A Socio-Economic & Geographical Study of the Stone Mines in Rajasthan (With Special Reference to the Stone Mines in Sarmathura and Baseri in Dholpur District)

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Abstract

Industrialization has magnetically drawn all the countries towards it, and India is not an exception to it. Like the other countries of the world, India too is ready to set new mile stones in the field of industrialization. The desire of India is apparently seen in the constantly increasing number of industries. The Government of India also wants more and more industries to be launched here. Stone industry is one of the most popular and profitable industry. India is so rich in the stone mines. The stone manufactured in the various parts of the country is exported which results into a tremendous national income. The present paper reflects the scenario of the stone mines in Sarmathura and Baseri in Dholpur district which evidently witnesses the possibilities of the growth and development of the stone industry in Rajasthan. The study is an empirical one conducted on 100 units of information selected randomly from the specified study area and is in perfect adherence to the steps of scientific method.

Keywords: Stone Industry, Broken Grounds, Sand Stone Hills, Spittable Sandstone.

Introduction

District Dholpur is situated in the eastern part of Rajasthan. The district came into existence in 1982 comprising four tehsils of Bharatpur namely Dholpur, Rajakhera, Bari and Baseri. It is bordered by Bharatpur district of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to the north, Madhya Pradesh to the south, Karauli district to the west and Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to the east. The District has six Subdivisions and six Tehsils Dholpur, Bari, Baseri and Rajakhera, Saipau & Sarmathura and five Development Blocks namely Dholpur, Bari, Baseri, Rajakhera and Saipau. The district is well connected by roads and railways. The Broad-gauge lines of Mumbai – Agra of Central Railways, passes through the district headquarter Dholpur. Total area of Dholpur district is 3,034sq. kilometers. It's population according to census of the year 2011 was 12,06,516 comprising 6,53,647 males and 5,52,869 females. The History of Dholpur date back to the Buddha's Period. During that period, Dholpur was included in Matsya Janpad. During Mauryan rule it was included in the Mauryan Empire. During time, it came under the rule of various rulers. . Around the 8th to 10th centuries, Chauhans ruled over it. In the year 1194 it remained under Mohammed Gauri. It is believed that the city got its name Dhawalpuri (then Dholpur) after Raja Dholan Deo Tomar, the Tomar ruler who established the city in 700 AD.

Geographical and Physical Features of Dholpur

The geographical coordinates for Dholpur (Dhaulpur) are 26° 42' 0" North, 77° 54' 0" East. The Chambal River forms the southern boundary of the district, across which lies the state of Madhya Pradesh. All along the bank of the Chambal River the district is deeply intersected by ravines; low ranges of hills in the western portion of the district supply quarries of fine-grained and easily worked red sandstone. Range of sand stone hills runs from Dholpur town in a south western direction attaining at one place on attitude of 356.91 Meters above sea level. The land in Dholpur district is fertile and rises from alluvial plain near the level. Hills and broken grounds characterize almost the whole territory, along the valley of the Chambal as

irregular and lofty wall of rocks separate the land on the river from the uplands.

Climate

Dholpur experiences quite variations in its seasons. It is quite hot in summers while cold in winters. Dholpur recorded highest temperature at 50 °C on June 3, 1995. The hottest months are May and June, which mark the oppressive summer season. Temperatures in summers are normally higher than 40 °C. Coldest months are December and January where temperatures sometimes reach near-zero and subzero levels. The lowest recorded temperature is- 4.3 °C on January 29, 1990.

Geographical and Physical Features of Dholpur District

The geographical coordinates for Dholpur (Dhaulpur) are 26° 42' 0" North, 77° 54' 0" East. Total area of Dholpur district is 3,034 sq. kilometers. The Chambal River forms the southern boundary of the district, across which lies the state of Madhya Pradesh. All along the bank of the Chambal River the district is deeply intersected by ravines; low ranges of hills in the western portion of the district supply quarries of fine-grained and easily worked red sandstone.

Status of Stone Industry in Rajasthan

Range of sand stone hills runs from Dholpur town in a south western direction attaining at one place on attitude of 356.91 Meters above sea level. The land in Dholpur district is fertile and rises from alluvial plain near the level. Hills and broken grounds characterize almost the whole territory, along the velly of the Chambal as irregular and lofty wall of rocks separate the land on the river from the uplands. For centuries sandstone is being used, not only in India but all over the world, for different purposes. The wide scale architectural application of sandstone can be seen in different monuments, temples and buildings in India: Red Fort of Delhi and Agra; palaces and buildings of Fatehpur Sikri, Deeg, Kota, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaiselmer; Buddhist Rameshwaram temple in the south; Parliament House, Presidential House, Supreme Court building and Swaminarayan Temple in Delhi, Mehrangarh Fort and Umaid Bhawan Palace at Jodhpur and Rajasthan Assembly House in Jaipur.

