



### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF TOURIST IN LOHAGAD HISTORICAL PLACE IN MAVAL TAHSIL, DISTRICT PUNE (MAHARASHTRA)

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#### Abstract:

Maval Tahsil, located in the Pune district of Maharashtra, is a region rich in historical and cultural heritage, with numerous forts such as Lohagad, Visapur, Tikona, and Tung that stand as symbols of the Maratha era. The growing interest in historical tourism has significantly influenced the socio-economic landscape of rural areas within Maval. This study examines how heritage-based tourism contributes to rural development through employment generation, infrastructure improvement, and the promotion of local arts and culture. It also explores challenges such as environmental degradation, commercialization, and inadequate tourism management. The findings highlight that sustainable historical tourism can serve as a powerful tool for inclusive rural growth if supported by proper planning, community participation, and government initiatives. Thus, preserving historical sites while enhancing tourism infrastructure can ensure balanced development and long-term benefits for the rural population of Maval Tahsil.

**Key Words:** Field Survey, Spatial Analysis, Maps, graphs, Tables and Various statistical techniques

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#### Introduction:

Tourism significantly contributes to the economic and social development of rural areas by creating employment, improving infrastructure, and preserving cultural heritage. Maval Tahsil in Pune District, Maharashtra, is historically important for its forts, especially Lohagad Fort, which reflects the Maratha Empire's glory. Located near Lonavala, Lohagad attracts numerous tourists, benefiting nearby villages through small businesses, homestays, and transport services. Tourism has improved local infrastructure and living standards but also raised concerns like

waste management and environmental degradation. This study examines how historical tourism at Lohagad influences rural development and highlights the need for sustainable, community-based tourism practices.

#### Objective:

1. To find out the social status of tourist in study area.
2. To study the economical setup of tourist in study area.

#### Methodology:

The primary data and secondary data have been used for the research paper. The questionnaire has been

prepared to collect the data. The statistical method has been used for data calculation.

### 1. Data collection:

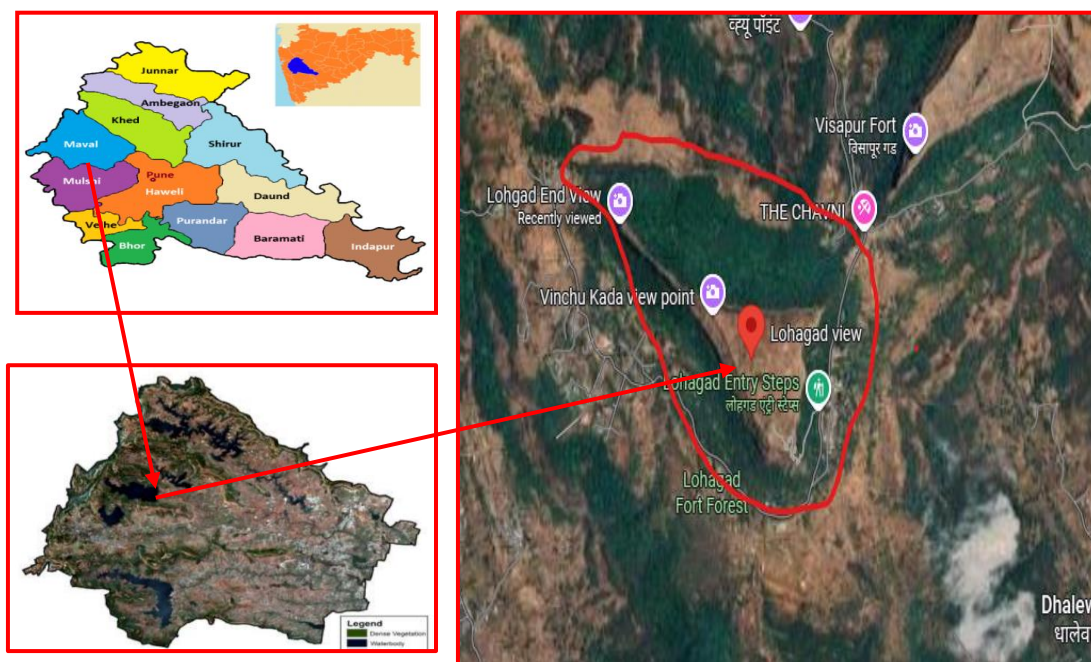
Data collection with the help of the interviews, observations, areal measurements, photos, google images, questionnaires prepare for get information of caste status, caste wise educational status, caste wise occupational status of tourist center.

