

Anantrao Pawar College, Pirangut, Tal-Mulshi, Dist-Pune 412115



(Arts, Commerce and Science)

NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade (First Cycle)

Two day State Level Seminar on

REGIONAL DISPARITY IN MAHARASHTRA

11th & 12th January 2019

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Savitribai Phule Pune University (BOD), Pune

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(Geography, Economics, History & Political Science)

CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify that Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms. Dilip N. Lanjewar has been participated/Worked of Matashri Shantabai Gote College, Washim. as Resource Person/Chairperson presented a paper titled Washim City: A Land of

Religious Tourism.

in two days state level seminar on 'Regional Disparity in Maharashtra' held at PDEA's Anantrao Pawar College, Pirangut.

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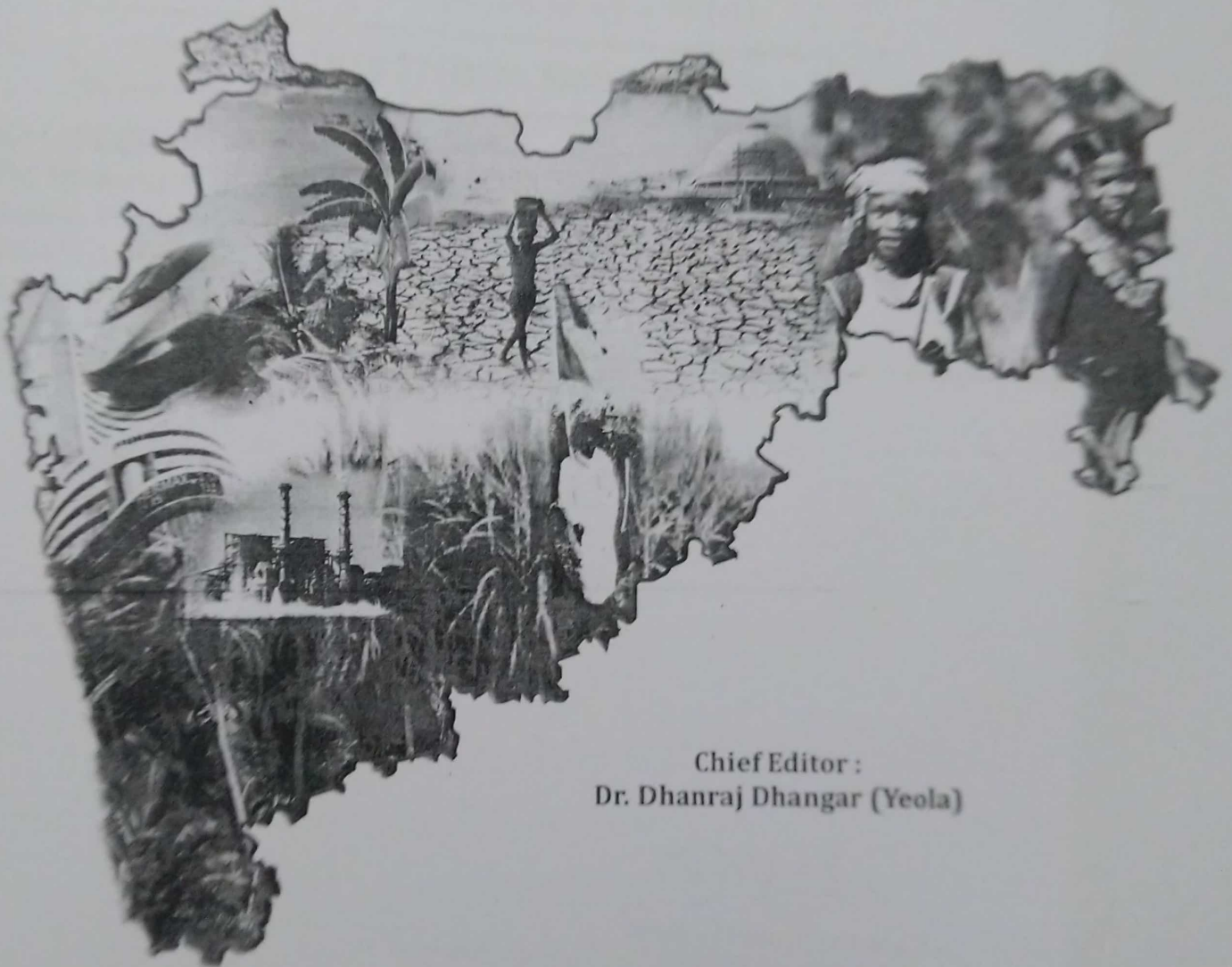
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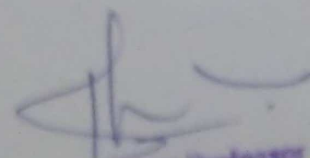
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Regional Disparity in Maharashtra



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✓ Washim City :- A Land of Religious Tourism