Rajasthan is the treasure trove of sandstone, more than ninety per cent share of Indian sandstone deposits are found here. In the last decade sandstone quarrying, processing and marketing in Rajasthan have achieved a remarkable growth showing good future prospects. Geologically Rajasthan is the largest sandstone producing state of India where sedimentary formations are exposed in its 17 districts, covering an area of about 34,000 sq m. Large deposits of splittable sandstone are confimed in an area of 16,000 sq km out of which 10,000 km lies in eastern and south-eastern Rajasthan covering districts of Dholpur, Bharatpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar, Baran, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh. The scattered sandstone exposures of western Rajasthan are confined to Jodhpur, Nagaur, Churu, Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts covering about 6,000 sq km area. The sandstone producing districts in Rajasthan have been divided into different groups to form different mining clusters.

Aims of the Project

1. To be familiar with the geographical conditions in India and particularly in the specified study area
2. To study the emerging trends in stone mines in Rajasthan
3. To study minutely the views on the stone mines
4. To study the stone mines in the specified study area
5. To observe the faith of the localites of the specified area in the industrialization and in the stone industries
6. To be familiar with the working style of the mines department
7. To study the laws relating to the mines
8. To observe, study and interpret the prevailing stone industrial units in the context of the geographical conditions in the specified study area
9. To be familiar with the lines of action and ways of working of the workers in the particular geographical conditions in the area
10. To have a feel into the problems and challenges in the path of the development of the stone industries in the specified study area
11. To interpret the cause and effect relationship of the problemin the area.

Overview of Literature

India's history, dating back to 3200 BC has been influenced considerably by the disposition, development and use of stones and other construction materials. Dimension stones have also left deep imprints on the architectural heritage of the country.

Innumerable temples, forts and palaces of an cient indian Civilisation have been carved out of locally available stones. The Taj Mahal at Agra wss constructed from Indian marble. Some of the rock-cut structures include Khajuraho Temple, Elephanta Caves, and Konark Temple. Besides, all major archeological excavations have revealed exquisitely carved statuettes and carvings in stone.

Ancient Buddhist monuments like the Sanchi Stupa of 3rd century BC have also been carved out of stone.

Stones are still the mainstays of civil construction in India, with stones being used extensively in public buildings, hotels, and temples. It is increasingly being used in homes, with the use of stones now penetrating amongst the growing middle class of India. The success of commercial stone industry solely depends upon defects in rock/stone. Natural defects in ornamental/commercial rock deposits adversely affect the quality of rock deposit. Detection of natural defects in decorative and dimensional stone industry play vital role in the quality assessment.

Research Questions or Hypothesis

1. Rajasthan is a great centre of stone mines where in almost each of its districts there are hundreds and thousands of stone mines
2. Sarmathura and Baseri in Dholpur district are famous for stone mines in particular
3. Industrialization in India has brought about new opportunities to the progress of stone mines
4. Geographical conditions of Sarmathura and Baseri are distinct ones

5. Stone mines in the specified area are bringing much more profit to the mine owners than before
6. Stone industry is one of the most significant industry in India, and particularly in Rajasthan where everyday tons of stone is manufactured and exported every day
7. Sarmathura and Baseri, the small towns in Dholpur district, are making a remarkable contribution in the field of stone industry through the manufacturing and export of sand stone.

Research Methodology

Based on the observation method and in accordance with the steps of scientific method essentially to be observed by the researchers as prescribed by the eminent social scientists, the study was particularly conducted on the randomly selected 100 units of information from the specified study areas. The units of information included the visitors, localites, concerned authorities and everyone who proves himself to be ready to supply the required information for the study. In order to keep up the scientific spirit of the work, the primary data was collected from the selected units through the interview schedule with sufficient number of questions in it covering all the aspects that reflect evidently tremendous glimpses of industrialization through the stone industrial units at Sarmathura. The secondary data was collected from the literature available in various books, research journals, magazines, and last but not least from the internet sites. All the steps of scientific method prescribed and suggested by the various eminent social scientists were strictly observed. The Principal Investigator designed the work on the observation method, collection, classification, analysis, interpretation and tabulation of the primary data. In order to impart a presentable form to the work, the data tables and various types of graphs were used.

Key Findings

1. Rajasthan is one of the most leading states in stone industries
2. Its climate and geographical conditions and climate is suitable to the stone industries
3. Alwar, Dholpur, Nagaur and Ajmer are the four pillars of the stone industry of Rajasthan
4. Economically speaking, the stone industry in Rajasthan and particularly the stone industrial units at Sarmathura and Baseri in Dholpur district are making constantly an incredible contribution to the national income of the country
5. Sociologically speaking, the stone industrial units at Sarmathura and Baseri in Dholpur district of Rajasthan have won an envied national and international recognition
6. The raw material required for the manufacturing, labourers and the market- everything is easily available here
7. The industrialists from the various parts of the state and the country are investing their capital in this industry in the area

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