

THE ROLE OF BAMBOO IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF FOLKS OF CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT (M.S.)

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ABSTRACT

Bamboo is Globally available in about 1662 species. It covers large number of biographic regions (Kaur, 2018). India is one of the leading countries in the world as far as Bamboo production is concern. It is Just second to China. 32, 30,000 MT is yearly Production of India. India also possesses 10.03 million hectares of land for Bamboo. Bamboo is as old as mankind. Bamboos are tall, perennial grasses having 125 species in all over India. Bamboos are woody and fast growing. Bamboos has been used in India from ancient times. Especially for constructing huts and houses. Apart from these use Bamboo plays a protagonist role in daily life of rural communities in numerous ways. It also used for agricultural tools, paper manufacture, constructing cottages, diwali lamps, Rakhi, vase, garlands, pen stand, ornaments like ear rings, diaries and many other products can be made of Bamboo. It gives enormous opportunity to the folks of Chandrapur District to enhance themselves by converting Bamboo products into an industry and upgrade their financial status. Approximately 1200 hectares of land in district is under Bamboo cultivation. Bamboo is known as poor man's timber, friend of people and green gold. This research paper is going to deal with the role of Bamboo in the economic development of a huge community in the Chandrapur district. It helped many to earn their bread and butter. Bamboo and canes are very important non timber produce in Chandrapur District and playing very important role in the economic development of rural population. Due to over exploitation, shifting cultivation; the supply of Bamboo has been hampered continuously. To strengthen the rural economy; the systematic cultivation of Bamboo is required which is missing. The department of forest and tribal development should ensure the sustainable production of Bamboo which has ability to change the fate of folks of this District. More than 4000 women are contingent on this industry, while 4000 labors are dependent on Ballarpur Industries Limited; which is the biggest paper manufacturing industry in the country. But this industry is facing Bamboo crisis that need to be sorted out with a vision document otherwise people and their earning is going to suffer in near future. Apart from traditional farming; if tribal community gets additional support for Bamboo cultivation; it is going to enhance their economic condition and adds prosperity in the community. Results shows Chandrapur forest department earned from Long Bamboo (which is a local name) is Rs. 1,87,60,180, while revenue generated from Chapti Bamboo is Rs. 11,10,820. Tutari Bamboo gives Rs. 3,70, 260 which is very less as compared to Long Bamboo. Even Bamboo bundles benefits the local folks. The revenue collected in the year 2021-22 is Rs. 46, 05,020. Around 1200 labors get employment in one single zone of the district.

(Key words: Bamboo, non-timber produce, economic development, handicraft and pulp)

INTRODUCTION

Chandrapur is richest district of Maharashtra in forest wealth. Forest is full of teak wood, Bamboo and several other species. This forest is spread over an area of 18290.58 km² (70,262sq Miles) (Anonymous, 2006). Bamboo is considered as a non-timber produce which plays an important role in the rural economy. In Chandrapur district thousands of folks are earning from Bamboo as there is a Bamboo based industry which is known as Ballarpur Paper Mill. As far as use of Bamboo is concerned in the district; apart from paper and pulp many products have been manufactured by several women. Formerly before

establishing Bamboo industry, it was exploited by the local people for their domestic use. Later on, under the government policy Bamboo was protected and now it has become a tremendous revenue generating produce for the Forest Department.

Bamboo based industry: After Industrial revolution paper became the most important factor of communication. Whether it is business information, records, books, letters or education. Everywhere paper was essential component. It is also used for health and hygiene as well as packaging of food and tissue paper. Historical evidences proves that paper made from bark and old rags was made and used by CaiLun in china 105 AD.(Anonymus,2021). Later on a Buddhist monk brought this technique to Japan and started

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making pulp from mulberry bark. If we just focus on Indian paper industry; it is growing very fast. Demand for paper is enormously increased. Such as, filter paper, tea bags, light weight online coated paper and medical grade coated paper are expected to drive the paper and paper products market in India in coming years. It is also used as a timber in construction of several resort and houses. The capita¹ paper consumption in India at a little over 13 kg, is way behind the global average of 57 kg (Anonymus,2022).

