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**VISAPUR DAM - STUDY AS A LOCAL HISTORY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Local history is the study of the history of a relatively small geographic area .Typically a specific settlement, parish or county . In a number of countries a broader concept of local lore is known , which is a comprehensive study of everything pertaining to a certain locality , ethnography , geography , natural history etc. Visapur Dam , is an earthfill dam on Hanga river near Shrigonda , Ahmednagar district in the state of Maharashtra in India . Visapur Dam was built by British ruler . I am trying here to write a history of Visapur Dam as a local study .*

**KEYWORDS:** *Local History, Localities , resources , regional studies , social sciences , Cubic, famine , manuscripts , crafts, daily wages , distributaries , area under commands , irrigation capacity , overflow, ordinary labor etc.*

**Research Methodology :** The researcher has used here a descriptive method of research Methodology .The researcher has used a interdisciplinary approach in this article. Geography , manuscript , sociology , Environment Science is a very crucial role in study of Local History .

**Review of Literature :** The Visapur Dam is located in remote area . The geography students done some work on this topic . But no one write a history of Visapur Dam. In the Gazetteers of Bombay Presidency , Ahmednagar district mention some information about the Dam. There is some News paper like. Sakal , Loksatta mention the information about the Kukadi Project .

**History of Visapaur Dam :** Local history can be defined as the study of the past of some significant local units , developing as a community . In it's context and compared with such other units. Stephan defined Local history as the study of the past of smaller communities such as a town, rural or sub- urban area or a city neighborhood. According to Rogers although not different from any other traditional branch of history . Local history occupies that stratum in historical studies below the national level but above the level of individual . The study of a family or village at a certain date, the narrative of a business firm or a canal , the account of a country or region , the study of an estate or a house all this is embraced within the term local history.<sup>1</sup>



The importance of local and regional history and the necessity of maintaining a balance between local, regional, national and world history has been mentioned in the various conferences on history education at different times. Local history was recommended as the best basis for active methodology . The interest in local history has grown over the years and especially in recent decades , debates about the potential threat of globalization to the local culture and identify

have prompted a growth of local and regional studies in social science and history.<sup>2</sup>

Local and regional analysis is the current intellectual climate of post modernism. Local history is frequently used to illustrative broader historical developments. It has also been recommended for technological and methodological reasons. Local history studies encourage pupils to research , analyze and report their observations. Local history provides many kinds of activities involving contact with different tangible and visible objects, materials and places<sup>3</sup>

Visapur is a village in Shrigonda Taluka in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra State. Visapur is situated on the bank of Hanga river in Shrigonda. It belongs to Khandesh and Northern Maharashtra region . It belongs to Nasik division . It is located 41 Km. towards south from district head quarters of Ahmednagar and 27 Km. from Shrigonda. Visapur dam was constructed by British rule in 1927. Visapur dam is an earth fill dam on Hanga river. The height of the dam above it's lowest foundation is 26 m (85ft ) .While the length is 2692 M. (8832 ft.) .The volume content is 130 km. cub. (31 cubic meter) and gross storage capacity is 33,320 Km. Cubic ( 7994 Cubic meter ).<sup>4</sup>

Famine occurred in 1896-97 in Ahmednagar district , mainly due to the want of monsoon rain. The whole district was affected at that time. Relief works were opened and continued for 14 months. 1899-1900 the rain fails and whole district was again affected with severe famine. Relief works were opened in 1899. Special relief was also given to weavers in their own craft during the famine. The death rate in the district was 66.11 per mile and the total number of deaths from all causes on relief work was 7850. <sup>5</sup>

On this background British was started construction of Visapur dam. In period 1896 to 1900 the famine workers was the labor for this dam . In period 1901 to 1926 the prisoners of Deccan riots is available as a labors . Few labor was available from local area who was worked on daily wedges .In 1896 construction work was started and finally in 1927 dam was completed. <sup>6</sup> The British Govt. played very important role to construct the Visapur dam. British was very conscious about irrigation in India. They had given purposely attention on irrigation availability in India. They were selfish and their interest was included in irrigation planning. But another side the irrigation availability was very useful for Indians also.<sup>7</sup>

