



A PRESENT SCENARIO OF WATER AND LIGHT CHARGES OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN PUNE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT :

The main objective of the Panchayat Raj system is to achieve democratic decentralization in rural areas, increase public participation in decision-making at the local level, and make development decisions based on local needs. In Maharashtra, this system is three-tiered and operates at the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad levels. To try to transfer the powers and responsibilities of administrative functions of the state level to the local level. To prepare and implement plans at the local level keeping in mind the local needs and problems. To increase public participation in decision-making processes at the local level and motivate them to play an active role in the development process. To ensure justice and equal opportunities for every section of society. To increase political and social awareness among the people and empower them. The Panchayat Raj system in Maharashtra is a three-tiered system, comprising Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad. It is responsible for implementing development plans, providing public facilities and resolving local problems at the village level.



KEYWORDS : Panchayat, Village, Development, Income and Expenditure, system, decision, Society, people, rural, social etc.

INTRODUCTION :

In Maharashtra, Gram Panchayats are governed by section 5 of the Bombay Gram Panchayat Act, 1958. Population is considered while establishing a new Gram Panchayat in the state. Gram Panchayat is managed with the help of Sarpanch, Upasarpanch, Gram Sevak. Gram Panchayat is the lowest but most important part of Panchayat Raj. There is 27,951 Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra. In conformity with the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 (ZP/PS Act) and the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, 1958 (VP Act) were amended in 1994. A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) comprising Zilla Parishads (ZPs) at the district level, Panchayat Samitis (PSs) at the block level and Gram Panchayats (GPs) at the village level were established in the State. As per 2011 Census, the total population of the State stood at 11.24 crore of which 55 per cent was from rural areas. There were 44,096 villages in Maharashtra as of March 2015. The VDO/Gram Sevak, a village level functionary, functions as Secretary to the GP and is also responsible for maintenance of accounts and records at GP level. However, the sanctioned strength of VDOs/Gram Sevaks was 22,901 which show that not even one VDO/Gram Sevak post was sanctioned for each GP. The person-in-position was 20,999 only with a shortage of 1,902 as of

December 2015. No reasons were on record for not sanctioning and filling up of 1,902 posts of VDOs/Gram Sevaks.

CONCEPT LIGHT CHARGE:

In the context of village panchayats, a light charge refers to a fee or tax levied on households or properties for the provision of basic services Such as Street lighting: Installation and maintenance of streetlights in public areas, Public lighting: Lighting in public spaces, such as parks, roads, and community centers. 'Light charges are typically collected by the village panchayat as part of the property tax or house tax'. "The lighting tax shall be collected for public streets, places or buildings where such lightings is undertaken by the Panchayats'.

Purpose of Light Charge:

The primary purpose of a light charge is to:

- 1. Recover costs:** Recover the costs incurred by the village panchayat in providing and maintaining lighting services.
- 2. Fund maintenance:** Fund the maintenance and upkeep of lighting infrastructure.
- 3. Promote public safety:** Enhance public safety and security by ensuring well-lit public areas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of this research is to review the current income and expenditure of the Panchayat Raj system in villages of Indapur taluka, as well as wages. The researchers have studied it by giving some specific objectives related to the Panchayat Raj system.

1. To find out the status of Light Charge at village panchayat in study area.
2. To find out the status of Water Charge at village panchayat in study area.
3. To study the economic aspects of Village Panchayat Raj from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

1. Geographical Scope:

The study is geographically limited to Indapur and Baramati Tehsil in Maharashtra. Therefore, the findings and conclusions may not be directly applicable to other regions with different socio-economic, climatic, and agricultural conditions.

2. Sample Size and Data Availability:

Due to time and resource constraints, the sample size for data collection may be limited, which might affect the generalizability of the findings.

