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## Suggestions of less and more accessible villagers for improving the accessibility of their village

**AM Murai, DP Hardikar, NN Chavan and SM Gholape**

### Abstract

The Konkan region of Maharashtra State has the difficult hilly terrain which isolates some villages from the main road. While, communication and other infrastructural facilities are also less in the remote villages as compared to the villages nearer to the road. This makes some villages less accessible and some villages more accessible from the point of view of input supply and technology transfer. The present study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra State with the objectives to know the suggestion of less and more accessible villagers for improving the accessibility of their village. The sample was comprised of randomly selected 320 respondents from 32 villages in eight tahsils from two districts, which was personally interviewed with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The suggestions of villagers for improving the accessibility of their village is more than half (56.25 per cent) of the villagers suggest 'basic facilities such as roads, irrigation and drinking water should be strengthened', more than one fourth (34.37 per cent) 'frequency of public transport needs to be increased', (27.18 per cent) 'telephone connectivity should be available', (26.25 per cent) 'development of proper infrastructure in the village to check migration', were suggestions of villagers for improving accessibility of village.

**Keywords:** Suggestions, villagers and accessibility

### Introduction

A village is a collection of tiny huts in the middle of fields on which the farmers work. Most of the villages are generally cut off from the cities and completely lead a different kind of life. Even today, the villages in India are the basic unites of development in agriculture and other sectors. They are the connecting links between the villagers and their institutions at the one end and Block, District, State and Nation at the other. So, the study villages as a system is strategic in the present era of rural development in general, and agricultural development in particular. Rural development has to be distinguish from the agricultural development. The primary objective of agricultural development is usually increased growth of agricultural output, while, the primary objectives of rural development is the enriched of the material and social welfare of the rural population.

The Konkan region of Maharashtra State has the difficult hilly terrain which isolates some villages from the main road. While, Communication and other infrastructural facilities are also less in the remote villages as compared to the villagers nearer to the road. This makes some villages less accessible and some villages more accessible from the point of view of input supply and technology transfer. It is presumed that these basic differences in provision/availability of infrastructural facilities must be influencing the information seeking behaviour and ultimately the knowledge level of the farmers from less accessible and more accessible villages.

### Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra State. Four tahsils from each district was selected randomly. Dapoli, Guhagar, Mandangad and Sangmeshwar tahsils was selected from Ratnagiri district while Devgad, Kudal, Sawantwadi and Vengurle tahsils was selected from Sindhudurg district. After selection of tahsils the investigator contacted all the Block Development Officers of concern tahsils to establish rapport with Gramsevaks to obtain information about accessibility of a particular village. Index developed specially for this purpose will be administered to all the village of selected tahsils. On the basis of accessibility score, the villages were arranged in

ascending order. After arranging the villages in ascending order, with minimum score (less accessible village) and village's maximum score (more accessible village) was selected. The 2 less accessible and 2 more accessible villages from each tahsils was selected. Thus, 32 villages was selected randomly for this study. Ten respondents from each village was selected randomly. Thus, total 320 respondents was selected for this study. An ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. The data were collected by personal interview of respondents. The collected data were coded,

classified, tabulated and analyzed using with the frequency, per cent, arithmetic mean, standard deviation.

## Results

### Suggestions of less and more accessible villagers for improving the accessibility of village.

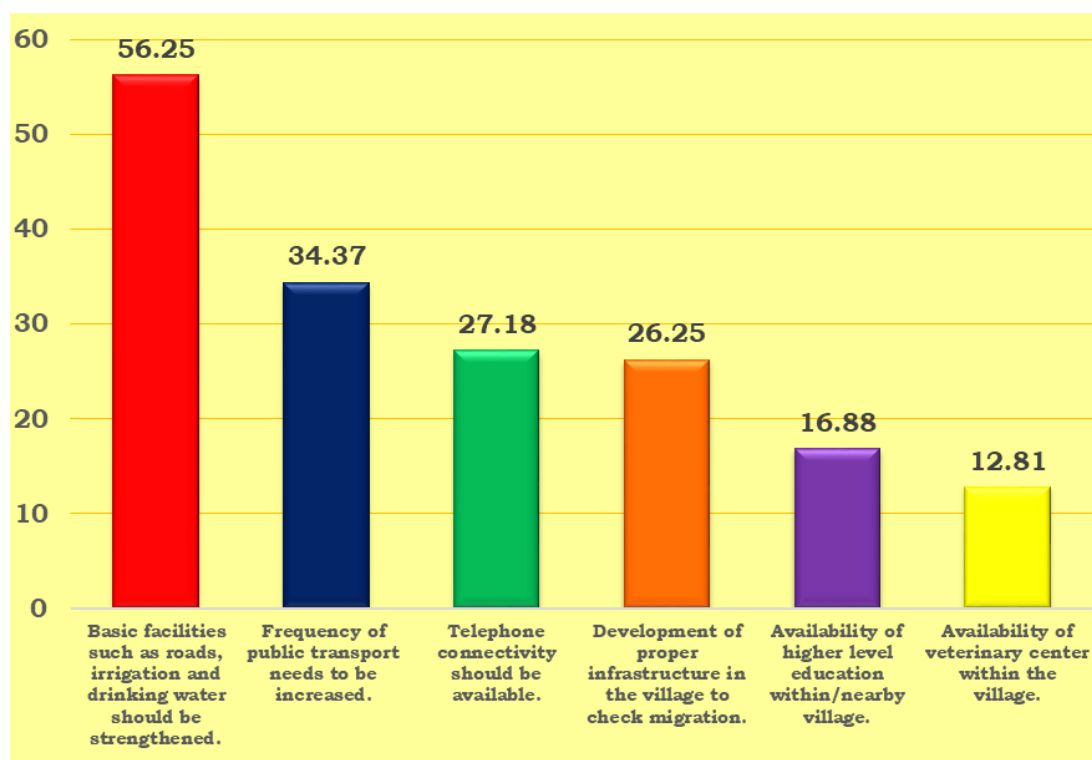
The data pertaining to suggestions of less and more accessible villagers for improving the accessibility of village was collected and the findings are presented in Table 1. and diagrammatically depicted in Figure 1.

**Table 1:** Distribution of villagers according to their suggestions for improving the accessibility of village.

Sl. No.	Suggestions	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1.	Basic facilities such as roads, irrigation and drinking water should be strengthened.	180	56.25
2.	Frequency of public transport needs to be increased.	110	34.37
3.	Telephone connectivity should be available.	87	27.18
4.	Development of proper infrastructure in the village to check migration.	84	26.25
5.	Availability of higher level education within/nearby village.	54	16.88
6.	Availability of veterinary center within the village.	41	12.81

It can be indicated from Table 1. that more than half (56.25 per cent) of the villagers suggest 'basic facilities such as roads, irrigation and drinking water should be strengthened', more than one fourth (34.37 per cent) 'frequency of public transport needs to be increased', (27.18 per cent) 'telephone connectivity should be available', (26.25 per cent)

'development of proper infrastructure in the village to check migration', (16.88 per cent) 'availability of higher level education within/nearby village' and (12.81 per cent) 'availability of veterinary center within the village' were suggestions of villagers for improving accessibility of village.



**Fig 1:** Distribution of villagers according to their suggestions for improving the accessibility of village.

## Conclusions

Telephone connectivity at village should be available, basic facilities such as roads, irrigation and drinking water should be strengthened, frequency of public transport needs to be increased, development of proper infrastructure in the village to check migration were some of the suggestions for improving accessibility of village. Suitable action on these suggestions need to be initiated by concerned agencies.

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