

# Coffee Cultivation for Income Generation for Local People in Chikhaldara, District Amravati, Maharashtra State

Dr. Shalini M. Guldeokar

Department of Geography, S.P. College, Pune-30, India

**Abstract:** Coffee cultivation and production in India is dominant in the hill tract of South Indian states like Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu. They produce 5% of the world output but export 80% of its production. India is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world. Compared to these three states Maharashtra also important because in Maharashtra, because in Maharashtra, Chikhaldara is prime cultivating for coffee but percentage is negligible, still it helps in generating income for local people. Britishers has planted coffee in Chikhaldara in the year 1839, the place where had coffee plantation was in about 70 acres, but there has been a gradual fall since they left. Most of the people high lights Chikhaldara is famous as a hill station or tourist place. But if we high light the uniqueness of Chikhaldara is only place in Maharashtra coffee producing region so tourist also can attract to see coffee gardens and markets. Local people who sell coffee claim that the variety of coffee Rubusta has a different aroma. Coffee plantation of Chikhaldara is successfully providing employment to local people. Hence the purpose of the present paper is to described and interpret the coffee cultivation is an income generation for local people in Chikhaldara.

**Keywords:** Aroma, Cultivation, Market, Rubusta Uniqueness

## 1. Introduction

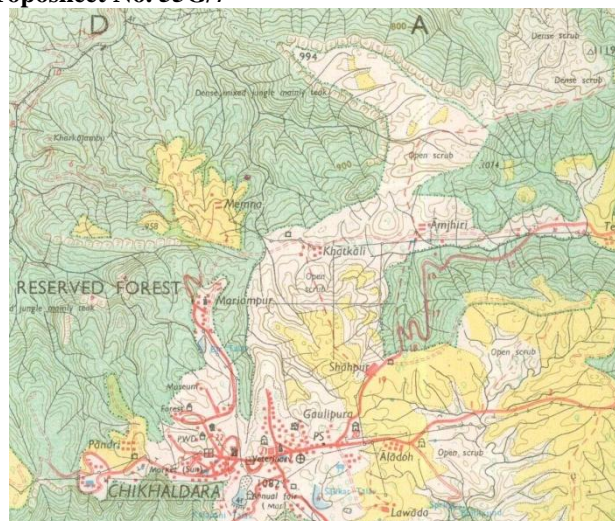
Today coffee is one of the most popular beverages of human being. If we see when and where the first coffee has planted and who has planted in India so will get answer Baba Bhudan has smuggled coffee beans from Yemen to Mysore in India and planted them on the Chandragiri Hills in 1670. By private owners first coffee plantation was established in 1840 surrounding hill in Karnataka and after it spread to other areas of Kerala and Tamilnadu.

In mid 19<sup>th</sup> century British colonial presence took strong roots in India, they flourished coffee for export. The culture of coffee has spread to South India rapidly, but coffee plantation was limited to Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu afterwards it has gradually reached Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. To talk about the growth of Indian coffee is mainly to mention its diverse climatic condition suitable for cultivation of different varieties of coffee. In India Arabica and Robusta types of coffee is cultivating Liberica is less popular in India. In India, coffee grows in the high elevation region. Simultaneously they planted coffee in Chikhaldara on high elevation region in the year 1839. Because of climatic conditions and elevation is favorable to grow coffee in Chikhaldara.

## 2. Study Area

Chikhaldara is located in the northern part of Amravati district, the area extended from 21° 29' N latitude and 77° 22' E longitude, it has covered 270 sq. km. according to census 2011 population of Chikhaldara is 5158, has an average literacy rate is 91.88% higher than State average i.e. 82.34% and sex ratio is 849 less than State i.e. 929.

## Toposheet No. 55G/7



## 3. Database and Methodology

Present study is based on primary and secondary data, primary data is collected from local people, owner of the coffee gardens, tourists and coffee stall sell centers. Secondary data is collected from village Panchayat office, Socio-economic Abstract, Amravati District Census Hand Book, MTDC office of Amravati.

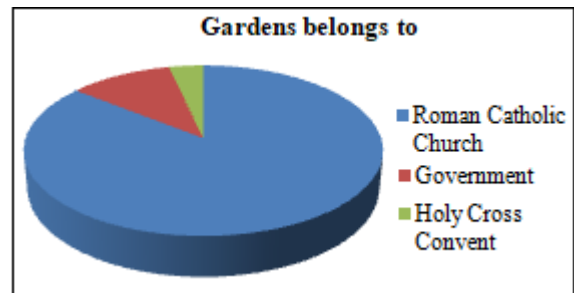


Figure 1.1

**Objectives of the Study**

Main objectives of this study are to understand the problems of coffee cultivation for income generation.

