

A RESEARCH STUDY OF FORTS AND CAVES IN RAIGAD DISTRICT WITH ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract:

Foreign records regarding Konkan can be found. Dr. Daud Dalvi, Dr. Jamkhedkar, P.K. Ghanekar, Vidya Dehjiya, Dr. Dhavalikar, Dr. Prabhakar Dev have studied the architectures but architectures of Raigad region have not been studied specially. Architectures include forts, caves. The presented research project will be useful to the society, historical scholar, Gri Premi and college students. Exploring them as architectures, forts, caves. The role behind this research is to promote historical work. Maximum forts and caves in Raigad District have been ignored due to lack of amenities likewater management, residential, transportation, security, electricity.

Keywords: Architecture, Perspective, Durg, Ignored, Heritage.

Capital of Shivaji Maharaj is Raigad fort. On 9th May 1989, Maharashtra Government changed the name from 'Colaba' to 'Raigad'. Raigad district consists of 15 talukas. Raigad district in totally has 48 forts. Along with Raigad, Revdanda, Khanderi-Underi, Murud-Janjira other neglected forts also needed to improvement through the perspective of cultural, social and tourism it can be studied thoroughly. For this in Raigad district Gharapuri, Kondane, Thanale, Kude, Ambivali and Gandharpale are ancient caves there are temples as well. And therefore, research of such architectures and places will help the Government, Archaeological department and society and help present the history.

Objectives:

1. Discovering the architectures in Raigad region.
2. To look this architecture from a historical perspective.
3. To search for the remedies for the neglected forts.

4. To suggest these studies to be included in the academics a well and to suggest some forts as tourist destination.

Hypothesis:

1. There are 48 Forts, 09 Caves in Raigad District.
2. Introduction the architectures of Raigad District will help to common public.
3. Some Forts are situated in inaccessible place and therefore, they haven't been mentioned in any textbook.
4. Due to lack of facilities, lack of stay, lack of spread of interest are the reasons why some of the architectures are neglected which led to the need of research about such places.

Importance of Research:

In the present research, the architectures of forts, caves in Raigad District will be considered some of the establishment in Raigad District are neglected due to their remoteness, so they are not recorded in curriculum. Research will lead to a perfect introduction to architecture due to the lack of facilities and lack of interest among some architectures in Raigad District no attempt was made to spread the word. It is necessary for research to stay many forts and other architectures such as 31 out of 46 has been neglected.

Material and Methods:

Research Methodology:

A) Historical Research Method: To understand truth and derive it various method are used.

Ex. Forts, caves and their blueprint, Government and Non-Government documents.

B) Survey Method: Impassable places, forts, caves, surveying them.

C) Observation Method: Raigad district is the chosen place for fieldwork. Therefore, collecting the information from the historical perspective and the use of observation method will help to guide in collecting the material.

Topography of Raigad district:

Raigad District stretches from 17°51' north to 19°80' Northern Latitude 72° 51' east to 73°40' eastern Longitude from the Arabian coast. The length from South-North is 150 KM and the breath from east-west is 24 to 8 km. The area of the district calculates up to 7148 sq.km. To the east we find the borders of Pune where as in the west is Arabian sea, on the southern boarder situates Ratnagiri and on south west is Mumbai, on north is the Thane District and on north west find Satara district.

Historical Background:

'According to historian V.K. Rajwade Tal, Rasatal, Patal means Konkan, in ancient times there was no single Konkan, there were many kingdoms later it remained the same.'¹ Konkan region was known as 'Aparant' in ancient times. Since Konkan is a coastal region,

there must have been saptal and seven ports. 'Initially it was inhabited by Naga people and the region got the name Sapta Konkan i.e. Konkan instaded of Saptapatal as a Naga Kula named established his dominion.'² The name Konkan may have been derived from Parashurama's mother Kunkana. 'The ancient history of Konkan is the history from the entry of the Aryans people and the Aryan languages into that region.'³

Historical Background of Fort Architecture:

'The monument which is built for the protection against the attack of the enemies and tokeep a watch and control over the region is called as a fort.'⁴ In Marathi it is called Durg, Giridurg, Qilla, Gadhi, Janjira, Kot, Baleqilla, etc are the terms used for the forts. The word "Fort" has been derived from the French word "Fortis", meaning Strength". In Sanskrit fort is known as "Durg".