Bamboo is belonging to the grass family graminee. The bamboo is grown in tropical warm, humid climate in India, Phillipines, Burma, Thailand, Korea, Japan. In India it is grown in Orissa followed by Assam, Kerala, Andhrapradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

There are 125 species of bamboo, out of 1) *Dendrocalmus strictus* (Manual Sada) and 2) *Bambusa unegaris* (green) are two important species and others cave bamboo, ornamental bamboo, eatable, medicinal bamboo.

The bamboo is poor man timber used for hut making, agricultural implements, paper and pulp rayon, grade pulp, brooms, toys, mats certain, and ornamental purposes (Mane et al., 2018).

Types of Bamboo Found in the District

Four to five species of Bamboo are found in the district. Which is commonly known by their local name like long Bamboo, Chapti Bamboo, Tutari Bamboo and other. While their biological names are entirely different. They are known as *Dendrocalamus asper*, *Gigantophloaatrove aldasia* (Anonymus,2022a) Government of Maharashtra has motivated farmers to plant Bamboo as it has been proven a very healthy earning source. Data collected from different sources shows generated revenue in the year 2021-2022.(Anonymus, 2022).

West Chanda Division of Chandrapur consist of six Bamboo Depot where this E auction taken place. That is Junona Depot, Chichpalli Depot, Khatanga Depot, Mangli Depot, CN/ 418 and C/N 412. These are the six depots. This data includes only west Chanda region where as four different zone reflects same data as above. We can assume the revenue generated by the forest department only from Bamboo. Gross amount in last year from only Long Bamboo was Rs.18,760,180. Whereas, revenue from Chapti Bamboo and Tutari Bamboo was Rs.16,625, 080. Bamboo bundles are also a very huge source of revenue for the department. (Anonymus,2021).

Small scale Industry based on Bamboo:

1. Handicrafts 2. Furniture 3. Agarbatti 4. Particle boards 5. Bamboo charcoal

Agarbatti manufacturing units at Pombhurna, Moharli and Chandrapur have been set up for the upliftment of women in the district. According to the report of TATR and FDCM Chandrapur, 400 women are engaged in essence sticks manufacturing; which have changed their life (Anonymus,2015) essence sticks manufacturing company was established in 2015 with the investment of

Rs.30,00000. The status of company is active. (Anonymus,2015).

Handicrafts

Handcraft from Bamboo is very known thing in the periphery but the use of this resource was limited to Bamboo sheets which was previously used as compound wall. Bamboo buckets, plates, and other material to be used in funeral. But in recent days the fate of this industry has been completely changed. Bamboo Research and Training centre was established by the government of Maharashtra. Several women get the training for Handicraft and they have started their new starts ups. Mrs Meenakshi Walke from Chandrapur has decided to make her career in Bamboo art and now she is known as Bamboo woman. She not only run her family on Bamboo art but also taught this art to empower other women in the district (Anonymus, 2019). She is making Rakhi, Jewellery, Table lamps, pen stand, Garlands, flower pots, Cup Tray, Diaries. She is earning more than five lacks rupees annum⁻¹ through Bamboo Art (Anonymus,2019) The artistic material from Bamboo designed by Meenakshi Walke is appreciated all over the world. She has also started empowering other women of the districts (Anonymus,2019). She is selling Bamboo Rakhi in Europe and America. It has huge demand which is increasing.

During the Pandemic Bamboo artist lost their business of 65 million rupees. (Anonymus,2020). We can understand the power and significance of Bamboo industry in the district. Products made by Bamboo are eco-friendly and contributing to change the lives of district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this paper an analytical method of research is used. The sample collected from six different depots of forest department which only deals with Bamboo. This data is about only non-timber produce. This is qualitative method of research. The forest depots are Junona, Mangli, Chichpalli, Khatang, CN/ 418, and C/N 412.

Data collected derived from the forest depots for the year 2021-2022. These depots of Bamboo come under west Chanda Zone. The complete data shows the revenue generation from the Bamboo and its benefit to the mediocre society. These statistics of revenue generation is taken from the authentic source of annual reports of forest department of Govt of Maharashtra. There are several more depots which have not included in the article. The charts discuss the exact benefit of folks in the district. After getting the statistics we have elaborated the actual figures which can safeguard the future prospectus of the people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Following tables shows the entire collection of revenue from Bamboo for the year 2021-2022. Long Bmaboo, Chapti Bamboo and Tutari Bamboo has given maximum revenue to the department. At the same time More than

3000 labors were involved in the Bamboo cutting Drive. They also earn their wages. We can see; though it was a covid year; Long Bamboo has given large amount of revenue to the folks and department as well. In the month of March 2022 department earned Rs.2,85,6900 which was

maximum. In the month of September 2021, it was least i.e. Rs.41,600. The total revenue earned from Long Bamboo was Rs.1,87,60,180, while revenue generated from Chapti Bamboo was Rs.11,10,820. Turari Bamboo gave Rs. 3,70,260 which was very less as compared to Long Bamboo.