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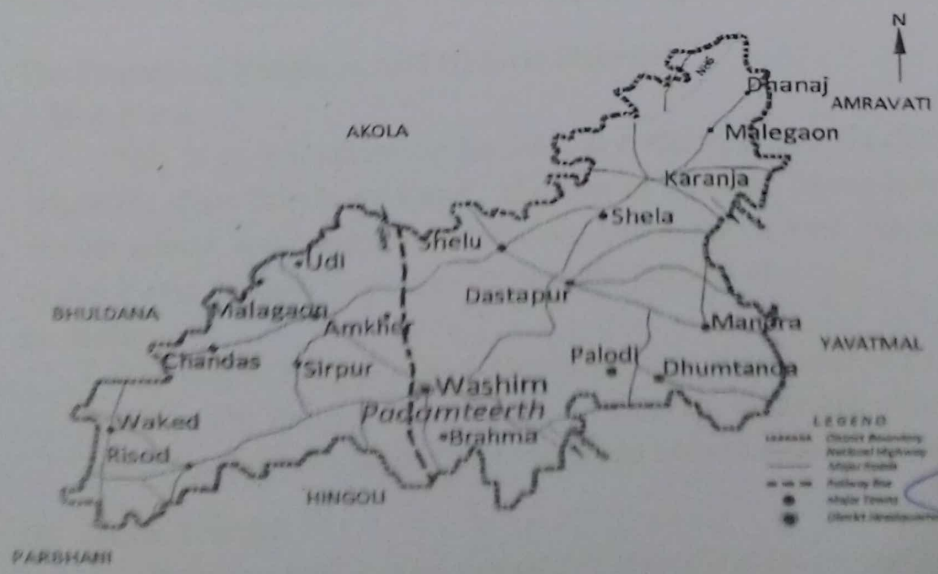
Introduction :

It is always said that 'Change is the spice of Life' This change from the tedious daily routine by experiencing a different face of life can be named as Tourism. Tourism bring happiness to One's life. It is a way to get rid of the stress of everyday work. Today, all over the world Tourism has gained special importance. With every passing day Tourism is becoming an indivisible part of man's life. To get relaxation from the hectic every day life, the idea of using natural, historic and religious places is on the increase. Religious tourism, also commonly referred to as faith tourism, is a type of tourism, where people travel individually or in groups for pilgrimage, missionary, or leisure purposes. Hindusim believes in all the elements of universe i.e. water, light, earth, wind, sky, soil is polytheistic and become cause of sacred places.

Mostly tourist visits Washim during fair for religious purpose maximum temples of god and goddess are located in Washim district.

Study Area

For the geographical study of the Tourist places in Washim city, particularly the historic and religious places are taken into account. Washim was separated from the Akola district in the Amravati division on July 1st 1998 and became an independent city. Washim Nagar parishad was established in 1869. The Area of washim city is 4781.46 hectors and Longitudinal expansion is 20° 6' 45" north latitude and 77° 11' east of longitude. At present, the shape of washim is conical and it is expanding in the west and south directions.



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Washim is also famous for its 108 holy springs affiliated with different sadhus and deities. Lord Vishnu created the prime Padma Thirtha, which is must, a visit. Antariksha Parshwanath Mandir, Guru Mandir, Deo Talav, Daridrya Harana Tirtha, Rama Temple, Narayana Maharaja Temple are some of the important shrines.

Objectives of Study :-

- 1) To study minutely the historic and religious tourist destinations of washim city.
- 2) To find out ways and means for the development of the historic an religious places of washim.
- 3) To bringing into notice the existence and importance of the neglected tourist places.

Haipotesis :-

In the modern age, Tourism has gained great importance. There fore, the historic and religious places are being developed as tourist destinations.

Methodology :-

The statistics and information needed for the research is basically of primary and secondary data. The primary information is obtained by actually visiting the tourist places and taking interviews of the tourist and also trough questionnaires. Also the information obtained through different news papers and magazines is taken consideration.

Geographical Explanation :-

Today's Washim city was once recognized by the name Vatsagulm. There are two stories behind this very name which are famous all over.

- 1) All the God had taken residences in the hermitage of sage vatsa forming groups. So, the name Vatsagulm .
- 2) In a reputed country named Supratistist .there lived a Brahmin named somshami who had two sons named 'vatsa nd Gulm' These two sons performed an explicit and established their kingdom in the nearly province and named their capital Vatsagulm. From then the city came to be known as Vatsagulm. So, the history of this very place must be nearly 2000 years old.Vatsagulm was the capital of Vakataks who were the rulers of this area.

The Prominent Religious And Historic Places:-

1) Hise Boral :-

This is an inscription in the south-east direction at a distance of 11 km. from washim where the Hise Borala wa found . The king of Vakataks Swamilladev Bult the sudarshan lake for the animals and creatures. For this inscription was covered. The spatiality of this inscription is that live-in the time is specified through the medium of stars.