Light Charge:

Table No. 1

Light Charges of Selected Village Panchayats of Indapur Taluka(Figures inRs. 00)

Village	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Plasdeo	26455	28683	35469	38086	14845	143538
Lonideokar	6275	5040	4100	8720	6581	30716
Safawadi	4609	3524	19199	15340	15420	58092
Walchandnager	28683	35469	38086	7375	7647	117260
Takararwdi	23530	24500	26475	14114	7520	96139
Galandwadi	4609	3524	24133	9173	16795	58234
Kalas	12627	11597	15074	24133	9173	72604
Bhigvan	38942	30914	20581	71651	26283	188371
Vadpuri	4609	3524	19199	8179	12440	47951
Nimgaonketaki	26455	28683	35469	57863	38939	187409
Total	176794	175458	237785	254634	155643	1000314

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 1 represents Light charges collection of the selected village panachayats in Indapur Taluka. In Indapur Taluka total Light charge collected from selected village panachayat is Rs.1000314. Out of this total Light charge maximum Rs.254634 (25.44%) and minimum Rs.155643 (15.55%) revenue was collected in the year 2012-13 and 2014-15 respectively. However out of the total Light charge in study period, maximum revenue Rs.188371 (18.83%) and minimum Rs.30716 (3.07%) is collected from Bhigvan and Lonideokar Village Panachayats respectively. Table No.1 explains the status of Light charge collection of selected village panachayats in Baramati Taluka. In Baramati Taluka total light charge collected from selected village panachayat is Rs.1185680. Out of this total light charge maximum Rs.290514 (24.50%) and minimum Rs.80160 (6.76%) were collected from Malegaon and Katewadi village panchayats respectively.

Table No. 2
Light Charges of Selected Village Panchayats of Baramati Taluka
(Figures in Rs00)

Village	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Dorlewadi	16600	18465	19525	28740	16795	100125
Malad	9395	17845	25629	24755	22315	99939
Sangavi	38942	30914	20581	17955	18949	127341
Nirawagaj	9945	19690	26023	24980	17403	98041
Katewadi	7790	26675	15790	20750	9155	80160
Malegaon	74035	77567	69456	69456	0	290514
Gunawadi	23530	24500	26475	22563	25897	122965
Zargadwadi	15778	16800	14500	17820	19546	84444
Pimpli	17752	18087	11949	21803	14519	84110
Nimbodi	9945	19690	26023	24980	17403	98041
Total	223712	270233	255951	273802	161982	1185680

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 3
Light Charge (Panachayat Wise) 2010-2015

Year	Inadapur	%	Baramati	%	Total	%
2010-2011	176794	17.6	223712	18.4	400506	18.0
2011-2012	175458	17.5	270233	22.2	445691	20.1
2012-2013	237785	23.7	255951	21.0	493736	22.2
2013-2014	254634	25.4	302288	24.8	556922	25.1
2014-2015	155643	15.5	161982	13.3	317625	14.3
Total	1000314	100	1214166	100	2214480	100

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 3 shows the comparative status of Light Charge in the study area. Light Charge is a very vital revenue source of village panachayat. This table focused on numerical status of light charge in the study period. In the year 2013-14, 25.45% is the highest percent of light charge collected in Indapur Taluka. In the year 2014-15 15.55% is the lowest percent of charge collection in Indapur Taluka. In the Baramati Taluka in 2014-15 (14.34%) is the amount of light charge collection. In the year 2013-14 (25.14%) light charge was collected in Baramati Taluka. It means 25.14% is the highest charge and 14.34% is the lowest charge collection in Baramati Taluka.

Table No. 4 A and B clarify the compound growth rate in collection of Light Charges in study period (2010-2015). In the collection of Light Charges 1.18% growth is found in selected village panchayats of Indapur and Baramati Talukas respectively.

Table No:-4(A)
CGR in Light Charge Tax of Indapur Taluka

Year	Light Charge (Y)	X	Log Y	Log Y*X	X ²
2010-2011	176794	-2	5.247468	-10.4949	4
2011-2012	175458	-1	5.244173	-5.24417	1
2012-2013	237785	0	5.376184	0	0
2013-2014	254634	1	5.405916	5.405916	1
2014-2015	155643	2	5.19213	10.38426	4
				0.051067	10
0.00510674	1.011	0.011828	CGR=	1.183	

