

**Survey Report**  
on  
**Machi Prabal & Adjoining Villages**



**Survey conducted by**  
**Mai Marathi Sanstha**

22/1715, Old MHB Colony,  
Gorai Road, Borivali (W),  
Mumbai-91

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## Preamble

As a part of Mai Marathi Sanstha's initiative to reach out in the interiors, sensitize its members about the actual prevalent situation and to seek solutions for existing problems, It was decided to visit a remote village / hamlet which would ideally not be too far away from city, but at the same time would be equally far off from developmental activities. The location identified for the said survey was Machiprabal, a hamlet just 10 kms away from Panvel, in Raigad District. Shri Suhas Vichare, Secretary, Core Committee, did the pre-survey and the team visited the actual location on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2007.

The Report brings to light the current situation at Machiprabal and adjoining hamlets. I sincerely thank the efforts of the Survey Team and the local authorities who assisted in completing this Survey.

Prasad P. Thakur  
President  
Mai Marathi Sanstha

### **The Survey Team**

- Shri Prasad P. Thakur
- Ms. Seema R. Shelar
- Shri Arunesh Parab
- Shri Suhas Vichare
- Shri Dattaram Walvankar
- Ms Manjiri Dabholkar
- Mrs Vasanti Gadagi
- Shri Ashok Patil
- Ms.Vanisha Rathod

### **Villages Surveyed**

- Machiprabal (Also known as Prabal Machi)
- Belavali
- Vardoli

### **Date of Survey**

**20<sup>th</sup> May, 2007**

### **Methodology Adopted / Sources of Information:**

- On the Spot visit to the villages,
- Information obtained from Local Authorities,
- Census Data,
- Internet

## Raigad District at a glance

Raigad is located in south western side of Maharashtra State. The District Head Quarter of Raigad District is Alibag. Alibag is situated on western coast of India and on shore of Arabian Sea. Raigad District was earlier called as Kolaba District. The Geographical location of Raigad District is :

- The Latitude of Alibag : 18.39 N
- The Longitude of Alibag : 72.55 E

## The Demographic Details of Raigad District are as under :

<b>Population:</b>			
Persons	2,207,929	Number of households	478,933
Males	1,117,628	Household size (per household)	5
Females	1,090,301		
Growth (1991 - 2001)	20.89	Sex ratio (females per 1000 males)	976
Rural	1,673,094	Sex ratio (0-6 years)	938
Urban	534,835		
Scheduled Caste population	53,667	Scheduled Tribe population	269,124
Percentage to total population	2.43	Percentage to total population	12.19
<b>Literacy and Educational level</b>			
<b>Literates</b>		<b>Educational Level attained</b>	
Persons	1,458,324	Total	1,458,324
Males	822,913	Without level	25,719
Females	635,411	Below primary	390,652
<b>Literacy rate</b>		Primary	398,377
Persons	77.03	Middle	249,510
Males	86.15	Matric/Higher Secondary/Diploma	307,692
Females	67.75	Graduate and above	86,468
<b>Workers</b>			
<b>Total workers</b>		<b>Age groups</b>	
Total workers	913,995	0 - 4 years	225,276
Main workers	664,689	5 - 14 years	481,701
Marginal workers	249,306	15 - 59 years	1,321,120
Non-workers	1,293,934	60 years and above (Incl. A.N.S.)	179,832

<b>Scheduled Castes (Largest three)</b>		<b>Scheduled Tribes (Largest three)</b>	
1. Mahar etc.	21,332	1. Kathodi etc.	103,244
2. Bhambi etc.	15,999	2. Koli Mahadev etc.	82,602
3. Mang etc.	5,048	3. Thakur etc.	75,008
<b>Religions (Largest three)</b>		<b>Amenities and infrastructural facilities</b>	
1. Hindus	1,916,707	<b>Total inhabited villages</b>	1,859
2. Muslims	170,003	<b>Amenities available in villages</b>	
3. Buddhists	93,251		<b>No. of villages</b>
<b>Important Towns (Largest three)</b>		Drinking water facilities	1,858
	<b>Population</b>	Safe Drinking water	1,856
1. Panvel (M Ci)	104,058	Electricity (Power Supply)	1,848
2. Navi Mumbai (Panvel, Raigar)	81,855	Electricity (domestic)	1,814
3. Khopoli (M Ci)	58,664	Electricity (Agriculture)	21
<b>House Type</b>		Primary school	1,723
<b>Type of house (% of households occupying)</b>		Middle schools	713
Permanent	70.1	Secondary/Sr Secondary schools	275
Semi-permanent	26.1	College	5
Temporary	3.7	Medical facility	562
		Primary Health Centre	46
		Primary Health Sub-Centre	218
		Post, telegraph and telephone facility	1,170
		Bus services	1,374
		Paved approach road	1,331
		Mud approach road	488