2) Kata :-

The king of Devgiri named Raja Ramdevrao Yadav used to go the pond of Vatsagulm for bathing . The inscription on the idol of Goddess in the Shivasakti Temple at kata which is about 5 km. from washim is belived to had been caved by the king ramdevrao yadav.

3) Balaji Tempel:-

On the inscription at the entrance of Balaji Temple, the name of washim is mentioned as Vatsagulm or khairatabad Haveli kasbe washim.so, washim was also called as Khairatabad.

Assistant Professor



This inscription was established by shrinivas kalu . The permission was granted by the then Nawab Hasmatgunj Bahadur Jagirdar, senasahib subha and sardeshmukh .

The Balaji Temple at Vatsagulm is an excellent example of Architecture. There is a small window at the upper side of the entrance in a wall which is in front of the idol in the circumstance so the sun must get a glimpse of Lord Balaji. The temple is facing the west. From the period when the sun enters the winter solstice till the start of the summer solstice panta kálu has completed the construction of this temple from 6th August 1778 to 22nd August 1783, even today , the custom and ownership resides with the inheritors of Bhavani panta kalu.

4) **Laladev Hill:-**

In 1994-95, in the excavation of laladev hill a temple facing north, marked with an asterisk was there. The expansions of this temple is 11 meters north-south and 7.50 meters east-west. Circumstance is 3+3 meters and the pavilion is 6.50+ 5.50 meters . the circumstance is act angular in shape. The antiquity of this temple built in 5th -6th century. In the excavation of the same laladev hill, almost 51 coins of the 3rd century were found. Also, the remains of the idol of Bhagvan Mahavir were also Found.

5) **Karuneshwar Tempel:-**

Within the city of washim and the surrounding region there are almost 42 temple of lord shiva and each one is recognized by the different names of lord shiva. Among all of there, the karuneshwar temple is the ancient temple and has been the real village deity of Vatsagulm. In the ancient times, due to the prerace of sage vatsa, lord shiva felt mercy on him and visited his hermitage along with other gods. For the welfare and well being of sage vatsa and other people, It is believed that, lord shiva resided her permanently for ever. At this very place, the temple is constructed.

6) **Madhyameshwara Temple:-**

This is an ancient temple . In the scripture named 'siddhattshiromani' by Bhaskaracharya the reference of astrology was given. In the same ways the sages had assumed that the central line of the earth passed through washim . At the place from where it passed through washim was a big temple of the god named 'madhyameshwara' .In that very place, in Vakatak Era, was an observatory . In later times, while construction a new temple the remains of this observatory were found.

7) **Padmteerth:-**

It has been mentioned in the mythology that Vatsagulm is a place of pilgrimage . The bores of sage Dadhichi were dissolved in this padmateerth. Therefore, this pilgrim is of extraordinary importance. It is constructed from the Lord rocks hight from the early age and has ten ghats. There is a legend which tells that Lord Vishnu had placed his lotus on this place and water reservoir was created from that very lotus. So this Lake is named as Padmateerth. Today also, many people go to this lake for having a pure and spiritual bath especially in the rainy and winter sesons .Besids , there are also other lakes in washim city such as 'sudarshan Talav' 'Daridrya Haran Talav', 'Dev Talav' and 'Itaali Talav'.

The annual festival at PadamTeerth (Lotus Lake, having religious significance) is held on Kartiki Shuddha Ekadashi (the 11th day after full month in the lunar month of Kartik, which falls in October or November). Sage Vasuki, after whom the name of the city of Washim is



said to have derived, is said to have bathed in this lake. It is considered holy to perform the last rite after cremation, immersing the ashes, in this lake.

8) Narayan Baba Tempal:-

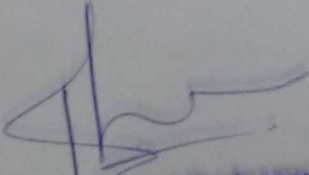
A temple has recently been constructed over the *satnadh* of Narayana Maharaja who stayed at Washim. The image of Narayana Maharaj has been placed over the *satnadh*. One has to go a few steps below the ground level to reach this shrine. From there another staircase leads to the altar where is placed the image of Shri Dattatreya. The whole construction is of white marble. The temple owns some adjacent land. The audience hall is under construction. Every year a small fair attended by the local populace is held on Datta jayanti.

Conclusion:-

After studying the Tourist Destinations of Washim city, we can see they are greatly having the effect of the geographical, religious, Historic and cultural factors. By standing about the present condition of there destinations, we can make out that they are not well developed and therefore the number of tourists visiting there places is also quite less. So, the benefit of income through the medium of Tourists is also considerably less. The transport facility plays an important role in the development of such tourist spots. Considering the city of washim, there are many lakes here. So, if the facilities like a garden or park in the lake area as well as the boating facility may give a push to the tourism in washim and make it move a step further.

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