**Geographical Conditions**

Coffee plants require cool climate, heat, humid, abundant rainfall well drained soil etc. These all conditions are available in Chikhaldara hence British has planted coffee plants. Chikhaldara is located at an 1100 meters high above MSL, annual rainfall receive 154 cms, temperature is varies from 39°C to 5°C, all over climate of Chikhaldara is pleasant. More importantly it needs a tree cover on top. At Chikhaldara, good tree cover is offered by tall and strong trees of teak and silver oak. Hence, encouraging coffee plantation will not only make the development eco-friendly but also add to the unique feature of coffee plantation. The scenic beauty of Chikhaldara can be enjoyed it is full of wonderful view point, lakes, waterfalls, flora and fauna, Botanical garden, the tribal museum and Semadoh etc. lakes are attractions of Chikhaldara. It has added distinction of being the only coffee growing area in Maharashtra.

**General Analysis of Study Area**

Coffee plantation in Maharashtra, not many would believe it, but there are in little known Chikhaldara in Vidarbha, it is popular destination for nature lovers. The hill station boasts colorful birds and animals, valleys and lakes etc. In Chikhaldara some coffee gardens are private and some are belongs to government forest department. Mostly in Mariyampur gardens are belongs to Roman Catholic Church (Mission). To take care of cultivation on the initiation of Bishop Elies Ghonsalvis Bishop of Amravati Diocese and honorable Governor of Maharashtra Shree C. Vidya Rao have deployed 100 field workers to supervise and guided the locals so as to protect and supervised and guide the cultivation of the area on regular basis.

**Table 1.1: Property of Coffee Gardens**

Sr. No.	Belongs to	Area in Acres
1	Roman Catholic Church	60
2	Government	7.5
3	Holy Cross Convent	2.5

Source: Compiled by Researcher

**Labors**

Mostly local communities are working in coffee estate, many people get employment so that they get daily succor to survive. Seasonally labours are provided works, to get wages on weekly basis at the rate of Rs. 200 per day. This increases their purchasing capacity and increase the standard of living of tribal's.

**Table 1.2: Labor Community**

Sr. No.	Community	Daily Wages
1	Korku	200
2	Gawali	200
3	Others	250

Source: Compiled by Researcher

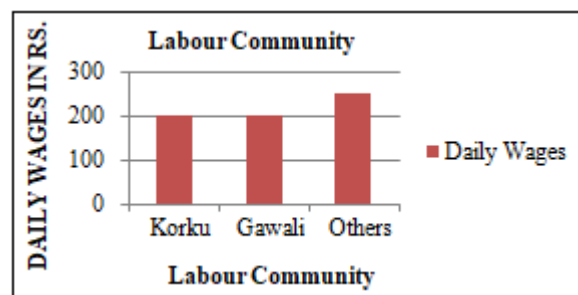


Figure 1.2

**Marketing**

The sell of coffee powder is through local shopkeepers specially inhabitants. No branded market is available the tourists buy coffee at the rate of Rs. 500 per kg. The coffee produced bloomed during the month of rainy season it is on the flowering stage and by the month of September seeds are ready after the cultivation season seeds are burnt, dried and grounded the power is ready for sell. Monthly they are selling 80 kg. Coffee approximately costing is Rs. 40,000/-.

**4. Problems**

- 1) In Chikhaldara they don't have proper market
- 2) Sometimes they are selling coffee on road sides hence shop does not have particular time period.
- 3) Lack of skilled and unskilled labors.
- 4) Daily wages are so less
- 5) Owners are not giving attention on coffee garden as such as agriculture farm.
- 6) Low earning wages is another problem of local people.

**5. Suggestions**

- 1) Coffee gardens in Chikhaldara are uniqueness things so owners have to focus on, to increase coffee production.

- 2) Coffee gardens has occupied 70 Acers land in the hilly areas this land having quite importance.
- 3) Shopping facility has to provide it means still there is scope to improve services.
- 4) There is a scope for local people to start Agro-tourism to attract urban people to experience rural life. It also helps to sell coffee production to the tourist.

## **References**

- [1] Amravati District Vision 2020 Collectorate Amravati, Perspective District Development Plan
- [2] District Census Hanbook (1991) : Amravati District.
- [3] Economic Geography of India (2000) : Paliwal Kamalesh, Published by Kitab Mahal 22-A Sarojini Naidu Marge, Allahabad.
- [4] Report on Drafft Development Plan (2013-2033) Published by Government of Maharashtra.
- [5] Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract ( 2010).