



## Biodiversity In Osmanabad District A Geographical Survey

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### Abstract

Biodiversity is main element of environment. Environmental balance maintained due to the biodiversity. Loss of biodiversity is threat to the human life. Man induced activities are reason for destruction of biodiversity. The present paper is study about the forest area in Osmanabad district. The flora and fauna are also studied in this paper.

**Keywords:** - biodiversity, flora, fauna, biodiversity hotspot, forest.

### Introduction

Biodiversity or biological diversity refers to the variety of life on earth. The term biodiversity includes three divisions. These are genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity. Now a day's interest increasing in the study of biodiversity. It is because of concerns regarding species extinction, depletion of genetic diversity and disruptions to the atmosphere.

Biodiversity is the integral part of the earth. To maintain environmental balance 33% of the area should covered under the forest. Biodiversity mostly found in the dense forest area. Indian has a rich heritage of species and genetics strains of flora and fauna. Overall 8 % of the world species are found in India. India is the 10<sup>th</sup> among the plant rich countries of the world. India has two biodiversity hotspot. Eastern Himalaya and western ghat are the world famous biodiversity hotspot.

**Objectives:** - the present study is based on certain specific objectives. These are as follow.

1. To study forest coverage in Osmanabad district.
2. To study flora and fauna in Osmanabad district.
3. To suggest some remedies for conserve biodiversity in Osmanabad district.

### Database and methodology

The present study is based on secondary data collected from the socio-economic review of Osmanabad. The data has been taken from the year 2010, 2015 and 2017. The explorative methodology is adopted for the present work.

### Study area

Osmanabad district is located in Maharashtra state. It is located on east side of marathwada region. The latitudinal extent of study area is 17<sup>o</sup> 35' to 18<sup>o</sup> 40' north and longitudinal extend between 75<sup>o</sup> 16' to 76<sup>o</sup> 40' east. The total area of district is 7512.4sq.km.

It is situated about 600 m above mean sea level. Manjra and Terna are major are seasonal river mainly flow in rainy season. Temple of goddess Tuljabhavani at Tuljapur is famous in India. There are eight Tahsil in the district. The Osmanabad district comes under drought prone area. Average annual rainfall in within the district is 730mm. The total population of study area is 1,486,586.

### Biodiversity of Osmanabad district

In Maharashtra most of the rich Biodiversity is found in western part of konkan region. Some of the biodiversity is also found in the balaghat range especially in yedshi



Yedshi is a wildlife sanctuary located in the Osmanabad Tahsil. It is 679 mts above mean sea level. Yedshi wildlife sanctuary is covered with villages of yedshi, wadgaon and bhanasgaon of the Osmanabad. The part of Osmanabad district especially yedshi is rich in biodiversity. The area covered dry deciduous forest. It includes thorny species and stunted trees. In this forest area most of the tress are salai, bor, sitaphal, dhawda, khair, apta, hiwar and babul dhaman, arjun, bel, sandal, dekomals, teak etc. The shrubs are also observed in this forest. It includes lantana and karwand. the typically grasses like kasali, shedy and mavvel are also found in the area. Flora of the Osmanabad district is rich in yedshi sanctuary as well as fauna also rich in the wildlife sanctuary. It includes black duck, wolf, wild bear, chinkara, fox, hares, peacock, and hyena. Near about 100 species of birds are also observed in the forest.

**Forest area of Osmanabad district**

Osmanabad district is one of the districts of marathwada region. Marathwada region comes under the drought prone area. Rainfall is very less in Osmanabad district compare to other district in the Maharashtra, despite these the forest area in the last seven year increased. Forest area is divided into three categories. Reserved forest area covered 34.14sq.km in 2010. It is increased up to 53.37sq.km in the year 2015. In 2017 it is decreased at 35.36sq.km.