Table 1. Revenue generated from Long, Chapti and Tutari Bamboo

Month	Long Bamboo		Chapti Bamboo		Tutari Bamboo	
	Sale (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Sale (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Sale (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
May 2021	4400	1,23,000	-			
June	2,35,935	52,45,580	4450	19,500		
July	1,85,916	50,01,150	42,375	7,59,720	800	2000
August	20,367	4,49,180	2,650	40,800		
September	1875	41,600	-	-		
October	5575	1,11,700	1000	11,500		
November	8345	13,8,060	1000	3900		
December	84,398	11,63,010	10,475	66,840	6755	3,52,220
January 2022	92,443	80,53,00	1040	4460	40	40
February	51,465	1,48,5700	1500	27500		
March	97,530	2,85,6900	7355	1,33,100		
April	45,647	13,39,000	2300	43,500	1600	1,60,000

Total Revenue collected was Rs.2,02,41,260 in a financial year 2021-2022 from west Chanda zone.

The table has given below elaborates the data of Bamboo Bundles.

Table 2. Revenue generated from Bamboo bundles

Month	Bamboo Bundles	
	Sale	Amount
May 2021	14,490	10,55,240
June	2950	3,28,650
July	7314	6,89,700
August	9160	9,59,400
September	—	—
October	—	—
November	11,220	6,40,110
December	6755	3,52,220
January 22	5575	1,70,000
February	2500	2,49,700
March	1600	1,60,000

Total revenue collected from Bamboo bundles in the financial year 2021-2022 was Rs. 46, 05,020. It has provided the revenue of Rs. 46, 05,020 to the department. One important factor in this industry is nearly 1200 labors are getting their daily wages in the west Chanda Division only because of Bamboo. They are directly involved in the Bamboo Cutting.

Above discussion and some references cleared that bamboo can be alternative source of income for the folks of district. Unless the entire machinery of government including NGO's, public interest work together for the cultivation of bamboo amounting the promotion among

farmers the fate of people is not going to change. Above depots showed the huge amount of revenue generation which helped the thousands of labors to earn their bread and butter. Non-Timber produce and its protagonist role in the economic development should be considered at different levels. Small scale industry ministry also can play a pivotal role in the project. Mamla, Boarda, Agrzari, Pahami, chichpalli, kelzar, Kolsa, Zari, Doni, Pimpalkhut, Nimbala, Walni and many other villages are there in this industry. Villagers from these villages are directly involved in the Bamboo Industry. Bamboo has added a value in their life.

Agarbatti project at Pombhurna



From the information; it can be stated that Bamboo and Bamboo based industry is playing an important role in Chandrapur District. Recently Bamboo Research center has also established in the district. But as Bala (1986) says, “Without proper management of forestry, no Forest can survive.” (Bala,1986). Due to over exploitation, shifting cultivation the supply of Bamboo has been hampered continuously. In the district to strengthen the rural economy the systematic cultivation of Bamboo is required which is missing. The department of forest and tribal development should ensure the sustainable production of Bamboo which has ability to change the fate of folks of this District. More than 4000 women are contingent on this industry; while 4000 labors are dependent on Ballarpur Industries Limited, which is the biggest paper manufacturing industry in the country. But this industry is facing Bamboo crisis that need to be sorted out with a vision document otherwise people and their earning is going to suffer in near future.

Here is some samples of ornaments made by Bamboo. During the Pandemic Bamboo artist lost their business of 65 million rupees (Anonymous, 2020). We can understand the power and significance of Bamboo industry. There is a traditional farming in the district which cultivate paddy, cotton, soybean and gram. In spite of this yields If farmers cultivate Bamboo parallelly it will be addition to their income. The economic condition of the tribals can drastically changed. The condition is Government should promote the Bamboo cultivation in a large scale.

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Rec. on 29.06.2022 & Acc. on 10.07.2022