Meaning and Concept of Fort:

Shivaji Maharaj is called "Man of Forts" Ramchandrapant Amatya says, "Gad Kot meant Rajlakshmi, Gadkot meant treasure, Gadkot meant strength of the soldiers, Gadkot meant heart, Gadkot meant residence."

Types of Forts:

The word Fort is Arabic and means a place of defense built with a Kot. According to Dr. Parachure, 'Four types of Forts can be seen in Maharashtra from historical times. i) Gad ii)Janjira iii)Bhuikot iv)Gadhi'⁵

- A) **Hill Forts:** The forts on peaks are called 'Giridurg'.
- B) **Ground Fort:** The forts which are surrounded by defensive walls, where things, grains, water, finance are abundant in storage and also arms such forts are called ground forts.
- C) **Sea Forts/ Janjira:** The word 'Janjira' meaning water forts. Sea forts means the forts build on the sea stack. Ex.: Vijaydurg

Forts in Raigad District:

The Forts in Raigad District are named in Sanskrit Language. Such Fort also includes forts built by Muslim rulers.

Forts in Raigad District

Chart No: 1

1	Malangad	13	Chanderi	25	Prabalgad	37	Karnala
2	Manikagad	14	Thal	26	Herakot	38	Colaba
3	Rajkot	15	Revdanda	27	Padargad	39	Tungi

4	Kothaligad	16	Bhivgad	28	Songiri	40	Mrugagad
5	Sarasgad	17	Sudhagad	29	Gharapuri	41	Dronagiri
6	Irasalgad	18	Saakashi	30	Ratangad	42	Peb
7	Sagargad	19	Khanderi	31	Underi/Jaydurg	43	Mirgad
8	Avachitgad	20	Ghosalgad	32	Korlai	44	Surgad
9	Padmadurga	21	Samrajgad	33	Janjira	45	Vishramgad
10	Mangad	22	Panhalgad	34	Talagad	46	Lingana
11	Raigad	23	Mangalgad	35	Chambhargad	47	Songad
12	Madgad	24	Chandragad	36	Kondhavi	48	Daulatgad

Importance of Forts in Raigad District:

‘Shivaji Maharaj knew the importance of forts. If the enemies were in large number, families could take sheltered on the forts. After Shivaji’s era the importance of forts diminished. In 18th century forts were ignored.’⁶ Britishers with the help of cannons destroyed the defense walls of the forts and hence sheltered place for Marathas was gone.

According to the survey we come to know that some forts have water facilities but in undrinkable, there is no residential facility, and therefore the heritage of the fort architecture could not be passed on the next generation. Lack of basic amenities have thus been ignored.

Conservation and Remedies for Forts:

The guard accepted the death in the hand of enemies but would never give up the forts as it is was their pride and the instrument to protect their freedom. In modern period the importance of defense wall has ended. The palace within the forts is an excellent example of art and architecture and could not be reconstructed. After independence some forts have turned into debris, there had led to the destruction of forts as well as the history behind them. And this is a bitter truth. Conservation of forts has not become only an issue but also is a challenge. To stop the encroachment on the forts and its surrounding areas there are several laws. Punishment such as imprisonment and fine are present but they are not being properly implemented.

To protect the forts there must be a policy. To evaluate the forts different cells regarding it must be formed.

Caves in Raigad District:**1) Ambivali Caves (Karjat):**

Ambivali is located 26 KM north-east from Karjat. There are Buddhist caves here. Ambivali caves are located on the ancient trade route connecting the ancient Kalyan and Thane ports. A rocky and difficult path leads to these caves. There must have been a small settlement here in the past. Shreds of red earthenware are found here. These caves belong to multiple cell type.

2) Kude Caves (Mangaon):

Kude Village is 4 KM southeast of Mangaon. There are 26 Buddhist caves on the Mohoba hill east of Kude. Over the years, the sea winds and south-west monsoon rains have buffered the cave, and with the passage of time, some of the inscriptions and eikan have become blurred. The caves here have carved architecture and were supposed to be secluded scenic area for meditation and residence of Buddhist Monks. There are five Chaityagrihas and 21 viharas in Kuda caves as well as inscriptions. This caves are important in terms of architecture but the caves were not further developed as architecture were not further developed as architecture.

