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## Opinions of less and more accessible villagers about accessibility of their village

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### 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 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. The present study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra state with the objectives to know the opinion of the villagers about 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 opinion of villagers about accessibility of their village is (37.50 per cent) of the villagers suggest the 'poor frequency of public transport facilities', while (31.87 per cent) 'frequent failure in telephone connectivity', (29.68 per cent) 'no connecting roads to hamlets', (25.62 per cent) 'no pick up shade for bus stop', less than one fourth (24.06 per cent) 'unavailability of sufficient staff and medical facilities in primary health center', (22.50 per cent) 'loadshedding puts limitation in use of electric appliance'.

**Keywords:** Opinions, 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.

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.

### Methodology

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) and village's maximum score (more accessible) was selected. The 2 less accessible and 2 more accessible villages from each tahsils was selected.

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Thus, 32 villages were selected randomly for this study. Ten respondents from each village was selected randomly. Thus, total 320 respondents were 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

### Opinions of less and more accessible villagers about accessibility of their villages.

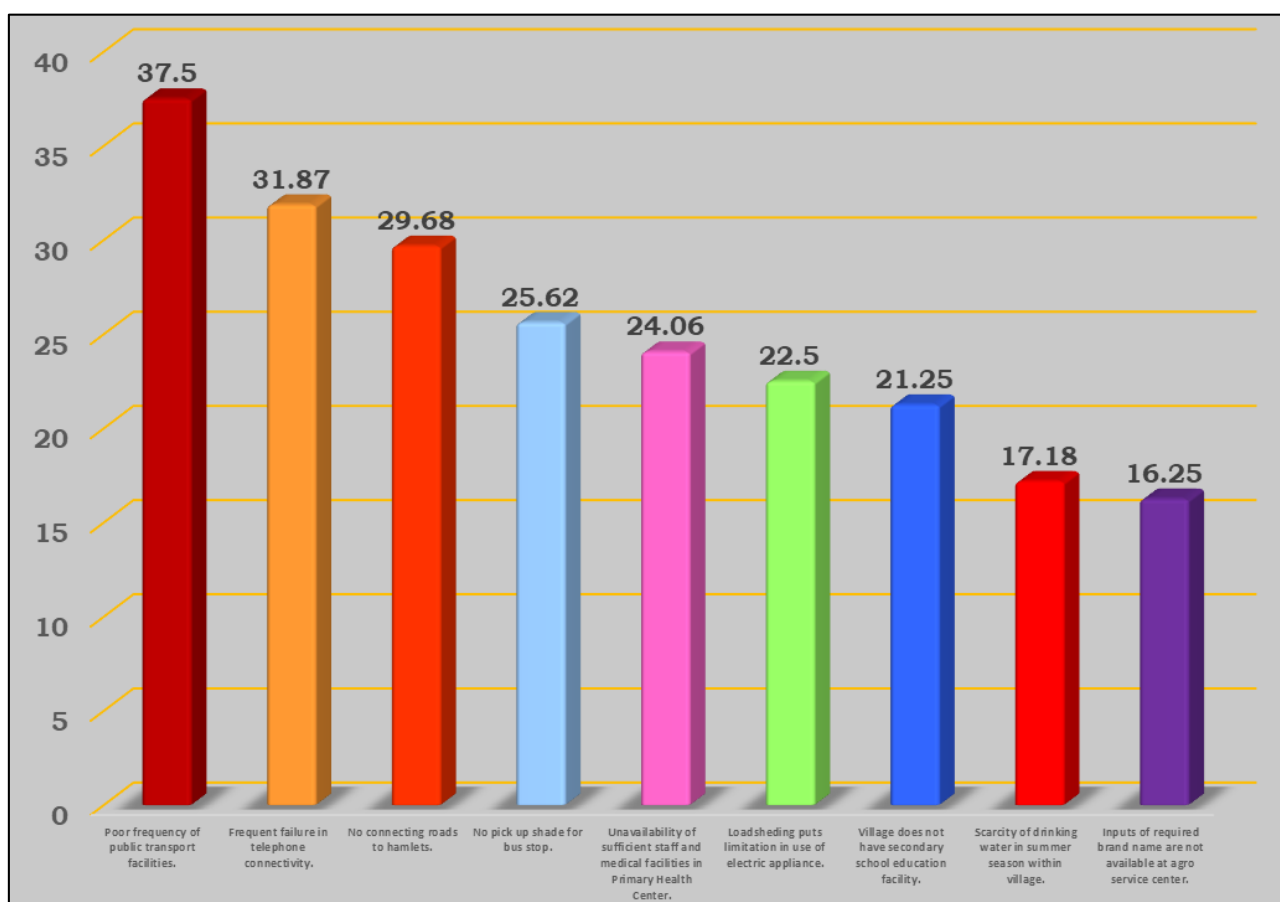
The data pertaining to opinion of villagers from less and more accessible villages about accessibility of their village was collected and the findings are presented in Table 1. and diagrammatically depicted in Figure 1.

**Table 1:** Distribution of villagers according to their opinions about accessibility of their village.

Sl. No.	Opinions	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1.	Poor frequency of public transport facilities.	120	37.50
2.	Frequent failure in telephone connectivity.	102	31.87
3.	No connecting roads to hamlets.	95	29.68
4.	No pick up shade for bus stop.	82	25.62
5.	Unavailability of sufficient staff and medical facilities in Primary Health Center.	77	24.06
6.	Loadshedding puts limitation in use of electric appliance.	72	22.50
7.	Village does not have secondary school education facility.	68	21.25
8.	Scarcity of drinking water in summer season within village.	55	17.18
9.	Inputs of required brand name are not available at agro service center.	52	16.25

It can reveal from above Table 1. that more than one fourth (37.50 per cent) of the villagers suggest the 'poor frequency of public transport facilities', while (31.87 per cent) 'frequent failure in telephone connectivity', (29.68 per cent) 'no connecting roads to hamlets', (25.62 per cent) 'no pick up shade for bus stop', less than one fourth (24.06 per cent) 'unavailability of sufficient staff and medical facilities in

primary health center', (22.50 per cent) 'loadshedding puts limitation in use of electric appliance', (21.25 per cent) 'village does not have secondary school education facility', (17.18 per cent) 'scarcity of drinking water in summer season within village' and (16.25 per cent) 'inputs of required brand name are not available at agro service center' were opinion of villagers about accessibility of their village.



**Fig 1:** Distribution of villagers according to their opinions about accessibility of their village

## Conclusion

Poor frequency of public transport facilities, frequent failure in telephone connectivity, no connecting roads to hamlets, no pick up shade for bus stop, unavailability of sufficient staff and medical facilities in primary health center etc. were the

major issues for being in or less accessible as opined by the respondents. Concerned agencies should think of a strategy and a phased programme for improving the present situation in the villages.

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