Visapur dam is very important for local area . One marble manuscript is available on the side of dam. This marble manuscript explains all things about this dam. The information on this manuscript is as below:

### VISAPUR TANK AND CANALS

- COMMENCED BY FAMIN LABOUR -1896-1900.
- DURING CONSTRUCTION THE HUR CRIMINAL TRIBE EMPLOYED 1916-1923.
- AND THE DECCAN CONVICT GANG 1901-1927 IN ADDITION TO ORDINARY LABOUR.
- DAM FINISHED JUNE 1927.
- CANALS AND DISTRIBUTARIES ETC. FINISHED 1929.
- COST - DAM 21 LAKHS RUPEES-
- CANAL AND DISTRIBUTARIES 19 LAKHS RUPEES.
- CATCHMENT AREA 159 SQ. MILES.
- CAPACITY OF TANK 1136 MILLION CUBIC FEET.
- LENGTH OF DAM 7440 FEET.
- MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF DAM 84 FEET.
- LENGTH OF CANAL 11<sup>1/3</sup> MILES.
- LENGTH OF DISTRIBUTARIES AND MINORS 35 MILES.
- MAXIMUM DISCHARGE AT HEAD 110 CUSECS.
- TOTAL AREA UNDER COMMAND 95000 ACRES.
- IRRIGABLE AREA 26000 ACRES.
- IRRIGATION CAPACITY OF TANK 13000 ACRES.
- THIS TANK FILLED UP AND OVERFLOWED IN THE MONSOON OF 1927.

**OFFICER IN CHARGE FOR OVER 2 YEARS.****SUPRINTENDING ENGINEERS**

▪ C. N. CLIFTON		1899-1909
▪ P. J. FITZGIBBON	M.I.C.E.	1909-1913
▪ R. J. KENT	A.M.C.E.	1913-1917
▪ K. S. FRAMJI	B.A., L.C.E.	1917-1924
▪ A. H. WHYTE		1924-1928

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS**

▪ P. J. FITZGIBBON	M.I.C.E.	1897-1900
▪ J. J. B. BENSON		1902-1913
▪ T. S. PIPE		1913-1916
▪ F. J. VON-BOCK		1916-1918
▪ C. O. LOWSLEY		1918-1925
▪ H. J. M. COUSENSB.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.		1925-1929

**SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER**

▪ LAXMAN VITTHAL	OVERSEER	1895-1900
▪ K. B. BRAHME	OVERSEER	1903-1907
▪ SERG. H. E. WILKINSON	SUPERVISOR	1913-1916
▪ D. N. KSHIRSAGAR	UPPER SRGT.	1916-1923
▪ M. S. ANTANI, B.E.	ASST. ENGR.	1923-1929

**LONGEST PERIOD SUBORDINATE**

▪ B. N. JAPE	OVERSEER	1902-1927
▪ THIS TABLE WAS UNVEILED BY.		
▪ HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR FREDRICK		
▪ HUGH SYKES.		
▪ P. G. G. C. I. E., G. B. E., K. C. B., C. M. G., GOVERNOR OF BAMBAY.		
▪ ON THE 26 TH AUGUST 1929.		

**CONCLUSION :**

This manuscript explain that construction period of Visapur Dam was 1896 to 1927. During 31 years the construction was going on. On 26 August 1929 the Governor of Bombay presidency Sir Fredrik Hugh Syks had handover this Project to the people. The manuscript explain that who was superintending engineers, executive engineers , sub divisional officer on this project. Visapur dam is classified as a middle range project. Total expense for this dam was 40,44,332 Rs. <sup>8</sup> The gross area of this dam is 95000 acre. The irrigable area of this dam is 13143 acre. The earthen dam 84 feet in height partly clear over fall and partly submerged type. In 1927 dam was over flowed . There is only one canal on left bank with length of 16 miles .

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