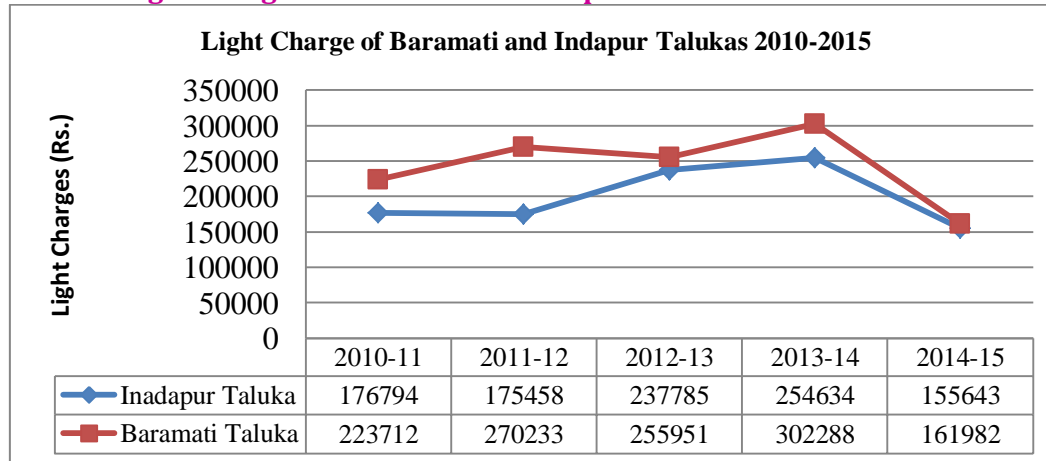
Source: - Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 4 (B)
CGR in Light Charge of Baramati Taluka

Year	health Tax (Y)	X	Log Y	Log Y*X	X ²
2010-2011	223712	-2	5.349689	-10.6994	4
2011-2012	270233	-1	5.431738	-5.43174	1
2012-2013	255951	0	5.408157	0	0
2013-2014	302288	1	5.480421	5.480421	1
2014-2015	161982	2	5.209467	10.41893	4
				-0.23176	10
-0.023176	0.948034	-0.05197	CGR=	-5.2	

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Graph No. 1
Light Charge of Baramati and Indapur Talukas in 2010 - 2015



In the graph No. 4 Red line shows the information about Light Charge in Baramati Taluka and blue line shows the Light Charge in Indapur Taluka. Red line shows the higher level of revenue collected from light charge in Baramati Taluka. Blue line shows that the collection of Light charge is less than Baramati Taluka. Blue line shows the continuous growth from the first point up to the fourth point but at the fifth point it rapidly decreases. It means that in 2014-15 collection of light charge decreased from Rs.254634 to Rs.155643. Red line refers to the Light Charge of Baramati. This line shows minor fluctuation in the growth of light charge. In 2013-14 amount of light charge increased from the Rs.255951 to Rs.302288. But in the next year (2014-15) this amount went down to Rs.161982.

Concept Water Charge:

In the context of village panchayats, a water charge refers to a fee or tariff levied on households, farmers, or industries for the provision of water services at Village level.

'Where drinking water is supplied by the Panchayat shall be determined as per the cost of supply and maintenance of water supply schemes'.

Purpose of Water Charge:

The primary purpose of a water charge is to:

1. Recover costs: Recover the costs incurred by the village panchayat in providing and maintaining water services.
2. Fund maintenance: Fund the maintenance and upkeep of water infrastructure.
3. Promote water conservation: Encourage efficient use of water resources.

Collection and Utilization:

Water charges are typically collected by the village panchayat through various methods, including:

1. Water bills: Issuing water bills to households and farmers.
2. Metered connections: Installing meters to measure water consumption.
3. Flat rates: Charging flat rates for water supply.

The funds collected are utilized by Village Panchayats for:

1. Operation and maintenance: Operating and maintaining water supply systems.
2. Infrastructure development: Developing and upgrading water infrastructure.
3. Water resource management: Managing and conserving water resources.

By levying a water charge, village panchayats can ensure the sustainable provision of water services, promote water conservation, and support the overall development of rural areas.