The villages of Machiprabal, Vardoli and Belavali falls under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Panvel Taluka in Raigad District. The details of this Taluka in short are as under :-

Tehasil	Rural/ Urban	House holds (in thousan d)	Population			Literacy Rate	No. of Villages		Town's	No. of Village Panchya ts
			Persons	Male	Female		Inha -bited	Unin -habited		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Panvel</b>	Total	90008	422522	224560	197962	80.50	160	2	4	88
	Rural	44138	218186	113545	104641	74.74	160	2	0	88
	Urban	45870	204336	111015	93321	86.56	0	0	4	--
Source : Census Data 2001										

Machiprabal and the above adjoining villages are about 10 kms away from Panvel city. These villages are connected to Panvel by road and State Transport Buses ply at regular intervals. The details of the Survey of the three villages are as under :-



Source : wikimapia

## Village : Belavali

## **Belavali**

Belavali Village is 7 kilometers towards east of Panvel. This is a small village of 0.5 sq.miles. Belavali comprises of more than 40% Schedule Caste Population. The demographic comparison of the village with comparison to 1964 Gazette is given below :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Households</b>
1964 Gazette	591	119
2007 figures	3214	521

Source :           +       -       Kolaba District Gazette 1964, Govt. of Maharashtra.  
                  \*       -       Actual Survey, Data collected from local authorities

## **Literacy**

The literacy ratio in the village is comparatively good at around 70%. The younger generation are literate. However, it is observed that the dropout ratio of girls is high after Vth Standard, while boys tend to drop the school after VIIIth Standard. The reason for this dropout is because of the fact that the village school caters to only VIIIth Standard, parents therefore prefer their children to leave the school and assist them in gainful activities.

**Soil** : Medium Black Soil

**Crops taken** : Paddy is the main crop of the district, followed by Nachni, Vari and Ragi.

**Irrigation** : Erractic and Frequent Power cuts have forced farmers from opting to only one crop in monsoon.

- Natural Resources** : The village is surrounded by forest and forest produce are utilized.
- Cropping Pattern** : Harvesting is done during monsoon.
- Forest Produce** : Honey, seasonal fruits, firewoods etc
- Livestock Resources** : Cattle and Sheep breeding. The milk obtained from cattle though is utilized only for consumption.
- Occupational Setup** : Farming is the primary occupation in this village. The other ancillary activities like cattle rearing and selling forest produce in nearby market at Panvel are also carried out. Youths go to industrial belt in Panvel for jobs.
- Administrative Setup** : Gram Panchayat
- Infrastructural Setup**
- Roadways** : The village is connected with road, State Transport Buses ply over it, private vehicles and autorickshaws are available.
- Connectivity** : Panvel is the nearest city accessible by road.
- Communication Facilities:** Telephone has reached this village as also

Cell Phones. There are PCO Booths available. The density of landline phones though, are thin.

**Power** : Electrification of the village is complete, however, the village faces continuous downages.

**Industrial Activity** : Nil

**Healthcare** : A couple of local doctors attend to the village. There are also local Vaidus who perform traditional medication.

**Common ailments:** Cholera, especially during monsoon, fevers of different kind, Malaria, guineaworm etc. Alcohol related ailments are also to be seen.

## **Village : Vardoli (Wardoli)**

## Vardoli

Vardoli (often spelt as Wardoli) lies at 6.4 kms east of Panvel. This is a village of 2.9 sq.miles. Vardoli comprises of above 40% Schedule Caste Population. The demographic comparison of the village with comparison to 1964 Gazette is given below :

Year	Population	Households
1964 Gazette	418	90
2007 figures	2700	350

Source : + - Kolaba District Gazette 1964, Govt. of Maharashtra.  
\* - Actual Survey, Data collected from local authorities

## Literacy

The literacy ratio in the village is comparatively good at around 65-70%. The situation prevails like Belavali. There is a Residential Ashram School where students from other villages also come and stay. The younger generation are literate. The awareness and willingness amongst parents to send their ward to school is observed.

## The Soil, Infrastructural facilities are alike Belavali

- Soil** : Medium Black Soil
- Crops taken** : Paddy is the main crop of the district, followed by Nachni, Vari and Ragi.
- Irrigation** : Erractic and Frequent Power cuts have forced farmers from opting to only one crop in monsoon.

