011 census . The district is divided into 10 talukas.

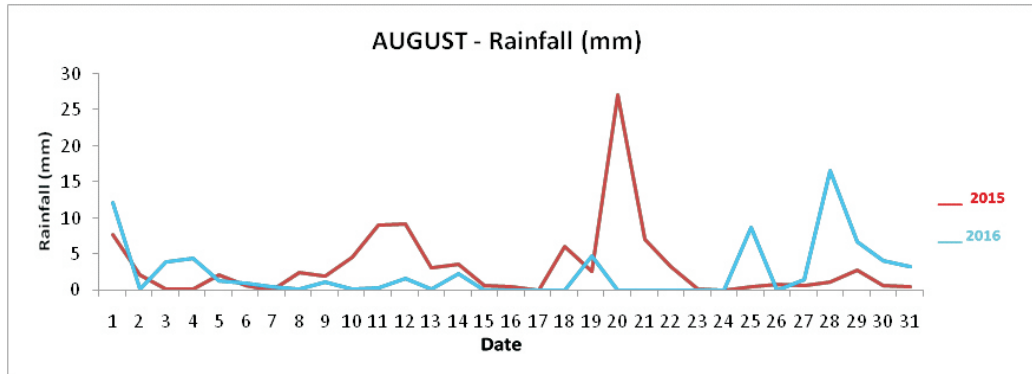
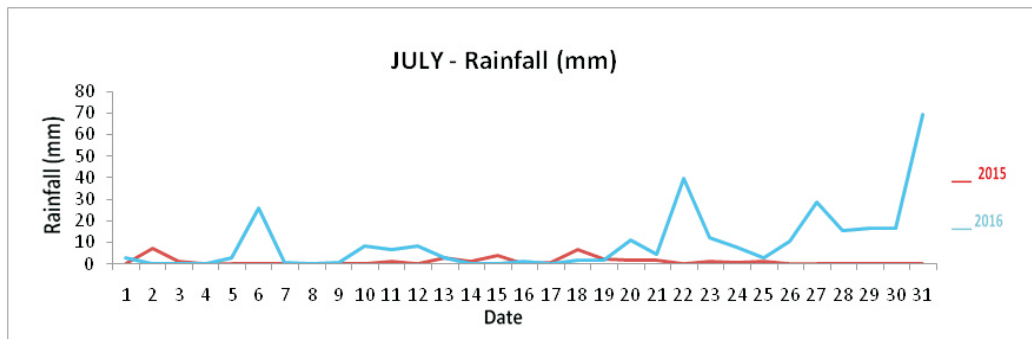
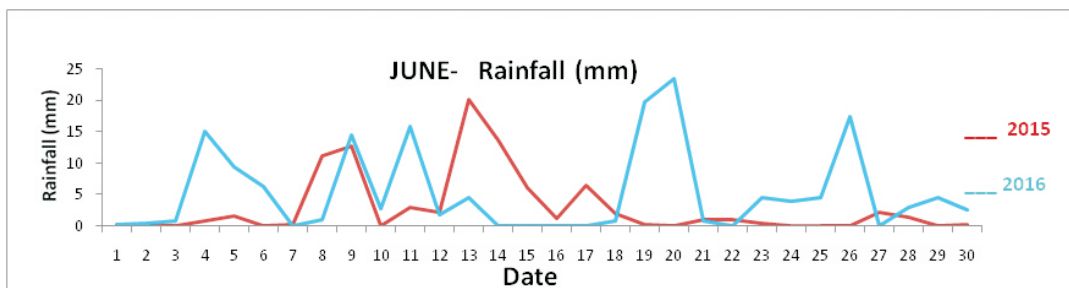


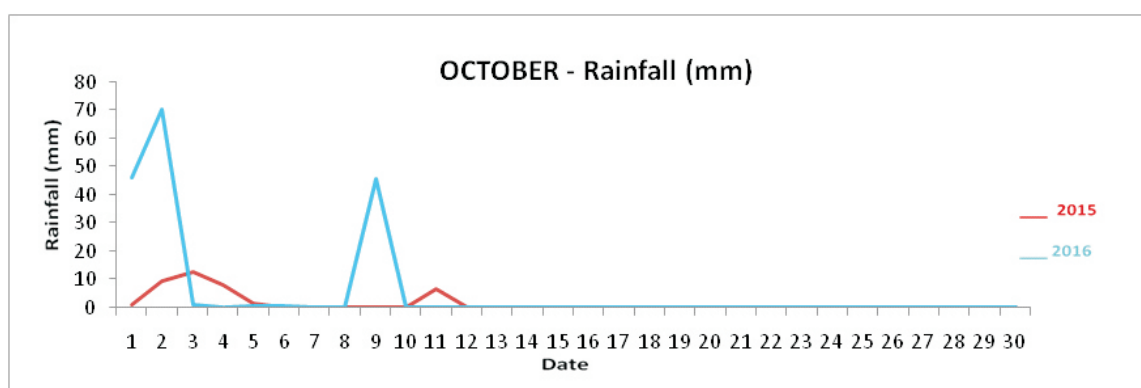
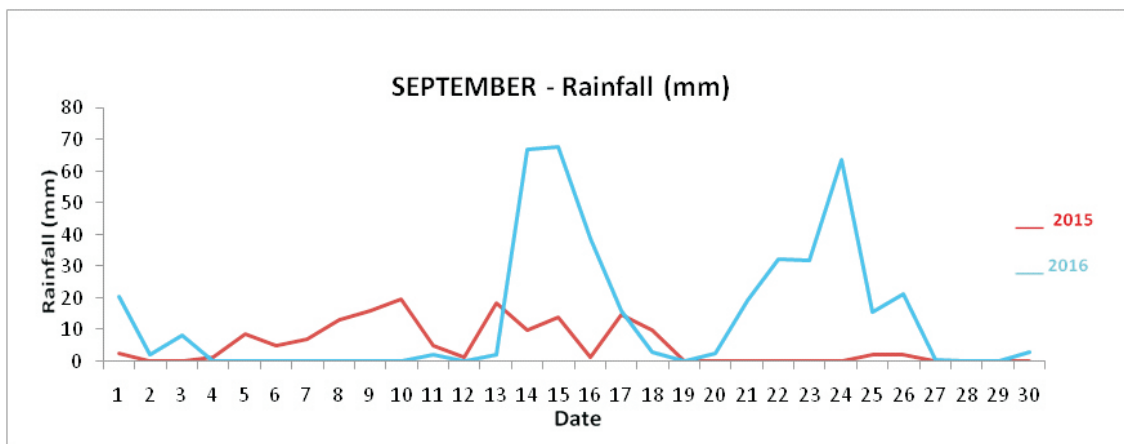
AVERAGE MONTHLY RAIN- FALL OF MONSOON SEASON:



June, July, August, September and October are the major rainy months. Average monthly rainfall of June – October months of Latur district is shown for the period of 2010-2016. The maximum rainfall is recorded in the year 2016 i.e. 1110.16 mm (June – October months). And the minimum rainfall is recorded in the year 2015 i.e. 413 mm (June – October months).

AVERAGE DAILY RAINFALL OF MONSOON SEASON:

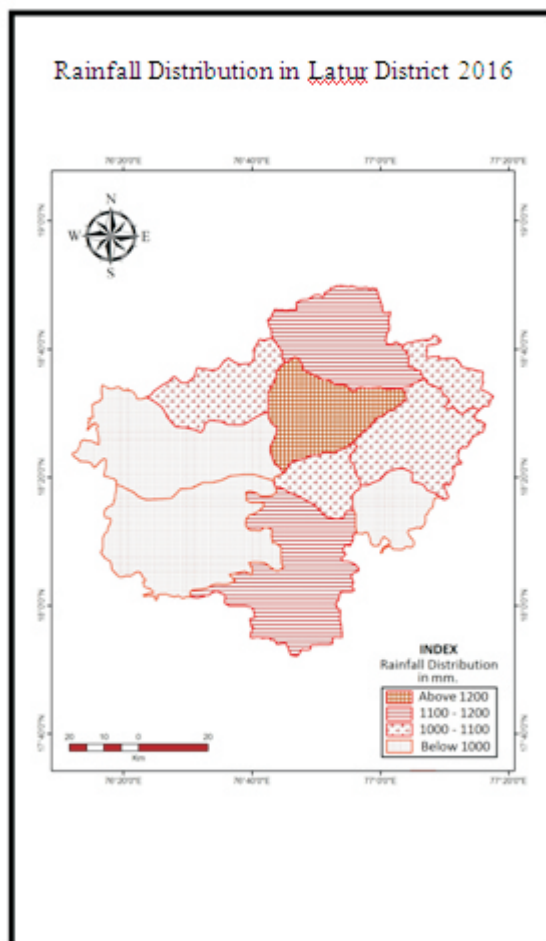




Average daily rainfall of June, July, August, September and October months for the years of 2015 and 2016 are shown in the graph. In the year 2015 the maximum average daily rainfall was in June 20.24 mm, July 6.67 mm, Aug 27.09 mm, September 19.65 mm, and October 12.89 mm . It means rainfall is not more than 28 mm which describes meteorological drought condition in the Latur district. Also rainfall in June, July, August, September and October months had decreasing trend in 2015. Whereas In the year 2016 the maximum average daily rainfall was in June 23.53 mm, July 69.42 mm, August 16.51 mm, September 67.78 mm and October 70.34 mm. Rainfall in June, July, August, September and October months had increasing trend in 2016 which describes hydrological drought condition in Latur district.

TAHSILWISE RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IN LATUR DISTRICT 2016:

In the year 2016 the maximum rainfall is received in chakur tahsil i.e. 1215.40 mm during June –October months. And the minimum rainfall is received in Ausa (957.19 mm), Devani (957.32 mm) and Latur (994.59 mm) tahsils respectively. Udgir, Jalkot, Shirur Anantapal, Nilanga, Ahmadpur, Renapur these tahsils received moderate rainfall during June –October months.



CONCLUSIONS:

In 2016 monsoon season , the maximum rainfall is received in Chakur, Ahmadpur, Nilanga tahsils of latur districts which are located in the central part of the district and mostly associated with balaghat mountain ranges. It means due to irregular orography rainfall features are also irregular and complex with respect to time and space. 2015 and 2016 years have opposite condition in rainfall trend, intensity of rainfall, average daily and monthly rainfall so this is called as changing pattern of climate in Latur district. In 2015 Latur district faced meteorological drought condition because rainfall records of this year are less than 500 mm, whereas 2016 faced hydrological drought because rainfall records of this year are more than 500mm. Both drought conditions were affected on agriculture so this district faced agriculture drought too.

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