Table No. 5
Water Charges of Selected Village Panchayats of Indapur Taluka (Figures inRs00)

Village	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Plasdeo	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lonideokar	7500	0	0	0	0	7500
Safawadi	47403	27191	72738	109600	55809	312741
Walchandnager	0	0	0	25383	28284	53667
Takararwadi	55689	65745	78956	78956	0	279346
Galandwadi	47403	27191	76985	96000	658830	906409
Kalas	57371	34438	10255	76985	96000	275049
Bhigvan	4055	425	850	7845	2965	16140
Vadpuri	47403	27191	72738	38920	35210	221462
Nimgaonketaki	0	0	0	1085208	610781	1695989
Total	266824	182181	312522	1518897	1487879	3768303

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 5 Clarify the water charge collection of selected village panchayats in Indapur Taluka. In Indapur Taluka total water charge collected from selected village panachayat is Rs 3768303. Out of this total water charge maximum Rs1518897 (40.30) % and minimum Rs182181 (4.83) % revenue was collected in the year 2013-14 and 2011-12 respectively. However out of total water charge in the study period maximum income Rs 1695989 (45.00%) is collected from Nimgaonketaki Village Panachayat.

Table No. 6 describes the water charge collection of selected village panachayats in Bramati Taluka. In Baramati Taluka total water charge was collected from selected village panachayat is Rs5507557. Out of this total water charge maximum Rs2004893 (36.40 %) and minimum Rs 681848 (12.38%) revenue was collected in the year 2014-15 and 2011-12 respectively. However out of total water charge in the study period maximum revenue Rs 2836940 (51.50%) and minimum Rs5330 (0.096%) is collected from Dorlewadi and Sangvi Village Panachayat respectively.

Table No. 6
Water Charges of Selected Village Panchayats of Baramati Taluka
(Figures in Rs00)

Village	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Dorlewadi	642053	455698	486492	593867	658830	2836940
Malad	3234	0	2000	0	0	5234
Sangavi	4055	425	850	0	0	5330
Nirawagaj	10000	300	0	0	500	10800
Katewadi	4000	0	0	32000	0	36000
Malegaon	315032	63780	62047	78965	229620	749444
Gunawadi	55689	65745	78956	89564	925987	1215941
Zargadwadi	89778	95600	115689	178945	189456	669468
Pimpli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nimbodi	10000	300	0	0	500	10800
Total	1130241	681848	746034	944541	2004893	5507557

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 7
Water Charge (Panachayat Wise) 2010-2015

Year	Inadapur	%	Baramati	%	Total	%
2010-2011	266824	6.9	1130241	20.5	1397065	14.9
2011-2012	182181	4.7	681848	12.3	864029	9.2
2012-2013	312522	8.0	746034	13.5	1058556	11.2
2013-2014	1614031	41.7	944541	17.1	2558572	27.3
2014-2015	1487879	38.5	2004893	36.4	3492772	37.2
Total	3863437	100	5507557	100	9370994	100

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 7 explains the comparative status of Water charge in the study area. Water Charge is a very crucial source of revenue of village panachayat. This table focuses on the situation of water charge in the study period. In the year 2013-14 the 41.77% is the highest percent of water charge was collected in Indapur Taluka. In the year 2011-12 only 04.71% is the lowest % of water charge collected in Indapur Taluka. In the Baramati Taluka in 2011-12 only 09.22% water charge was collected. In the year (2014-15) 37.27% Water charge was collected in baramati Taluka. It means 37.27% is the highest and 09.22% is the lowest percent of tax collection in Baramati Taluka. In year 2013-14 41.77% is the highest and 4.71 % is the lowest percent of water charge collection in Indapur Taluka.

Table No. 8 (A) and (B) clarifies the compound growth rate of collection of water in the study period 2010-2015. In the collection of water charge there are 75.39% growth is found in the village panchayats of Indapur Taluka. However 15.86% growth is recorded in village panchayats of Baramati Taluka.