- Natural Resources** : The village is surrounded by forest and forest produce are utilized.
- Cropping Pattern** : Harvesting is done during monsoon.
- Forest Produce** : Honey, seasonal fruits, firewoods etc
- Livestock Resources** : Cattle and Sheep breeding. The milk obtained from cattle though is utilized only for consumption.
- Occupational Setup** : Farming is the primary occupation in this village. The other ancillary activities like cattle rearing and selling forest produce in nearby market at Panvel are also carried out. Youths go to industrial belt in Panvel for jobs.
- Administrative Setup** : Gram Panchayat
- Infrastructural Setup**
- Roadways** : The village is connected with road, State Transport Buses ply over it, private vehicles and autorickshaws are available.
- Connectivity** : Panvel is the nearest city accessible by road.
- Communication Facilities:** Telephone has reached this village as also

Cell Phones. There are PCO Booths available. The density of landline phones though, are thin.

**Power** : Electrification of the village is complete, however, the village faces continuous downages.

**Industrial Activity** : Nil

**Healthcare** : A couple of local doctors attend to the village. There are also local Vaidus who perform traditional medication.

**Common ailments:** Cholera, especially during monsoon, fevers of different kind, Malaria, guineaworm etc. Alcohol related ailments are also to be seen.

## **Village : Machiprabal**

(Also called as Prabal Machi)

## **Machiprabal**

Machiprabal is located at 9.4 kms away from Panvel, eastwards. This is a small hamlet of 0.6 sq. miles atop a plateau. One has to trek for about 2 hours to reach Machiprabal. Machiprabal comprises of 40% Schedule Tribe Population. Machiprabal has been declared by the Government of Maharashtra as **eco-sensitive zone**. Industrial Activity, Quarrying, Mining etc. is therefore banned.

The demographic comparison of the village with comparison to 1964 Gazette is given below :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Households</b>
1964 Gazette	57	12
2007 figures	324	80

Source : + - Kolaba District Gazette 1964, Govt. of Maharashtra.  
\* - Actual Survey, Data collected from local authorities

## **Literacy**

The literacy ratio in the village is lesser at around 50%. This is due to the fact that the village lies atop a plateau of about 3500 feet. Schools and other infrastructural facilities are accessible only at the basepoint. This results in high dropout ratio in both boys and girls.

### **Social Factor**

One of the unique factor found in this village is that Alcoholism is very high in this village, it has found social acceptance too. Illicit liquor is manufactured and this is one of the major sources of income for the village. Child marriage and other social malaise are also seen here.

### **Other Factors**

- Soil** : Medium Black Soil
- Crops taken** : Paddy is the main crop of the district, followed by Nachni, Vari and Ragi.
- Irrigation** : Erractic and Frequent Power cuts have forced farmers from opting to only one crop in monsoon.
- Natural Resources** : The hamlet is surrounded by forest and forest produce are utilized.
- Cropping Pattern** : Harvesting is done during monsoon.
- Forest Produce** : Honey, seasonal fruits, firewoods etc
- Livestock Resources** : Cattle and Sheep rearing. The milk obtained from cattle though is utilized only for consumption.
- Occupational Setup** : Farming is the primary occupation in this village. The other ancillary activities like cattle rearing and selling forest produce in nearby market at Panvel are also carried

out. Youths go to industrial belt in Panvel for jobs.

**Administrative Setup** : Gram Panchayat

**Infrastructural Setup**

**Roadways** : The village is not properly connected with road etc.

**Connectivity** : Panvel is the nearest city accessible by road, from the base point.

**Communication Facilities:** Telephone has reached this village as also Cell Phones. The density of landline phones though, are thin.

**Power** : Electrification of the village is done, however, the village faces continuous downages.

**Industrial Activity** : Nil / Banned.

**Healthcare** : Not present in the village, resulting in dependence on traditional ways of medication.

**Common ailments:** Cholera, especially during monsoon, fevers of different kind, Malaria, guinea worm etc. Alcohol related ailments are also to be seen.

## Photo Gallery



Machiprabal lies atop this mountain



Drinking Water at Machiprabal



Typical Hamlet



Survey Team

## **Conclusions**

From the above study, it was found out that out of the three villages surveyed, the hamlet of Machiprabal (Prabal Machi) is least accessible and least developed. It has shown acceptance all kind of social evils like alcoholism, child marriage etc.

Lack of Proper drinking water and dependence of only available source, viz a small well for drinking, washing etc has resulted in re-occurrence of water borne disease. The village has no medical facilities.

### **In this context the following recommendations are suggested:**

- 1) A Medical Camp be organised, especially for Machiprabal, Villagers from adjoining villages may also benefit from it.
- 2) Find out ways and means to implement State Government Schemes for providing clean drinking water.
- 3) Tie up with other bodies / NGO to create awareness about ill-effects of Alcoholism.
- 4) Motivating the youth / Training them in activities like honeybee rearing etc for self-employment activities, given the fact that the area is thickly covered with forest.