### The Location of Study Area:

The study area, Lohagad Fort, is located in Maval Tahsil of Pune District, Maharashtra. It lies about 60

km northwest of Pune city and 90 km from Mumbai, near the popular hill station Lonavala. Situated at an elevation of around 1,033 meters above sea level, Lohagad stands amidst the scenic Sahyadri ranges. The surrounding villages, including Lohagad Wadi, Bhaje, and Malavali, form part of the study area influenced by tourism. Well-connected by the Mumbai–Pune Expressway and railway, this region's natural beauty and historical significance make it ideal for studying the impact of tourism on rural development.

**Fig No.1. Location map of study area.**



### Tourist status in historical tourist Place:

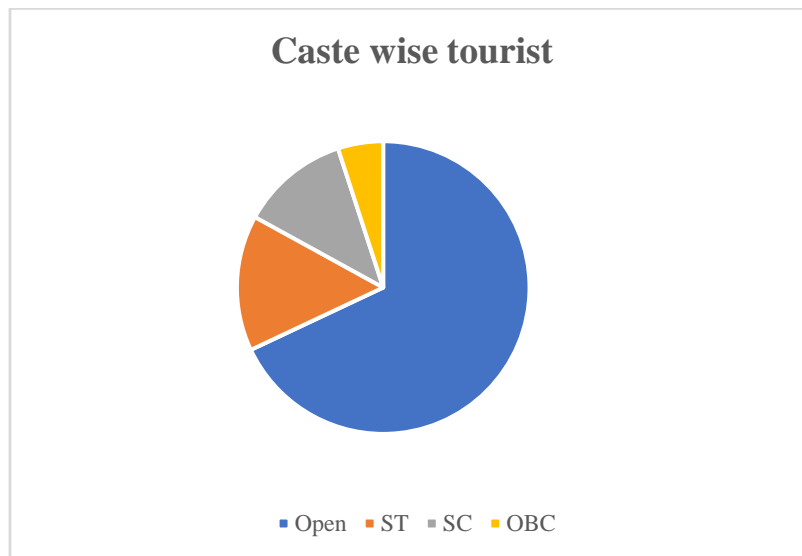
Tourist places in Maval Tahsil, Lohagad Fort, attract a large number of visitors throughout the year. The region sees peak tourist inflow during monsoon and winter seasons due to favorable weather and scenic landscapes. Visitors include trekkers, history enthusiasts, researchers, students, and families seeking leisure. Tourism has positively impacted the local economy through homestays, food stalls, local transport, and handicraft sales, providing livelihood opportunities for rural communities. However, increasing tourist numbers also present challenges such as waste management, crowding, and environmental degradation, highlighting the need for sustainable tourism practices.

### 1. Caste wise tourist in tourist place:

Human behavior is most affective for religion and caste on historical tourist center. Lohagad is historical tourist place so these tourist center. Impact of religion and caste. The total society is segregated into caste groups those are OPEN, SC, ST and OBC. Among this there OPEN gives 68 percent followed by ST 15, SC 12 and OBC 05


**Table no.1: Caste wise tourist**

Name of the caste	Total percentage
Open	68
ST	15
SC	12
OBC	05

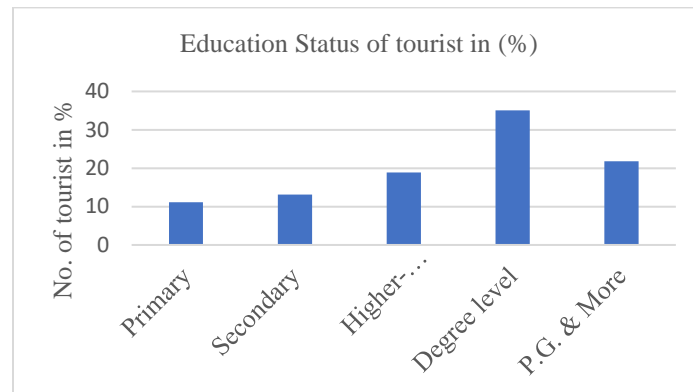

**Fig no.2: Caste wise tourist**

## 2. Education Status of tourist:

The education status is one of the significant indicators of social as well as economic development. Education status of tourists has shown in the table no. 2. It shows that the tourists are highly educated that is Degree level are 35.10 percent and post- graduate 21.77 percent. As per the study conducted it is found that there were 18.90 percent of tourists are educated at higher secondary school level, as well as 13.10 percent tourists achieved secondary level of education. It shows that educated people are also visiting the religious places.