**Table 1.1 Forest area of Osmanabad district (2010-2017) (area in sq.km)**

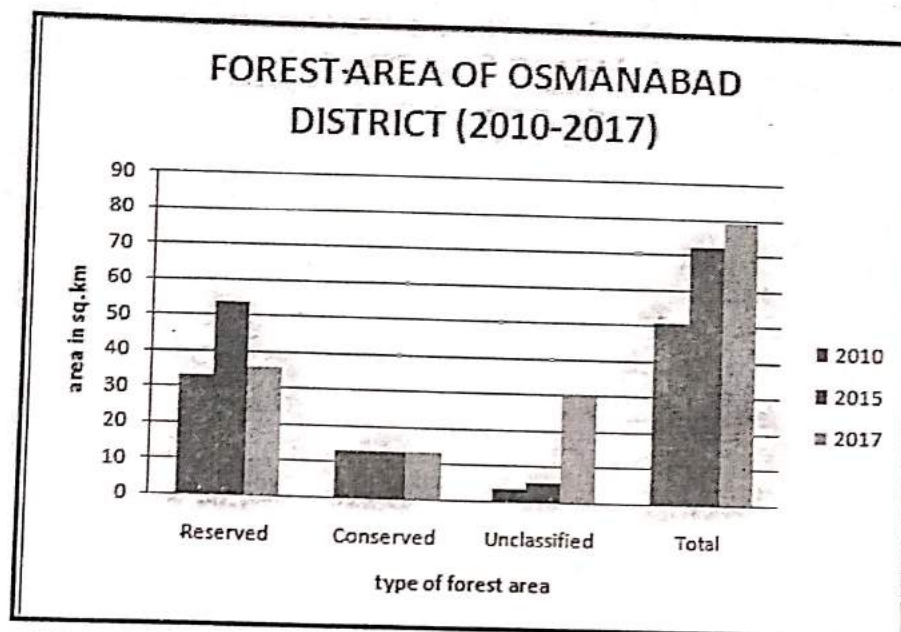
Division	Year	Forest type			Total	% of total geographical area
		Reserved	Conserved	Unclassified		
Forest department	2010	33.14	13.35	3.26	50.74	0.67
	2015	53.37	12.92	5.47	71.76	0.95
	2017	35.36	12.91	30.17	78.84	1.04
Maharashtra forest development board	2010	-	-	-	-	-
	2015	-	-	-	-	-
	2017	-	-	-	-	-
Private forest included in forest department	2010	-	-	-	-	-
	2015	-	-	-	-	-
	2017	-	-	-	-	-

(District forest officer, Osmanabad)

Conserved forest area recorded 13.35sq.km in 2010. It is decreased in 2015 and reached at 12.92sq.km. In 2017 again it is reduced at 12.91sq.km. The unclassified forest area was 3.26sq.km in 2010. It is increases up to 5.47sq.km in 2015. In 2017 it is again increased drastically with 30.17sq.km. The total forest area was 50.74 sq.km in 2010. In 2015 its increased up to 71.76sq.km. In 2017 its again increased up to 78.84sq.km. The percentage is



very low as compare to environmental balance point of view. It should be increased. The total forest in the district is sparsely distributed and concentrated at only one place i.e. yedshi.



Graph 1.1

The areas under the Maharashtra forest development board are totally absent. Private forest included in forest department is also absent.

### Suggestions

Conservation of biodiversity is need of time. To conserve forest area and flora and fauna some steps to be taken. These are as follow.

1. To promote native people to conserve biodiversity.
2. To create awareness in people about the importance of biodiversity in life.
3. Encourage the local administrative setup to protect habitat and reduce threats to biodiversity.
4. To gives some grants for increase private forest area and trees around houses and at farm.

### Conclusion

Conservation of forest and biodiversity is most important for existence of life. The whole study is focused on forest and biodiversity in Osmanabad district. Conclusion of the present work as under.

1. Total forest area increased from 50.74sq.km to 78.84sq.km from last seven year.
2. The reserved forest area increased in 2015 but in 2017 again it's reduced up to 35.36sq.km.
3. Conserved forest area was 13.35 in the 2010, but its reduced continuously in the year 2015 and 2017.
4. Unclassified forest area continuously increasing from 2010 to 2017 with 3.26 to 30.17sq.km respectively.
5. The percentage of the forest area of the total area of district continuously increased from 0.67% to 1.04%.
6. As per the environmental balance point of view the percentage share by forest is very low.



7. The variety of flora and fauna is very rich in the Osmanabad district particularly in yedshi wildlife sanctuary. The district is comes under the drought prone area but still the existence of biodiversity in yedshi is very rare thing.

#### References

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