Table No. 8 (A)
CGR in Water Charge Tax of Inadapur Taluka

Year	Water Charge (Y)	X	Log Y	Log Y*X	X ²
2010-2011	266824	-2	5.426225	-10.8524	4
2011-2012	182181	-1	5.260503	-5.2605	1
2012-2013	312522	0	5.494881	0	0
2013-2014	1614031	1	6.207912	6.207912	1
2014-2015	1487879	2	6.172568	12.34514	4
				2.440094	10
0.24400942	1.753	0.753919	CGR=	75.39	

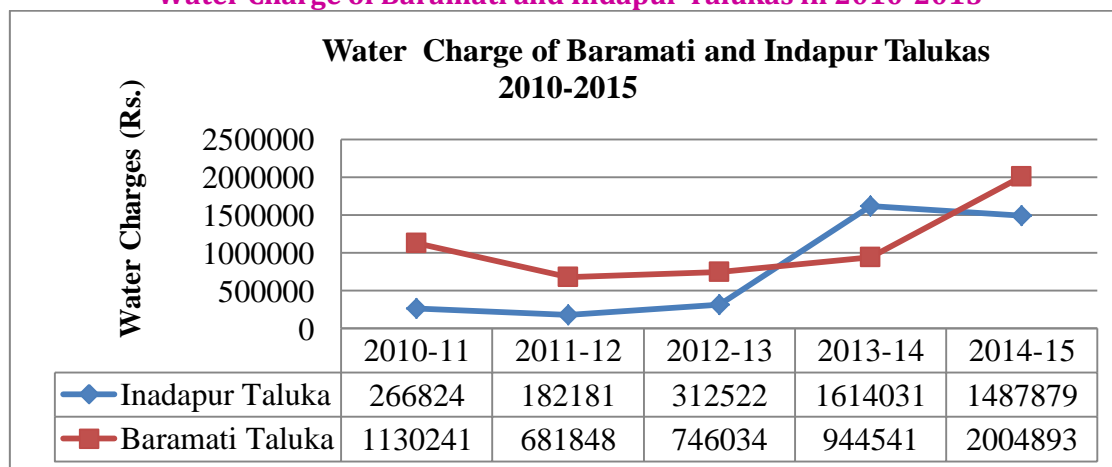
Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Table No. 8 (B)
CGR in Water Charge Tax of Baramati Taluka

Year	water Tax (Y)	X	Log Y	Log Y*X	X ²
2010-2011	1130241	-2	6.053171	-12.1063	4
2011-2012	681848	-1	5.833688	-5.83369	1
2012-2013	746034	0	5.872759	0	0
2013-2014	944541	1	5.975221	5.975221	1
2014-2015	2004893	2	6.302091	12.60418	4
				0.639374	10
0.0639374	1.15861	0.15861	CGR=	15.86	

Source: Data Based on Field Survey

Graph No. 2
Water Charge of Baramati and Indapur Talukas in 2010-2015



In the graph No. 2 Red line shows the information about Water Charge in Baramati Taluka and blue line shows the Water Charge in Indapur Taluka. Red line shows the higher level of income collected from Water charge up to third point after that it is declining and again increases in Baramati Taluka. This graph shows that income from water charge constantly increases in Baramati Taluka. Blue line shows that the collection of Water charge is less than Baramati Taluka up to the third point after that it goes up and down again. This graph shows the constant growth in the amount of water charges in Indapur Taluka. In the fourth point blue line graph shows that it is higher than Red line. It means revenue from water charge in Indapur Taluka is greater than Baramati Taluka.

CONCLUSION:

The process of water purification involves the removal of unwanted purities, such as chemicals, biological contaminants, suspended solids and gases, from water. This process is important to make the water safe and healthy for drinking. Boiling water for 3-5 minutes helps kill bacteria and other pathogens, making it safe to drink. To what extent and for what purpose? The purpose of management can be to provide all those in need with reliable, clean, and safe water at the right time, in the right place, and at a fair price, on the principle of equity. Rain falls from the sky. It falls anytime, anywhere, no matter how much. People think that rainwater is free. Rain doesn't just fall in our yards and fields. It falls in forests, mountains, everywhere. This water has to be held. It has to be transported. It has to be imported and exported, in modern life; water is required for many activities such as industries, commercial complexes, public educational institutions, hospitals, restaurants, and gardening. On the basis of CGR we conclude that the sample village panchayats of Baramati taluka having poor performance in the collection of light charge in compared to sample village panchayats of Indapur taluka. We find in our study that in the collection of water charges Indapur Taluka has in very sound position in a better way than the sample village panchayat of the Baramati taluka.

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