3) Kole Caves (Mahad):

The village of Kol is famous for its Buddhist Caves. Cave number five has a Brahminical inscription on the wall. Due the bank of the river, the research of Kole is still insufficient. The period of this caves can be determined in the second century.

4) Kondhane Caves (Karjat):

The Buddhist caves at Kondhane is 2 KM away from Kondhane Village. The Kondhane caves are a masterpiece of architecture carved out of solid rock. There is total eight caves in Kondhane out of which the caves are in dilapidated condition soon after the creation of Kondhane caves, the cave remained unknown due to the mysterious and reduced traffic in Borghat.

5) Khandsamble Caves (Sudhagad):

These caves are also known as Nenavali caves. These caves are not known to people the way to reach here is very remote. 'According to Hendry Kazene, the group of caves at Khandsamble may have been excavated in the 2nd century B.C.'⁷ these caves are in ruins due to the neglect of the Archaeological department.

6) Thanale/ Nadsur Caves (Sudhagad):

Thanale is a village 13 KM east of Sudhagad, Pali. 3 KM from the village there is a group of 23 Buddhist Caves in the hill called Nadsur. Thanale caves were first discovered by Reverend J.B. Abort in 1889 A.D.⁸ The caves at Thanale were modified and excavated at least five times, but later in the 5th century the caves fell into oblivions part of Chaul declined in important.⁹

7) Gandharpale Caves (Mahad):

‘There are 28 caves in Pale and these caves are located at the confluence of Savitri and Godavari rivers and due to the difficult road to reach them, these caves have been neglected.’¹⁰

Conclusion:

Along with Governmental protection, creating awareness among the citizens is also necessary for their protection. NGO’s in Maharashtra have taken the initiative to protect University level institutions, while these efforts need encouragement.

1) Fort architecture is the importance of monuments history of ancient heritage, presentation of art and culture is the demand of the times.

2) Cultural heritage is the soul of the nation. History and culture should be preserved through architecture. It is necessary to connect the preservation of history and culture with the daily life of man. This is the concern of normal identity.

3) The increase of squatter settlements in the vicinity of forts and caves should be controlled.

4) Most of the forts and caves have been neglected due to forest cover around the forts and caves.

5) The Government and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) need to pay attention to the various problems such as the narrowness of the climbing section and the provision of adequate water supply to the shelters in Raigad district.

6) Architectures are historically and socially useful in establishing. Raigad district is near to Mumbai, so the development of tourism can provide employment to many people in this area.

7) By doing the research of neglected architecture will increase student’s interest in architecture. It will be helpful to understand the importance of including architecture in the curriculum at the school and university level.

8) The architecture of Raigad district is of global importance due to it is socio-culturally and historically important.

Recommendations:

1) A regional office of Archaeological Survey of India have to establish in Raigad district for conservation and preservation of architecture in Raigad district.

2) It was useful to preserve the architecture and develop it as a tourist centers.

3) The increase of squatter settlements in the vicinity of forts and caves should be controlled. Starting market and shops near architecture is not appropriate but environmental conservation programs is suitable.

4) Forts, caves and temple architecture is a symbol of history and cultural heritage hence it is necessary to protect it and create awareness among citizens.

5) Those who work in the field of historical research have a special responsibility to create public awareness. University, colleges, teachers and students can play a crucial role in this awareness program.

6) Radio, television, newspapers and political parties can play a constructive role in creating a sense of affection for architecture in the citizen.

7) Those architecture are unknown and away from settlement have to adopt by Army, Navy, Armed forces, Para-military forces, Police, NGO's, Airlines, Tourism development corporation, hotel industry and think about the policy of development of these architecture.

Architecture in Raigad district is a gift of a glorious past and we have to preserve it. In Raigad District, Raigad, Culaba, Janjira, Karnala and Pandavgad forts are made tourist center, but this tourist centers have to get attention, whenever we compare forts in Raigad district with forts in Madhya Pradesh, Utter Pradesh and Rajasthan we noticed that the forts in Raigad district is neglected. There are no proper roads to reach to caves, lack of availability of toilets and water facilities, squatter settlements increased around the caves, temples are not opened to tourist during the afternoon, as a result the architecture in Raigad district unable to attract tourist, but through this architecture tourism can be developed and its importance can be demonstrated at global level.

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