**Table no. 2: Education Status of tourist.**

Sr. No.	Education	Number of Tourist (%)
1	Primary	11.12
2	Secondary	13.10
3	Higher-Secondary	18.90
4	Degree level	35.10
5	P.G. & More	21.77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99.99</b>

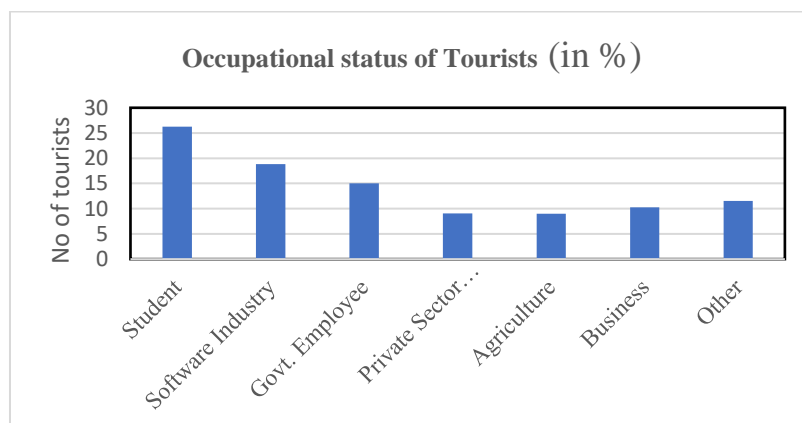

**Fig no.3: Education Status of tourist.**

### 3. Profession status of tourists:

The occupation status is the basis for understanding economic condition of the tourists. The statistics of the tourists about their profession has been calculated with profession categories. The table shows that maximum number of tourists comes under the education and student category i.e. 26.25 percent are engaged in education field. Software Industry Employee got second rank with 18.86 percent. Government employee, other wreckers, Business activity, Private Sector Employee and working in Agriculture field, types of activities comprises of 15.02, 11.55, 10.26, 9.09 and 8.97 respectively.

**Table no 3: Occupational status of Tourists**

Sr. No.	Occupation	Tourist (in %)
1	Student	26.25
2	Software Industry	18.86
3	Govt. Employee	15.02
4	Private Sector Employee	09.09
5	Agriculture	08.97
6	Business	10.26
7	Other	11.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>


**Fig no.4: Occupational status of Tourists.**

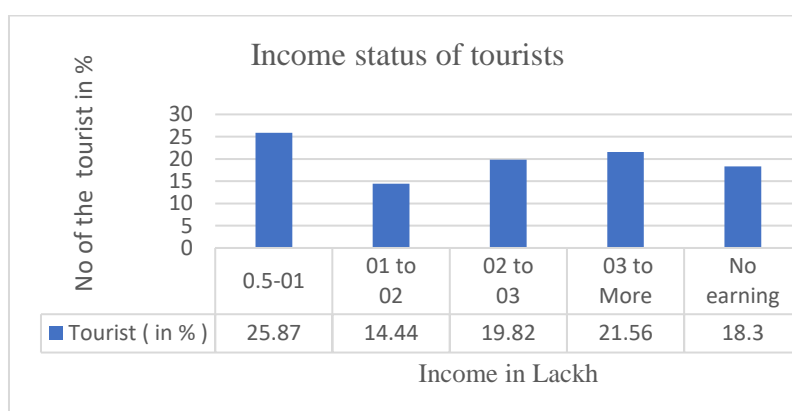


#### 4. Income group of tourists in study region:

Occupation wise Tourist income status and consequently determines the economic position and spending capacity of the tourists. Information about income of tourists is given in the table no. 4. It shows that the students and senior citizens constitute the unemployment category that accounts 18.30% of the total respondents. It means there spending capacity would be limited. The above income category more number of tourists has an income between 0.5 to 01 lakha rupees that is 25.87%. 21.56% tourists ranges from 3lakha to more income group. 19.82% tourists belongs to 02 to 03 lakha income group and 14.44% tourists lies between 01 to 02 lakha rupees. It shows that all type or income group people visit this religious place.

**Table no. 4: income status of tourists**

Sr. No.	Income (in lakh)	Tourist ( in % )
1	0.5-01	25.87
2	01-02	14.44
3	02-03	19.82
4	03 and More	21.56
5	No earning	18.30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99.99</b>



**Fig no.5: Income status of tourists**

#### Conclusion:

The study reveals that historical tourism at Lohagad Fort has significantly contributed to the socio-economic development of rural areas in Maval Tahsil. Tourism has generated employment opportunities, encouraged small-scale businesses such as homestays, food stalls, and local transport, and improved local infrastructure. The diverse educational and occupational backgrounds of visitors indicate that

Lohagad attracts a wide range of tourists, promoting cultural exchange and community interaction. However, rapid tourism growth has also led to challenges such as waste accumulation, overcrowding, and environmental degradation. To ensure sustainable development, it is essential to implement proper tourism management, community participation, and government support. Promoting eco-friendly practices, preserving the historical integrity of the fort,



and improving basic amenities can enhance the tourist experience while safeguarding local ecosystems. Overall, well-planned heritage tourism at Lohagad can serve as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable rural development in Maval Tahsil.

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